

Eastington Community News

January/February 2011

Nº. 125

Welcome to the first edition of ECN in 2011, and we wish all of our readers a Happy New Year. I am delighted to welcome Marion Johnson to the ECN team. Marion is in the process of collecting together advertising for the coming year, and this important job enables our independent community newsletter to be delivered free to every home in this Parish. Thank you for volunteering Marion.

The pinnacle of 2010 for Eastington, was winning Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year. Having increased our confidence, and convinced a few more people of what we can really achieve, we look forward to the next opportunity to make a positive difference in Eastington.

Following the great success of The Eastington Allotments Society, (TEAS,) the Community Orchard Group was formed in November 2010, and has a viable number of members of more than a dozen families. More inside from Tom Low.

What we identify and cherish as countryside has evolved over several centuries, and continues to evolve today. Since the industrial revolution, the numbers of people involved in agriculture has dwindled to a very small percentage of our population, yet the proportion of farmed land in a Parish like ours remains very high. Dairy farming is dominant here in Eastington, and it is important to understand and respect its needs and ways. Although I have some appreciation of dairy farming from practising family members, I was fascinated by a newly published book. "A Year on a Dairy Farm" by Richard Cornock. Written in a Parish not far from here, it gives an enlightening and charming account of the 'ups and downs' encountered over a typical year. (ISBN 978-1-84868-984-8)

A 'Phase 1' survey of Eastington Parish will be undertaken this year, to compare the changes in wildlife over the past 40 years. A training day will be arranged this Spring, followed by surveying during the Summer. If you would like to help or need more information, please contact Colin Studholme at colin.studholme@btinternet.com (further details inside)

The "Localism Bill" was published on 13th December 2010 by the "Coalition Government." It sets out the principles of the "Big Society" and opportunities for local neighbourhoods. It's not so easy to comprehend the entire Bill, or to grasp the opportunities and issues for small communities like ours. It seems to me that CPRE's six-page summary bulletin gives a most intelligible overview, and I will make reference to that under Parish Matters.

Naturally, 'community' can mean different things to different people; it could be chatting or working with people living close by; appreciating the scenic views or open spaces; enjoying things in the Parish that you find special. Your opinions will be sought in the Parish Plan Questionnaire.

Now that the "Localism Bill" has set out the importance of neighbourhood planning, it will be even more important to ensure that our Parish Plan covers the relevant issues comprehensively, and that your participation and approval is clearly defined. Under those conditions, Councils will have to adopt and implement such Plans. Please be ready to take part.

Many people are being affected by cuts in 'Public spending', as the bigger Councils shed both employees and services. Some Parish Councils have been invited to 'pick up' responsibility for services. While this may be feasible in some cases, it seems difficult to comprehend how this can happen without additional funding from somewhere, or a massive increase in volunteers coming forwards to give their services for free.

Starting on 1st February, each first Tuesday of the month, everyone has the chance to have a lively debate and discussion about some of the big questions of life, followed by a meal - a model that seemed to work well for the Alpha Course that was run last year by the Methodists.

Have you seen St. Michael and All Angels Church on Google Earth? Do you know the connection with Mistress Nevet's memorial? More News inside.

Make a date in you diary for the Saturday March 19th for the 22nd Eastington Spring Flower Show 2pm to 3.30pm in the Village Hall. My thanks to The Allotment Society, Brownies, Playgroup and other loyal supporters for their contributions this time.

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

Tom Low (Distributor) 823425 (tom@hazelcottage.eu)

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

Next Deadline: - All articles by **Friday 4th March 2011** please!

Next Delivery: - by Monday 14th March 2011 please!

The Parish Plan will have even greater importance following recent government announcements. We are in the process of preparing the questionnaire to survey the entire Parish for their opinions. Please be ready to take some time in completing this important survey. Below are just some of the issues relevant to the Parish Plan.

Since the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust carried out a land use survey of Gloucestershire in the early 1970s, there have been significant changes to wildlife habitats such as ancient woodlands, meadows and orchards in the County. Here in Eastington we have also seen changes. We are most fortunate in having Colin Studholme living in our Parish and he will be leading a 'Phase 1' survey of Eastington Parish this year, so that the wildlife changes over the years can be compared. Dr. Colin Studholme is Director of Policy & Research at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and he is also leader of the Parish Council's Environment and Biodiversity Group. Please see Colin's article in this edition, and if you would like to help or need more information, contact him at colin.studholme@btinternet.com

There can be few people who have not heard of the "Big Society" as proposed by the "Coalition Government." The "Localism Bill" sets out the principles of the "Big Society" and opportunities for local neighbourhoods, but the 184 page document with 247 pages of schedules can take some digesting. As mentioned in the editorial, it seems to me that CPRE's six-page summary bulletin gives a most intelligible overview: The six-page summary will be uploaded to the Parish Council website www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington. If you would like to join the circulation list for the CPRE e-Bulletin, please contact cprenews@gmail.com

Public spending cuts are prominent in the national news at this time. This situation is painful and would seem to become worse yet. As the bigger Councils shed employees, we are seeing long-established services disappear. There are visions that Parish Councils like ours will 'pick up' the responsibility for some services. While this may be feasible in some cases, it is important to be realistic about what can be done. The amount of money coming to our Parish Council is a tiny proportion of District and County Council budgets – even after drastic cuts. It will be necessary to increase Parish funding from some source, but this will depend on public attitude to supporting new and innovative methods for fund raising.

Our Parish Council is currently funded to pay for just ½ a person and everything else is down to nine unpaid councillors. It is a challenge just to read and communicate the abundant information that flows down to us from larger Councils and other organisations. Clearly we will need to do things differently as this volume increases further. One suggestion could be an increase in volunteers; maybe to read and summarise documents such that we can better understand and prioritise issues. It seems that additional talent will be required to network with other organisations and to organise the increasing volume of tasks. Any suggestion that you may have would be welcomed.

For the past three months the Parish Council has been meeting in the Village School. Our aim was to take meetings around to different parts of the Parish to encourage public attendance. We are deeply grateful to Malcolm Strang for his warm hospitality and allowing us to meet in the modern and pleasant hall. We were also delighted to meet members of the School Council and were impressed by their professional presentation to us. Working with such well mannered and confident young people gives us much hope for the future.

Eastington Parish Council meetings will be held at the new Community Centre for January, February and March 2011. Meetings begin 19:00 on the second Tuesday of every month. We would be delighted if you could join us there.

Call for Community Composters: The Community Composting Network is running FREE workshops over 3 days to help groups set up and run their own community compost scheme. The workshops will be on weekends in late February (dates to be confirmed) at Lower Slaughter. If you are interested in getting involved and / or attending the workshops please contact Stephen Gribble on 01453 825279 or email him at chair.teas@gmail.com

Andrew Niblett (Chairman of Eastington Parish Council)

Eastington News Publications 2011

Attention Contributors

Thank you all for keeping the Village up-to-date with your activities in 2010. To help you spread word of your events, happenings, activities and attractions, here are the deadlines for this year's editions:

March 4th
May 6th
July 1st

September 2nd
November 4th

Please submit your news to Val Taylor at: valtaylor@cressgreen.myzen.co.uk by these dates to guarantee inclusion in the appropriate edition. Even if you have not very much to say, send in a paragraph or two to keep your name and organization in front of villagers.

Schedules for Delivery Volunteers

Once again, thank you very much for your continued efforts in delivering the "NEWS", on behalf of the "NEWS" team, the contributors, our advertisers and of course your 685 grateful neighbours. 2010 was another good year for prompt deliveries so to help you plan, here is advanced warning of the delivery windows for 2011:

**March ideally 13th but by 20th
please**
May 15th through to 22nd

July 10th to 17th
September 11th to 18th
November 13th to 20th

In each case, we will do our best to have your bulk deliveries before the first date. The earlier you can deliver, the better we serve those contributors who are publicizing up-coming events. I thought you might like to mark these dates on your calendar. If you subsequently find that you will be away, please ring or e-mail **Tom Low: 01453 823425 or 07974 369680; tom@hazelcottage.eu**

Call for Community Composters

The Community Composting Network is running FREE workshops over 3 days to help groups set up and run their own community compost scheme. The workshops will be on weekends in late February (dates to be confirmed) at Lower Slaughter.

If you are interested in getting involved and / or attending the workshops please contact Stephen Gribble on 01453 825279 or email him at chair.teas@gmail.com

The Eastington Allotments Society

Happy and Fruit(&Veg)ful New Year to all Allotmenters and ,of course, all home growers too. It is hard to believe that we are officially only 3 weeks into the Winter season, given the weather we have had over the last couple of months. With all the festivities out of the way though it does feel like we are on now our way towards spring and can really start to plan for the our second year. Hopefully for many of us it will mean focusing more on what we will be growing rather than just worrying about the ground-breaking (literally) task of preparing where it will be grown in time to receive our seeds, seedlings, and sets,... ..and (just to get the word count up) spuds, swedes, shallots, squashes, spinach, sprouts,...strawberries....salmonberries....shipovas ...shaddocks...salaks....soursops and err....saskatoons (a berry as well as a Canadian city!). Anyway, enough of those....

The shredding event in November was reasonably successful despite the weather being unkind again. A small amount of shredded material was produced most of which has already been employed as infill for muddy and uneven pathways. Hopefully we will be able to arrange for another event to take place sometime around April/May time.

Finally, for anyone who's New Year's Resolution was to take up a healthy and productive activity this year, now is the time to get your name down on the waiting list. If you are interested please visit the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site at www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington to find more information, or phone **Angela Kitson on 01453 826914.**

County Councillor's News For 2011

It has been my habit to write an article for the Eastington Community News once or twice a year as your local County Councillor and this is to wish everyone in Eastington a Happy New Year for 2011.

Eastington was voted the most "vibrant " community in Gloucestershire in 2010 and with the Eastington Community Centre at OHMG becoming fully operational and Eastington Primary School going from strength to strength and being among the best in the County's primary school "league tables" I am sure that the village will continue to thrive in 2011.

I confirm (although this will not be fixed until March/April) the County's part of the Community charge/rate is likely to be held at a maximum of 2.5% increase so as to take advantage of the Government's national "Rate freeze". Other costs under the new (since my last article) Coalition government are sadly not subject to this control and Gloucestershire has had to make £108m savings. The principal services suffering are libraries and youth activities but social services and highways will also have less money. Please understand that the Gloucestershire Conservative group are not implementing these savings for "political" reasons. They have been made necessary by the Blair/Brown regime's overspend. And are unavoidable by a responsible public authority.

"The one swallow to make the summer" is that the Government grant of £94m for the Javelin Park waste project is cut so this means that the County's Waste strategy can, I hope, be re-considered in favour of more environmentally friendly, smaller projects to match the excellent Stroud/County recycling waste collection plan applying in Eastington, which should result in 60% of household waste being recycled by 2020. With regard to the roads I am pleased to say that the ridiculous anomaly of the Bath Road 30mph operating only half way down the road is being corrected. The traffic calming measures by Alkerton Cross are in place and I will see they are monitored, but my requests for a speed limit reduction along Springhill and for proper crossings for the vulnerable residents of Orchard Leigh and William Morris House are currently blocked. I have recently chaired a study Group of the Environment Scrutiny Committee of the Council and we have recommended that parishes should have more power over speed limits and for 20mph zones throughout Gloucestershire. It remains to be seen whether the Cabinet accept our proposals. They might involve the Parish, i.e. Eastington, paying for any speed control/road signs etc itself but at least Highways could not use cost as an excuse against a locally proposed traffic measure.

My speed limit proposals are very much in line with the Coalition's Localism Bill which will give more power to the Parishes. Be warned though - especially Eastington - there will be pressure for residential and other development in our parish by persons offering the "carrot" of payments direct to the parish, which the bill and other legislation makes possible. What a relief that you have a far sighted Parish with a "parish plan" to control development! I look forward to working with the Parish Council and all in Eastington under the new legislation to "Keep Eastington Rural" and for lower speed limits and safer roads. I also hope that the long-deferred application to make "Sophie's Pitch" by Swallowcroft a village green, which I support, will be decided in 2011.

I am always available to help on County matters through Shire Hall or Tel: 01453 753429.

Best wishes to all!

County Councillor Tony Blackburn

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

In my last newsletter I said I would report back on the outcome of the debate on this subject. You will recall that the proposal was to remove the then existing position that the opinion, in certain circumstances, of affected neighbours (and other members of the general public) and Parish and Town Councils could ensure that a decision on a planning application would be made in public by elected members. Also that a ward member was able to request an application be determined in public, if supported by valid planning reasons. On top of this is, in my opinion, it became apparent that the changes proposed to the councils constitution also meant that it would be constitutional if no planning application, of whatever size, was decided in public ever again. The debate was, as is now all too common, a complete shambles. Amongst other things a typo in the decision box needed an amendment to sort it out and this and other comments made ensured that confusion reigned over the whole debate. The motion was passed but I will have to wait for the minutes to see exactly what the small print says. To my mind this change to the constitution removes a democratic right and replaces it with nothing short of patronage. There is no external driver in this change, it is just how the administration want to run the decision making process in planning applications. The way the vote went was: in favour, all of the conservative councillors present, against, all the other councillors present.

SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW

This has been going on for even longer than the changes to planning. To explain all of what has happened would take many pages. The short version is that the administration want to run the service one way and the overwhelming majority of the tenants another. The tenants want to keep what they signed on for when they went into sheltered accommodation. The way these most vulnerable residents, a very high percentage being over 80, have been treated I personally find appalling. The tenants' organizations feel that certain councillors have let them down, promising one thing and then voting for another. My vote was cast in support of the tenants.

BUDGET CUTS

A provisional grant settlement has been made by the government. The budget papers say that the cuts from government were more severe than had been expected and are considerably front loaded. They also say that the decreases are the largest faced by any local authority in the country. Because the settlement is still described as provisional (it will allegedly be firmed up by the end of January) I am unable at this time to make comment on the effects these cuts will have on services or staff.

LOCALISM BILL (REPLACEMENT OF RSS)

Although some information has been released on how this will work it is fair to say that a vacuum still exists. I think that it is also fair to say that developers have seen this vacuum.

Ken Stephens January 2011

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own fruit?**

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Group

www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk

Eastington Methodist Church

New for 2011:

Each first Tuesday of the month, we want to give everyone the chance to have a jolly good debate and discussion about some of the big questions of life. These will take place at the **Kings Head starting on 1st February at 7pm** and be followed by a meal - a model that seemed to work well for the Alpha Course that was run last year.

The expectation is that the subject(s) will be introduced through a short DVD clip which will then be followed by a discussion. The first one asks the question "Is there more to life than this?" and the first part starts with the assertion: "**Life Sucks – Sometimes life can be as much fun as stuffing marshmallows up your nose.**" If you feel your nose is running out of any more space for marshmallows, then you cannot afford to miss this!

The one on March 1st starts off "**Secret Spiders – The risk of being certain ‘there is no God’?**" What is that all about? - I don't know but its sounds like it will be worth finding out so why not come along?

On the other Tuesday evenings of the month, we will be resuming our Bible Study House Group at The Pike Lock House at 8pm. These, and those held at lunchtime on Tuesdays, will be following a series called Discipleship Explored which is based on Paul's letter to the Philippians.

By the time you receive this, the regular events such as Kidzone on Wednesdays at 6:15pm and the Friday Youth Club will have resumed following the Christmas break. New members are welcome to both. We also take young people to joint church youth events on some Sunday evenings. These include "The Venue" which alternates between various churches on the second Sunday evening of the month and "Junction Ahead" which is less frequent and based at Hucclecote. More details about these and other things going on can be found in PewsNews, available in paper form at the church or electronically on our webpage.

Our Sunday morning services can be a tad lively these days especially now that we have a high proportion of young people in the music worship group. If you have a preference for the older style hymns and perhaps a quieter life, why not go along to Hymn & Prayer in the lounge at Broadfield on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm. The short service is followed by refreshments and a time to chat amongst existing friends or to make new ones.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

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St Michael and All Angels News



Despite the snow and ice we have got through the Christmas programme without any cancellations. Our traditional service of Nine Carols and Lessons went ahead as planned on 19th December when the congregation was augmented by a wedding party staying over at Eastington Hall from the previous day.

We had a hearty throng at Church on Christmas Eve for the Children's Society Christingle Service and about 170 braved the elements and filled the church including about 80 children. The candle-lit service provided a very festive scene and a real start to Christmas for many excited children. This was followed later by the also well attended Midnight Mass.

Our library service in the Church continues to flourish and we have some really good books on offer to cater for (nearly!) all tastes. The charges are very modest - 50p to buy or 20p to borrow. We are shortly extending the library to include magazines. Remember the church is open every day during daylight hours and there is plenty of space to browse before you choose. Many thanks to those who have donated books and if you have any spare books which you want to give please leave them at the church or contact **Mike Naylor 01453 828682**.

Have you seen the Church on Google Earth? Try it when you have a spare minute and open the photograph of Mistress Nevet's memorial. She died in 1518 when Henry VIII was King of England. If you want a closer look why not come into the Church - she is in the Charlie Bullock Room which is on the left hand side as you walk towards the front. We often never get round to visiting things which are on our own doorstep so if you have never been to our Church before come and have a look.

If you have time you can also search for the emerging snowdrops at the east end of the Churchyard. They will be appearing soon - a sure sign that spring and perhaps some better weather is on its way. Hopefully they will be as great as last year's excellent display.

The Frampton Fundraisers are delighted to announce that

THE FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN HARVEST BALL
*held at The Whitminster Inn last October
raised OVER £3000 for local good causes and charities!*

Thank you to everyone from all the Severnside villages who bought tables and helped make it such an enjoyable evening. And a special thanks to all the people bidding in the charity auction, and to those who donated such great prizes in the first place.

*Feedback has been so good that we've agreed to organise another ball next year.
Put Saturday 15th October in your diary now!*

The Frampton Fundraisers

*Joby Everest 01452 741 031, Dawn Cooper, Carlene Malpass, Deb Watts,
Shelley Williamson & Sarah McCurrich 01452 741 233*

Eastington Playgroup

We welcome back all the children to Playgroup and hope that everyone had a great Christmas and we wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

We had a fantastic evening at our Live Band and Hog Roast party which was very well supported by the village, thank you very much and we will hopefully see you all again next year!

The children enjoyed participating in the nativity play 'The Christmas Fairy' for which we had been rehearsing many times beforehand and we saw some possible future actors for BAFTA awards one day! Well done to everyone involved!

This term we will be working towards increasing confidence and finding a voice, linking up with peers and developing friendships and personal social and emotional skills. Circle time in very small groups, table top games, role play and snack time activities will be encouraged and we hope to take a trip into space if there is time of course!!

Our numbers are continuing to increase slowly and we are now opening on Wednesday afternoons, to run alongside Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays 9am to 3pm and Friday mornings.

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 Shelley Myers, Playleader, Tel 0845 391 8941 – email claire@eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk or take a look at our website www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

Eastington Brownies

Brownies continue to thrive in Eastington, with the new leaders finding their feet and settling in well. During last term we welcomed two new Brownies to the Pack, and enrolled them just before Christmas in amongst the excitement of Christmas craft activities and parties.

Several Brownies left at the end of term and organized their leaving party with a "Britain's Got Talent" theme. Entitled "Brownies Got Talent" there were judges complete with buzzers and the rest of the Brownies performed – the standard was very high which made it a difficult decision to choose a winner.

One of the themes for this term is knitting and we hope to make a blanket or similar, to give to a charity. This will also help them achieve their "hobbies" badge. If anybody would like to come along and help teach the girls, or donate wool they would be very welcome.

Brownies are girls aged 7 to 10 years and we meet in Eastington Village Hall on Monday evenings during term time, from 6.45 to 8pm. If you know of a young girl who might be interested in joining us, please contact one of us.

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 first meeting of 2011 will be on **Tuesday 1st March**. After the AGM we will open our Christmas presents and have the raffle and mince pies we unable to have in December because of the snow!

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

Eastington Slimming World Group

A Happy New Year for 2011 from Eastington Slimming World.

Can I start this piece by saying thank-you to all those members who battled through the icy conditions for our Christmas party night. It was a lovely evening with great food. Also thanks to those who came between Christmas and New Year and kept on track - a huge well done!!!

So could a brand new year lead to a brand new you? After all of the Christmas goodies and festive treats has your New Year resolution been to lead a healthier lifestyle and lose some weight this year? If it has then the answer is waiting for you right here in your own village on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Village Hall. You will find your local Slimming World group ready and waiting to help you to reach those chosen and wished for goals.

There is complete confidentiality with Slimming World. No-one will know how much you weigh, only how successful you are and if you have an odd week where life doesn't go to plan then don't worry as there is no humiliation either, just a friendly group waiting to help you get things back on track.

You will never be hungry while on the Slimming World plan as there are so many foods to choose from - healthy nutritious everyday foods that the whole family can enjoy and benefit from. Men and Women are welcome, if you only need to lose that 7lbs to look great on the beach this summer or if you wish to lose many stones we can help you get to your goal. (11-16 year olds are welcome but must attend with an adult member. The free to go plan helps this age group learn about healthy choices to reach a healthy weight for life.)

So if you enjoy steak or pasta, chips or a roast dinner (or even all of those!) come and find out how you still can and enjoy a weight loss at the same time. You can telephone me, **Lorna, on 01453 821751** or just turn up at the hall at 7pm. Hope to meet you soon.



DO YOU PLAY or HAVE YOU PLAYED CRICKET?

Eastington cricket club requires players of ANY standard for the 2011 season, with most Saturdays (league) and friendlies on Sundays, midweek days and midweek evenings. We play and practise at OHMG.

Any standard/ability is welcome, to keep our club going.

Please contact Steve Gallagher on 01453 791209

Land Use Survey of Eastington

In the early 1970s the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust carried out a land use survey of the whole of the county. Called a "Phase 1" survey, the idea was to identify all areas of Gloucestershire which had good wildlife habitats - in particular long established habitats such as ancient woodlands, meadows and orchards. Once we knew where all the good bits of land for wildlife were we could produce a distribution map showing the county's important habitats. This gave a broad picture and the next step "Phase 2" was to go back and survey all the interesting bits in detail to find out exactly what wildlife of interest they supported. The 700 plus sites identified through this process are now either Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are protected by law, or Key Wildlife Sites - more in number and although not protected by law are protected by planning policies and are targeted for conservation action.

Once the Phase 1 survey was completed emphasis turned to the detailed surveys and the long term value of the Phase 1 survey as a whole was not fully appreciated. However, in 2009 the Trust resurveyed 30,000 hectares of land using the 1970s methodology. Both sets of maps were digitised and from the results we were able to analyse in great detail the changes which had taken place in land use over the 35 years between the two surveys. For the first time we were able to quantify changes and the results were shocking. In the area surveyed - a block of land 30km long and 5km wide running from the Severn floodplain to the edge of the Cotswolds - 70% of the orchards had gone, 69% of the flower-rich meadows had disappeared and 75% of ancient tree parkland was lost. During the same time the area covered by built development had increased by 182% and 286% of permanent grassland had been ploughed for arable production.

The original Phase 1 survey for the parish of Eastington (although not digitised) is held at the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) and I am really interested in carrying out a Phase 1 survey of Eastington parish in 2011 so we can compare the wildlife changes which have taken place since the early 1970s....and I am looking for volunteers to help! I have already recruited some helpers at the launch of the Orchard Group but more are needed. I want to arrange a training day in the Spring after which areas will be allocated and blank maps produced for the survey to take place over the Summer. If you would like to help more information contact me at colin.studholme@btinternet.com

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Community Orchard Group launched

The Orchard Group was duly formed in November with 15 hardy members braving the early snows to meet at the Community Centre. Subsequent applications via the Website have brought numbers up to a viable level of at least a dozen families.

A programme of activities has been sketched out and will be confirmed by e-mail to all interested parties during January. This will include skills training (grafting, pruning etc) and visiting other Orchard Groups around the county.

Feed-back from visits will help shape our objectives and thus a constitution. Thereafter we can apply for grants to support planting programmes, dependant on parcels of land becoming available.

Should we prove successful in releasing some land soon, of course we shall have a work programme and a nursery in which to apply our new skills.

We also plan to conduct a 100% land-use survey of the Parish. This was last carried out 35 years ago and so we will be able to see how many orchards have been lost in that time.

How do you join in?

Community Orchards is a way of bringing fruit production back into our neighbourhood. You can join in, to eliminate Food Miles whilst improving the greenery about the Parish – a practical way to Keep Eastington Rural.

Anyone who is keen to join the Group is welcome. Please ring me, Tom Low, on 823425 or preferably log onto our website www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk to register interest, receive a copy of the Feasibility Study and go on the e-mail list for news of future meetings.

We ask that anyone interested completes a wee survey, available on the website, designed to record the options in which people are most interested. Think about your priorities – do you want to help grow historic varieties, or produce good fruit for your family and/or make cider/jam/wine?

Your answers will help us organize the Orchard Group to best suit members' interests.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you in Eastington, Frocester, Fromebridge and Whitminster who have given so generously to this year's Appeal. Thanks also to the Trades people who had Poppies available on their premises and the House to House and Street collectors, without whose support I couldn't function.

To date I have been able to make a return of **£2,210** to the Poppy Appeal H.Q. Donations to this year's Appeal can continue to be made up to the end of the Legion's financial year in September and if anyone missed giving or would like to make a further donation, I would be pleased to pass this on.

Every week the Legion spends over a million pounds on its care and welfare services, the costs of which are continuously rising. I look forward to receiving your continued support for this much needed work of the Royal British Legion and thank you again for all you have done.

John Darwent, Poppy Organiser, Eastington & District.

Tel. No. 01453 822040

HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF CRIME?

VICTIM SUPPORT GLOUCESTERSHIRE IS HERE TO HELP YOU.

Being the victim of a crime can be a very upsetting experience. You might feel angry, frightened and alone. Victim Support Gloucestershire will provide support to anyone in this situation.

We cover the whole of Gloucestershire and have a team of specially trained volunteers located around the county. They can offer emotional support (an independent and objective person to talk to in confidence) and practical support such as providing information on other sources of help, assisting with Criminal Injuries Compensation claims and acting as an advocate. You can speak to a volunteer over the phone or meet them at a local venue, and it may be possible to arrange for a volunteer to come to your home. We can support you even if you haven't reported the crime to the police.

You can contact us via the **Victim Care Unit on 01452 317444**. It is open from 8am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and is manned by a team of Victim Care Officers whose role is to talk to victims of crime and to find out if Victim Support can help in any way.

We can also help you if you have to go to court. Our volunteers can arrange a visit to the court beforehand and will explain court procedure to you. Although they can't discuss details of the case, on the day of the trial they can sit with you before you go into court and talk over your experience afterwards. If you want to make use of this service please contact our Witness Service on 01452 525281, for the Magistrates Courts, and 01452 411724 for Gloucester Crown Court.

Remember you don't have to cope with the effects of crime on your own. Give Victim Support Gloucestershire a call on 01452 317444.

YOGA CLASSES



Tuesdays-Leonard Stanley Scout Hut
9.30-10.50 a.m

Wednesdays-Leonard Stanley C.P School
8-9.20 p.m

Thursdays- Eastington Community Centre
8-9.20 p.m

Fridays-Leonard Stanley Scout Hut
10-11.20 a.m

£5 per session - First 'taster' session free.

Please feel free to join a course at any time.

Contact: Carol Maguire on 01453 791484
caroline.maguire2@btinternet.com



NEW EASTINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Now Under New Management.....

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



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 !**





Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmg.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

Christopher Handbury AcuC, MCThA, UKOM

- Chinese Acupuncture
- Tui Na Physical Therapy
- Qigong for Health and Fitness

**Sports Therapy
Whiplash Injury Specialist**

**Muscular & Skeletal Pain
Digestive Disorders, IBS
Anxiety & Depression
ME, Chronic Fatigue, CFS
Sleep Problems & Stress
Relaxation Therapy**

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. He has trained in Chinese and Indonesian Bodywork, Acupuncture & Qigong (chi kung), this enables him to tailor his treatment to each and every person individually.

“By treating the ‘root’ cause of pain, and illness, and not just the symptoms, we can finally begin to improve our health!”

Please call to discuss your needs or visit us at www.orientalbodyworks.co.uk

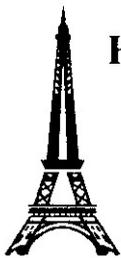
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Get Ready To Feel Better!

New Health Class comes to Eastington

On January 18th Christopher David Handbury, owner of Oriental Bodyworks, Ebley, will be providing a new weekly class at the Eastington Community Centre. As a registered and licensed practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Christopher helps others to improve a regain health on a daily basis using his unique method of Acupuncture, Physical Therapies and Qigong energy work.

In his class Christopher teaches Qigong, (pronounced Chi Gong) specifically a system known as 'Ba Duan Jin' or 'The Eight Brocades'. This system is one of the oldest forms of Qigong which originates from the Shaolin Temples in China being practiced by the temple monks to help maintain great health, endurance and aid their meditation.

Qigong is a collection of moving and still postures that have been used for thousands of years by the Chinese to strengthen the body internally and externally to prevent and treat disease, to help prolong life. Early morning practice is common place throughout China, where you can see parks and gardens full of people of all ages practicing this gentle, yet powerful form of exercise.

Qigong is sometimes mistaken for Tai Chi as the original movements of 'Ba Duan Jin' are thought to have later been developed by the Shaolin monks, into this great martial art. Others would watch the monks training with gentle and charismatic motion, unaware that there was a hidden form of self defence and self preservation within the movements.

Along side the practice of Qigong, Christopher teaches his own personal system of spinal health that he uses to treat his patients suffering with neck and back problems.

He says "the class is like Taichi, Yoga and Bodywork all rolled into one! No class is the same, but the one goal is better health and happiness"

The classes are especially suited to those who suffer from lack of energy, sleep problems, anxiety, seasonal illness, arthritis, ME and joint and muscular pain.

If you would like to join Christopher and discover how the benefits of Qigong can help improve your life, you can find him at The Eastington Community Centre, every Tuesday evening 7.30pm – 8.30pm. Classes cost £7.00 per session.

You can contact Christopher for more information on 01453 826501 or visit his website www.orientalbodyworks.co.uk.

New! Qigong Class

Every Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30pm
Eastington Community Centre

£7.00 Per Session
Gentle Exercise for Health
All are welcome

Call 01453 826501

For more information
Starts January 18th

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Cotswold Property Improvements Ltd,
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Registered in England No. 7125838

The 22nd Eastington Spring Flower Show

Saturday March 19th 2011 from 2pm to 3.30pm

in the Village Hall, admission 10p

RULES

- (1) The hall will be open to exhibitors from 9am on the morning of the show. All exhibits must be staged by 11am at which time all exhibitors must leave the hall. Presentation of trophies at 3.30pm - no exhibit to be removed before 3 pm.
- (2) Exhibitors' cards corresponding to the entries will be handed to exhibitors by the show secretary and exhibitors will be responsible for the proper placing of their cards with their exhibits. An exhibitor may only enter one exhibit per class. Each exhibitor using separate entry forms.
- (3) Exhibitors must provide their own bowls, vases etc for display of their exhibit. All exhibits entered must be staged.
- (4) The judges may modify or withhold any award if the exhibits do not merit the prizes offered.
- (5) Any unfair means to obtain a prize will forfeit all claims to prizes.
- (6) The judges' decision is final.
- (7) The committee cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to any exhibit or accessories to an exhibit. It reserves the right to move any exhibit to assist display.

Open to residents and members of organisations in the Parish of Eastington. Classes for everyone - please participate and make the event a success.

ENTRY FORM FOR EXHIBITOR

Entry forms to be sent, together with entry fees, 15p each class (except 30 and 31, which are free) to the Show Secretary, or handed to any committee member.

Additional entry forms available from the Show Secretary – contact details at the end.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES March 19th 2011

CLASS NUMBER

CLASS NUMBER

CLASS NUMBER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that all the articles referred to have been produced by me in my own garden or allotment, or made by me.

Exhibitor's Name:-----

Address:-----

Total remittance:-----

HINTS TO EXHIBITORS:

Read the schedule carefully and be sure that you enter the correct number of specimens in each class. Prize money to be collected on the day of the show.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>SECTION (1) Pot or bowl of flowering bulbs</p> <p>(1) Massed daffodils. Any number of bulbs. (2) Trumpet daffodils. 5 bulbs. (3) Narcissi, short or medium cup. 5 bulbs. (4) Hyacinth, 3 bulbs. (5) Hyacinth, 1 bulb. (6) Tulip, 5 bulbs. (7) Any other flowering bulbs (Any number). (8) Amaryllis.</p> | <p>SECTION (2) Cut blooms – own foliage</p> <p>(9) 5 large trumpet daffodils (one variety) (10) 5 double daffodils (one variety) (11) 5 narcissi (short cup). One bloom per stem (one variety) (12) Vase of mixed daffodils and narcissi (13) 5 tulips (any variety) (14) 5 narcissi (polyanthus type/bunched flowered) (15) 5 blooms of any other bulb or corm. Not double daffodils (16) Vase of polyanthus, 5 stems. (17) Vase or bowl of primroses. 8 stems (18) Vase or bowl of wild primroses. 8 stems</p> |
| <p>SECTION (3) Pot plants</p> <p>(19) 1 pot flowering cactus. (20) 1 cyclamen in bloom. (21) 1 azalea in bloom. (22) 1 polyanthus in pot. (23) Collection of polyanthus, 5 - mixed. (24) Primrose in a pot. (25) Collection of primroses, 5 - mixed. (26) Collection of 5 mixed pansies. (27) 1 pansy in pot. (28) 1 foliage plant. (29) Any other pot plant in bloom.</p> | <p>SECTION (4) Children's classes</p> <p>(30) Painting of your favourite TV character. Age up to 12 years. (31) Bowl or dish with floating flower heads in. Age up to 12 years.</p> <p>Name and age on the back of all exhibits please.</p> |
| <p>SECTION (5) Flower arrangements</p> <p>(32) Arrangement of flowers in a basket 18" square (33) Arrangement to a theme of your choice 24" square, e.g. song or book title (34) Miniature spring arrangement 9" square</p> | <p>SECTION (6) Cookery</p> <p>(35) 4 Easter biscuits (36) 4 pieces of shortbread (37) 4 fairy cakes, plain with a cherry on top (38) 4 rock cakes (39) Pot of marmalade (40) Quiche Lorraine, 6"-7" diameter</p> |
| <p>SECTION (7) Photography – picture taken in the parish</p> <p>(41) Children's category – up to age 16 years (42) Adults' category</p> <p>Maximum size of pictures A4. Please put name on the back of the picture. W H Smith vouchers will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for this section.</p> | |

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

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AWARDS: | 1st - 25p | 2nd - 20p | 3rd - 15p |
| POINTS: | 3 | 2 | 1 |

TROPHIES

Trophy donated by **Highfield Nurseries, Whitminster**, will be awarded for most points in the show.

R.B.L. Trophy for most points in section 3.

Hanman Bros. Trophy for most points in section 4.

Bert Johns Trophy for best exhibit in class 9.

Cyril Nott Trophy for most points in section 6. **John Ellis Trophy** for the most points in sections 24–27.

Doreen Fletcher Shield for lady with most points in the show.

THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PRESIDENT: Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Mr W Fletcher

VICE CHAIRPERSON: Position Vacant

HON TREASURER: Mr H Elliott

HON SECRETARY: Mr W Fletcher, 11 Budding Drive, Eastington, GL10 3BN.

Tel: 828507

COMMITTEE: Mrs Q Jones, Mrs G Neal

SHOW SECRETARY: **Mrs S Underdown, 3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG.**

Tel: 01453 823285