

Eastington Community News

September/October 2011

Nº. 129

Welcome to another bumper edition of ECN, and I hope you enjoyed the new format of the last edition now that photos can be included. The British Hot Air Balloon (accuracy in steering) Championships were held in Berkeley early in August and the prevailing wind brought spectacular balloons over us most days. The competition focused towards marked targets in the course.

I am finishing my introduction for this edition on a fine, late summer afternoon after the well-attended and highly successful Village Fete. What a truly great job was done by Eastington Youth Group (EYG,) in organising this popular event on this 2nd Birthday of Eastington Community Centre opening. We were so lucky with the weather, but the success really comes from the determination and hard work by EYG. Well done! Inside you can read about a summary of the day, and also the background to the work by EYG to engage the young folk and to show that they are an important part of our community.

It really is encouraging to see such increased participation in community activities, and to hear more and more people recognise the importance and value for this. There is a big difference between living here and somewhere where neighbours do not know each other and where amenities come from unknown persons. Yes, we are lucky to live here, but it also takes hard work to build a community. So, may I borrow from Rev. Richard Amys' theme in this edition; let's say thank you to all volunteers who make Eastington the vibrant community that it is.

Our District Councillor talks about his work to maintain our village life in a rural rather than urban community. The battle to halt building new homes in the valleys around Stroud continues on grounds of 'not in the AONB'. This increases pressure on outlying communities (like ours,) to take large-scale development for the whole District. Eastington Parish has always provided a realistic number of new homes for its own and more besides. But, if the lobby groups of 'chocolate box' villages have their way, Eastington will get two thousand more new houses.

You may already have noticed regular activity at Eastington's first Community Orchard at Churchend and the appearance of new fruit cages and fruit trees. You can read more about a boost from Gloucestershire County Council to help with their work inside.

The 29th Eastington Fruit & Flower show was held at the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd September and was the best attended show for many years. There were an amazing 234 items entered and it was really pleasing to see so many new faces; particularly from the Allotments Group.

Back To Church Sunday is a national initiative to encourage people who used to go to church to try it out again on the morning of Sunday 25th September. Both the Methodist and Anglican Churches are organising special services, so please take a look inside for this and their events.

Eastington Playgroup is running a Fundraising Event called "*The Pampered Chef Cooking Show*" on Friday 14th October in Eastington Village Hall, 7.30 pm to 10.30pm. Why not take up their offer to try a wide range of innovative, multifunctional kitchen tools and sample the results!

All Organisations, Pubs, Groups and individuals are warmly invited to take part in the ever popular EASTINGTON VILLAGE Fun QUIZ Evening at Eastington Community Centre, Owen Harris Memorial Ground on Friday 30th September: 7.30p.m. Why not make up a team; entry includes a Ploughman's Supper and the bar will be open. Please book your table by 23rd September.

And which Village would be complete without a village Pub? While some communities have lost theirs, we are lucky enough to retain two. There is a new advert for new fare at the Kings Head, and for big changes at the Old Badger Inn (née Vic). In addition to famous local Ales, there will be tempting Czech beers and wheat beer from middle Europe too.

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

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A Tribute to Colin Frith

Andrew Niblett (Chairman EPC)

During the time I knew Colin he did a great deal as a parish councillor and also in a personal capacity helping with community projects. Colin was a 'doer' and made things happen. Those are rare qualities in our modern society.

For Eastington Parish Council (EPC) he began by sorting out important files from redundant ones following five changes of clerk in as many years. We needed help and he meticulously examined our accounts and organized these at a time when we were struggling. He built a sound foundation to enable progress in community projects today.

When we had a difficult or onerous task to do, and everyone else was hesitating and avoiding my gaze, up would go Colin's hand. He would volunteer to have a go and he would make a good job of it. After the hard work, he would find time to relax over a pint and illustrate his point of view with some interesting anecdotes.

I remember that Colin would have a certain smile of contentment when he was behind the wheel of his beloved Porsche, but this love of a fast car did not stop him respecting the need to control speeding traffic through our village. He was persistent, yet respectful in lobbying for police and GCC highways support for safer roads in our Parish.

Colin's interests were many and it has proved difficult to find people to take his place.

- He represented our interests for a safer community at the Police Liaison committee. He won considerable Police resource for our village.
- He represented us at the Western Canal Consultative meetings. He understood the potential benefits from restoring the canal.
- He attended many training sessions to help run EPC more effectively and he always showed an eagerness to learn.
- He played a key role in fighting the Rugby Club proposed development and in many other planning issues, and he was a key figure in the EPC planning committee.
- He gave strong support for the very successful allotments project, the community building and the community pond. These were key in us getting the award for the Most Vibrant Village in Gloucestershire last year.

When making things happen, it is not uncommon to encounter difficult people but Colin was not frightened to deal with them. He was prepared to speak his mind; not in a dominating way but with respect for the other viewpoint. He broadened the field of our debates.

When we had the idea to turn a piece of land into something more useful in the Village, it was Colin who found an excellent land agent, and Colin who gave hundreds of hours coaxing the negotiations to a successful conclusion. He helped us to a win-win solution with the Village getting a sizeable trust fund and purchasers of the land parcels getting valuable assets.

Through Colin's hard work and determination he has shown the way to reach ambitious dreams. Colin has certainly left his mark on our community and we shall remember him as we go about our various pastimes in the Village.

Beryl and family would like to thank all those who attended the Celebration of Colin's life at St Michael and All Angels' Church, and the Revs Angela Reeder and Richard Amys for conducting the service. Also Shirley Baker who played the organ, the choir for leading the hymn singing and Allen & White for the funeral arrangements. So many people supported us on the day with preparing the Owen Harris Memorial Hall making and serving tea and cakes after the service, and all who decorated the church so beautifully with flowers and for all the cards, kind thoughts, words and support given to us before and since Colin died.

Colin was a wonderful Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend to many.
He will be greatly missed by us all.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

August is traditionally a quiet month for District Council meetings and I find myself in a reflective mood. However work continues as does the ward work which seems to increase as the budget cutting measures take effect. With regard to the planning scheme of delegation, much mentioned by me, this will return to the cabinet agenda at the next meeting. The new system being recommended to continue at the last cabinet was placed on the scrutiny committee agenda for consideration. The report to cabinet does not appear to me to encompass that committee's opinion that the new system is not working as well as the report suggests. We will have to wait and see how things evolve at both cabinet and the next full council meeting. I hope that a consensus view is adopted, but I am not holding my breath.

With regard to the evolving core strategy, (how many houses and where), recent events in my personal life have given me cause for reflection on my position. I stood for election both originally and at every election since then stating that I was very much a supporter of Eastington Parish remaining a rural one and the retention of our ancient hamlet structure. I have spent many hundreds of hours working to maintain that position. Eastington Parish has never been against planned sustainable development. We have accepted that there has to be development to house the increasing population, including our children, but wish it to be of an evolving nature, not sudden massive expansion. As I said above two things have happened to me recently that very much reinforce those beliefs. Firstly one of my children returned home from fifteen months of travelling. Listening to her comments, made whilst driving home from the airport through the district, was to me very interesting. Our village has changed in that time but only in what can be described as a small natural evolution. Some places in the district however have changed dramatically. When you live here all the time these things are far less noticeable than with a largish gap. The other event was that my other child was married in our parish church. During the build up to the wedding I attended both a church built to serve an expanding urban population and our own ancient parish church. Both were very welcoming places with the congregations enjoying celebrating their faith. There was however, to me at least, a difference that is very hard to put into words. That village life is different to urban life was to me, at least, very apparent. I would like to thank all those involved with our parish church for the warm welcome both my and our newly extended family received, both in the build up to the wedding and on the day itself. My family now has three generations that have been married in St Michael and All Angels' Church. I am very much aware of the role it plays within our community. I was very much taken by a recent editorial in the SPAN magazine by our rector, Revd Richard Amys. He had been discussing the statistics of church usage within our church cluster. I think that the last paragraph, which I hope he will not mind me copying here, is very relevant:

'What message can we see here? It is probably safe to say that people come to church less regularly, but come more on special and family occasions. We still need our churches as a place of worship and meet with God, even though Sunday attendance is lower than it used to be.'

That our ancient parish church has played a large part in my family's life is without question. My recent experiences have reinforced my commitment to work to maintain our hamlet structure and village life and that it is quite right and proper to have that opinion.

Ken Stephens September 2011

Parish Matters addendum:

There are plans to increase the number of dog poo bins in the Village, as the last new set are being well used and there are obviously needs in other parts too. Recently, open bags have been placed in a litter bin outside one resident's house and it takes little imagination to realise just how unpleasant this is. Please try to carry spare bags with you and to tie these securely before popping them into a dog bin.

Parish Council Meetings begin @19:00 on the second Tuesday of every month in the Methodist Hall. All are welcome to attend.

The Eastington Allotments Society (TEAS)

Firstly I would just like to take the opportunity to add my brief tribute to the late Colin Frith. It was his tenacity, knowledge and sheer hard work that ensured the land transaction, which enabled TEAS to exist, went through successfully. We, as allotmenters, owe a great debt to Colin.

Looking back at the article I wrote at this time last year it seems I made a promise to myself to try and avoid serious vegetable gluts this year by better planning. Abject failure there I'm afraid - just too much of everything again.

Anyway, according to the meteorological calendar at least, we are now officially in Autumn. Summer is now over (some would say it never really got started). It does seem to have been quite a prolific period though and I hope those of you who entered exhibits for the flower and vegetable show were able to find some real quality specimens and hopefully came away with a few prizes. I am not too confident about my own attempts, but as they say, it's not the winning etc.

So, brushing aside the anticipated disappointment, I guess it is time to start planning for the next year's Spring show and making room for the early onions, spring cabbages and yet more broad beans, as well as making sure the early broccoli is well established and the rhubarb gets well fed before the colder windy weather arrives.

This seems a bit of a gloomy way to end, so on a more positive note let us look forward to doing all the above in some lovely warm Autumn sunshine and take the opportunity to enjoy all the colourful changes that will take place over the next few weeks.

If you are looking to produce some prize specimens for future year's shows or just want an allotment plot to grow some interesting fruit and veg. then call **Angela Kitson on 01453 826914** to get your name down on the waiting list.

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Autumn Flower Show

The 29th Eastington Fruit & Flower show was held at the village hall on Saturday 3rd September. This proved to be the most well attended show for many years. There were 32 entrants who between them entered an amazing 234 items. It was really pleasing to see so many new faces, many of which were individuals who have an allotment in the village, who took the brave step of seeing if their produce was bigger or better than their neighbour's!



The most points in the show trophy went to Mr. A Burke (left) and Mrs. Q Jones continued her reign as the lady achieving the most points in the show. The children's categories were also well attended – there were all sorts, ranging from Cookie Monster cup cakes (see page 9) to various creatures made from vegetables.

Our thanks go to all of those on the committee who helped this event to take place, and also to the judges for their time and expertise. If you would like to find out more about the forthcoming Spring show or how to be more involved in the show in general, then please telephone the show secretary **Sarah Underdown on 01453 823285**.

Orchard Group Bags Grant from County Council

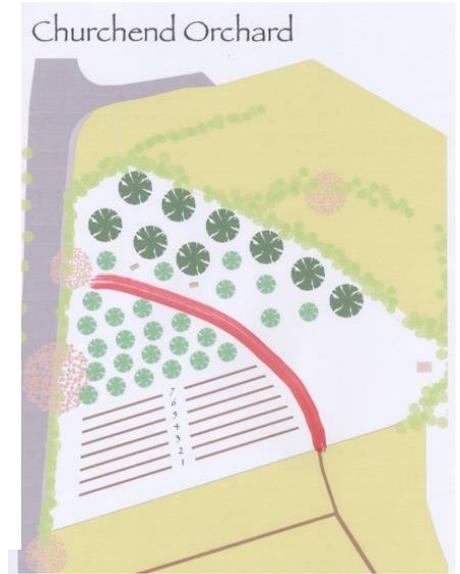
Eastington's first Community Orchard, at Churchend, has had a £ 1,500 boost from a County Council grant. This welcome cash will help pay for more crop protection (you can see some fruit cages at Churchend now – they keep the deer, badgers, birds and rabbits off our crops!).

The money will also buy us our first trees, three of which have already been planted. They are apples and pears, which appear as the large dark symbols in the diagram >>>>

Most our work so far has gone into soft fruit, with rows 1 to 7 comprising blackcurrants, raspberries (the left hand side) and to the right, strawberries, redcurrants and gooseberries. They all need protection, which adds to cost and effort. We have planted more support posts than trees so far!

The smaller, lighter symbols on the diagram represent damson, plum and pear trees, half of which we also plan to plant this winter.

Finally, the wide arc represents a permissive footpath which will link the main road through to the Burial Ground and thence to the Church and the School.



Speaking of the School, a corner of the Orchard has been reserved for the School to use as an outdoor resource. They plan to plant hedges and construct a hide to allow better observation of birds and small mammals. Their area is the apparently blank corner to the bottom right hand side.

If all goes well with planting and construction this winter, 2012 will see this orchard opening to the public – truly putting the “Community” into “Community Orchards”.



Remember the Eastington Apple Days

You can bring apples/pears along to the OHMG Community Centre and take away fresh juice. Dates - October 21st to 28th, which is half-term holiday.

For further details see July/August ECN, or the ECO Group website <http://www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk/>

Or ring Andy Davies (Secretary) on 821499 or Tom Low (Chairman) on 823425

Photo: Steve Gribble (TEAS) on the Eastington Community Orchard Group stand at the Youth Group Fete.

Please note: some pictures in the printed version of “Community News” will appear in colour on the website version at: www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington

EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP UPDATE:-

Since our last update we have been busy preparing for the village fete which has been fun and stressful at the same time! See STIOP PRESS article on how this went.

We have been speaking to various people and companies looking at ways we can provide a meeting place (POD) for our youth as well as park equipment to suit the whole village including the young children. Once we have started to raise some funds ourselves we can then look into funding opportunities for this. One suggestion has been outside gym equipment, this is something that is quite popular in some parts of Spain. This would suit the children and adults alike.

We are still working with the youth on trying to reduce antisocial behaviour in our village and this is an ongoing project.

The litter picking is a regular event, but with residents helping keep their own areas clear of litter the job is becoming much easier to keep under control.

We recently took a group to the Bristol Balloon fiesta and are looking at organising future trips, i.e. a trip to a fashion show for the girls, bowling, swimming etc. Watch this space.

As usual if anyone has any ideas or can help us in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tina (Secretary) Tel: 07891 579754.

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The weather was brilliant after the rain at the start of the day, enabling the dog show to go on without a hitch. The car boot was also successful with lots of sellers and buyers alike.

We haven't totalled up the final amount raised yet, but know it is over £1,000.00 – so very well done to everyone involved and once again a big THANK YOU to our helpers and supporters.

Kind regards, Tina.

EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP FETE

Well what a fantastic day at the village fete on Sunday 4th September at OHMG..... We were overwhelmed with the turnout and the support and would like to thank everybody for coming, and hope you all had a good time.

We had lots of children wandering around with goldfish, adults aching from doing zumba (*photo left*), little blue frogs from the drama club putting on a display, and live music from The Methodist Church to name but a few activities that were on through the afternoon.



Blue Frog Drama Club

Tuesday Evenings (Term-Time Only)

Ages 5-11 @ 6pm-7pm

Eastington Community Centre

Book YOUR place for September 2011

Contact Liane: 07969 436138

www.bluefrog.org.uk info@bluefrog.org.uk



Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmg.org.uk

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Mondays:	<i>Fitness Circuit Training. 7-8pm & 8-9pm</i>	Tel. Rachel 07972 149285
Tuesdays:	<i>Blue Frog Fun Drama Workshops for 5-11yrs. 6-7pm.</i>	Tel. Liane 07969 436138
Tuesdays:	<i>Boxercise. 7.30–8.30pm.</i>	Tel. Matt 01452 741711
Wednesdays:	<i>Just 'B' Aerobics and Fitness. 7.30-8.30pm.</i>	Tel. Bryony 07906 581450
Thursdays	<i>Street Dance for kids. 5-6pm.</i>	Tel. Vanessa 01453 828557
Thursdays:	<i>Jiu-jitsu Martial Art Training. 6.15-7.45pm.</i>	Tel. Paul 07909 525582
Thursdays:	<i>Yoga. 8-9.30pm.</i>	Tel. Carol 07814 341092

Cricket: *Eastington Cricket Club usually play every fortnight during summer months.*
Tel: Ron 01453 822942

Football: *Regular Alkerton Rangers first and second matches throughout the football season.*
Tel: Martin 01453 828712

Eastington Community Centre is the home of Eastington Playgroup. Tel. 07977 342742

Contact Vanessa on 828557 for a friendly chat and more information



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VILLAGE HALL ENTERTAINMENT

The next **TEA DANCE** will be held on
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6TH 2.0pm – 4.30pm.
Music by Dance Teachers Bryan & Angela
Admission £2.50 including Tea and Biscuits
In Aid of Village Hall Maintenance.

These Dances have been very well supported and enjoyed by all who have attended.

Looking to brighten up the darker days of Autumn & Winter?

The Village Hall still retains all the Equipment for CARPET BOWLS & BINGO, which can be hired for a small fee by anyone in the community either for a private function or as an organised regular event.

For further information on any of the above please contact: HARRY ELLIOTT. Tel. No. 825194

Eastington Methodist Church

Back To Church Sunday is a national initiative to encourage people who used to go to church to attend church on Sunday 25th September at 11am and try it out again.

Our church is taking part for the first time this year and we would really encourage you to come along. Unless you have attended recently, you are likely to notice some quite significant changes. Howard Miles will be preaching at the service on Sunday 25th and worship will be led by the music group. There will be a Sunday Club for children and the service will be followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.



Photo: EMC Sunday School in the 1930s

We would be very interested to hear your stories of what the church was like many years ago and we would be interested in hearing of your impressions of it now. Please do come.

Kidzone

This has resumed following the school holidays and we are keen to attract additional primary school children aged 7 and over. Kidzone starts at 6:15pm and runs until 7:30pm on Wednesdays during term time. There are craft activities and games as well as a video with refreshments. The cost is 75p per week to help cover the costs.

District Youth Weekend

In September, a number of our young people will be joining about 50 others from various churches at the Bristol District Methodist Youth Weekend which this year is being held at Portishead. Activities include a beach party, fancy dress, practical workshops, an outing to Brean and spending two nights sleeping in the church at Portishead.

Y Course

The last in the series of Y Course sessions takes place on Tuesday 4th October at the Kings Head at 7:00pm. As is the usual format, guests will be provided with a meal following a thought provoking video and a discussion together. The final subjects are:

The Game of Life – *It's not a set of rules that God offers but a living relationship.*

It's a Plot – *The keys to nurturing a relationship with God and the big picture of being in his family.*

These are stand alone subjects so please feel free to come along and join us.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk



Charity Number 1084981



Eastington Playgroup Fundraising Event - The Pampered Chef Cooking Show

Come and discover the chef in you and try a wide range of innovative, multifunctional kitchen tools. Help with the cooking and sample the results!

**Friday, 14th October 2011 @ Eastington Village Hall
7.30 pm to 10.30pm approx.**

A donation of £1.00 for each 'pink' kitchen tool sold will go to Cancer Research UK and vital research into all aspects of breast cancer.

Tickets £3.50 in advance (£4.50 on the door). Includes the first glass of 'rose' wine or 'pink' lemonade, nibbles and samples of tasty treats cooked during the evening.

To purchase your ticket (cash only please) contact:

Jackie: 07961 737886, Debbie: 07875 896733 or at the Playgroup (OHMG)



From the Autumn Flower Show:
Prize-winning Cookie Monster Cupcakes
made by Miss K Underdown

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

THE RECTOR WRITES



Dear Friends,

Do you feel appreciated? If you are a mum or a dad it sometimes doesn't feel as though your children do – except when Mothering Sunday or Father's Day come round. When you have just finished

cleaning/washing/ironing/cooking or whatever, and no-one at home seems to notice or say 'thank you' it can be pretty dispiriting.

It's the same at work, if you put the hours in, put extra effort in, try as hard as you can to do the best job possible, and no-one notices, and the boss picks you up on something you've missed rather than praising you for what you have done.

If this is your paid employment, you may end up trying to find a different job, but if what you do is voluntary, then you may just decide to give it up, and go and do some other voluntary work where someone will really appreciate your efforts. It can be a pretty painful decision, especially if you value what you do, and where you do it.

Churches are no different. So many people put so much effort into making them welcoming places, and despite everyone's best efforts there always seems to be an insensitive comment made at some point that upsets someone who is doing their best. That's the trouble with families though – and churches are families where folk feel more able to say what they think, and forget what the consequences might be. If you feel unappreciated at home, you still go on doing the tasks because you still love the other people around you, despite their insensitivity to your efforts.

Speaking as one of the more insensitive people I know, and having the unfortunate knack of saying the wrong thing, in the wrong place, and/or at the wrong time, I now find myself in the very fortunate position of being able to publically apologise to everyone in our parish and beyond, through this letter, whom I have upset through things I have said and done in the twelve years I have been here. I hope each and every one of will forgive me, if you haven't already.

I just want to say that even if I have offended you, or left you feeling unappreciated, that it is me who has done this, and not God. He always loves and appreciates everyone who does anything, and he misses nothing. If you feel that you are distant from him, that is not his doing, it is usually ours, and we are the ones who put up the barriers.

So, if this is you, and you are one of those people who used to go to church and have got out of the habit for whatever reason, please come back and try again. **September 25th is 'Back to Church Sunday', and we have a service at 10.45am that day.** Please put the past to one side and give it another go, and feel the warmth of God's love and a welcome from God's family, of which you are a part.

Yours in Christ,

Richard

Rector: Revd Richard Amys, The Rectory, Millend I Lane, Eastington, GL10 3SG.

Email: richardjramys@aol.com. Tel/fax 01453 822437.

Day off – Saturday. (Mobile 07796 956050)

Harvest Festival

This is being held on Sunday 9th October at 10.45am, and gifts are invited for GEAR's night shelter in Gloucester. The school will be holding their Harvest Festival in Church on Thursday 6th at 2pm.

Library in Church

There is a small library at the back of the church from which books can be borrowed (20p) or bought. Gifts of suitable books are welcome – and they don't need to be of a religious nature! The church is open during the day, and you are most welcome to come in and browse.



BackToChurchSunday

I'm inviting you

Who are you inviting?



Of course, Vicar, you are most welcome to some harvest milk. Would you like 4% fat, 3.5% fat, 1% fat, pre-treated, post-treated, homogenised, whole, skimmed, semi-skimmed or flavoured...?

Goodbye to the “Vic” – Hello “Old Badger Inn”

In the early weeks of October, a new name will swing from the pub signpost on Alkerton Road when the Old Badger Inn opens for business.

ECN was allowed a sneak preview of the many changes happening behind the Heras Fencing, including an interview with Ellie Sainty the new owner. Ellie will be known to real ale drinkers as the owner of The Old Spot in Dursley and has been managing pubs for 25 years. Her aim is to establish The Old Badger as a community-centred, traditional pub, selling good beers and home-prepared food.

Ringling the Changes

First the building: the architect’s drawing below shows the intended view from the car park:



Gone will be the angular side entrance, with the entry being by the main street door. The angular extension will become the new, larger kitchen.

The rear entrance will be a substantial set of patio doors, coming out half way down what used to be the skittle alley (under the pergola in the drawing, left and behind Ellie’s left shoulder, below).

Other internal re-fits include a meeting room and an extension of the lounge with a spectacular rear window.

Changes of Style

Ellie (reviewing the works, right) will be setting her own stamp on The Old Badger, along the traditional lines that she has found best serves the community. She hopes to recruit from within Eastington and is on the look-out for a chef and bar and kitchen staff.

A wide range of Real Ales will be offered from local and regional breweries, Uley, Stroud, Severnvale, Nailsworth, Wye Valley, Moles and Otter to name but a few. Czech lager and wheat beers will also feature. Ellie is enthusiastic about traditional pubs and so she will not be having pool tables, juke box or fruit machines, instead convivial conversation and banter, open log fires and the enjoyment of good ales. In addition, the Old Badger will be offering Beer festivals, wine tastings, themed food evenings, as well as quiz nights.

Food will be locally sourced and freshly produced, initially the menu will offer six to eight Mains and light bites but with a chef on board this will develop and grow with customer demand. It won’t be a gastro pub but the menu will be varied and include many pub favourites.



It all adds up to a significant change from the way the Vic had been managed before it was shut down. ECN found Ellie bubbling with excitement at the prospects for The Old Badger – an enthusiasm which villagers will be able to sample for themselves in the very near future.



Charity number 1084891
Eastington Community Centre, Snakey Lane, Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos, GL10 3AQ
www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

September 2011

We welcome back all our children and parents both existing and new to Playgroup. We hope that you had a great summer break and are feeling refreshed to start a new term. We also welcome Mandy Owen in her new role as Play Leader who will be supported by existing staff Becky Mulla and Donna Dalby.

We have been settling the children into the routines and preparing to focus on their interests in play, I am sure that there will be much talk about holidays, families and friends. We will be encouraging children to bring in photographs of these events so that we can build upon their individual 'Special Books' which the children love to look at and talk about.

Hopefully we will see some more sun and be able to enjoy the vast outside space to use the physical equipment, dressing up to act out role play and also benefit from play with the water, sand and painting outside.

Last term we focused on keeping safe at Playgroup, home, road and fire safety. We enjoyed activities based on Number jacks and we looked for mini beasts on the playing field. We also had a visit from a giant African snail which fascinated the children.

Our summer fete was a fantastic day – many people turned out to support us and enjoyed our pony and tractor rides, name the calves, welly-wanging, face painting and a good bounce on the bouncy castle. We had some fantastic raffle prizes and also a delicious cake stall!

Our New committee will be busy planning some other fund raising events – we already have a Christmas Party for the adults organised with a band and food in December - more details to follow.

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 4 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 Mandy Owen, Playleader-
Tel 07977 32 742 – email claire@eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk.

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

Eastington Brownies

There isn't anything to report from the Brownies this time as we have had our summer break.

Meetings start again on Monday 12 September when we will once again commence an exciting and varied programme. There will be the opportunity to collect some new interest badges and the girls are encouraged to choose some to do themselves as well.

Brownies are girls aged 7 to 10 years and we meet on Mondays at Eastington Village Hall from 6 – 7.15pm.

If you would like more information please contact one of us.

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

Eastington Bluebell Club

Bluebell Club meetings for Ladies and Gentlemen aged over 60, are held at the Village Hall on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Coming up in September and October:

- 20 September Stanley Singers
- 4 October Harvest Sale
- 18 October Bill Fletcher – Musical

For further details about Bluebell Club, please contact **Anne Shill, Tel: 01453 822061**

PUDDLEDITCH FARM SHOP

Fresh local produce delivered to your Doorstep!

Getting your greens is a breeze with our Puddleditch farm shop veg-boxes.

Fully packed with seasonal goodness, our boxes offer locally grown produce at reasonable prices to suit every household.

Enjoy it weekly, fortnightly or as a one off – what ever is best for you.

With our new farm shop opening in Berkeley Heath, there's no easier way to get your five-a-day!

Contact either: Stuart: 07812402561 or Pete: 07774958228
Or email us at: puddleditchfarmshop@hotmail.co.uk



Come on down to **Eastington Community Centre**
where you can learn
**STREET DANCE FOR
BEGINNERS**
No experience necessary – *Start any week*
Thursdays 5-6pm. (Term Time)
PAY-AS-YOU GO: Only £5
Tel: Vanessa 01453 828557

The Kings Headlines

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL

RWC 11 ENGLAND MATCHES

Sat 10th Sept
9.30am England vs.
Argentina

Sun Sept 18th 7am
England vs. Georgia

Sat Sept 24th 7am
England vs. Roma-
nia

Sat Oct 1st 8.30am
England vs. Scotland

THE RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011 - NZ

The KINGS HEAD will continue to have SKY SPORTS and are also showing all the England matches live during the RUGBY WORLD CUP. So don't sit in on your sofa join us for brek-kie for all the matches.

Tickets are available from the pub at £5 each to include Full English Breakfast, Toast and a cuppa (coffee or tea - your choice)

All the matches are listed alongside here so make sure you mark them in your diary as we'll be open.



G R E A T H O M E - M A D E F O O D A T T H E K I N G S H E A D

Food is now served Tuesday to Sunday lunchtimes and Tuesday to Saturday evenings.

There is a "Two for £9" menu which offers pub standards such as Beer Battered Cod, Chips and Peas, Ham, Egg and Chips and Homemade Pies (Ann's speciality, you have to try them!) The main menu adds, among other things Rump Steak, Gammon Steak and Barbeque Chicken. The aim is to serve good pub grub at sensible prices. There is also a take away menu consisting of Fish and Chips, Sausage and Chips, Burger and Chips and Homemade Chilli and Rice all priced at £4.50. Ann is very flexible so if you want chips with your chilli instead of rice or mash with your pie instead of chips she is happy to oblige!

TIP TOP OFFER

If you bring this newsletter in you can get 20% off a meal for 2, from Main Menu so come on you have no excuse not to come in now!!

Terms and conditions apply
Does not apply to other offers

sky SPORTS HD

**DON'T FORGET WE
HAVE ALL THE BEST
SPORTING FIXTURES
HERE TOO**

- Quiz—2nd and 4th Sunday of each month
- Players needed for the new darts team

CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY!

- 3 Course Meal for £15.95
- 2 Course Senior Citizen Lunch for £10
- Christmas Menus available now please ask Ann

THE KINGS HEAD - THE FUTURE

For those of you who don't know, The K.H. is under new and permanent management.

The tenancy is being taken by Breviter Ltd. - a small local pub company. The partners are Glynn and Andy, both have many years experience in the trade, from having their own pubs to working for Whitbread and Plinck on the

"other side of the fence!" They are both passionate about local pubs and about them being part of the community.

Ann Arney is the manager and has been in the trade for 12 years, and has worked her way up from barmaid to Landlady in local hostelries

Eastington Slimming World Group

So here we are again as another summer begins to draw to a close. We have enjoyed a great time at group with membership staying strong over the holiday period. At the beginning of September we are already thinking about the nights drawing in and how we can enjoy all the lovely filling comfort foods that Slimming World can offer on its healthy eating weight loss plans. Be it stews and soups, roast dinners or quick mid week family dinners as the children return to school and all the extra activities re-start after the summer break.

I have enjoyed covering some of the other Slimming World groups in our area and have learnt some lovely new recipes to bring back and share with my Eastington Group. It was lovely to be welcomed as a visiting consultant by its members and has made me realise how friendly Slimming World Groups are to new people including the covering consultant! We had a wonderful group at Eastington last week as we voted for our Women of the Year. The whole group voted and our winner this year was Sam who has lost over 4 stone while in the group, Congratulations again Sam, you are an inspiration to your fellow members on your achievements with your weight loss and support to the group.

Another big announcement is that Eastington Group has been so successful I am opening a day time group in Stonehouse at St Joseph's church hall on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. The opening date is set for October 5th so those of you unable to come on an evening may like to come to my day time group!

We always offer complete confidentiality to all our members. Men and Women are welcome. We also promise no humiliation just help and support to start and then continue with your weight loss. So come along to the village Hall on any Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to find out what Slimming World can offer you.

Best wishes, Lorna 01453 821751

ESTEEM FITNESS CLASSES

For more information please contact Rachel on 07837 123067 or email esteemfitness@live.co.uk



MONDAYS - EASTINGTON
7PM ZUMBA!!

TUESDAYS - LEONARD STANLEY
7PM EXERCISE TO MUSIC

THURSDAYS - STONEHOUSE
7PM EXERCISE TO MUSIC

SATURDAYS - STONEHOUSE
9.30AM ZUMBA!!!

All classes are suitable for mixed abilities and all levels and combine a mixture of cardio fat burning and toning exercises.

Our group is fun and friendly so why not join in, loose weight, tone up and have fun!



EASTINGTON VILLAGE QUIZ

All Organisations, Pubs, Groups and individuals are warmly invited to take part in a Fun Quiz Evening at

The Community Centre
Owen Harris Memorial Ground

Friday 30th September 2011, 7.30 for 8.00 Start

Teams maximum of 6 (or make up a team on the night!) All will be very welcome

Tickets £6.00 per head which includes a Ploughman's Supper
Bar available, Raffle

Please make sure you book your table by 23rd September 2011

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

All proceeds to St Michael and All Angels Church Funds

www.WESTEND OFFICE SUITES.co.uk

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Suites from 288-788sq ft
All offices include:

- Air conditioning
- Kitchenette and WC facilities
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For viewings or for further information

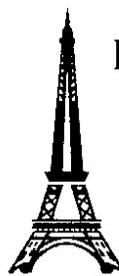
Westend Courtyard, Westend, Nr Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL103SL

Telephone: 07760 207194 Email: enquiries@westendofficesuites.co.uk

WWW.WESTENDOFFICESUITES.CO.UK

Lingos Language Tuition

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GCSE revision
&
Oral Practice

Beginners welcome

One to one or small groups
Danish and Spanish also available

07799 657975

lingos@fsmail.net
Eastington