

# EASTINGTON Community News

June / July 2012

N<sup>o</sup>. 133

Welcome to our Summer edition and as can be seen from Mark Campbell's weather records inside, we have at last reached good summer temperatures after the long cold wet time in April and much of May.

Top topic this time has to be Eastington Primary School's remarkable achievement in winning a place (against national competition,) to cook for the Queen! Their imaginative and creative menus are an indication of the immensely high standard to which they have risen. They are a bright inspiration to our whole community - Well done.

Following the highly successful new additions to activities in our Village, (Allotments & Community Orchard Group are most recent,) NOW is a great opportunity to create an engaging, enjoyable and versatile environment for the current and future generations of kids and teenagers of this Village.

For the success of Eastington Youth Group (EYG,) and to attract funding and become registered, it is essential to have a physical home. Land has been identified and a provisional building plan is proposed. The EYG committee need the assistance of skilled individuals in pushing a build project forward and five donated Pod's are currently waiting to be permanently sited.

I am amazed by how many creative and talented people live and work in this Parish, and who contribute to Eastington's vitality. ***If you are an Architect or Design & Construction Engineer or Project Manager and Fund Raiser, then NOW is the time to help start an exciting and truly valued project.*** Please contact an EYG member today: Tina Smith (0789 1579754); Sue Whaites; Kevin Dalby (827401) email: <mailto:carrot101@tiscali.co.uk>.

Congratulations to Ken Stephens, our newly re-elected District Councillor. In his article he explains the make-up of the newly elected District Council and it is important for all of us to stay alert to proceedings of SDC. The juggernaut of the Core Strategy has made a 'pit stop' at the moment. The strong and persistent efforts by members of this Parish (DSS & KER) have significantly contributed to the Core Strategy coming under close scrutiny and re-examination. There is no time to rest - we need to work with the new administration to ensure that this time their Plan truly and fairly represents the needs of all parishes.

Thank you to all who voted in the local (District and Parish) elections on 3<sup>rd</sup> May to elect the new Parish Council. Although we advertise the website [www.ecn.me.uk](http://www.ecn.me.uk) and have a page to 'meet your councillors' under 'Parish Council', we understand that not everyone has access to the Internet. So, for this edition, we asked all Parish Councillors to write a short summary about themselves alongside their picture. I hope this helps you get to know your councillors and to bring issues that are important to you to the Parish Council. You are of course most welcome to attend **Parish Council Meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Methodist Hall at 7 p.m.**

Please make a note in you diary now for the Eastington Horse Show on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August at Claypits Farm. This popular occasion has continued supporting Village organisations for many decades and is not to be missed. Thank you to all contributors of articles for this edition - please explore details inside.

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**Next Deadline: All articles by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July please!**

**Next Delivery: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 please!**

View the "Community News" at: [www.ecn.me.uk](http://www.ecn.me.uk)

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Firstly I would like to thank outgoing Parish councillors, Chris Hill, Nigel Souster and Ken Stephens. Welcome to new councillors who are introduced below. In the next edition we plan to list our current and planned activities.



**Cllr. Andrew Niblett - Chairman:** I grew up in what is now 'South Gloucestershire' before studying at university in London. My first job was back in Gloucestershire teaching science. In 1980 I began work for a large Aerospace company. We moved to Eastington in 1986 with our two boys aged four and six, in the midst of the threat to build 1000 houses here. I joined the Parish Council and helped set up the first Village Appraisal, and Eastington Community News to keep people informed. Together with others 'Keep Eastington Rural' was formed. Getting Laurie Lee to Eastington to release 1000 balloons united a large portion of the Village and gained much publicity. Time serving with the Parents Association and School Governors first introduced me to the amazing vibrancy of our village school. In 1990 I began working for a large electronic materials company and the increased workload meant stepping down from voluntary work. In 2004 I re-joined the Parish Council, and I have been privileged to be chairman for the last few years. I am looking forward to supporting the many new volunteers who help run a growing number of interesting organisations in our community



**Cllr. Muriel Bullock - Vice Chairman:** Born in Maisemore, I next lived in Frocester from where I went to Eastington School. In 1953 I moved to a new council house in Victoria Drive, before marrying in 1961. While bringing my four children up I was involved in village life, starting up a Brownie pack and on to Guides. Later I was involved in trying to get a community centre playing field long before we were lucky enough to be given land. I was co-opted on to the Parish Council in late 2010 because we were having trouble with anti-social behaviour on the Victoria Drive estate. People were saying the culprits needed to be given ASBO's but I thought it would be better if the youth had something to do or somewhere to go. I was lucky enough to find a group of people who agreed with me, so EYG (Eastington Youth Group) was formed. At present they are working hard to establish a building where they can start an all age youth group. I would like to thank everyone who voted for me at the local elections, this would allow me to be involved in what is happening in our village and make sure you are all represented.



**Cllr. Bill Edwards.** I have lived in the Village for 19 years and joined EPC in 2004. After attending Parish Council meetings as a member of the public I wanted to get more 'involved' and to help with what was going on. Previously I worked on 'Roads and Transport', Canals and the Flood Group, but am now active on Footpaths, Village Greens, Eastington Youth Group, and the Orchard Group. My main interests are Footpaths and Bridleways here and in neighbouring Parishes. I strongly believe that they should be maintained for everybody's enjoyment, and I have had success in opening-up blocked footpaths, and saving one from being closed. There are still some footpaths that are blocked or neglected, and I hope to improve this situation in the near future.



**Cllr. Peter Edis-Bates.**

I've lived in Nupend for 22 years, I'm now 63 and originally from Harrow. I served a graduate apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce where my career in management made me responsible for operations at Filton, from where I retired as a director. I'm currently a Neighbourhood Watch warden, and recently have put considerable energy, as a founder member of 'Don't Strangle Stroud', into campaigning for better plans for Eastington and the Stroud District.



**Cllr. Pauline Allen.**

I qualified as a doctor in 1968 and have lived mostly in Churchend since then. My consultant post in Gloucester involved working with teams of local NHS staff and the police to form a countrywide sexual health service. I still do a couple of clinics a week but retired from full-time work in 2007. I have been involved with many of St Michael's Church activities including designing five Flower Festivals, organising and arranging Church Wedding Flowers with the influx of weddings during the last three years. I introduced the first, and now very popular, Christmas Eve Christingle Service for local children and young people about 28 years ago! I have also been involved in fighting several planning proposals to 'plonk' large industrial & sporting projects into the

village – and there is more to do!



**Cllr. Mike Evans.**

I've been a Nupend resident for five years. Originally from Port Talbot, I graduated as an Electronics Engineer at Cardiff University in 1994. I work as an engineer at a local aerospace company. As a founder member of "Don't Strangle Stroud", I am primarily the "number cruncher" of the team, giving them the analysis results that are required to create our local parish plan. I look forward to assisting the parish with all its activities wherever I can.



**Cllr. Derek Greenaway.**

My wife and I moved to Churchend, Eastington in July 1990. For the last eight years my work has been in the UK higher education quality assurance sector, taking me not only across the constituent parts of the UK but also Europe and both the Middle and Far East. Frequently away from home, my interest in the Parish of Eastington has been informed by the activities of the Parish Council and Keep Eastington Rural. I retired in September 2011 and joined the Parish Council the following month, since when I have been drawn into its myriad activities. It is not until one becomes so involved in such an active council that one realises just what a parish council does; so much of its activities take place within the different aspects of the community it serves. I will work

to fulfil the expectations of the parishioners and the fellow colleagues in the parish council.

**Cllr. Jill Simmons.** I am honoured to serve this Village as a Parish Councillor. My background is farming and my father served in WWI & WWII. I love the countryside, and have three grown-up children, seven grand children and three great-grand children. I was an only child and now that my family has grown so much, it fills me with interest and wish to pass on the love of the countryside and all that it can tell us. Eastington is a great village and we are aware of the problems facing it. We know that to develop we need to grow, and to welcome people here - but we do not want to lose our Village status and to become a small town. We are blessed with so many amenities; a wonderful Community Centre, St. Michael and All Angels (where I am a Churchwarden,) the Methodist Church, shops and public houses. I praise the dedicated people who have now provided Allotments and Community Orchard and will do my best to support the community as well as I can.



**Cllr. Andrew Cozens.**  
(Dairy Farmer)



**Mrs. Mary Gribble**  
Parish Clerk



**Mr. Robert Powell**  
Financial Officer



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



**Facts about the Queen - Revd Richard Amys sent a list of 60 Facts about The Queen, which he found on the Jubilee Website. Space in ECN did not allow the inclusion of them all. So I have taken the liberty of selecting a few of my favourites. The full list can be seen in the Church newsletter SPAN. VT.**

- 2. The Queen is the fortieth monarch since William the Conqueror obtained the crown of England.
- 18. The Queen has given out approximately 90,000 Christmas puddings to staff continuing the custom of King George V and King George VI
- 24. Unusual live gifts given to The Queen on foreign tours include: two tortoises given in the Seychelles in 1972; a seven-year-old bull elephant called "Jumbo" given to Her Majesty by the President of Cameroon in 1972 to mark The Queen's Silver Wedding, and two black beavers given after a Royal visit to Canada.
- 43. The Queen launched the British Monarchy's official website in 1997. In 2007 the official British Monarchy YouTube channel was unveiled, swiftly followed by a Royal Twitter site (2009), Flickr page (2010) and Facebook page (also 2010).
- 56. The Queen's wedding ring was made from a nugget of Welsh gold which came from the Clogau St David's mine near Dolgellau. The official wedding cake was made by McVitie and Price Ltd, using ingredients given as a wedding gift by Australian Girl Guides.
- 58. The Queen's racing colours are a purple body with gold braid, scarlet sleeves and black velvet cap with gold fringe. They were adopted from those used by King Edward VII; one of his most successful horses was called Diamond Jubilee.

## Local Talent

A couple of months ago we set about recruiting a Receptionist/Admin Assistant to join the Severnside Osteopathic Practice here in Saul. We advertised in the local community magazines and were really overwhelmed by the quality of the applicants who got in touch.

These villages are clearly teeming with experienced, enthusiastic and hard-working people keen to do a great job. We wanted once again to thank everyone who wrote to us, and to tell everyone else what a talented lot we are!

**Caroline Tosh**  
**Severnside Osteopathic Practice,**  
**Saul**

## ***EASTINGTON HORSE SHOW***

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012*



***At Claypits Farm, Eastington.***  
*By kind permission of the Spencer Family*

Dressage, Show jumping, Showing,  
Gymkhana & Fancy Dress.  
Classes for all ages.

***Proceeds donated to village organisations.***  
***PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT***  
***OUR VILLAGE***

## **Mrs Eileen Barham**

Joy Barham wishes to thank everyone for the messages of condolence, flowers, donations and attendance of Eileen's funeral.

Appreciation also extended to Reverend Amys, Philip Ford and the Old Badger Inn, in recognition of the excellent service they provided.

### **A little note to say thanks.**

Hello, as many people in the village may have noticed, our house in Bradestones Way was crashed into on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, due to someone speeding up Spring Hill.

We would like to say a huge thank you for all of the help and support our neighbours and the wider Eastington Community have offered over the last few weeks, it has been greatly appreciated. We have really felt such a huge community spirit and feel very fortunate to live in such a caring and friendly place.

Although it will be many months until parts of our home are rebuilt, we really hope people will now see how dangerous speeding through the village is and people will slow down. Fortunately no-one was hurt during the accident, which could have been so much worse.

Thank you again for all of the help and support,

Lisa and Shaun Hills, Baby Thomas and Sebi the dog.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER**

**I would firstly like to thank each person who nominated me in the recent election, and all who supported me in the ballot. As I said in my election material, being a District Councillor is something I consider a privilege, carrying large responsibilities. I intend to carry on as I have done in the past. I stood for election on a wide range of issues and will do my best to represent the residents of the ward on all of the issues that affect us.**

Since my last newsletter things have changed at the District Council. The results of May's election meant that although remaining the largest Political Group the Conservatives no longer had a majority of councillors. There was a consensus amongst all the other political groups that things needed to change at Ebley Mill and so what has been called a *Rainbow Co-operative* emerged. In order to implement this change an agreement on how to proceed was reached by the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green Party groups. (This is not a coalition or formal policy alliance) At the recent council AGM several things happened. The Council's long serving Chairman had resigned from the Conservative Group prior to the meeting. He was re-elected to the Chair, with the support of all the other political groups. He has been involved in trying to clarify a long-running issue regarding the governance of the council and it is intended that this will now restart after being stopped by constitutional matters prior to the election.

Then the Leader of the Council, who was elected to that post last year for a period of four years resigned. Following this, Geoff Wheeler of the Labour group was elected the new Leader of the Council. His first act was to call for the meeting to be adjourned so that proposals could be assembled on how the council would proceed in the future. When the meeting re-convened a week later several changes were announced by him. He said that proposals would be brought forward to return the council from a cabinet system to a committee system. In the interim, Executive Policy Leaders would carry on the work previously done by cabinet posts. They would cover Environment, Finance, Housing, Planning, Regeneration, Community Services and Health and Well Being. These positions are filled by four members of the Labour group, two from the Liberal Democrat Group and one from the Green group. I understand that it is intended that, for each of these policy areas, an advisory committee will be set up. The exact make up of these committees will be announced later. All of these changes will hopefully increase the transparency and accountability of the Council's decision-making and increase councillor involvement.

It is not intended that any of these changes will increase the costs of councillor involvement. In fact it is intended to reduce the special responsibility allowances for executive roles. Part of the new arrangements is that meetings that have in the past taken place in the day, ie: Cabinet, Development Control, Licensing and Regulation, will now start at 6.00pm for the next civic year. It is thought that this will increase the opportunity for people in work to take part in the process and decision-making of the council.

I will again be a member of the Development Control Committee for the next civic year and have been elected as Chairman of that committee.

I am aware that most of this will seem a bit dry for most people but the changes being put in place are in fact quite substantial and will in my opinion aid the cause of the Parish in striving against the threat of mass building. The new arrangements and proposed planning policy advisory committee will ensure that all decisions have a public trail and policy will be argued and decided on the floor of the chamber. You can be sure that I will be keeping a very keen eye on how this committee develops and on the business it conducts. Past council decisions and emerging government policies mean that the struggle against mass building will not be easy, or short term. The Parish is well placed at present to continue the data and evidence gathering that will in my opinion be so important in this endeavour.

**Ken Stephens May 2012.**

## **From our Member of Parliament:**

### **Surgeries**

Generally speaking, I hold a surgery once a week, either on a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. I can, occasionally, also accommodate people at other times if they make an appointment but, obviously, this is less easy when Parliament is sitting.

The office in Stroud is a useful and popular venue. Not only is it centrally located in the constituency but it helpfully has all the facilities required including access to files and office equipment. It is also the base for the staff team.

I have also held surgeries in other centres of population, including Dursley, Nailsworth, Painswick and Stonehouse. These, too, are usually fully booked but often attract people from all over the constituency rather than just the local residents. To aid people to find the venue, maps are available on my website and we have a mobile sign to highlight the appropriate building.

Each surgery runs for two hours with eight fifteen minute slots. Most discussions end with a set of actions agreed, normally involving a letter to be sent to a minister, local authority or an agency. There is a wide range of possible subjects to cover and almost without exception at least one surprising issue or experience is brought to my attention during each session.

Recently, I have also started to do roving surgeries around the villages and smaller communities. These take place normally on Saturdays and involve three or four villages with predetermined meeting points. Pubs feature in this itinerary as well as village halls and car parks. These sessions are more often opportunities to discuss policy and politics as opposed to formal surgery session but are, nevertheless, just as valuable.

The roving surgeries are advertised on our website and information is made available through Parish magazines and other publicity outlets as available. I intend to do a roving surgery every month, having divided the constituency into four areas for organisational purposes.

It is essential that Members of Parliament are accessible to constituents with surgeries being an important mechanism for this to happen. If you would like to discuss the issues raised above, please contact me on 01453 751572 or visit my website – [www.neilcarmichael.co.uk](http://www.neilcarmichael.co.uk).

### **Neil Carmichael**

## **From the Neighbourhood Warden for Eastington**

Hello Everyone.....My name is Phil Drew and I am the Neighbourhood Warden for Eastington.

It is my job to be the eyes and ears of the community and help prevent and deter Crime and Disorder in your Community. We deal with a number of issues that could arise in your area.

We deal with all aspects of anti-social behaviour including Litter, Fly Tipping, Abandoned Vehicles & Graffiti.

We also assist with more serious issues like Vandalism and Racial Incidents.

The Neighbourhood Warden Service has been operating since 2002 and we are recognisable by our Green and Beige uniform. We provide a link between the people in the community and the Police and work alongside them to try and combat Crime & Disorder.

**If you would like to contact me with a particular issue as mentioned above, ring me on 07876405833 or email me on**

**[phil.drew@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:phil.drew@stroud.gov.uk)**

## From the Village Agent

I thought it might be helpful this month to do a catch up on local news of "what's out there". In these times of cut backs we are really pleased to tell you that Stroud District Council have some budget available to be able to fund free loft and cavity wall insulation and there is some funding (typically 40%) towards external wall insulation. The scheme is being managed by "Warm and Well" who will organise a free no obligation survey for you and the work is being carried out by Domestic and General. Call **0800 500 3076** to find out if you could qualify.

An exciting new project is starting in conjunction with G.C.A.B (Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind) and GDA (Gloucestershire Deaf Association) who will be running joint clinics in the Stroud Area. As you can imagine this would have a huge impact on the lives of people who find it difficult to travel to Gloucester or Cheltenham, especially the elderly.

You will be offered hearing aid maintenance, advice on listening equipment and the services provided by GDA. GCAB will be offering advice and guidance to the visually impaired. There is no charge for this service, but donations will be very welcome. The clinic will be held at the Subscription Rooms in Stroud Thursdays 10am-1pm 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Do you long for the dreamy sounds of a big band on a glorious summer's day? Wait no more because Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June will see a Grand Jubilee Tea Dance at Churchdown Community Centre with a live 18 piece big band and an indoor street party atmosphere to celebrate the Jubilee. The event has been organised by Alzheimer's Society and is open to anyone with or without memory concerns, their family and friends. Following hot on the heels of Dementia Awareness Week it is hoped that many people will be able to come along with their families and enjoy an afternoon out together. The event is being held between 2-4pm, and you don't even have to dance if you don't want to, just go along and soak up the atmosphere. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children, to include an afternoon tea served at your table. Free parking is available at the centre with easy access for wheelchair users. You can get tickets from the Gloucestershire office of the Alzheimer's Society.

**Warm and Well: 0800 500 3076**

**GCAB: 01242 221070      GDA: 01452 372999**

**The Gloucester Alzheimer's Society: 01452 525222.**

If you would like to discuss this article, or any other matters please contact Village Agent:

**Sue Colquhoun: 078 106 30145**



### ***DO YOU PLAY or HAVE YOU PLAYED CRICKET?***

Eastington Cricket Club requires players of ANY standard for the 2012 season. We play most Saturdays (league) with friendlies on Sundays, midweek days and midweek evenings. We play and practise at OHMG.

We are currently struggling to raise a side.

***Eastington Cricketers, please come forward to support your team. Any standard/ability is welcome, to keep our club going.***

**Please contact Steve Gallagher on 01453 791209**

# ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH, EASTINGTON

## 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

THE RECTOR WRITES



Dear Friends,

June is the highlight of congratulations to the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee. For most of us, myself included, she is the only monarch we have experienced, and like most of us, she has experienced the ups and downs of life – albeit in very much more of the public view than we would like to.

During her reign the Queen has made no secret of her Christian faith, and has regularly spoken about it in addition to being a regular attender at church wherever she may find herself. From all accounts her family and her faith give her great encouragement to carry out her role in our nation's life. I hope and pray that they will continue to do so in the future, and that our own families and faith will be as supportive and inspirational to us as hers are to her. Below is a special prayer written for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

**God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with Elizabeth our beloved and glorious Queen. In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Back in May I stood outside Gloucester Cathedral to welcome the Olympic Flame on its way through the city. I arrived early, and went for breakfast with my wife in a local tearoom. There were few people on the streets apart from some stewards and police (it was 7.30am!). Afterwards we went to stand on the route, and chatted to a couple next to us – they had been fortunate enough to get tickets for the 200 metres final!

As the time came closer for the torch relay to start from the Docks, so the numbers swelled to several people deep each side and torchbearer number 004, in readiness for a changeover close to where we were, came over and chatted, showing people his torch, and letting us touch, hold and be photographed with it. There were flags to wave, and torches provided by *The Citizen* to hold up, as well as drum/tambourine instruments to make noise with!

Then the flame arrived, borne by torchbearer 003 into the Cathedral grounds to be met by the Dean and Chapter in resplendent coloured copes, the choir, and hundreds cheering in the crowd. A wonderful moment! The next wonderful moment was the handover of the flame, known as 'The Kiss' as the torch re-entered Westgate Street. The flame was successfully passed on, and off it went again.

There were hundreds, if not thousands of people around in Gloucester to witness the flame pass by, and there was a sense that we had witnessed something very special. Some friends had experienced the same the day before as they saw it come through Painswick with their children.

The Sunday following was the Feast of Pentecost, when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles – evidenced by tongues of fire resting on their heads 2000 years ago. The Bible tells us that thousands were around to witness this fiery event, and no doubt found themselves inspired too.

When the flame eventually makes its way into the Olympic arena on July 27<sup>th</sup> it will remain lit for the duration of the Games, then it will be extinguished. The fire of God's Holy Spirit lives on in the hearts of those who love God for ever. I hope all may feel 'Kissed' by both!

Yours in Christ,



Sorry we missed the fireworks display you organised for the church's Diamond Jubilee celebration. Vicar – how did it go?

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

Email: [richardjramys@aol.com](mailto:richardjramys@aol.com). Tel/fax 01453 822437.

Day off – Saturday. (Mobile 07796 956050)

## **Confirmation 2012**

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 4.30pm at Tewkesbury Abbey with the Bishop of Tewkesbury**

The preparation course for this is based around the theme of exploring the Christian Life and Confirmation through film. If during the preparation, any of those attending do not then feel that this is the right time for them to be confirmed, it will be fine to let me know then.

**There will be an initial meeting at the Rectory on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm**, when I can see who is interested, and work out which dates are best. I appreciate that not all candidates will be able to make all the sessions, so please don't worry if you are going to miss some – but please bring your diaries! We should be able to start in July, which gives plenty of time to complete the course before November, as there are bound to be holidays to avoid!

**For more information please contact me at The Rectory, or take a copy of the details from the back of any of our churches – Richard.**

## **Friends of St.Michael's, Eastington An appeal for HELP.**

Over some years now a sub Committee of the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has been involved with raising funds for the maintenance of the church and it's ministry in our parish. This has mainly been concerned with raising money for what is known as the Parish Share which provides the funds for the salaries and pensions of the clergy in the diocese. This provides the resources to pay for the clergy to be available to take the services and provide the pastoral care for the people of the parish to the standard expected from the church. The main activities that stand out in people's mind are the two great celebrations of Christmas and Easter and the trio known as "Hatchings, Matchings and Despatchings". All these activities rely heavily on the atmosphere present in what is the most historic and architecturally significant structure in our village to give them that special spiritual dimension that people seek. This is in large part due to the fact they are happening in a building in which they have taken place for hundreds of years.

This can only happen if we can raise the necessary funds to continue to maintain the fabric of the building to the standard needed to provide a safe environment endowed with the facilities demanded by legislation and expected by the public.

The (P.C.C.) has the responsibility for the provision of funding to cover all its responsibilities both for the ministry and pastoral care of the people of the Parish and for the maintenance of the Church buildings. To do this it has set up a Fund-raising sub Committee which up to the present has managed to raise sufficient funds to bridge the gap between what is contributed by planned giving and collections at services, and what is needed to run the Church. But this has only been achieved by postponing a number of vital maintenance tasks which are becoming more urgent with every year that passes.

A number of institutions, Stroud Hospital for example, have established associations of "Friends" whose objective is primarily to raise funds for their parent body quite often to support specific aspects or projects. At present our P.C.C. most of whose members serve also on the Fund-raising sub Committee, lacks the human resources needed to raise all the funds required particularly those for maintaining the structure of the building. It has therefore been decided to canvas the idea of forming a "Friends of St. Michaels'" society whose prime activity would be to raise money for the Fabric Fund which is a dedicated and restricted fund which can not be used for any purpose other than works on the structure of the building and its curtilage.

It is envisaged that the "Friends" would operate as an independent body under terms of reference laid down by the P.C.C. It might even become a registered Charity in its own right if necessary to take advantage of legislation relating to tax relief on charitable giving. The aim would be to have as large a membership as possible from which a committee would be elected to draw up a plan of activities and to run its affairs

It is intended to have a meeting of all those interested in becoming a Friend of St, Michael's in church at 7.00pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>.September 2012. So that we can get an idea of the response to this appeal, it would be very helpful if everybody interested in becoming a friend contact either one of the Churchwardens (Mike Naylor 01453 828682 or Jill Simmons -825303) or Robin Harris -823433 ([robin@harrisnestings.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:robin@harrisnestings.fsnet.co.uk).)

### **HELP NEEDED With St.Michael's Church Library**

Is there anybody out there who could spare some time to keep the Library in the back of our Church under control ? We are also planning to develop better ways of displaying and storing our books to make the Library as user friendly as possible. If you are interested and or need more information, do please contact either Mike Naylor (01453 828682) or Robin Harris (01453 823433).

## **Eastington School PA and Friends**

**Invite you to the field opposite Eastington Primary  
School for our**

### **Duck Race/Summer Fete**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**12.15pm until 3pm**



**Challenge: Why not turn heads this year  
by making and showing off your artwork  
by coming in a Jubilee or/and Olympic  
style hat? Or bring your very own  
handmade medal to show off your  
talents or interests.**

#### **Attractions this year include:**

- ✓ Tea shop (with tales of how we cooked for the Queen!)
- ✓ BBQ
- ✓ Thai Food Stall
- ✓ Local Real Ale and cider tent
- ✓ Live Band 'Menoah'
- ✓ Traditional games of skill and chance
- ✓ Bouncy Castle
- ✓ Duck Shoot
- ✓ Plant sales
- ✓ Country Dancers
- ✓ Local Community Groups
- ✓ Duck races down the stream!
- ✓ **FREE ENTRY AND ATMOSPHERE**

# EASTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS WON A COMPETITION TO COOK FOR THE QUEEN!

## School children create a “Menu Fit For The Queen”



Out of 250 schools nationwide, four schools will provide eight children each to meet the Queen and her head chef on June 16th at Buckingham Palace. A teacher and a parent (Jules Telford, whose plan it was) will go too. ECN hopes to have all their reactions in the August edition!

Proposed by the Duchess of Cornwall and managed by Waitrose, the competition asked for dishes linked to the Queen, using ingredients in season, preferably from local suppliers.

Our local children (and their supporters) certainly rose to the occasion, designing six savoury and six sweet canapés (six for the decades of the Queen’s reign). Some were diamond-shaped for the Jubilee and all were imaginatively linked to local suppliers (see list below). The climax of the project was a tasting event, held in the school, attended by the local producers. All 60 people were invited to try the 12 canapés - quite a challenging prospect! The children designed the menus, cooked and assembled the dishes and served them, with style.

### How the competition has been used as part of the Jubilee celebration

The process of naming the dishes was an opportunity to research the history of the Royals. All of the children in years 5 and 6 designed a piece of artwork to do with the Queen. The pictures were subsequently on display during the tasting event. One was even laminated and used as placemats; another was beautifully framed A3 size. The school was donated 60 Jubilee strawberry plants by Highfields Garden Centre. Some children from every class were chosen to plant them in their own class’s raised bed to pick and enjoy during June. The children hand-wrote letters of thanks to each of the suppliers, inviting them to the tasting.

To quote Miss Gulliford: *“A truly memorable afternoon, the children were beaming the whole time and loved learning about and cooking with our local produce”*.

### The Diamond Standard Menu

#### Savoury Canapés

##### **Camilla’s Cucumber Crowns**

Cucumber crowns filled with Wye salmon smoked over tea (as tea come of rationing in 1952)

##### **Asparagus Encrusted Diamonds**

Asparagus with a lemon hollandaise served in diamond shaped vol-au-vent cases.

##### **Rarebits of Diamond**

Godsell Gloucester diamond shaped cheese rarebit sandwiches with local homemade apple chutney.

##### **Beefeater’s Delight**

Duchess potatoes with seasonal horseradish & fillet of Gloucester beef.

##### **Will’s Spot of Windsor**

Gloucester Old Spot belly pork served on courgette & potato rosti with Windsor apple sauce & apple jus.

##### **Harry’s Hungry Hunt**

Wood Pigeon skewers served with a spiced beetroot & pomegranate molasses chutney.

#### Sweet canapés

##### **Luv’lee Jub’lee Bub’lee**

Elderflower, strawberry & champagne soup served in a Victorian espresso coffee style cup.

##### **Royal Rhubarb Trumpet**

English rhubarb syllabub cream trumpets.

##### **Buckingham Biscuits**

Lemon shortbread with apple & lavender sorbet.

##### **Queen’s Crumble**

Gooseberry crumble with elderflower & gooseberry Ice cream.

##### **Union Jack Pudding**

Rice pudding layered with raspberries blueberries, and Gloucester honey served in shot-style glasses

##### **Royal Mint Princess’s Pudding**

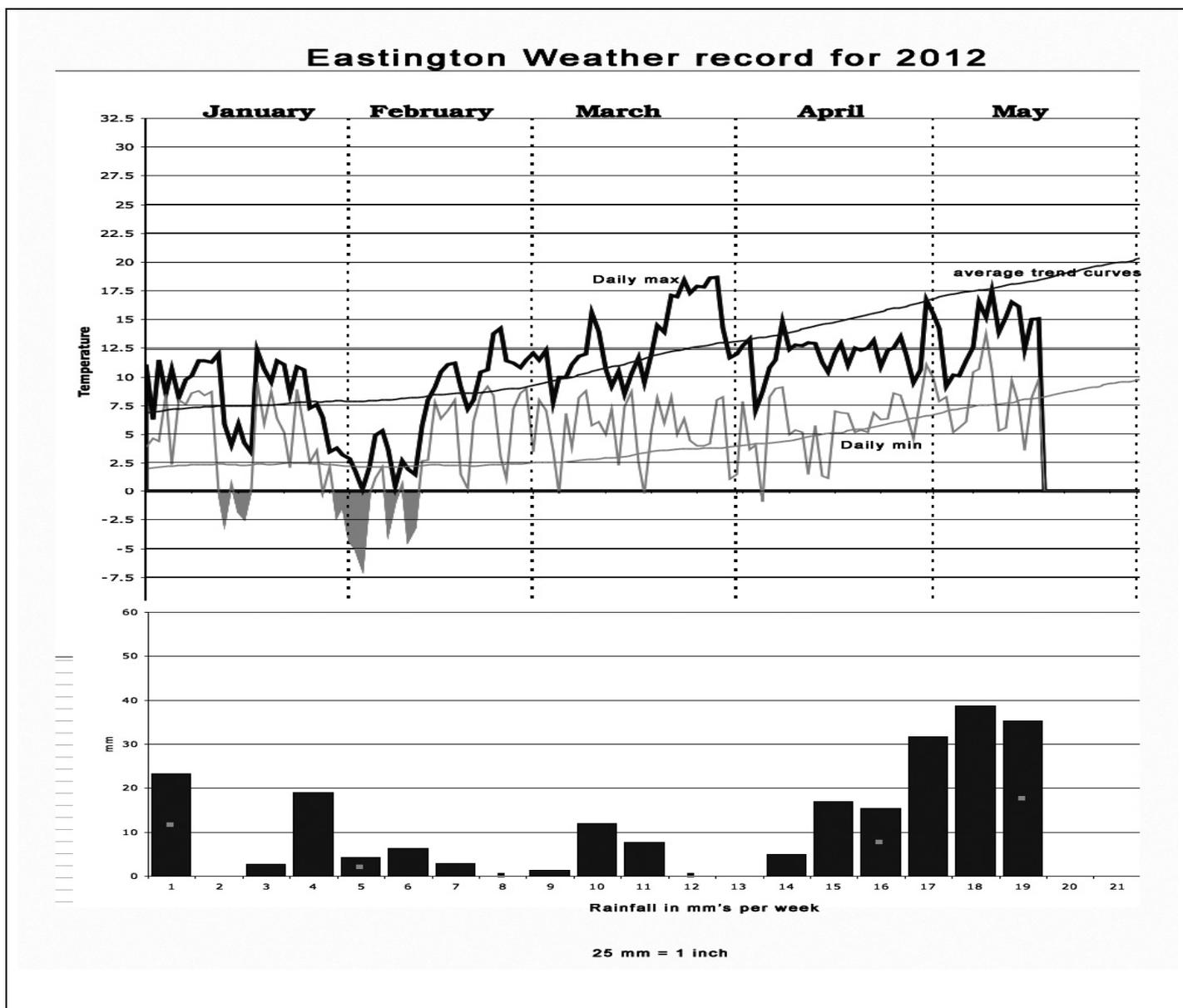
Chocolate pound cake covered in royal mint icing.

**Thanks to the Producers:** Godsell’s Cheese ECO Group Apple Juice Frocester Fayre Tom Williams’ Gloucester Honey Taragothan Tea Severn and Wye Smokery Bottle Green Elderflower Pressé Lesley Williams’ Chutney Will: Eat Wild Game Winstone’s Ice Cream

## Weather, Wildlife and the Great Outdoors

At the time of writing (26 May), the British Summer appears, at last, to have arrived. Temperatures are soaring, with energy-sapping humidity, and our Farmers have grabbed the opportunity for some silage making. Today, there seem to be more skylarks than ever singing over the fields outside

Mark's weather chart illustrates the unseasonal ups and downs we experienced up to mid-May this year, Birder records the effect weather can have on our wildlife (and himself!), Bill urges us to get out and enjoy our network of footpaths, Steve G is positively encouraging the allotmenters and Tom *et al* of the Orchard Group have been grafting hard:



The chart shows the heavy rainfall from mid-April to mid-May. The weekly average for this time of year is about 12 mm. This rain came at a time of much cooler daytime temperatures (3-4 degrees C below average) although the night time minimums were about normal for the time of year.

The much warmer and drier Feb/March can also be seen and by early April we were in fact about 50% down on the rainfall we should have had to that point. The recent rain has now only put us back to where we should be for the time of year!!!

**Mark Campbell, Westend.**

## Birder in the Parish

### March

**23/03/12:** yet another very warm day, so indulged in some back garden birding from the sun lounge! Clear, blue outer space, with twelve Buzzards over all at once, using the thermals and looking ominously like a gang of vultures on the lookout. Five of them were light phase birds, and a female Sparrowhawk joined them, all this at considerable height. Pair of Ravens drifted into view, the male doing his acrobatics and somersaulting in the way that a male Raven does when wooing his mate, occasionally 'cronking' and just showing off!

Then another bird, even higher than all these (if there had been any clouds, it wouldn't have shown), turned out to be a Red Kite, floating gently east, before changing its mind and sliding quickly south.

Butterflies today included Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma, and a big sedge fly crash landed onto the conservatory roof. Real treat to see the cows put out into the east meadows this afternoon.

**24/03/12:** woke at 4 a.m., so decided to head south to Wyke Regis on the Fleet to try for the Hume's Warbler. This small, very elusive bird has over-wintered here, and was originally found in November, all the way from western Asia. Difficult to locate unless it called, which fortunately it did quite often, and eventually, with patience, some good views were had. Already in Dorset there were Swallows and Sandwich Terns reported. Dead Barn Owl on the road out from Sherborne.

**Sunday, 25/03/12:** absolutely stunning evening. Song Thrush singing until dark at about 8.30 p.m. Sat out on the patio, still warm from the day's twenty odd degrees, and looked at a sliver of a new Moon through the 'scope. Shone, and glowed, like some precious metal, with Jupiter and his trinkets close by. Two Pipistrelles and, probably, a Long-eared Bat with them, are out feeding.

Very quiet, the occasional dog yapping, and a vixen crying somewhere down Millend Lane; a few meteorites shooting about, and weather satellites heading north. Really lovely evening.

Reports of flocks of Little Gulls passing through the County, up the Severn estuary, with some stopping off briefly at Slimbridge, and three Common Cranes seen flying east over the M5 at J13 this morning.

**Monday 26/03/12:** hot, cloudless sky. Chiff Chaffs now in constant song; must surely be Willow Warblers and Swallows very soon. New Moon, and a planet visible by 7 p.m. Two robins in full, territorial song this evening, and three male Blackbirds arguing over their invisible territory boundaries, which all seem to centre on one of my garden sheds. They're sorting it out quietly and without any scrapping just yet. No females have been obvious now for some days, so they're probably incubating.

Huge clouds of gnats over the river by the mill, and a Kingfisher shooting past carrying a minnow – not sure where they're breeding in the Parish, but at least they're here – didn't see my first one last year until May, after that severe winter knocked them back.

**28/03/12:** another bat on the wing this evening at just after 7 p.m. Next day (Friday 29<sup>th</sup>) the first Willow Warbler singing in blackthorns at the top of Millend Lane – a sure sign of Spring.

### April

**06/04/12:** At Fretherne. Sand Martins, House Martins, Wheatears, two willow Warblers and a stunning male Redstart; migration is under way. Six Swallows and five House Martins at Millend late afternoon.

**Sunday 08/04/12:** as I drove up Millend hill towards Eastington this evening - would be about 9.30'ish – I noticed something fluttering around in the debris under a street lamp. Fortunately decided to stop the car and investigate, and found a female Emperor moth, obviously not quite knowing where she was, and in the hand, she was in perfect condition - an absolutely stunning creature! I would normally take some photos, but was on my way to meet and greet, so put her in the hedge out of harm's way. I generally run a moth trap on most summer evenings, but these moths are difficult to come across, though quite common, and it's the females who are attracted to light, but I fear for this one, as the unusually high March temperatures must have encouraged emergence, but I don't think she'll survive.

Popped down to Townfield Lake in Frampton on Severn, as there was news of a female Common Scoter there – very difficult bird to tick in the County, as they are sea ducks and only ever find themselves accidentally drifting up on big high tides. Even then, when it's usually quite foggy, they can't see exactly where they are until they get to the Hock Cliff at Fretherne, and quickly decide that this is not the place for them to be, and fly back down river. But somehow, this bird found herself here, and decided to stay for a few days.

**14/04/12:** slow migrant passage starting, with good views of an Osprey at Dowdeswell Reservoir and incoming passerines such as Wheatears, Willow Warblers, Yellow Wagtails, and Garden Warblers – but still seems to be a bit too early for significant migration yet.

**19/04/12:** good views of a Hobby drifting low over Chipman's Platt.

**20/04/12:** weather very cold, but made the effort to head for Fretherne for the incoming tide. One other birder there, and we watched and waited, in anticipation of some good birds being drawn up the estuary on a full tide, as they head north to breeding grounds. Not much for a while, and the wind was now so cold, I pitched the telescope in the lee of the flood defence, but quickly had to re-set it to confirm a male Long Tailed Duck flying right past us, before heading off down river! A mega bird for Gloucestershire! And before long, a gorgeous pale phase Arctic Skua flew north, right overhead – stunning! Well worth the unpleasant weather conditions to see birds like these.

## **May**

**08/05/12:** weather turned unexpectedly for the better, with some good spells of sunshine, so headed to Blagdon Lake to see a lovely Squacco Heron that had taken up residence there. The anglers were saying that the reservoir had risen four feet; eggs from waterside nesters littering the edge of the lake.

**13/05/12:** Missel Thrush in full song here; not quite sure where they've nested this year, but always a welcome soundtrack to any day.

**15/05/12:** weather not bad early a.m., so headed up to Cleeve Hill to look for Duke of Burgundy fritillary butterflies. Bad choice - ran into torrential downpours of rain and hail, a nasty lightning storm and very cold winds! Roads were decorated white with hail stones on the return. Amazing weather for May.

**16/05/12:** car covered with frost ice this morning; can't say I can ever remember a Spring as bad as this, so constantly cold, with winds either north west, north or north east – this is not good at all for migrating birds, who are tending to arrive in dribs and drabs, and if the weather doesn't turn for the better, I'm not sure how many will breed. However, for our resident birds, things don't look too bad, with family parties of Great Tits and Long-tailed Tits already out of the nest and on the move, and fully fledged young Blackbirds out and about.

**Saturday 19/05/12:** still migrating birds coming in, with parties of Swifts, Swallows and eighty odd House Martins over Millend late afternoon.

## **Footpaths - Bill Edwards T: 01453 824452**

At last, we now have some lovely dry weather after all that rain in April and the first half of May, so it is a lot easier to enjoy the countryside.

Thank you to all those residents who voted for me in the recent Parish Council elections; I am now able to carry on with improving the footpaths in the Parish. I would also like to thank those parishioners who acknowledged on the Village Appraisal that they would be interested in helping with footpaths. I have contacted them all and have asked for any feedback that they may have. I may also ask for some help in clearing or maintaining footpaths from time to time.

Due to a foot injury last November, I have been unable to walk many of the paths during winter, so I would be grateful to hear about any problems that you might find with footpaths or bridleways.

One or two people have asked me if there will be any more 'organised' walks. If enough people show an interest, then I can certainly lead some walks, so just give me a call.

During the last year, four kissing gates and a stile have been installed on Farmer Cozens' land, which has greatly improved accessibility. Thank you for your help, Andrew.

The Parish Council has purchased some more gates as part of a programme of improvements. If you have any suggestions as to where you think a kissing gate would improve a path, please let me know.

I'm hoping to be able to display a large map detailing all the footpaths in the Parish, but it has to be costed and a suitable site to display it found.

We are very fortunate in our Parish to have some really interesting footpaths so I would encourage anyone to try them out. Walking is very good exercise and you don't have to pay a 'joining-up' fee to use a footpath!!!

## The Eastington Allotments Society

*“Spring has sprung!! .....now that the warmer weather and longer days have arrived.”*

Forgive me for starting with this quote from my previous article. What can I say? I guess I can only apologise for putting the mockers on things. Hasn't it been terrible? Not only the wettest April on record but accompanied by cold northerly winds. And when all that stopped, still the danger of frosts.

Forget about the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee celebrations/extra day off for getting up the allotments (bit of balance there for all the non-Royalist), torch relays, the Olympic games and even Euro2012, all that allotmenters could think about was “is it too wet to start sowing seeds or safe to set out the plants that are currently outgrowing the green houses and cold frames?” Feeling the need to insert a positive note here I should say it has kept all those plant-munching pests, green/white flies, caterpillars and slugs, at bay.

Keeping with the positive theme, as I write this we have just had three glorious late spring days. Suddenly everything in these over-stuffed greenhouses is saying “water me” and “get me out of here”. I think it should be safe to put those beanpoles up and the runners planted out now (*although maybe I still feel that I should be inserting some sort of frost warning disclaimer here*).



And, getting back to those pesky aphids, in anticipation of a sudden influx due to this warmer weather, please look after and nurture your *Coccinellidae* (i.e. ladybirds, shown here in larval and adult form).

Finally, just to show how frustrating our climate can be for the vegetable and flower growers, I will end with a couple more quotes, taken this time from my article written around this time last year:

*“Forgive me for bemoaning the lack of precipitation over the last couple of months.”*

and *“Unfortunately the dry spell has meant a lot of visits to the allotment to make sure everything is kept well watered.”*

If you want to take advantage of this good weather (*Warning!, Putting the Mockers On Again Alert!*), the waiting list for allotment plots is still at an all time low so now is a good time to get your name down. You never know, if you are quick, you might just get on to a plot in time to start digging in for a good crop of veg. this year.

**If you are interested please visit the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site, or phone Muriel Bullock on 01453 826172, or Sarah Underdown on 01453 823285**

# COMMUNITY ORCHARD GROUP RE-CAPTURES TRADITIONAL SKILLS

## Tree Grafting Course

Nine of our members spent a morning at Day's Orchard learning how to graft fruit trees.

Jolly interesting, you may say, but actually *extremely* beneficial to our village.

We have learned an ancient skill – the Babylonians developed it – which was in itself very fulfilling and is another craft that is thus kept alive by our generation.



For the Orchard Group, it means that we save 80% of the cost of trees for future orchards.

At £12 to £15 per tree from a nursery, that will be quite a saving on 90 trees to the acre.

In time we will be able to sell trees, locally grafted and sourced from Gloucester varieties, to anyone wanting a special tree in their garden.

Already, a couple of local people have asked us to graft from their ancient and failing trees.

## Work Parties – Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings

We have the double work effort of a new orchard, in that we have new frames, paths, gates and fences to build, yet we have to maintain the trees and bushes already planted.

So on top of work parties being every other Saturday morning, we are taking advantage of the summer evenings on Tuesdays as well. New members are welcome to either bash: it's surprising what a couple of hours' effort can achieve with a team.

The most spectacular result this month has been the arrival of the street Portal, provided by The Oak Frame Carpentry Company. If you haven't already seen it, you are driving too fast on Spring Hill!

## Annual General Meeting

We will have a chance to all gather together for an evening on **Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 pm** in the OHMG. There are the usual formalities to be observed but we aim to cover those speedily to give plenty time to the wine and cider tasting and to our special guest speaker.

Dave Kaspar, of Day's Orchard, will give us a presentation on "The Orchard Year" which will appeal both to our stalwart work party members and those who have enough to keep themselves busy in their own orchards. Please ring Andy Davies, Hon Secretary on 821499 for more details.

I was serious about the wine and cider tasting, by the way.

## Tom Low

## Eastington Brownies

The Brownies have been busy planting trees and installing 'designer' bird-boxes in and around the village. Hopefully, we now have new families in residence!

Where's the GLITTERBALL?????? Brownies were Rock 'n Rollin'the night away during an excellent 1950's Dance Evening. Loads of fun and smiles all round. Many thanks to Mark & Vanessa Cousins for the excellent tuition. Watch out, Strictly.....!!

Lots of forthcoming events to enjoy: Brownies and Rainbows from the area will be coming together for a BIG party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and following on from this we will be focusing on the Olympics. Crafts, sports and fun around this national theme.

We currently have 22 Brownies, with 6 being enrolled over the course of the summer.

**Sound fun to you? Why not join us?** Brownies meet every Monday evening, 6 – 7.15pm (term time only) at Eastington Village Hall. All Brownie girls are aged 7-10 years.

If you would like to add your daughter to the waiting list for Eastington Brownies, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Could you, or someone you know, be interested in helping at Brownies for just two hours a week from September 2012? We would love to hear from you.

**For any Brownie-related queries, please contact Snowy owl on 07854 268528.**

## EASTINGTON AND STONEHOUSE SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS

So summer is once again with us and at the time of writing this its 10.30pm and still lovely and warm outside!!!!!! (Yes we are in England)

At group our thoughts are turning to food and drink we can enjoy during the summer months ahead - be it for BBQ's or picnics, alfresco dining or a lovely family get together. The wonderful thing with Slimming World is that the potential list is endless. We have recipe and food ideas for all areas of daily life and well as lots of ideas for more special and memorable events. All this and still beautifully losing weight. What more could you ask for? Yes you can still enjoy a glass of wine, bar of chocolate and packet of crisps all within our fantastic food optimising eating plans - and the proof - during our community 'Let's Beat It' campaign Eastington group lost 782.5 lbs ( 5 stones and 12.5 lbs ) and Stonehouse Group lost 453.5lbs ( 32 stones and 5.5 lbs) I'm so proud of all my lovely members, congratulations to all of you.

So what else has been happening in the groups? We now have a closed group facebook page which has proved to be very successful giving all members a link to each other between groups to swap recipes and exchange ideas. We have celebrated the 'Man of the Year' competitions, celebrating the success of both Brian and David - congratulations again.

As for the months ahead we have our diamond parties to celebrate the Royal Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June, Fathers Day meal ideas as well as the Olympics and the Euro championships, so lots to plan for.

Our groups meet at 9.30am every Wednesday morning at St Josephs Church Hall, Oldends Lane Stonehouse as well as 7pm every Wednesday evening at Eastington Village Hall. You can just turn up at either venue or give me a call for more information - **Lorna 01453821751**. I look forward to meeting you and helping you every step of the way.

## **EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP**

***Well most of you will have seen the units that have been put in the OHMG car park by now! The plans for these units are to provide a meeting place for the teenagers and children of Eastington. We are currently discussing with OHMG and the Parish Council where the best place to house these units would be and also what style the units will be formed into.***

Eastington Youth Group will be holding fundraising events and also looking at grants that may be available to us, the POD project had come sooner than we thought, due to the unfortunate liquidation of the company Unite. We will be looking for volunteers to assist/advise us along the way, including:-

**Electricians Plumbers Builders**

**People to help fundraise and anyone with enthusiasm for the project**

We would like to thank UNITE for the units kindly donated to us and Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd. for delivering them for us free of charge. Without them this project would not be possible.

We are hoping the PODS will give the youngsters of Eastington a place to meet and chill with their friends, and somewhere they can call their own. We will organise regular social events for the teenagers and younger children too.

**We will be holding our AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at OHMG at 7.00 p.m. – please come along to have your say on the above. This will also give you an opportunity to get involved in our Group, we are seeking new members.**

Forthcoming events:-

4<sup>th</sup> June: Eastington Jubilee party – 12.00 Noon – 5.00 p.m. with evening entertainment starting at 6.00 p.m. in The Badger and The Kings Head.

Eastington Youth Group will be running a variety of traditional games, i.e. sack races, egg and spoon race, 3-legged race, tug-o-war etc.

8<sup>th</sup> June: Games Night/Rounders

14<sup>th</sup> June: Jewellery making evening at OHMG – 7.00 p.m. please come along and be shown how to make your own jewellery, we will be making a jubilee necklace and bracelet. Cost: £10.00 per set. EYG will provide refreshments.

19<sup>th</sup> June: AGM – OHMG 7.00 p.m. – please come along and have your say.

24<sup>th</sup> June: Eastington School Duck Race – come visit us on our stall – although you may get a sponge thrown at you!!

Every Tuesday: Youth Bus visits the village.

Last Saturday of each month: Litter picking – 11.00 a.m. meet at CO-OP

We are organising a village trip to Weston £7.00 per seat on the coach – 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Please let Roma or Tina know if you would like seats – payment on booking please – first come first served. We had a wonderful time last year.

We will also be going to Gloucester Ski Slope shortly for TUBING – basically being thrown down a slope in a rubber ring!! Please let us know if you would like to be included in this event. There will be a charge – to be advised.

Also the Eastington Village Fete will be 2<sup>nd</sup> September – so watch this space.

**As usual anybody willing to volunteer or have any ideas for any of the above events please let EYG know.**

**Tina Smith T: 0789 1579754**



## June/July 2012 – Newsletter

We started the summer term with a Toddle Waddle in the sunshine to support the National Meningitis Trust where we have collected approximately £300 for them (monies still being collected). Many children turned up with their parents and grandparents on the day to find hidden ducks on the field. Afterwards tea/coffee and cakes were served to some well deserved participants and helpers.

The focus this term has been on growing, so we planted runner bean seeds and learnt the traditional tale of Jack and the Bean Stalk. We have been promoting story-making following on from this and the children have acted out and drawn pictures to tell their own tale. We have also measured how tall our bean stalks have grown, watched the growth and noted the changes to the plants. We are also looking at other living things that we might see outside such as the growth of leaves on the trees, learning about flowers and bees, and the children have learnt some new songs and nursery rhymes too!

The children enjoyed a trip to the Park Early Years Centre in Stonehouse and joined them for a morning in their outside area looking for bugs and insects with magnifying glasses, climbing and scrambling through their willow structures and admiring their large wooden sculptures of bears and owls. Amazing!

Slimbridge Wildfowl & Wetland Trust will be visiting us in June to continue with our theme of living things and the environment and they will be showing us how to look for creatures in the pond – something to look forward to.

We would like to thank Martin from the *Old Badger* for kindly agreeing to have his head shaved to raise money for the playgroup; it was much appreciated. The ladies of the village also enjoyed a great pamper evening organised by the playgroup committee where they enjoyed manicures, massages and fortune telling to name but a few. Funds raised will be used to purchase some lovely new toys for playgroup ensuring learning always remains fresh and exciting. A big **Thank You** to all our fundraisers.

Our children, who will be leaving us in July to move to school, have been busy attending Pre-School sessions with Mandy and Donna at Eastington Primary School. This will help them to settle into routines and feel familiar with their new surroundings in the autumn. We wish them all good luck in the future.

Meanwhile we are busy getting ready to welcome lots of new children to Playgroup in September and have had an induction morning for them to meet us and the other children and join in with their favourite activities. We look forward to welcoming them to Eastington Playgroup.

**Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2½ years to 5 years in a well established community based group.**

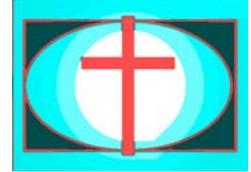
**We offer your children a safe and stimulating environment in which they can grow and blossom into self confident, self reliant and positive little people.**

**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 a few spaces left. We 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 Email: [eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk](mailto:eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk)**



Dear Friends

The Methodist Church, being a very civilised body, enables its ministers once every seven years to have three months free from local church responsibilities to find sources of refreshment. And my time is up now! In this sabbatical I am choosing to follow up my interest in the role of the Christian faith in care of creation. Some things I am planning to do are:

To go on retreat with the monks of Caldey Island

To do some work on a local organic farm

To do a Pilgrimage Walk, the Saints Way in Cornwall

To go on a Transition Town training course

To further more my computer skills

To spend some time at our house in the Forest of Dean praying, reading and writing.



My sabbatical began at Easter, and with family holidays I will be away until the end of July. Preaching appointments will be covered by circuit staff. Rev John James will be the immediate point of call for pastoral care and will find a minister when needed.

I am very thankful to the Methodist Church for the time and opportunity having a sabbatical affords, and am looking forward to doing it ,and to coming back refreshed after it.

When parents of teenagers go away for a night, the children reputedly take the opportunity to have a wild party. So in my absence, I am trusting the congregation will have fun, enjoy yourselves, but not wreck the joint!

Every blessing

Rev Noel Sharp - Minister

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In the meantime, life goes on with activities on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm for children aged 7 - 11 and on Friday evenings from 7pm for young people - and we would welcome more members for both groups. Sessions are 75p and there is no requirement to attend church or even be a Christian although there is always some aspect of Christianity presented week by week.

In the case of the youth group, this takes the form of a God Byte which usually lasts about 10 minutes and often involves a discussion. The rest of the time can be spent chilling out, playing video games, table tennis or pool, getting involved in a craft activity - and there is always the tuck shop.

In amongst many other activities, the church has two Bible study groups. The first meets at the church at 1pm with a lunch and the second at Pike Lock House at 8pm. Both are quite well attended these days but there is room for more so if you would like to find out more about what is said in the Bible, please do come along.

**Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414**

**[www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk](http://www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk)**

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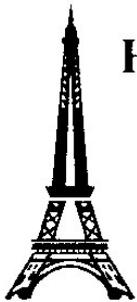
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CENTRAL HEATING systems**

**BATHROOMS completely refurbished  
Routine plumbing tasks**

**GAS SAFE registered, fully insured  
20 YEARS trade experience**

**12 Victoria Drive, Eastington  
01453 821559 / 07966 750137**

**[lyndonharris@live.co.uk](mailto:lyndonharris@live.co.uk)**



**Stonehouse Rotary**  
in partnership with  
**The village of Frampton on Severn**  
Invite you to the  
**‘Hidden Gardens of Frampton’**

on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 1:30pm

+ Scrumptious WI Teas in the Village Hall  
+ Plants for sale

+ Proceeds for Rotary & Frampton causes



[www.stonehouserotary.org.uk](http://www.stonehouserotary.org.uk)



**Eastington Community Centre**  
[www.ohmg.org.uk](http://www.ohmg.org.uk)

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

***NOW WITH FULLY RESURFACED CAR-PARK***

**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  
ROTARY CLUB  
OF SEVERN VALE



# BIG BAND SWING

WITH

GYJO

and supporting entertainment

**SATURDAY 23rd JUNE**

**YEW TREE FARM, LONGNEY, GL2 3SW**

(by kind permission of Mr R. A. Godwin)

*Bring your own picnic and join us at the barn*

*Licensed bar*

*Gates open 5.30pm – Show starts 7.30pm*

**In aid of local Severn Vale Rotary charities**

**Charity number 1100046**

**Tickets £10.00**

**Tickets available** from Nigel Cramp on 01452 740121 or Geoff Smith on 01452 720386  
mandnramp@tiscali.co.uk or g.smith545@btinternet.com