

# Eastington Community News

February / March 2013

Nº. 137

I would like to thank advertisers for renewing their subscription and welcome the new ones too. This publication is entirely funded by them, so we can deliver six copies of news and updates each year to every home in this Parish. Please take a look at the adverts and let us know what you think.

Please note the deadline date for next issue. Due to other commitments, no articles will be included after that date.

We have details of services at St. Michaels and Methodist Churches inside and a District Council update by Ken Stephens. The Orchard group continues to thrive and plan for the future; Dr. Mills updates us on the Mill; Alkerton Rangers continue to strive to master challenges of the season. Please take note of the 24<sup>th</sup> Eastington Flower Show on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Surveying of Parish wildlife was hampered by the wet summer last year. Colin Studholme shares plans for this year, and explains how everyone can take part in this important work.

There has been much recent talk nationally about the impact of last year's London Olympic Games on increasing public participation in sports, and in particular opportunities for young people. Here in this Parish, through much hard work by some and considerable generosity of others, we have in Eastington a recreation ground and Community Centre that are the envy of many. If you have sporting talents, maybe you would like to join others to introduce youngsters to taste the excitement of a sporting activity. In this edition, we hear how the state-of-the-art Community Centre (completed in 2009,) continues to draw attention from far and wide. Work continues at OHMGC to add street lighting to the newly tarmacked car park. News is awaited about Stroud Football Club's proposed investment at OHMG to expand facilities for use by their teams.

There is an interesting review of Eastington weather 2012 by Mark Campbell inside. The instability of global weather has shown up as flooding in our part of the world. The human causes of climate change have been hotly debated, but the human inactivity for much needed maintenance of ditches, drains and watercourses, is hardly deniable. With houses being flooded and many more just saved, a Flood Group Meeting was called. The comments and suggestions of those attending that meeting are summarised inside by Mary Gribble. No single organisation takes care of the overview of flooding problems in our Parish so, to be successful, we need to take initiative to coordinate activity locally. Watch out for the meeting place for the next Flood Action Group 16<sup>th</sup> February @ 2:30 p.m.

Eastington Youth Group (EYG) continue their relentless efforts to help this too often overlooked section of our community. Their willingness to self-help has been demonstrated by organising the last two Village Fetes, and they have tried very hard to find a regular meeting facility in the Village. However, to build an entirely new meeting place is seemingly very expensive. EYG tells us inside about plans to provide a playground and park for all youngsters, and Stonehouse Rotary Club is helping them towards that goal.

Useful service contacts and phone numbers have been compiled for you by Mary Gribble in this issue. You may wish to keep these safely close at hand in case you need assistance.

After so many years service to our local Poppy Appeal, John Darwent needs to retire from this worthy cause. Please see John's note inside – he's waiting for your call.

After six happy and productive years as Clerk and Burial Ground Officer for Eastington Parish Council, we were deeply sorry to receive Mary Gribble's resignation. This Parish has benefitted immensely from Mary's experience and commitment, and we wish her happiness for the future. Please see the advertised new post inside.

Andrew Niblett (Editor) 824841 ([niblett.parish@talktalk.net](mailto:niblett.parish@talktalk.net))

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**Next Deadline: All articles by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 please!**

**Next Delivery: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013 please!**

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

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It was with great sadness that I received the resignation of our Clerk and Burial Ground Officer, Mary Gribble.

Mary joined the Parish Council in April 2006 at a time it was struggling to organise files, methods and processes. It has taken dedicated time to transform Eastington Parish Council to the strong position it enjoys today and for improving efficiency and effectiveness and Mary has been instrumental in that achievement.

She worked consistently hard during those years and gave much more than the job defined. Mary oversaw some major projects including the difficult transfer of land to the Charlie Bullock Fund, vital support for the Community Centre, the purchase of land for allotments, the establishment of the orchard group, and had also key role in Eastington winning Gloucestershire Vibrant Village Award 2010. She has been a great support to all councillors and gave excellent advice to the council.

Mary will be greatly missed and I wish her well in the future for whatever she does.

During the period of reappointing a new Clerk we ask for your patience and understanding. Details about the appointment for a new Clerk are advertised below.

**Cllr. Andrew Niblett (Chairman)**

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

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**JOB VACANCY: Eastington Parish Council  
Clerk**

**Beginning March 2013, approx. 10 hours per week.**

**Pay in accordance with National Joint Council for Local Government Services.**

**Opportunity for pay progression and training plus expenses.**

**Essential Needs & Competencies:**

- Good & Effective communicator (Verbally & in Writing) willing & able to represent the interests and wishes of the Council.
- Experience in secretarial administration and in liaising with other people & organisations.
- Competent in taking minutes of meetings
- Computer literate - experience and knowledge of using word processing, spreadsheets (MS OFFICE), e-mail and the Internet
- Genuine Interest in the community
- Interest in local government
- Will need your own transport (for meetings and updating Parish notice boards) Appropriate allowances will be paid.

**Desirable:**

- Qualifications in local government administration, e.g. AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance). Certificate in Local Council Administration (Parish Clerks Qualification) preferable, but training available to this level.
- Qualifications in business studies and / or public administration.

**Supplied:**

- Computer (incl. software & support, printer and shredder.)

**Closing date for Letters of Application and CV by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**In writing, to Chairman of Eastington Parish Council:**

**Cllr. A.F. Niblett,  
Bourne Cottage  
Middle Street  
Eastington**

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

### LOCAL PLAN

Two main items on this have happened recently.

Firstly, a draft report from consultants entitled 'Stroud District Employment Land Study' was discussed by councillors in early January. This very thick report was issued quite close to the meeting date. At the meeting it was accepted that, because of the lateness of issue, further discussion of it would take place at a later meeting. It was emphasized that it was only a draft and that there were a significant number of issues with it that officers wanted to discuss with the consultants. I had rather a long list of queries and was heartened to find that officers covered most of them in the presentation and would be talking to the consultants on these points prior to a final report. This is a very important part of the Local Plan process and I was a bit disappointed that, to my mind, it seemed that the authors were not completely aware of some significant local issues with the land they were talking about. I think that such a thick document needs very careful study in case there are things buried within it that may come back to haunt us later on in the process. The report in its draft format was to me a bit confusing on whether the district needed to allocate more employment land or that we had enough. Hopefully this will be clarified in the final version.

The second item is an Inspectors decision on a planning appeal. I mentioned in my last newsletter that we hoped to test our new housing figure and our land supply following from those numbers. The inspector on this particular appeal, which took place before the new numbers were adopted but he agreed to look at as the appeal had taken so long, decided he would not use these figures or the new end date of 2031 for the plan but would use the old figures from 2011 and the 2026 date. His opinion was that the new figures had not been subject to the kind of testing they would receive at an examination in public. In my opinion neither had the figures he decided to use. It must be stressed that the way the new numbers were discarded and the comments made in the report in allowing the appeal make the aim of those wishing to keep our parish a rural one and resist mass building in our parish significantly harder. Council planning officers are to say the least disappointed in the decision and wording of the appeal report. Officers are deciding on whether a legal challenge can be made. At the very least they will be talking to the inspectorate on both the decision and the wording. Much reference is made in this report to the National Planning Policy Framework. This is the new planning regulations brought in by the present government. I think you will be interested in one comment on this the inspector makes; 'I find that the council's new housing target is at odds with the objectives of the framework to boost significantly the supply of housing'.

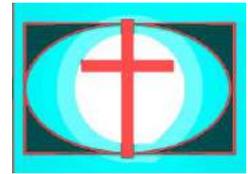
This will give you some indication of the difficulty those of us working to protect our parish are experiencing. A lot of people consider that planning policies seem to change in the favour of developers almost daily. I will, with the support of I believe most councillors, continue the work towards a Local Plan that will allow the whole of the District to grow and develop as residents want and not how developers want. Others within the Parish are very active on this issue, as they have been for some time, and I will endeavour to ensure that all points of view and interpretations of this worrying appeal decision are available to both councillors and officers.

### BUDGET

The present economic situation and cuts in government support to local government make it very difficult to maintain the support to the most vulnerable of our society and maintain or improve the kind and quality of services the residents of the district expect. The main points of the budget the council is proposing are:

- No increase in council tax for the third year running;
  - use the recovered Icelandic Bank money to support local initiatives in a wide range of areas (this money has already been discounted/written off in the accounts so it can be looked at as new money);
  - invest in our housing stock with a major refurbishment programme, and building up to 100 new houses in the next five years;
  - Council house rent increase held, I understand, to lowest in county;
  - provide incentives for Parishes to engage in finding exception sites for affordable/social housing;
- Continue to ensure best value for residents in all of the council's activities and spending.

**Ken Stephens January 2013**



## KonGreg8

This is a new youth meeting which will take place on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm at EMC aimed at the 11-14 age group. For quite a few years, young people from Eastington have gone along to other churches around the area to meet up with other young people to experience Christian events tailored for them. These have included The Net, Junction Ahead, The Bridge and The Venue (which actually moved around from church to church including ours).

Although there is currently an event called Deep running monthly at Stroud, this is aimed at a slightly older group who want to develop their faith at a deeper level (hence the name). This has left a bit of a gap with little for those who may believe nothing at all or are not really ready for something that they might consider heavy.

EMC has one of the largest church based youth clubs in the area and we felt it was our turn to put something on, not just for us but for others in the area. In doing this, we are being helped by youth leaders based in other churches as they also perceive the need.

Kon Greg 8, as in Congregate (i.e. meet together in one place) is the result - The Shallows did not really work as a name for us. These events will comprise refreshments, music, some games, some multi-media stuff, a short talk on something important, more music and food/refreshments. Everything should be finished by 7:30pm and there is no cost for those coming.

The first event is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6pm and unless this is a disaster, the next one will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Visit [www.kongreg8.org.uk](http://www.kongreg8.org.uk) for details.

### ..... for older teens

Our Youth Work Assistant, Matt Gatt, continues to run a Youth Alpha group, usually on Monday evenings, although the current sessions are not following the Alpha programme as such. Instead, videos or other material is used and food is provided.

### Friday Youth Club

This continues for secondary school age young people and at present we are running one session from 7pm - 9pm. Entrance is 75p. There are the usual Youth Club things like Pool, Table Tennis, Video Games, a Tuck Shop and a chance to chill out with friends. There is also a short God Byte session and we do expect good behaviour (this is a church run club after all). New attendees welcome.

### It's not just about Young People.....

**Tea & Chat** - The next Tea & Chat session at the church is from 3pm to 4:30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please come along and bring friends, meet friends or make new friends.

**Hymn & Prayer** - This monthly series takes place at 2pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the community room at Broadfield. Hymns are chosen and sung followed by refreshments.

**Sunday Night Praise** - This takes place at EMC at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

...and much more - please visit the webpages or see Pewsnews for details.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

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



## ***Alkerton Rangers Football Club ...***

...has had a mixed season so far on the field. There were high hopes that the 1<sup>st</sup> Eleven would improve upon their bottom-three finish last season. Sadly, it hasn't turned out like that. While there has been a nucleus of ever-presents, in order to be consistent in a very tough Division Five of the Stroud & District League the side needs to be more stable. Player-manager Kevin Hill has done a fantastic job in uniting the players but his selections have involved drafting in replacements from the Reserves, and the plight of the team in the division is a concern. On a positive note the atmosphere remains a very good one.

This season the Reserves, under the stewardship of Kevin Bond, have made significant strides from last year. With three notable victories under their belt, keeping a clean sheet on each occasion, they have acquitted themselves admirably in Division Eight. Both sides have used the superior playing surface at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground at Snakey Lane to play good, passing football.

Readers can follow the fortunes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Team and the Reserves online by going the Stroud & District League website at [www.stroudleague.co.uk](http://www.stroudleague.co.uk) and clicking on the links to the tables of Division 5 and Division 8 on the FA Full Time website. Also, reports of Alkerton Rangers matches appear regularly in the Stroud News & Journal.

Off the pitch the football club are making a great commitment to developing the facilities at the ground. Along with Tom Low and John Morris, football club Chairman Martin Elliott has been responsible for the upgrading of the changing rooms with the installation of wooden benches over the Christmas period, and the rooms will be painted during the summer months by a group of players. Plans are also afoot to look into the installation of lights for evening training sessions in the winter.

Of course the major aim of the football club is to continue to work in partnership with the community to provide a valuable leisure asset for the village of Eastington and its environs. Should any readers like to offer their support to the club in an active capacity on or off the field or by turning up to watch it would be greatly appreciated. If you feel you could help please contact **Martin Elliott on 07557 360901**.

### ***Paul Burn***



## **Eastington Community Centre**

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

**NOW available for parties, regular bookings,  
sports events, clubs, wedding receptions**

**Tel: Vanessa on 828557**

**February 2013!** Amazing to think that Eastington Community Centre was completed three and a half years ago. Where has that time gone? So many people have enjoyed using the building whether it be attending clubs or sports or holding their own events to mark special occasions such as weddings or birthdays.

Since the big opening in September 2009 the OHMG Committee has worked extremely hard to maintain the Centre and improve facilities for the community and all who use the building and/or the field. One of the pressing jobs we are trying to complete is to put street lighting around the car-park to allow and encourage more evening use in the winter.

### ***Another celebration of the 2012 Jubilee year for Eastington:***

In November we received our free pack of hedge plants from the Woodland Trust. The packs are being given out in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. Our pack contained 105 saplings for year round colour and included one *Royal Oak* sapling.

A group met at the Centre equipped with spades and wheel barrows and planted the saplings to form a hedge around the front green. Everyone pitched in including Playgroup Staff, members of the Allotments and Orchard groups and some very helpful young people. It was surprising how quickly the planting went.

In order to protect the saplings from rabbits we used empty milk cartons, kindly donated by Dairy Crest. We have now been awarded another 105 plants which will arrive in early March. We probably will not be able to use them all, so if anyone is interested in some of them for a project in the Parish please contact us.

***The Committee is always looking for new members with new ideas and energy.***

***If you would like to get involved in a local group that is committed to improving the facility for the benefit of people in the Parish please do get in touch.***

# 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



Dear Friends,

This month sees the start of the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday is sandwiched between two more commonly celebrated occasions – Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day.

Shrove Tuesday, or as it is more commonly known, Pancake Day, used to be the day when all the 'nice' things were used up before the season of Lent, which was years ago very much more a time of prayer and fasting. In our modern age of over-eating, it could serve a second purpose as a period of spiritual dieting, though I'm not sure if the likes of Slimming World and Weightwatchers have picked up on this yet!

Valentine's Day is the day for lovers to indulge one another, but coming directly after Ash Wednesday perhaps the chocolates given as a gift to the one you love may be put to one side until after Easter? Probably not!

In our benefice we mark Ash Wednesday every year with a service in one of our churches – this year in Eastington. It is a more contemplative service, and opportunity is given to mull over our lives, our unworthiness to be in God's presence, our gratitude to Jesus Christ for making reconciliation with God possible, and to give an opportunity to profess our repentance of our sins, both major and minor, in a more focussed way than in regular Communion services.

To show this the physical symbol of the cross is drawn on the forehead of each penitent, as depicted on the front cover of this month's SPAN. It is an outward sign of an inner spiritual truth – that we are sorry for our shortcomings, and look to Christ to help us in our lives in the future. As a mark of this some people give up something during Lent – this year for me it will be chocolate (which I shouldn't eat anyway, being diabetic) and crisps – and going without my favourite cheese and onion will be very hard as it usually is! I will put aside money each week for a charity – U.S.P.G. this year – and I would encourage you to do something similar. In other words, to look at your life, recognise things in it that fall short of God's standards, give something up to remind you of this, and replace what you give up with something positive, such as making an additional gift to a charity of your choice.

Between now and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March the Church Electoral Rolls are being renewed. If you want to register as being a member of your local Church of England you will need to complete an application form and return it to either the PCC Secretary of your church, or to me. Forms are available at the back of the church and from me, or they can be emailed to you should you wish. Just drop me an email at the address below

*Yours in Christ,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard'.

Rector: Revd Richard Ams, 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)

### Some reasons why English is so complicated to learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture
5. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
6. Since there was no time like the present, it was time to present the present.
7. The farmer taught his sow to sow.
8. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
9. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
10. They were too close to the door to close it.
11. I shed a tear when I saw the tear in the painting.

## Services in February and March

<b>Sundays →</b> <i>Morning Service → Readings</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</b> (p803 - green) <b>Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end &amp; Luke 8.22-25</b> (p803/6)	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Sunday Next before Lent</b> (p807 - green) <b>Exodus 34.29-end &amp; Luke 9.28-36</b> (p807/9)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> of Lent</b> (p816 - purple) <b>Romans 10.8b-13 &amp; Luke 4.1-13</b> (p818/9)	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent</b> (p820) <b>Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 &amp; Luke 13.31-35</b> (p820-2)
<i>Evening Service → Readings</i>	-	-	<b>Jonah 3 &amp; Luke 18.9-14</b>	-
<b>Eastington</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Family Communion (Angela Reeder) <b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion <b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion <b>Ash Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – 7.30pm</b> (p810 – purple) <b>Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 &amp; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21</b> (p810/4) Holy Communion and Ashing	<b>6pm</b> Sung Evensong <b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion <b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion

<b>Sundays →</b> <i>Morning Service → Readings</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Lent</b> (p823 - purple) <b>1 Corinthians 10.1-13 &amp; Luke 13.1-9</b> (p825)	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b> (p830 - purple) <b>Colossians 3.12-17 &amp; John 19.25b-27</b> (p832/3)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> of Lent</b> (p834 - purple) <b>Philippians 3.4b-14 &amp; John 12.1-8</b> (p835)	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> (p474 - red) <b>Isaiah 50.4-9a &amp; Luke 19.28-40</b> (p838/6)	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>Easter Day</b> (p533 - white) Acts 10.34-43 & John 20.1-18 (p535)
<i>Evening Service → Readings</i>	<b>As Morning</b>	<b>As Morning</b>	<b>2 Chronicles 35.1-6, 10-16 &amp; Luke 22.1-13</b>	<b>As Morning</b>	<b>Easter Carols</b> (at Moreton Valence)
<b>Eastington</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion <b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Mothering Sunday Communion <b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>6pm</b> Sung Evensong <b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion <b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion <b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30am</b> BCP Communion

*All services are taken by the Rector unless stated otherwise*

### Special Services in Holy Week

<b>Holy Monday</b> <b>at Moreton Valence</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm</b> (p850) BCP Communion <b>1 Corinthians 1.18-31 &amp; John 12.20-36</b> (p852/3)	<b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>at Frocester</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm</b> (p847) BCP Communion <b>Hebrews 9.11-15 &amp; John 12.1-11</b> (p848/9)	<b>Holy Wednesday</b> <b>At Standish</b> <b>27<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm</b> Holy Communion and Agape in Village Hall	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>At Eastington</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm</b> <b>Holy Communion &amp; Vigil to midnight</b> (p856 - white) <b>Exodus 12.1-14 &amp; John 13.1-17, 31b-35</b> (p857/9)  <i>The church will be open until midnight for people to pray in the Lady Chapel</i>	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>At Haresfield</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> -10am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> (p860 – red) <i>Psalms 22.1-11, Hebrews 10.16-25 &amp; John 18.1-19.42</i> (p862-4) <b>Good Friday</b> <b>At Whitminster</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> - 2pm-3pm</b> ‘The Final Hour’ – hymns and readings
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## **EASTINGTON YOUTH GROUP**

The New Year has come with some Good News for the Group – Stonehouse Rotary Club donated £800.00 to us from the proceeds of Ebley Fireworks. Kevin Dalby and Tina Smith attended a presentation evening to receive the cheque. It was a very pleasant evening and so nice to hear of local charities and what is being achieved in Stroud communities.

Eastington Youth Group Committee has decided to put the POD project on hold at the moment, as the project is so complex we do not have the resources or expertise. A project that we think the whole community would benefit from is a playground/park. We are looking at aiming this at the whole community from young children to adults. We are currently having plans drawn up which will include a toddler area, areas for young and older children, then an area for teenagers and adults with outdoor gym equipment. We are still looking at utilising the PODS possibly for changing rooms, outside toilets or maybe selling them as funding for the park project. We are open to suggestions.

Once we have plans and costing options in place we will be speaking with our Parish Council and also holding a consultation evening with the village – everyone will be invited to express their views and ideas. The consultation evening is going to be held during a family quiz we are going to arrange around Easter time.

Forthcoming events:-

**FAMILY QUIZ:** PROVISIONAL DATE Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

**LITTER PICK:** 11.00 A.M. OUTSIDE CO-OP ON Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Thereafter the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

Refreshments will be provided – everyone welcome

**WEEKLY GAMES NIGHTS:** To be arranged Spring/Summer – weather permitting.

Hopefully after Easter we will hold weekly games nights or socials depending on the weather and venue availability. We will advise on the Youth Group facebook page, Parish Notice Board and the Eastington News.

If you would like to contact the Youth Group, please call:

**Tina, Secretary: 0789 1579754; Ali, Chair: 0788 8661303**

## ***Stonehouse Rotary Club and Eastington Youth Group***

Eastington Youth Group has been the recipient of an £800 donation from the proceeds of Ebley Fireworks, as nominated by one of the organisers: Stonehouse Rotary Club. The annual Stroud fireworks event raises over £10,000 for local charities and community organisations, with a focus on helping young people following its origins with Ebley Children's Home.

Tina Smith and Kevin Dalby received the cheque from Stonehouse Rotary Club at a presentation at The George, Frocester on 16 January. Kevin described that the money will contribute to an ambitious project to provide a play area for all ages of children in a landscaped area of ground and equipment at the Eastington Playing Field. Eastington resident and Rotarian John Morris is delighted to be associated with this project and will be helping in personal capacity as a trustee of the Community Centre.

More information about Rotary International and the Stonehouse Club can be found at the website [www.stonehouserotary.org.uk](http://www.stonehouserotary.org.uk). Stonehouse Rotary meet weekly at Frocester in the evening and nearby club Severn Vale Rotary meet fortnightly for breakfast at the Whitminster Hotel. Enquiries about rotary activities and a visit to a club event are welcomed. The Eastington contacts are:

**John Morris – Stonehouse Rotary tel 822353; Mike Naylor – Severn Vale Rotary tel 828682**

## **Eastington Brownies**

The Brownies had a very busy couple of months and enjoyed Christmas activities including making their own Reindeer Dust and Christingles. We are grateful to the Rotary Club for visiting the Brownies with the Carol Float and the girls enjoyed ending the year with a traditional Christmas Party.

This term we will be focussing on celebrations. These will include Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday, Commonwealth Day and making a special video to send to our fellow Brownie friends at a pack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We are always happy to welcome new girls onto our waiting list so if your daughter is under 7 years old, lives in the village (or surrounding hamlets) and would be interested in joining Brownies once she is 7, please contact [eastingtonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:eastingtonbrownies@gmail.com) or call 07854 268528.

## **Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups**

Happy New Year everyone!!!! Well at the time of writing this the snow is on the ground and spring still seems a long way away. Personally I can't wait to see that first daffodil or splash of bright green in the hedgerows. At groups we had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and now in January are continuing to successfully lose weight.

It has been lovely to welcome lots of new members into our groups over the past few weeks and start their weight loss journeys; many of you have set 2013 as the year you would like to lose weight and get to a weight goal that you are happy and confident with. One of my lovely members has achieved exactly that in the past year and at group it was brilliant to celebrate her success as she reached her target weight with a 5 stones 1lb weight loss. I love my job helping and supporting people to achieve their weight loss dreams. With Slimming World the support is so important not just at group but between groups. When you do reach your Target weight you can carry on attending group each week free of charge to make sure you keep to the weight you have achieved.

We have spent time sharing lots of lovely food ideas for meals through the day as well as snacks in between and each member has just received a lovely brand new look member's pack which is full of wonderful ideas, tips, hints and ideas to kick your weight loss off. We have encouraged men to attend groups as well in recent years and now we have 2 different pack covers, one for men and one for women both of which are lovely.

So could 2013 be your year to reach your target weight? We welcome new members at both groups every week so come along and find out how you can lose weight beautifully with our fantastic, easy to follow and versatile eating plans and all the support that is there waiting to help you every step of the way. Eastington Group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the village hall. Stonehouse group meets at 9.30am at Stonehouse community centre also every Wednesday. I look forward to welcoming you. You are welcome just to turn up but if you would like more details do contact me:

Warmest wishes for 2013. **Lorna, Tel 01453821751.**

**Would you like to become a host family?** We are looking for families in Stroud and surrounding area who may be interested in welcoming Japanese students aged between 14 and 16 during the summer holiday this year (2013). Are you available during one or two of the projects below??

- ① 19 July – 7 Aug (2 girls per family) 19 nights (at Marling School)
- ② 22 July – 2 Aug (1 boy or 1 girl per family) 11 nights (at Stroud College: tbc)
- ③ 13 Aug – 22 Aug (1 girl per family) 9 nights (at Marling School)

Typically: Mon – Fri : The students will be attending school from 9 am to 5:30 pm and will spend free time with their host families on weekends. It will be an educational, fun and rewarding experience for the whole family! For more information, please get in touch:



**Mrs Masano Hedges (Educational coordinator for Cotswolds Wind Academy)**

**23 Bath Road, Stonehouse, GLOS, GL10 2JD**

**01453-822586 / 07789-325197 / [mikmasano@aol.com](mailto:mikmasano@aol.com)**



# The 24<sup>th</sup> Eastington Spring Flower Show

Sponsored By:

**Eastington, Dursley & Leonard Stanley Slimming World Groups**

Tel: 0844 897 8000 for group venue and times.

**Saturday March 23rd 2013 at 2pm - 3.30pm in the Village Hall - Admission 10p**

## **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 pm.
- (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 forms.
- (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.

OPEN TO RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH OF EASTINGTON. CLASSES FOR EVERYONE - PLEASE PARTICIPATE AND MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS.

## **ENTRY FORM FOR EXHIBITOR**

Entry forms to be sent, together with entry fees, 15p each class (except 34-36, which are free) to the show secretary, or handed to any committee member.

Additional entry forms available from the show secretary.

## **CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 23rd 2013**

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CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER

-----

I HEREBY CERTIFY that all the articles referred to have been produced by me in my own garden or allotment, or made by me.

Exhibitor's Name:-----

Address:-----

Total remittance:-----

**THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Hints to exhibitors:**

**Read the schedule carefully and be sure that you enter the correct number of specimens in each class.**

<p><b>SECTION (1) POT OR BOWL FLOWERING BULBS</b></p> <p>(1) Massed daffodils. Any number of bulbs.          (2) Trumpet daffodils. 5 bulbs.          (3) Narcissi, short or medium cup. 5 bulbs.          (4) Hyacinth, 3 bulbs.          (5) Hyacinth, 1 bulb.          (6) Tulip, 5 bulbs.          (7) Any other flowering bulbs (Any number).          (8) Amaryllis.</p> <p><b>SECTION (1A) VEGTABLES</b></p> <p>(9) Rhubarb – 3 with leaves          (10) Broad Beans – 6          (11) 2 Spring Cabbage</p>	<p><b>SECTION (2) CUT BLOOMS (OWN FOLIAGE)</b></p> <p>(12) 5 large trumpet daffodils (one variety).          (13) 5 double daffodils (one variety).          (14) 5 narcissi (short cup). One bloom per stem, one variety.          (15) Vase mixed daffodils and narcissi.          (16) 5 tulips (any variety).          (17) 5 Narcissi (polyanthus type/bunch flowered).          (18) 5 blooms, any other bulb or corm. Not double daffodils.          (19) Vase polyanthus, 5 stems.          (20) Vase or bowl primroses, 8 stems.          (21) Vase or bowl wild primroses, 8 stems.</p>
<p><b>SECTION (3) POT PLANTS</b></p> <p>(22) 1 pot flowering cactus.          (23) 1 cyclamen in bloom.          (24) 1 azalea in bloom.          (25) 1 polyanthus in pot.          (26) Collection of polyanthus, 5 - mixed.          (27) Primrose in a pot.          (28) Collection of 5 mixed violas.          (29) Collection of 5 mixed primroses.          (30) Collection of 5 mixed pansies.          (31) 1 pansy in pot.          (32) 1 foliage plant.          (33) Any other pot plant in bloom.</p>	<p><b>SECTION (4) CHILDRENS' CLASSES</b></p> <p>(34) Painting of your favourite T.V. character. Up to 12 years.          (35) Bowl or dish with floating flower heads in. Up to 12 years.          Name and age on the back of all exhibits please.          (36) Decorated Easter Biscuits - 2</p> <p><b>SECTION (5) FLOWER ARRANGMENTS</b></p> <p>(37) Arrangement of flowers in a basket. 18" square.          (38) Arrangement - to a theme of your choice. Max 24" square e.g. song, book title          (39) Miniature spring arrangement. Max 9" square.</p>
<p><b>SECTION (6) COOKERY</b></p> <p>(40) 4 Easter biscuits.          (41) 4 Pieces of shortbread.          (42) 4 Fairy cakes - plain with a cherry on the top.          (43) 4 Rock cakes.          (44) Pot of marmalade.          (45) Quiche Lorraine, 6 – 7" diameter.</p>	<p><b>SECTION (7) PHOTOGRAPHY – Picture taken in the village.</b></p> <p>(46) Children's category - up to 16 years          (47) Adults' category          Maximum size of pictures A4. Please put name (&amp; age if child) on the back of picture.          WH Smith vouchers will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes for this section.</p>

PRESIDENT: Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris  
 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Mr W Fletcher  
 VICE CHAIRPERSON: Position Vacant  
 HON TREASURER: Mr H Elliott  
 HON SECRETARY: Mr W Fletcher, 11 Budding Drive, Eastington, GL10 3BN. Tel: 828507  
 SHOW SECRETARY: Mrs S Underdown, 3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG. Tel: 01453 823285  
 COMMITTEE: Mrs Q Jones, Mrs G Neal

AWARDS: 1<sup>st</sup> - 25p                      2<sup>nd</sup> - 20p                      3<sup>rd</sup> - 15p  
 POINTS:                      3                                      2                                      1

**IN THE EVENT OF A TIE, TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE PERSON OBTAINING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FIRSTS**

***Prize money to be collected on the day of the show.***

**Trophies**

Trophy donated by Highfield Nurseries, Whitminster, will be awarded for most points in the show.  
 Doreen Fletcher shield for lady with most points in the show.  
 R.B.L. trophy for most points in section 3. John Ellis Trophy for the most points in classes 27-31.  
 Hanman Bros. Trophy for most points in section 4.  
 Cyril Nott trophy for most points in section 6.  
 Bert Johns trophy for best exhibit in class 12.

## Community Centre Health Class approaches 1st Year!

Everybody wants to feel happy, youthful and more energised but many don't know which way to start or where to go. Some want to lose weight, relieve pain, increase mobility or just experience life with vitality without the strains and stresses of everyday living getting in the way. *Well....look no further!*

Christopher Handbury, founder of The Stonehouse Holistic Centre and Medical Clinic has been providing his unique holistic energy health classes in the Stroud area for over three years and specifically at the Owen Harris Community Centre since early last year. Many of his Eastington students are now beginning their fourth term of practice which shows a positive response to his teaching.

So what happens at an energy health class?

Christopher's classes include teaching ways to improve health naturally with the practice of Tai Chi Health and Qi Gong methods that have been developed and tested by doctors to practice in Chinese hospitals and clinics for hundreds of years. These methods are proven to help with sports injuries, back and neck pain, sciatica, depression, anxiety, arthritis and also strengthen the immune system to ward off coughs, colds and seasonal illness. He also teaches a very ancient medical massage system called Tui Na (twee-nah) that can be applied to self-treat many common ailments like fatigue, digestive complaints and emotional stress.

The mention of Tai Chi or Qigong often brings visions of crowds of people practising slow graceful movements in China's parks and gardens, but Christopher says it is much more than this. "Regular practice of Qi Gong and learning how to live a balanced life using simple Tai Chi Health methods can help you make the positive changes you desire. It's easy to learn, simple to practice and provides many positive health benefits for everyone. Students are young and old, large and small, in good health and some in poorer health but they all have the same desire for better health and a greater quality of living."

Christopher also provides on-site classes for small groups, care homes and 1-2-1 training so there is always a suitable way for you to experience his teaching.

If you are interested in taking advantage of Christopher's professional knowledge and join other like-minded people, you too can discover how Tai Chi Health and Qigong can help you improve your health or learn new skills for life.

Interested? Please contact Christopher and try his classes for yourself. Call him on 01453 826501 or you can visit his Energy Health website at [www.energyhealth.co.uk](http://www.energyhealth.co.uk)

### **Class Information**

#### **Eastington Community Centre**

Evening Class - 10 Week Class Starts Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm £80

Daytime Class - 10 Week Class Starts Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm £80

#### **Spaces are limited.**

Please call 01453 826501 / 07813 921336 to secure your place.

Drop-in Class – Stonehouse Community Centre, Thursdays 11am-12pm

**Full details can be found at [www.energyhealth.co.uk](http://www.energyhealth.co.uk)**



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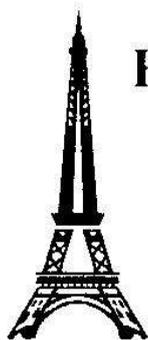
Eastington Cricket Club requires players of ANY standard for the 2013 season, with most Saturdays (league) and friendlies on Sundays, midweek days and midweek evenings. We play and practise at Owen Harris Memorial Ground.

Any standard/ability is welcome, to keep our club going.

Please contact Steve Gallagher on 01453 791209

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## ROTARY SPRING QUIZ 2013

Elmore Village Hall

Friday March 22nd at 7.15 for 7.30pm start

Teams of 4 (approx)

Cost £9 per head to include hot supper (chilli or plain)

**Monies raised on the evening will be donated to Rotary Charities.**

Pay bar

For further details and entries please contact

Andy Jarrett 01452 883450  
[events@severnvalerotary.org.uk](mailto:events@severnvalerotary.org.uk)  
[www.severnvalerotary.org.uk](http://www.severnvalerotary.org.uk)



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## FOR INNER WHEEL OF STROUD



Inner Wheel of Stroud desperately need donations of wool, Double Knit or 4 ply, to enable the knitting of hats, jumpers, blankets for needy children abroad. Please contact Jenny, Tel: 01453 825851 or June Tel: 01453 824977. Knitters also welcome!

## *News from the Village and Community Agent*

I hope you had a Very Good Time over Christmas and the New Year and that the deluges have affected you as little as possible. Should you wish to contact me, **Sue Colquhoun**, please do so on **07810 630 145**.

The telephone numbers for our Hospitals are changing. Here is a list of the ones most used in our areas:

Gloucester Royal Hospital	0300 422 2222	Gloucestershire Care Services	
Cheltenham General Hospital	0300 422 2222	Edward Jenner Court	0300 421 8100
Stroud General Hospital	0300 421 8080	NHS Gloucestershire (until 31.3.13)	
Stroud Maternity Hospital	0300 421 8018	Sanger House	0300 421 1500
Vale Community Hospital	0300 421 8494		
Other Services and Sites:			
Adult Physio Direct	0300 421 0303	Adult Speech and Language Therapy	
Dental Helpline	0300 421 0505		0300 422 8105
District Nursing Out of Hours	0300 421 0555	Children and Young People's Physio	
Heart and Diabetes Service	0300 422 1212		0300 421 6980
Sexual Health Services	0300 422 6470	Stop Smoking Service	0300 421 0040

These numbers remain the same:

Beeches Green Health Centre 01453 766 331 Cirencester Hospital 01285 884 584

Fairford Hospital 01285 712212 Tewkesbury Hospital 01684 293 303 GUIDE and Pals 0800 015 1548

The **OUT OF HOURS** service for urgent treatment or care that cannot wait until the GP surgery re-opens: **All patients will need to make an appointment to see the doctor or nurse**. To discuss your condition and arrange an appointment call 0300 421 0220 between 6.30pm and 8.pm on weekdays and all day and night at weekends, bank holidays and public holidays.

**Trading Standards** have contacted us to say that they have received reports of traders canvassing for work, by calling at consumer's homes and offering home maintenance and repair work. Traders are understood to be offering a substantial saving on the price of the work if the consumer signs up there and then. Trading Standards advice is do not trust essential maintenance of your house to an opportunist trader cold calling. Make sure that work needs doing and the price is realistic by getting quotes from local tradespeople before making a decision to go ahead. Any consumer with concerns can get advice and report the matter to Trading Standards by contacting **Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506**.

## *Police News*

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you all had a good Christmas & New Year.

We have had a quiet Christmas & New Year in the area of the Stanleys & Eastington.

Running up to Christmas the Stroud Local Policing Area had a lot of burglaries; there were over 100 reports from the beginning of November to the end of December 2012.

A special operation was planned and officers from Gloucester & the Cirencester area were used to patrol the high risk areas, some in plain clothes and plain cars, others were in marked vehicles and out on foot to provide high visibility in these areas. This did lead to several arrests and a decrease in the amount of the burglaries.

We now have PC Emma Jackson who is looking after the Stanleys & Eastington with me. Emma has previously worked in the Stonehouse area before a period in the crime management unit and Priority Policing Team in Stroud. She is looking forward to meeting with you all and working together to reduce crime and tackle any issues which arise within the area. Emma is contactable at Stroud Police Station or by e-mail [emma.jackson@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:emma.jackson@gloucestershire.police.uk).

Regards, PCSO Liz Ward 9081; [Elizabeth.ward@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.ward@gloucestershire.police.uk)

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>County and District Council Services:</b>		
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 08000 514 514	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	<a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/planning">www.stroud.gov.uk/planning</a> Email: planning@stroud.gov.uk
Energy Efficiency Advice: Severn Wye Energy Agency	0800 500 3076	www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/environment/energy.asp Email: <a href="mailto:energy@stroud.gov.uk">energy@stroud.gov.uk</a>
Social Services Helpline	01453 760500	
<b>Emergency Numbers:</b>		
Gas Emergency Line	0800 111 999	
Electricity Emergency Line	08457 331331	
Severn Trent Water – leak or blocked public sewer	0800 783 4444	<a href="http://www.stwater.co.uk">www.stwater.co.uk</a>
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	
Environment Agency	08708 506506 Incident hotline: 0800 807060	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Floodline	08459 881188	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline">www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline</a>
Highways Agency	0300 123 5000	<a href="http://www.highways.gov.uk">www.highways.gov.uk</a> ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk
<b>Other Services:</b>		
Neil Carmichael (MP for Stroud)	01453 751572	Email : <a href="mailto:neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk">neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk</a>
Police (Non Emergency)	101	
Fire (Non Emergency)	01452 753333	
<b>Flooding:</b>		
Flooding caused by blocked highway drains and road gullies	08000 514 514	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
Flooding caused by blocked public sewer	0800 783 4444	<a href="http://www.stwater.co.uk">www.stwater.co.uk</a>
Flood Prevention	01453 754478	Email: environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk
Floodline	08459 881188	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline">www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline</a>

Call the **Environment Agency's Floodline** on 0845 988 1188 for simple, clear and quick advice on what to do before, during and after flooding in bad weather. You can find more details on the Environment Agency website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>

<b>Health and Welfare Services:</b>		
Stroud A&E	01453 562200	
Gloucester A&E	01452 394518 /394324	
Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 111 444	<a href="http://www.StroudDistrictCAB.org.uk">www.StroudDistrictCAB.org.uk</a>
NHS Direct	0845 4647	<a href="http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk">www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk</a>
GP Out of Hours Service	<a href="tel:08454220220">08454 220220</a>	<a href="http://www.gloshealthservices.org.uk">www.gloshealthservices.org.uk</a>
Guide and PALS	08000 151548	<i>Health, Social Care and Disability information service in Glos</i>
Victim Support Helpline	0845 30 30 900	<a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/">www.victimsupport.org.uk/</a>
Childline	0800 1111	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600	<a href="http://www.talktofrank.com">www.talktofrank.com</a>
Drinkline	0800 9178282	
Stonehouse Royal British Legion	01453 825076	<a href="mailto:prawll39@btinternet.com">prawll39@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Other useful numbers:</b>		
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	01452 528491	<a href="http://www.grcc.org.uk">www.grcc.org.uk</a>
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	01452 383333	<a href="http://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk">www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk</a>
Stroud Valleys Project	01453 753358	<a href="http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org/">www.stroudvalleysproject.org/</a> <i>for info regarding the conservation of the local environment</i>
Bus timetables		<a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables">www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@travelinesw.com">info@travelinesw.com</a>

## Problems with sewers?

### Advice from Severn Trent Water's website: Responsibility for sewer pipes

#### What belongs to you, the householder?

Waste water pipes that are located within the boundary of your property - beneath your house, garden or driveway - which take away the waste water flows from only your property to the point where they connect to pipes serving another property are your responsibility.

#### What belongs to Severn Trent Water?

We are responsible for the large sewers that are normally under the road or pavement. Due to a change in law, in October 2011, the sections of sewers and pipe that you share with neighbours and pipes outside your property boundary, which connect to our existing network, are now our responsibility.

If you think one of our sewers is blocked, you should call at any time of day or night on **0800 783 4444**. We'll arrange for our sewer technicians to check it out.

- If a public sewer is blocked – that's one owned by us – we'll clear the pipe
- If the problem is in a private drain or private sewer, you'll need to pay for an independent drain clearing company to carry out any clearance work

#### What belongs to the county council?

The highways authority, usually the county council, deals with blocked highway drains and road gullies that are causing surface water flooding. The contact number for Gloucestershire County Council highways department is **08000 514514**.

# Millend Mill – an eventful year. By Stephen Mills

## Developments at the mill

It's been some time since we reported on progress with the restoration and conversion of Millend Mill to apartments. As most people will know, after making a start on the process, the original developer was unable to continue, and the project was sold on. Despite the sorry state of the mill, the new developers have since picked up the pieces and have been making significant progress. Not only have they had to focus on the actual conversion, they have also had to deal with problems of crumbling stonework, decades of shoddy repairs by previous owners, and the difficulties of working in what is quite a constricted area.

During the past year, a new ground floor was installed and a massive steel frame built within the existing mill. This not only strengthened the 200 year old walls, but also forms an immensely strong structure to carry the new interior. New concrete floors and internal walls for the upstairs apartments have been constructed on the upper floors and a lift shaft built in the centre of the mill. Alongside the regular builders, a team of carpenters is now busy on site.

**Right: Starting assembly of the mill's new steel framework**



A major task has been replacing damaged stonework. This extends to most of the blocked windows that are gradually being opened up and nicely repaired with new stone surrounds, lintels and mullions. Visually, the mill is gradually taking on the appearance it originally had when first built around 1818. Much of the effort so far has been concentrated on the back wall, although work is now underway on the front. After presenting a picture of decay and neglect for the past half a century or more, it will be good to see the old mill slowly regain its 'good looks'.

Some months ago, the remaining section of the roof was finally removed, since replaced with a completely new structure. The original roof trusses were so badly rotted as a result of water ingress that in places, they were collapsing and pushing the top of mill's walls outwards. Their timely removal helped avoid any further damage.

The new trusses were craned into place in December and the roof felted over just before Christmas. After so many years, the mill is now relatively water-tight.

Inside, the two surviving water wheel pits were uncovered again, and a new lift shaft partially built over the central one. It's hoped that some form of water wheel can be built and installed in the other pit to drive a generator, giving the opportunity of producing some electricity from the waters of the Frome. There is a lot of untapped potential for small scale hydroelectric power generation in the Stroud valleys, most of which remains unused. Hopefully, something will come of this scheme, once again, putting the mill at the forefront of technological developments.

Fortunately, despite the worst flooding the village has seen in decades, there was no flooding at the mill. However, because of the 'once in a century' risk of flooding, the ground floor of the mill will not be used for apartments, simply as an entrance lobby. The ceiling of this is supported on very attractive recycled cast iron columns, brought in from elsewhere. These will make a nice feature of appropriate age.



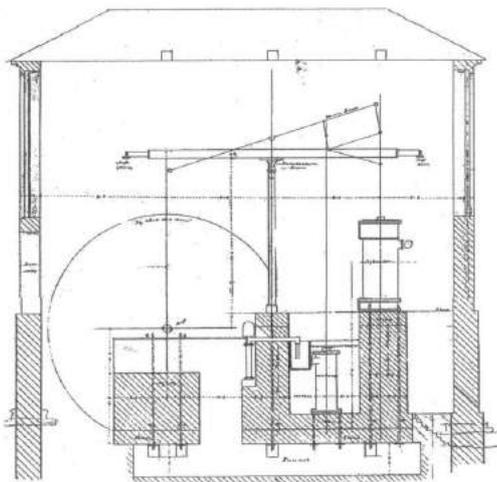
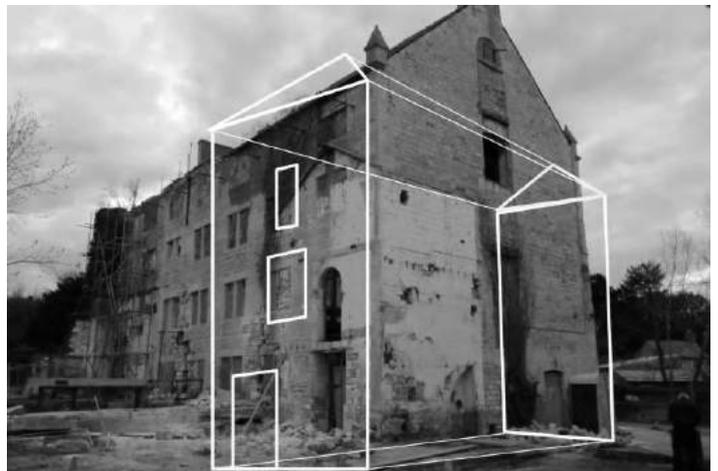
**Sections of the new steel framework being craned into place.**

## Historical findings

From an archaeological point of view, the most interesting thing to come to light has been the remains of the steam engine house, added to the end of the mill some time around 1820. As mills became bigger and installed more machinery, greater amounts of power were needed. There was only so much that could be provided by water wheels (and of course, water was sometimes in short supply), so a few enterprising cloth mill owners of the period installed steam engines to boost their mill's output. The one at Millend was installed by Henry Hicks and was one of the earliest beam engines in Gloucestershire. It produced 14 horse power and was supplied by Boulton & Watt, one of the most iconic firms of the industrial revolution. It doubtless gave Hicks the edge over many of his competitors as he was now able to keep his mill running whatever the weather.

During the past year, the developers finally removed some of the concrete base of the now-demolished 1930-40s buildings that originally stood at the mill's western end (the end facing Churchend). As hoped, as well as almost the entire footprint of the engine house, it also revealed evidence of the steam engine itself. Although all of the iron components had long gone, most of the huge stone blocks that supported the engine were still in place. In places, the holes for the long iron rods used to anchor down the main parts of the engine were identified. A small (18 inches square) tunnel that ran underneath the stone blocks and allowed access to the underside of the engine was also uncovered. Remarkably, much of the engine's base survives below ground level. This, as well as other evidence relating to the engine house, now visible on the mill's eastern wall, was carefully recorded and reported, before it was covered up again. This was a find of some importance as there were relatively few such engines installed in Gloucestershire as a whole. Any information only helps paint a fuller picture. Full details of the excavation are available on the **Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology's** website at: <http://www.gsia.org.uk/reprints/2011/gi201103.pdf>

Right: How the Millend engine house originally looked. The graphic is fitted to the surviving footprint and is based on the dimensions of a similar engine house that stood nearby at Churchend Mill.



Left: Side view of how the engine house with the beam engine inside (from Boulton & Watt records of 1820). Much, such as the large stone plinths that supported the engine, survives below ground level.

Right: Part of the surviving large stone platforms that carried the engine's main components. The blocked openings in the mill wall were probably where power was transferred into the mill.



## Wildlife in the Parish

Last year was a wash-out for lots of reasons. April, May and June are the three important months for carrying out wildlife surveys - especially when you're on the look out for important wildflower-rich meadows. But in 2012 the constant rain during those three crucial months prevented us from carrying out much work on the habitat survey of the Parish. We did do some surveying around Cress Green during May but nothing outstanding was discovered. It appears so far that the two most interesting sites for wildflowers are St. Michael's Churchyard and the 'Little Chef' roundabout on the A419! Still undeterred we will try again this year.



I am also hoping to carry out a survey of two bird species in the Parish during 2013 - HOUSE SPARROWS and HOUSE MARTINS. This should be something that everyone can take part in. Everyone is familiar with the house sparrow, our once commonest of birds, but recent years have seen them go into decline. House sparrows are at home in the eaves of old houses, especially when there is lots of tree and shrub cover nearby where they can hide. They did particularly well when everyone had privet hedges around their gardens - especially if these got tall and out of hand. But now modern homes present a hostile environment for sparrows with no entry for them to the roof space and the trend towards low maintenance gardens with decking and dwarf shrubs. House martins are also in decline. Although in theory there is no shortage of suitable sites for them to breed, the houses where they build their nests need to be close to a source of mud. In fill development often means that sites where mud can be collected for nest building are lost and house martins tend to be around the edges of towns and villages when they can find wet mud on urban fringes. Full details of how to take part in these surveys will be in the next edition of ECN.

Finally, the Environment Agency (EA) - working with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) - has plans to improve the River Frome for wildlife. This river is an important wildlife feature running through the Parish, but like so many rivers in lowland Britain they are under pressure. Adjoining land - vital to the health of the river - is often developed or intensively farmed leaving little in the way of vegetation along the edge. Poaching by cattle, discharges from sewage works, historic straightening, weirs, runoff from roads and farm land (even canal construction) have all impacted on our rivers over the years. But now the European Union in an extremely ambitious piece of legislation - snappily known as the Water Framework Directive - has decreed that every water course in Europe should be in good ecological status by 2027. This is no easy task but during 2013 the EA and GWT will be bringing forward plans to restore parts of the river within the Parish. This will be done in consultation with local people who live and work by the river and will be carefully planned to ensure there is no increased risk of flooding. In fact improvements should actually help reduce flood risk. The main reasons why the Frome has a failing status at the moment is the presence of phosphate in the water from run-off and obstacles such as weirs which obstruct fish passage. (Did you know that salmon occur in the Frome as far upstream as Fromebridge Mill but the weir there prevents them from going any further?). Look out for more details in future editions of ECN.

If anyone wants further information on any of these projects in the meantime I can be contacted at [colin.studholme@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](mailto:colin.studholme@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)



Wild plant charity Plantlife ([www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)), is hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the *Wild About Plants* project website - [www.wildaboutplants.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk). The *Wild About Plants* project aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local green spaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with fantastic free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. *Wild About Plants* is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project - involving partner organisations throughout the country.



## Eastington Weather 2012

Perhaps one of the more distinct and memorable years of recent times, we saw further proof of the effects of global warming producing the kind of weather instability that will probably become more common over the next few decades.

### Temperature

We saw one of the coolest summers in recent times - average daily maximums over 20 degrees C were lower in number than in the last 20 or so years. In fact, our summer consisted of a week in May, a week in June and two weeks in August. We correspondingly also saw a very mild January - March and December. It is also noteworthy that Summer night-time temperatures were not reduced and were, in fact, higher than normal (mostly due to the low pressure/cloudy nights).

### Rainfall

This, clearly, was the feature of the year. In fact from January to late April it was well below average and another dry year was on the cards. However the jet

stream didn't shift north as expected and the depressions began to swing in from the west. The rainfall from 20th April onwards was then just under double what it should have been in a normal year.

Strangely the actual number of days on which it rained was only up 40% on normal but the volume was much higher and came in just under 1000 ml. ( average 680 ml).

After mid April there were only three windows in which to holiday or take any form of harvest. Sixteen consecutive dry days in May, ten in June and a nine- day spell in September and a twelve day one. Apart from that we didn't get more than three consecutive days anywhere else!!!!!!

**Mark Campbell, Westend.**



## COUNTDOWN TO DECISION ON GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASTE INCINERATOR

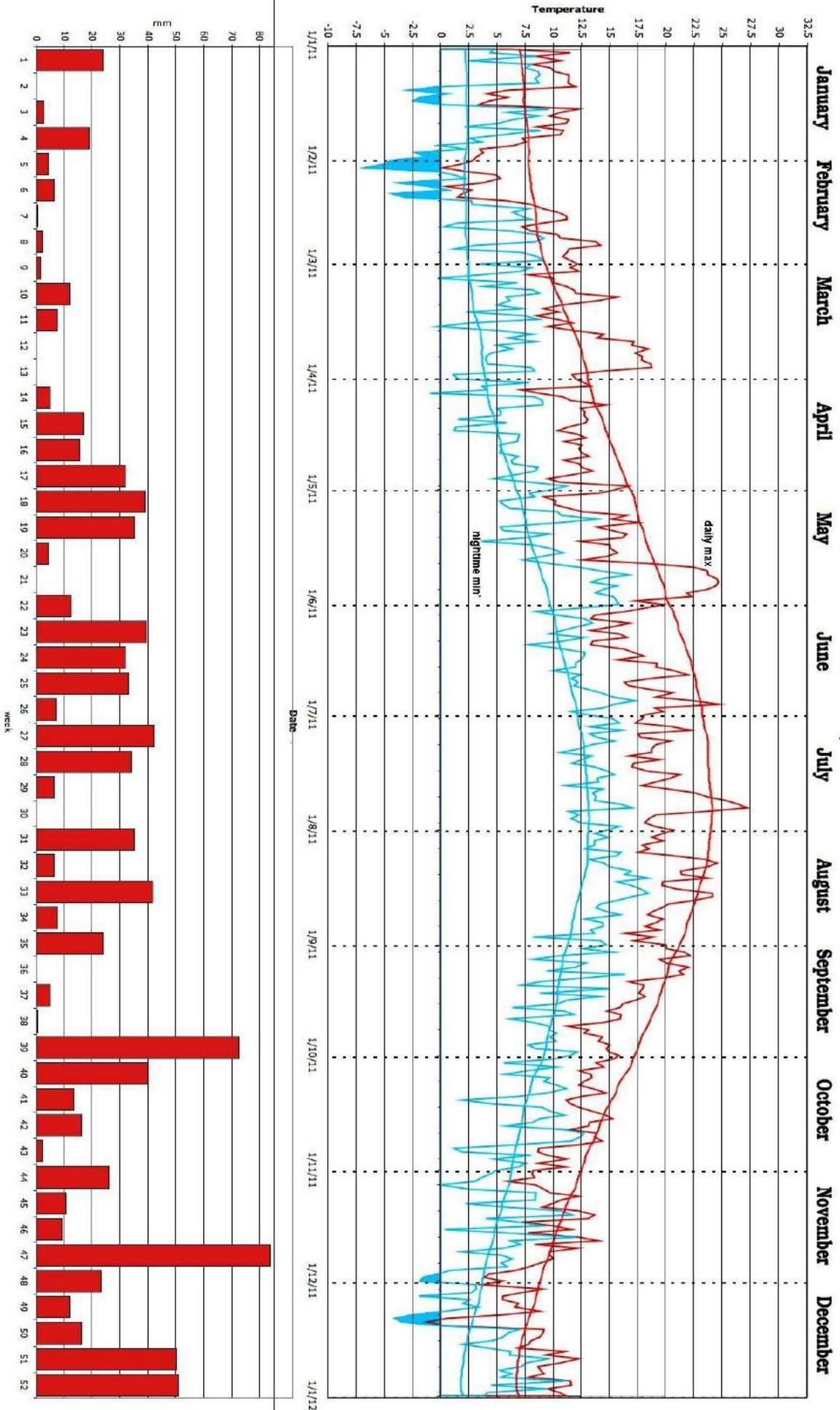
**THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:** To decide on the proposal soon, possibly in February. The Committee needs to see the strength of public opposition to the proposal and to hear our message loud and clear.

*Get on-board, get a return ticket:* We are organising bus transport to the meeting. Whether or not you need a seat on a bus near you, please REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN ATTENDING NOW at [www.glosvain.info/PlanningDDay](http://www.glosvain.info/PlanningDDay). As soon as the meeting date and location are announced, we will post the details online and email those that have registered their interest.

**COME ALONG** to one of our public presentations or a screening of the new Jeremy Irons documentary, "TRASHED"

**To take any of the above actions and for more information go to [www.glosvain.info](http://www.glosvain.info)**

# Eastington Weather 2012





©Derek Greenaway

*This aerial photograph showing Churchend and the flooding of the Frome Valley was taken from a glider on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.*

## **Flooding in Eastington**

Sixteen people met on Tuesday 22 Jan to discuss the flooding in Eastington. They have formed a 'Flood Action Group' which will meet again on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2:30pm. If you have anything that you wish to feed into this group, or expertise to offer, please contact Derek Greenaway on [greenaway.parish@btinternet.com](mailto:greenaway.parish@btinternet.com)

Three types of flooding have affected Eastington:

- Flooding from river / watercourses
- Run off from fields
- Sewer overloading

Many people were badly affected by the floods at Millend, which closed Millend Lane for some time. Local residents monitored and photographed the area. Photographs show water level far above the arch of the bridge near the school, forcing the water to flood around the sides of the bridge. At one point the level of the river was at the same level as the road.

Rubbish and vegetation (trees and dumped hedge clippings) slow the flow of the Frome and Tilley Brook - if the rivers could flow away faster they would not back up. The volume of water flooding off the fields, the inadequacy of the culvert and the drains all contributed to the flooding of Millend Lane.

In other areas of the parish away from the main watercourses, including Spring Hill, Middle Street and Westend, there were flooded properties and 'near misses'. The reasons? Badly maintained ditches which overflowed, drains blocked with mud, fallen leaves impeding the flow away of flood water. Compaction of the soil and possibly lack of field drains contributed to the huge amount of water run-off from the fields.

Clearly there is work to be done to improve the situation in our parish. The parish needs to own and manage its flooding problem. The 'Flood Action Group' will work together with landowners and the authorities to fully define the problem, find where the responsibilities lie and ask for urgent remedial action and a regular maintenance programme.

## CHURCHEND ORCHARD STRUGGLES THROUGH THE SNOW



The heavy snow in the early hours of Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January played havoc with our fruit cages, nestling into the mesh overnight. By the morning, several tons of snow had accumulated – you'd have thought it should have dripped through the mesh, but oh no.

The result was a series of what looked like massive ice cream cones, without the biscuity, crunchy bit, which three of us had to bash out until the netting re-gained its shape. A second team was whistled up on the Saturday to complete the clearance and roll the netting back on our fat roller – like we should have done a month ago (of course).

Some damage was done to the wooden frame but the netting is safe now for the rest of the winter.

**New Orchard coming soon** - Residents of William Morris House are waiting for the freeze to pass so that they can plant out ten trees to augment their mature Bramleys and their considerable vegetable plot. Photos and details in the next edition.

**Maybe another New Orchard?** - Behind the seven new houses nearing completion by the Kings Head, there is a small piece of land. We are talking to the Housing Association about taking that over for the village as another orchard (it is a scrubby mess right now). If we are successful, it would be very convenient for folks living in the centre of the village, who could join the ECO Group and help to turn this plot into a useful community space.

The Parish Council has kindly put some money aside to help with the purchase, should we achieve it, whilst two local charities have indicated they too would help us with set-up costs. Fingers crossed.

**Apple Juice Sales** - Thanks to all our volunteers who have manned market stalls in November and December to sell our apple and pear juices. Despite the poor crop, we have earned over £800 which buys a lot of trees.

**Orchard Skills courses** - Some members are going on courses to revive the old skills – grafting (which will save us the cost of buying trees) and pruning, which will become increasingly important as our young trees mature. If you would like to help in our Community Orchards and learn new skills, contact us at

<http://www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk>

### THANK YOU

Clair and Dale would like to thank everyone who has sent messages, cards, flowers, kind words and scones and for all the donations to S.A.N.D.S. at this very sad moment in our life.

Stanley John Haines born sleeping  
09/01/2013

Clair and Dale x

### CANALSIDE GARAGE – THANKS

Sid Lord recently finished at Canalside Garage and would like to say many thanks to all his customers for their custom and loyalty over the last sixteen years.

## A Birder in the Parish

**25/10/12:** northerly winds, much fresher but still overcast and dank. Massive numbers of migrants reported incoming nationally, including some very rare birds, two in particular on Portland causing a lot of excitement - a probable Pale Legged Leaf Warbler, and a rare race of Stonechat.

**Tuesday, 06/11/12:** frustrating day for birding, but also one that gave us a new Parish tick. Late in the day, a Yellow Browed Warbler was found by NG at Stayte's - a really good addition to the Parish list! I popped up for a look, but light was very poor, and no sign, but it did call; a tiny little warbler from Eastern Europe, always on the move and always elusive.

**Sunday, 11/11/12:** Aylburton Warth for Lapland Bunting. Parked at Lydney Harbour and walked down the estuary for about three miles - difficult to imagine a better place to be in Glos on a day like this, the vast open space of the Severn estuary. Two other birders also there looking, but no sign of the bird.

**13/11/12:** popped into Gloucester for some Christmas shopping. Got there early, and found a male Black Redstart calling, perched high up, just where Bull Lane meets Westgate - not the usual place to find a bird as rare as that! Normally one or two over-winter at Sharpness docks, but not in Gloucester city centre!

**Wednesday, 21/11/12:** heavy, prolonged and slow moving rain all through last night and most of today. Lot of standing water in the east meadows, ditches and field drains brimming over. Rain stopped by early p.m., but floods continue to rise and, as usual, Millend Lane impassable.

**22/11/12:** 'dangerous' winds, and more heavy rain expected this evening. More than a thousand gulls now present on the east meadow floods, just about all Black headed Gulls, feeding on drowned earthworms. Few Lesser Black Backed and Herring Gulls join in - they will go for voles too.

**26/11/12:** floods subsiding, but still 1000+ gulls, with some Common Gulls. Turning very cold.

**01/12/12:** still very cold, with heavy frosts. Slightly warmer by the afternoon, with more rain due. First time I've seen *trichomonosis* in Siskins, with a sickly bird at the feeders today.

**10/12/12:** freezing fog tonight; days are clear, but spreading vapour trails hint at changing weather. Not cold enough, though, for one or two moths to be on the wing at night.

**30/12/12:** the back end of weeks of rain; rain showers, more rain, mild, blustery, unsettled weather systems. Turned better on Christmas Eve, with clear sky and glowing Moon, staying pretty good for the rest of that week, but more rain coming in for the weekend. Predicted better for New Year's Eve.

**06/01/13:** mild, but *stratus* days; Song Thrushes, Robins, Blackbirds and Redwings all singing; daffodils and snowdrops growing apace - seems like the natural world is two weeks early this year, rather than last year's two weeks late. Uncanny softness about the weather, but nice.

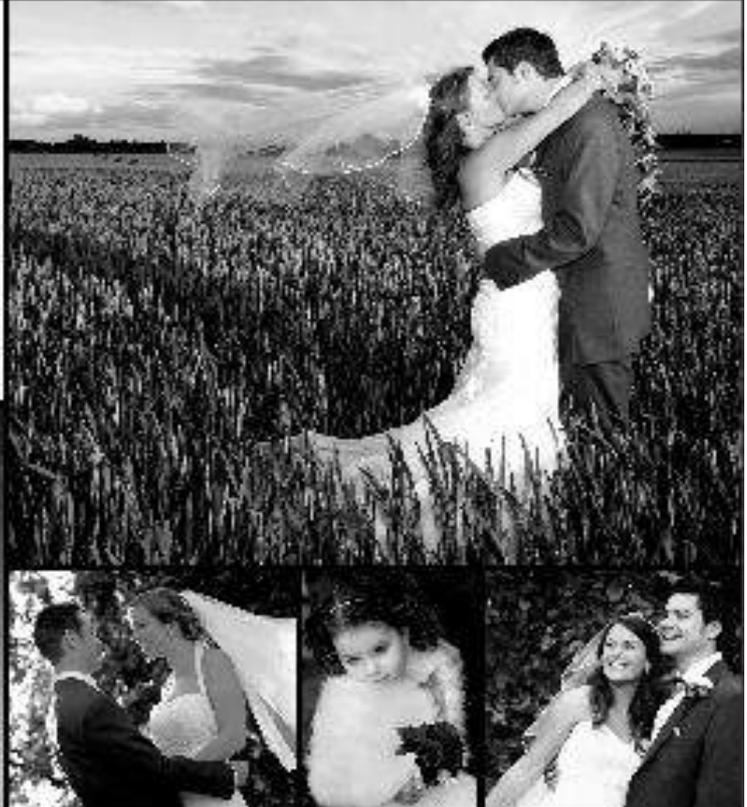
**11/01/13:** really good views of the Bittern from Zeiss Hide at Slimbridge WWT, showing right out in the open, wing stretching and feeding - brilliant..!

**15/01/13:** walked up the Frome south arm to check for over-wintering Chiff Chaffs. Found eleven, all feeding close to the water margins; also flushed a Common Snipe and found a male Blackcap on his winter territory near loads of mistletoe berries - so at least three males and a female at Millend this winter. Two Cormorants on a pylon further up-stream, and a pair of Ravens in nuptial display (they are early breeders) heading for the Cotswold edge. A couple of Meadow Pipits found feeding by the river margin.

**16/01/13:** on Millend feeders today, at least twenty Blackbirds, twenty-one Chaffinches, twelve Greenfinches, at least seven Goldfinches and three Bramblings - really good selection of birds, but the site will, I'm sure, soon be found by a hunting Sparrowhawk, which will make all the birds very nervous.

**Friday, 18/01/13:** moderate snowfall throughout the day - three Bramblings still on the feeders, and up to twenty-nine Blackbirds by early Saturday morning. Difficult for the birds to find seed put out for them, but sometimes the Jackdaws will come in and peck out some of the snow to get their share, which will help the smaller species. Pair of Collared Doves, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, and one or two Song Thrushes, and a Fieldfare also present. Most birders across the County are getting Bramblings at their feeders - a stunning bird, well worth a close look with the 'scope! They tend be 'irruption' winter visiting birds, in that they either come into the UK in good numbers, or are very hard to find - just so happens this year is a good one for them. Still reports of Waxwings in the County, though not in the Parish unfortunately.

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## **THE POPPY APPEAL 2012/2013**

The 2012 collection although a little bit down on last year will still be in excess of £2,000.00.

My thanks to all who have helped me and contributed to Eastington and District making a valuable contribution to the work of the Royal British Legion over the 15 years that I have organised the collection in this area.

The time however, has come when I must ask for someone else to take over the job of Poppy Organiser, you don't have to be a member of the Legion to carry out this function.

The demand for the care and support provided by The Royal British Legion for members of the Armed Forces and their dependants remains as great as ever and the Poppy Appeal is the major source of revenue for this essential work.

Unlike many other organisations begging for money, I have always found the Poppy Appeal being recognised as being one that is willingly supported, making the job far more pleasurable and worthwhile.

I will be only too pleased to provide all the information needed to carry out this role, which is not difficult and needs little involvement other than for two weeks of the year.

Please contact me ASAP.

**John Darwent. 01453 822040**

