EASTINGTON Community News - JUBILEE ISSUE

August / September 2012

N^o. 134

Welcome to the late summer, commemorative Diamond Jubilee edition of ECN - and I am keeping quiet about the weather. Take a look at Mark Campbell's charts showing the deluge of the past two months – let's keep hopeful for better things to come.

Following the royal accolade of Eastington Primary School winning the national competition to cook for the Queen, some children and teachers arrived at Buckingham Palace for the truly memorable and grand occasion. A fascinating account of the once-in-a-lifetime experience is retold inside by teachers Elizabeth Greening and Madeleine Gulliford. To celebrate this remarkable occasion ECN has, for the very first time, included full colour pictures of the happy event and I hope you will enjoy reading about their wonderful day. A couple of weeks prior to that, the children held their own Diamond Jubilee celebration and crowning of the May Queen, on the last day of their Spring Term. I considered myself most privileged to be invited to the school that day to present each of the children with a small token to remember the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Together, we adults served drinks to the children while they enjoyed their 'street party' lunch.

It seems that most of you also enjoyed Eastington's very own 'street party' at Owen Harris Memorial Ground, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The events of this truly happy and memorable community party are vividly retold by Vanessa Cousins. Full colour pictures of revellers are also included inside. I would like to congratulate Vanessa for breathing such life and vitality into the party, which ensured it will be recalled and retold for many years to come. The many helpers and supporters are also listed within.

There can be few who doubt the remarkable vibrancy of Eastington. Not only do we have an abundance of talented people living in this Parish, but their generosity and willingness to help has developed a strong sense of community spirit. The achievements of the young people of this Parish give us much hope for the future.

Recent national data revealed that road deaths have increased for the first time in the past year; of those, 68% of road deaths occurred on rural roads. Three people have been killed on roads in our Parish in recent memory; many more have been injured and there have been numerous accidents. If this was an infectious disease you can be sure that strong voices would be calling for action. It seems up to us to keep local records of accident data, so we need <u>your</u> help. Please take a few minutes to read Mary Gribble's article and please share your knowledge. Thanks also to Mary Gribble for updating a list of 'Useful Contact Numbers' - see pages 23-24. You might like to pull out and keep these for future times.

We have updates from both Cllr. Ken Stevens and Richard James about the Local Plan and needs for new houses to be built around Stroud. Read about Eastington Community Orchard group and The Eastington Allotment Society as they continue to go from strength to strength, despite the unseasonal weather. Eastington Autumn Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall Saturday 1st September – see application details inside. Eastington Youth Group give us an update and ask us to make note of the Village Fete they are organising again this year on Sunday 2nd September at OHMG. My thanks also to the other loyal contributors of interesting articles to ECN.

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Next Deadline: All articles by Friday 21st September please!

Next Delivery: Saturday 29th September – 5th October 2012 please!

View the "Community News" at: www.ecn.me.uk

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

The changes to the way the Council is run, brought about by the election results of last May, continue. By the time this article is published some of the advisory committees to support executive members will have been set up. It is intended that these will turn into full committees when the Council reverts to a committee system from the present cabinet system.

The advisory committee for planning is where the issues concerning the work on the District's Core Strategy, now renamed Local Plan, will be formally discussed. There are several things on this to report. I understand that the results of the public consultation held earlier in the year have now been collated and computerized. This has taken a long time due to the amount of paper responses I am told. Analysis of this consultation data is about to begin. Alongside this an independent consultant was commissioned to study the work undertaken so far and the numbers resulting from that. I believe this consultant has issued a 'draft' report but further information/data submitted recently from groups like *Don't Strangle Stroud* was passed to the consultant and this is still being studied. When the report is finalized, and I am told it is expected soon, I expect a meeting to take place between the leader of council, executive member for planning, council officers, the consultant, and members of organizations who have submitted data. I am told I will be invited to this meeting. This will, hopefully, determine areas of agreement or not, and a full understanding of the system, data and methodology being used to formulate the District's housing need. I think that it will be after this meeting that residents of the Parish will be able to decide where to focus their efforts for the continuing Local Plan timetable.

You may have read in the press recently about a possible large scale development close to the motorway junction. I am told that none of the Development Control Team has been approached on the subject. However I understand that a bid has been submitted seeking a Local Plan allocation for a retail outlet, golf course and hotel. I am told officers did not express any kind of support whatsoever. Things like this, in my opinion, are bound to crop up if large scale housing is proposed in our parish - 'get one you will get the other' is, I think, a phrase used on the subject.

The Javelin Park incinerator application trundles on. This nonsensical, to my mind, initiative continues to throw up issues that to me at least have always seemed, contradictory, conflicting and confusing. This proposal has been promoted from the start as revolving around residual household waste. I read recently that fluctuating household waste tonnages over the length of the contact mean that there may be the opportunity to divert a proportion of the county's commercial and industrial waste to the facility. Seems to me that this means it would be a waste incinerator, full stop.

I understand that large areas of the council activities, finance, regeneration, etc are having reviews of their activities so that a clear picture is available on the exact position regarding available monies, cash flow or otherwise, to the new Executive members.

I continue to work with residents across a wide range of problems within SDC's remit.

Ken Stephens, July 2012

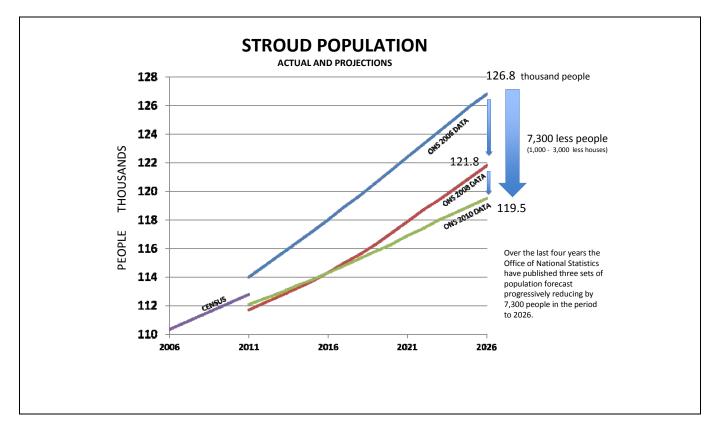
Housing plans still hotly debated

The local elections are now in the distant past but housing developments are not. In January of this year we presented to Stroud District Council (SDC) an evidence base that demonstrated that the council were using the wrong numbers to determine housing need and housing land supply. At that time our evidence was described as "assertions and assumptions". Since that time we have submitted three further papers building on the case we presented on that fateful January day. In March the council agreed to engage an "expert" to review the evidence we had submitted. The "expert", Keith Woodhead, was eventually appointed around the time of the local elections. His report will be available shortly.

On Monday the 16th July the national census confirmed our evidence base. We appear now to have moved to a grudging acceptance of our "assertions and assumptions".

All of our submissions to SDC are available on the web site: www. new-town.info

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Dennis Andrewartha, SDC councillor and planning supremo, has reaffirmed the agreement for DSS to meet with the "expert", along with councillors and officers, to consider the response to our submissions and the next steps. We welcome this opportunity to work together and find a sensible solution to current housing need.

If the correct figures are now applied to the SDC formula that determines housing need, the 3,250 figure of additional homes quoted in the Core Strategy Consultation, as additional requirement, evaporates. The land supply figure, used currently by SDC, of 4.7 years then increases to between 8 and 9 years. The minimum need is 5 years. It is now of fundamental importance that our politicians adopt these figures and complete the "Local Plan" as a matter of urgency. This is the only way to avoid any further embarrassing losses at planning appeals as a result of using incorrect land supply figures, as has recently happened at Sellars Farm in Hardwicke, a 200 house development.

All five Districts in Gloucestershire have been working with the incorrect data. In some places the argument for more houses is changing with a belief that this would lead to economic growth and therefore more jobs. The evidence locally to support this assertion is very limited; we see in excess of 4,000 planning permissions for new homes, but few being built.

Housing which is properly targeted will bring regeneration to Stroud if we choose the right type of housing in the right place. The district needs to attract wealth into our community and the right sort of houses will do just that. With wealth come the jobs.

In addition we need to meet the needs of social housing. The last nine months have taught us the importance of a detailed and accurate analysis of the problem we are trying to solve, that must be the first step in responding to the social housing need too.

Finally we must recognise that the world has changed, and the capacity for everyone to buy their own home has been dramatically reduced and will stay that way for many years to come. That requires a focus on the rental market both to increase it and improve the quality of homes available to rent at the right price. There is a role for SDC to establish fair standards and award stars to the "good landlords" who meet those standards whether it is a landlord with one house or fifty. The market for rental property should be stimulated with great care to avoid "rental ghettos".

Eastington Parish will need more homes over the coming years, in particular, to respond to the needs of our increasing older population, but that growth in houses will need to be modest and targeted, and will be between 50 and 100 homes over the next 20 years. All parts of the parish will need to plan for this growth.

Richard James, for Don't Strangle Stroud

Road accidents and 'near-misses' in Eastington – please report them to the Parish Council

We would like to keep a complete record of road incidents and near misses in our parish so we can map out the areas that need attention – we can only do this with your help.

Regrettably, the authorities will only respond to our pleas for reduction in speed limits or other road safety measures if there has been an accident. Even worse, they will only consider accidents in the last 3 years. As a parish council, we find this shocking, as the loss or injury to a member of our community must not be forgotten.

Please work with us to make Eastington a safer place - let the Clerk know if you witness a 'near miss' or an accident, giving the location and a description of the incident.

Thank you.

Mary Gribble, Clerk to Eastington Parish Council

Tel: 01453 825279 Email: mgribble@btinternet.com

British Red Cross to support Gloucestershire people affected by house fires

Gloucester is to get its own dedicated team of fire support volunteers this summer when the British Red Cross launches its Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS).

Trained volunteers will be paged to the scene of a fire by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. Once at the blaze they will offer emotional and practical support to those involved from the comfort of the specially-adapted FESS vehicle. The Red Cross is calling for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to get in touch to find out more.

Dan Spencer, the Community Response Services Coordinator, said: "The Red Cross is really excited about bringing this service to Gloucestershire, as it gives us an opportunity to help more vulnerable people in need of support. The vehicle has been ordered, now all we need is a bank of people willing to offer some of their spare time to help others. Volunteering is a hugely rewarding experience and I would encourage anyone who is interested to get in touch to find out more."

The Red Cross FESS service will be based at the new fire station in Shepherd Road, Tuffley. The specially-adapted vehicle comes equipped with items people may need in the immediate aftermath of a fire, including clothing, hygiene items, baby food, toys for children and even treats for pets.

It may be many months before a family can re-occupy their home so the service helps people to start thinking about how to deal with the days ahead. Experience has shown that the faster people are given guidance the shorter the road to recovery.

As well as providing immediate support, the Red Cross can help signpost people to other services:

- free insurance advice
- · boarding up the damaged property
- temporary accommodation
- advice on claims management/business interruption
- longer-term emotional support and guidance

Dan added: "Few people realise how much damage even a small fire can create. Smoke penetrates everywhere. All carpets, soft furniture and clothing will be affected and invariably have to be replaced.

"Losing your home is a devastating experience and when people are under stress they can react in a range of ways. Often they are very upset. Sometimes they need someone or something to blame. Our volunteers are able to support people in these situations with sensitivity."

Volunteers must live within 30 minutes of the fire station, which includes Stroud and parts of Cheltenham. If you would like to find out more about the FESS service, or are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact **Dan Spencer**, **Tel: 0117 301 2619 or email:** DSpencer@redcross.org.uk.

Right Royal Rave UP! Monday June 5th 2012

I have been asked to write a few words about the brilliant time we all had celebrating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee recently at The Owen Harris Memorial Grounds in our wonderful village of Eastington.

A bit late in the day I admit, a few of us gathered to discuss some ideas. We knew we wanted to do 'something' but we had little time and virtually no money! Not to be put off we thought a bring and share lunch seemed like the ideal 'no frills, low maintenance' solution...less washing up, less hassle and less work. And so our Jubilee Celebration Party was born. It then started to get a bit out of hand.....

We thought it would be a nice gesture to actually 'invite' the villagers because, let's face it, this was either going to be a momentously dreadful or a tremendously fabulous party. We had no idea who.... if anyone would turn up! We then wanted to continue the festivities at first The Old Badger and then the Kings Head. This meant we could pack up early and relax with a pint afterwards!

A very lovely man (who I will embarrass if I keep mentioning him all the time) organised the 'Royal Visit' and I am sure you will agree the hilarity of the situation and fun and anticipation we all felt waiting expectantly for HM to arrive was palpable. It was crazy the nerves I felt at this moment considering it was all 'Fake'. Everyone really got into the spirit totally. As I write I am getting excited just remembering that amazing car of Peter's serenely and majestically approaching us down the new tarmac car park. OHMG car park has never looked so posh!

One of the many highlights was the beautiful and enchanting performance delivered by 'Janie and Jackie' with accompaniment from Graeme Dougan on guitar. Flown in fresh from Bristol at very short notice (not Graeme you understand) their melodious voices drifted out during our sandwiches. They entertained us during the afternoon as we sat looking into our glasses momentarily...reminiscing...we were stirred - well I was anyway!

There were so many funny stories leading up to the event...I won't bore you with them, suffice to say that I have been extremely lucky to have met so many very kind, interesting and generous people as I struggled to source...posh car...red carpet...champagne for toast...someone to sing something...some animals to do something...etc etc.

We were bowled over by the generosity shown by local business and individuals and I think nearly everyone 'won' a prize in the raffle, which was impressive considering approx. 350 plus people came out! The cakes that came in were stunning...the effort you put into them...wow, such generosity was truly inspiring. I had people bringing round cakes and raffle prizes to my door. In fact, everything was made, donated or funded by the industrious and generous folk of Eastington. The whole event cost virtually nothing with the main commodity of 'time' given freely...absolutely brilliant!

It gave me so much pleasure to see everyone sitting together - old and young, friends and families chatting...enjoying their sandwiches sipping the Champers from Mr Smith! It was the most extraordinary and delightful coming together of people I've ever seen...it was wonderful to see so many friends there having fun in a simple way. Strangers meeting and talking, laughing and sharing food.

'It was nice not to be totally fleeced' someone commented to me....great stuff. And great to do something just for our village (hot tickets they were you know)!

It was a joy to then depart to the Badger where Ellie and Julia had organised the gorgeous and very talented 'Alex' to entertain us, and then on to The Kings Head for more merriment followed by an impressive firework show that exceeded all expectations. Both pubs I felt really embraced the whole spirit of the thing and it was very pleasing and exciting to see both pubs packed with punters.

I have listed the lovely people that have contributed to the event in some way – with profound apologies to anyone I have inadvertently left out, there were so many of you! It really wouldn't have been the immense success it was, without your help and support, I thank you from the heart of my bottom... (and that really is a very big thank you indeed)!!

In no particular order:

The Queen and Lady in Waiting (Jean & Louise)
The chauffeurs (Peter & Mike)
Tina Smith (everything)
Graeme Dougan (where to start...)
Mark Cousins (emotional back up support team)
Murial Bullock (emotional support team supervisor)
Mary Gribble (spare help and support team)

Russell Warner Westend Office Suites (Advertising)
Hayley Wheeler (stunning effort sourcing raffles prizes)
Andrew Niblett (kind donation from PC)
Andrew Cozens (set up etc.)
Continued over...

Roger Underdown (electrics & disco)

David & Jacqui Naylor (balloons and raffle prizes)

Sheila, Tina's Mum (sterling kitchen duties)

Paul & Jan Viner (more balloons and £15 voucher)

Alan Smith (50 bottles of his best sparkly)

Richard James (bouncy castles)

Harry Godsell (calves and quizzes)

Mike Hadley (best barman)

Gill Glover (car park supervisor and cone designs)

Parish Council (printing)

Zeta Printing

Marc Freebrey (poster & flyer design)

Bond & Co Hairdressers

Rebecca Mulla (bunting supervisor)

Zak Mulla (table display)

Youth Group (games and decorations)

Martin Elliot (everything else)
Jade Elliot (dance display)

Bryony Parry (Aerobics display and voucher)

Hair & Beauty House Co-op (voucher)

Tom Low (quiz at Badger)

Angela Hayes (Therapeutic massage voucher)

Eastington Park (Bottle bubbly)

Attwoolls (Picnic set)

Highfield Garden Centre (£10 voucher)

Eastington Brownies (fantastic bunting)

Eastington Playgroup (lovely bunting and

decorations)

Sainsburys (Afternoon Tea voucher)

Helen Hill/Lingos Language Tuition (Bottle bubbly)

Mark Lowe (Picture frame)

Sheila Dark (kitchen)

Charmaine, The Kings Head for organising BBQ

Broomhalls for Sausages

ENL deliverers

Helen and Brendan O'Neill

Lastly a <u>very BIG</u> thank you to 'YOU', the best villagers a village could wish for and <u>an even bigger</u> thank you to whoever it was who organised the rain to be turned off and the sun to come out...(I owe you one down the Badger).

Cheers! Vanessa Cousins



And a massive THANKS to you, Vanessa, for sparkling on the day!

Pears Please – for ECO Juice. Do you have a decent crop of Pears?

ECO Group will be looking for gardeners to donate pears for making Juice soon, because the apple crop is so poor this year.



Last year we made £1,000 from selling Apple and Pear juices from 26 different gardens in Eastington!

Gardeners, picking teams and ECO members making the juice also had their share of the produce, in a co-operative effort.

Pears are ready from mid-August (before the main apple crop). If you would like to join in the fun of turning spare pears into useful juice, contact me, Tom Low, on 823425 or tom@hazelcottage.eu.

An ECO person will come round to check out your crop and discuss when it might be ready for harvesting.

A group of volunteers will come to pick your fruit, ECO members will squeeze it, pasteurize and bottle the juice. We all have a share (grower and volunteer workers) then it's off to Stroud Market with the rest.

Eastington Community Orchards including Orchards across the Community



Traditional Oak Arch and Gates for ECO

Thanks to the generosity of two local master carpenters, ECO Group now has an unique entrance to Churchend Orchard from the Spring Hill side. If you drive at less than 40 mph, you can easily catch a glimpse but I recommend you have a closer look on foot.



The arch was made by Oak Frame Carpentry, whose owner, Tim Potts, is a founder member of ECO. It bears close examination, containing a series of highly-skilled joints from traditional house- and barn-building. A good example of the old craftsmanship that Tim's lads are carrying forward today.

Oak off-cuts from Tim's yard went into the gates as well, although the design is by Gary Dingle. Gary made up all the components and with the help of son Tom, assembled and hung the gates. Have a look for their names on the edge of the gate.

Gary's design complements the flow of the archway and also echoes the style of the gates in the church Lychgate. Judging by how long those have lasted, these gates will be something for Tim, Gary and Tom to show the grandchildren and for all of us to admire in the meantime.

From Village Agent - Sue Colquhoun 07810 630145

You may have heard about some home security companies who were targeting our area for sales. Some of you have contacted me recently to say that you have had calls and home visits by these companies again and you have not felt comfortable about the way they do business. I am unable to name these companies as they are not acting illegally but their sales methods are pressurised and their target is to get a sale confirmed within 24 hours of contact. The gist of the initial telephone call is that they have some free products to give away to you as a "specially chosen" resident in the area. Everyone I have spoken to who has had these calls has said that the telesales person is polite and plausible as is the salesperson that makes the house visit. However the product is by no means free and can cost over £1500.

Here is some advice which I hope will be helpful to you:

- Very little in life is free and be suspicious if you are told that you have been "especially chosen"
- If you have any concerns about a sales person coming to your home, arrange to have someone with you for the appointment. If you have no one to call on, telephone me and I will see how I can help you.
- Anyone signing a contract at home MUST have a 7 day cooling off period and there has to be notice of this in the paperwork to that effect.
- The Police have given me the following advice if you're looking to have alarms installed:
 - o Get at least 3 quotes, ensuring that you get the service to meet your individual needs.
 - Use companies who are registered with either of the following: SSAIB or NSI.

Donna Hayes from the Police (01452 752264) has given me the contact details of the four registered companies nearest to us:

Stroud Alarms 01453 750519; Micro Vision 0845 3036575; All Cooper 01452 372626;

CIA Fire and Security LTD 01285 651025

I am not recommending these companies over any others registered, but have simply taken the details from the police.

Don't forget that you can also use a personal alarm to ask for a response by the emergency services if you need their help. It will only cost you from £3.00 a week.

If you would like to talk to me or to arrange a home visit do please telephone me - 07810 630145.

Friends of St.Michael's Eastington - an appeal for HELP

IF YOU MISSED IT LAST TIME, HERE IT IS AGAIN!!

Please make a note of the 6th September in your diary for 7.00 pm in church



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, Michaels in church at 7.00pm on Thursday 6th.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.)

W.R.Harris.

EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP

POD update – we are still in the planning stages of the PODS, looking at different design ideas, taking into account funding and grants. We have been donated fixtures and fittings for the bathrooms and also some labour, which we are very grateful for. As mentioned in the previous ECN any help would be much appreciated, i.e. practical help or fundraising ideas.

Some of the village youth are currently involved in a scheme with Youth Gloucestershire, they have been to Devon for one week on an activity holiday and for the next three weeks they will be working in the community and getting involved in team building projects (this has all been funded by Young Gloucestershire). EYG will be getting involved in more schemes with Young Gloucestershire, i.e. street rugby, ice skating and much more. The youth are also attending Methodist Church youth activities, of course, the very popular Youth Bus.

Our next big fundraising event is the Village Fete, which is being held on 2nd September at Owen Harris Memorial Ground, Snakey Lane Eastington – 12.00 noon until 4.00 ish. If you would like to help with the event or have a stall or activity you would like to do then please contact Nicky on: 07919 532212.

Many of you currently recycle your ink cartridges by popping them in a box for collection situated by the Post Office. OHMG have very kindly passed this over to the Youth Group, so please put any used ink cartridges in the box and we will recycle. The funds will go towards the Youth Group projects, i.e. PODs. activities for the youth.

Community litter picks are the last Saturday of the month – meet at 11.00 a.m. by the shop. We do have fun on these and finish up with refreshments, so please come along. It's a good opportunity to get to know your neighbour.

Anybody willing to volunteer or who has ideas for any of the above events please let EYG know. Tina Smith, Tel: 0789 1579754



Eastington Pupils visit Buckingham Palace Friday 15th June 2012

As the minibus carrying eight pupils and two teachers from Eastington School reached the outskirts of London, the excitement was already beginning to mount. For some of the children it was their first visit to the capital and what an amazing experience it proved to be.

Having made good time, we were driven along the River Thames where the magnificent River Pageant had occurred only the week before. The Millennium Wheel could be seen in the distance and as the journey continued past Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and through the bustling streets, the children suddenly caught sight of the crowds of people peering through the railings of Buckingham Palace. They could hardly believe they were there so quickly!

At precisely 12.45 pm, the minibus drew up outside Clarence House where we were taken into a reception room for a small bite to eat - sandwiches, biscuits and juice. We were also able to meet the other pupils and staff with whom we would be spending the rest of the day.

On leaving Clarence House, we returned to the minibus and made our way to the palace. We journeyed up the Mall, with all the Union flags flying, towards Buckingham Palace. The large gate to the right of the Palace was opened and we slowly drove inside with all the tourists waving at us! We were taken along the famous East Front and through the arch below the balcony where the Royal family have made so many public appearances over the years. We then crossed the inner courtyard and entered the Palace through the Grand Entrance, which Jessica Biddle remembers as, "mostly gold with red carpets". Katie Elder remembers it being, "enormous and extravagant". The Queen's Head chef, Mark Flannigan, introduced himself and then led the way through a maze of corridors until we finally arrived at the kitchens.

After a short look around the kitchens, all the school groups were split. Freya Telford was impressed by the size of the kitchens describing them as "massive!" Two of our children and Miss Gulliford remained in the kitchens to help with the final preparations of the canapés. The children were all given jobs such as filling pasties, icing cakes and filling cut out strawberries with an Eton mess mixture. It is here that we all met Camilla and she naughtily licked some icing off her finger! Whilst we were busy in the kitchens, the other six children and Miss Greening were given a wonderful tour of all the magnificent State Rooms by the Deputy Sergeant Footman. We began in the Guard Chamber that was lined with marble statues. They were able to see the Throne Room, an enormous Ball Room (where twenty investiture ceremonies take place each year), the Blue Drawing Room, Music Room and White Drawing Room where the children were shown a concealed door behind a tall mirror and cabinet. It is through here that The Queen is able to make a discreet entrance into the State Rooms from the private rooms beyond.

Once the tour had been completed, the invited guests began to arrive. The Eastington children were given trays of canapés to carry and serve. The children were surprised and excited to discover many of the guests were people they recognised from the television such as Jamie Oliver, Rick Stein and Barney from Blue Peter! The Duchess of Cornwall then entered the room and spoke to the assembled group.

Two of the children from Eastington, Josh Allen and Jessica Biddle who had been given security badges with a small blue dot on entering the Palace, were then taken to meet The Queen prior to Her Majesty joining the Reception and talking to all the other children. The Queen was smiling, appeared relaxed and showed a real interest in finding out what the children had been cooking. I have no doubt that The Queen will remember her visitors from Eastington, not only for their culinary skills but their concern for her family - one of the children presented to her asked after her husband who, if you remember, was poorly at the time.

After the Queen left, the children asked the Palace staff if they could borrow a pen and they began collecting autographs on their aprons! (Now much prized possessions!) At 4.30 pm, we sadly had to leave, the children, armed with "Love British Food" goody bags (and the chef's signed hat) said their goodbyes and thanked the staff who had worked so hard to make it a truly memorable day and one they will remember for the rest of their lives. Cory Hogg summed it up well: "Amazing, I never thought I would do anything like this".

On behalf of Eastington Primary thank you to everyone who supported this initiative and particularly to those who offered their wonderful local produce enabling us to 'Cook for The Queen'.

Elizabeth Greening - Deputy Head Teacher and Madeleine Gulliford - Teacher,

Eastington Primary School

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World

I'm writing this on the first day of the school summer holidays and looking forward to a weekend of sunshine!!!!!! (Shock and surprise after all the rain we have had!) So for many the normal routine disappears as the children are all home and in group we have been preparing for what that may throw in our path. We have talked about choices a lot recently and often we are in more control of those food and drink choices than we may think. We have discussed BBQ's, meals out, picnics, friends visiting and holidays away here and abroad, and how to cope with these situations, enjoy these times and yet still protect our weight loss. We have shared many ideas of how to stay in control, what to prepare and cook and if we are out which choices can still give us control and to continue on our weight loss journeys.

So 'journey' - what does that mean to us? We probably automatically think of travel, but at Slimming World we have been talking about our weight loss as a 'journey' we have individually and privately decided a goal weight (this target is discussed privately with your consultant) something we are journeying towards. We may all choose a different route in order to get there. For some it may take longer than others depending on our choices along the way, but everyone can choose to get to the journey's end and then when you are at target you can come to the group as a target member and weigh and stay to group every week free of charge as well as receiving a lovely book full of ideas, help and advise to keep you at target forever.

So if you would like or need to lose weight do come along to one of my groups to find out more and discover all the support and help you need. My Stonehouse group is on Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m. at St Joseph's church hall, Oldends Lane. Or Eastington Village Hall Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. You can just turn up or if you would like more details, do give me a call. Lorna on 01453821751

Summer holidays at Eastington Baby and Toddler Group

Usually, at the start of the summer holidays the baby and toddler group closes.

However, this year, due to popular demand, it will continue, and older siblings of those attending will be able to join in the fun too.

Sessions will start a little later than usual, at 10:30am, with a snack followed by the usual times of play, cooking and craft activities. We have just finished a rainbow which we've worked on throughout the last half term. Over the summer we move on to an "Under the Sea" theme, which will involve making fish of various kinds – even perhaps the odd shark or two.

We will also be making the most of outside space with water and sand play, and spending some time at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground for games and picnics.

If you have babies and toddlers under $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of age, and also older children do feel free to come and join us.

Sessions will finish at 12:30pm.

Cost: £1.50 for first child and parent or career

50p for each extra child to a maximum of £3.

For more information contact Beck Burgin 07855296175





Pink Ceilidh Night

organised by Rotary Club of Severn Vale.
22 September, 7.30 pm.
At Hamfields Social Club near Berkeley.
Dancing to The Jellied Reels.
Bar and food available to purchase.

Raising funds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and other Rotary Charities.

Tickets £15 from Andy Jarrett on 01452 883450 or events@severnvalerotary.org.uk



Eastington Bluebell Club Coffee Morning

10.30 am Saturday 20th October At Eastington Village Hall. Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Groceries Entrance 50p. All welcome

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



- * Building
- * Renovations
- * Kitchens
- * Bathrooms
- * Tiling

No Obligation Estimates and Consultations

T: 01453 823686 M: 07866 600961

Display Case for Footpath Map

The parish council would like to display a large scale map showing the footpaths and bridleways in Eastington. We hope to site it in the centre of the village.

Are you able to help us please, either by donating your time and expertise in making the display case, or maybe sponsoring it?

Please contact me, Bill Edwards, if you can help in any way.

Thank you.

Cllr Bill Edwards Tel: 01453 824452 email: edwards.parish@btinternet.com

Eastington Methodist Church



Perfect? - who us? You must be joking!

It is a common misconception that churches are full of people who are perfect, or at least they think they are, and that anyone who isn't has no place in them. Jesus did not come for perfect people and some of His harshest words were reserved for those who thought they were and saw all the faults in everyone else.

Jesus came especially for the broken, the messed up and the sick. The role of the church is to be here for the same people today and whilst blind people sitting by the side of the road begging may not be a common experience in Eastington, there are still many people hurting or suffering in silence who could derive considerable comfort and benefit from the church and, in particular, from knowing Jesus.

All of us are a "work in progress" but you don't have to look too hard at EMC to find people whose lives are very different from when they first came through the doors.

If you are going through hard times, have had a major set back or just want things to get better than they are at present, please feel free to come along at 11am on a Sunday. If that is a step too far, feel free to contact us and we will talk to, or visit, you.



Prayer Patrols

We frequently pray for Eastington in our prayer times and a new initiative will start in August when some of us will go out prayer walking. This simply involves walking and praying at the same time.

So if you see someone with a blue vest with "EMC Prayer Patrol" on the back, that is what is happening. This does **not** mean "Do Not Disturb", please feel free to stop us and chat and, of course, if you want to make us aware of anything that needs praying for, or praying about, please do so.

Youth Alpha

A group of young people have been meeting on Tuesday evening to go through the Youth Alpha Course which looks into various aspects of Christianity. The group is led by Matt Gatt and Sam Martin who are both young themselves. Many of those involved intend to visit Soul Survivor, a major Christian youth festival in Somerset, in the second week of August.

Outings

Over the summer, we are arranging youth outings to Keynes Park in the Cotswold Water Park, a beach trip (or waterfall walk if the weather is no good for the beach) and small groups have the opportunity to try out the newly restored canal from Stonehouse to Dudbridge by boat. Booking forms are available at the church with details or please visit the website for details. Spaces may be limited.

Tea & Chat

There is another of our popular Tea & Chat sessions at 3pm on Wednesday 19th September at the Church. All are very welcome.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Birder in the Parish

Friday 08/06/12: strong south westerly winds still by 10a.m. and probably in for the whole day. Big silvery-green willows like huge heads of windblown hair; sudden, powerful gusts flailing leaf and branch from inside out. Impressive. Yet even in this maelstrom birds are out and about feeding – a party of 20 swallows in a tight group, hawking insects across the meadow at buttercup height, like big blue moths, methodically quartering the ground. In conditions like this, they can't feed high up – no insects up there.

As the morning progresses, bird news starts to get really interesting with a Manx Shearwater seen on the Severn off Sharpness Docks. These pelagic birds are usually rare in Gloucestershire, and are most usually juveniles, seen after south westerly autumn storms blow them into the Severn estuary, when they have finally left their remote island nests, having long been abandoned by their parents to fend for themselves. Visit somewhere like Skomer in August, and at night these young birds are out of their burrows, exercising their wings with mini flights along the footpaths - make sure you have a torch with you! The island is also littered with the corpses of those that didn't make it back to their burrow before daylight! At this time of the year, the Sharpness bird will be an adult, a good county rarity.

At 11 a.m. Storm Petrel and Gannets reported up-river at Slimbridge. No car this morning, so couldn't get out, but able to head for Sharpness picnic site early afternoon.



A couple of birders there had already had a Storm Petrel go past them up-river, and we quickly got on to an Arctic Skua heading down towards Lydney. The rain had eased, but the wind speed increased, blowing so hard that the tide was struggling to get back out! An adult Fulmar sheered through, and then a Manx Shearwater followed (probably a second bird) – really good birding! And then a Storm Petrel right in front of us, gainfully fluttering and struggling along the near shore, trying to get back out to sea, using the shoreline to help camouflage itself against the attentions of a Herring Gull which was trying to kill it. Most Autumn juvenile 'Stormies' are relentlessly pursued and killed by the resident estuary gulls.

09/06/12: first clear day for some time; Space Station brilliantly clear overhead at 10.10 p.m.

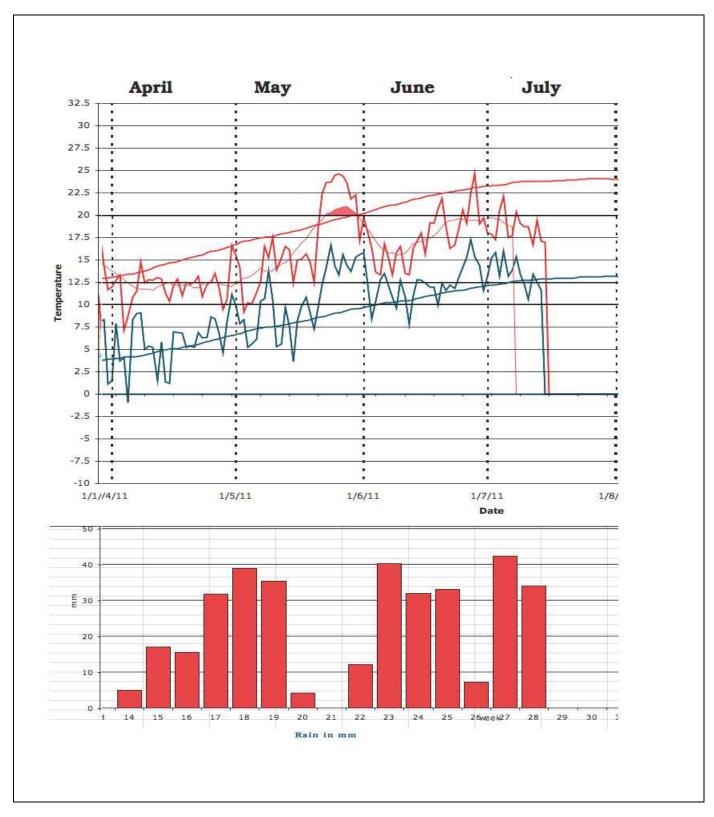
12/06/12: after two days of stationary nimbo-stratus, today is warmer and no rain. Garden is full of bees, and the weather is promising enough for a mini-twitch to see Nightjars, so I head for the Forest of Dean mid-evening. Nightjars are crepuscular, and I'm at the viewpoint by about 9 p.m., looking out over a young plantation of conifers, thickly mixed with chestnut, bramble, gorse and acid marsh. Signs of wild boar everywhere, but the viewpoint is eerily quiet, except for the soft whines of a Willow Warbler feeding its young very close by. Midges are rampant, but I've come well prepared. Sightings of seven Woodcock roding, and then at a little after 9.30 p.m., at least two Nightjars start churring – just has to be the most wonderful bird song! Back home in time to see the Space Station over at 00.18.

19/06/12: fine day, deep blue outer space and fair weather cumulus, but a cool westerly. Chiff Chaff still singing his heart out, as he does every single day from first light to first dark. Two more days to the turn of the year.

By Wednesday 20th, the first Garden Tiger moths in flight. Solstice the next day is one of tropical rain very heavy downpours. What a pity the longest daylight day will fade away to early dark under heavy cloud - but good weather for rarities.

22/06/12: Little Swift found at Wallasay on The Wirral – but can't get there yet.

Early Summer Weather report (April – mid-July 2012)



Top graph: The two smooth curves show the average levels for the maximum and minimum temperatures for each 24 hour period. As can be seen, we have been getting warmer than average nights but have been running at about 5 degrees Centigrade below normal for the days.

Bottom graph: Rainfall is now back to above average for the year as a total. This is due to the <u>eight</u> weeks of steady rain of over 25 mm (about 1 inch). The summer average is about 9 - 10 mm per week not 30 - 40 mm!

Mark Campbell, Westend.

The Eastington Allotments Society – Steve Gribble

You may not be aware but there have been over 5500 Smith Periods reported to mid-July this year and this compares with only 1000 incidents in the same period last year.

'OK, what's a Smith Period?' I hear you ask (unless of course you are a potato farmer or were brought up in a potato farming community, in which case you can skip the next bit).

So, just to save you firing up your PC and googling it, here is the definition of a Smith Period:

..... a 48 hour period in which the minimum temperature is 10°C or more and the relative humidity exceeds 90% or at least 11 hours during the first 24 hours and for at least 11 hours again during the final 24 hours.

Yes, it's the weather again. I wasn't going to mention it this time but it is difficult to avoid – it's probably the most dominant feature of this allotment year and, yes, I understand that other things have suffered too (although it has saved a good deal of young fruit tree watering effort at the community orchard).

Anyway, what does this actually mean? Well the clue was in the potato farmer reference. Smith Periods provide the optimum conditions for the spread of Potato Blight. I expect that most of the allotmenteers have, by now, noticed the effects of this: brown blotches on the leaves and stems, very quickly followed by the plant haulm dying off completely. Having said that, it looks like some of you may have planted some blight resistant varieties which, although showing some signs, look like they are hanging on in there. Maybe there are some jet-stream watchers among our allotmenteers.

On the positive side it looks like the dying plants have had time to produce a decent number of good sized tubers, which, providing the plants were well earthed up, should keep relatively blight free.



Returning to the downside. If, like me, you have planted tomatoes on your allotment plot then things will not be looking too good. Potatoes and tomatoes both belong to the Deadly Nightshade family of plants (Solanaceae - which also includes peppers, aubergines and tobacco). Tomatoes just happen to be one of the varieties that produce non-toxic fruits.

Just a reminder to all you allotmenteers: that now is the time to start thinking about what you could be entering for the Autumn Eastington Flower and Vegetable Show on 1st September.

Last year TEAS members managed to gain a foothold on the prize winners' rostrum. This year let's see if we can sweep the board.

If you are feeling competitive and would like to have a go in next year's show or just fancy the challenge of overcoming the elements, then get your name down for an allotment plot by visiting the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site, or phone Muriel Bullock on 01453 826172, or Sarah Underdown on 01453 823285

Sunshine and Butterflies

At the time of writing (Monday 23 July) the sun is shining out of a clear blue sky and soaring temperatures are forecast. So cheer up, Allotmenteers!

Until now, this has been a very poor season for butterflies (as well as veg), but suddenly they have arrived in abundance in my garden - this small tortoiseshell arrived to sup the nectar on my lavender.

Which reminds me to say, most photos and graphics in ECN can be viewed in glorious colour on our website: www.ecn.me.uk

The EYG Village Fete advert is particularly striking!!!

Val Taylor.



The 30th Eastington Autumn Flower Show

To be Held in the Village Hall

On Saturday 1st September 2012, 2pm - 3.30pm, Admission 20p

RULES

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

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 11am, 1st September 2012

SHOW SPONSORS

Classes 23-26 sponsored by: R & C Harris

Classes 27-36 sponsored by: KB Coaches, Eastington Tel:01453 8225774

Classes 43-53 sponsored by: R & C Harris

Section E & Classes 59-60 sponsored by: Mrs Q Jones

Classes 1-6 sponsored by: R U Electrical Services, Eastington. Tel: 01453 823285

Classes 7-11B sponsored by: Mr W Fletcher

Class 12 & 22 A & B sponsored by: Borders, Lawns and Trees Garden Maintenance.

Classes 13-17 sponsored by: Mrs R Barnfield

Classes 18-22 sponsored by: Alkerton Draughting Services Tel: 01453 822862

Classes 37-42A sponsored by: Mr & Mrs J Underwood

TROPHIES

Stroud Building Society Perpetual Challenge Cup to the exhibitor obtaining the most points in the show.

President's Perpetual Challenge Cup to the exhibitor obtaining the most points in Section C.

Trophy to runner up for President's cup.

Presidents Rose Bowl to the lady exhibitor obtaining the most points in the show.

Trophy to the runner up for the Rose Bowl.

Dr R R Wethered Shield for the best exhibit in Class 35.

The Bill Fletcher Shield for the most points in Section C.

Perpetual Trophy for the most points in Section D.

Perpertual Trophy for the most points in Class 55.

The Neal Perpetual Trophy for the best exhibit in children's Class 56.

Joan Parkes Trophy for the best exhibit in Section F.

The Parish Council Trophy for best exhibit in Class 57.

The Moss Trophy for the best exhibit in Class 58.

Mr & Mrs J Underwood Trophy for the most points in Classes 37 - 42A

J Bridges Perpetual Trophy for most points in Classes 6, 7, 9-11B

The Chris Haines Memorial for best Orchid in Show, Class 42A

Best Runner Bean sponsored by Borders Lawns and Trees Garden Maintenance, Class 12.

In the event of a tie, trophies will be awarded to the person obtaining the highest number of firsts.

Please come along – let's make our 30th show a day to remember. By just entering one item, you will make the difference.

Section A

CLASS

- (1) Potatoes Kidney, Oval or Round, White 4
- (2) Potatoes Kidney, Oval or Round, Red 4
- (3) Carrots Long 4
- (4) Carrots Short 4
- (5) Beet Round 3
- (6) Onions Spring Sown Flat 4
- (7) Onions Spring Sown Globe 4
- (8) Peppers 2
- (9) Shallots Large 8
- (10) Shallots Pickling under 1" 8
- (11a) Onions Large Dressed 4
- (11b) Onions Red 4
- (12) Runner Beans 6
- (13) Table Marrows Any Size pair
- (14) Plate of 6 mixed tomatoes
- (15) Cabbages 2
- (16) Tomatoes Outdoor Grown Red 6
- (17) Tomatoes Outdoor Grown Green 6
- (18) Tomatoes Greenhouse Red 6
- (19) Cherry Tomatoes Greenhouse Red 6
- (20) Cucumber Ridge 2
- (21) Cucumber Telegraph 2
- (22) Courgette, under 6" 2
- (22a) Collection of vegetables see rules below:

Section A cont.

Collection of vegetable rules:

- 1 Vegetables to be shown in standard size seed tray
- 2 Pick 3 from the following vegetables: Potatoes(3),
- Carrots(3), Runner Beans (6), Tomatoes(3), Onions (3)
- 3 Make sure you have the right quantity of each vegetable
- 4 Parsley & raffia may be used to assist your display
- 5 Carrots to be trimmed to 2 inches
- 6 Larger trays or wrong amount of vegetables will be disqualified
- 7 The judge's decision is final

Section B

- (23) Pears 4
- (24) Cooking Apples 4
- (25) Dessert Apples 4
- (26) Plums 4

New Class:

(22B) Children's Collection of Vegetables (Up to 16 years) – see rules above.

Section C

- (27) Asters, Blooms in vase 6
- (28) Chrysanthemums, Any variety, Blooms -4
- (29) Chrysanthemums, Any variety, Spray -1
- (30) Dahlias, Pom Pom, Blooms 4
- (31) Dahlias, Decorative, Blooms 4
- (32) Dahlias, Cacti, Blooms 4
- (33) Gladioli Spikes 3
- (34) Gladioli Spike 1 (35) Roses, Blooms - 4
- (36) Rose, Bloom 1
- (37) Vase of cut mixed flowers, Quality of flowers only will be judged
- (38) Spray of Floribunda or Polyanthus Roses
- (39) Ladies Wedding Spray
- (40) Pot plant for flower
- (41) Pot Cacti
- (42) Pot Succulent
- (42A) Pot Orchid

Section D

- (43) Home made Chutney Pot
- (44) Home made Lemon Curd
- (45) Home made Jam Pot of soft fruit
- (46) Home made Jam Pot Stone fruit
- (47) One small pot Any Jelly
- (48) Scones Any variety 4
- (49) Small Tarts, Jam, open 4
- (50) Home made loaf, White using 1lb of Flour 1
- (51) Home made loaf, Brown using 1lb of flour 1
- (52) Victoria Sponge, 7" round 3 eggs with their weight in fat, flour & castor sugar
- (53) Fruit Cake, 7" round, deep tin, 6oz margarine, 5oz sugar, 3 eggs, 9ozs self raising flour, 10oz mixed fruit (incl. Cherries), 1 teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon almond essence, 1 level teaspoon mixed spice, little milk.

Section E – Children's Classes Up to 16 years.

- (54) A picture made from fruit & vegetables of your choice with an Olympic theme.
- (55) Animal made out of fruit or vegetables
- (56) Necklace made to your own design
- (57) Decorate a pebble (own design and choice of materials)
- (58) Fairy Cakes decorated to your choice 4

Section F - Fun Section

- (59) Longest Runner Bean
- (60) Any other comical vegetable

As a special addition to this year's show, we are going to hold a Scare-crow-making competition.

Entrants who wish to take part in this class should make their scare-crow and display it in their garden or allotment no later than Sunday 19th August. There is no charge to enter this class and it is open to all ages. To enter Tel: Sarah 01453 823285 by the 19th August to register your scare-crow.

Prizes will be awarded at the show.

ENTRY FORM FOR EXHIBITOR

Entry forms to be sent, together with entry fees, 20p each class (except 54 – 58, 22B & Scare-crow making section, which are free) to the show secretary, or handed to any committee member.

Additional entry forms available from the show secretary.

Hints to exhibitors:

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

Closing date for entries 11 am, 1st September 2012

Total remittance:------

PRESIDENT: Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris

CHAIRPERSON: Mr D Haines
HON TREASURER: Mr H Elliott
HON SECRETARY: Mr W Fletcher

11 Budding Road, Eastington, GL10 3BN.

Tel: 01453 828507

SHOW SECRETARY: Mrs S Underdown

3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG.

Tel: 01453 823285

COMMITTEE: Mrs Q Jones

Mrs G Neal

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

POINTS: 3 2 1

OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH OF EASTINGTON
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Next 10 week course starts August 14th, 7-8pm @ The Eastington Community Centre £80

Call Christopher on 07813 921336 to book your place now!

Private 1-2-1 Tuition and small groups are always welcome. Please Call for details

Ancient Chinese Health Exercise in Eastington!

Dear Eastington Residents,

I would like to introduce my Qi Gong (pronounced Chee Gong) Health class that I have been providing locally for the past three years and since May of this year in Eastington. Classes consist of the teaching of Traditional Chinese Medicine techniques based around Qi Gong which is a system of movement and meditation methods performed seated or standing. Practising the gentle and nourishing movements of Qi Gong (now commonly known as Tai Chi Qi Gong) we can learn to make ourselves stronger and increase our resistance to illness and disease.

Through the practise of Tui Na Medical Massage we can help ourselves, our friends, children and families to relieve pain and injuries, and with better knowledge of nutrition we can build healthier bodies for a healthier mind.

The methods I teach are easy to learn and even those with mobility problems can become stronger and have a life full of vitality. Many of the techniques have been developed by Doctors, Scientists and Medical practitioners.

I teach my classes in ten week courses which is the minimum amount of time I believe an individual needs to be able to grasp the basics of Qi Gong practise and gain health benefits. If you choose to continue a place is always available for you to carry on training. The more time you invest the more you will learn.

A ten week course costs just eighty pounds and most students will gain benefits worth many more times this amount if they practise. In my ten year's study of energy work I have read many books and always say that if I gain just one useful piece of information, no matter how trivial, it was worth my money and my time....I hope each class will bring the same gift.

Many thanks for your time reading this and I hope to see you at a future training class.

Christopher Handbury can be contacted on 07813 921336 or you can visit www.energyhealth.co.uk or pop into The Stonehouse Holistic Centre.





Free cavity wall and loft insulation*

Grants are now available for **loft and cavity wall insulation**! If your loft has no insulation or it hasn't been topped up in several years, Gloucestershire Warm and Well may be able to top it up **for free**.

If you have cavity walls these can also be insulated for free using a grant. You no longer need to be on a qualifying benefit or over 70 to get the work done for free!

If you have **solid walls**, there are also grants available for internal and external wall insulation. The level of grant funding is dependent on your circumstances, the size of the property and the main source of heating within the home. There are currently **grants up to £14,995** so there has never been a better time to take advantage of the offer.

The Energy Saving Trust estimates a yearly saving of around £175 after loft insulation is installed and up to £135 after cavity wall insulation is installed (based on 3 bed semi-detached house). The grants will not be available indefinitely so please act now to arrange a free no obligation survey.

To apply for FREE independent, impartial & local advice on easier ways to keep warm and well:

Freephone 0800 500 3076 Text WARM to 83010 Email: <u>warm&well@swea.co.uk</u> Online at <u>www.warmandwell.co.uk</u>

The scheme is open to privately rented and owned properties only and is subject to survey and available funding.



















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

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USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

County and District Council Services:			
Gloucestershire County Council Switchboard	01452 425000	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk Email: customerservices@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Stroud District Council Switchboard	01453 766321 Out of Hours: 01452 532467	www.stroud.gov.uk	
Report an issue: Flooding; Potholes; Overgrown trees or hedges; Blocked drains; Hazards on road; Traffic light not working; Issues with public rights of way	01452 425000	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit	
Flood Prevention; Food Safety; Pest Control; Pollution; Dog Warden	01453 754478	Email: environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk	
Recycling/Refuse Collection	01453 754424	www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment/waste.asp Email: recycling@stroud.gov.uk	
Planning	01453 754442	www.stroud.gov.uk/planning Email: planning@stroud.gov.uk	
Energy Efficiency Advice: Severn Wye Energy Agency	0800 500 3076	www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment/energy.asp Email: energy@stroud.gov.uk	
Social Services Helpline	01453 760500		
Emergency Numbers:			
Gas Emergency Line	0800 111 999		
Electricity Emergency Line	08457 331331		
Severn Trent Water (Leakline)	0800 783 4444	www.stwater.co.uk	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111		
Environment Agency	08708 506506 Incident hotline: 0800 807060	www.environment-agency.gov.uk	
Floodline	08459 881188	www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline	
Highways Agency	0300 123 5000	www.highways.gov.uk ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk	
Other Services:			
Neil Carmichael (MP for Stroud)	01453 751572	Email: neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk	
Police (Non Emergency)	101		
Fire (Non Emergency)	01452 753333		
Health and Welfare Services:			
Stroud A&E	01453 562200		
Gloucester A&E	01452 394518 /394324		
Stroud & District Citizens Advice			
Bureau	08444 111 444	www.StroudDistrictCAB.org.uk	
	08444 111 444 0845 4647	www.StroudDistrictCAB.org.uk www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk	

continued over...

Guide and PALS	08000 151548	Health, Social Care and Disability information service in Glos	
Victim Support Helpline	0845 30 30 900	www.victimsupport.org.uk	
Childline	0800 1111	www.childline.org.uk	
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600	www.talktofrank.com	
Drinkline	0800 9178282		
Stonehouse Royal British Legion	01453 825076	prawll39@btinternet.com	
Other useful numbers:			
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	01452 528491	www.grcc.org.uk	
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	01452 383333	www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk	
Stroud Valleys Project	01453 753358	www.stroudvalleysproject.org/ for info regarding the conservation of the local environment	
Bus timetables		www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables Email: info@travelinesw.com	



Eastington Primary cooks for the Queen

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall's tribute to The Queen as part of the Jubilee celebrations 2012



a: The Eastington chefs cooking up a storm at our tasting afternoon at school.



c: Freya Telford with the "Rarebits of Diamond".



d: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall having a cheeky taste of the icing!



b: The winning team outside Buckingham Palace L-R: Freya Telford, Cory Hogg, Katie Elder, Abigail O'Neill, Josh Allen, Georgia Ford, Jessica Biddle, Alfie Fraser).



e: Josh Allen and Jessica Biddle meeting The Queen.

Photos courtesy of Greame Dougan (a/b/c) and Dominic Lipinski/Press Association Images (d/e)



Photos courtesy of Graeme Dougan. Thanks Graeme.