

Eastington Community News

September/October 2010

Nº. 123

Each year, villages in Gloucestershire compete for the accolade of most vibrant village. The competition is run by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) for any village with a population under 3500. GRCC look for villages that are balanced, proactive, caring and, irrespective of size that are making the best of local opportunities to sustain or enhance the quality of life for all their residents. It is designed to recognise and celebrate the hard work being carried out in Gloucestershire's smaller communities, which are working to ensure their long-term futures. (Pg 2)

The outright winner of Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010 is... **EASTINGTON!**

The **1st Birthday Fun Day** has been organised especially for people who live or work in our Parish to enjoy themselves, and to meet other like-minded people, and more than two dozen parish activities. Read why this event has been organised for you on page 2; take a look at what's on, Page 6, and see the "have-a-go agility", "fun dog show" and pond dipping on page 7. Make a date to be at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground (OHMG) on **19th September** noon 'til 4 pm.

A Parish Plan is a statement of what people who live or work in a Parish see as important, precious or in need of changing. It is in fact a document of your voices, and will be valuable when big authorities or developers have ideas to make alterations in our Parish. Find out how to have your say on page 2.

At the Village Hall, the summer Tea Dance was so successful that another will be held on Hallowe'en 31st October, 2pm. Carpet Bowls, Bingo and Bluebells are all mentioned on pages 3 & 14.

I am often hearing that there is insufficient to occupy young people in the Village, and it seems that there is considerable scope for expanding things available for youngsters. Maybe you have some suggestions or would be prepared to give a couple of hours of your time to help? Meanwhile, it's good to be aware of existing activities: on page 10 we have a first appearance for Cub Scouts, and contact details for The Brownies. On page 9 there is "Kidzone" for 7 - 11 year olds on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 - 7:30pm at the Methodist Hall, and Youth Club on Friday runs from 7:00 - 8:45pm and 8:15-10:00pm for young people.

The Allotments are looking neat and well established now, (Page 14). So, the judges of the Vibrant Village competition found it hard to believe that the first digging was only in November 2009. A free "chipping" and "shredding" service has been organised for you, and will take place on Saturday 20th November 2010 between 9.00 am and midday at the Allotment site. Please note the date and bring along your woody garden waste.

Feeling "safe" is frequently mentioned as being a high priority to many residents. Intimidation and "anti social behaviour" are a common theme underlying such worries. Although you may feel we do not see as many "Bobbies on the Beat" as you would wish, the Police are aware of many of these problems and have provided a survey form on page 17, to collect your views and concerns. This is part of the "Safer Communities" scheme. Health and Wellbeing is another high priority for many. In this issue on page 18, Health, Strokes and First Aid are reviewed.

All Organisations, Pubs, Groups and individuals are invited to take part in a Fun Quiz Evening at The Community Centre, OHMG, on Friday 8th October 2010, 7.30 for 8.00 Start (page 8).

The organisation "Gloucestershire Vale against Incineration" is opposing a waste incinerator at Javelin Park, on page 19. It is difficult to see just how we will deal with our ever-increasing piles of waste. There is little space remaining for tipping our waste in 'Landfill' sites, and little sign of us reducing the amount of what we throw away. So what is the solution? What could be the benefits of processing our waste and recycling more effectively?

My thanks to Val Taylor for volunteering and compiling this issue of ECN. We are now desperate for a volunteer to prepare the 'blue' advertising pages for next year – to finance this newsletter. It occurs just once a year and can be spread over a couple of months to fit your available time.

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 5th November 2010** please!

Next Delivery:- by Friday 22nd November 2010 please!

Parish Matters

Of course there are times when being a Parish Councillor is hard work and not much fun. Occasionally, however, the 'sun comes out' and everything seems worthwhile. Such a time was winning the overall and top prize in Gloucestershire's Vibrant Village of the Year 2010. Hearty congratulations to everyone who, by a fantastic team effort, made this prestigious accolade possible. *(see the transcript)*

Having committed to leading Eastington to prepare a Parish Plan, the project is now underway. A Parish Plan is a statement of what people who live or work in our Parish see as important, precious or in need of changing; what "Eastington" should be like in the next 5 – 20 years. It's about the People who live here, Businesses that work here, and the Place itself, that was shaped by the people of times past who lived or worked here.

At such times when other agencies want to make changes in Eastington, a Parish Plan will give strength and substance in representing views and opinions of people who live or work in our Parish. The agencies could be councils like Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) or Stroud District Council (SDC) or National Government or Developers or service providers like Severn Trent, BT etc. You can help by having your say, and giving us your valuable opinions.

We ran the first Village Appraisal 22 years ago. Many children of five years old then, have families of their own now. Although we have topped up the original surveys twice since, it is now time to take a careful look at what we would like the future to be for Eastington – for our children and their generation.

People who live or work in our Parish get to define the Parish Plan. Eastington Parish Council (EPC) are encouraging a steering group of Villagers to prepare and write our Parish Plan, to fairly represent the People of Eastington. Can you help us?

The **1st Birthday Fun Day** has been organised especially to get people who live or work in our Parish to the Owen Harris Memorial Ground (OHMG) on **19th September**, to see first hand the many and various activities in our Parish. While you are there having fun, you can begin to take part in the Parish Plan process by expressing your views.

Later in the year will follow a survey of the entire Parish, with a detailed Questionnaire – Please be ready to complete and take part and give us the benefit of your valuable opinion!

Andrew Niblett - (Eastington Parish Council Chairman)

ECN is hand delivered FREE to every home in the Parish
Keeping our Community In-touch

Advertising finances this newsletter and keeps it coming to your door free of charge

A Team of Volunteers prepare the contents to keep you in-touch

A volunteer is desperately wanted to prepare the 'blue' advertising pages for next year

It occurs just once a year and can be spread over a couple of months to fit your available time.

Please don't leave it to someone else - we need your help - contact the Editor

Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010 Overall Winner

Following our submission, and a visit by the judges to Eastington, this is a transcript of the presentation by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council on the evening of 15th July.

"An enthusiastic group of representatives from various organisations formed the reception committee at the newly refurbished village hall less than five minutes from a busy motorway junction. Built in 1927 the hall, once almost derelict, is now a popular venue for dog training among other things, thanks to grants, fund raising and voluntary labour.

An eco-friendly building, incorporating green technology, has been built by the people for the people overlooking the playing fields, giving a further excellent venue for playgroup,

meetings, functions. Involvement in this project has led to one resident making a change in career, adding to the growing number of people working from home.

Housing is a mix of old and new, including some social housing together with thriving shops, a public house, butcher and hairdressers. Children walk to school along leafy lanes which motorists avoid at school times and are taught in new classrooms built on land made available by a neighbour.

Pressure from the community to provide allotments ensured the Parish Council were quick to purchase the necessary land when it became available. Less than a year ago, all ages took part in a dig-in and now healthy crops are in evidence. The Stroud Valleys Project is helping to restore a pond in a corner of the allotment area. There is close liaison with the village school by the leaders involving the children in projects.

The forward-looking Footpaths Officer has a vision to provide disabled and child-friendly access along well maintained footpaths to neighbouring parishes. Kissing gates have already been installed where possible and the Stroud Canal affords further opportunities.

Resilience has been shown by the KER Group who, having defeated one large organisation in their efforts to impose a large development in the village, simmer away gently but would come to the boil should there be a further threat to their identity.

This village deserves the accolade of Vibrant Village due to the pro-active attitude of the Parish Council, organisations and residents alike. Their determination to succeed and positive engagement shows a model aspiration to win!

"And the winner of Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010 is...

EASTINGTON!"

EASTINGTON VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Following the success of the Tea Dance held earlier this summer to commemorate the refurbishment of the Hall, a further Dance has been arranged to celebrate Hallowe'en. This will take place on:

Sunday 31st October at 2.0pm – 4.30 pm. admission £2.50 including Tea & Biscuits.

Again there will be a wide range of dances to provide enjoyment for all, the newly restored floor is great for dancing, so come along and give it a go. Music will be provided by Dance Teachers Bryan & Angela.

BINGO & CARPET BOWLS.

These two events have been run in the past by the Eastington Branch of the British Legion as part of fundraising for their Welfare work. On the closure of the Branch, the equipment for the events was given to the Village Hall in order that the entertainment could still be enjoyed by the community.

BINGO continues to take place every Thursday at 7.0pm but unless more people come along it will be difficult to continue. **There's a £10 Jackpot to be won for very little investment.** Don't let this enjoyable social occasion in the heart of the community fall by the wayside.

CARPET BOWLS have provided a lot of fun on alternate Friday evenings in the past, but partly due to ill health and having to cancel sessions, this activity has sadly lapsed. This would appear to be a good time of the year to re-start this indoor activity. A number of people have expressed an interest, but we need more to make it viable. There has been the suggestion that this could take place on a Tuesday afternoon instead of a Friday night - either option is available. The carpet and bowls are all there waiting to be used, it takes very little time to set up and you don't need to have played the game before to enjoy it.

Anyone interested in any of the above activities and wanting more information, please contact **Harry Elliott, Tel. No. 01453 825194.**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

Members' expenses

The annual review of members' expenses took place at the July Council meeting. It was decided not to increase the general allowances paid to members. The Labour group, mindful of the significant budget cuts being imposed on local government, proposed that members' allowances be reduced by 10%. This motion was voted down by the Conservative administration.

As part of this review councillors now have to provide their own computers and internet provider. Most council business is now done electronically and in the past councillors have been supplied with a computer to enable them to fulfill their council duties properly. I now have to buy a computer myself and am able to recover up to £390 (taxable) for such a purchase. This amount is to include any software. Apparently it is cheaper to do this than for the council to bulk purchase for us. I myself do not think that this new method helps councillors do their job but as I am told it will save many thousands of pounds a year was happy to vote for it.

Demise of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), new planning regime

I mentioned this in my last newsletter. At that time little was known about what would happen as regard to housing number allocation etc. There have been a number of documents issued by the government. The position is still somewhat confused because little real detail has emerged. Phrases such as 'locality and neighbourhoods' which appear a lot in documents are not actually defined. Planning officers still do not know what Stroud's position is exactly. Some people seem to think that with the demise of the RSS housing numbers can be cut arbitrarily. What is known is that this cannot be done. Each authority will have to be able to 'robustly' defend their housing numbers. The criteria used for this will be almost identical to the methods used by the RSS to define the numbers in the first place. Officers at Stroud are of the opinion that our 'defendable' house build figure will be higher (possibly a lot) than that allocated in the RSS. Back in July it was agreed that a meeting needed to be held to discuss the new planning proposals and Stroud's response to it. Such a meeting has not been called yet. To my mind the decision we have to make is quite simply, do we in Stroud still want to continue planning our development or do we let developers do it for us?

Social Housing, sheltered and general

The review of SDC'S sheltered provision continues. Recently many tenants of sheltered housing took part in a demonstration march to Ebley Mill. Some of those taking part in the protest were well into their eighties and some in wheelchairs. For them to do this they must be very concerned at what is happening. I attended a consultation process meeting with local residents recently. Having done so it is easier for me to understand why a large amount of tenants in the district are concerned.

Most social housing built in the last few years in Stroud District has been as a result of larger site applications, and in the main funded by the housing corporation. I am told that these funds have dried up in recent months. Any provision of new social housing by this route is uncertain. How this very worrying and important issue will be resolved has not yet been discussed.

Ken Stephens September 2010



Eastington Community Centre

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

Very reasonable hourly rates

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:

- ◆ Large main hall with **fully functional bar**
- ◆ Fully fitted kitchen with two ovens, hob, fridge and dishwasher
- ◆ Two smaller meeting/function rooms
- ◆ 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 Community Centre

Eastington - Winner of Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010

You are invited to our 1st Birthday Party!



**at Owen Harris Memorial Ground
Sunday 19th September 12pm - 4pm**

★ Two Bouncy Castles - under 5's and over 5's ★

★ Steam Roller ★

★ Vintage cars ★

★ Dog Portraits ★

★ Tombola ★

★ Smash the Maltezer ★

★ Indoor table skittles ★

★ Model Garden Competition – children's classes ★

**★ Dog show - 'Have a go Agility' + 'Fun Dog Show' ★
(in aid of Breast Cancer Campaign)**

Teas, Beer & Beverages

Pig Roast & Cake Stall

Vegetarian Snacks



Come along and have some fun!



Krazy K9s present:
'Have a go' Agility
(Fun for all the family)
& Fun Dog Show

Join us for
all or part
of the
afternoon
12 - 4 pm



2010

Enter on
the day
£1 for
Agility &
for each
fun class

@ Eastington Community Centre
Sunday 19th September 2010
 As part of the celebrations for the first
 birthday of our award winning community
 centre

For further details contact Steve: 07748 185759
 Email: enquiries@krazyk9.co.uk
www.krazyk9hd.co.uk

All in aid of Breast Cancer Campaign, UK







One hour at the pond - 19 September from 2pm to 3pm

Where to have more fun than at a pond during the fun day on the 19.9? Staff from Stroud Valleys Project will be there to do some pond dipping. We also need some volunteers on the day to do a bit of digging...this may be muddy, so come prepared! Tools provided.

A rare migrant bird, a Green Sandpiper, was reported at the pond on 1st September. If you happen to spot a small bird with dark wings and white rump and belly flying rapidly away, that will probably be it!

Stroud Valleys Project offers many wildlife talks and events. For our latest events, 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 Natural England.



Supported through Defra's
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

EASTINGTON VILLAGE QUIZ

All Organisations, Pubs, Groups and individuals in our

"Vibrant Village"

are warmly invited to take part in a Fun Quiz Evening at The Community Centre, Owen Harris Memorial Ground

On Friday 8th October 2010 7.30 for 8.00 Start

Teams maximum of 6 (or make up a team on the night!)

All will be very welcome

Tickets £5.00 per head which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Bar available. Raffle

To make sure of your place book a table by 1st October 2010

Tickets available from: Robin Harris 01453 823433; Muriel Bullock 01453 826172; Jacky and Mike Naylor 01453 828682.

All proceeds to St Michael and All Angels Church Funds



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Eastington - Winner of Gloucestershire Vibrar

**NEW EASTINGTON BABY
& TODDLER GROUP**

Now Under New Management.....

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

A diagram showing a network of activities: Music & Creative Play, Story & Rhyme, Sensory Play, and others.

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

Co-ordinator: Clare - 01760 019256 - please phone for details.

Come and Enjoy - First Session Free !

Eastington Methodist Church

We like to think of ourselves as an all age church and you may have gathered from previous articles that we have quite a lot going on for children and young people. This is still the case with Kidzone for 7 - 11 year olds on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 - 7:30pm and the Friday youth club from 7:00 - 8:45pm and 8:15-10:00pm for the young people. Young people and children have their own groups on Sunday mornings at 11am unless there is a family service when we all stay in together. We would welcome additional members in all these groups and all provide various activities, games, an opportunity to make friends as well as to learn things about life and God.

We have our Harvest service at 11am on Sunday 19th September when we have a group of puppeteers visiting us. This should prove entertaining for all ages so why not come along? Later on the same day, we expect to have a church presence at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground for the village fête.

For the adults, we are starting an Alpha Course at the King's Head on Tuesday evenings. This is an opportunity to understand and question the Christian faith. Such courses have been run all over the country and have received quite a lot of publicity in recent years. There is a special introductory evening on September 28th which will outline how Alpha works.

We have decided to run it at the Kings Head as it provides an informal venue with good food. A meal will be provided to guests without charge. This will follow a presentation and what we hope will be a stimulating discussion. Each evening over the following 10 weeks will cover a subject area.

Alpha will start at 7pm and we expect the meal to be over by about 9:30pm. More details are available on the church website and in brochures available at the King's Head or the church.

Remember, Alpha is aimed at those who are unsure of what to believe or even think that Christianity (or any religion) is nonsense.

Whatever your views or position, you will be welcome.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk





LEONARD STANLEY CUB SCOUTS HAS CHANGED ...

From September Jane Hennell will be leading the pack and will be supported by Tony Morgan and Paula Pitcher. Based on feedback received from many, Jane and the pack will meet on **Tuesday evenings** at the **Scout Hut in Leonard Stanley** from **6.25pm to 8.00pm**.

At their first meeting on September 7th the existing cubs and their parents were updated on the changes and several new cubs were welcomed into the pack. Jane says "We are developing a programme of activities that we hope will see our Cubs primarily having fun but at the same time will encourage the principles that have underpinned scouting for so many years such as respect, good behaviour and helpfulness".

The pack will be working towards five badges over the coming weeks:

- ⇒ Cyclist
- ⇒ Athlete
- ⇒ Personal Safety
- ⇒ Entertainer
- ⇒ Swimming (1)

To achieve these badges they will be take part in some fun activities inside and out. They are also hoping to take part in the annual Farriers Challenge on 23rd October and a night hike over Selsley Common incorporating games and competitions along the route and ending in a barbecue. The Stanley's Cubs are hoping to better last year's results when the two teams entered came 8th and 12th.

The pack will also begin work on the Community Challenge badge which encourages cubs to interact with and help their local community in a fun way.

We are also trying to fit in an overnight camp while helping a local organisation, and a social evening for existing and potential new recruits, all before Christmas!

If you have a child (boy or girl) between the ages of 7½ and 10½ who you think might like to join in the fun contact **Jane: Tel: 01453 827826 Email: jane.hennell@tiscali.co.uk**

Or come and find us at The Community Centre Party on September 19th. You will find us there during the day and will see us cleaning up at the end of the day.

EASTINGTON BROWNIES

The Brownies meet in **Eastington Village Hall** on **Mondays** from **6.45pm to 8pm** during term time. For more information contact **Sarah Mannings 01453 826850 or Kate Taylor 01453 828114**

Birder in the Parish

April

15/04/10. Corvid tussles around the feeders - Jays crop up on peanuts for caching; Jackdaw gangs will raid all the feeders and then go; Magpies have a nest nearby and are very territorial, mugging the Jays and driving them off - and then the Carrion Crow will stoop in and sort all this silly fuss out - king bird around these parts! Lovely April weather with temperatures of 17.5C - and no aircraft [*remember the Icelandic volcano ash cloud?*], so sublime peace and quiet and no high level vapour trail clouds!

18/04/10. With John O to look for Willow Tits east Gloucestershire, a very sadly declining species in the County; found two singing males, and a Hen Harrier hunting rough ground nearby - brilliant find!

24/04/10. To Highnam Woods for Nightingales. Whilst there, Shorelark came up on the pager at Barrow Gurney reservoir, which we dived off for - cracking little bird and rare to find one this far west in Britain.

27/04/10. Drove down the Perryway to Frampton, where literally, clouds of insects were formed above the hedges and cottages, like enormous plumes of smoke which never disappeared! Amazing sight.

May

02/05/10. First Swifts of the year in the Parish - harbingers of Spring; they will spend virtually the whole of their time here on the wing, except when they nest and roost. Always arrive late, but are the first to go come late summer.

08/05/10. Migrants still coming up through the Parish, including three Hobbies over Millend trailed by twenty House Martins and ten Swifts.

10/05/10. Kept awake last night by two Hedgehogs in grunting nuptials on the patio - their rutting went on for ages! Blue Tits dragging feathers into the nest box today and first Brimstone butterfly in the garden. Ten house Martins through; winds round from east to north by late p.m.

14/05/10. To Portland Bill bird observatory with John O for sea watching - two Pomarine Skuas went through, with numbers of Common Scoters, Manx Shearwaters and Arctic Terns; constant incoming migrant traffic of *hirundines*, mainly Swallows, but with some Swifts and House Martins. Spotted Flycatchers and Grasshopper Warbler in the mist nets.

17/05/10. Nipped down to Wentwood Forest near Newport for an Iberian Chiff Chaff. Very warm in the sun. Late evening watched Fox cubs, and a Robin 'mothing' by the street lamp.

20/05/10. Lots of bird music by first light, and Blackbirds still in full song by late evening before their roost. Nest box appears to have nestlings, but there only seems to be one parent feeding them. Very warm - no, very *hot*, well into the 20C's and pleasant enough to sit out and watch the evening draw in. Aware that at this very moment was the absolute peak of this spring - blink, and you'll miss it! Hedges laden with blossom, meadows butter-cupped and glowing golden yellow, our Moon floating in a clear blue sky, fullness of growth, and colour fresh from winter - I watched all this, completely in awe of it all.

26/05/10. First rain this evening for a long time. Spiders starting to set up their nets in the garden, and got collided into by a big May beetle this night.

June

02/06/10. First Silver Y moths in the garden today, and 'summer snow' starts as the crack willows release their seeds; cricket bat willows start to release theirs on the 4th. By the 9th, I begin to think that there is something eerily sinister about this summer snow... it gets absolutely everywhere, even building up under the settee in the sitting room!

06/06/10. Wood Pigeon appears to be attempting to nest in the garden willow - it will, unfortunately, have to be discouraged as I know any chicks will be predated by at least one of six cats we have here, just like last year when two near-fledged were killed and eaten.

14/06/10. Imagine a small child hitting a xylophone with only three keys at the upper end of the scale, non-stop, all through every day since April - that's the song of the Chiff Chaff! The energy is amazing! It will now continue to sing into July, when things will slow down as birds prepare for the post-breeding rest period before heading back south on migration. Our resident birds will start to moult also, so that by early July, there will be feathers littering the countryside. Adults moult for winter and young birds of the year - 'first year' birds - start to moult from their juvenile feathers into first winter plumage.

17/06/10. Three Garden Tiger moths in the garden, and the pond alive with damsel flies in tandem and egg depositing. First Small Tortoiseshell butterfly of the season today, and I found a neat little solitary wasp making its nest in the chimney breast brickwork in the loft.

June 19. With John O to Forest of Dean to find Turtle Doves and Firecrests. Eased from sleep by a singing Blackcap - make the most of it as there will be no dawn chorus in a month's time when the moult kicks in. Still a north wind - bad for fledged young; more like an April day.

June 21. Always a twinge of pathos as the Solstice arrives, when planet Earth, the Human home, is somehow finely balanced, when inevitably, assuredly, quietly and calmly does what it has done for eons, and dips us carefully, slowly back towards winter. Summer days to remember.

June 24. Two Ravens in the back meadow, one adult female with a juvenile. Went Nightjar'ing with John O to the Forest. Brilliant! At least four birds. It is such a strange and unbird-like song that suddenly breaks the dusk, when all is evening silent, and bats and glow-worms are showing, and the white Fallow Deer is always there. Nightjars are amazingly difficult to see, being totally crepuscular, but once in flight, even in poor light, their white wing flashes and croaking flight call are a give-away. Woodcock here too, patrolling (roding) their breeding territories, with their strange bleating call.

June 25. Little Egret flew downriver, flushed by dogs. Temperature today 32.5. All windows open tonight. Big Moon. Big moth in the bedroom.

June 28. Stiflingly hot weather, but still no sign of many butterflies, except the first Comma. Garden Tigers in flight, every evening now. Chiff Chaff and Blackcaps songs slowing down as they approach the moult and the year's turning. Lawn brown; rain forecast for Thursday night. Flush of Gull-Billed Terns in the UK - south in Dorset, Devon and one reported in Gloucestershire from Splatt Bridge.

July

July 2. Chiffs and Blackcap still singing; much activity in the Jackdaw colony; Wood Pigeons crooning heavily in the heat. Rain overnight - but hardly dampened the surface.

July 3. Male Tawny Owl calling tonight. Throughout the day, butterflies at last beginning to show: Tortoiseshells, Hedge Browns, Comma. Big moth just crashed into the lampshade.

July 9. Amazingly, a White Tailed Plover turned up at WWT Slimbridge! Raced down there and had good, though distant, views from Zeiss Hide. Mega rarity, and such a beautifully graceful wader; had gone by Sunday morning.

July 10. Garden getting overgrown, so did some clearing under the hedge and uncovered a nest of four baby Hedgehogs. Covered them back up, but mum had moved them by next day.

July 11. Chiff Chaff still singing - drowned by awful noise of tug aircraft.

July 13. Gull numbers increasing now that their breeding season is over; they pass through our Parish on their way to their roosts on the Severn, but not now in the numbers that used to come through before Cotswold Water Park was trashed by development. Literally, thousands would fly over as they mini-migrated from the fresh water Pits over there, to the tidal upper estuary of the Severn - Blackheaded, Common, Lesser Black Backed and Herring.

July 15. Heavy winds and rain. Crows have raised two young this season, and the adults are losing remiges and rectrices in their post-breeding moult. The youngsters look comically gaunt and lacking in full feathers, still down tufts on the head and neck.

July 16. Weather unsettled - heavy, short showers; very 'close'. But then weather (and the human animal) does tend to change around the new Moon - different mood. Little bird music now, except for the occasional Song Thrush or noisy Wren.

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Eastington Slimming World Group

Hope you have all enjoyed a good summer. Eastington Slimming World has continued to meet weekly through the summer months and our members are still successfully losing weight whilst still enjoying a wide variety of foods. Many members have enjoyed holidays away and returned to group with their holiday stories and ready to continue with their weight loss journey.

While sat writing this piece the children are returning to school and all of a sudden although the sun is shining warmly today, autumn seems only just round the corner the hay and crop harvest is on going and dare I mention the nights beginning to become cooler and longer.

Over the next few weeks, into October, we will be turning our thoughts to our winter weight loss and all the lovely warming foods we can freely enjoy over the colder months. Casseroles, soups, roasts and stews. To help members with fresh and new ideas and recipes the latest issue of the Slimming World Magazine has included a free cookery booklet which we will be looking at and added our own ideas to.

By the next issue of the Eastington News Christmas will be knocking at the door. So it's now we are preparing ourselves for how we would like to look this Christmas whether celebrating with family or friends. Works parties or luncheons with friends - have you decided which outfit you would like to be seen in? So if you have returned from holiday with a little excess baggage you would like to lose before the party season, come along to your local group and find out for yourself how Slimming World can help that thought become a reality. We meet every Wednesday night at the village hall at 7pm. New members are welcomed each week. Look forward to meeting you soon.

Lorna Tel: 01453 821751

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 Tuesdays at 2.15 pm) and anyone over the age of 60 is welcome to join, ladies and gents alike.

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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 & Buy stall, raffle and bingo. Meetings coming up: 21 September, The Nightingale – a light-hearted singing group from Berkeley; 5 October, Harvest Sale – Bring & Buy; 19 October Stanley Singers. There are outings too, either as bus trips or birthday teas and not forgetting our Christmas Lunch.

New faces would be very welcome to join us. Contact **Anne Shill Tel: 01453 822061**

The Eastington Allotments Society

Maybe it is an indication of a burgeoning grow your own culture along with an increase in the number of new allotments being established around the country but one thing I have found after a couple of months of pretty intense harvesting is that.....you just can't give the stuff away !! You can almost sense friends and neighbours diving behind their sofas when they see you approaching their doors carry bulging plastic bags, handles stretched to breaking point. Works canteens have been turned into greengrocery stalls, displaying special offers such as "please, please take some". Apparently courgette recipe sites tied with the World Cup for the most number of hits this summer on the internet (actually I made that up....slice of courgette cake, anyone?)

*Note to self: next year, more attention to be paid to succession sowing and planting.

A chipping /shredding event was held on the allotment field during August. These have been generally very popular and well attended events throughout the local area. Unfortunately our first opportunity to hold this event in Eastington coincided with both the middle of the holiday period and a very wet and miserable Saturday morning. Also, the deadline for getting the details into the last issue of ECN had just passed before a firm date was confirmed.

However, we have been able to organise another event. This free service will take place on Saturday 20th November 2010 between 9.00 am and midday. As previously, it will be held at the top of the Allotments field, which is situated adjacent to the OHMG playing fields and accessed via the gates to the Eastington Community Centre building. The general procedure is for people to bring along their shredding material, (not grass clippings, general kitchen waste or any branches greater than 4" in diameter) and then take away the shredded products for composting or to use as a mulch. Much more useful than just burning it and easier than taking it to a waste site. If you don't want the shreddings, then the allotment society will be more than happy to find a use for them. I am also looking at possibly making arrangements for people to bring and leave their shreddable items at the site during the week prior to the event and/or a limited collection service for those who do not have available transport. Keep an eye on your local notice board for future information on this.

The allotments waiting list is steadily growing, so if taking up a healthy and productive hobby is in your future plans then call **Angela Kitson on 01453 826914** to register your interest.

The Autumn Fruit and Flower Show

The village hall was the venue on Saturday 4th September for the Autumn Fruit and Flower show. The show offered a wide variety of classes including fruit, flowers, vegetables, cookery and children's classes.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and supported the show. It was encouraging to see that the show has grown in popularity - there were 231 entries which exceeded last year's figures by 68, which was great to see. The judges had their work cut out when trying to decide who to award the prizes to, but it would be fair to say that Mrs S Page wiped the board by winning an amazing seven trophies. The children's classes were well attended and trophies were taken home by S Mulla, T Mulla, H Underdown & E Underdown. Mr S Lord didn't go home empty handed. He took home a trophy for the most points in classes 6-11, which was no surprise seeing the quality and size of his onions! With The Eastington Allotment Society now up and running, we have high hopes that they will produce even more excellent goods ready for the Spring show in March 2011.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Fruit and Flower show, then we will be at the celebrations on the 19th September at the Owen Harris Memorial ground, or you can phone:

Sarah Underdown, show secretary on: 01453 823285.



Garden Waste Shredding Event

Wyevale Grounds Maintenance on behalf of Stroud District Council will be holding a community chipping event at:

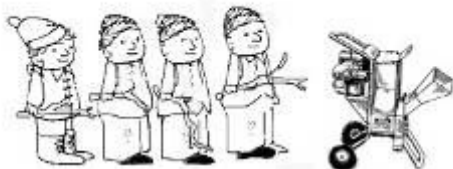
EASTINGTON COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS, OWEN HARRIS MEMORIAL GROUND

Saturday November 20th 2010 9.00am – 12.00pm

You don't need to book – just turn up on the day. Material up to 150mm (4 inches) can be shredded.

Please note that you may take away your shredded green waste once it has been through the machine. It is a good idea therefore to bring some bags with you for carrying away the waste. If you do not want the shredded waste it can be left on site and will be used on the allotments.

Wyevale Grounds Maintenance reserves the right to cancel an event if weather conditions make the site unsuitable to proceed for health and safety reasons.



Registered Office: Upper Buckover Farm, Buckover, Wotton under Edge, Glos GL12 9DZ Tel No: 01454 419175



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Christopher's techniques and methods are used in hospitals and clinics throughout China to treat conditions that would require you to visit a Chiropractor, Physiotherapist or Osteopath here in the west.

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Your Safer Communities Team needs your help!

We will shortly be holding our next meeting of the Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group at which we discuss local priorities for the Police and our Partner Agencies.

Prior to the meeting we ask members of the community to raise any concerns they have about the area in which they live.

You can have your say by completing this form (next page) and returning it to Stonehouse Police Station.

Thank you very much

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY
Serving for a Safer Gloucestershire

Stonehouse Police Station
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Stonehouse
Gloucestershire
GL10 2NJ

STONEHOUSE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM
COMMUNITY PRIORITY PROFORMA

Date:

Name:

Address : (optional)

.....

.....

.....

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 and return the form to the Police Station:

Stroke Association commissioned to provide new countywide service by Gloucestershire PCT

Looking to improve the Long Term Support available to Stroke Survivors and their Carers the Stroke Association has been commissioned to facilitate the set up of Stroke Clubs across the county as well as providing support for existing clubs, which are located in Gloucester, Cirencester, Lydney and Stroud. The Stroke Association will be working with volunteers, who themselves may have been directly affected by stroke, to assist with the long-term sustainable support of the groups. The Stroke Association will be working closely with organisations across Gloucestershire in order for patients to access the service. Other funding has also been secured to enable the Stroke Association to monitor and evaluate the service and its effect on patients over the next three years.

To find out more about the service:

Please contact the Gloucestershire Stroke Association Stroke Club Coordinator, Caroline Seguro:
Telephone: 01452 520723 or email: caroline.seguro@stroke.org.uk

First Aid Training for the Community

At St John Ambulance we feel strongly that no-one should suffer from the lack of trained first aiders. Over 150,000 people die each year, because there was no one there with the knowledge, skills and confidence to help them.

With this in mind, I have been appointed as the Schools, Community and Youth Development Coordinator for Gloucestershire, with an aim to deliver first aid training to as many members of the public and young people as possible.

To achieve this aim, I am looking to work in partnership with community groups, youth groups and parish councils, to ensure that together we can make a difference within the county of Gloucestershire as a whole. We have a range of community based courses, which we deliver on a not for profit basis and have flexibility in relation to the days, times and locations where these courses can be delivered.

Course fees start from £25.50 + VAT per delegate for our three hour Emergency Life Support Adult course, up to £65 + VAT per delegate for our 16 hour Activity First Aid course. All delegates will receive a student pack and handbook and will receive training from a qualified and experienced trainer. We utilise the latest technology and training techniques when delivering our courses, in line with current teaching methods.

If you feel that members of your parish council, or in fact members of the community within your parish would benefit from this training, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Should you be interested, I would be happy to offer you a discount of 12 places for the price of 10 on each course. We would also be able to deliver the training within your parish or at one of our training centres at Staverton, Tewkesbury, Stroud, Bourton on the Water or Coleford.

It may be a family member, a friend or a stranger who may need your help. Make a difference between a life lost and a life saved. Don't leave it until you need it.

Jim Jones, Schools, Community and Youth Development Coordinator

St John Ambulance, Ashville Business Park, Cheltenham Rd East, Staverton, Glos GL2 9QJ.
Tel: 01452 858227 Fax: 01452 855679

Yoga Classes



Leonard Stanley Village Hall

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For further details, and booking, contact:

Carol Maguire on 01453 791484



GLOS-VAIN UPDATE
Gloucestershire Vale Against Incineration
Opposing a waste incinerator at Javelin Park

ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR PAUL CONNETT

***Professor Paul Connett** is a world-renowned expert on waste handling. He gave a presentation in May at **Quedgeley Community Centre**, attended by over 100 people. Here, he argues the case for a zero waste society:*

‘CURRENTLY, Gloucestershire is poised to make a decision about what kind of waste handling technologies will be built in Javelin Park. This decision will impact on every council taxpayer in the county for years to come – for good or ill. One way, favoured by some politicians, would include the building of a massive incinerator. The other way, favoured by many citizens with whom I have had the chance to speak, would be to build a resource recovery park in Javelin Park. This would enable the county to move towards a zero waste strategy.

One way – incineration – will saddle the county with a huge debt which will take at least 25 years to pay; will create very few jobs for the massive investment involved; leave a huge quantity of toxic ash (one ton for every three tons of waste burned); place a horrible eyesore in the middle of the Seven Vale, visible for miles around, especially from the beautiful and unique Cotswold Hills; waste more energy than can be saved by recycling and reuse; waste the opportunity for a genuine reduction in global warming; threaten the health of residents in a variety of ways, and, perhaps worst of all, at this critical juncture in the 21st century, will take the county no closer to sustainability in its 25 years operation.

A resource recovery park would have many positive benefits. It could provide facilities for recycling, reuse, repair, possibly remanufacture, anaerobic digestion and research for waste reduction initiatives and for better industrial design for those products and packaging which clog our landfills. Such facilities would stimulate many small-scale green businesses and provide many more local jobs. Many aspects of this resource recovery park are already practiced in the county and receive almost unanimous support from both local citizens and local politicians.

There is no argument about the need for recycling, reuse and composting (or anaerobic digestion), so what is the key strategic difference in these two scenarios for Javelin Park? The difference comes in the way the residuals (the stuff we can't currently recycle, reuse or compost) would be treated.

Incineration seeks to make the residuals disappear – or at least move them out of mind and sight. However, we must not forget the air emissions or toxic ash that even the most modern incinerators produce.

The zero waste strategy would make the residuals very visible so that they can be studied and where possible they can be eliminated. This would be achieved by including in the Javelin Resource Recovery Park a "residual separation and research facility". There the residuals would be put on conveyor belts from where more recyclables can be recovered, more toxics removed, the dirty organic fraction (nappies, pet litter, contaminated food packaging etc) stabilised, with either a second composting operation or anaerobic digestion and the current non-recyclable fraction studied by a research team.

I envisage that this research team would be provided by a university or technical college. This research effort would become essentially one of many research laboratories in a larger research programme for a regional or national institute for zero waste and sustainability. Not only would such an effort recommend better design for industry's currently non-recyclable products and packaging but also look for ways that aspects of zero waste can be linked with other necessary steps needed to transition to a sustainable society. While residual screening facilities are operating in Nova Scotia, no community has yet to include the vital research component described above.

Gloucestershire having fortuitously acquired Javelin Park, in the midst of several very progressive communities and close to a major university, is ideally positioned to lead the world in this critical development. Right now we would need four planets if everyone consumed like an American and two planets, if everyone consumed like a European. Meanwhile, we have huge populations in India, China and Indonesia copying our over-consumption patterns.

Something has to change and the best place to make this change is with waste. We have little time to turn things around. It would be tragic if such a progressive community as the county was to waste 25 years by building an incinerator instead of leading the world with a recovery park.

I have had a very positive response to these suggestions from local citizens and also polite attention from local members of the county's waste board. No commitments, but I sensed far more agreement on these matters than disagreement. I have my fingers crossed for a great future for Javelin Park.'

More information: For details about GlosVAIN and of events past and future, see www.glosain.org.uk. For more info contact sueoppenheimer@gmail.com

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