

Eastington Community News

February / March 2014

Nº. 143

Welcome to our first edition in 2014 and I hope you will find the range of topics from our contributors interesting and relevant to you. Many of you have said how much you enjoyed regular articles from 'Birder in the Parish', so I am sorry to say that he has moved away. However, we are hopeful to bring you a 'Beekeeper's Diary' in future issues. If you would like to write something relevant to life in our Parish, you would be most welcome. (Please use the contact details below.)

Most people find positive acts go a long way to brighten up our lives and make us feel good about this place where we live. You have probably noticed corners of the Parish where someone has made an extra effort to care for a verge or roadside; where someone has taken pride in their work. The other side of the coin is unfortunately also evident; unwanted rubbish scattered about a verge or roadside by a minority. The cost to ratepayers for clearing up fly-tipping from our roadsides and open spaces is explained inside, along with how to get something done about it.

The benefits of feeling 'positive' can of course be explored further. In the Methodist's article we are asked about our expectations for 2014: "Are they positive with you looking forward to new challenges; with confidence and with rewarding achievements in prospect?" From the Rector we hear about: the secret of happiness; changing world around you; dealing with anger; and a chance to discuss these and similar issues with other people.

'Dealing with Anger' could be an appropriate topic following the Swallowcroft Planning Appeal debacle. Despite the blatantly obvious intrusion into the countryside, the Inspector asserted that "the proposed development would not harm the countryside or the landscape setting of Eastington." He dismissed the facts that the proposed development is of greater density and similar height to Bradestones Way; that the proposed development is built on a hill; twice the height of adjacent bungalows and more than double their build density.

So much for democracy: the Inspector believed it significant that Stroud Planning officers had not recommended the argument of 'harmful encroachment into the countryside' and pointed out that this reason was added by the [elected] members - with whom he disagreed. Two days after writing to us advising the date of the Appeal Hearing, the same planning officer wrote to the Developer and Inspector withdrawing his main argument and expressing openness to cancelling the 'Hearing' in favour of a 'site visit'. The other participants of the 'Hearing' were only notified of the cancellation less than 24 hours before it was due to be held, and their chance to speak was denied. Seemingly close communication by planning officers and developer appeared not to be extended to the Parish. Being in a position to turn 'grass into gold' must be a heavy responsibility for officers. The importance of appropriate management and training by the Council is apparent. One might question what to do with employed planning officers who stubbornly refuse to support valid Council decisions and who deny the blindingly obvious.

Returning to something positive, and to be better prepared for the next big planning occasion, the process of Eastington's Neighbourhood Plan is underway. The first informative and interactive event on is on Saturday 22nd February at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground: see inside for details.

There is more news on planning matters inside: a letter from our District Councillor, Ken Stephens; preparation for the Local Plan 'Examination in Public' from Daniel James (DSS); summary of the Swallowcroft visit by the 'Inspector' from Tom Low (KER).

From our regular contributors there is an application form for Eastington Spring Flower Show Silver Jubilee 29th March 2:00 p.m. in the Village Hall; we hear from TEAS about the benefits of home-grown vegetables and learn that Allotments are available; Eastington Community Orchard has had a bumper year as juices flow freely; see work has started on the Community Park project; and much more....

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Next Deadline: All articles by Friday 28th March 2014 please!

Next Delivery: Saturday 5th April 2014 please!

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

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PARISH MATTERS

As I prepared to write this we received the disappointing news we have lost the appeal to stop houses being built off Swallowcroft, a lot of Councillors and Parishioners have worked very hard to fight this appeal and I thank them all very much and am very sorry we didn't succeed.

The Council has had a very busy start 2014 we are preparing our Neighbourhood plan, you can read a fuller explanation to this in other articles.

We will be holding a public consultation so all Parishioners can help to shape the plan this is also advertised in this edition, please come along and have your say, you can also meet your Councillors who will be there to help you.

This could be a chance for us to work together for the benefit of our Parish / Village if you have any ideas on what you would like to see in the Village please come and let us know.

It is very encouraging to see more Parishioners attending and taking part in our monthly meetings they are public meetings and open to all. We meet at the Methodist Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm.

We now have a full compliment of Councillors as we co-opted Alision Loveridge at the January meeting.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can help.

Muriel Bullock Chair

Murielbullock@gmail.com Tel: 01453 826172

[Parish Clerk Andrea Durn Tel: 01453 799616]

ROADWORKS A38 from the Hardwicke roundabout to Claypits

Gloucestershire Highways will be undertaking a significant improvement scheme on the A38 from the Hardwicke roundabout to Claypits, which will see over £1.0M invested on this strategic section of the County's network. The work will be carried out between Spring and Summer this year.

The work will involve resurfacing of the road and then the installation of safety improvements through signing and lining work and a reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph.

In order to ensure parish councils and residents are fully aware of our proposals, and to give everyone a chance to query and comment on the scheme, we will be holding an exhibition at:

Whitminster Village Hall on Tuesday 25th February from 2.00pm - 7.00pm.

We see the event as an informal drop in session where people can turn up at any time between 2pm - 7pm to ask questions about the works. Highways officers will be in attendance to speak to residents and we will have plans and information on display to illustrate the details of the scheme.

If you have any queries about the exhibition and scheme, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel J Tiffney [Local Highway Manager - Stroud North] Tel: 08000 514514

Fly Tipping – Pride in where we live

Recently it has come to the attention of the District Council that some green waste is being fly tipped in various locations throughout the village (on path or roadside verges or hedges.) It is an offence for any fly tipping to occur, irrespective of whether it is considered green or not.

Stroud District Council have approximately 65 reports of fly tipped waste per month, the clearance of such waste is costly. Stroud District Council only collect fly tipped waste on public land, and the Council investigate as many incidents as possible with a view to prosecute.

Stroud District Council will collect green waste from residents properties on refuse collection day if the waste is in a green sack. Outlets which sell the green sacks can be found on the SDC website www.stroud.gov.uk.

If you wish to report any fly tipping please contact Stroud District Council on 01453 766321 or email public.spaces@stroud.gov.uk

Jenni Bingham [Public Space Assistant], Stroud District Council Tel: 01453 754403

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEWSLETTER

SWALLOWCROFT APPEAL

I write this the morning after finding out that this appeal has been granted. I had written my report yesterday but now have to re-write it. It is not only the decision I find hard to accept, it is the comments and phrases used to justify it that make me more than a little aggrieved. The original refusal by Stroud District Council's Development Control Committee was taken after a site visit, listening to all comments by interested parties and reading the officer report. The refusal was unanimous and definite. There was no 'on balance' at all about the feelings of the committee. The Inspector has taken a completely contrary view to that of all the members of the committee. His decision and justification is full of references to the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF). I have made less than complimentary comments on this document and the way it affects the lives of residents and decisions relating to localities in the District in the past. At a Full Council meeting on the 28th November last year the following motion was proposed by a member of my group:

We the undersigned believe that the NPPF is inherently unsound leading to irreversible loss of open countryside and irreparable damage to valuable landscape and heritage assets which are valued by local communities. Prioritisation of economic factors and presumption of development, together with risible sustainability criteria, is leading to decisions from the Planning Inspectorate that damage local communities and create expensive problems.

We believe that the NPPF flouts local opinion and damages democracy. The NPPF is unjustly prejudiced in the interest of the construction industry and developers to the detriment of the local electorate, community, countryside, farming and tourism.

We therefore call upon the Government to amend the NPPF by removing the over-riding presumption in favour of alleged sustainable development, by giving Local Plans over-riding priority.

This was passed not quite unanimously but by a very overwhelming majority, being supported by all political groups. The motion besides writing to the secretary of state also resolved to write to all Parish and Town councils and MP's for the district to seek their support for the petition. One Parish I understand responded most positively within 15 minutes of the letter being sent.

I think the motion covers all I want to say about the NPPF and its part in this appeal being allowed. I could rant on for a long time on the subject but it would be hard to put down my feelings and still have a report not littered with somewhat basic language. I am sure that this matter will be the subject of much discussion, debate and actions. I have already been asking questions and making comments. One question that has come into many peoples mind is the speed of the decision following the site visit. I do not think that it usually as fast as that. Yesterday was not a good day for local democracy in my opinion.

LOCAL PLAN

Our Draft Plan was submitted before Christmas. An Inspector had been allocated and he has issued a program for Stage 1 of the process. The inquiry will start on Tuesday April 1st and run for three days. (He will then go away and decide his next steps.) The Inspector has decided who he will call to ask questions of. As I understand it this is how the process will run. The Inspector will identify what areas he will concentrate on with each invitee and that is the only topic that will be discussed. This is a new process and not many people have experience of it. I will be trying to attend another inquiry before ours to see just how it works. I think the main topics for us will be: Housing numbers, 5 year land supply and deliverability of it, and the duty to co-operate with adjoining Authorities. The deliverability issue is interesting because I believe Stroud has sites allocated to meet the land supply issue but some developers have not yet come forward with such things as, design and access statements and environmental impact assessments. It is possible that other developers will use this as a reason for claiming that SDC's land supply is not deliverable. There has been a raft of legislation introduced lately that will impact on the arguments around the issues I have mentioned. A lot of people are wondering who comes off best from it, local communities planning for their future or large developers. I continue to work to try and ensure that interested resident groups from Eastington are as involved in the process as possible and that the Councils case is as robust and researched as possible.

I was going to mention Neighbourhood Plans and the Boundary review for the District that has just started but space and the deadline for the Community News has caught up with me. Also I need to go into the garden and kick something to release some of the anger and frustration I have at the moment.

Ken Stephens January 2014

What do **you** want?

Introducing the **Neighbourhood Development Plan**.....

What is it?

The Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) come out of the Government's determination to ensure that local communities are closely involved in the decisions which affect them. The Eastington Parish NDP is being developed to establish a vision for the village and to help deliver the local community's aspirations and needs. Unlike the Eastington Parish Plan 2013, upon which it builds, our Neighbourhood Development Plan is a statutory document that will be incorporated into the district planning frameworks and must be used by Stroud District Council to determine planning applications.

Who is producing it?

Local residents with the support of the Parish Council and of course - YOU!

A steering committee has been created to consider a wide range of issues that will influence the well-being, sustainability and long-term preservation of our rural community.

Our aim: To reflect the views and opinions of the majority of Eastington Parish residents

What are the benefits?

- To protect the village from uncontrolled, large scale, or poorly placed development
- To spread the development required by Stroud's Local Plan around the village across several small sites
- To ensure that development is sympathetic to, and improves, the look and feel of the village
- To take steps to give residents preferred access to many of the new homes
- To minimise the loss of greenfield sites by, where possible, using previously developed sites
- It gives the village the potential to access Community Infrastructure Levy funding to improve village facilities
- To identify, in the Eastington Parish Plan 2013, additional actions to improve our facilities, services and local environment

If you want to get involved then please contact Andrea Durn Tel: 01453 799616

Neighbourhood Development Plan

- How can you have your say?
- How can you get involved?
- How can you stay informed and up to date?

The steering group is currently putting together a range of communication activities to keep you informed and to get involved:

- 1) A regular update in the Eastington News
- 2) A series of 'themes' that are options you can consider and choose from
- 3) We are in the process of creating the 'NDP Hub' – a place you can visit to read about the developments yourself
- 4) Workshops and consultations that you are invited to attend to keep updated on the progress of the NDP and **most importantly offer your views and opinions**
- 5) Leaflet drops containing updated information
- 6) Regular steering group meetings

You're Invited!

We are running our 1st exciting, informative and interactive event on **Saturday 22nd February** at the **Owen Harris Memorial Ground**

Please drop-in between **3-7pm** for:

- Interactive information about the plan
- Opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas
 - Quiz/Raffle with great prizes!
 - Sandwiches/Cakes & Tea!
 - Bar – between 5-7pm
- Bluefrog Drama group for the kids between 3-5pm

If you require transport please contact Muriel Bullock Tel: 01453 826172

The Eastington Allotment Society (TEAS)

A friend, visiting from Spain, was clearly stunned by the price of our supermarket vegetables. 'A pound for a pack of four organic carrots! That's twenty-five pence a carrot!' he gasped, truly appalled. 'And the price of runner beans!' ... and so he went on.

I laughed at my friend's outrage, but that is expensive. Luckily, as an allotment holder, I'm unfamiliar with supermarket prices and their vegetable quality. This mild winter means I'm still picking beetroots to add to my parsnips, butternut squashes, garlic and sweet, red onions for supper-time roasted vegetables. My freezer is crammed with broccoli, cauliflower, runner beans and red chilli. Even now I have purple sprouting and sprouts waiting to be harvested - and I haven't bought potatoes since early May. I enjoyed an abundance of salad leaves, tomatoes, beetroot and spring onions throughout the summer - along with the most wonderful French beans, carrots and cabbages. At the height of the season I kept family and friends supplied with 'free', fresh produce. Eventually, I had weekly requests for 'anything going spare' because, as any allotment holder will tell you, our vegetables are guaranteed to be the most delicious you've ever tasted!

Like a discerning celebrity chef, you can grow and eat your own vegetables! By the autumn you could be largely self-sufficient in your fabulous veggies. It takes a bit of time in the fresh air (lovely in the sunshine), and it requires some physical effort (good all-round exercise). We growers know, however, that the satisfaction and magical outcomes make it worthwhile.

Now is a perfect time to be planning your 2014 crops. If you are tempted to start growing, there are a small number of previously established allotments available for this spring. Guidance can be given, as fellow allotmenters are always keen to offer advice, and it's easy to recognise the experienced allotment holders - they are usually the relaxed, tanned, fit, well-fed ones!

For further details ring either Reg Parry on 01453 824008 - or Jennie Corrie on 01453 827718.

STOP PRESS - sorry it's a bit of a squeeze - Ed - **County Council News**

It is not too late to wish everyone a happy New Year - so I do hope you all have a very Happy New Year.

Flooding Issues: After much media coverage it may surprise you to learn that in Gloucestershire less than 20 houses have been flooded in recent weeks - which I am sure you will agree is very good news. Also good news is that the Environment Agency has confirmed that it will be providing £150K of funding to Stroud District Council for a Flood Alleviation Officer.

Javelin Park: The enquiry is reaching its final stages and once finished the Inspector will consider and then send his findings for determination by the Secretary of State - Eric Pickles. It will be some time before a final decision is known - probably not until either the end of this year or beginning of next.

Highways Contract: This has been awarded to Amey who will take over from Atkins at the beginning of April. They will provide most highways services including repairs as well as now overseeing the public right of way and footpath maintenance in the county. This new contract is for an initial five years but could be extended up to 11 years in total.

Badgers: The recent cull resulted in much debate and at the most recent full Council meeting it was decided that there would be a task group set up to look at the impact of the cull. Not just the immediate cost but the effect on residents in the areas where the cull was taking place, policing, petty crime and any other issues that are brought to the attention of the group. This will form the basis of a report which will be sent to the Farming Minister to act as information which we hope will be taken into consideration when future culls are being planned.

Unitary Working: The task group responsible for looking at the possibility of Unitary Government in Gloucestershire recently met leaders of the 6 local districts who in the main were opposed to moving towards a formal unitary structure. However it is recognised that more shared working is needed and finding ways to progress this will continue to be explored.

The Budget: The budget will be considered by full Council at the end of February and we will see a further £7.6 million taken from the County Council's budget - so in 4 years a total of £114 million will be removed and 2,500 fewer people working for GCC.

I regularly look around the village and have noticed the weather is attacking the roads again with more pot holes appearing. I have regular contact with an officer from Highways so will be requesting that these are made good as soon as possible.

Contact me? Should you have any questions or would like to discuss any issues to do with the County Council, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email: Lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk or by phone: 014563 822684

E C O Group Winter Meeting

Wednesday 5th February, 7.30 in Millend

We shall enjoy our traditional winter meeting whereby cider and perry from 2013 is sampled and the projects for the year sketched out.

Regular members have been e-mailed so if anyone new wants to come and join us (and what a way to start!) just ring me, Tom, on 823425 for directions.

Apple Juice Sales – a bumper year

With a decent crop and a workforce who are now very experienced, we had a bumper production.

Only 36 large bottles (out of 400) are left from sales at various markets. These will be given out as a (small) extra dividend to those who worked so hard in the orchards and on the market stalls.

Sales have exceeded £1,300 gross which will buy a lot of trees – certainly enough to complete Churchend Orchard.

Our new small bottles are selling very well in The Old Badger and the Xmas packs topped the 100 mark.

What **shall** we do for next year??



BOTTLES – please return your empty bottles to Hazel Cottage – BOTTLES

Hymn & Prayer

This is an opportunity to get together, and sing your favourite hymns, share a brief thought from the Bible and to pray. You don't have to have an angelic voices, just be able to "make a joyful noise to the Lord".

It takes place at Broadfield Sheltered Housing lounge, on 4th Wednesday of each month, at 2pm, and is followed by refreshments and an opportunity to chat.

All are very welcome. Do feel free to bring friends.

If you arrive a little early the doors may still be locked, but please give us a little time to arrive. If you would like to come, but transport is a problem, please contact:

Beck Burgin on 07511 197 265.

Future Dates:

26th Feb

26th March

23rd April

28th May

Local Plan - Examination In Public (EIP)

In November last year I reported that we anticipated that the EIP would be held in April of this year and indeed that has now been confirmed. The Examination is being split into two halves with the major issues being examined on the first three days of April -

- Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring Districts
- Legal Compliance of the plan
- Strategy and Housing need
- Employment issues

The other plan issues will be examined at a later date. We should know the Inspectors conclusions by April 18th.

Working Together

KER, DSS and the Parish council will all be represented at the Examination. We will be working hard and closely together to ensure a coordinated approach so that all the key messages and evidence are presented to the Inspector to the best effect. We have now the opportunity to make a further submission on each of the key topic areas and in response to specific questions already made available by the Inspector. All participants, and general public have access to the submissions made by all the interested parties so we can expect developers as well as ourselves to be crawling over what each other have said and considering how arguments might be strengthened and built upon. At this stage there is no new evidence allowed.

The Threats

Developers have challenged SDC that the housing numbers required at 9,500 are far too low and they should be around 11,500. They have made many statements in support of this assertion and quoted various ministers in support of their case. The final Inspector decision rests on an objective and evidenced based assessment of the numbers submitted.

Gloucester City Council and some developers have argued that the JCS (Gloucester, Tewkesbury Districts and Cheltenham borough) area cannot accommodate all the houses they (JCS) have decided should be built and therefore SDC should take up to an additional 3,000, this in addition to the 11,500, proposed by Developers, already argued for. They argue SDC is failing in its legal requirement of "Duty to Co-operate".

It is these two areas that some suggest the council is most vulnerable. It is our view and that of the PC's planning consultant, Ian Stuart, that the Local Plan is eminently winnable at this EIP with the right attitude and effort.

Why do we need all the houses

The ONS have provided a national population forecast up until 2037 (25 years) suggesting the population will grow by 9.6 million over this period. In summary this population growth is made up of 6 million net growth in direct and indirect (children) immigration and 3.6 million from the existing population growth. To meet the very high level of population growth (amongst the highest in the OECD countries) the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have determined that the country needs 4 million new houses - 2.2 million for the effects of net migration and 1.8 for current/existing population growth. To give an idea of the challenge ahead we need to build houses equivalent to the whole of Birmingham every 2.5 years for the next 25 years - 9 Birmingham or 1 London. In the period the over 75's grow by 4.5 million perhaps the largest challenge of all.

What can you do?

Your volunteer councillors and community groups will be working hard for the upcoming EIP and equally important Neighbourhood Plan. Please do give them all as much support as you can - the EIP and Neighbourhood Plan (NP) are the highest priority, we just have one chance of getting these right for quite some time so all help will be greatly appreciated.

Daniel James (DSS)

Inspector comes to Swallowcroft and denies democracy

On a cold, wet and very blustery day, the Planning Inspector came to judge the Appeal by a developer wanting to build 30 houses on less than 2 acres of Swallowcroft.



Despite promises by the Inspectors office, no democracy was available to the 35 people who turned out to Keep Eastington Rural.

The inspector refused to listen to anything we had to say.

It became “a seeing, not a hearing”

The Parish Council is looking to recover costs from the civil servants who cancelled the hearing at 24 hours notice.

Since it was a “seeing”, we made sure the inspector could see what a 32 foot high building looked like. (that’s the inspector with a map).

Billy the sheepdog thought it was a great idea to have an extra post in the field but the inspector was not amused.

Most people stuck around to maintain their presence for the two hours the inspector took to wander round all the angles. It seemed he wanted us to hope he was taking it seriously.

Less than 10 days later (inspectors usually take 5 weeks to contemplate) he declared in favour of the developer.

“well designed buildings” which are **“suitable for a suburban environment”** where they **“will not intrude into the countryside”**

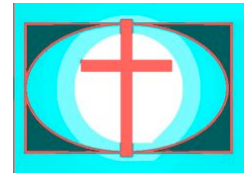


(Thanks to Rik Loveridge for the photos)



Our village is condemned once again to an urban development, let down by our District Planners and left wondering what the government ever meant by “Localism”

K E R will be supporting both the Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging Community Land Trust as means for parishioners to have more say in future.



How do you feel about 2014?

What are your expectations for 2014? Are they positive with you looking forward to new challenges with confidence and with rewarding achievements in prospect? Are there clouds on the horizon with ill health, relationship or job problems affecting you or threatening to? Perhaps you feel that you have little to look forward to with a feeling that your best days are behind you and if you are lucky, things won't get much worse - yet. For many, I guess it may be a mix of some or all of the above.

In all circumstances, Jesus Christ can be there for you - that may sound trite but it's true. There are wonderful stories of people who have put their trust and confidence in God and have led, or are living, triumphant lives with disabilities and problems that could logically have resulted in despair and hopelessness.

The job of the church is to bring hope and salvation to people. So whether you are an optimist, a pessimist, a realist or just fed up why not talk to us or just come along on a Sunday at 11am.



Rev Graham Miles, our new minister, has a number of talents and resources that we didn't know about when we first met him.

It turns out that he has a set of puppets and some of the young people had the opportunity to learn how to use them at the last sleepover and then put on a show at the well attended Messy Christmas event.

Some of the older children at Whitminster also acted out part of the Old Testament Bible story of Jacob in front of their school.

Liz Burgin has been appointed as the new Youth and Families Worker to help the church support the work with children, young people and families. In addition to supporting the existing activities, she will be coming up with new initiatives in this area. Already in the pipeline are a series of Messy events with the next one during Half Term on Wednesday 19th February at 10am and a series of themed youth sleepovers taking place every six weeks or so. Please feel free to contact her on 827414.

An Appeal: If anyone has replaced an older but large flat screen TV with a new whizz-bang latest SMART HD type and is wondering what to do with the old one, we might well be able to use it to support our youth work.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward
Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

E-REG (Eastington Renewable Energy Group)

E-REG was set up "To investigate and develop renewable energy projects in the Parish for the economic benefit to the entire Parish without having significant ecological effect or irreversible impact on the most valued public amenities. [e.g. assets, environment.]"

Back in 2007 Eastington Parish Council (EPC) was approached by Max Comfort and Brian Oosthuysen to consider benefits of a Community Wind Turbine scheme. EPC learned that such a scheme could generate an annual income to make very significant contributions to Community projects.

In our Parish Plan of 2010, a question was asked to gauge public support for a community benefit scheme; this resulted in 4:1 respondents being in favour.

During the summer of last year, EPC agreed to support a proposal to constitute a 'Community Wind Turbine and Alternative Renewable Energy Sources Trust' to assess the feasibility of potential projects. E-REG was formed in Autumn 2013 and began research and preparation for feasibility assessment of any Renewable Energy project which has potential to benefit the entire Parish.

The Government has allocated £15M for Rural Community Energy Projects to help communities to set up their own schemes. The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is being delivered by Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change). They are committed to supporting rural communities such as ours in benefiting economically and socially from renewable energy

The first stage for any project is a Feasibility Study and up to £20K is available for consultation and reporting. Providing that a sound business plan is established, then a further £130K of government unsecured loan would be available to start up a project. GRCC has already funded a pre-feasibility report for E-REG. (It is now unlikely that £2K already budgeted by EPC for a feasibility study will be needed.) But delaying funding applications for potential projects will inevitably reduce potential income as Feed-in-Tariffs are reduced.

There are now several examples of Community Schemes across the UK; in Udny (Aberdeenshire,) £100k p.a. is delivered into their local community from an 80m Wind Turbine which cost £1.45 million to build. Nearer to home St. Briavels is getting £20k per year into their community fund from their Joint Venture scheme. Projects at Wickwar and Kingswood are underway, with 20 more in the pipeline.

In the past, many community organisations or projects have opted for Registered Charity status, but these are not necessarily the most appropriate forms of constitution these days. Community Interest Companies (CIC) could be more appropriate form of constitution to enable profits to be ploughed into the local community and investments, and E-REG will be investigating this option.

Hydro, solar and wind are the schemes currently under investigation. Consultation with Parishioners and relevant organisations will be a vital part of the process when viable schemes are defined. Public meetings will be organised to get your views and to check that any scheme meets the objective of the top paragraph.

If you are interested in renewable energy or have experience in this field, please feel free to contact me.

Andrew Niblett (Chairman of E-REG) 01453 824841



discover the amazing you

The 25th Eastington Spring Flower Show

Sponsored By: Eastington, Dursley & Leonard Stanley Slimming World Groups

Tel: 0844 897 8000 for group venue and times.

Saturday March 29th 2014 at 2pm -3.30pm in the Village Hall

Admission 20p

RULES

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

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

ENTRY FORM FOR EXHIBITOR

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

Additional entry forms available from the show secretary.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTERIES March 29th 2014

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

Exhibitors Name:-----

Address:-----

Total remittance:-----

THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Hints to exhibitors:

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

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

PRESIDENT: Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris
 CHAIRPERSON: Mr D Haines

TREASURER: Mr W Fletcher
 SECRETARY: Mrs S Underdown, 3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG. Tel: 01453 823285
 steward: Mrs Q Jones

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

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

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

Trophies

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



Firstly, we would like to start this newsletter by thanking the many local businesses that very kindly donated prizes for our amazing raffle at our Christmas Nativity. We were overwhelmed by the generosity from everyone and from the proceeds we will be able to fund our allotment project this year to enable the children to learn about growth and decay, by planting a range of flowers and vegetables, as well as taking a look at the many insects that live on the allotment, that of course is if it ever stops raining!

2013 ended on a high with another wonderful Nativity performance, the children's fabulous singing was heard by a very special man with a beard and red jacket who flew in to deliver some presents, much to the children's delight.

We return to playgroup concentrating on working in small key groups for story time, our book title is 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' and our home corner has now become a shoe shop. Activities to support learning through play have been buying and selling pairs of shoes, measuring feet and writing price labels with the focus on writing for a purpose. Children have also been noticing similarities and differences and patterns in shoes and counting total numbers of shoes in the shop together with some number recognition.

We have also been making up rhythms and reciting both old and learning new rhymes. Some of the older children have also been retelling the story in pictures and words. For one week we are learning about Chinese New Year and we will have some Chinese food to eat for snack and participate in activities linked to the year of the horse.

During this half term we are also concentrating on the seasons, friendships and being kind to others and this will coincide with making Valentine's Day cards for someone special.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 5 years in a well established community based group.

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

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

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

**If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Play Leader
Tel 07977 342 742 - email eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk**

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and nurture His people's love for God**



Dear Friends,

As Easter is late again this year (20th April) It means there is a longer gap in the Church's year between the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season and the beginning of Lent. The 2nd of February is the Feast of Candlemas, which this year falls on a Sunday so can be celebrated in all our churches, but there is a big gap to Ash Wednesday on 5th March (this year the Ashing service is being hosted by St. Andrew's, Frocester).

With this in mind it seems like a good opportunity to start a study group, as a few people have been enquiring. In the past we have had some Alpha courses, but there is further material produced to help us dig a bit deeper. The '**Challenging Lifestyle**' series is based on The Sermon on the Mount – a collection of Jesus' teaching found in St. Matthew's gospel. There is a 30-40 minute DVD presentation of each session and an opportunity for discussion over refreshments afterwards.

So, in this New Year would you like to have a go and examine subjects such as finding the secret of happiness, changing the world around you, understanding the Old Testament, handling anger, approaching sex in the 21st century, and responding to divorce? These are the first half-dozen topic titles, and you can explore them with me at the **Rectory on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-9pm from 4th February to the 1st April**. If you could let me know if you intend coming that would be great – and don't feel that you need to come to every one – they are all individual topics. However, the first to arrive get the comfy chairs!

We don't have any ongoing regular study groups in our benefice, but it would be great if we could establish some where people can work through issues, delve more deeply into the scriptures, and enjoy a greater depth of fellowship with one another. Please do think about it. You may ask, "Why Tuesdays?" Just simply because that's the day of the week that currently is less taken up with other things in my diary in the evening than any other between now and 2 weeks before Easter!

It occurs to me that 4th March is Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) so I guess that may have an influence of the refreshments that evening...

An advance notice about Mothering Sunday at the end of March. As it falls on a 5th Sunday, we would normally have just one Sunday service in the benefice. However that seems a bit unfair, so the plan is to have services in the morning in the churches where we have a school in the parish – Eastington with a communion, and Haresfield and Whitminster with lay-led services.

Of course the other important celebration this month is on Friday 14th February – don't forget St. Valentine's Day. Chocolates, red roses and white wine for the ladies – or something like that, isn't it?

Yours in Christ,

Rector

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

Email: richardjramys@aol.com. Tel/fax 01453 822437.

Day off – Saturday. (Mobile 07796 956050)

2nd February Candlemas (p55 – white) Hebrews 2.14-18 & Luke 2.22-40 (p57)	9th February 4th before Lent (p60 - green) 1 Corinthians 2.1-12 & Matthew 5.13-20 (64/5)	16th February 3rd before Lent (p61 - green) Amos 3.1-8 & Ephesians 5.1-17	23rd February 2nd before Lent (p72 - green) Genesis 1.1-2.3 & Matt 6.25-34 (p72/5)
10.45am Holy Communion (Angela Reeder)	10.45am Holy Communion	6pm Sung Evensong	10.45am Holy Communion

2nd March Sunday Next before Lent (p77 – green) 2 Peter 1. 16-21 & Matthew 17.1-9 (p79)	9th March 1st of Lent (p86 - purple) Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 & Matthew 4.1-11 (p87/88)	16th March St Patrick (eve) (p1262) <i>Psalm 145.11-13 & 2 Corinthians 4.1-12</i>	23rd March 3rd of Lent (p93 - purple) Exodus 17.1-7 & John 4.5-42 (p93/5)	30th March Mothering Sunday (p101 - purple) Ephesians 5.21; 6.1-4 & Luke 2.41-52
10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Mothering Sunday Communion

All services are taken by the Rector unless stated otherwise

Baptisms

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

Weddings

Edward Bamford and Leah Gray were married at Eastington on December 21st.

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

Jean Plested of Nastend, Eastington, died on 30th November. Her funeral was conducted by the Revd Angela Reeder assisted by the Rector at Eastington Church on December 10th, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

David Smith of Bath Road died on 2nd January. The Rector conducted his committal at Gloucester Crematorium, followed by a service of thanksgiving at Eastington Church on January 16th.

Christian Aid

Our churches in conjunction with Eastington Methodist Church are going to be looking at the possibility of helping to raise funds for Christian Aid by means of their annual week during which donation envelopes are distributed and collected in local areas. If you would be willing to help with this, even in a small way, please could you contact me at the Rectory? *Richard.*

Electoral Rolls

As the time for the churches in our benefice to hold their annual meetings draws near, the electoral rolls for each church are revised to take account of people who have joined, and those who have left. If you don't think your name is on the roll for your church, and you think it should be, please contact me at the Rectory by Sunday 23rd March. Application forms will be at the back of the church, and on the website. *Richard.*

Foodbank

A collection point (basket) has been set up in Eastington Church. If anyone would like to donate dried or tinned goods, please leave them during daylight hours when the church is open, and we will deliver them to the Foodbank warehouse in Stroud for onward distribution. Tinned meat and fish, and long-life milk is always in demand, but anything you might want to donate that is not of a perishable nature would be gratefully received – with the exception of dried pulses and cereals, with which they are overloaded, and which most families and individuals in need don't really know what to do with – do you? Many thanks to Trish Pyne for organising this.



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

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If you are interested phone 01453 791424 or email me at hazelrankbroadley@gmail.co.uk

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If you are looking for greater health, wanting to learn new skills and have fun along the way, why not join one of the energy health classes at The Eastington Community Centre (OHMG) for Tai Chi and Chi Kung?

Now entering its third year at the community centre with classes for beginners and experienced students, Christopher Handbury teaches his gentle but lively traditional eastern health system that leaves you feeling calm, relaxed and **alive!**



Beginners and experienced students Jan 2014



Up and Coming Classes

Feb 21st Friday Fresher - Energy Health Chi Kung & Tai Chi (7weeks) £54.00 Every Friday 12-1pm
Fun before lunch! A boost before the weekend! Great introduction class!

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All classes are fun and friendly so why not join the Energy Health family and improve ever aspect of your life.

April 22nd Spring/Summer Term Energy Health Chi Kung & Tai Chi (12 Weeks) £84.00
Every Tuesday 7-8pm

Back School - Spinal Dynamic Healing Do you have Back Pain? Sciatica and Hip pain? Maybe stress and tension?

Every month you can attend this educational class and learn relaxing techniques to treat your own pain and injuries. Its very therapeutic and easy to learn. The workshop is 90 minutes long and costs just £10 which makes it a very cost effective means of pain relief! Check out the website for the next date or call today to discover more.

Full details available at www.energyhealth.co.uk or please call 01453 828000

Save Locally! at The Stonehouse Holistic Centre

For the past three years The Stonehouse Holistic Centre has been providing effective holistic treatments and acupuncture to local residents. SHC believe everyone should be able to access these great medical treatments they have introduced an new acupuncture and medical massage treatment cost of just £30 until the end of February to encourage others to take a positive step towards better health. NHS Discount available. **Read Customer testimonials at www.stonehouseholistic.co.uk**



Beat the Winter Chills - Winter Warmer Soup!

CURRIED SWEET POTATO AND CORRIANDER SOUP.

Soften two onions with a little cumin and turmeric.
Throw in 400-500g chopped sweet potato's.
Sprinkle two tsp mild curry powder over potatoes.
Make up 1.5 ltr veg stock.
Add stock and 150g washed red lentils.
Add tsp of fresh or dried chopped corriander.
Simmer for 10 mins, stick in a slow cooker on high for 2-4 hours.
Mash with potato masher to keep chunky and Hey Presto!

Community Park Project

We're out of the blocks!

Anyone who has strolled (or driven) to the OHMG playing fields would not have failed to notice the changing landscape. The first phase of the project has got underway in earnest with the shifting and sculpting of several tonnes of earth to produce four mounds in the park area. I'd like to say we toiled away with wheelbarrows and shovels, but that would have been silly and we would probably still be nursing broken backs and blisters now. No, we have great thanks to hand out for the kind and generous support given by Smith's, for the free use of digger and dumper truck, and to the voluntary operators of said equipment: Eric Hancock and Alex Stickland. Both fellows giving in excess of 20 hours of their free time, and on very cold days, is greatly appreciated.



We now have to wait for the weather and ground to dry out before we can get back into the park, and carry on the work of spreading top soil and seeding the newly formed mounds. Another thank you is due here, to Barnwood Construction for providing the mammoth amount of top soil required. Also, Smith's for once again providing suitable provision to transport the soil.

We are going to hold an update meeting on 18th Feb at OHMG Community Center, starting at 7pm. Please come along if you are just interested or feel you can and want to help out. There will be a work tilling and sowing grass seeds, probably in early March, help would be appreciated (lets' call it bring a rake day).



Left: This is where a swing might go, but from the looks of this contented young fellow a pile of dirt will do nicely.

Right: Clearing away bracken was part of the job, to make more space and to allow for a new access point for the allotments



To get in touch email us at eastington.yg@gmail.com or at www.facebook.com/Eastington.playground.project Any changes to the above meeting date will be posted on the Facebook page.

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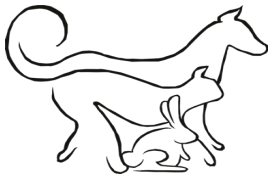
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