

Eastington Community News

March/April 2011

N^o. 126

Spring seems an appropriate theme for many of our articles this month, with the bright clear weather tempting us out-of-doors to tackle those tasks we left lying when the snow came. Our Advertisements have had a Spring-clean and we thank all sixty of them, new and returning, for their support. We continue to be able to print this ECN within the income they provide, so please browse through the Blue Pages to see which local businesses you can support in turn.

Spring may or may not be with us, depending on whether you listen to the Allotmenters or Andrew Cozens, both on page 9. Stroud Valley Project are looking forward to Spring with a few days out planned on page 5, as is Colin Studholme who is looking for volunteers to survey the Parish. Also outdoors, Transition Stroud Edible Open Gardens would like a few folk to join their campaign for more locally grown food (page 10).

I favour the view that Spring begins at the Equinox, which is why the Orchard Group are rushing to transplant some soft fruit into the First Community Orchard (page 4). Their work has begun on a multi-year project to bring a new community space into operation on Parish Council land. If you want to know more about this and other projects that the Parish Council is handling, come along to the Community Centre on April 12th or May 10th at 7.00pm. They are public meetings, second Tuesday of every month. The April meeting has the added attraction of a presentation by “FiVE” Renewable Energy.

Three Councillors have provided notes on their activities on page 4 and our District Councillor reports on the Budget Process on page 3. The Parish Council is particularly pleased to have finally extended the 30 mph zone on the Bath Road, beyond the last houses. County Councillor Tony Blackburn had a big hand in bringing the Highways to the table for that one.

Our regular contributions from the Methodist Church (page 12), Slimming World (page 13) and St Michaels (page 11) provide food for thought in different ways, as well as information on up-coming events and Easter services. Serious themes are also present in articles from the Community Police (page 12), Adult Social Care (page 14) and the Rotary Stroke monitoring on 16th April – details page 14.

You are spoilt for choice with further events ranging from “Can’t Cook, Won’t cook “ 10th June, page 10, Tea Dance 8th May, page 15, “Trash and Treasure sale, 30th April, page 11 and a Quiz Night on 25th March detailed on page 7. Fill your diaries!

Our School continues to have success in several fields – page 6 tells you of musical and further photographic achievements. It’s a busy place with more competitions coming up for all ages. Speaking of all ages, Brownies report on page 8 alongside the Bluebells. I understand that some of the latter have been helping the former with their knitting recently, so sharing a page is appropriate

And finally, some late news just in - Mark Cousins, Chair of the OHMG Committee, has been Highly Commended in a national award called Volunteer of the Year. Coming on top of winning Vibrant Village of the Year 2010, it is a fitting individual achievement. More details on page 15.

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

Next Deadline: - 6th May

Next Delivery: - 15th – 22nd May

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

District Council's Budget

I made mention of this in my last report, outlining that the settlement from government was the joint largest reduction in the country. This did not change. The night was a bit different for several reasons.

There really is very little middle ground with a budget process such as this. The type of budget that was set was entirely due to the policies of the national coalition government. You either think what they are doing is the right thing to do or you don't. I am full square in the don't group. I find it more than a bit interesting that there seemed to be a consensus at the cabinet meeting on the budget that the settlement had not been at all favourable to the district and then have the MP stand up in the house and say that cuts in spending power in Gloucestershire are being exaggerated. I spoke against the budget and made such points as: in 2007-8 as the world financial crises emerged UK borrowing as a percentage of GDP was 6% less than the budget year 1996-7. This put the UK with the second lowest debt in the G7. Borrowing was almost entirely to finance capital investment in things like schools, hospitals, roads and housing. Also that the government's office for budget responsibility published figures last June showing that the borrowing forecast of the previous government's budget last March was being revised down by more than £10 billion for 2009/10 and £8 billion for 2010/11. This showed that borrowing was significantly less than had been forecast. It is difficult to work out the impact the budget that was passed will have on jobs and service provision. I commented that the budget appears to me to be full of smoke and mirrors and hidden pain, with the promise of more pain to come. One thing I do believe is that the most vulnerable in our society will pay far more than their share and that we are definitely not all in this together. There was mention in the presentation of the budget that because of prudent financial decisions in previous years Stroud was better placed than most to meet the cuts and that the increase made to balances last year would help. I pondered a bit on these statements and wondered - did they mean following the last government's insistence on efficiency savings when talking about prudent decisions and were they saving up for these cuts by adding to balances last year? I also wondered where the money came from to add to balances. Did it come from not spending money allocated by the last government to help people then? Another event that was quite unusual was the removal of a member of the public from the meeting. This person had taken exception to some of the statements made in the presenting of the budget and answers given to some of the questions. Some would call it heckling, some just voicing an opinion. Anyway the Chairman instructed the person to leave the meeting. This person refused to go willingly. They adopted a form of passive resistance, and the person was literally dragged out of the chamber.

During the debate I was reminded of a conversation I had in Egypt exactly two years with a small Egyptian shopkeeper. I asked him how trade was since the world's financial crisis. He said 'the whole world has changed, the world is different now'. Listening to some of the speakers, one in particular, you would think that it was only a UK problem and had nothing to do at all with the behaviour of those in the financial and banking sector. I think the Egyptian shop keeper had it right.

I would like to point out that I believe the facts I have outlined above are correct, otherwise I would not have mentioned them. It is not my intention to try and mislead anyone. The musings, ponderings, wonderings etc., however, are mine alone and I am aware that others see the same things in a completely different way.

Other matters.

The uncertainties on how such things as the localism bill and replacement of the RSS functions will work continue. We keep being told more information will follow. I become more and more concerned at the vulnerability of the District as a whole, and our parish in particular, to the attention of building developers. I am also becoming aware of a change to the frequency of Development Control meetings. I am not aware of any discussions with councillors on this but it has appeared in the Council's Civic meeting list for the next civic year. I will investigate this and report back.

Ken Stephens February 2011

Introduction – Andrew Niblett (Chairman)

One thing is for sure; there are always plenty of issues for the Parish Council to tackle. This often means chasing up other 'bodies' who have the natural responsibility for that topic, but somehow seem to have become detached from the task in hand.

Happily, we can report a very positive step to help improve road safety for the residents of Orchard Leigh and others in Bath Rd. Following a recent site meeting by Gloucestershire County Council Officers (with encouragement from Cllr. Tony Blackburn,) the 30 MPH zone has been extended southwards towards the Parish Boundary.

In an attempt to encourage Parishioners to attend its meetings, the Parish Council has been 'touring' the Village by holding its meeting in different venues in the Parish. Our usual venue has been the Methodist Hall, followed by Eastington Primary School during last autumn. Currently, we are meeting at Eastington Community Centre at Snaky Lane up to 12th April meeting. Why not come along and air your opinions directly to us? Parish Council Meetings begin 19:00 on the second Tuesday of every month.

During the coming year, two different Parish Councillors will contribute to Parish Matters for each edition of ECN. This month it is the turn of Cllr. Muriel Bullock and Cllr. Andrew Cozens:

Service to our Community – Cllr Muriel Bullock

I have been a councillor since October 2010 and am getting to grips with how things work.

I am fortunate to be among a group of enthusiastic and dedicated people who work hard to make sure village and villagers are well served. They cover such issues as Planning, environmental issues including litter, highways, footpaths, upkeep of village greens etc. All councillors are unpaid and give of their time willingly.

I am hoping to be able to play my part in helping to alleviate the antisocial behaviour without the need for ASBO's. The youth of our village need to feel part of it and be encouraged to talk to us and together perhaps we can solve the problem. I have already talked to some parents and am hoping to set up a meeting to get started, I am aware anything we want to do will probably cost money and have been advised there is some available but I think it would be more rewarding for those involved to raise some of the funds needed themselves.

I would be very interested to hear from our Football and Cricket teams with their views on ways to help.

If you have any questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me either by email murielbullock@btinternet.com or phone **01453 826172**.

Cllr Andrew Cozens

As a Parish Councillor, I have been asked to contribute to the Eastington Community News a few words on the subject of the burial ground (the sub group that I chair).

As the occupants never complain there is not a lot to write about, save that of the Community Orchard which is about to come into being on the northern side of the present burial ground. We have enough space within the current site for a few more years yet before we will need to expand the burial ground northwards.

The planting of the Community Orchard will be in such a way as to enable expansion of the current facility but hopefully it will enhance the area eventually when the trees & bushes etc have reached maturity. Further details will appear in ECN via the Community Orchard Group.

EASTINGTON ORCHARDS GROUP

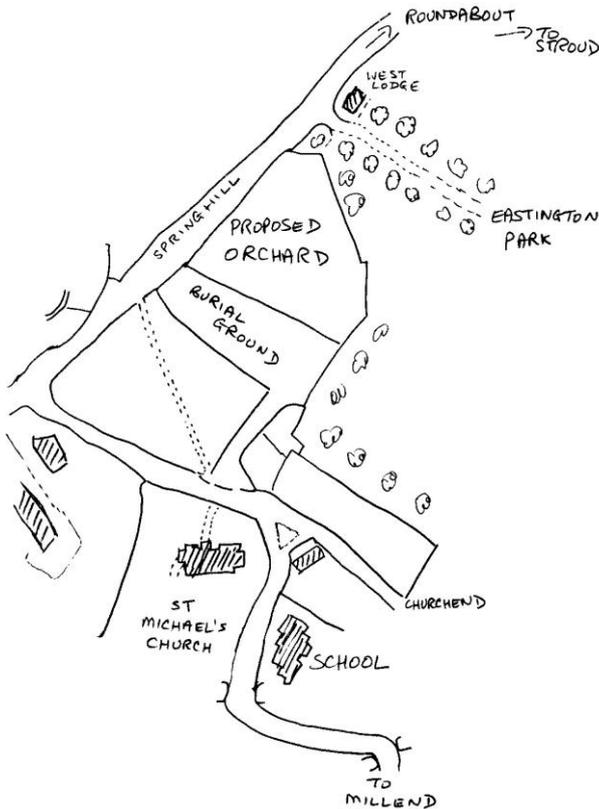
First Community Orchard Starting!

We now have our very first Orchard, to be developed on Parish land, just north of the Burial Ground. Both the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council have backed plans to make an orchard out of the pasture-land which will ultimately be used for burials over the next 100 years.

Rather than leave this land un-used, we shall have an area which is partly productive, partly contemplative and overall more attractive than if we left it to the cows. You can read the report behind this initiative and more details of plans as they emerge, via our website: <http://www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk>

Overall Plan

It will take several years (and planting seasons) to bring this orchard to full use.



Initially, we have some donated soft fruit bushes to plant out. This fulfils a principle in the original proposal, that soft fruit bushes be used, lest the land be needed for burials faster than anticipated.

Grants will be sought from environmental charities to pay for further planting – soft fruit to the south, larger trees to the north and east. We would incorporate a path from near West Lodge, down to meet the Avenue, leading to the Church and the School through the Burial ground.

In keeping with the location, seats will be sited to allow contemplation with a view over the Burial Ground to the Church.

We envisage larger Apple and Perry Pear trees in the north and east which will take some time to mature. They do say that you plant crops for food and trees for your children.

Current Work Plans

Fencing and preparation for planting will take place in early March and the first bushes will be transplanted soon after, probably before you read this article. If the deer and rabbits leave us alone, we should have some crops this summer. News of when it opens to the public will be given in a future edition of the ECN.

If you want to join in the fun of re-establishing Eastington's orchards, either here or in the other couple of plots we have in mind, log on to the website, and register your interest.

Renewable Energy

FiVE, a renewable energy consultant group, will be presenting their ideas for a renewable energy in Eastington at the April Parish Council meeting. Please come along and hear what they have to say, and ask any questions you may have.

**Eastington Community Centre
Owen Harris Memorial Ground
Tuesday 12th April, 7pm**

Wildlife Survey Training Day

Following my article in the last newsletter about recruiting volunteers to carry out a wildlife survey of the parish I have now set a date for the survey training. It will take place on Saturday **30th April between 1.30 and 5.00 pm** at the OHMG Community Centre. We will start off with an indoor session explaining the methodology and then we will put it into practice with a walk around the local area. Maps and full instructions will be provided. I will be contacting people who have already said they would like to help out directly but if anyone else would like to join in please contact me at colin.studholme@btinternet.com



One hour at the pond

Tuesday 29th March, 6pm- 7pm

Come and see what has happened since the winter at the pond on the allotments. We will do a bit of pond dipping and get the area ready for the spring. It will still be light as the clocks will have gone back by then.

If you want to get in touch beforehand, please contact Mark or Nadine at the Stroud Valleys Project on 01453 753358 or by e-mail to Nadine@stroudvalleysproject.org or mark@stroudvalleysproject.org

Other upcoming events from Stroud Valleys Project:

- a peregrine falcon talk on 19th March with Lloyd Buck, who flies with and films peregrines and will have a real peregrine falcon with him
- a walk along Chalford Valley for birdsong on 15th March
- an insect talk on 15th April
- the Stonehouse Great Crested Newt Survey on the 29th and 30th April.

For more details on any of these events please either visit our website at: www.stroudvalleysproject.org or call 01453 753358 for more information.

Eastington News Publications 2011

Attention Contributors

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

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, do send in a brief note 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. Here are the delivery windows for 2011:

May 15th through to 22nd July 10th to 17th
September 11th to 18th November 13th to 20th

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. Please 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**



Dear All

Sadly, we fell victim to the extreme cold weather during the Christmas period with a minor flood in one of our class bases. Thanks to many willing helpers who swished, sponged and mopped, the offending pipe was repaired and the classroom ready for the new term.

Beyond the classroom

We have been out and about as part of our studies. The older children visited the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, in support of their history work reflecting life in Roman Britain. Our younger learners enjoyed a super day at The Steam Museum, Swindon as part of their programme of work on transport. Both trips provided valuable first hand experience with the children being congratulated by their hosts on their excellent behaviour and application to their learning.

Back in court!

As current title holders of the Stroud Schools Mock Trial competition, we are once again presenting our case for the prosecution on 10th March at Stroud Magistrates Court. The children will engage in challenging dialogue against another school, providing a fascinating insight into the workings of the judicial system. Watching from the public gallery, I am always amazed at the level of confidence and degree of articulation demonstrated by those involved.

Country file here we come!

We have entered a team in the Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz. The first round is being held at Eastington between ourselves, Minchinhampton and Thrupp Primary schools. This has prompted a welcome return to 'nature walks' on Friday afternoons for some groups and the formation of a Wildlife Club – fantastic!

Smile please

Two of our young photographers, Annie Rees and Eleanor Banks were 'commended' for their entries in the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year Award. In 2010, an Eastington pupil, Amelia Dive, won the top prize and featured in Cotswold Life. Both Annie and Eleanor are clearly hot on her heels! A special thanks to Mr Dougan (member of staff), who leads the digital photography course as part of our extended curriculum.

Inspiring

We all enjoyed a visit from 17 Japanese students who worked with our younger children sharing a whole range of skills and activities including origami, calligraphy, indoor games and art work. It was an inspiring afternoon and served to broaden the understanding between two very different cultures. As always, the children showed us how it should be.

Extended learning

Work is almost complete on our 'outside area' between Classes 1 and 2. The installation of a bespoke canopy that is sympathetic to the existing building allows the children to play outside even when the weather is inclement. The area includes a small stage, story telling chair, planters and a mini roadway to promote road safety. The children have been instrumental in its design and more importantly 97% of all the materials used are recycled!

On the sporting front

'Well done' to the girls' football team who have qualified for the Stroud Millennium Football finals to be held later this month. Our cross country runners achieved top places in the Stroud Area championships with 2 pupils making the county finals.

Making music

We are once again participating in the Stroud music festival. The theme is very different this year, with David Ayres (a professional musician) leading the children through some fantastic workshops where they compose, create and perform their very own pieces! The title for the performance this year is 'Edwin's Extraordinary Invention – the life and times of Mr. Budding' and focuses on our locality, the invention of the Lawnmower and other important inventions (like the adjustable wrench!).

Your help please

It's that time of year when Tesco's and Sainsbury's offer their shopping vouchers. In past years we have added to our sports equipment and computer resources thanks to you. Please send them to school or by all means pop in to the front entrance where there are two strategically placed collection boxes. 'Every little helps' (I think that's the other one!).

And finally,

A comment from one of our younger learners on being asked what they did at the weekend..... *'I went to visit my grandma.....who knows everything'*. ('And what about grandad?' responded the teacher)... *'Oh grandad knows lots too...because grandma tells him!'* mmmmmh....

Thank you for your continued support.

Malcolm Strang, Headteacher

'Aiming high.....together'

Eastington Primary School Parents Association host



Quiz Night (inc. supper)

Friday 25 March

Tickets £7pp

Come and join us at the school for a bit of friendly competition in teams of 4 to 6 people. Sample Sushi rolls for starters followed by a Japanese curry or a vegetarian English dish and see if you can stroll home with the £40 team prize.

Bar opens at 7 pm. Quiz starts at 7:30pm.

Tickets from Mrs. Lester in the school office or via PA representatives.

Warning: this evening is suitable for ages 18 to 104 only!

Eastington Brownies

The Brownies continue to be busy, with a varied and fun programme. We started on the Hobbies badge last term, a major part of which is learning to knit. This has been very successful with a couple of sessions last term and this term. We are knitting squares to make a blanket which we will donate to the Family Haven in Gloucester. It is coming along nicely, and we must take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have come along to help us, and also to say thank you for the donations of wool and the knitted squares that have been given to the girls to bring.

The girls also achieved their First Aid badge last term after a couple of sessions with Rachel, a paramedic who came along to teach them. We are very grateful to her for giving up her time to help.

At the end of last term we entered two teams in the Whitminster Games evening, organised by the Rotary Club. It was a very active evening which the Brownies all enjoyed, competing against other local Brownies and Cubs.

We have an active programme planned for this term, finishing with some Easter activities.

Brownies are girls aged between seven and ten and we meet on Monday evenings during term-time, from 6.45 to 8pm, in Eastington Village Hall.

If you have got a daughter or friend who would like to know more, 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. How about coming along and bringing a friend to one of our afternoons? The gentlemen are just as welcome. Don't forget, 2.15 at the Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month. We are a friendly bunch and I'm sure you would enjoy the programmes. Coming up:

Tuesday March 15th Mrs Cheyne talks about the Citizen's Advice Bureau

Tuesday April 5th Life of the Boatwomen

Tuesday April 19th Tom Low tells us about his trip to Peru.

We really would enjoy seeing you! Contact **Anne Shill Tel: 01453 822061** for further details.

Parties for Children



A children's jewellery making party is a perfect solution to the age-old problem of birthday parties and school holiday activities! Girls will love getting together with their friends to be creative and inspired. With a huge selection of gorgeous beads and charms to choose from, they will all be able to make something extra special to take home. Perfect for girls 6 years to 16. Contact me on info@bohemianbeads.co.uk for more information or meet me at many of the local craft events. www.bohemianbeads.co.uk; Tel: 0845 391 8941

A few notes from my other job, a Dairy Farmer

We entered the winter with just about enough feed stocks to see us through, the late dry autumn allowed us to keep the non milking cattle out a few weeks longer than usual, thereby conserving the feed and bedding stocks. The beginning of December brought back memories of the 1982 hard freeze, but this time it was all of 5°C warmer. The lowest temperature I recorded was -17 °C, plenty cold enough to freeze the milking parlour, thereby delaying morning milking by an hour to 5am whilst we employed a heat gun and hot water to remove ice from various valves etc. We also had to cart water to the various groups of non milking cattle as their troughs had frozen so much it was nigh on impossible to thaw, 1500 litres twice a day (it makes you appreciate how convenient a water pipe and ball valve is!). However, respite from the cold snap was short-lived and came back to remind us on Christmas Morning, but we were better prepared and the work load fared lighter. Since Christmas it has generally been dry and cold. With spring just around the corner I am thinking it will start raining sometime soon, just to mess up any plans on getting the ground ready for the spring planting, allotmenters tell me if I get it wrong. On the bright side the days are getting longer and that gives us all a spring in our step.

Andrew Cozens

The Eastington Allotments Society

‘Looking forward to Spring’ is an understatement that does not come anywhere near close to expressing what I, and I guess other allotmenters and gardeners in general, are feeling at the moment.

There has been a lot of discussion recently about when, exactly, does Spring start. I think “officially” it is supposed to start at the Vernal Equinox which is the 21st March. Some people will say it is when the clocks go forward, which is on the 27th March. This year, though, many people seem to have been pushing for it to be the 1st March, which, I sense, is due to a lot of wishful thinking after what seems to have been a long hard winter. I have to admit that, this year, I am one of them. Bring it on!

Having said that, the reality is that the ground is still too cold, wet and sticky at the moment to expect anyone to make any real progress outside. The allotments themselves are looking a bit sorry for themselves, showing signs of having taken a quite a battering from the recent wind and rains. But all it should take is one relatively warm and sunny weekend to kick off a fantastic transformation. Maybe (and hopefully) we will have already had that weekend by the time this article goes out.

Talking of things that will have happened since writing this: Eastington is due to have a visit from Fay Hatcher from Radio Gloucestershire on Friday 5th March, to mark the start of this year’s ‘Gloucestershire’s Most Vibrant Village’ competition, which of course Eastington won outright last year. The setting up of TEAS played a major part in winning this award, so expect a mention.

I hope you have all got your potatoes chitting. Some people I know have already got them in the ground, even though, as I have been led to believe, Easter is said to be the traditional time to plant out your spuds. This, in itself, seems to be a strange time to set as a specific planting date, in that Easter is very much a ‘moveable feast’. I am also hoping so see a wide and interesting variety of potatoes being grown on the allotments this year.

Allotments don’t just provide the space to grow vegetables in quantity but they also present the opportunity to experiment with varieties not often found at the larger garden centre chains. So, maybe we could look forward to having an informal potato swap and taste arrangement throughout the year.

Finally if you are interested in taking on a 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.

Stephen Gribble

Transition Stroud's 'Edible Open Gardens' weekend 9th and 10th July

Over 20 edible gardens will be open to the public seeking to encourage people to grow and learn more about food. There will be vegetable and fruit gardens, allotments, herb and kitchen gardens, chicken keepers and more in various communities including Stroud, Whiteshill, Stonehouse, Bisley and Horsley. The gardeners will be available to share their knowledge and passion for growing.

Philip Booth, an organiser of the event and Transition Stroud member said: "We want to celebrate some of the wonderfully productive gardens and local food-growing projects in the Stroud Valleys. We have, so far, a grant from the Cooperative Community Fund and Cainscross Parish Council to help us organise and publicise the project. We want to see if we can reach lots of people who have never grown veg before. This will be an opportunity to come and see what it is possible to grow."

Philip Booth added: "Local food accounts for only 1.5% of national food consumption. Our food system is staggeringly inefficient and heavily dependent upon oil, at a time when the production of energy from fossil fuels is on the decline. Our dependence on imports is damaging for national food security, harmful to the environment and is simply unsustainable. With this 'Edible Open Gardens' project we all hope to learn and also inspire more local food production at a lower environmental cost than the supermarkets."

Gardens still wanted

20 gardens are already signed up, but we could do with a few more. If anyone is interested in offering their garden for part of the weekend in July please contact Helen Royall on 01453 755509. Transition Stroud is a group working on the transition to a locally based low carbon lifestyle. More information at:

<http://www.transitionstroud.org/>



Pampered Chef 'Can't cook won't Cook' evening

**at The Community Centre, Owen Harris
Memorial Ground, Eastington
10th June 2011 at 7.30 pm**

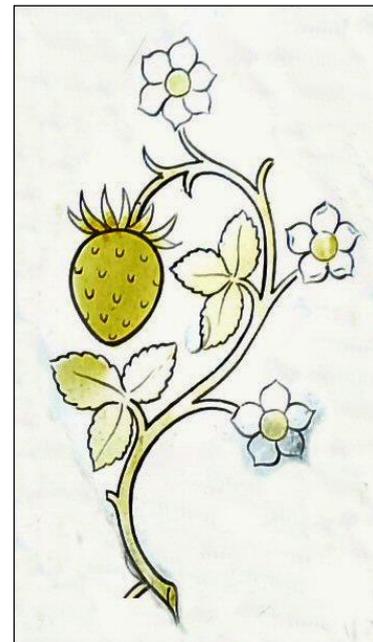
Tickets £5.00 including free glass of wine and refreshments.

**Pampered Chef Kitchen Ware will be on show
on the night or can be pre-ordered.
Contact Bernadene Cave 01453 821910 for details.**

All proceeds to Church Funds, St Michael and all Angels, Eastington

St Michael and All Angels News

By the time you read this you may have just missed the fantastic display of snowdrops at the east end of the Church Yard. If you are too late not to worry, the next thing to look out for is a strawberry. A bit early you may think but go into the Church and find the stained glass window in the south wall of the Lady Chapel nearest to the east window. If you look very carefully you can see a strawberry (illustrated right) which is the mark of the window maker, J. Ninian Comper. He has also left his mark at the bottom of the main east window in the chancel.



The Church Fund Raising Committee has been busy and forthcoming events include a Trash and Treasure sale on Saturday 30th April at the village Hall. Entrance is 20p and there will be teas, homemade cakes and a raffle. If you have some treasures you would like to donate have a word with **Muriel Bullock on 01453 826172**. No clothes or books please.

Later on we have a Pampered Chef event in the form of a Can't Cook Won't Cook evening at the Community Hall on 10th June 2011. Should be a fun evening so if you know a can't or a won't cook candidate bring them along! Kitchen Ware will be on show and sale or can be pre-ordered and picked up on the night. Tickets will be £5.00 to include a glass of wine and light refreshments. For more details contact **Bernadene Cave on 01453 821910**.

Fresh stocks for the library keep turning up at the Church - thank you for your support. Books are getting snapped up quickly by borrowers and buyers alike so keep them coming. Remember the Church is open every day if you want have a look and see what is on offer. All we ask is for minimum donation of 50p to buy or 20p to borrow. Magazines are also on offer at 20p. The books do need a bit of sorting out from time to time so if you have an interest and would like help with this contact **Mike Naylor 01453 828682**.



Trash and Treasure Sale

**Eastington Village Hall
30th April 2011, 2-4pm**

**Raffle and Teas
Entrance 20p**

**All proceeds to Church Funds
St Michael and all Angels, Eastington**

Eastington Methodist Church

Do you ever get the impression that the plot has been lost? There have been a number of recent news items where state-controlled political correctness seems to trump common sense and even statistical certainty.

The classic one this month was insurance companies getting into trouble for offering lower insurance premiums to young women compared to young lads. This was declared to be sexual discrimination.

The insurance companies responded with statistics showing that young women were far less likely to have an accident than young men. Lets face it, when did you last see a girl wearing a baseball cap in a turbo charged hatchback driving like a maniac with 1000 watts of rock music blasting out of the open windows? She might be unwise enough to be in the back, but she wasn't driving the car.

Christians are increasingly becoming the target of this sort of perverse thinking. We had the recent case of the elderly couple being sued for applying Biblical principles in their B&B home. Then there was the recently appointed member of the drugs advisory committee who was sacked before his first meeting because he mentioned statistics linking homosexuality and child sex abuse in a paper he co-authored 6 years ago. It then turned out that the statistics came from an official Home Office report and not some right wing propaganda source. Was he reinstated? Not a chance.

Then there were the Christian couple who have been taken off the fostering list because they are considered unfit because of their beliefs and the Catholic adoption agencies that have been forced to close. In these cases, young people and children have been denied access to a home life.

Is political correctness the new god with the power to redefine what is the real truth? It seems you can get into a lot of trouble if you won't bow down to it.

Christians believe that only God is truly wise and that His truths endure. I suggest that ignoring them or pretending that they don't matter because we humans know better will result in terrible consequences.

Easter at EMC:-

Good Friday, April 22nd at 10:00am - A quiet service but suitable for all ages followed by hot cross buns.

Easter Sunday, April 24th at 11:00am - A celebration of Jesus being raised from the dead.

Please visit our web pages for details of our regular and special events.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Update from Stonehouse Safer Community Team

We held our Neighbourhood Co-ordination meeting on Saturday 12th February 2011, and a new priority of Crime Prevention was chosen by the panel. This followed a period of consultation with the public that did not raise any specific issues for us to concentrate on, so the panel chose a priority they believed our time would be well spent on during the next few months.

Our aim is to carry out pro-active delivery of crime prevention advice, to include delivering and handing out leaflets, putting up displays in public areas, giving face to face advice, and visiting establishments such as care homes and schools, tailoring the advice to suit the audience; for example, talking to children about how to keep their mobile phones safe, and warning the elderly about bogus callers. For updates on what we're doing, please visit the website at www.gloucestershire.police.uk

If you are organising a public event, or would like us to provide you with posters and reading material regarding crime prevention, please ask. We are always open to new ideas from the community, and welcome any contact. You may also wish to raise issues for our next meeting, which will be held in the early part of the summer. You can contact me, **PC 1506 Jo Booker**, on 0845 090 1234 or at jo.booker@gloucestershire.police.uk

Eastington Slimming World Group

At the time of writing this piece we have just started a 12 week challenge. It's called the 'LET'S BEAT IT CAMPAIGN'. Obesity figures show that 30 million adults in Britain (that's 62% of us) are overweight or obese, resulting each year in 40,000 dying from weight-related illnesses.

Slimming World works within the heart of the community to help people live healthier lives and has done so for over 40 years. Over those 40 years more than 5 million slimmers have attended Slimming World Groups and lost 60 Million pounds. Across Britain members lose 17,857 stons every week, that's 1 stone 10lbs every minute of every day with Slimming World!!!!!!

We have been lucky enough to have a group at Eastington for the past seven years. So at Eastington Group we have joined the challenge to raise awareness of obesity problems and lose as much weight as we can. While doing so, we will also be raising money for two local charities chosen by Eastington's members. The charities chosen are the Special Care Baby unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and also the Brad Hedges Wheelchair Fund. Some members have joined me by taking part in a sponsored Slimathon, which you can choose to do for the whole 12 weeks or for a chosen amount of weeks. We launched our group's campaign by having a food tasting evening and party. We learnt new recipes and ideas to help us with our slimming campaign as well as deciding ideas for fund raising for our chosen charities over the next few weeks.

If you would like to lose weight healthily and learn how to eat and lead a healthier lifestyle do come along to the group to find out more. There is no obligation to join - you get the evening to find out all about Slimming World and the help and support we can offer you before you decide!

Come along to the Village Hall in Eastington at 7 p.m. any Wednesday evening. I look forward to meeting you. Best wishes **Lorna. Tel: 01453821751**

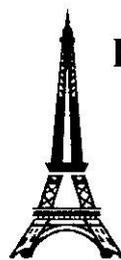
Change of Hours Yoga

Caroline Maguire's Yoga class on FRIDAYS at Leonard Stanley will be at 9.30 am

All other details are as per the advertisement on Blue Page "D"

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One to one or small groups
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Eastington

The Rotary Club of Severn Vale and the Stroke Association...

... are again working in partnership this year to help combat high blood pressure, the single biggest risk factor for stroke.

One day of free blood pressure testing will be held on **Saturday 16th April at Tesco's car park, Quedgeley between 10am- 4pm.**

The 'Know Your Blood Pressure' campaign has been extremely successful in the past, with record numbers of people getting their blood pressure tested. This year, we hope to encourage more than 30,000 people throughout the UK to take advantage of this free health check.

Andy Jarrett, President of the Rotary Club of Severn Vale, said 'We hope local residents will stop by our stand on the 17th April and have their blood pressure tested. It will only take a few minutes but it could help to save your life.'

Each year an estimated 150,000 people across the UK will have a stroke. It is one of the top three causes of death and the leading cause of severe disability in the UK. High blood pressure is the most important causal risk factor for stroke, causing about 50 per cent of ischaemic strokes. There are often no symptoms of high blood pressure, so these tests are vitally important.

For further information about the Rotary Club of Severn Vale visit www.severnvalerotary.org.uk

For further information about strokes and The Stroke Association please visit www.stroke.org.uk

Building 'Your Circle' – helping you to live independently

'Your Circle' is your support network of trusted people, places and services, created by you.

We often build circles of support to help make our lives a little easier and we want to help you to develop an even stronger circle to help you live an independent life for as long as possible.

To help you do this Gloucestershire County Council has developed a website www.yourcircle.org.uk which gives you access to a wide range of advice and support available in Gloucestershire. It brings together all those things that help you keep your independence, including local clubs, financial advice, volunteer opportunities, support groups, help in your own home and much more – ultimately helping you get more out of life.

If you haven't got access to the internet at home, you may want to visit an Information Point, for example in an internet café, community group or library. Or why not get a friend, family member or trusted contact to help you? Visit www.yourcircle.org.uk and start to explore the local support available.

For a copy of our leaflet 'Live life your way', which explains the steps that you can take to build or enhance your circle of support, contact the **Adult Social Care Helpdesk on 01452 426868** or download a copy from www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/yourcircleinfo. (Large print, Easy Read and audio versions also available).

Cancelled Class - Due to lack of interest the Tuesday evening Chi Kung Class at the Eastington Community Centre has been cancelled. There is a 10 week course starting on Wednesday morning 30th March if those interested would like attend this instead.

Chi Kung is a gentle system of movement and breathing work to help relieve the symptoms of physical and emotional pain. It builds strength, energy and resistance to illness through relaxation and a calm mind.

Suitable for all to attend. Please Call Christopher Handbury on 01453 826501 or visit www.orientalbodyworks.co.uk to book your place. Only 10 places available.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

BINGO: Unfortunately due to the fall off in the numbers of people attending we have, with reluctance, had to cease the weekly Bingo sessions as they are no longer viable. This has largely been brought about through illness and older residents not wishing to turn out in what has been a particularly cold winter.

Both the Bingo and the carpet bowls, which ceased earlier, were part of our local fund raising activities for the Poppy Appeal. The equipment for both of these activities is still available for the community to use in conjunction with the village hall at a small hire charge.

Anyone wishing to avail themselves of these facilities and help fill the fund raising gap for the Poppy Appeal should contact John Darwent on 01453 822040.

I would like to thank everyone who supported us over the years and hope you will continue to support the Poppy Appeal when ever you can.

H.A.Elliot

Former Chairman. Eastington Branch, The Royal British Legion.

Forthcoming Village Hall event:

SUNDAY MAY 8TH TEA DANCE. 2.00pm – 4.30pm. Admission £2.50

Proceeds in aid of Village Hall maintenance. For further details see posters in the Village Hall or contact **Harry Elliott on 01453 822040**

Volunteer of the Year Award

Just in time for the deadline of this issue of Eastington Community News we were delighted to hear that Mark Cousins has won a Volunteer of the Year Award. This is a National Award and Mark was highly commended in the Versatility in Volunteering category. The award is given to the volunteer who, in the opinion of the judging panel, has demonstrated exceptional versatility in their volunteering activities. This person shines as a result of their flexibility, willingness to take on any task offered – and excel at it, continuous positive attitude, and selfless contributions to their organisation. Nominations were judged using the following criteria:

- Evidence of contributions that go 'above and beyond' what is ordinarily expected of a volunteer.
- Evidence of contributions made to multiple activities, areas or projects.
- Demonstration of the volunteer's positive impact on others (i.e. are they an inspiration to others?)
- Demonstration of the volunteer's dependability and enthusiasm.
- Demonstration of leadership qualities.

This award is very well deserved as Mark put all his energy into the building project showing and acquiring an impressive range of people skills and technical knowledge.

Acknowledgement must also go to Gill Glover for identifying the opportunity to recognise Mark's efforts and her dogged determination once again in completing the necessary nomination forms. Well done to both!

Jayne Elder



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