

Eastington Community News

November/December 2010

Nº. 124

Welcome to the final edition of Eastington Community News for 2010. It has been a busy and eventful year for the Parish and seems to have sped along very quickly. To lighten-up the longer nights and colder weather there is now Christmas to look forward to. On Christmas Eve is the popular "Christingle" Service at St. Michael's (pg 8) and on Sunday 19th at 6pm is the Methodist's "Carols by Candlelight" (see Pg 7 for details of Methodist Christmas Day and "Messy Church" Services.) Following last year's successful Wine and Cheese Evening by the Anglicans, another has been arranged at Cleeve Cottage Millend Eastington on 20th November 2010 from 7pm to 9pm.

At School there are accounts of "on the field of play" on pg 3. Romance is in the air, and appreciation of wildlife and local history are also included. The children are currently involved with the 'Rights Respecting Schools Award' initiated by UNICEF. Maybe the lessons to help children develop and understand the 'responsibilities' that underpin the Rights of an individual person, would also benefit us adults. - Don't forget THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on Sunday 5th December.

It's a busy time at Playgroup just now as you can read on Pg 9. There will be a Live Band and Bar at Eastington Community Centre, (Owen Harris Memorial Ground), Saturday 11th December

2010 has marked the Centenary of Guiding and there have been many exciting activities for the Brownies too. You can catch up with their activities on Pg 11. There will be plenty happening for the Bluebells: a musical quiz 16th November and Eastington school children visit 7th December.

One year after the first dig, there is a review of progress at the Allotments on pg 13. A free "chipping" and "shredding" service has been organised for you, Saturday 20th November 9.00 am to midday at the Allotment site. Please bring along your woody garden waste.

The next step for the Community Orchard Scheme (pg 10) is to meet with all interested volunteers to share opinions and ideas on Thursday, November 25th at 7.30 at Eastington Community Centre.

Eastington still features high among favoured locations for large housing development. It seems that Stroud District Council (SDC) continue with two options of their "Core Strategy" that would more than double the size our Village. For more on this see your District Councillor's letter pg 2.

Feeling "safe" is cited as a high priority by many residents. Intimidation and anti-social behaviour are a common theme underlying such worries. The Police are aware of many of these problems and as part of the "Safer Communities" scheme, they have again provided a survey form on page 17 to collect your views and concerns.

At Parish Council the present focus has been to set the Precept for 2011-2012 and to review priorities within the budget. This is a difficult task given the current National austerity measures. However, it is the duty of the Parish Council to raise sufficient money to provide essential services. Clearly, some things that it would like to do will not be affordable, and other ways of raising money will need investigating in order to accomplish these. October was the first of three Parish Council meetings in the delightfully modern School Hall. The School Council will join the December meeting and it is hoped that some members of the public will also attend. (7pm Tuesday 14th December.)

Thank you to everyone who attended the *1st Birthday Fun Day* on 19th September at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground (OHMG), and especially to all who helped organise, prepare or clear up afterwards. It was a great success following our *Vibrant Village* accolade, and showed we are well capable of making this an annual event. There was a good response to the 'mini questionnaire' and this gave several clear indications of important issues in the Village to take forward into the Parish Plan.

Can you meet the "Waste Reduction Challenge" to reduce the vast volume of waste going into landfill? (pg 15) 20th-28th Nov, people across the county are being invited to sign-up to at least one pledge to cut household waste. The recent disaster in Hungary at an Aluminium plant underlines our huge demand for this energy intensive metal. By recycling cans you will help reduce demand.

It's good to hear brighter news about restoring the canal through Eastington, and an update about progress in Stroud (pg 5). Awareness of benefits to the wider communities is steadily growing.

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

Next Deadline: - All articles by **Friday 7th January 2011** please!

Next Delivery: - by Friday 17th January 2011 please!

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

CORE STRATEGY

This is, amongst other things, the mechanism that will decide where/how the next housing allocation will be made. The cabinet has decided that although the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has been abolished by the government they will continue with the overall housing allocation numbers that it produced. In doing this they also hope that about 750 of these can be distributed to the Gloucester-Cheltenham SSCT (Strategically Significant Cities and Towns) area. Only time will tell if this is possible. I for one am not holding my breath. The cabinet also decided 'That future work on the Core Strategy should be directed towards focusing development at one or more of the locations in Alternative Strategies A,B and D whilst developing the localism agenda'. To remind you:

Strategy Option A is a single concentration of 2000 homes and supporting structure and employment premises in one place.

Strategy Option B is splitting the 2000 homes, supporting infrastructure and employment premises across two locations.

Strategy Option D is the Stroud Valleys strategy of scattering the 2000 across a number of sites, with some degree of focus on the canal corridor.

Eastington features significantly in all three of these, especially in options A and B. At the cabinet meeting the decision was made at I asked the question 'Why not say the work is to cover all sites in consultation document? This wording suggests to me that there is a preferred option/site in somebody's mind. At least one Parish Council in a very measured response in the consultation process (this was Eastington) suggested there were other sites within the district, not mentioned in the consultation process, quite able to provide housing in the numbers mentioned. Have these sites/parishes been included in the alternative strategies locations? If not will a report ever be produced explaining the rationale behind not including the proposals in the continuing work?' I suggest you look at the web cast of the meeting to hear what the reply was. I did not draw much comfort from it.

PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

This subject has been ongoing for almost two years. The cabinet will be recommending changes to the existing scheme at the next full council meeting later in November. At present if certain circumstances are met the opinion of affected neighbours (and other members of the general public) and Parish Councils can ensure that a decision on an application will be made in public by elected councillors at a Development Control Committee meeting (DCC). The proposals would end this situation. Also at present the local ward member (councillor) can request that an application be removed from delegated authority and be determined by the DCC. This request if supported by valid planning reasons will also automatically ensure that it is sent to DCC. This automatic referral is also proposed to cease. My personal opinions on the proposals are that they reduce the level of public involvement in the planning process. I also have other concerns on the proposals. I intend to speak against the proposals as tabled and will report back on the outcome of the debate in my next report.

BUDGET CUTS

It appears that the government review is what was expected in terms of cuts to local government but as they say, 'the devil is in the detail' and SDC will not know its specific grant settlement until early December. Hopefully by then we will also have more detail on the planning arrangements that will replace the RSS and a definition of 'localism' and other buzz words floating about.

Ken Stephens November 2010



Dear All

Another busy academic year is underway and the happy industry continues with a whole range of activities planned in support of the children's learning.

On the field of play.....

Our sporting achievements to date include an excellent team effort in the Stroud 6-a-side football tournament finishing runners up to Minchinhampton Primary. Eastington is currently involved in a mini football league competing against schools within the Stroud area. Good luck to all. Our cross country team have enjoyed some fantastic results with 6 top ten finishes in the junior events and our Year 2 (infants) proving outright winners during a multi race event at Maidenhill School. More recently, Eastington won the school team Silver Mile event as part of the Stroud half marathon. Many extra curricular activities continue with tag rugby, hockey, cross country, football and multi sports to name but a few!

Visitors to the school

We welcomed officers from the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, who reminded the children about safety. We have also been helping with the training of police personnel who 'practiced' their questioning techniques on some of our younger children.....this proved quite a challenge for the officers! All children in the junior classes thoroughly enjoyed the techniques of screen printing in support of their project on William Morris. Workshops were led by local artist, Alison Vickery and provided an opportunity for the children to understand the printing process with some stunning results. Members of the Methodist Church have delighted us this term with interactive stories from the Bible and Rev. Amys continues to take a lead with some of our themed assemblies.

Rights and responsibilities

We are currently involved with the Rights Respecting Schools Award. This initiative, headed by UNICEF, aims to help children interpret the 42 Articles of Human Rights through developing an understanding of the 'responsibilities' that underpin the Rights of an individual person. Working with a small number of schools within the Stroud area the children have already implemented classroom and playground Charters that highlight their responsibilities as young people. A steering group led by children, staff and governors is working closely with the rest of the school community to raise awareness and improve our understanding of the world in which we live.

Our first 'proposal'!

As some of you may have read in the local and national press, one of our members of staff, Miss Wall received a proposal of marriage from her fiancé in front of her class! What she did not know was that the children had a hand in proceedings by posing the question on behalf of her fiancé who then appeared from a store cupboard, ring in hand! Having said 'yes', the couple are planning to marry next spring.....aah!

Out and about

Some of our older children have enjoyed dance workshops at Rednock School with our younger learners participating in shared sporting events at Maidenhill School. We continue to promote local history with Classes 1 and 2 undertaking a project about houses and homes in Eastington, whilst Mr Dougan (staff member), continues to share his expertise of local wildlife during weekly 'nature' walks. All children in Years 5 and 6 also participate in a 5 week digital photography

course – with some superb results. Last year, Amelia Dive became Gloucestershire's Young Photographer of the Year and featured in Cotswold Life! This year, we are looking forward to strengthening our involvement with many local projects including the Eastington Community pond group, the Allotment Association and the Community Orchards initiative.

We have recently forged a special link with Charles Dickens Primary, an inner city school in Southwark, central London. We enjoyed an absolutely wonderful morning when our friends came to visit Eastington and shared experiences with their new found 'pen pals' from Years 5 and 6. We swapped ideas, sang songs and smiled a great deal in the knowledge that real community cohesion can be achieved and we are all 'richer' for having had the experience. We hope to see our friends again in the spring term when we are planning to spend a day in London. I may be old fashioned but it is so good to see the excitement of children writing and receiving letters rather than emails or texts!

Forthcoming projects and events

We are planning to construct an outside learning area between Classes 1 and 2. This will be used to extend opportunities for the children to develop their imagination, engage in role play and learn how to keep safe. Representatives on the school council have also contributed to the design of a shaded area to be installed in the main playground later in the year.

The Parish Council continue their 'tour' of the village and are holding their next 2 meetings at School – Tuesday 9th November and on Tuesday 14th December (school hall 7.00pm) All are most welcome.

We hope to see you all on **SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER AT THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**. All the usual festive stalls and activities will be on offer including a promised visit from Father Christmas who is popping in to school during his busy schedule. Come and join us for a mince pie and glass of mulled wine. From 12.00pm onwards.

What next....

As many of you will have already noted the pressures on public spending and the changing role of the Local Authority that will inevitably see many adjustments to the provision offered to our young learners. I do believe, however, having been in education for 31 years (including 20 years at Eastington!) that it continues to be a dynamic process and our village primary school will remain a great place to grow, learn and develop.

Thank you for your continued support.

Malcolm Strang
Head Teacher

**NEW EASTINGTON BABY
& TODDLER GROUP**

Now Under New Management.....

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

Specific Baby Corner
Home Corner
Arts & Crafts Projects
Drink & Snack Included
(Tip per person under 11.00)

Music & Singing
Healthy Eating Awareness
Outdoor play & gardening
(weather permitting)

We welcome parents, grandparents, child minders, aunts, uncles and anyone else who wants their little ones to have fun in a creative learning environment.
Co-ordinator: Clare – 07748 015034 – please phone for details.

**Come and Enjoy - First Session
Free !**

Over the past few months, few can have failed to notice the work going on to restore the Cotswold Canals through the centre of Stroud and elsewhere.

The A46 bridge construction is well advanced and is part of the Phase 1A project to restore the 6 miles of canal between the Ocean at Stonehouse and Brimscombe Port. The Trust has a new visitor centre overlooking the A46 bridge works at Bell House (formerly the Bell Hotel) which is open various days of the week. It is well worth popping in to see the displays if you happen to be in Stroud. Work is also substantially underway at Ryeford Double Lock and at Upper Mills Bridge as part of the work being managed by Stroud District Council and supported by Heritage Lottery funding,

One or two of you may have noticed the disappearance of the Trust's green dredger which has, for many years, been inactive and moored at Eastington. Last year, a considerable amount of work was undertaken to refurbish and update it with much of the cost being covered by Stroud District Council in anticipation of its use for dredging work on Phase 1A.

As no part of Phase 1A is ready for it to be used yet, it was decided to take it to the eastern side of the canal where a dredging project was ready to go. This has provided the opportunity to train up volunteers from all along the canal in its use as well as to clear a very silted up section that went out of use nearly 100 years ago. Being in a rural location, it was possible to augment the work of the floating dredger with that of a large hired digger working from the bank.

Eastington lies within the 4 mile section of canal defined as Phase 1B which will link the Phase 1A length with the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal at Saul Junction. All of the technical issues are well understood and preliminary designs exist for this whole length. The big issue is money but there are now indications that the Heritage Lottery Fund would consider an application from the Cotswold Canals Partnership to cover Phase 1B. A successful bid would be a big step forward but these grants only cover part of the cost and matched funding is also needed. In the case of Phase 1B, this will run into several £million. In an environment of squeezed public funding, this will be a challenge but volunteer input does count as "in kind" funding (as well as having the effect of reducing the cost) so we will be looking at maximising this. On balance, the general problem of securing matched funding might actually benefit the canal project by adversely affecting competing projects seeking the same lottery grants. As to the timing of all this, it is not clear at the moment but there would be a clear advantage if Phase 1B were able to run contiguously with Phase 1A without a gap in the work.

We are still trying to find a solution to the need to replace the gates at Blunder Lock on the Eastington flight. The cost of replacing and fitting a new set of gates turned out to be of the order of £43,000, which is rather more than we were hoping for, and this level of funding is not currently available. The Parish Council has offered to assist, for which we are very grateful, but the bulk of the funding still has to be found before progress can be made. We would, of course, welcome the involvement of one or more local sponsors if there is anyone out there interested.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of the canal project, please make contact.

Ken Burgin

ken.burgin@pikelock.com

01453 827414

www.cotswoldcanals.com



Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmq.org.uk

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

Very reasonable hourly rates

Would you like to help run the Community Centre?

We are looking for lively volunteers to help promote and maintain the centre, organise and be part of fundraising events for this wonderful facility for the village.

Coffee mornings, breakfast kitchens, parties, dances, quizzes, sports events, building and field maintenance, bar-staff.

If you would like to help out with the operation of the centre, then please do not hesitate to call Vanessa on 01453 828557.

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?

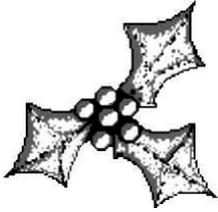
Clean, modern and spacious facility located well away from the road with car parking and lots of outside space

Facilities:

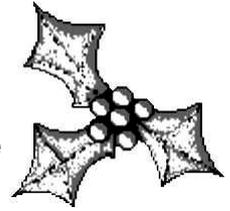
- ◆ Large main hall with **fully functional bar**
- ◆ Fully fitted kitchen with two ovens, hob, fridge and dishwasher
- ◆ Two smaller meeting/function rooms
- ◆ Tables and chairs to seat 200 people
- ◆ Eight-acre playing field with football and cricket pitches
- ◆ Two changing rooms plus a referee's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

Contact Vanessa on 828557 for a friendly chat and more information

Eastington Methodist Church



Christmas is not that far away now so below is what we are doing this year:



On Sunday 12th December at 11am we are having another Messy Church. This is a very hands-on type of service suitable for all ages with lots to do and get involved with. Last time we made decorative things and cooked mince pies amongst other things. As usual, our music group will be present and Howard Miles will be leading our time together.

The evening of Sunday 19th at 6pm is our carols by candlelight. There will still be many of the traditional carols but we will be deviating slightly from the 9 lessons and carols format. The service is earlier than usual because we hope that this will be easier for people who want to bring children. There will be refreshments afterwards.



Then on Christmas Day we will have a family service at 10:30am, led by Beck Burgin, where we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus.



Over the last few weeks, we have been running an Alpha Course at the Kings Head on Tuesday Evenings at 7pm. Each session has included a video, discussion and a meal. About a dozen have been coming along and we hope that everyone has found the sessions interesting and thought provoking. To do Alpha properly requires quite a commitment of time over a period of weeks. We are starting to consider what next and are considering arranging some stand alone meetings, perhaps monthly, aimed at exploring, discussing and perhaps even arguing about some of the really big questions, such as "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" Many people ask themselves this sort of question and, in the absence of an answer that makes sense, are unable or unwilling to move forward. If you have just such a question on your mind, why not drop a note into the church letter box and we will include it in the list.



As a church, we have just had our October meeting where we looked at the money side of things. For many years, we have taken the view that it is right to give away at least 10% of the gross income we receive to Christian groups who are trying to help others, many in the third world. This principle is described in the Bible as tithing and this year we donated about £4,000 to such causes. About once a quarter, we invite representatives from one of these groups to update us on their work and, in this way, we are able to pray with them to support them further.

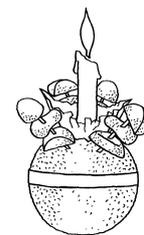
If you are new to the village, we welcome you and please feel free to drop into any of the events and activities we run. More information is available on the church web site and there are brochures available at the church.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

St Michael and All Angels

**Eastington
Christingle Service
At 6pm
On Christmas Eve**



Lasting for about 40 minutes, the service is suitable for all ages, and each child who brings a collecting candle will be given a Christingle - an orange decorated with sweets and a lighted candle. All money raised goes to the Children's Society, a national charity who uses the money to help disadvantaged children.

Further information will be distributed at the end of November through Eastington School and Play Group, or contact Jacquie Dingle on 01453 825542.

Books in Church



St Michael and All Angels Church PCC have been running a small library of books which are set out in bookcases at the rear of the Church.

The scheme is proving very popular with members of the congregation and we would like to extend an invitation to all villagers to come and make use of this valuable service.

We are in constant need of replenishing the books and if you have some interesting books that are in good condition and which you want to dispose of they will be very welcome. We are also considering extending the scope of the library to include good quality magazines.

The fact that the Church is open during daylight hours seven days a week means the service is very accessible and there is plenty of space where you can sit and browse before you decide on your read.

The suggested minimum donation is 50p to buy a book and 10p to borrow and return and we ask you to put the money in the offertory box in the wall by the north door. *Happy Reading!*

If you have any books or magazines or would like to know more, contact Mike Naylor 01453 828682



*Following last year's success **A Wine and Cheese Evening** has been arranged at Cleeve Cottage Millend Eastington.*

20th November 2010 from 7pm to 9pm

A variety of interesting Cheeses will be on offer –some local and some not so local together with a selection of Wines to try.

Tickets £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) from Robin Harris 01453 823433, and Jacky or Mike Naylor 01453 828682

All proceeds will go to the Church Funds

Eastington Playgroup

We have started the autumn term and the children have settled into playgroup routines and getting to know each other very quickly. Children have been quick to choose activities, join in with key person group time, and enjoy food tasting at snack time – we have had an Indian feast to learn about Diwali. We have also been talking about special moments and in particular celebrating birthdays and also making Special Books with family photos for the children to look at and talk about.

We have been looking at traditional nursery rhymes which seem to have been somewhat forgotten in this modern time – the children have enjoyed decorating eggs with Humpty Dumpty faces, making clocks for Hickory Dickory Dock and learning about numbers and their order, joining in with rhyming activities. They have also been very busy making up stories with their role play in the hospital that they have made.

We are very pleased to have been given a very good report following a recent inspection from Gloucester County Council Early Years Foundation Stage consultant. Thanks also to the Gloucester County for funding a new lap top and v-tech camera which the children have been enjoying. We have also been busy designing and making using different materials.

We have been fortunate in receiving some funds from a grant from the Co-op and we have purchased some gutters and stands for the children to explore and learn about running water, pouring, speed and capacities. We have also bought some soft building bricks and the children have been building large towers and walls - small and big, tall and long towers and of course knocking them down to build again!

We are busy making plans for our Christmas performance which was a great success last year - so we look forward to seeing families for this very special occasion.

On a sad note we are sorry to say goodbye to Claudette Wathern who has worked at Playgroup for over two years. She will be missed and we all wish her well.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 4 years 11 months in a well established community-based group. We offer your children a safe and stimulating environment in which they can grow and blossom into self confident, self reliant and positive little people. Our ultimate goal is to enable the children to have fun, explore and have the freedom to express their individuality, while forming the basis of their education.

We currently have spaces 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 see our new website www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

EASTINGTON - ITS TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!!

EASTINGTON VILLAGE XMAS PARTY

AT OHMG COMMUNITY CENTRE. Saturday 11 December. 7.30 PM TILL LATE

LET'S CELEBRATE A GREAT YEAR IN EASTINGTON. COME AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO LIVE BAND 'RECOVERY'. HOG ROAST & HOT SPUDS INCLUDED IN TICKET ADMISSION £15 PER PERSON AND THE BAR WILL BE OPEN!!

FOR TICKETS TEL VICTORIA FUDGE 07989 667080

WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

GROW your own FRUIT in a COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Adoption by Parish Council

Due to popular demand, Eastington is to have some Community Orchards for volunteers to grow fruit. A bit like allotments, only bigger. Much remains to be done before a spade is dirtied but the Parish Council has adopted the idea in principle and is funding the detailed planning stage.

The Parish Plan Questionnaire (due out before Xmas) will ask questions about Community Orchards, which will firm up support for the principles. It is hoped that the Parish Plan will then contain formal adoption of Community Orchards.

Types of Community Orchard

As a Nation, we have lost 70% of our orchards in my lifetime. We buy our apples at supermarkets, imported from all over the world. Growing Community Orchards is a way of bringing fruit production back into our neighbourhood. Eliminate Food Miles!

We could have several orchards, of different sizes, with alternative purposes, in hamlets and in Alkerton, subject to funds (of course) and the availability of land:

- full production orchards (apples, pears, damsons, plums, berries, currants)
- historic orchards with only Gloucestershire varieties (there are over 100 apple varieties)
- general improvement about the village and contemplative spaces

All these would improve the greenery about the Parish, keeping Eastington rural.

How do you join in?

The next step is to meet all interested volunteers (I have a list of 26 so far) to share opinions and ideas. This will be Thursday, November 25th at 7.30 at the Community Centre (Owen Harris Memorial Ground).

Anyone who is keen to join the movement is welcome, but please leave your secateurs at home at this stage. We will explore the options in which people are most interested and set up working groups to go into each avenue in appropriate detail. Think about your priorities in advance – do you want to help grow historic varieties, or produce good fruit for your family and/or make cider/jam/wine?

Please ring me, **Tom Low**, on **823425** or preferably log onto our wee website **www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk** to register interest and receive a copy of the Feasibility Study.

"The "Vibrant Village" Quiz held in our great new Community Centre at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground was much enjoyed by the 60 or so people who came along. It also raised over £341 for church funds for which the P.C.C. is most grateful. I feel sure it is an event that people will want to see happen again next year. This was the first Quiz in this format at a new venue. It replaced the former team contest between the R.B.L. and the P.C.C. which ended with the closure of the British Legion Branch in the village. We learnt a few lessons which I am sure will be taken on board for future events like this one.



A very big thank you to all who supported this event and especially those who organised the teams.

Robin Harris

Chair of PCC Fund Raising Committee

Eastington Brownies

Since the last Eastington News there have been some changes at Brownies. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to two of our leaders, Kate and Ellen at the end of last term. I'm sure all the Brownies and their families will join me in saying a big thank you to them both for all the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm they have shown over the last five years, since setting up the pack. They had a great farewell party (organised by Kate and Ellen of course) which was a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. This also combined with the Brownies receiving their Wonderland Challenge badge. The village hall was transformed into the rabbit hole, with the Brownies having to enter through the hole. They then played themed games, tasted different teas, ate bread and butter and drank from bottles labelled "drink me". The fancy dress was amazing with plenty Mad Hatters, Cheshire cats, Alices and Queens of Hearts.

We will begin the new term by welcoming our new "Brown Owl", Vanessa Cousins who we are very pleased has volunteered to take over the role, with help from Helen O'Neill and myself.

Aside from the changes in our own Pack, it has been a very exciting year in Guiding. We have come to the end of a year's celebration of the Centenary of Guiding. The Brownies attended a Vision Finale party at Frampton Community Centre organised by Stonehouse District. They played games and sang songs with other Brownies and Guides from the District and had a special sing song outside lit by lanterns they had made. The leaders also attended the County Finale at Cheltenham Racecourse on 20 October, with nearly 5000 other Guiding members, a fantastic evening which concluded at 20.10h (on the 20th of the 10th 2010) with everybody making their promise again.

During term one the Brownies achieved their book lover badge, they enjoyed flower arranging with Jan and Paul Viner (a big thank you to them) and craft evenings making items for the Vision Finale events.

The next term will be equally exciting with lots of new songs and games to learn, a night walk and Christmas crafts all on the programme.

Brownies are girls aged seven to ten years and we meet on Monday evenings during term time at Eastington Village Hall from 6.45 to 8.00pm. If you would like more information please contact one of us or email [**eastingtonbrownies@hotmail.com**](mailto:eastingtonbrownies@hotmail.com).

There is currently a waiting list so if you know someone who might like to come along and join in the fun, the sooner you contact us the better!

Sarah Mannings 01453 826850 Vanessa Cousins 01453 828557 Helen O'Neill 01453 821801

Bluebell Club

Anyone over the age of 60 is welcome to join The Bluebell Club, ladies and gents alike. We meet twice a month, the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2.15 pm in the Village Hall, where 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. There are outings too, either as bus trips or birthday teas and not forgetting our Christmas Lunch. Meetings coming up:

16 November: A musical quiz

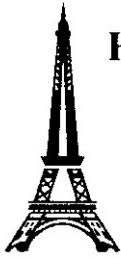
7 December: Children from Eastington School visit us

21 December: End of Season meeting.

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

Lingos Language Tuition

**French
Holiday Courses**



**GCSE revision
&
Oral Practice**

Beginners welcome

One to one or small groups
Danish and Spanish also available

07799 657975

lingos@fsmail.net
Eastington



K. A. D.



Total Tree Care

All aspects of tree surgery and arboriculture
Professionally undertaken

Hedges topped and trimmed, large and small
Trees shaped, topped, pruned and felled

Fully qualified and insured, free estimates and advice
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Eastington Slimming World Group

So Christmas festivities are almost with us and we have begun to prepare ourselves in group with a wonderful 12 weeks until Christmas launch party. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of food tasters brought in by members and shared. We also made our Christmas weight loss wish, wrote it down and stuck it to our Christmas wishing tree!

Magic really happens at Christmas and we have been preparing to enjoy the Christmas season finding out about all the wonderful filling festive foods you can enjoy whilst still successfully reaching our weight loss goals. Below is a sample menu taken from our Christmas made extra easy cook book.

To Start: Hot Smoked Salmon pate

The Main Event: Roast Turkey/ Stuffed pork wrapped in bacon served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes and roast parsnips

To Finish: cardamom and vanilla pannacottas

Sounds good. Eating like this and still losing weight! Come along to group and find out more about these recipes and many other choices that are there and waiting for you to discover, as well as the support of the group and your consultant. So there is still time to lose weight for Christmas and over the festive season as well. Why wait for January? Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Slimming World meets at the Eastington Village Hall every Wednesday at 7pm. For more details contact **Lorna 01453 821751** or just come along to the hall.

The Eastington Allotments Society

The onset of winter can be quite a bleak time for allotmenters as we spend the days tidying and battening down for the cold, dark months ahead. But, as we approach the end of the first year for TEAS, it is very gratifying to look back at what has been achieved in such a relatively short time. We can also reflect on all the wet cold sticky days over the last winter where people worked diligently preparing their plots in time for spring planting.

This year though, with the last year's hard work now behind us we can at least look at this winter in terms as a relatively restful period, giving us the opportunity to think and plan for the next year. That's not to say that there is nothing of interest going on at the allotments as there are still crops such as the Brussels sprouts, purple sprouting broccoli winter cabbages and parsnip to maintain and harvest. There are also winter onions, garlic and broad beans to be planted for an early crop next year (and possible winners at the Eastington Spring flower and vegetable show).

On a different topic, TEAS would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mid-Counties Co-Operative for their support in terms of a generous grant which we are hoping to use to further involve the school and the local children in healthy horticultural-based activities. If any TEAS members would like to be involved in this worthwhile project please contact the secretary (see below)

A reminder of a couple of dates in November to note: Firstly, for TEAS members, there is the TEAS AGM which is to be held on Wednesday 17th November in the Kings Head, commencing at 7:00 pm. Following this, on Saturday 20th November, is the Chipping/Shredding Event. This is open to all residents of Eastington Parish and takes place at the top of the allotments field adjacent the Owen Harris Memorial Grounds playing fields and accessed via the gates to the Eastington Community Centre building between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm. So bring along your shreddable 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 mulching or if you don't want it, why not donate it to the allotments.

Finally if you are interested in taking on an allotment plot in the future please visit the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site to find more information, or phone Angela Kitson on 01453 826914 to get your name on the waiting list.



Wyevale Grounds Maintenance



Garden Waste Shredding Event

Wyevale Grounds Maintenance on behalf of SDC 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.

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PINCHING MEMORIAL TRUST

What is the Pinching Memorial Trust?

It is a charitable Trust, set up in memory of a former Frampton-on-Severn doctor, and covers the parishes of Arlingham, Eastington, Frampton-on-Severn, Fretherne with Saul, Longney, Moreton Valence and Whitminster. The Trustees meet quarterly at the Frampton Surgery.

What is the purpose of the Trust?

The original object of the Charity was to relieve, in cases of need, residents in the area of benefit who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm. The Trust is able to help pay for items, services or facilities which are not readily available from other sources.

The Trustees are also keen to promote the good physical and mental health of those living, working or receiving education in the area of benefit, in particular but not exclusively through the provision of financial assistance for education and practical advice.

Who do I contact?

Applications for consideration by the Trustees should be sent to The Clerk, Pinching Memorial Trust, c/o Frampton Surgery, Whitminster Lane, Frampton-on-Severn, GL2 7HU.

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Compost your waste and watch your garden grow

As part of this year's Waste Reduction Challenge, people across the county are being invited to go green and start home composting. Gloucestershire County Council is running the Waste Reduction Challenge from 20-28 November and people across the county are being asked to sign up to at least one pledge to cut their household waste.

One of the pledges is to start home composting, which reduces what you throw away and produces a quality compost to help your flowers and plants flourish. Uncooked food leftovers – excluding meat and fish – can be composted, along with cardboard, tea bags, old flowers and nettles, bedding from vegetarian pets and lots more. Gloucestershire County Council is offering tips and advice to anyone who is interested in taking up the challenge.

Composting at home benefits the environment, in fact composting for just one year can save as much carbon dioxide produced by your kettle in a year or your washing machine produces in three months.

Cllr Stan Waddington, cabinet member for environment and waste, said: "We all have a duty to do our bit when it comes to the rubbish we produce and that's what the Waste Reduction Challenge is all about. Recycling or reusing as much as you can is a great start, but going one step further and becoming a home composter will really help us reduce what we would otherwise end up sending to landfill. Home composting is easier than you think and there's plenty of support and advice available so why not give it a try for yourself?"

Compostable waste sent to landfill produces methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas. By composting the waste at home, in the presence of oxygen, no methane is produced. Compost produced at home benefits your garden, adding nutrients, improving soil structure, maintaining moisture levels and keeping your soil's pH balance in check.

Compost bins are available from only £12 by visiting www.recycleforgloucestershire.com and clicking on the composting link. The county council has nearly 20 Master Composter volunteers throughout the County who can provide assistance, email simon.brown@gloucestershire.gov.uk for more details.

For details of all ten pledges and for more information on the Waste Reduction Challenge visit www.recycleforgloucestershire.com and click on the waste reduction challenge link.



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Stroud Valleys Project and Eastington allotment pond

Eastington allotment pond has developed remarkably well since its construction. Numerous aquatic invertebrates, birds and newts have quickly made it their home. However, the autumn and winter period is a time of decreasing activity for most pond creatures with some becoming dormant until the warmer weather. Stroud Valleys Project would like to thank all the people who have helped with tidy-ups and pond dipping over the past year. Stroud Valleys Project is running several events that may be of interest:

Hedge Planting. Saturday 13 November 2pm - 4pm. Contact: **Nadine Smykatz-Kloss** on 01453 753358

Starlings at Sunset. Saturday 20 November 3.30pm - 5.30pm Contact: **Barbara Wood** 01453 887805

Winter Tree Identification. Saturday 27 November 2pm - 4pm Contact: **Jenny Slater** on 01453 750251

Solstice Walk. Sunday 19 December, 10am - 1.30pm. Contact: **Ivi Szaboova** on 01453 753358

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STONEHOUSE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM
COMMUNITY PRIORITY PROFORMA

Date:

Name:

Address: (optional)

.....
.....
.....

Occupation (if applicable):

Age group

11-20	
21-40	
41-60	
Over 60	

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

STC NCG Priorities

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

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

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

You can also e-mail PCSO Liz Ward at elizabeth.ward@gloucestershire.police.uk

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OHMG Community Centre

www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk