

Eastington Community News

November/December 2011

Nº. 130

Welcome to this bumper autumn edition of ECN and the last of 2011. In the wider world, a small country, Greece, has rocked the entire Global economy by contemplating a referendum to decide the European bail-out offer. Who would have thought that such a democratic process could create such mayhem? Here in Eastington we really are beginning a democratic process, by asking each one of you about local issues that can have a direct impact on our lives. We don't expect to rock the Global economy, but with your individual views we do expect to influence big organisations that plan changes in our Parish, and to get support and funding for the sort of thing that you want to happen.

Included with this edition of your Eastington Community News are TWO questionnaires:

- 1) 'Eastington Parish & Community-Led Plan Questionnaire 2011'
- 2) 'Household Internet and Broadband Survey 2011'.

Please make sure your views are heard by returning these.

Eastington Parish Plan questionnaire: Please set aside some time to complete the questions and have it ready for collection between 27th November and 4th December, when your representative will visit you. If you need to ask about something or to get another questionnaire, then please contact one of the people listed on the front page. The question of 'where to build new houses' is always an emotive topic. Strong lobbying to restrict building in Stroud and surrounding areas, has inevitably led to proposals to build the vast majority of new houses in Cam and / or Eastington – Stonehouse. Cam Parish has conducted its Parish Plan and is preparing its defence, so it is vitally important to get everyone in Eastington to return their completed questionnaires.

Over the past 20 years Eastington has provided about 150 homes for people, and is one reason why our community remains varied and vibrant. This is in stark contrast to some villages where only a few houses have been built. Naturally, the question of how much, what density and what sort of housing you want needs careful consideration. Infilling is building in gardens of existing houses, or demolishing a house to build more, or building on land between existing houses. This can reduce the need to build in open green spaces, but what will be the effects of more cars to park and less space, and less privacy?

Parking at home, at the shops or at school seems also to be a hot topic, so your opinions are also asked about this. Crime and disorder, speeding traffic and road bumps and a wide range of services, are grumbles often heard. So, here is a chance to say whatever you like or dislike and to have your views heard.

If you would like to help processing the valuable data from the Parish Plan questionnaire, please call me. (There will be a paid allowance for this work.)

Broadband questionnaire: Our ever-increasing need to communicate has been extended by 'Broadband' Internet for such things as shopping, banking, watching video on-line or video telephone. But here in Eastington we find that Broadband speed is pretty poor compared with our urban neighbours. For that reason there is an additional questionnaire about your Broadband experience. Under Parish Matters, Cllr. Derek Greenaway explains this is part of central government's initiative to bring high-speed broadband to rural Gloucestershire for the benefit of local homes and businesses.

Back in 'Downton Abbey' days, we may have been reminded that such things as cars, telephones and electrical appliances were luxury items only for the rich. These days we have become dependent on sophisticated technologies for getting about, communicating and generally making our lives more comfortable. For most people living in a rural area like this, it would be difficult to get to work and manage busy lives without a car. Having a host of electrical appliances and readily available gas or oil lets us come home to a warm house after work, store and prepare a wide range of foods and to relax if time permits.

In the 1930's came a huge national investment in the National Grid to bring electricity to the centres of high population. Emotions ran high as armies of metallic aliens marched over tranquil rural countryside, but many were not to get electricity to their homes for some decades to come. Over the past 80 years the vast majority of people have benefited from electricity-on-demand. That compensation and daily familiarity with a forest of poles and pylons carrying the wire life-lines over the fields, has not made them more elegant or attractive, but has certainly sweetened the bitter pill. We have benefitted from investments and sacrifices made in our grandparents' and great grandparents' time, to have electricity on-tap for the gadgets we use today.

There is of course a price to pay for these modern technologies. Not just from your pocket, or the effect on the world's resources, but also on our local area in the form of busy roads and power lines, and a new gas pipeline not far away. To keep up with our increasing appetite for power and desire to get around faster, there are many proposals to upgrade an aging infrastructure. There are no plans yet to replace our local rail link with high-speed rail, but we hear many objections about proposed 'HS2' to give Birmingham fast connections with London and Paris and beyond. New 50m pylons are proposed to increase the capacity of electricity and for getting it around the country; it will be interesting to see the welcome given to these giant newcomers. The new high-pressure gas pipeline with pumping station north of Gloucester has already brought out protesters. Maybe the favoured option will be just to turn down the heating, turn off the lights and get on the bike. Or maybe like the Greeks, we will realise that democracy comes at a price, and making decisions is not that easy after all.

We welcome PC Jo Booker's article and suggestions for improving security. We have an interesting account of Eastington Horse Show held in long-running tradition on a fine August day. For the youngsters, Brownies continue their varied and active programme. Passports and luggage labels were the order of the day for customers checking in at the 'Playgroup Hotel'. For Ladies and Gentlemen aged over 60, Bluebell Club meetings are held at the Village Hall on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Eastington Community Orchards Group (ECO) combined with Eastington Youth Group to collect apples and pears from gardens and orchards across the Village. Read how to get your hands on some of the delicious juices.

See a photo of Alkerton Rangers and read an account of their game against Dursley eleven. There are Match Reports of Eastington Cricket Club for summer 2011 too.

Who knows the unsung heroes, Bob and Joseph of the Christmas Story? The Rector writes to invite budding actors to a drama workshop in preparation for an Easter play next year. Back in September the Village Quiz Night was a tremendous success, and details of the night tell about the winners at the packed Community Centre.

The Methodists' main *Carols by Candlelight* service this year is on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. Details of their 'Puppets' and Christmas Services are also included.

Maybe you are interested to learn that the Stroudwater canal is fully restored between the railway crossing at The Ocean and Lodgemore Lane near Stroud. Now begins the campaign for restoration of the canal to Saul Junction (Phase 1B) and the missing stretch that passes through Eastington.

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Next Deadline: All articles by Friday xxx please!

Next Delivery: xxx 2012 please!

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

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Introduction – Andrew Niblett (Chairman)

Firstly I would like to welcome Derek Greenaway to the Parish Council. Derek brings a wealth of experience that will help us deal better with an ever increasing quantity of data directed at us and an abundance of planning issues aimed at the Parish.

When some Parish Councillors met to talk about crime in Eastington recently with Inspector Kirk Harrison, it was obvious that quite a lot of useful information is not getting reported to the Police. If they are to help make this Parish safer, then we all need to give them information to help them do their job. If you have concerns about protecting your identity, you can use the crime-stoppers on **0800 555111** in complete confidence. Alternatively you can dial the new non-emergency Police number, **101**.

You may be aware that the Parish Council has supported residents of Swallowcroft in their application to have Sophie's Pitch registered as a Village Green. In these days of high-density urban building and tiny gardens, even small pieces of land can be a significant community asset. Congratulations are due now that Village Green status has been awarded, as this provides legal protection to Sophie's Pitch.

The parish council has received complaints of overgrown hedges making the footpaths and pavements too narrow for safety or comfort. Please take a few minutes to look at the hedges on your boundaries and decide if they need cutting back. Cllr Andrew Cozens has offered a 'special rate' for his boundary hedge cutting service, please contact him on andrew.cozens@farmline.com or by phone 01453 824793 to ask for a quote.

Broadband Speed – Cllr Derek Greenaway

Included in this edition of your Eastington Community News is a separate sheet entitled 'Household Internet and Broadband Survey 2011'. It is part of central government's initiative to bring high-speed broadband to rural Gloucestershire for the benefit of local homes and businesses. In the case of Eastington, the target is to bring the promised high-speed broadband to the parish by 2015. As a newly co-opted member to the parish council, I offered to act as the link person to promote this broadband initiative.

Such connections to homes will be of benefit not just for the low usage demand required for e-mails, but also for school pupils, college and university students studying at home who may be able to access their school/college/university networks for the purposes of study. It will also bring benefit to those who work from home, and for local farms and businesses which have the requirement to upload as well as download information.

In order for this project to succeed, however, it is important for all households and businesses in our Parish to complete and return the survey.

It is of note that there is an existing high-speed internet provision currently available to local rural communities, for example, Arlingham, that I am researching and which may be of benefit to our parish; I will include the details in the next edition of the Eastington Community News.

In the meantime I urge every household to complete the enclosed survey and return it to the address printed on its front page. By doing so, you will be demonstrating a local demand for an essential rural service.

Parish Council Meetings begin 19:00 @ Methodist Hall on 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Roads & Transport- Cllr Nigel Souster

When is a pothole not a pothole?

Your Parish Council has been quite concerned about the deteriorating state of the roads in our village. There are an increasing number of potholes along our three main roads, and the surface on some of our residential streets is in poor condition. This being so, in the summer your Parish Council completed a survey of these problems, and submitted a long list of what we considered to be serious defects to Gloucester County Council. GCC control the roads budget, and are the authority responsible for repairing our roads.

Well, it is official. GCC say that we only have one real pothole – in Victoria Drive. All the other many holes in our roads are not classified by GCC as defects requiring repair. To be a 'GCC pothole', the hole must be at least 40mm deep – ouch!

Meanwhile, please monitor the state of the road surface near you, and let your Parish Council – and GCC – know if you have specific concerns. However, we have been informed by GCC that between 13 and 17 February 2012 there will be general road patching in Claypits, between the centre of Eastington and the A38. GCC expect that this will require a closure of the road.

Disabled parking

Your Parish Council has been approached recently to see if a Disabled Parking Bay could be located near our Co-op. GCC, Stroud Council and our Police all have some responsibility for parking matters. A Disabled Parking Bay would have an impact one way or another on the Co-op and many of its customers who stop off by car, as well as all those living or working near the Co-op. And, there are potential problems with land ownership. Your Parish Council is therefore keen to receive as much feedback as possible. Initial views are not to compromise the existing limited parking – and, perhaps, to create an additional space, say immediately to right of the Co-op. Please let the Parish council have your views.

Speeding

One of the long-term objectives of your Parish Council has been to reduce the number of vehicles speeding through our village. An important element of this has been to chase GCC to extend the 30 mph speed limits along our three main roads. Two years ago, GCC extended the 30mph limit part the way down Springhill. There was some disappointment, however, that the extension did not go as far as the dangerous junction near our School and Church. This year the 30 mph has been extended towards Frocester. Your Parish Council continues to chase GCC for extension of the 30mph limits in the direction of Claypits, and further down Springhill towards Chipmans Platt.

District Councillor's Newsletter - Ken Stephens, November 2011

CORE STRATEGY (HOUSES): District Councillors recently toured the district looking at identified sites for potential housing allocations. They were asked to fill in a follow-up questionnaire on the sites and associated items. I did not go on the tour. I have been doing this long enough to know where the sites are. In addition to this the group to which I belong decided not to fill out the questionnaire. The reason we gave to officers for not doing so was 'the Labour Group believes that it is premature at this stage to limit the number of sites in this way; and moreover that it could also be interpreted as supporting a particular policy before Council members have had an opportunity for a debate on the matter'. That was sent on the 14th October. On the 27th October the agenda for the next cabinet was published. This includes at item 10. Core Strategy-Next Steps. It's a very lengthy document and you do wonder how much of it was written before the tour and questionnaire responses. This report recommends a focus of development to satisfy the agreed housing numbers. (Agreed by council, not all members of it)

In this recommendation it is suggested that between 1000 and 1500 homes be built West of Stonehouse. This means **Nupend/Nastend**. The site, put forward in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, (SHLAA site 23) stretches from the road into Nupend all the way to the railway line in Stonehouse to the east and down to the A419 south of Nastend. Almost but not quite encircling Nastend. The report also suggests that between two and three thousand jobs will be needed to go with these houses. The site is described in the report as, 'Essentially one large site in single ownership: a relatively straightforward prospect in terms of taking it forward'. The report does not recommend major growth in Eastington village or a number of other named places. The possible double whammy to the Parish, at this stage, seems to be not being pursued.

Readers will be well aware that I have for a long time been very cynical over the way in which this very important matter has evolved over the last couple of years. Some of the things I get to see and hear make this inevitable. Hearing a possible major site allocation described as being at the lower end of the market by someone involved in the process is an example. (This site is not recommended for allocation). It is up to residents to decide if they think the political group that runs the council has brought forward a plan for the development of the district as a whole, or just a number of building sites - the size of which will please carpet building developers. The logic of building around Nupend/Nastend defeats me. The site is not connected to anywhere. Major, very major, infrastructure would be needed to get any easy connection to Stonehouse Town centre, thus enabling the town to fully benefit from both domestic and employment buildings.

Another question: where will the access roads go? How many leading to the A419? I cannot see it being less than two. The only reason for building here has to be motorway access. (commuting?) Something I noticed in the responses by those members who filled in the questionnaire mentioned above possibly says it all. On comments on the site West of Stonehouse, one member at least put, 'Potential for highly sustainable new town'. It has long been thought by many people in our parish that if such a development is started on the proposed site, there will be no way of keeping it constrained. If the report is passed to the next full Council on 24th November and is accepted, a process of public consultation will begin. It will run until January 2012. I hope my position on these matters is well understood and does not need repeating.

SIZE OF COUNCIL: I have been told that there is an initiative being promoted to reduce the number of councillors that make up the council. The figure mentioned to me was a reduction from 51 to about 30. Around 40%. The main reason given was to reduce the cost of running the council. Reducing the council in this way would incur significant cost to rate payers. If the real reason is to reduce the cost of councillors the quickest, simplest way to do that would be to reduce the member's allowances by 40%. I think this would bring them close to what the payments would have been if only inflation had been added over the last ten years or so. I do wonder that if council was reduced in the way suggested, how long it would be before a review board would be recommending that the remaining councillors be paid more than the present allowance. (40%more?) If you reduce the number of councillors you increase the number of people they represent. How local would your councillor be then? My opinion is that if you are going to spend a lot of money fiddling about like this, do the job properly. Get rid of all the District Council's in Gloucestershire and the County Council and have two unitary authorities. A cynical person might suggest that the initiative has more to do with somebody worried about a possible loss of council majority than saving money.

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR - TONY BLACKBURN

Good news re Sophie's Pitch, half Good News as to Eastington's Roads:

Since I last wrote in Eastington Community News the case brought by Swallowcroft residents and the Parish Council for getting the area of grass at the rear of 9 Bath Road declared a "Village Green" has at last, after nearly four years, been considered by the Commons and Rights of Way Committee of Gloucestershire County Council and has SUCCEEDED! Local residents can, therefore, continue to use the area for leisure activities. ("Sophie", who must be grown up now, is the young girl who used to play football there and lent her name to the case) This just shows that it is sometimes worthwhile pursuing suchlike claims even though it has been an uphill struggle. Congratulations to all concerned. It is unfortunate that the local builders can not use this land as part of their housing development but the remainder of "their site" can be used and sometimes the community should take priority.

As to Eastington's roads, there is less good news but the Parish Council has been active in recording potholes in our area and has submitted details to GCC Highways. So far no action even though the GCC received £3.6 m extra money from the Government for repairs. Highways are, however, offering to enter into a "Big Community Offer" with parishes for such things as snow clearance, weed removal and, I hope, traffic signs and speed limit reductions! The parish has to put in forms and pay something towards the service. The website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highwaysyourway has details. I hope to work with the Parish Council in taking up this offer on our pressing matters of too high speed limits on Springhill and Bath/Alkerton Roads to Claypits. The pedestrian crossing I have asked for at Orchard Leigh, Bath Road, is going to be "assessed" in 2012. I hope that there are no accidents meanwhile.

With regard to planning and the threat of development which might spoil Eastington's rural character, I am following the Localism Bill enthusiastically and I am sure that the Parish will expand its excellent Parish Plan to cover the circumstances which will apply when the new legislation takes effect. With the support of Cllr Ken Stephens and Stroud DC, we can resist pressure for unsuitable urban sprawl.

I am pleased to say that Tina Smith and her friends have set up an Eastington Youth Group which is going to operate locally. Anyone interested please contact her at tsmith@sanctusltd.co.uk. They need a storage pod for equipment and other furniture. Can anyone help? Good luck to them and the Group.

The Boundary Commission that decides which parish votes in what area is proposing to move Eastington from "North Stroud" to "Stonehouse" in 2013. I don't know what I (or the other parties,) shall be doing about the new arrangements yet but I assure you that I intend to give all in Eastington full value for money and representation to the best of my ability on The County Council until the arrangements change!

Best wishes for the rest of the Autumn.

County Councillor Tony Blackburn

Community Spirit

We would like to thank everyone in the village who donated to the collection we made on Friday 7th October, for Mrs Hulbert, who was sadly robbed in her own home. We raised a total of £325.00 with which we bought a bunch of flowers and a card and gave the rest of the cash to her, just to let her know that everyone in the village is thinking of her at this time.

Update from Eastington Youth Group



Since the last issue of ECN we have been busy trying to find activities that suit all the youth in our village. We took a group to a fashion show in Bristol and also had a jewellery making session, both of which were successful.

We also took a group to Gloucester Ski Slope to go tubing – which basically is sliding down the ski slope in a large ring!!

The Youth Bus is visiting the village every Tuesday night 6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m., which is complete with activities for teenagers both boys and girls. The youth workers are available to speak to the youngsters about any issues they may wish to discuss and can help with careers advice if required. The youth can also speak to the youth workers about any activities they would like to do in the village - we had an archery session which proved successful. We need more teens to support the Youth Bus so please encourage them to come along



We helped out with the Orchard Group on the apple picking days which got the whole village involved and seemed to be enjoyed by all. We certainly enjoyed drinking the apple juice! We also attended the church quiz which was a great night; we were surprised with the amount of people who attended.

Our next litter pick is scheduled for 12th November 11.00 a.m. with refreshments afterwards at OHMG. So please come along....

The long terms aims are to have a meeting place for the youth, i.e. a POD and park, which we are working towards. If anybody has any ideas or contacts/companies that may be able to help then please let us know. When we set up the Youth Group our initial aim was to work with the youth of the village, which is still the case, but younger members of the community will hopefully benefit from the things we are hoping to achieve.

Tina Smith, Secretary of Eastington Youth Group T: 07891 579754

Police Update



Firstly can I introduce you to the new national non emergency telephone number for the police of **101**. This replaces our former 0845 number, and in this county will connect you to our call centre at Waterwells.

Now the clocks have gone back, may I remind you about some simple crime prevention steps for the darker afternoons and evenings? Burglars are unlikely to break into a home that is occupied, or appears to be occupied, so we can give the impression that someone is in even when there isn't. For example, by fitting a lamp and a radio to timer switches can enable them to come on in your absence. There is also a device available which mimics the flicker of a TV screen (but uses a fraction of the electricity), which when concealed behind a closed curtain gives the impression that someone is home. These steps, in addition to ensuring you properly use window locks, door locks and security lighting around the home, will improve your security and safety through the winter months.

Recently in Eastington, we have enjoyed a relatively quiet period, but the crime that has occurred is being dealt with positively, with suspects currently on bail and enquiries ongoing. Complaints regarding anti-social behaviour are being addressed, and where action can be taken it will be, along with working with the families involved to try to resolve any problems.

Please continue to keep us informed of any issues by using the 101 telephone number.

PC 1506 Jo Booker, Stroud Police Station

The Eastington Allotments Society

In the last edition I was rather pessimistic about my chances of winning anything at the Autumn Fruit and Vegetable show. Well I didn't exactly win but I did manage a couple of second places. Overall though allotmenters did rather well and put up a good showing. Having said that, though, none of our members managed to walk away with the main prize for the most points gained overall....but be warned, we are learning fast and we have the Spring show to get in more practice. I understand that, based on the success of the Autumn show, there are likely to be some new and interesting categories for the Spring event.

It has been an amazingly mild October. This last comment should be taken as the cue for the immediate onset of Arctic conditions so best to get up the allotments now and make sure you get some of your root crops dug up and stored as Xmas backup (see later).

Anyway back to the warm weather. Not sure whether or not this is a good or bad thing. It does provide the opportunity for produce that has been slow to develop over a summer short on sunshine to put on a final growth spurt. On the other hand is it possible for any overwintering plants to put on too much growth now and overexpose themselves to the, still promised, hard winter? One thing I will say though...grass! It really is time to stop growing now.

Another diary note to all allotmenters: TEAS Annual general meeting is planned to be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011, date, time, venue to be confirmed, so keep an eye on your e-mails.

Unless there is to be a special Christmas edition of the ECN (*definitely Not! Ed.*) then this will be last before the New Year. So I will take this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and do enjoy all those freshly picked Brussels sprouts and roast parsnips. Also have a Happy New Year, enhanced, possibly, by some previously frozen summer fruits.

Stephen Gribble

Big Apple Day in Eastington

Eastington Community Orchards Group (ECO) combined with the Youth Group to collect and process over ONE TONNE of apples and pears from 20 gardens and orchards across the village. All these apples, in previous years, would have been dumped in compost or just rotted away, so the 500 bottles of juice produced are a harvest made possible by operating on a Community scale.



Some of the dozens of boxes of fruit collected by the Youth Group can be seen behind the Big Press (manufactured by Oak Frame Carpentry).

ECO Group members washed, chopped, pressed, pasteurized and bottled for eight solid hours to produce 300 bottles of long-life juice, which will be sold to pay for trees in Churchend Orchard.

Fortunately, we had a sunny day for our first Apple Day (which occurs on or near 21st October every year). It made for warm work for the 25 Youth Group volunteers in the orchards, so sharing out some of the crop as fresh juice was very welcome.

Thank You to....

The fresh juice was bottled in 200 containers provided free by **Dairy Crest** >>>>>>>>

We are also indebted to **William Morris House** for the loan of their Scratter (for chopping the apples) and for teaching us the techniques involved in pasteurizing.

And of course, all our **Donors** for allowing our legalized scrumping teams to clear their orchards. Sorry to those to whom we came too late but.....



Apple Days 2012..... if you missed out on this year, or we were too late for your crop, ECO Group will be starting earlier next year with fortnightly Apple Days from September 2012. Register your trees for picking in 2012 by logging on to www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk.

Buy ECO Apple Juice..... from the Youth Group, Playgroup, OHMG bar, Shambles Market, Stroud, Friday amour through ECO Group members. **Flavours include:** Apple “Underleaf”, Millend Mix, Apple and Pear from Alkerton Cross and “Sparta” Apple.

Alkerton Rangers Football Club



Saturday 29th October 2011 - Stroud & District Football League Division Five Dursley 3rds 5 Alkerton Rangers 0

A depleted Rangers side gave a good account of themselves but were caught cold by the speed and mobility of the Dursley eleven. Always trying to play the ball to feet, Alkerton frequently advanced deep into the home side's territory only for the final pass to go astray. Jamie Rokni and Adam Light on the left combined well and Adam Churchill was heavily involved 'playing in the hole'. Undeservedly, the first goal arrived on the quarter-hour as a Dursley attacker cut in from the right to poke the ball through the legs of stand-in keeper Paul Burn. The second came following a goalmouth melee and, from a corner, the third went in off the back of an unsuspecting Kev Hill to leave the green-and-whites up against it by the break. Undeterred, Alkerton stuck to their principles in the second period and on 58 minutes carved out an opening when neat inter-play from Hill, Rob Cheshire, Carl Phelps and Rich Manning gave Steven Morgan space inside the Dursley area only for the shot to be sliced wide. Fine defending from Paul Wilkinson and two fine saves from Burn kept Alkerton in the game but on 73 minutes failure to clear a corner saw the ball lashed in for 4-0. From a corner at the other end, claims for a handball on the Dursley line were waved away before an under-hit back pass from Dan Shaw presented the home outfit with a fifth.

The football club wishes to thank Worktop Express for its sponsorship and continuing support this season. To see the green-and-whites in glorious colour view 'Community News' at: www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington

DATE	HOME	SCORE	AWAY
29/10/11	Dursley Town 3rds	5 - 0	Alkerton Rangers
22/10/11	Whitminster 3rds	8 - 2	Alkerton Rangers
15/10/11	Alkerton Rangers	2 - 1	Sherston
08/10/11	Old Richians Res	0 - 1	Alkerton Rangers
01/10/11	Tuffley Rovers 3rds	4 - 2	Alkerton Rangers
17/09/11	Alkerton Rangers	4 - 0	Charfield Res
10/09/11	Alkerton Rangers	1 - 2	Dursley Town 3rds
07/09/11	Alkerton Rangers	1 - 2	Whitminster 3rds
03/09/11	Bush FC	5 - 1	Alkerton Rangers

At the time of writing, Alkerton Rovers lie 9th out of 13 in the Stroud & District Football League Division Five table. For up-to-date results visit:

<http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?divisionseason=8907917&league=1199765>

Eastington Cricket Club Match Reports

Woodchester (185-9) vs Eastington (138-4) – Abandoned Saturday 7 May 2011 (Stratford Court)

After losing the toss and being asked to bowl first Eastington got off to a very good start with Simon Wright taking a wicket in the first over and then Woodchester struggled to get going until the middle overs. 4 wickets from Roger Beese slowed the hosts down but they did get a defendable total of 185-9.

In reply, Eastington headed to be having an early finish and not through rain as 4 wickets went down quickly, however a quick fire 27 from Rob Lange and then unbeaten scores of 75 from Nick Reynolds and 26 from Roger Beese made it look like the visitors would chase down the total until the rain came down leaving frustratingly needing just 48 from 15 overs.

Eastington (77-3) vs Frocester VI (74ao) – Eastington won by 7 wickets Saturday 14 May 2011 (OHMG)

Unable to win the toss Eastington were put in the field again but didn't hesitate in taking some early wickets not letting Frocester get any sort of a start, Roger Beese bowled an excellent spell taking 5 wickets for just 20 runs but was well supported by Sam Jones and Paul Hancock limiting the visitors to 74 all out.

After the interval Eastington got off to a shaky start and were just 15-3 after some good opening spells from the Frocester opening bowlers; however a brisk knock from Paul Hancock helped the home side cruise to victory with an unbeaten 39.

Leonard Stanley (157ao) vs Eastington (97ao) – Leonard Stanley won by 60 runs Saturday 21 May 2011 (Leonard Stanley Playing Fields)

Leonard Stanley won the toss and decided to bat first, they got off to a very good start scoring quickly and wouldn't allow Eastington's bowlers to settle. Eastington then fought back though with some good bowling all round with all their bowlers contributing a few wickets each pegging the home side to 157-7.

The score looked achievable however a constant fall of wickets throughout the innings left Eastington struggling to build a partnership. Only Simon Wright top scoring with 21 and Paul Hancock having to retire hurt on 20 were able to make contributions with the bat, meaning they only reached 97 before being all out.

Eastington (121ao) vs Slimbridge II (122-2) – Slimbridge II won by 8 wickets Saturday 28 May 2011 (OHMG)

For the first time this season Eastington were asked to bat first, however still unable to win a toss! They were looking in good shape at 70 without loss with Steve Gallagher scoring 28 and Paul Hancock 47 however once the openers were gone Eastington collapsed from 90-1 to 121 all out.

In reply Slimbridge didn't look in any trouble, Eastington's Paul Hancock taking the only two wickets of the innings. Slimbridge got home comfortably in just 24 overs making the most of the home side only having 9 men on the field.

Cam III (90ao) vs Eastington (152-5) – Eastington won by 62 runs Saturday 4 June 2011 (Stinchcombe)

Eastington got off to a steady start on what was a very unpredictable wicket; Steve Gallagher hit 51 supported by 27 from Alan Shackell and 22 from Roger Beese. It did look like their total wasn't going to be enough after a Cam hat trick but some valuable late runs from Andy Howarth (25 not out) got ECC to a good total.

Cam III in reply didn't ever get going thanks to some excellent bowling from Paul Hancock who took 6 wickets just 32 and Roger Beese 3 wickets including a virtually impossible caught and bowled! Cam were finally all out after just 28 overs.

Eastington (125ao) vs Painswick III (153ao) – Painswick won by 28 runs Saturday 11 June 2011 (OHMG)

After winning the toss and bowling first ECC got off to a good start with two early wickets, however Painswick's middle order steadied things down. Some good bowling from Duncan Wright 4-31 supported by 3 wickets each from Roger Beese and Paul Hancock then finished Painswick's innings early.

Painswick's total didn't look too far out of reach; however some excellent bowling from Painswick's openers meant wickets kept falling despite 26 from opener Nick Reynolds. A late flurry of runs from Simon Wright (27no) and Martin Wear gave ECC a chance but they ended just 28 runs short.

Randwick (162-4) vs Eastington (139-9) – Randwick won by 23 runs
Saturday 18 June 2011 (Randwick Playing Field)

Some heavy rain just before play was due to start meant the overs had to be reduced to 35 per side. Randwick batted well on a very slow wicket with all their top 5 making contributions. Neil Cambell was the pick of Eastington's bowlers returning figures of 3-37 from his 8 overs.

In reply Eastington's openers started well with Alan Shackell scoring 35; however it wasn't easy batting conditions with another rain break during the innings. Eastington's middle order batsmen Paul Hancock (44) and Duncan Wright (19no) looked close to getting home but could only get within 23 runs.

Eastington (73ao) vs Charfield II (170-8) – Charfield won by 97 runs
Saturday 25 June 2011 (OHMG)

ECC won the toss and decided to bowl, a decision they may have started to regret as Charfield opener Mark Thomas compiled 76 of the visitors total, despite being dropped twice early on in his innings. Some good bowling from Roger Beese who had 5-45 wasn't enough as the damage had already been done.

In their innings, Eastington didn't ever get going after losing early wickets. The only batsmen to reach double figures were Andy Howarth (25) and Sam Jones (14). ECC only managed to survive to 30 overs before all being dismissed for just 73.

Stroud III vs Eastington – Match Cancelled

Saturday 2 July 2011 (Stratford Court) - Match cancelled due to Eastington being unable to raise a full team.

Frocester V vs Eastington – Match Cancelled

Saturday 11 July 2011 (Marling School) - Rain resulted in this match being cancelled on Saturday morning.

Eastington (91ao) vs Leonard Stanley (143ao) – Leonard Stanley won by 52 runs
Saturday 16 July 2011 (OHMG)

Another rainy couple of days almost got the better of this game, however the pitch was just about fit for purpose at the start. Leonard Stanley were put into bat and batted aggressively in the opening 7 overs, however some consistent bowling from Richard Wall (5-26) and Paul Hancock (4-22) saw the visitors all out in just 33 overs.

Eastington's innings didn't get off to a good start with the top four all failing to get into double figures, only Roger Beese (26) showed any resistance for ECC as they crumbled to just 91 all out from 30 overs.

Slimbridge II (132ao) vs Eastington (165-5) – Eastington won by 33 runs
Saturday 23 July 2011 (Slimbridge Playing Field)

Another stuttery start for ECC after being put into bat, and the runs didn't come easy as Eastington were just 50-2 from the first 20 overs. However the patience paid off as Steve Gallagher reached 36 and some latter innings hard hitting from Paul Hancock (63) saw ECC to a good score on what was a lifeless pitch.

Eastington's bowlers put the pressure on from the start with economical spells from the three main bowlers. A late middle order surge from Slimbridge almost upset things but Duncan Wright (3-37) and Paul Hancock (3-31) saw them all out just inside the 40 overs.

For full results scorecards and fixtures visit our website at <http://eastingtoncc.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>
We are always looking for new players of all abilities so if you are interested in playing or know someone that might be, please contact us on the details below:

Steve Gallagher T: 01453 791209



DO YOU PLAY or HAVE YOU PLAYED CRICKET?

Eastington Cricket Club requires players of ANY standard for the 2012 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

Eastington Horse Show

Eastington Horse Show took place at Claypits Farm on Saturday 6th August.

The show dates back in various formats over many years. Indeed we have a poster advertising the show:

*“Eastington & Frocester District 16th Annual Horse Show
Saturday 11th August 1951 at Claypits, Eastington.
Cattle – Heavy Horses – Brood Mares – Hunters etc.
Horticultural Show – Driving – Motorcycle Display by the Dare Partners
Admission 3/6d”*

Although we do not encompass all these classes any more, those on offer this year attracted very large entries.

The early morning helpers and stewards were entertained by a magnificent low-flying, colourful display over the field, as fifteen hot air balloons swept the skies. They thankfully disappeared before the first horse boxes arrived.

The jumping was, again, very competitive. We also had eleven colourful, original entries in the Fancy Dress. A wonderful turnout of magnificent thoroughbreds in the ex-Racehorse class – won by a local lady – and the Mountain & Moorland, coloured & spotted horses and Arabs were all complimented by the judges.

The Stroud Sea Cadets worked tirelessly all day with the parking of lorries, trailers and cars, putting up show jumps and taking refreshments to the hard-working judges.

We were delighted to have a whole page spread in a national horse magazine, depicting photos of the prize winners, with several proud local entries.

We are indebted to the Spencer family for finding us a field, to Smiths for the waste bins, to Downtons for the judges' lunches and all the generous sponsors and helpers, and the weather, which was kind to us this year!

Many thanks to all who sponsored us, worked with us on the day and to all the people who attended our show.

From Eastington Horse Show Committee.



Spotted in Park Lane recently!

I was taking a close-up photo of the intricate detail of Queen Elizabeth Gate in Hyde Park, London, when my eye fell upon the coach parked beyond in Park Lane, the most expensive property on the Monopoly Board!

‘That looks familiar’ thought I, so I knocked on the door and sure enough it was a KB Coach from Eastington. The driver told me he was parked up to wait, having dropped off a school party from Gloucester at the British Museum.

V Taylor

One of the 'Cotswold Edge' Parishes

(Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster)

**Our mission is: to show God's love for His people,
and nurture His people's love for God**



Dear Friends,

Christmas seems a long way off at time of writing, and I guess for many of us it will be a more difficult one financially than the last. With rising inflation, limited or no increase in pay or pensions, or without a job and with limited state support life can seem incredibly bleak, and the endless advertising for expensive Christmas gifts that seem beyond our reach just seems to rub salt into the wounds.

I'd like to turn your attention to one of the most endearing of Charles Dickens' characters, who generally makes an appearance on television over the Christmas period too, but often gets overlooked due to the main character in the story of 'A Christmas Carol'. The main character is of course Ebenezer Scrooge, but the endearing character is Bob Cratchitt, his hard-up clerk, who is expected to work in freezing conditions and on Christmas Day.

Despite having a large family, including an invalid son, and a wife who has no time for Scrooge because of the way he treats her husband, Bob refuses to wallow in self pity, nor does he stoop to blaming his employer for his meanness of spirit and lack of generosity as regards his working conditions and pay. Instead he appears thankful for what he has, and finds value in things that have no price, and indeed cannot be bought – particularly the family he has, and the love he shows to and receives from them.

I often wonder if St. Joseph's attitude was a bit like that of Bob Cratchitt? He just seemed to take whatever life threw at him, and cope with it. His fiancée fell pregnant, the baby wasn't his, so he didn't want to make a fuss about it. An angel told him that the baby was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, so he carried on with the marriage preparations after all. Then Quirinius ordered a census to be taken, so he packed a close-to-giving-birth Mary onto the back of a donkey and set off for Bethlehem. When he got there he couldn't find anywhere to stay that would have been decent for her. He didn't give up though – he accepted a stable offered by one innkeeper, which was better than nothing. Then he became her birthing partner to the Son of God. Even now a husband doing this for his wife tends to make the news! Then he had to cope with visiting shepherds and wise men, register for the census (the bible doesn't mention this, but I suppose he did do it) and, after all this, take all three plus the donkey into exile in Egypt after being warned by another angel that Herod was out to kill the child he'd gone through all of this for. Quite remarkable when you stop and think about it.

If you think that just coping with life isn't achieving something, then think again. Both Bob and Joseph are, in my opinion, the unsung heroes of the original and true Christmas Story, and of the best of all the subsequent stories written about Christmas. They are steadfast in supporting their families, and are ultimately both rewarded according their circumstances. May God bless us similarly – every one!

Yours in Christ,

Rector

The main services over Christmas are:

Sunday 18th December at 3pm – Carol Service with the Choir

Christmas Eve at 6pm – Christingle Service

Christmas Night 11.30pm – Midnight Mass (preacher and celebrant – Revd Sue Phillipson-Masters)

There are communion services on **Christmas Day** at Frocester (9am) and Whitminster (10.30am)

Just one service on **New Year's Day** in the benefice – at 3pm at Frocester (the benefice's 12th 'Birthday' Communion).

News from St Michael and All Angels Church

The Village Quiz Night on 30th September was a tremendous success with 19 teams taking part representing various organisations in the Village and one from Frampton on Severn. The evening raised almost £800 and it was great to receive support from well over 100 participants, including a couple of youth groups, who virtually filled the Community Centre. Quiz master Ian Neville did a fantastic job and the made the evening great fun. A ploughman's supper was served and the Bar provided liquid refreshments and in addition Tom Low of the Eastington Orchard Project was selling apple juice from local orchards. The winning team was presented with the George Hopes Memorial Trophy and no doubt they will want to try and hang on to it when it comes up for grabs next year!



Members of the winning team, with the trophy, are (left to right) Mary Gribble, David Johnson, Stephen Gribble and Gill Glover. Missing from the photo are other team members Hannah and Andrew Cozens.

"Hanna's invaluable knowledge, gained from the windmill on Camberwick Green gave us the winning point" Mary revealed.

Coming up shortly is the **Annual Wine and Cheese Evening at Cleeve Cottage on 26th November** and again an interesting selection of wines and cheeses will be on offer. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxing social evening so why not give it a try? We will have the

usual surprise competition and the Church's annual raffle will also be drawn on that evening. The raffle tickets are on sale now with the top prize of £50.00 cash.

Something different is happening at the church – we are planning a drama production which is to take place around Easter time 2012. **An informal drama workshop** is planned at the **Charlie Bullock Room on 7th December** when we hope to form a group who are interested in taking this forward. We are fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of Liane and Lucy who run the Blue Frogs Drama Club in the Community Centre on Tuesday evenings. Budding thespians, stage hands and helpers are most welcome.



Why not come and try a Wine and Cheese Evening

At Cleeve Cottage, Millend, Eastington

On Saturday 26th November 2011 from 7pm to 9pm

A variety of interesting Cheeses will be on offer together with a selection of Wines

Tickets £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) from

Robin Harris 01453 823433 and

Jacky or Mike Naylor 01453 828682

All proceeds will go to St Michael and All Angels Church Funds



We are putting on an Easter Performance!

All you budding thespians, stage hands or just supporters are warmly invited to an informal Drama Workshop with Liane and Lucy of the Community Centre Blue Frog Drama Club fame on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm. The venue is the Charlie Bullock Room at St Michael and All Angels Church and the idea is to form a group for a stage production which is to take place around Easter time 2012 at the Church.

For more details contact Liane 07969 or Celia Harris 01453 823433



Blue Frog Drama Club

Tuesday Evenings (Term-Time Only)

Ages 5-11 @ 6pm-7pm

Eastington Community Centre

Contact Liane: 07969 436138

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

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



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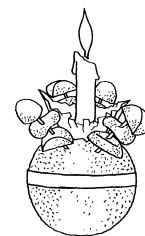
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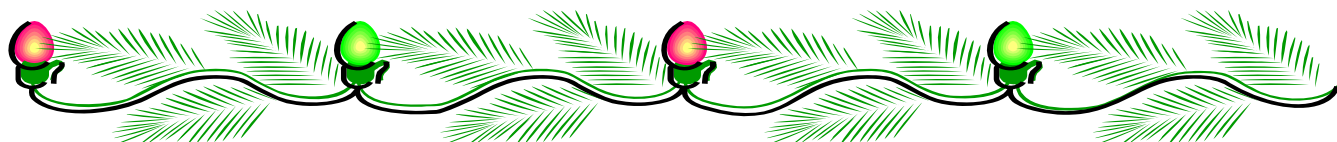
***St Michael and All Angels
Eastington***



**Christingle Service
At 6pm on Christmas Eve**

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

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



**EASTINGTON - ITS TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!!
EASTINGTON VILLAGE XMAS PARTY**

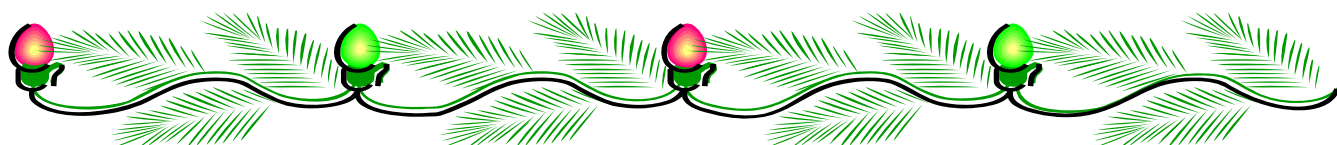
AT OHMG COMMUNITY CENTRE, SAT 3rd DECEMBER 7.30PM TILL LATE

**COME AND CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON & DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
TO LIVE BAND 'RECOVERY'! FOOD INCLUDED IN TICKET - ADMISSION £10
PER PERSON. THE BAR WILL BE OPEN!! OVER 18'S ONLY.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS FABULOUS FUNDRAISING EVENT TO SUPPORT
EASTINGTON SCHOOL & PLAYGROUP, EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP
& THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

FOR TICKETS TEL: VICTORIA FUDGE 07989 667080

WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!



Get yourself in the mood for Christmas with a visit to
Eastington Primary School Christmas Bazaar
Noon-3pm Sunday 4th December



Come and enjoy festive games, things to make and do, meet Santa in his grotto and chill out generally with a festive tipple or two. Grand raffle draw tickets now available.

Please recycle your unwanted goods for the good of our school books

Eastington Primary School Parents Association and Friends invite you to recycle the following unwanted goods so that we can purchase a new reading scheme for the school:

adults' and children's clothes,
hats,
bags,
curtains

shoes (tied together please),
belts,
soft toys,
bedding (not duvets or pillows)

We will be paid £500 pounds per tonne (50p per kg) for the weight in goods, which will be put towards a new reading scheme of books throughout the school. If you are able to root through your wardrobes or loft for things you have not used for years please either bring them down to school, ask a school family to take them for you or contact me to arrange for collection.

Any bag can be used and should be delivered to school on (but not before) Friday 2nd December 2011 by 11am. It will then be collected by bag2school.com. Many thanks for your help in our fundraising.

Karen Hayes, Chair to the Parents Association and Friends. Tel: 01453 821 260

THE FRAMPTON FUNDRAISERS' FEBRUARY BALL

Tickets selling fast at just £45 per person!

Saturday 18th February 2012 in The Orchard Marquee at The Whitminster Inn

All proceeds to local good causes, and £45 entitles you to a delicious 4 course meal, great music from a live band, a glittering charity auction and disco.

Tickets are being sold in tables of 10. To reserve a table please contact a Frampton Fundraisers team member. Table bookings are confirmed on a 1st come, 1st served basis, once a non-refundable deposit of £100 is received from the table host in a single payment,

The Frampton Fundraisers: Dawn Cooper 01452 740 453, Carlene Malpass, Deb Watts 01452 740 635, Shelley Williamson and Sarah McCurrich 01452 741 233

Eastington Brownies

The Brownies continue their varied and active programme.

This term so far, we have visited Stroud Fire Station, which was most interesting and the Brownies participated in various tasks and activities which resulted in them gaining their Fire Safety Badge. We are grateful to Stroud Firefighters for their time and providing such a good programme for us. Of course we had a Halloween party on 31 October with traditional games such as apple bobbing and a pumpkin competition, with pumpkins grown from seeds – the winner weighed in at 40lb!! We have got a nature walk planned, collecting seeds from the hedgerows to grow and plant in the Community garden next to the churchyard.

As Christmas approaches we will be making decorations and doing other Christmas activities, and we will be going to the District Christmas party with other Brownies and Guides from the Stonehouse area.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who have helped us with the programme and continue to welcome any new ideas!

Brownies are girls aged 7 to 10 years and we meet on Monday evenings during term time in Eastington Village Hall.

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 each month. On 1st November members enjoyed an interesting 'armchair journey' by narrow boat along the canals of Sweden and Norway. Coming up:

15 th November	Nightingales singing
6 th December	a visit from Eastington school children
20 th December	Christmas presents!

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



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It's coming up to that time of year again! Whilst November, when you first read this, might seem a little premature, there is no doubt that waiting until the January edition will be far too late. In any event, we have some Christmassy things happening very early in December which we hope will be of interest.

The first is on Sunday December 4th when the 11am morning service will be taken by puppets. Great fun for all ages, so please do come along and be entertained and hopefully inspired.

This is followed a couple of days later by an open invitation to come along to the Kings Head on Tuesday 6th December at 7pm for a jolly good carol sing followed by mince pies.

On Wednesday 7th December at the church there is one of our **Tea & Chat** drop in sessions at 3pm. This is completely informal and an opportunity to meet with friends and/or make new ones.



Our main **Carols by Candlelight** service this year is on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. This will be supported by our worship music group and will be followed by mince pies (again!) and refreshments. In true fashion, the light will be provided by candles (not candles with the main lights on as tended to happen when I was young otherwise nobody could read the words). With the wonders of modern technology, we can project the words on to a screen for everyone to read with ease (which only leaves the music group to struggling to see in the gloom - but hey, that's what practices are for).

On **Christmas Day** we have a 10:30am service for all the family so that we can celebrate together the birth of the Lord Jesus in Bethlehem all those years ago. This service is timed to help ensure that the turkey does not get incinerated but is late enough for the children to have got bored with their new presents (which they are welcome to bring along to show everybody).

We are intending to drop off Christmas Cards throughout the village this year to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. Whether you are part of a big family or on your own, whether you have lived here all your life or are a newcomer, you will receive a warm welcome at any of the above events and we hope you will be able to come along and join in.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

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Or email us at: puddleditchfarmshop@hotmail.co.uk



The canal project has been making great strides in the Stonehouse to Brimscombe Phase 1A length under the leadership of the SDC Canal Team. The new bridge in Stroud is finished thus removing one of the big blockages to restoration, Ryeford Double Lock now has its gates installed, Upper Mills Bridge is finished and dredging has taken place on the long pound between Stonehouse and Ryeford. The Trust is participating in the project in all sorts of ways including the design and fabrication of heritage style lock paddle gearing.

Other works are just starting which will see the canal fully restored between the railway crossing at the Ocean and Lodgemore Lane near Stroud (about half of the Phase 1A length). There is now an imperative to get this work done as a major festival, Stroud on Water, is going to take place next to the canal at Marling School at the beginning of June next year for 3 days. This incorporates the IWA National Trail Boat Festival (which will attract lots of visiting boats), the 40th anniversary of the start of the campaign to restore the Cotswold Canals and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Part of the function of this event is to support the campaign for the restoration of the rest of the canal and particularly the Phase 1B length which passes through Eastington.

On that front, there has been significant progress and the intention is for a bid to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new grant of somewhere in the region of £10 -12 million this month. Stroud District Council have agreed to be the lead partner for this bid and funding has been found to support the work needed for the initial bid and, if this is successful, the development stage that will follow. Due to the current financial constraints imposed on all Local Authorities, it has to be assumed that SDC will not be able to contribute significantly towards the £4 million or so of matched funding that will be needed. This requirement for matched funding will be perhaps the biggest challenge but some of this can be in the form of work in kind.

In order to help keep the overall costs down and to make a major contribution to the work in kind, the Trust is intending to take on the restoration of the "missing mile" which starts at the bottom of the Eastington Flight of locks and runs all the way to the A38. The new channel under the M5 would be constructed by contractors as it is assumed that the Highways Agency might be resistant to CCT volunteers digging around under the motorway. That still leaves us with about a mile of new channel to dig, two brand new locks to construct and the restoration of the buried Westfield Lock which was blown up by the M5 contractors. This is all a huge job and we will need all the help we can get.



Bristol Road Lock – now buried under the A38 roundabout will not be restored

It is also hoped that all sorts of bolt-ons can be added to the project although these need to be fundable and negotiated with adjacent landowners. For example, there are long-standing aspirations to create an enhanced wetland environment in the base of the Frome Valley and there may well be opportunities for Community Orchard projects.

Assuming the bid does go in as planned this month, HLF will make a decision in April. If positive, the development stage will probably take 1 - 2 years and will involve extensive consultations with all interested parties including the local communities through which the canal passes. This time, the intention is to take the project right up to the planning permission stage so that work would be able to start shortly thereafter.

How long will it take to complete Phase 1B? To some extent, that will depend on the availability of matched funding. If that is tight, more will need to be done by volunteers and that will take longer than if contractors were doing more of the work. With a reasonable tail wind, about 5 years may well be possible.

Ken Burgin - Chief Executive, Cotswold Canals Trust

ken.burgin@pikelock.com

To see the illustration above in colour visit the website of "Community News" at:
www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington



Charity number 1084891

Eastington Community Centre, Snakey Lane, Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos, GL10 3AQ

www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

November 2011

We have had such a great start to the term and the children have been looking at where they went on holiday, where they stayed and what transport they used to get there. We have made passports in our photo booth, luggage labels and checked in customers at the 'Playgroup Hotel', and we have also spotted some budding cashiers and managers in our role play shop.

We recently had a Pampered Chef party which was kindly hosted by Helen Whitehead and we had an enjoyable evening whilst receiving commission against our purchases. This will help towards our latest project in transforming the outside decking to incorporate a cosy area in which the children can comfortably relax and enjoy books and stories. Thank you to Helen for supporting Playgroup again this year.

This term we have made great plans; initially we will be looking at fire safety in relation to Bonfire Night and how to STOP, DROP AND ROLL.

Occupations are another area that we are looking at and the children will be making good use of the dressing up and making their own outfits too.

We are also talking about healthy foods in relation to physical development and during snack and lunch times we will look at what we are eating and chat about healthy and unhealthy food.

We will be visiting Eastington Primary School to watch their Nativity Play; this is an element of our link to the school who are a great support to us.

The grand finale for this term will be our Production of the Christmas Nativity on Tuesday 13th December where all parents/grandparents and carers will be invited. We will be auditioning for parts shortly – such happy times for parents to remember!!!

Following the success of last year's event we have another Christmas Party organised for the grownups in the village on Saturday 3rd December!!! Yet again we will be able to dance the night away to the live band, eat drink and be merry whilst catching up with everyone that we never seem to have time for in our busy schedules!!!! Tickets will be available either at Playgroup, from Victoria Fudge through Eastington School or Tina Smith for the Youth Group. It should be a great night and all profits will be split between Playgroup, School and Youth Group.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 5 years 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, Play Leader
Tel 07977 342 742 or email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk**

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

Eastington Baby and Toddler Group

Eastington Baby and Toddler Group runs every Monday morning in term times, from 10:00 - 11.30am.

In the last half term, as well as playing with the usual toys, we have played with sand, cut animals from play dough, tried bubble printing and made fire hand prints. We also have snack time, followed by singing. If you have a child under 2 and a half, do come along and join in the fun.

Coming events:-

On December 12th, we will have a Christmas party.

On Monday 19th Dec, at 10-11:30am we will be having a special Baby and Toddler Group, to which older brothers and sisters are invited, and we will be doing various Christmas activities.

@ Eastington Methodist Church. Cost £1.50 for first child and 50p for further children. For more information phone Beck on 07855 296 175

Eastington Slimming World Group

Autumn has arrived so our thoughts in group have turned towards foods that are warm, comforting and really fill you up on the cold dark days ahead!!!! So we have put our heads together and come up with some wonderful meal ideas. Some of these I have included below.

1. **Chilli and rice:** Fry off a large chopped onion and 2 cloves of garlic in fry light. Add a pack of extra lean minced beef and brown off with the onion and garlic. Add chilli powder and fresh chopped chillies to suit your taste and any herbs you like. Add 1 carton of passata. Give a good stir and then add one pack of mushrooms sliced, one red, one yellow and green pepper sliced, one tin of red kidney beans (drained first) Leave to simmer so it reduces and thickens and for the flavours to merge together. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve with fresh cooked rice of your choice.

2. **Vegetable soup:** Chop one large onion and soften in a non stick pan. Add one peeled diced potato, 2 sliced leeks, 2 peeled and diced carrots, 2 sliced sticks of celery, one head of broccoli cut into florets. Cover with water. Add 2 stock cubes, salt and pepper to taste. Simmer until the vegetables are soft and blend with a hand blender or food processor.

3. **Slimming World Cooked Breakfast:** Grill 2 rashers of bacon with all fat removed. Cook 2 eggs in fry light, grill off mushrooms and tomatoes. Serve and enjoy.

4. **Fish Pie:** Dry fry a chopped onion, chop up into bite sizes 2 large fillets of fish of your choice, slice 2 hard boiled eggs, add a carton of passata, a few capers salt and pepper. Top with mashed potato and bake in a medium oven for an hour. Serve with vegetables of your choice.

Sounds tasty? To learn how to enjoy these meals and lose weight at the same time the Slimming World way. Come along to the village hall in Eastington any Wednesday at 7pm or to my new group at St Joseph's church hall, Oldends lane Stonehouse at 9.30 am on Wednesday mornings. Both men and women are welcome. You can call me, **Lorna on 01453821751** or just turn up at the groups. I look forward to welcoming you.

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Local QUALITY OFFICE SUITES



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Beginners welcome

One to one or small groups
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lingos@fsmail.net
Eastington

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!



- Weight loss
- Personal Training
- Ante and Post Natal health



Prices from only £15 per month.

Visit our website www.paravida.co.uk
Telephone 01452 741711

Friday 18th November 2011

Doors open 7.30pm
for 8.30pm start

@ Eastington Community Centre
(www.ohmg.org.uk)

Licensed Bar *
Disco dancing 'till 1am *
Risqué Raffle *

Ticket Price £15.00
Tel: Vanessa Cousins 01453 828557

Ladies Night



Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmg.org.uk

Available for parties, regular bookings, sports events,
clubs, wedding receptions

NOW WITH FULLY RESURFACED CAR-PARK

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>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

The Kings Headlines

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL

sky SPORTS HD

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Sat 12th Nov

5.15pm

Eng vs. Spain

Tue 15th Nov 8pm
England vs. Sweden

Sun 20th Nov 4pm
Chelsea vs. Liverpool

Mon 12th Dec 8pm
Chelsea vs. Man City

Sun 18th December
Man City vs. Arsenal

ALSO

**FREE POOL
MONDAYS**

**ALL THE BEST
XMAS SPORT**

CHRISTMAS TIME WILL SOON BE UPON US

Well its that time of year again, when Santa and his little helpers will be busy filling Xmas Stockings!! If all this Christmas preparation is too much for you then get yourself down to the Kings Head and enjoy our yuletide offerings, and we promise we won't make you wrap any presents!!

XMAS MENU

We a fabulous 4 Course Xmas menu for £15.95, (£10 for 3 courses for Senior Citizens) which is proving very popular, so please make sure you book ahead, just talk to Ann for details

And the best bit is any meal in December will get you 20% during Jan and Feb, so you can't say fairer than that!

NEW MENU

We are going to be changing our menu, and we will now be doing a Homemade Chefs pie of the day, so we still have great everyday affordable value.

We also still have our great Senior Citizens Special offer of 10% discount off every menu item



THE KH CHRISTMAS PARTY

17TH DEC 8PM

What better way to kick off the festive season than a good old 80's Party, so dig out your leg warmers, dust off your hairspray and show off those stonewashed jeans with pride

And to really round off the night we've sorted out a **FREE** great buffet for you to kick off the Festive feasting (diet starts 1st Jan, honest)