

Eastington Community News

October / November 2013

Nº. 141

I hope you had some opportunities to enjoy the exceptionally good summer. It certainly made up for the really cold and late start. Welcome to Dorian and Sam Charlton who are the new owners of the King's Head. It's good to see the restoration of this once impressive building and we have an introduction to the new facilities. At a time when many villages are struggling to retain a pub, we are indeed most fortunate in having two first-rate establishments in Eastington.

While we wait for the outcome of the planning appeal on land south of Swallowcroft and at Newtown, we continue to work on defining what is needed by local people. Developers still say with confidence that they have the Parishes best interest in mind, while avoiding meaningful local dialogue. It is therefore important for us to research our facts accurately and to prepare our data and reports carefully. The Housing Needs Survey (distributed with the last issue of ECN,) is ready to be reported; this is an important document in our community planning process. We don't just have to sit here hoping that one day a developer will pop up and offer what the Parish really needs; there are alternative ways. Inside you can read more about forming our own Community Land Trust to deliver affordable homes for local people. Please come along to a foundation meeting of Eastington Community Land Trust on Thursday 17th October @ 7:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall.

Parish Matters this time is by Cllr. Muriel Bullock as the new Chair of Eastington Parish Council. Cllr. Ken Stephens is taking a well-earned break but will be back with his regular and informative District Councillor letter in the next issue. We also hope that our County Councillor, Lesley Williams, will become a regular contributor to ECN. Sometimes it can help to have clarification of what exactly is done by the three different levels of councils.

Delving into the recent past of Eastington, tales of Fred Ireland's 'man o' soil's history,' takes us back to a time when there was just one car in Eastington. For some it may come as a surprise that a railway ran through the Village, and there are other interesting insights of 'times past' in Eastington.

Most people know about Jonah and the whale, but how did he get in that predicament? We might feel that trying to get out of doing something is something modern. If so, read Ken Burgin's article inside. There is also a 'canal' slant to this story with the old 'Purton Hulks'.

Do you have a niggling issue you would like sorted by your Community Police Officer? P.C.S.O. Liz Ward invites you to join her Thursday 3rd October 7:00 p.m. Stonehouse Town Council Offices.

Please see the Royal British Legion Appeal and interesting photos too. We also have highlights following another highly successful Eastington Horse Show. Can you help keep the show on the road for another year of its 75 year history?

Many have marvelled at the beautiful craftsman-made gates in the Community Orchard, and now inside you can see another lovingly made gate to connect the orchard to the burial ground. This makes a safer and more pleasant and peaceful way to walk to Church or School to avoid congestion from parked cars along Spring Hill. Make a note in your diary for Apple Day Saturday 19th October and let Tom know if you have apples or pears spare for juicing.

If you fancy 'flower arranging on a budget' then you might like to make a note for Saturday 16th November at St. Michael's Church. (Coffee and Cakes from 10 a.m.)

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

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Eastington Parish Council. Parish Matters



My first article for E.C.N. must be to record a huge thank you to Andrew Niblett who resigned as Chairman and Councillor in August.

Andrew served as a councillor for over 10 years, nine of them as Chair. He has been involved in fighting off several unwanted planning applications, helping to keep our Parish rural. He also helped us gain the Vibrant Village award which we are very proud of. These are just a few of the achievements of the Council during his term as Chair.

On a personal note I would like to thank him for all his help and encouragement when I was co-opted as a councillor and later as vice chair.

We also offer a very warm welcome to our new Clerk, Andrea Durn, who took up her post in April. She has been a great help to me during this busy time.

As we move forward as a Council I can assure our Parishioners we will work for the good of the Parish; any concerns reported to us will be addressed as quickly as possible.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month and welcome anyone to attend.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help you or you can help us.

Muriel Bullock

Chair of Eastington Parish Council

murielbullock@gmail.com Tel: 01453 826172

Eastington Village Quiz

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

The Community Centre

Owen Harris Memorial Ground

**Friday 18th October 2013, 7.30 for
8.00 Start**

Team's maximum of 6 (or make up a team on the night!)

All will be very welcome

Tickets £6.00 per head which includes a Ploughman's Supper

Bar available, Raffle

Please make sure you book your table by 1st October 2013

Tickets available from:

Robin Harris 01453 823433

Jacky and Mike Naylor 01453 828682

All proceeds to St Michael and All Angels Church Funds



Building Affordable Homes in Eastington for Community Benefit by a Community Land Trust (CLT)

Over the years Eastington has seen a lot of action by developers aiming to provide the sort of housing that makes best commercial return for them, and naturally this is what is expected from 'market forces'. The design and size of homes in the past generally met the need of local people but more recently the system has failed to provide appropriate size and style of houses wanted in Eastington.

It has been clearly demonstrated that a 'Community Land Trust' (CLT) is viable and desirable way of delivering the sort of homes that local people need, and we could do that here in Eastington too.

Many of you will be aware of the Cashes Green Hospital site along the road from here, but did you know that this is the site of the biggest CLT development in the Country and is providing the sort of homes truly needed by local people?

Here in Eastington we don't need a big development, but plan to form our own CLT for a modest development of new homes. There are experts ready and willing to help us start our own CLT and enabling funding is available.

To begin our own CLT for Eastington we have set up a 'Steering Group' under the auspices of the Parish Council and we want to give an open invitation to you as a parishioner to join that group or just to hear about options for this Parish. We will be holding a Public Meeting to introduce you to progress so far and for you to hear more about it and think about joining us.

Foundation of Eastington Community Land Trust Thursday 17th October @ 7:00 p.m. Eastington Methodist Hall

- the vision for the Eastington Community Land Trust
- an invitation for membership
- results of Eastington's Housing Needs Survey

Please make a note in your diary and join us for an interesting evening to discuss possibilities for providing the right sort of development for our Village.

Community Priority Meeting

You are invited to the next Community Priority Meeting, which will be held on **Thursday 3rd of October 2013 at 7:00pm** in **Stonehouse Town Council Office**. We will be able to discuss what issues need to be addressed in the local Stonehouse area, if you would like to add anything to this before the meeting could you please make contact.

Could you please let me know if you can attend.

Liz Ward

PCSO 49081, Stroud LPA, Gloucestershire Constabulary

- ☐ **Stroud Police Station |Parliament Street| Stroud| GL5 1QQ**
- ☐ **Personal - 01452 753510 | Group - 01452 753510| Contact Centre - 101**
- ☐ **www.gloucestershire.police.uk or [Twitter page](#) or [Facebook page](#)**

Success: but housing developers will fight back

In the last edition of EPN I expressed my delight that councillors had voted to reject the 'West of Stonehouse' (WoS) option to build 2,500 houses on the land between the A419 and Standish. Yes, there is now no 'West of Stonehouse' development proposed, however, it has still been identified in the first release of the revised Local Plan consultation document. I understand that the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Geoff Wheeler, has insisted that this is removed. It is clear that although councillors have rejected this proposition completely there are still those at Ebley Mill who would like to see this proposal revived.

More archaeological digs are taking place on the county council land that leads to Black Bridge on the Standish road. This land was not included in the original consultation document last year but was always necessary to provide access roads to any major development. The developers have invested around £750,000 and they *will* submit a planning application, and then go to appeal.

Planning appeals have also been lodged for Swallowcroft and New Town. We have submitted evidence to the inspector to support rejection of the New Town plans and Tom Low and colleagues continue to contest Swallowcroft.

We have reached the point now that instead of fighting our council's plans we are completely supporting them. These plans will go before a Planning Inspector at the Examination In Public (EIP) next year. In the meantime we will be preparing our submission for that EIP.

On a personal note the last eighteen months have been far from easy. Sue Oppenheimer, who has run the Incinerator campaign will, I am sure, be able to describe as we can just how hard, debilitating and expensive these campaigns are.

Public bodies tend to resent campaigners and even in our own communities tensions emerge: If the WoS option were rejected, would those houses then be built in the village of Easington? Was the Parish Council agenda at risk of being dominated by planning issues when other matters should be given equal or more attention? For myself and my colleagues there was never any doubt that these houses should not be dumped anywhere in our Parish, whether WoS or on other land owned by the same land owner and developer. We would, and will, contest any plan that attempts this with equal vigour and indeed will do so should any other plans threaten to overwhelm our community.

Over the last few weeks the news has been dominated by the 'crisis' in housing. We are told that there is a huge need for new housing. There is some truth in this. The country does need more houses. Stroud District Council proposes to build 9,500 more homes, this is around a 20% increase between 2006 and 2031 and an increase of around 21,000 in population, again about 20%. SDC has gone for a policy of growth and is proposing 1,300 more houses than the ONS population projection requires, raising the population projection by a further 3,000 to around 124,000.

Stroud District is a lovely place to live and this drives the developers' aspirations to build more houses. Those aspirations will continue until the level of development has reduced the attractiveness of our district, and then the developers will move on. We have won the battle for our community but we have not won the 'war'. That will only be achieved when the Local Plan has been approved, unaltered, by the Planning Inspector at EIP.

It is now of the utmost importance that our community gets involved and helps complete the Neighbourhood Plan that, when consulted upon, is enshrined in law and will help protect the community from unwanted and unnecessary development.

Daniel James

For DSS [Don't Strangle Stroud].



King's Head strikes a new note

For those of you who have been wondering, the King's Head is to become an Hotel under private ownership and will be opening its doors again in October.

New Owners

After years of brewery or group management, at last we have private owners who will live over the shop. That means investing in the building and caring about the services they will offer.

New Owners Dorian and Sam Charlton are looking forward to being hands-on and welcoming all the locals into the New King's Head House. They believe the hospitality industry is based round people: "It is a human business and can only prosper as one. This unique British institution is not just a room of "covers" and "average spend per head", it's about people, all sorts of people, both customers and staff."

Dorian and Sam have owned and run their hospitality and hotel business for years and are looking forward to growing and investing back into the property, seeing it flourish as the great old late 18th century Georgian House it once was. Both grew up in villages and know how vital a local community is to any public house.

Refurbishment Plans

Where to start! Years of group ownership have seen the old place deteriorate upstairs and down. Basics include 100% rewire, 100% re-plumbing and removal of all the room partitions upstairs.

Positive work will be going into the eight generous bedroom suites, one of which will be the managers' flat. Actually, those won't be ready for the October opening, because that is focused on the ground floor being up and running well in time for the Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations.

The public areas will offer dining experience throughout and a Boardroom in the east wing for conferences and private dinners and celebrations.

Grand Opening.....

Dorian and Sam will be welcoming you from mid October with the dining rooms and Boardroom open for business. On offer will be breakfast for early birds, coffee and homemade cookies for the after school run and lunch, dinner or simply a glass of wine and a snack at any time of day.

After several years away from his chef whites, Dorian is looking forward to being back in his kitchen and is enjoying trialling the new menu on his family, even as I type.

The Boardroom, whilst mainly supporting conferences for local Companies such as EDF and Schlumberger, will also be available for private parties, including Christmas dinners for up to 20 people.

If you are local and have catering skills or great life skills, it's never too soon to make yourself known by e-mailing Sam Charlton on sam@heirsandgraces.com

The website will be detailing menus, photos and events from mid October on www.thekingsheadhouse.com

Join in the Apple Day Fun

.....and take home some fresh Apple Juice

In 2011 we had a very good crop of apples and pears which people brought to the first Apple Day at the OHMG. Here you see the big oak press in action, pressing 5 gallons at a time – you can't do this with a Moulinex. By joining together the spare fruit from 28 gardens we made 500 bottles over that weekend.



Apple Juice Dividend

Everyone who donated (see the dozens of crates along the back), collected or helped with the pressing, had fresh juice to take home.

Pasteurised juice, with a storage life of two years, is also produced for sharing and for sale.

Saturday October 19th 2013

You can join in the fun this year – the crop is just as good as 2011.

Bring pears as well as apples, we blend them to make a softer, sweeter drink.

Activity for children in the half-term

Because the crop is so good, we expect to be making juice through until the end of October. If you would like to join in the processing, learn some new skills and share in the proceeds, **ring Tom on 823425** and we will fit you in during half term for a day or half a day. Parent(s) with children, please and you can all learn together.

Collection Service

Our experienced Orchard Group members will be available to collect fruit from gardens large and small from 28th September onwards. Photo right is a 2012 collection day – despite the weird weather we still managed to make £700 for orchard funds.

If you have very early varieties, please ring Tom on 823425 to arrange a pick up. We will be juicing most Saturdays in October.

The Old Badger helps us make the village greener

Ellie and Julie have agreed to take our new 250cl bottle (that's a one-serving size) to sell over the bar at the Badger as your healthy alternative. Please support them, to support us!

All sales go to planting more trees to restore our orchards and so **Keep Eastington Rural**.



Community Orchard opens for Pedestrians



Ollie and Nel Beach pass through the orchard on their way home from school.

Anyone wanting to avoid walking down Spring Hill by the Burial Ground can start to use the footpath through the Churchend Orchard.. A rather smart oak gate is now in place instead of the rough stile and the ugly old rusty fence has been replaced. We hope this new community asset will be used by children and parents walking to school as well as other walkers of all ages. Benches will be provided soon, should folks wish to contemplate the view. All gates are now wheelchair/pram friendly.

In sunnier times, the grassy areas off the footpath can be used too, apart from the area reserved for the school (nearest the new gate).

An "official" opening of the Orchard will happen in the spring or whenever we can find a suitable personality to do the honours.

Meantime, thanks are due to the members of the ECO Group who have given their free time to create this community asset and particularly to Gary Dingle for crafting all three gates. TL

STONEHOUSE ROTARY

Why not volunteer as a Friend of Rotary and join us today?



We have a full annual programme of local community and charity activities for which we enlist the help of volunteers – men and women who want to give something back to the community. We also run a range of social activities providing you with an opportunity to meet new people and become part of a team. Interested? For more information please contact **Jeremy Warner on 07528 659 380** and visit our website **www.stonehouserotary.org.uk** to learn more about Rotary.



Eastington Horse Show & Gymkhana 2013



The Horse Show proved amazingly popular once again. Carole Prentice and Barrie Yeates very kindly provided a super site on old pasture, Barrie having to confine his reluctant cattle in a small field for preparation and the running of the show. He also provided a lovely sight on the show field with his magnificent Shire horse. Alan and Graham did their usual professional assembling and roping of the rings. Gill and Joy have advanced their driving skills negotiating the chicanes through the waterworks in Nupend towing jumps trailers. Clive and Andy put out and collected show direction signs and manned the entrance gate all day directing and controlling traffic, while Dawn and Jane collected gate money from the cars.

A limited few loyal regulars assembled two show jumping rings the evening before, plus no limits for our hard working secretary Liz Elliott. Mary and Jenny's judges' lunch tent was erected plus an S.O.S. to Andrew Cozens for tables and chairs. There was a major crisis Friday evening with the Hunter Judge in A&E with a broken leg. Thankfully a very good friend stepped in to fill the void.

Apart from our annual rain shower the weather was fine. Daniel, Eric and friends filled the parking field to capacity. The 50+ show trophies were hotly contested all day with the competition in all the rings being of a high standard. A large number of quality ex-racehorses retrained to a new career showing how versatile they can be.

Angie's Dressage arena was full to capacity enjoying this lovely spacious venue.

Later in the day all the rings were dismantled except for the children's gymkhana which was still in full flow! Then a final gathering by Phil of the litter bins, ropes, jumps etc. ready for the cattle to return back to base the following week.

Jim must have been delighted that a year's planning behind the scenes had finally proved so rewarding.

So what about next year?

This show has been running for over 75 years and the proceeds are donated to our local charities and The Air Ambulance, but sadly this will probably be the last unless more help is forthcoming. Due to ill health we have lost some of our real stalwarts and the limited few are finding the burden too much. So, is there anyone out there prepared to help? You don't have to be horsey, we'd be glad of any help you can give i.e., refreshments for helpers, runners between rings, putting up show jumps, car park attendants, secretarial, help man the gates etc.

It will be so sad to see the demise of this wonderful show. If you can help please don't hesitate to call either **Show Secretary Liz Elliott on 077209 87481** or **Joy Spencer on 07875 172841** or **Gill Spencer on 07919 552850**



Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmg.org.uk

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

Tel: Vanessa on 828557

At 8pm on Wednesday 11th September the Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity held its Annual General Meeting at the Eastington Community Centre, with all the Trustees and members of the Management Committee in attendance. Representatives of Eastington Playgroup and Stroud Football Club and Muriel Bullock, newly elected Chair of Eastington Parish Council, were also present.

Mr Ron Bomberg, Chair of the Managing Trustees, conducted the proceedings and began by reading out the Trustees' Annual Report. This was followed by Mr Andrew Cozens', Treasurer, financial report. The examined accounts were approved as a true representation of the charity's finances for the period February 2012 to January 2013.

During the meeting Mr Bomberg explained to those present that, due to unfortunate circumstances, it had not been possible to hold the AGM in June as would have been preferable. In view of the fact that the next AGM is scheduled for June 2014, it was agreed that the elected trustees and elected members of the Management Committee would remain in position until this time. He also outlined that, as per the OHMG charity scheme, specified user groups are required to nominate a member of their group onto the board of trustees. Mr Bomberg is currently the representative trustee for Eastington Cricket Club. The other groups specified in the scheme are Eastington Playgroup and Alkerton Rangers. Previously Martin Elliott had represented Alkerton Rangers, but has had to resign his position as trustee due to a conflict of interest.

Mr Bomberg thanked the trustees and Managing Committee, all of whom are volunteers, for their continued hard work in maintaining and running the fabulous Eastington Community Centre. Particular thanks were given to Mark and Vanessa Cousins for the part they contribute as the hire agents which is a very time consuming role.

Currently there are nine volunteers on the Trustees and Managing Committees, all of whom have a diverse range of experience and skills. Meetings are held once a month and are lively and enjoyable. We are always seeking new members to join us. If you feel that you could contribute in any way, no matter how small, you would be very welcome to come along to a meeting. It's an excellent way to meet new people and there is great satisfaction in knowing that you are helping to make a difference for everyone in our community.

For details on this, please contact Gill Glover on 01453 828782.

If you would like a copy of the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement, please contact Jayne Elder, Secretary to the Trustees on 01453 828027 or jayne.elder@btinternet.com.

Gill Glover

Secretary to the Management Committee

Many will remember Fred Ireland who wandered round the parish in a long coat, with a tall stick, telling his stories to anyone who had the time to listen. In 1992, aged about 82, he wrote or dictated his 'Memories of Eastington' - enough for two instalments so look out for the next issue of ECN.

Photographs with captions courtesy of Stephen Mills.

2 Alkerton Terrace. FEB 1992

FRED IRELAND, MAN O'SOIL'S HISTORY. MEMORIES OF EASTINGTON Part 1

The first C. of E. Parson I knew was George Thomas Altimus Ward M.A. (music). A short, portly Irishman, when motoring wearing a flat-topped peaked naval type hat. A much travelled man having a clear superb voice when chanting during the C of E. services.

The Rector's hall was situated near the Millend side of the Coachhouse yard, entered through a door in the stone wall from Millend Lane, used on Saturday nights for dancing sixpenny Hop. Also Lantern slides; Mr Armstrong worked the lantern.

The Rector's Hall was also used for Sunday School classes and concerts but never on a Friday – the Rector considered all Fridays sacred as Good Friday – he therefore had a considerate Christian witness. For me, a C. of E. Sunday School scholar, the highlight of the year was the Sunday School tea party and annual prize-giving (I have 2 or 3 books now). I have never seen such beautiful buttered batchcake and cakes in my life - supplied by Thomas Sadler of the village, who used to bake using wood.

Mr Ward owned (I understand) the first motor car in the county, AD I, grey coloured; headlights only working when moving.



Rev Ward's car

In 1903, the Reverend George Thomas Altimus Ward (rector, musician, printer, mechanic, and enthusiastic pioneering motorist) arrived in the village. This is his first car, a French-built MORS with the registration AD 1. This was the very first registration of any motor vehicle in the county of Gloucestershire.

The second motor vehicle I remember was a French Donaq (?) three wheeler owned by Fred Clutterbuck the village undertaker. I noticed a coffin strapped across the back, behind the driver.

The first taxi passenger I remember belonged to G. E. Law of Bath Rd. Garage probably a 3 or 4 seater, a somewhat vibrating vehicle for I had a ride at the front being friendly with his son Lionel.

The first motor cycle I remember belonged to Francis Clutterbuck; it was red and had to be pedalled before the engine took over. Later on, Jack Barham had a superb Harley Davidson with long "rib tickling" handlebars.

Harold Brinkworth the fishmonger owned a green Trojan motor van with no differential gear; the back wheels swivelled to negotiate bends in road.

The first football match I remember seeing was by the side of the Frocester road; I walked from Cress Green and crossed the Elm Hay field into the Bath Road, I was then about 4 years of age. I have reason to believe (from memory) that the new playing field was originally part of the football field of years ago for I remember taking a short cut down Snakey Lane instead of Puddlesworth Lane. The Eastington schoolboys also played there.

I remember a small horse-power grinding mill in Middle Street at Oak Cottage - an upright steel shaft extending above ground level. The horse (I seen it myself) pushing a single wooden shaft driving below ground (I presume) a crown wheel and shaft to drive grinding machinery. There was a small window sized opening in the wall (now bricked up). There was also a baker's oven there (not long removed). Strong drink was also supplied – it was a bakery and public house.

Slightly on the right was a very high wooden building housing Percy Croom's high brake on which I travelled to Framilode to the Darrell Arms Hotel. The seats were very high up - the vehicle drawn by four horses with steps at the rear etc.

During the First World War (or just after) I remember seeing the German Prisoners of War marching from Frocester to Frampton, each wearing a field grey flat topped service cap. A railway line ran from Frocester to Frampton to transport gravel to Frocester railway. There was a level crossing over the (now) A38 and it ran over the fields near the road opposite Osborn House.



The mineral railway to Frampton-on-Severn

The two-mile 'Ballast Pit Branch' ran from the Midland Railway at Frocester station, across the fields through Eastington, crossing the Bristol Road near Claypits. It was built during World War I, mainly by German prisoners of war, to transport gravel. Prior to this, most gravel was shipped out via the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal. In 1918, a detachment of the Royal Defence Corp was stationed near the Frampton gravel pits along with several hundred POWs.

Seven different small locomotives were used on the branch and the various lines around the pits. This shows an 0-4-0 engine belonging to John Aird & Co. Gravel extraction ended around 1920 and within a few years, the Claypits level crossing was removed.

I well remember the last World War peace celebrations. Tea and concerts in the Rector's Hall and burning the effigy of Little Willie, the German crown prince, in front of the King's Head Hotel. I saw the silvery tin cross on his tunic. Later a tea and more "male" refreshments at the school. Servicemen were allowed to take a friend. Octavius Hulbert sang comic songs and I saw Walter Lewis playing the flute. There was a fancy dress exhibition down the Flat cricket field. Walter Lewis dressed as Robinson Crusoe and his brother dressed as a woman. Young Sidney Lewis was dressed in Khaki – his father was killed on active service. The band there played on a farm wagon; Octavius Hulbert playing a trombone.

Captain Turner of the Grange, Eastington, acted very kindly giving sports with prizes down the flat cricket field - one a tug of war 10 men against 20 women, the prize 10 shillings. The women won (having weight on their side). The prize, the price of a pint of beer, 6 pence each.

Part 2 in next issue...

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Eastington Christmas Party!

Raising money for
Eastington Primary School
& Eastington Playgroup

Sparkling wine reception, Dinner and Dancing
Live Band and Entertainment

Saturday 14th December 7pm
@ Owen Harris Memorial Ground
Carriages at 12am

Tickets £15
Please contact Victoria
07741254386
or Kim 07775332929



Pasty and Pudding Night!

at Cleeve Cottage, Millend Eastington
Saturday 23rd November 2013 at 7.30 pm

Tickets £7.00 per head which includes a Pasty
and Pudding plus a beer or glass of wine.
(Dietary options available but please let us
know in advance)

Entrance by Ticket only, available from:
Robin Harris 01453 823433
Jacky and Mike Naylor 01453 828682

All proceeds to St Michael and All Angels
Church Funds

ROTARY CLUB OF SEVERN VALE PRESENTS...



A toe-tapping evening of Gospel Music, raising funds for Alistair and Helen Sammon's
medical equipment needs in Western Tanzania, and other Rotary Charities, featuring:

OUT OF THE ASHES

"A head-spinning cornucopia of musical eclecticism..."
(Crossrhythms.co.uk)



THE BEACON
Gospel Choir

Beautiful harmonies... Not to be missed!



7:00pm Saturday 12th October

The Capital Venue (Waterwells Business Park, Gloucester, GL2 7AB)

Tickets £12 (includes wine & canapés)

For tickets, contact the box office on:

01452 223214 or 01452 883450

or visit www.thecapitalvenue.com

THE CAPITAL
Venue

Supported by the Rotary Clubs of Severn Vale and Gloucester
Rotary Club of Severn Vale Trust Fund. Registered Charity Numbered 1100046
Out of the Ashes are represented by Your Church Event
For information and bookings contact info@yourchurchevent.com





MOBILITY CORNER

Peter & Caroline formerly of Homechoice Mobility, are pleased to announce the opening of their new showroom and workshops at:

**UNIT 1A CAMBRIDGE MILL, CAMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL2 7AA
(NEAR THE GEORGE PUBLIC HOUSE ON THE A38)**

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We are open Monday & Friday 9am to 5pm

All other days and times by appointment.

www.mobilitycorner.co.uk www.cotswoldcrafts.co.uk

Email: info@mobilitycorner.co.uk or cotswoldcrafts1@hotmail.co.uk

OFFICE 01452 742171; PETER 07811 765257; CAROLINE 07817 900434



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to those people who have already offered to help with this year's Poppy Appeal collection in Eastington.

I could use a few more helpers – please get in touch with me if you can spare a few hours for this worthwhile cause.

I thought you might like to see these photos of my great uncle, Len Cox. He is a Normandy veteran, wounded twice in action. The photos were taken in Arromanches, Normandy, which was 'Gold Beach' in the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944.



The first photo was taken inside the Tourist Information Office in Arromanches – it shows him standing in front of his portrait there.

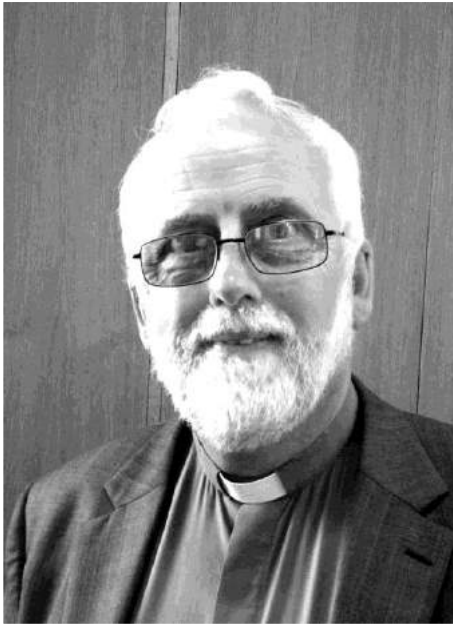
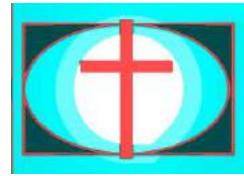
The second photo was taken outside the same Office. If you look carefully at the picture on the wall above his head, you will see that it is him in the picture.

He is rightly proud of his war service, and we are proud of him and his fellow service men's heroic action. I am sure that you will support them in this year's Poppy Appeal.

Thank you!

Kathryn Gribble

01453 825279 email katgribble@hotmail.com



By way of hello

Some of you may know Revd. Noel Sharp. You may also be aware that as from 1st September Noel took up a position at Christian Aid as the co-ordinator for Gloucestershire. This has meant that I have now taken over pastoral oversight of the Methodist Church in Eastington a year earlier than originally anticipated. Just as you were getting to know Noel, as what sometimes happens in Methodism, there is a change of minister and you have to get to know someone different. So I thought it would be helpful if I wrote a little about myself.

Prior to moving to Gloucester two years ago I had spent 23 years or so living in Norfolk. Firstly at Gorleston where I worked in a tool room of a large company that manufactured egg cartons. After completing ministerial training we moved to Aylsham in Norfolk taking up my first ministerial appointment. Staying in Norfolk and fairly near to Gorleston enabled my daughter, Andrea, to complete her 'A Levels'. Andrea is now married and living in Burton upon Trent. Gaynor, my wife, has

been able to continue in the same work she had in Norfolk as a health care assistant.

This is my tenth year in ministry; in Norfolk I served churches in market towns and some smaller rural villages. When I arrived in Gloucester I served 5 Churches, in Churchdown, Hartpury, Tibberton, May Hill and Newent. After a recent shuffle around I now serve four churches in Churchdown, Eastington, Quedgeley and Stonehouse.

For relaxation I enjoy cooking, with some of my spare time between now and December being taken up baking Christmas cakes and making Christmas puddings for family and friends.

Revd. Graham P Miles

Jonah and the Video

As a theme, the services and Bible studies have been looking at the book of Jonah (of whale fame). In 2009, the young people made a video of this story and it can still be viewed at:

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk/jonah_emc_2009.wmv

The main locations used in the shooting of the video were the Purton Hulks, where a number of old boats were beached to protect the banks of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, and Keynes Park in the Cotswold Water Park south of Cirencester.

The part of the story of Jonah most people remember is a simple one. God tells Jonah to do something – Jonah decides he doesn't want to do it – God thwarts Jonah's effort to run away (that's how he ends up in the whale) – Jonah repents (apologises to God and commits to do what God told him to do) – Jonah is rescued – Jonah does what he was told to do. That is the part portrayed on the video.

But the story in the Bible does not end there. Jonah goes to Nineveh, as instructed by God, to tell the people living there that God is going to wipe them out because of their sins. The people of Nineveh repent of their sins and God forgives them. Jonah reacts by going into a huff – he wanted to see Nineveh destroyed because firstly, the Ninevites were the enemies of his people and secondly, he risked looking a fool because what he said would happen, didn't. He didn't think the Ninevites deserved God's mercy – God disagreed.

Jonah then argues with God (in spite of his experience with the whale) and, while his hissy fit continues, God teaches Jonah about His mercy and His power and explains why He did not destroy Nineveh. You can read this part of the story for yourselves in the Bible – but look up Jonah in the Old Testament contents section as it is a very short book and easy to miss if flicking through.

Next time something good happens to someone you don't think deserves it, please read through Jonah. It says a lot about God's mercy but it also says a lot about our own questionable attitudes and motivations.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk



Kidzone is a club for both boys and girls, between the ages of 7 and 11. It meets weekly, (in term time) on Wednesday evenings, between 6:15 and 7:30pm. The venue is Eastington Methodist Church with a charge of 75p per session which includes a drink and biscuit.

Each week we have fun doing cooking, crafts, and playing games. Next week we'll be making dens.

We also have a short video each week, and sometimes make music and do dance.

So why not come along and join us next week?

And even better, bring a friend too!

For more info contact: Ken or Beck Burgin 01453 827414 or 07511197265.

Eastington Baby and Toddler Group

We've just started back after only one week's Summer break, and there is room for more of you!

So if you're a Mum with a child or children between the ages of birth and three, why not come along and join us?

The morning starts at 10am with play (toys, puzzles, books).

Around 10:30am we do a craft, cooking or art activity.

11am snacks for Mums/Dads/Grans and children. The children's snacks are very healthy – not quite so much those for adults.

11:15 am or so we sit together to share actions songs.

And every other week a Bible story with pictures or some sort of interaction.

The cost for all this? Just £1:50 for the first child and carer, and 50p for additional children or adults, up to a maximum of £2.50.



We look forward to seeing you soon. Contact: Beck Burgin 07511197265



Summer Term

Our focus for the Summer term was exploring Expressive Art and Design. We collected natural materials such as pebbles and shells and made natural sculptures to explore textures. We had a parent in for a morning who teaches dance and we had a great session learning the 'butterfly dance'. It was lovely for a parent to come in to share their expertise with the children who all loved the experience of dance and movement.

A big thank you to Lucy Powell (Henry) for her time and enthusiasm.

We had another volunteer in to run a sports session with the children - we played football, team games, relay races and assault courses- it was great fun!!!! Another big thank you to Yak Mulla for his time given to Playgroup too – a very hot day but most enjoyable with refreshments of cold drinks and lollies!!

We have also been busy digging, planting and watering our few plants in our allotment – we have great plans for the future so watch this space for developments!

In July we said goodbye and good luck to our older children, who have left us to go on to their next adventure at primary school – we wish them all well and would like to say yet another big thank you to all our parents who have supported the Playgroup during their children's time with us.



Our New Year

We have now started another exciting term and welcome back our existing and also all of our new children who have begun to get to know each other and settle into routines with the support from their key person and working with families to encourage this.

If you would like your child to enjoy a stimulating, fun and safe environment to learn and play in then we would love to hear from you. Spaces for September 2013 are filling up very quickly and some sessions already have a waiting list. However if you are interested in coming for a visit then please contact us - we would love to meet you!

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children in a well established community based group.

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

Our ultimate goal is to enable the children to have fun, explore and have the freedom to express their individuality, while forming the basis of their education.

We accept children from the age of 2 years and 6 months to 5 years and operate 4 days a week (Monday – Thursday) offering full and half day sessions. We accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer-supported childcare vouchers. If you would like to have a look around our fantastic facilities and have an informal chat please call one of the staff on **07977 342 742**.

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The Cross, Eastington T:01453 791251



Autumn Flower Show feedback

The Village Hall was the venue for the 31st Autumn Eastington Fruit & Flower Show, held 7th September.

The main star in the show was Mrs Q Jones, who took home a generous amount of the trophies and cups to polish for the forthcoming year!

The children's sections were shared between Kate and Eva Underdown, Paige

Culley and Gracie Jones – both new comers to the show.

Refreshments were available, and the draw proved its usual success with plenty of prizes to be won.

Our thanks go to all of those on the Committee who helped this event to take place, and also to the judges for their time and expertise.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Fruit & Flower Committee, or about the next event they are planning, then please contact the show secretary, **Mrs S Underdown on: 01453 823285 or email rogerunderdown@tiscali.co.uk**

The Spring Flower Show will be held mid March 2014, so be sure to look out for the date when it is published in forthcoming publications.





Concert by "Euphony" in St. Michael's. July 14th

"Euphony" is an award winning female choir from New Zealand comprised of students aged between 14 and 17. The choir were over here to compete in the Eistedfodd at Llangollen, where they came third in one of the categories for which they had entered.

There were 29 of them together with their musical director, and two teachers from Kristin school one of whom was Catherine Douglas, Tim and Margaret's daughter. We are most grateful to the Douglas family for arranging the visit and the accommodation for the girls with families in the Benefice.

The word "euphony" is derived from both Greek and Latin words which can be translated as "pleasing to the ear". And that they certainly were, singing a variety of music by New Zealand composers including a Maori song. The quality of their singing was really excellent, and they clearly enjoyed it. All was sung from memory including some difficult harmonies without the benefit of any scores to remind them of the words or notes.

After the concert, there was an opportunity to talk to the girls before they were taken home for a meal and early bed as they were off to enjoy a visit to Stratford-on-Avon the following day.

The concert was well supported and much enjoyed by the 100 or so people who came. There was no charge for admission but, thanks to the generosity of those who came, a retiring collection realised some £460. The Choir regarded their concert as "singing for their supper" and made no charge for their performance. So the proceeds have been shared out among the parishes in the Benefice. W.R.H.

*If you enjoyed this: The Cotswold Youth Singers, who are based in Eastington, will be presenting their Christmas concert at Eastington Church on **Tuesday 17th December at 7pm**. Details will be available nearer the date on posters and in the local press. Come and enjoy this concert of Christmas music and support young local singers.*



'FLOWER ARRANGING ON A BUDGET'

A FREE flower arranging class

Everyone welcome

DATE: Saturday 16 November

VENUE: St Michael's Church

TIME: Coffee & cake from 10.00am

Class starts at 10.30am



Jayne Morris will provide advice and ideas on what to use, how to prepare flowers and greenery as well as demonstrating three different arrangements

Please let Pauline Allen know numbers on 01453 822068 by Monday 11 November if possible



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