

# Eastington Community News

December 2013 / January 2014

Nº. 142

Welcome to a bumper edition of Eastington Community News. Inside are updates from our regular contributors and some brand new ones too. Following our long awaited dry summer, you will have noticed the abrupt change back to cold wet weather. Mark Campbell's weather chart is an interesting reminder of the past year, and Cllr. Bill Edwards' "Footpaths" article alerts those who have not ventured across the countryside recently that the 'going' is soft and muddy. You might prefer to be reminded of an 'Early Morning Walk' by Emma Beard.

We are pleased to welcome a new feature of "Youth Column" and we look forward to young Eastington people developing this in future issues. There is also "great news from the playground" by Eastington Youth Group with an illustration of the much-needed play-park. It is always a pleasure to have news from our Village School with such a very wide range of creative interests and talents. We hear also from Playgroup - from flashing blue lights and sirens to a more peaceful Nativity Play. Make a date in your diary for a Dinner Dance Christmas Party 14<sup>th</sup> December @ Eastington Community Centre (OHMG) in aid of Playgroup and the Village School.

There is an introduction to the new, watertight activities hall for the young people of Orchard Leigh and the Camphill Community. Let's wish them many happy hours enjoying "Mulberry Hall". Following the devastating floods of 2007, there is an article by Cllr. Pauline Allen about maintenance of verges, hedges and watercourses.

No edition of ECN would be complete without reference to major planning matters. Articles from the Parish Council [EPC], 'Don't Strangle Stroud' [DSS], our District Councillor and 'Keep Eastington Rural' [KER] all give important updates. Make sure you have both dates in your diaries! Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January for preparation for the Swallowcroft Appeal [look at EPC notice board for venue and time] - and Swallowcroft Appeal 10:00 a.m. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January @ Ebley Mill see KER article [page 2].

There was good public attendance at the Pegasus Planning exhibition of the massive proposed development 'West of Stonehouse'. Your comments to the developers are important to remind them of your views. There were very few answers to the many questions raised and it seemed this exhibition was largely a formality to comply with pre-planning application requirements. It was interesting to learn that County Highways already have plans in place to restructure the traffic-jammed A419 that passes right through our Parish and are using the developers to verify a solution to the current traffic chaos. Highways have missed out many of the obvious problems from their model, which seems odd since local people were supposed to be involved with the scheme. One thing is very certain; the traffic jams will get even worse if the development goes ahead.

On an historical note there is another instalment of the memories of Fred Ireland [late of this Parish]. I remember Fred well, chatting over our gate, and it's fascinating how far back in time that 'living memory' tales can take us.

It's good to have news from Alkerton Rangers, and to learn of progress at The Eastington Allotments Society [TEAS] and planned new links with the regular 'Flower and Produce Show'. Now could be a good time to apply for an allotment. The 'Juicing' activities by Eastington Community Orchard [ECO] group have taken great strides following a bumper harvest this year. Look for their great offers for truly local Christmas presents!

It's not all mess with the Methodists; there are details of their Christmas Services too. You'll find messages from the 'Angels' inside and times of the Christmas services. The Christmas Carol Service is 3:00 p.m. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St. Michael's.

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**Next Deadline: All articles by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 please!**

**Next Delivery: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 please!**

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

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## Eastington Parish Council. Parish Matters

The Parish Council has employed a planning consultant to help us prepare for the **Swallowcroft** appeal. As part of this we are holding a public meeting on January 6th 2014. Please look for more information to come with venue and time. We would encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend this meeting and also the appeal meeting the day after, on January 7th 2014 – see below.

The more people who attend the better chance we have of getting the right result.

We also received from Robert Hitchins notification of a public consultation on the proposed development West of Stonehouse. If planning permission is granted for this development it would have a huge impact on Nupend, Westend and Nastend.

### Youth Group Playground Project

On a better note the Council was pleased to agree to grant £25,000 from the Charlie Bullock Fund to fund the equipment for the new playground planned by Eastington Youth Group – see page 3.

We look forward to work starting in the spring.

Thanks for all their hard work should go to Kevin Dalby and Jennifer Empson.

**Muriel Bullock, Chair of Eastington Parish Council**

### Swallowcroft Housing – Appeal by Developer

The Appeal Hearing for the proposed 30 houses next to Swallowcroft, is to be heard at Stroud District Council's Ebley Mill on Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am.



It is a public meeting, so you can attend if you want to show your disapproval of this ugly scheme which puts 3-storey townhouses slap in front of the bungalows of Swallowcroft.

The Parish Council and the District Council will have seats at the table and we expect to have a residents' representative speaking as well. A dozen or so folks came to the Planning Committee in June whilst no-one was there supporting the developer.

Similar physical support will be very effective in the confines of the Committee Room where the developer will probably only have a couple of seats at the table.

Ring Tom Low on 823425 or Alan Brasier on 823702 to register interest and/or join in car sharing.

**Keep Eastington Rural!**

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### The NHS 111 Service is now available in Gloucestershire.

You should call NHS 111 if:

- You need medical help fast, but it is not a 999 life threatening emergency
- You don't know who to call for medical help; or
- You don't think it can wait for an appointment with your GP (or if you don't have a GP).

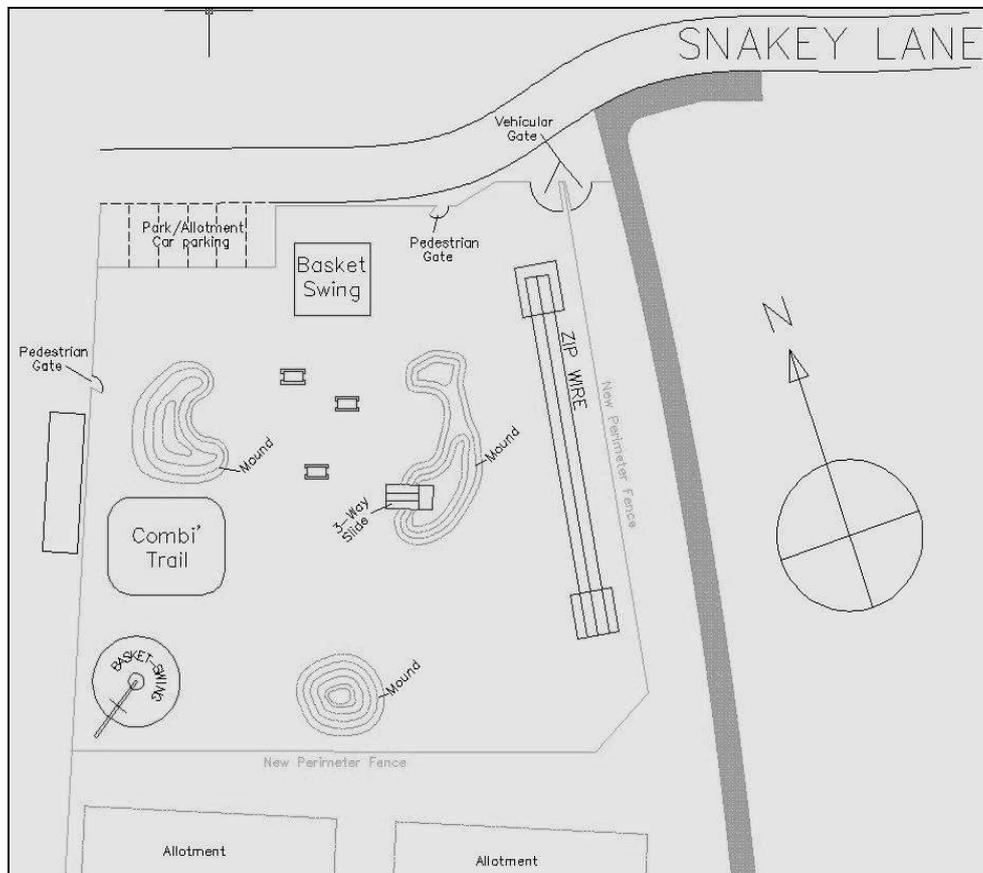


## Great News from the playground!

Over the last couple of months the Playground group have been hard at work - fine tuning the design, working on the budget and most of all trying to secure all the money needed to make the vision a reality.

We are very pleased to announce that after a donation of £25,000 from the Charlie Bullock Fund, we officially have enough funding in place to start the project.

This includes funding for the fence and the key pieces of equipment, some pictured. The proposed layout can be seen below, there are still items that we would like to add when we have a bit more money but for now, we think you will agree, this is a great start!



There is still plenty of room for you to help, we will be hopefully starting work with the fencing and basic ground works in the next month so if you would like to be a part of this exciting project please don't hesitate to get in touch.



We need people to help with the planning, organisation and construction, including making bespoke pieces of play equipment.

It's a great chance to get involved with something really positive for the benefit of the community. At the moment we would be really interested to hear from anyone who has expertise in fencing that they are willing to share.

To get in touch email us at [eastington.yg@gmail.com](mailto:eastington.yg@gmail.com) or at [www.facebook.com/Eastington.playground.project](https://www.facebook.com/Eastington.playground.project)

## Taking care of our borders

The growing season is over for the 2013 summer and the big tidy up or 'putting to bed' our gardens for the winter has started. So this seems the right time to say a really big 'thank you' to all those parishioners who have taken the trouble, and/or expense, for keeping their borders tidy.

Of course, we only receive complaints when these have not been done and we don't receive praise when it has been done so I thought it was about time to do just that!!

**Grass verges and hedges** – thank you for trimming hedges and verges that border on public pavements or roads.

The trouble is that it is often assumed that this is the responsibility of Highways but this is not the case for hedges growing on private land which border a public pavement/road – it is our own responsibility. Highways do have responsibility for keeping some of our pavements clear of grass encroachment and maintaining some identified borders e.g. on either side of the A419 between the M5 and the Oldbury roundabout.

**Watercourses** - there is another type of border that is the responsibility of private owners and requires maintenance: a riparian land owner is one whose property has a river, stream, ditch or culvert running through, or alongside, its border. Owners on either side of a watercourse share this responsibility up to the centre line of the river. These watercourses must be kept clear of any debris that could obstruct the free flow of water on, or alongside, their land. This debris must be cleared away and not allowed to be washed away to block a structure further downstream. If this is not done it adds to the real risk of flooding following heavy and prolonged rain that the parish experienced last winter. The usual obstructions to be cleared include litter, fallen trees, large quantities of grass/weeds and animal carcasses. It is also necessary to remove low lying overhanging branches that could cause an obstruction when the river rises. The structure and stability of the banks can only be maintained by retaining the roots of existing bushes and trees so these must not be excessively cut back or removed. We must also be alert to the riverside wildlife habitat – many animals and birds flourish in these settings.

**So thank you** to all those who have:

- trimmed their hedges and verges so that our public pavements and roads are clear for people and traffic – and they look good too!
- reviewed their watercourses and have cleared, or are about to clear, their patch of debris to help prevent flood risk

It can be difficult for some people to continue to manage these responsibilities especially as they become older or infirm. You may have a kindly neighbour who will clip your hedge or a helpful neighbour on the other side of your watercourse to plan some maintenance.

However, if you wish to discuss a situation before it gets too bad do contact the Parish Council Clerk, Andrea Durn, or myself as we may be able to help with advice on where to turn for help.

Others who may be able to help/advise:

Local Neighbourhood Warden: Phil Drew 07876405833 / [neighbourhood.warden@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.warden@stroud.gov.uk)

Environment Health Agency: David Lesser, Water Resource Engineer 07817 601581 / [David.Lesser@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:David.Lesser@stroud.gov.uk)

Eastington Flood Prevention Group: Tina Park [tinaparkmoomoo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tinaparkmoomoo@yahoo.co.uk)

& Jan Davis, Watercourse Warden: 01453 823786 / [philjan777@btinternet.com](mailto:philjan777@btinternet.com)

**Cllr Pauline Allen, Roads and Transport/Flood Prevention.**

**Eastington Parish Council, Tel: 01453 8122068**

## **A Tribute to John Darwent**

**by Andrew Niblett**

During the sixteen years that my wife Mary or I were members of the Eastington Parish Council, John was always someone who could be relied on to help out or to make things happen. John would offer a few reassuring words to keep us going and he was a remarkable and generously hard working member of the Parish Council. When first the threat of massive development was proposed 'West of Stonehouse' a cross-party, inter parish organization called G-SPAG was formed to represent the views of local people, and John was a very active member of that organisation. He worked tirelessly on behalf of all parts of our Parish that needed defending from multiple assaults by developers and planners. I admired the way he could see right through a fog of misinformation to come up with a way to resolve the matter. Yet he did so in a pleasant but confident manner, and always with a smile on his face. He understood and listened to another person's point of view and showed great empathy; it is a model to be equally valued in our community today.

I so enjoyed working with John on the last 'Swallowcroft' Appeal and being there with him on site with the inspector. We had great fun and were very effective when I joined him at Newent for one of his 'Alternative County Structure Plan' Road Shows. There was more interest from the public in our display on the pavement outside, than there was to the formal Gloucestershire County Council show inside; much to the embarrassment and annoyance of the County Officers!

We count ourselves fortunate to have had the company of John and learned so much from him and we are grateful for the many hours that he devoted to our community. He was greatly respected and will be remembered for his work to support the whole Parish.

### **A few words of appreciation from John's family**

We were very appreciative of the many kind messages of sympathy. Being reminded of how much part of the community John had been was a great comfort."



### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2013**

A big thank you to everyone in Eastington who has donated to this year's Poppy Appeal.

Together, we raised over £1800 in our District. This includes door to door collections, collecting boxes in our local shops, businesses, and schools. The donations are still coming in. I expect to reach nearly £3000 this year. There were generous donations from the Eastington Horse Show, the churches, parish council, and much money was donated at John Darwent's Memorial Service.

I would also like to send a special thank you out to all the new volunteer collectors.

**Kathryn Gribble, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser, Eastington District.**

*"Trust is like a precious vase. Much care and cooperation goes into building it, and much care and respect into looking after it. Once damaged it bears the signs for all time."*

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER**

### **Local Plan.**

This continues. The latest consultation has finished and I expect that another meeting between representatives of groups within the Parish and the Planning Strategy Manager will take place once the responses have been collated. This will be in about 2-3 weeks time. These meetings are, I think, very important in making sure that Eastington Parish is as aware as it possibly can be of the latest position in the process and making sure we are aware of as many threats and trends as possible.

It has to be said that the Judge's decision on SDC's appeal into the inspector's decision on the Box Road site in Cam, is not helpful. The decision was to deny our claims and puts us back as a 20% extra housing land supply district. He did use some rather plain English for a judge on how the case had been presented which may reflect some of the things I have said over the years. Work continues in how this will be treated at Development Control level.

More evidence is arriving, almost daily, on how developers are aggressively using what I personally consider to be the present total national planning chaos to their advantage in both the appeals system and Local Plan formulation. It is accepted now, I think that, developers have upped their game in this and that SDC needs to do the same.

Residents will have had a leaflet regarding a consultation prior to a planning application for the site described as West of Stonehouse. As a member of the Council's Development Control Committee I do not comment on actual or proposed planning applications. What is interesting to me about the leaflet though is what it actually says and where the consultations are taking place. What are matters of fact however are that in the District Council's Local Plan consultations last year, by far, by a very very long way, the biggest comment was **no** to a development West of Stonehouse. Another is the fact that the District Council members voted overwhelmingly to have all reference to a Site West of Stonehouse removed from its draft Local Plan document. As usual I would recommend to residents that they study all communication they receive on such matters and even if they are unable to attend such events respond in some other manner.

The Swallowcroft appeal hearing, to be held in January, is now a very significant event for not just us but the district as a whole. The result of the Elstub Lane appeal, held just after the Judge's decision referred to above, will have been announced we expect, before the appeal date. My opinion is that the Parish should be represented at the Swallowcroft appeal hearing by very professional and experienced planning experts.

I continue to try and be as involved in as much of this process as I can.

### **Tribute to John Darwent**

I cannot finish on the Local Plan process without paying tribute to the work done on this over many many years by John Darwent, who unfortunately passed away recently. The amount of time, effort and expertise John put into the work of keeping our Parish a rural one and maintaining our ancient hamlet structure, with all the other knock-on pressures, is something both I and others involved had deep respect for.

There is much other work going on within the council. In Housing there are initiatives on Tenant Involvement, accelerating the Capital Investment Program and demolishing unsuitable housing and rebuilding new homes.

I attended the first day of the appeal for the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park. This circus, paid for almost totally by the taxpayer, will continue well into next year. I will mention this in another newsletter.

**Ken Stephens. November 2013**

## Resisting the Developers

### Winning at Newtown

In the last edition I indicated that we were resisting a planning appeal for our tiny hamlet of Newtown. We are delighted to report that the planning inspector rejected the appeal - his report makes interesting reading; for the enthusiasts it is on our web site [www.new-town.info](http://www.new-town.info)

The Swallowcroft appeal is not programmed until after Christmas (see next article). Ian Stuart, a local planning consultant, is supporting the parish in fighting this appeal. Both Cllr Ken Stephens and Tom Low continue the work to ensure everything is prepared ready for the appeal. [www.keep-eastington-rural.co.uk](http://www.keep-eastington-rural.co.uk). One key issue for this appeal is whether developments are supported by the Inspector when they are outside the village envelope. Watch this space.

### West of Stonehouse

As expected Robert Hitchens Developers are about to submit the planning application for West of Stonehouse and the entire Parish will have been invited to meet with the developers at two meetings, one in Stonehouse and one in Stroud. Many of you I know will have used this opportunity to feed in your views to the developers.

The application will be considered by the council in the New Year and, assuming it is rejected, we can expect the appeal to be heard around the time of the Examination In Public (EIP) of the Council's Local Plan, probably in April. We anticipate that the Parish and 'Don't Strangle Stroud' (DSS) will be invited to present their evidence against this unnecessary development.

The final consultation on the Local Plan is now completed. The SDC Planning Department are going through all the responses received and will be passing the Local Plan and all the comments to the Planning Inspector in December. DSS submitted an extensive response with supporting documentation; this is available to see on the web site.

### Threats from outside

It is worth noting that we are not alone in being under threat from carpet building across Gloucestershire's green fields. The three planning authorities of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury have got together to produce their Local Plan (Joint Core Strategy (JCS)) and for reasons that beggar belief have voted for 33,500 more houses in those Districts. To give some idea of scale this is almost TWO Strouds, 80,000 more people.

In support of this ridiculous number of houses council officers have stated in their evidence base an assumption that the birth rate will quadruple in the period from now until 2033. It remains of great concern that such ridiculous assertions go unnoticed by councillors.

Should this proposal go ahead, the amount of land to be lost would produce about 16,000 pints of milk a day in a country that currently cannot meet our daily requirements.

The threat to Stroud is that thousands of these houses could overflow into our District, adding to the legitimate number of houses we want to build for our own needs.

### Daniel James, Don't Strangle Stroud



Now that the nights have drawn in, and the weather is unsuitable for playing outside, are your children looking for things to do in the early evening?  
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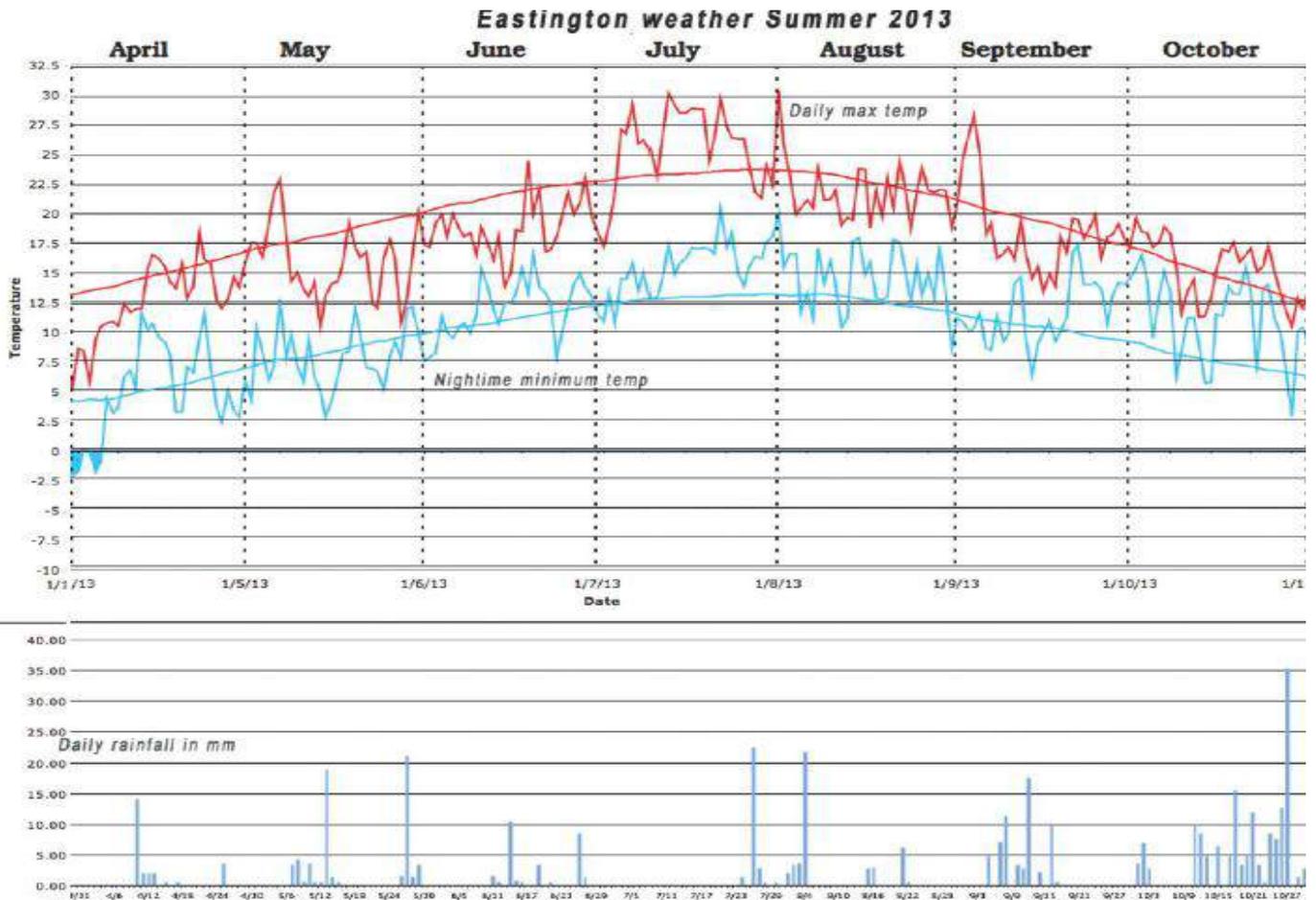
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# EASTINGTON WEATHER April – October 2013



As you will recall, July temperatures were well above average by both day and night, preceded by a cool Spring/early summer and followed by a very average late summer/ autumn. The last four weeks has seen double the average rainfall for this time of year. This is balancing a very dry summer.

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## FOOTPATHS

Wow. !! Autumn has come in with a vengeance!! There we were enjoying an extended Summer, (it almost seemed as if the sunny days would last for ever), but, when the rain came, it didn't know when to stop. This of course has made the fields and by-ways extremely wet and muddy and difficult to walk. The forecasters have promised us much colder weather to come, so we seem to be going into Winter without having had much of an Autumn.

The maps in the notice boards had become quite faded but I've "spruced-up" the colours with 'light-fast' ink, so you should be able to see the roads and paths a lot clearer.

When you are out-and-about, if you find any footpaths blocked or obstructed, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can inform the Land-owner or the Rights-of-Way Officer. Sometimes, we just need to get out there with our secateurs!!

I am hoping to have a few more kissing gates installed during the next six months, in order to make some of the paths more 'user friendly' and to join them up into longer circular walks. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support for our Footpaths and Bridle-ways, and our 'open spaces'

Best wishes to all walkers during the Yule-tide Season,

**Bill Edwards, email: [Edwards.parish@btinternet.com](mailto:Edwards.parish@btinternet.com)**

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Chi Kung is the most effective, beneficial health system & Chris is an incredibly dedicated, knowledgeable and sympathetic teacher who explains with every move what is being achieved and how.

Perhaps the best part of attending these classes is the tools and confidence that Chris gives each individual to go away & practice outside class.

It is hard to put in a few words what is involved, I encourage anybody reading this to give Chi Kung a go. It's one of the best decisions I've ever made. As well as the physical benefits I have felt, it is no coincidence that I am much better equipped to deal with the stresses and strains that life throws.

Classes are welcoming, friendly and un-intimidating. There are many forms of exercise that you have to be physically 'fit' for to even start but Chi Kung is different! Whether the aim is to recover from an injury or to improve and maintain good health, Chi Kung will help in every sphere of well-being. I love it and I'm so grateful for the introduction. Thank you Chris for all your teachings."

### **Latest Student Testimonial**

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For some, Chi Kung is an amazing system for improving mobility, strength and peace of mind. For others it can be a journey of self discovery, illness prevention and relief from emotional and physical pain caused by passed and present injuries or illness.

Energy Health Chi Kung has been operating in the Gloucestershire area for over four years and at the Eastington Community Centre for the past two years, teaching hundreds of people how to improve health holistically using simple and easy to learn methods.

Learn to instill harmony and balance using mind-fullness and movement, treat your-self with Tui Na Acupressure and massage, release your body with Spinal Dynamic Healing.

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**NEW 12 WEEK TERM STARTS - JAN 7th 2014 (Beginners Welcome)**

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Early Bird payment £72 (by Nov 29) Standard Payment £84 (by Dec 30th)

## New Community Hall for Orchard Leigh

Orchard Leigh Camphill Community, on the Bath Road, provides supported living for adults with learning disabilities. Together, residents, staff and volunteers make up a community of around sixty people.

Some ten years ago, the community purchased a second hand portacabin to provide space for meetings, craft activities and social events. This served us well for some time, but in recent years, it had begun to show its age, with water pouring in through the roof every time it rained.

Initial plans to replace “the Coffee Bar” as it was known, took the form of an extension to the rear of Rosehip Cottage on Bath Terrace. Although planning permission was obtained, the estimated cost of £300,000 was more than the community could raise, and the plan was shelved.

By 2012, with the Coffee Bar now wearing a fetching blue tarpaulin rain bonnet, the need for a new community space was becoming desperate.

A new plan for a separate wooden building to replace the portacabin, was approved, to incorporate a multi-purpose space, toilets and a small kitchen.



*\*Artist's impression of the building by Elisa Carolus*

In April 2013 the old portacabin was finally demolished, salvaging any sound timber for reuse on the community's farm.

Eight months on, work is approaching completion and we are looking forward to christening our new community hall with a Christmas celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> December. We have yet to decide on a name for the building, but so far “Mulberry Hall” looks like a strong contender, as two lovely Mulberry trees grow in front of it and it would fit with the somewhat fruity theme of our Orchard Leigh Community building names.

We have managed to raise the £100,000 needed to build the hall, but now face the tasks of landscaping the area around it so that it is safe and welcoming for all community members to enjoy. Any donations of cash or materials to assist with this would be greatly appreciated.

**Jeannie Ireland, Orchard Leigh Camphill Community**

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Many will remember Fred Ireland who wandered round the parish in a long coat, with a tall stick, recalling his memories for anyone who had the time to listen. In 1992, aged about 82, he recalled his **'Memories of Eastington'**

Photographs with captions courtesy of Stephen Mills.

Part 2.

I remember seeing the first low flying aircraft – I ran to see where it landed without wearing a jacket. Mrs. Sadler from the baker's shop ran also with a sweeping brush in her hand. It came down near the viaduct near Hooper's Mill; the landing wheels must have skimmed the railway lines on the embankment before it came down.



**Beards Mill viaduct** – Fred refers above to Hooper's mill. This is the one now more commonly called Beards Mill in Leonard Stanley. It was one of five mills once operated by the Hoopers – this one was largely demolished around 1910-11. The photograph was taken in 1884 during the construction of the viaduct by the Midland Railway. It replaced an earlier 40 year old wooden version designed by Brunel. The new structure used three quarters of a million bricks, weighing about 2000 tons, sitting on top of the same quantity of concrete. The lattice iron gantry was replaced in the 1970s but, remarkably, the rest remains largely unchanged.

In the late 1920s I saw many of the Kings Cup aircraft race low over the village.

I remember in the 1920s Millend Mill on fire. Seeing both buildings burnt right out owing to the kiln becoming overheated. One school holiday I 'picked' (cleaned out the holes of the kiln tiles) with a wire nail driven through a piece of wood 1 x 1 x 3 inches long for a penny each. 20 for 20 pence. Many of these tiles are now used to fill up the mill windows. (some were in place until the 2013 renovation)

Millend Mill manufactured cattle food made from low grade wheat, crushed fruit, skins from the local cider press and mangolds pressed into slabs about 1 inch thick x 15 x 12 in. Later cattle cubes were made. The mill was unique, driven by turbines, the surplus water being directed sideways; no fresh cutting therefore required as Churchend Mill.



*Millend Mill fire – this shows the mill after the devastating fire in the early 1920s. It was effectively gutted. A new roof and wooden interior was eventually installed and this remained in place (although very rotten!) until the present redevelopment began a few years ago. At the time of the fire, the mill was in use as a maltings operated by the Sleeman family. The fire started in the kiln at the front, used to warm beds of barley as part of the malting process.*

Meadow mills made a fine quality fibre-board in the early 1910s – 2 for the shoe trade and in the 1930s for suitcase board – painted and embossed, black and London Tan. In 1935 I would think they were almost the sole suppliers of radio backs made of compressed card. They supplied Murphy, Philco, Echo, Halcyon, Cassor. Also panels for the motorbike trade. A powerful press was supplied by “Taylor and Challover” which would punch about 100 6mm holes at one operation. It could be heard ¼ mile away. Also a powerful guillotine supplied by H. O. Strong of Bristol. The 2 mill turbines could be heard day and night and could be geared to the engine. A powerful Robey steam engine supplied the power and when running 2 shifts 6 a.m. & 6 p.m., if no failure, would run Mon. 6 a.m. to Sat. 12.15 pm.

Bonds Mill, the last of the 5 mills running in the village closed about the end of 1935-6, had a powerful steam engine and a 12 – 14 feet waterwheel. The mill made a fine heavy dressed cloth for Box-Gaiters and men’s shirts (when finished, resembling suede leather). Gaiters, for the horse trade, fastened with small round buttons, like fancy waistcoat buttons, at the side. The mill made a superb Cavalry Twill; they say a stouter cloth than the surrounding mills. The mill also made Bedford cord, covert coating, white flannel, grey flannel (for Oxford College). Cam mills supplied grey flannel for the other colleges (DC Dark, Cambridge, DR Dark, Rugby and DH Dark, Harrow).

I remember when living at Cress Green seeing Selsley Church on fire, the roof engulfed in flames.

I well remember the giant Golden Chain tree in front of the King’s Head Hotel reaching almost to the roof. The first tenant of the hotel was name of Vaughan, having a son and a daughter – the girl was the first I remember using stills (*stilts?*).

Mr Armstrong was the first I remember who ran a motor coach Saturdays to the Empire at Stroud for entertainment.

May Day school celebrations used to be one of the choice days of the year, Maypole dancing. Walter Lewis’ box-camera photos of the whole group of scholars and the May Queen, chosen by secret ballot by the senior scholars, also other photos taken of the May Queen, maids of honour and page boys.



***Meadow Mill** – this is the mill in the early years of the last century, when it was busy producing fibreboard. It was originally built around 1818. Like Millend, it was one of (Lord of the Manor) Henry Hicks’ woollen mills. Here, the field in front is flooded, as it was last winter. The tall chimney stack was for a Boulton & Watt beam engine that (along with water wheels) once provided power for the mill. As Fred mentions, it later used a newer steam engine and water turbines, quite a rarity in the region. During the Second World War, the Ruberoid company were in residence.*

One year the treat from the proceeds from the money collected was a trip on the local canal from Eastington Wharf to the junction of the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal and tea and games before returning. Two vessels, a motor boat towing a spotlessly clean barge, and much enjoyed by all.

One of the village sporting highlights was when Eastington Footballers were the champions of the Northern Senior League. They beat High Beech One-Nil – Percy Ireland scored from a free kick. A nice silver medal with a footballer in gold in the centre. Percy was one of the many capable all-rounders in the village, including Percy Howell whom I have always admired for sportsmanship and free service (Hon. Secretary indeed).

.....

**Football in 2013 – Alkerton Rangers storming through!**

Alkerton Rangers are enjoying a successful season. The first team under the stewardship of Kyle Anderton have taken Division Six of the Stroud & District League by storm. Winning their first six games and currently top of the table they have been scoring goals for fun. Resounding victories against Eastcombe Reserves (20, yes, twenty – 1) and Slimbridge 3rds (15-2) augur well for a big push for promotion with Michael Brennan, Jon Sims and Ashley Berry notching the majority of the goals.

Not to be outdone the Reserves led by Kev Bond have also had a fine campaign so far. Unbeaten in their last 5 games they have been victorious in splendid fashion too. A tenacious 7-5 win against Stroud United Reserves was followed by a 12-1 rout of Uley 3rds. Steven Morgan has re-discovered his goal-scoring prowess ably assisted by Andy Broadley. Like the firsts the reserves have high hopes of escaping their division as well.

**Paul Burn**

.....

# MOBILITY CORNER



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

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**FREE COLLECTION and DELIVERY WITHIN 3 MILES OF OUR LOCATION ON ALL WORK THAT CAN'T BE DONE AT HOME.**

WE OFFER A FREE NO OBLIGATION HOME VISIT SERVICE TO ASSESS YOUR NEEDS.

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You will find a range of crafts and gifts on display, including Decopatch, a new paper and glue craft that is taking the craft world by storm. We have a Craft Workshop where you can try Decopatch for yourself, have a children's party or event. We supply everything to do with Decopatch including Papers, Brushes, Glues, and Papier Mache objects to decorate. We decorate real horseshoes, with paper chosen by you, which make wonderful and unique gifts for those special occasions – Weddings, Christenings, Birthdays etc.

We are open Monday and Friday 9am to 5pm

All other days and times by appointment.

[www.mobilitycorner.co.uk](http://www.mobilitycorner.co.uk) [www.cotswoldcrafts.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldcrafts.co.uk)

Email: [info@mobilitycorner.co.uk](mailto:info@mobilitycorner.co.uk) or [cotswoldcrafts1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cotswoldcrafts1@hotmail.co.uk)

**OFFICE 01452 742171; PETER 07811 765257; CAROLINE 07817 900434**

# Hair and Beauty House

Under new management since July 2012

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- Late appointments available
- Gift certificates
- High level of customer service delivered in relaxed and welcoming environment
- A refreshment menu to die for

Bring this advert with you and enjoy a £5 discount on a service priced at £10 or over.

**The Cross, Eastington T:01453 791251**



## 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



## November 2013

We have had a busy start to the new school year and have been settling into routines and supporting others becoming more independent in their transition to playgroup. Children have been focusing on how to keep safe and to support this we had a visit from a Local Police Constable and Police Community Support Officer. They chatted to the children about what to do if they got lost in a shop and to always stay with their parents/carers when out especially at times such as bonfire night in the dark. The children enjoyed trying on all the police hats and jackets and finally sat in the police car with flashing lights and sirens blaring!!



We have started to think about our Christmas Nativity Play 'Our First Nativity' and will be auditioning for various parts ready for the grand performance on our final day of term before Christmas. We will be busy making lots of things to sell at our play such as mini Christmas cakes, peppermint creams and personalized crackers – we have a very busy time ahead.

We are also planning a trip down to Eastington Primary School to watch their Nativity play which the children all love to see.

We have looked at the Hindu festival of light 'Diwali' and made Rangoli patterns which the children have decorated and used scissors to carefully cut them out.

We will be concentrating on improving our listening skills as one of the first steps to reading and have done a sponsored collect 'thank you to all the children and families who have participated' now we have been able to increase our resources to support this important area of learning.

Our allotment has progressed following a successful year of fundraising. We now have two sheds to support our new outside environment, together with fencing – a potting shed with learning materials and a shed with children's tools and waterproof clothing. The children all love to visit this area and we have managed to grow some potatoes which have been harvested, cooked and devoured!

### IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A dinner/dance has been organised by the fundraising teams of Playgroup and Eastington Primary school which will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Eastington Community Centre. Tickets are £15 if you fancy a night out dancing and eating with us then please phone us– it's sure to be a great evening!

**Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 4 years 11 months in a well established community based group.**

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

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

We currently have a few spaces left and operate 4 days a week offering full and half day sessions and we accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers.

If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Playleader  
07977 342 742 or email [eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk](mailto:eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk)  
or visit our website [www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.co.uk](http://www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.co.uk)

# YOUTH COLUMN

Hey guys this part of the Eastington news is dedicated to you, it will let you voice your opinions and get the children more involved in what happens in the village.

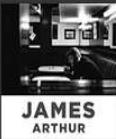
## Joke

Why do bicycles fall over?  
Because they are two-tired!

Colour them in!  
Hope you had a  
lovely bonfire night  
night.night.



## Top 3 in the charts

1		<b>Lorde</b> <b>Royals</b> NEW   1 WEEK IN CHART
2		<b>James Arthur</b> <b>You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You</b> NEW   1 WEEK IN CHART
3		<b>OneRepublic</b> <b>Counting Stars</b> DOWN 2   13 WEEKS IN CHART [INTERSCOPE]

But remember to  
check with your  
parents before you  
sign up to any social  
networking sites. BE  
SAFF NOT SORRY!

## Top 3 social network sites

1. Facebook
2. Twitter
3. Instagram

Find our joke boring and think you have a better one? email it to us at [youths\\_column@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:youths_column@hotmail.co.uk) and we might put it on our next page! :)

**Lakefield School  
Christmas Fair**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Cadbury Hall, Lake Lane  
From 3.00 - 4.30pm

Festive Cakes & Fairy Floss  
Christmas Wreaths and  
Holly, Ivy & Mistletoe by the Bunch  
Christmas Decorations  
Tombola • Raffle • Games and Prizes  
Teas and Coffees

**Santa's Grotto**

Come and join in the fun  
at this lovely  
Christmas event  
while supporting  
your local school



**Christmas quiz answers 2013**

1. India
2. Australia
3. 'Twelfth Night'
4. Arctic Ocean
5. I Saw Three Ships
6. Almonds
7. The Snowman
8. Cranberry Sauce
9. A Dog is for Life, Not Just for Christmas
10. King George V
11. A mince pie
12. Jerez
13. Tchaikovsky
14. Oliver Cromwell
15. Mistleoe
16. Seven
17. Chris Rea
18. Red
19. Candles
20. Snow Leopard

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ers

## The Eastington Allotments Society

We are now getting to the period of the year where traditions tend to come to the fore and one of these inevitably seems to be the Review of the Year. The allotment year can be summed up quite simply with the statement that it was a lot better than 2012. Productivity was very good, particularly with the soft fruits, although I think a relatively length drier spell in the middle of the year did affect the potato yields to some extent. Still, mustn't grumble as the grass didn't need cutting as much.

Early November entertained the TEAS Annual General Meeting, which saw a good turn out of allotmenters. Changes were afoot. All the current incumbent committee members stated that they would not be standing for re-election and were heartily thanked for the commitment that they have put in over the last two years. A new committee was elected, with Reg Parry standing as chairman.

One of the initiatives passed at the meeting was to offer an incentive to encourage new members by waiving the first year subscriptions. So anyone interested in trying out and discovering the benefits of allotmenting in 2014 will be able to do so for just the cost of a £10 joining fee.

The meeting also agreed that TEAS will sponsor an allotment prize at the Autumn event of the local Flower and Produce show. Exact details of the judging criteria still need to be agreed but hopefully it will not just be based on the prettiest or most mature plot so that even new allotmenters will have a chance of picking up the magnificent trophy.

Contact details for the new allotments secretary will be included in the next edition of ECN. In the meantime if you wish to apply for a plot and take advantage of a subscription-free year then, visit the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site, or phone Muriel Bullock on 01453 826172, or Sarah Underdown on 01453 823285



## *Christmas Gift Pack*



### *Eastington Community Orchard Group (ECO)*



## **New for 2013**

ECO Group brings you its popular Apple and Pear juices in a **new size** and a **new package**: one each of:

**250ml** Apple and Pear (soft and sweet)

**250ml** Mixed Apples from village orchards

**250ml** Pucker-up Sharp Apple

All in an attractive gift package with gift tag for **£5**.

**Available** from any ECO member you know or ring Tom on (01453) 823425

*Profits go towards re-generating more orchards for Eastington*





# Happy Apple Days

## Special photo-report

### Bumper production by ECO Group



This report comes from the camera of regular ECO member Tay Mulla, aged 12. Tay has been officially scrumping apples with us for three years now and this year took her camera to OHMG for National Apple Day.

A full set of Tay's photos, illustrating all 10 stages of making pasteurised apple juice for ECO, is on our website [www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk](http://www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk). Here are some key stages and accompanying info from this year's crop.

#### Collect – wash – scrat

You all know how to fetch apples – climb the tree, shake it, mind your heads below – and washing is a necessary evil. This is Tay's dad, getting his hands frozen and his clothes wet, as we all do on that job.



ECO volunteers collected 2 tons of apples and pears, from 28 gardens and small orchards – to whom many thanks!



This is the fun bit – **scratting**.

You drop apples large and small into the machine and it bashes them to a pulp in seconds.

This kit is lent to us by Wm Morris House, who also let us use their kitchen for producing juice on 4 other occasions through the season – again, many thanks.

#### Pressing, pasteurising, filling

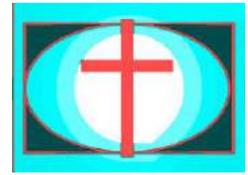
Anyone who has come to our National Apple Days will have seen the cascade of juice which comes from Tim Potts' massive press (photo in last edition).

We then heat the juice to over 80 degrees centigrade to achieve pasteurisation. The process maintains the flavours whilst giving the juice at least 2 years life.

The final stage is filling the pre-sterilised bottles, done here by William Cousins. Vanessa is putting the caps on to supervise for quality (liquid to the VERY top, please) and safety – the juice is still very hot!



ECO bottled 800 small bottles like William is using, for sale at the OHMG bar, The Old Badger and in the Xmas Gift Pack (see advert on page 10)



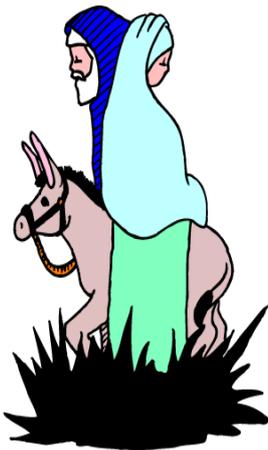
I expect many of you will be well on the way to counting down for Christmas. Depending on your age and circumstances Christmas can mean so many different things. Looking back to my own childhood experiences I doubt if they are much different from those of today's young children, when the excitement is with the opening of the presents gaily wrapped in brightly coloured paper on Christmas morning. As we grow up, whilst we still enjoy exchanging presents there is the anticipation of meeting up with relatives, and there is the Christmas lunch where you begin to wonder if the table will take the strain of the huge turkey and all that veg. Christmas is a time when we seem to overdo almost everything - the gifts, the food, the parties.

In the church we can seem to be overdoing things with extra services that we hold. During the four Sundays leading up to Christmas - the time of Advent - we start to look forward to and think about the birth of Jesus. If we stop and consider, we may think it strange, all this extravagance over the birth of a child that took place more than 2000 years ago. But even at Jesus' birth there seems to be some extravagance with the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh brought to his cradle, each one a valuable gift given to the baby who was born in a stable.

But all this does not even begin to compare with the extravagance that is wrapped up in that bundle of Joy the baby Jesus. Here we have the most extravagant gift of all - the gift of God's only son who was born into an ordinary family, a gift that we can all celebrate this Christmas, The Gospel of John sums up the importance of the gift of Jesus as he writes "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

So no matter how extravagant you may think your gifts are this Christmas they do not compare with the extravagant gift that came down on that first Christmas night.

*Revd. Graham P Miles*



## **Christmas at EMC**

**Sunday Morning Advent Services – 11am**

followed by refreshments

**Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm**

followed by mince pies and hot drinks

**Messy Christmas – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 10 to 11:30am**

(see later for a description of the "Messy" events)

**Christmas Praise – December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

## **Youth Activities**

After a break, the Youth Sunday Club is being re-launched on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the end of a youth sleepover from the day before. The new sessions will be led by Liz Burgin and will be interesting, fun and thought provoking. They start at 11am each Sunday.

Several of our young people went to the District Youth Weekend in Bristol in October. This was a packed weekend of activities including a visit to @Bristol, fireworks, workshops, taking part in a church service, a live gig and two nights sleeping on the floor in the company of about 80 or so attendees from other churches in the Bristol area. Aaron was so keen that he is joining the District Youth Council so will be helping to organise the next one in 2 years' time.

The Friday Youth Club, which is sometimes attracting up to 30 young people and hitting the limit we can cope with at one time, will run up to and including 20<sup>th</sup> December before the Christmas/New year break.

*Messy Autumn (and yes that is a bouncy castle in the foreground)*



## Messy What?

We have been running a number of “Messy” events this year. The more recent ones have included Messy Harvest and Messy Autumn (during the half term holiday) where between 30 and 40 children and adults attended. Messy Advent, on 30<sup>th</sup> November, is imminent at the time of writing and Messy Christmas is planned for the Monday before Christmas (see details above).

These events comprise a theme, craft activities, cooking, a story and/or a video, one or two songs suitable for the children and some rather nice refreshments!

This is ideal for the whole family - there is no charge and no need to book.

**Ken Burgin – Senior Steward**

**Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414**

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

---

## Eastington Baby and Toddler Group

Monday 10-11:30am

@

## Eastington Methodist Hall

We've just gained a new leader at the toddler group - Liz - so we now have even more room for babies and toddlers!

Each week around 14 mums, grandmas, dads, and their babies and toddlers, meet. There are plenty of **toys** as well as **craft & cooking** activities, **singing**, and **Bible stories**.

We have healthy **refreshments** too! Each half term we make a mural together.

It's great fun!!

There will be a warm welcome when you come along.

Form more info: Beck Burgin 07511197265 or [rebecca.burgin@pikelock.com](mailto:rebecca.burgin@pikelock.com)

# SCHOOL NEWS

Eastington Primary School



## Dear All

It has been an exceptionally busy year so far. Term 1 involved many planned activities 'beyond the classroom' with term 2 proving to be just as industrious as we approach the festive period.

It was lovely to see many of you at our Harvest celebration. Donations this year were divided between the local Foodbank and an organisation supporting young people in need within the Stroud area. I know that all the items were gratefully received and made a huge difference to those in challenging circumstances. Thank you.

## Inspirational.....



Some of our older pupils participated in a fantastic musical project involving 3 other schools beyond our immediate area. Working closely with professional musicians the aim was to write the lyrics, compose a melody and perform to an audience of over 300, celebrating aspects of our local heritage. With only 4 workshops and 2 combined sessions with the other schools it was, indeed, a mammoth task.

The end result, however, was a magical evening at the Subscription Rooms in Stroud with contributions from each school linking their musical interpretation of life on the railways, digging out the canals and journeys from Gloucester docks in days gone by.



The 'Connections' project was initiated by Eastington Primary and apart from raising awareness as to the richness of our local heritage it provided a unique opportunity for children from schools to work together and share in the pleasure of making music. It was truly inspiring.

## Our friends from London

We thoroughly enjoyed the visit from our 'buddies' from Charles Dickens Primary, Southwark who experienced an autumnal morning at Eastington cementing their friendships, and simply having fun. This follows our visit to London during the summer when 43 Year 6 pupils and staff from Eastington travelled from Stonehouse to Paddington station. An underground adventure on the Bakerloo line was followed by a short walk past the Shard building, where we eventually met our friends at Charles Dickens Primary. Whilst our environments and experiences are very different, it is such a pleasure to see young people engage and do what they do best....be children!

## A time of reflection

The school observed 2 minutes silence during a special 'Remembrance' assembly on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The names of former pupils from Eastington who gave their lives during the 1914 -18 war were read out and remembered. A collection of £67.00 has been forwarded to the Poppy Appeal.

### **On the sporting front...**

Well done to our Year 3 and 4 tag rugby team who played against Leonard Stanley Primary recently. Whilst the result did not go in our favour, they should be congratulated for their team spirit, tenacity and sense of pride representing the school. Given it was their first outing, the future looks bright and we can't wait for further matches during 2014. It will be the turn of Years 5 and 6 in the spring Terms attempting to go one better than last season when they reached the semi finals of the Stroud schools area championships.

Congratulations to our Years 5 and 6 football team who participated in a mini tournament at Nailsworth Primary. All games proved a close contest with Eastington playing some super football during a very competitive afternoon.

### **Additional funding for sport**

The government have allocated additional funding to further develop PE and sport in all primary schools. We have always acknowledged the importance of an active lifestyle and will continue to provide a comprehensive programme of Physical Education with opportunities to extend this beyond the school day. We have been fortunate to secure the expertise of Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) who has been working with us during the year. The funding allows us to extend this to offer multi-skills sessions and further develop our own 'Learning Through Sport' programme.

### **Children in Need 2013**

It proved a furry day when the bears came to school as part of our support for Children in Need. Class 5 organised a 'Bring and Buy' sale at break time. A staggering £240 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. 'Well done' to everyone.

### **'Write on...'**

As part of the school's focus on developing pupil's writing, we ask the children to share their work during our Friday assemblies. It is such a pleasure to hear the children's results and to see the pride they have in their efforts. It was during one of these contributions that one of our youngest writers started to share their story entitled 'The day I lost my toy rabbit'. All began well.....until we reached the point at which they were attempting to describe their mislaid toy.....and the story came to an abrupt end. When asked why (what promised to be an exciting tale), the author responded, "You see it was lost so I really don't know"!

### **Christingle candles**

As part of the Christingle service at St Michael and All Angels church, donation candles are available from the school. Please see Mrs Lester (School Administrator) in the school office.

### **Please join us.....**

The next school/community event is the **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (12.00pm onwards)**. Although very busy at this time of year, Father Christmas is also popping in to what usually proves to be a very festive occasion. We look forward to your company....a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and a warm welcome awaits!

### **It's good to know**

With many visitors to the school so far this year, the feedback has proved overwhelmingly positive including prospective parents complimenting us on the community atmosphere and excellent relationships seen between the staff and children.

Finally, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**M J Strang**  
Headteacher



**'Aiming high.....together'**

# St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Eastington

## One of the 'Cotswold Edge' Parishes

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

**Benefice Website:** [www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk)

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



Dear Friends,

Christmas is nearly upon us! Strangely I feel that I haven't been as exposed to Christmas advertising as early as in many years – but having written that I expect that I'll now see adverts everywhere! I did see in the news that in the spirit of festive goodwill the Sainsbury's TV advert featured various Co-op items by mistake – I'm sure that will have been edited out by now!

You know that Christmas is on the way when Children in Need comes around – this year raising over £31 million on the night. It gets the generosity of the nation going, and fills people afresh with the desire to help others, a desire this year already set in motion by the terrible typhoon in the Philippines that brought back memories of the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, and the plight of people affected.

In his first comments on Christmas since becoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev Justin Welby, said consumerism over the festive period is now so "over the top" that couples are left arguing over money and children are shouted at. He said he would like to tell people to stop giving gifts altogether but accepts no one would listen. Instead, he urged families to "show" love and affection rather than trying to "buy it". Figures last year suggested the average household spent around £1,000 on Christmas. The archbishop acknowledged: "It's a cliché of modern life that someone gets up and says Christmas is becoming very materialistic as though it wasn't 300 years ago. Yes obviously the secular over-the-topness, everything you have to have, new clothes you have to have, new this, new that, new the other, is ridiculous, it's absurd, it shouldn't happen. It puts pressure on relationships because when you're short of money you argue. You get cross with your kids more easily, it spoils life."

"It's obviously not what Christmas is about but to be absolutely honest there's not that much point in saying it because nobody's going to pay attention," he said. I want to say something positive, which is God gives us his son Jesus Christ to give us life and full life and abundant life. Giving at Christmas reflects that generosity of God. So be generous in a way that shows love and affection rather than trying to buy love and affection." He added: "You can't buy it, you can show it, and when you show it, it comes back at you with interest. Share love and affection with reasonable gifts that demonstrate you really care for someone. That makes for the best Christmas you could ever have."

I couldn't have put it better myself – so thank you to my boss! Thank you to everyone who reflects God's love for us in financial and practical ways. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (*Matthew 25.40 NRSV*). In what we often call 'The Global Village' we are all family. Have a great Christmas – and perhaps you'd like to join our church congregations at 10am at Standish on the Sunday after Christmas as we celebrate our 14<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard'.

Rector

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)

*I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.  
All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.  
The easiest way to find something lost is to buy a replacement.*

<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b> <b>Advent Sunday</b> (p3 – purple) <b>Romans 13.11-end &amp; Matthew 24.36-44</b> (p4)	<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent</b> (p5- purple) <b>Romans 15.4-13 &amp; Matthew 3.1-12</b> (p7/8)	<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b> (p9 - purple) <b>Isaiah 35.1-10 &amp; Matthew 11.2-11</b> (p9/11)	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> of Advent</b> (p12 - purple) <b>Isaiah 7.10-16 &amp; Matthew 1.18-end</b> (p13/14)	<b>24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Midnight Mass(p25)</b> <b>Hebrews 1.1-4 &amp; John 1.1-14</b> (p27/8)
<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion (Angela Reeder)	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	<b>3pm</b> Carol Service	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>6pm</b> Christingle <b>11.30pm</b> Midnight Mass

**10am Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013 - Benefice '14<sup>th</sup> Birthday' Communion at Standish**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas (p30) – Isaiah 63.7-9 & Matthew 2.13-end (p30/32)**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Christmas</b> (p33 - white) <b>Ephesians 1.3-14 &amp; John 1.10-18</b> (p35)	<b>12<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)</b> (p42 - white) <b>Acts 10.34-43 &amp; Matthew 3.13-17</b> (p44)	<b>19<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany</b> (p45 - white) <b>1 Corinthians 1.1-9 &amp; John 1.29-42</b> (p47/48)	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany</b> (p49 - white) <b>1 Corinthians 1.10-18 &amp; Matthew 4.12-23</b> (p50/1)
<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	<b>6pm</b> Sung Evensong	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion

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

### Baptisms

**Jacob Scott Holloway** was baptised at Eastington on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

*If you are interested in considering getting a child baptised (christened) in church, you may not know that it is free, and there is always a warm welcome waiting for you.*

### Weddings

**Paul Bossons and Joy Maith** were married at Eastington on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Simon Aldridge and Natasha Lodge** were married at Eastington on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Are you thinking about a Church Wedding in 2014 or 2015? If so why not give me a call and see if we at the church can help. We can be very flexible as regards content and style, and the cost is not prohibitive!*

### Funerals

**John Darwent** of Nupend, Eastington, died on 20<sup>th</sup> October. His funeral was conducted by the Rector at Gloucester Crematorium on October 28<sup>th</sup>, followed by a service of thanksgiving in Eastington church.



### Carol Service at Eastington Church

with the Church Choir on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. A more traditional carol service with carols, readings and choral pieces. Refreshments afterwards. Collection for the church.

*Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.*

*Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?*

## Christmas quiz from your Village Agent

– I hope you all enjoy it!!



1. In what country, the world's seventh largest by geographical area, is Christmas known as Bada Din (the big day)?
2. Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, is a territory of which country?
3. 'Three Kings Day' is known by what name in Britain?
4. The North Pole, said to be Santa's home, is located in which ocean?
5. 'And all the Bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day in the morning', is from which Christmas Carol?
6. Marzipan is made mainly from sugar and the flour or meal of which nut?
7. Peter Auty sang 'Walking In The Air' in which film?
8. Which Christmas condiment is made from fruit sometimes referred to as marshworts?
9. Which Christmas slogan was introduced by Clarissa Baldwin of The Dogs Trust in 1978?
10. Which British monarch, introduced the custom of giving Christmas puddings to all of his staff?
11. In the UK it is traditionally believed that eating a what each day of the twelve days of Christmas brings happiness the following year –is it- a sausage –a mince pie –carrot or turkey drumsticks?
12. The fortified wine drink sherry is named after what town ?
13. Who composed the music for the Nutcracker Sweet?
14. Which leader of England banned Christmas?
15. Which traditional plant was once so revered by early Britain that it had to be cut with a golden sickle?
16. In the song the Twelve Days of Christmas how many swans were swimming?
17. 'Driving Home for Christmas' was a 1988 hit single for which singer?
18. In Mexico it is said that wearing what colour underwear on New Years Eve ensures finding new love the following year?
19. The surname Chandler derives from the making or selling of what?
20. The predatory animal 'uncia uncia' is better known by what name?

Answers on the back page – no peeking!

**Sue Colquhoun Village Agent 0781 0630 145**

**Wishing you all Very Happy Christmas and New Year.**

## Early Morning Walk

The early morning fog hangs down on the world. Like a blanket. Engulfing it. Preventing one from looking heavenward, looking towards the skyline, to admire His glory. Is it a hug from God? Holding us in, keeping us close, enabling us to wonder at the glory that is closer at hand?

The cobwebs, intricate in their design, complete in their purpose. Each one highlighted by the morning dew clinging to each and every thread. Dozens upon dozens line the path. Each bush, the hedgerows, every gate and fence all adorned with one of His wonderful creations. The trees, majestic and silent, rise up from the earth, piercing the fog like beacons. Eerily at first, then in their full beauty as one treads each step closer.

Birds still sing their morning chorus. A lone Robin atop a gate. Ducks and swans invisible, yet ever present with their voices and noise of flight. Crows caw, Loudly, flying low, some sitting among trees. In a somewhat haunting manner akin to any horror novel or film. Into the copse. The fog doesn't reach here. It hangs above the trees, unable to penetrate their canopy. Protection or hindrance?

Ones feet move on, thistles still displaying their purple and pink blooms. Small torches of colour on an otherwise bleak landscape. Cattle grazing, turn to see who enters their domain. Buttercups and celandines still dance amid the grass. The grass causes feet to become damp, so heavy is it with its dew. Slugs and snails slide a precarious journey, unaware of the dangers of the feet above which share their path.

Further on sheep grazing, noisily eating, chewing. Their dark patched faces look towards the intrepid walker, nervous, almost afraid. Then one, stands strong, eye to eye across the path before ambling away as if to say 'you don't scare me'. Onward one walks, nearing the end. Common land, over which horses reign. They keep their distance, watching, waiting. Crane flies rise up from under ones feet, awakened by the tread of an early riser.

Finally, destination reached. The village church. A haven in the bleak. Its tower rising out of the gloom. A beautiful building, centuries old. Holy. A place to worship, this morning a place to pray.

A hug from God? Or simply adverse weather? A question of faith. The answers all around, beneath its blanket. It's in the wonder and glory of His creation close at hand.

*Emma Beard (Emma is a local police officer, and a member of the Christian Police Association)*



# SEVERN BORE FAMILY BREAKFAST



SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

one of the biggest tides of the year

at 09.30 am (+ / - 20 mins) at Elmore Back, GL2 3ST

Follow the signs from "The Pilot" and A38

Bacon rolls, coffee etc available from 8.00am. Free car parking

## In aid of Rotary Charities





For more information:

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

