

Editorial – Christmas Edition

December 2014/January 2015

Issue: 148

Welcome to the Christmas edition, which brings you the popular **Christmas Quiz** from the Village Agent and a reminder of the long-standing **Eastington School Christmas Bazaar** on Sunday 7th December at 12:15. We can read about preparations for **Eastington Playgroup's Christmas Nativity**, which will be on Thursday 18th December.

We have details inside for activities, and **Advent and Christmas services at both Anglican and Methodist churches**. Some mellowing signs are detected among once brash commercial advertising in the approach to Advent and Christmas. Poignant TV adverts by Sainsbury's and John Lewis encouraging compassionate thoughts and expressions of love through the eyes of a penguin are examined by the Rector.

Getting things to happen in any place requires some key ingredients; imagination, hard work, determination and a helping hand of a benevolent supporter are elements that come to mind. Eastington has come a long way in realising many of its dreams, and compares very favourably with other similar-sized communities today. I know that many in the Village will remember the time before we had our own recreation ground, and when we were desperately seeking land for allotments and a play park for the youngsters. It is timely to recall how Mrs. Shirley Harris gave us the Owen Harris Memorial Ground (OHMG) in memory of her husband, and enabled us to buy land next to it for allotments and the Play Park. It was with sadness therefore that we learned of her recent death following a long illness. She had taken great interest in our Village since moving away to Selsey in West Sussex, and her welcomed phone calls to many of us were a chance to exchange interesting news. Many people in the Village have said they would like to have a service to remember Shirley and an opportunity to give thanks for the big contribution that she made to Eastington. Early in the New Year a memorial service will be arranged to celebrate the life of Shirley, so look out for the notices, and if you would like to take part please contact me on the number below.

It would save Planners a lot of work if most of the new homes needed for the District were bundled as a 'blob' rather than distributed around the area that they serve. But that reason does not make it a good idea. The news on this front makes for depressing

reading without a glimmer of festive cheer. This topic dominates articles from **Parish and District Councils** who also bring news of Boundary Changes, Sheltered Housing and other issues important to Eastington. For a detailed view of the Local Plan and 'West of Stonehouse' proposal see the **DSS article by Daniel James**.

A couple of members from Eastington Flood Group recently spent time further up the Stroud valleys with like-minded local groups to see how best to reduce risk of flash flooding to we 'valley dwellers'. In the article '**Stroud Valleys Rural Sustainable Drainage System Project**', you can read how slowing down the flow of water from the hills in times of torrential rain can help reduce flooding risk to those who live close to the flood plain.

The College of William Morris House gives an insight of their community and introduces a proposal for new workshops to enhance development of vocational skills. **Eastington Community Orchard Group's 'Apple Day'** was a remarkable success, and a record amount of produce has been prepared this year. For the best way to get hold of these scrumptious juices and gift packs see inside for details.

If it's activity you are looking for you may find articles about the **new 'footpaths' group (PROWD)**, or the **'Jolly Joggers' group** to be the ticket. If you are a bit busy in the lead up to Christmas, how about another look following the festivities? It could just be the answer for a New Year's resolution when the time comes. If all that activity seems too much, then an armchair update from **Alkerton Rangers** might whet your appetite for some live spectator sport at OHMG.

Few can have missed the remarkable recent achievement in restoration of the Stroudwater Canal between Stonehouse and Stroud. Now we can see progress as the section between Stonehouse and Saul Junction (Section 1B) comes into the limelight. Your ideas for creative opportunities or volunteering to help would be most welcome as the multi-million pound Heritage Lottery Fund bid is compiled, as explained in **Val Kirby's article**.

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Andrew Niblett - Editor

Next Deadline: Articles by THURSDAY JANUARY 22nd 2015

Next Delivery: Saturday January 31st 2015

Eastington - Winner of Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010



Eastington School Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 7 December
12.15pm

Father Christmas grotto, secret
Santa, tombolas, lucky dip,
crafts, refreshments, raffle and
many more.

Everyone welcome.

Important Notice

The Junior Choir and Senior Choir are merging to become one choir, which will be known as the Cotswold Edge Parishes' Choir. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) came to this decision due to the fact we no longer have a Junior Choir singing at our Church. So therefore we are merging the two Choirs to be able to make use of the funds that was intended for use by the Junior Choir. This will allow us to use the funds for Choir purposes, which were the sole purpose of what the money was for.

Should you have any objections or questions of the merger, please contact a member of the PCC.

01453 822437 | 0779956050

richardjamys@aol.com

Thank you

Ian Hodges, Eastington
Church Treasurer



Andrew Niblett (Editor) 824841 (niblett.parish@talktalk.net)
Chris Osman (Articles Editor) 822060 (ecn.articles@gmail.com)
Tom Low (Distributor & Adverts) 823425 (tom@hazelcottage.eu)

Eastington Parish Council News

Parish Matters

I would like to say thank you to Councillor Jennie Corrie for chairing meetings during my absence due to my recent foot operation. Also thank you to everyone who visited and offered help, it was very much appreciated. I am now mobile again and catching up on all Parish concerns.

The Council is still very busy, with planning still very high on our priority list. SDC (Stroud District Council) will decide next month on the number of houses they want to build in the district over the next 20 years. If this number is around 11,000 we can expect the West of Stonehouse (WoS) application to be strongly considered. The Council supports the work the action groups are involved in and I hope parishioners will do likewise so we can try to prevent our lovely vibrant Parish becoming a "concrete jungle".

At the Council meeting on 11th November the Council agreed to support a group of Parishioners who want to set up a P.R.O.W. (public rights of way), or better known to some of us as footpaths group, to protect our much loved and valued walks in our Parish.

It is good to see the new playground being well used and now the fencing is finished it is looking good. There are plans in place for more equipment and landscaping to be done, and thanks for all this work must go to a small group of people who have organised it and made it happen. If you think you can help please get in touch with me and I will pass your details to the appropriate person.

I will finish by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Muriel Bullock | Chair Eastington Parish Council | murielbullock@gmail.com | 01453 826172

District Councillor's Newsletter

Local Plan

The meeting to decide what the District Council's response to the EIP Inspectors initial findings are will take place on the 9th December. This will probably happen before some people read this article. My personal opinion on how things are turning out on this is that I fear that things have moved into another phase recently and that the outcome of this meeting will not be to the benefit of the Parish's of Eastington and Standish. There is not much else I can say on this just now. I will have more to say in my next newsletter after the meeting. Work is continuing within the Parish to show to officers and other councilors what are believed to be fundamental errors in the reports and decision recommendations that will be tabled at the meeting. This will continue right up to and in the meeting itself.

Boundary Commission Review

The District Council's all party working group have submitted a recommendation to the Commission on how they think the District's Ward boundaries should look, taking into account the changes required to accommodate a more equitable and acceptable resident-councilor ratio. The recommendation includes a new ward that will comprise the Parish's on Eastington, Standish and Whitminster. This will be a single member ward. I was not a member of this working group.

Sheltered Housing Service.

The new service arrangements for tenants in the District's sheltered housing schemes starts on Monday 24th November. I hope these arrangements provide everything it is hoped they will provide. The tenants in these schemes really do need a long period of stability and calm after what seems to have been endless years of restructuring and upset.

Ken Stephens | November 2014

St Michael and All Angels' Church

One of the 'Cotswold Edge' Parishes (Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster)

Benefice Website: www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk

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



THE RECTOR WRITES



Dear Friends,

As you probably know by now, I am continually embarrassed by my inability to keep a 'stiff upper lip' when it comes to watching soppy movies, and generally dissolve into blubbing heap, much to the amusement of my family. What on earth possessed me to watch the full-length John Lewis Christmas advert goodness only knows – but I did. Perhaps it was a sense of loyalty for the organisation I used to work for, but I should have known better. By the time the penguin had gone through seeing all the various expressions of love, I really felt for the poor flightless thing. But when he saw what was in his Christmas present – well the taps turned on, my wife came in to see what on earth had happened, and, after she had finished laughing, had to console me with a big hug and a mug of tea. Even now I can't see a penguin without getting choked up. I'll probably get over it just in time for the new advert for Christmas in 2015!

I guess the advert taps into the spirit of the nativity insomuch as all the signs are there for us, and something wonderful happens at the end. I wonder how you would react if you were watching the story of the nativity for the first time? One of the best reactions I can remember on the television to the birth of a child was in 'Only Fools and Horses' when, after the birth of his first child, Del come into the hospital corridor and Rodney asks him, "Well – what is it?" Del, completely overcome by the occasion replies, "It's a baby!" True of course, but the correct answer was 'a boy'!

(Rector)

In the bible Joseph and Mary are all too well aware that Jesus' birth is imminent. So are the angels, then the shepherds are told about the birth, and the wise men are forewarned and already on their way. Drama surrounds the Holy Family as struggle to find somewhere to stay, and where Mary can give birth in safety, ending up in a stable. Not exactly where Mary had in mind for her home birth. Nowadays there seem to be a plethora of TV programmes about the birth of children, but somehow the birth of this child, and the circumstances around it, stand head and shoulders above all others, even 2000 years later. This was a real 'special baby unit' – and you won't find any oxen or asses in the modern equivalent!

So how do we respond to this birth? We send cards, give presents, have parties. Surely more people celebrate this near disaster of a birth than any other the world has ever witnessed? What should be our real response – what would Jesus really want for Christmas? The first and last verses on a popular carol run as follows:

*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in
the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a
shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I
can I give him: give my heart.*

Which is just what the John Lewis penguin, as well as you, me and Jesus want – LOVE!

Yours in Christ, and Happy Christmas

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

Email: richardjramys@aol.com. Tel/fax 01453 822437. Day off – Saturday. (Mobile 07796 956050)

Services in December and January - All services are taken by the Rector unless stated otherwise

7th December 2nd of Advent (p380 - purple) Isaiah 40.1-11 & Mark 1.1-8 (p382)	14th December 3rd of Advent (p383- purple) 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 & John 1.6-8, 19-28 (p386)	21st December 4th of Advent (p387 - purple) 2 Samuel 7.1-11 & Luke 1.26-38 (p390)	24th/25th December (white/gold) Midnight Mass Psalm 98 & John 1.1-14 (p403/4)	28th December Holy Innocents (p1213 - red) Jeremiah 31.15-17 & Matthew 2.13-18 (p1213/4)
10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion (Angela Reeder)	3pm Carol Service with choir	Christmas Eve 6pm Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass	10am at Haresfield Benefice 'Birthday' Communion (15 years!)
4th January Epiphany Sunday (p414 - White) Ephesians 3.1-12 & Matthew 2.1-12 (p416/7)	11th January The Baptism of Christ (p418 - White) Genesis 1.1-5 & Mark 1.4-11 (p418/20)	18th January 2nd of Epiphany (p421 - white) Isaiah 60.9-22 & Hebrews 6.17-7.10	25th January The Conversion of Paul (p1103 - white) Acts 9.1-22 & Matthew 19.27-30 (p1104/5)	
10.45am Holy Communion (Angela Reeder)	10.45am Holy Communion	6pm Sung Evensong and Baptism	10.45am Holy Communion	

Baptisms

Thea Grace Messenger was baptised at Eastington on Sunday 19th October.

Poppy Isabella Mary Bennett was baptised at Eastington on 9th November

Weddings

Mark Doherty and Jess Szczelkun were married at Eastington on October 5th.

Matt Taylor and Fiona McCavara were married at Eastington on November 7th.

Funeral

Violet Esther Aldridge 'Vi', formerly of Eastington and Frocester, died on October 19th. Her funeral was conducted by the Revd Angela Reeder at Eastington Church on 10th November, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.



Christmas at Eastington Church

You are warmly invited to join us at St Michael and all Angels' Church, Eastington for Christmas 2014. You would be most welcome to come along to our Traditional Carol Service by candlelight, our Midnight Communion Service, or have some fun at our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.

Saturday 13th December 2014
6pm - Stroud Branch Bell Ringer's Carol Service

Tuesday 16th December 2014
7pm - Cotswold Youth Singers Christmas Concert

Sunday 20th December 2014
3pm - Carol Service
*Singing supported by the Church Choir.
 Festive refreshments served afterwards.*



Wednesday 24th December 2014 (Christmas Eve)
6pm - Christingle Service
Christingle collection donated to the Children's Society. Please contact Gary & Jackie Dingle (01453 825542) for more information.
11.30pm - Midnight Mass



Eastington Playgroup



We have had a very busy start to the new school term and have been settling into routines and supporting children's transition to playgroup and encouraging independence for the older children.



For our focus this term we have been looking at different festivals and celebrations. Starting with Bonfire night and how to keep ourselves safe. We have been learning the about importance light plays in all festivals, covering Diwali, Hanukah, Christmas and Eid and our focus has been on creative play and talking about the lives of others.

Christmas Nativity

Auditions have started for the Christmas Nativity, and we have been busy learning new songs, making scenery and props and becoming accustomed to the children's new characters for the big day on Thursday 18th December and after the big performance we are hoping that Father Christmas might be able to squeeze in a visit to see us - fingers crossed!! We hold this event every year followed by refreshments, a fantastic raffle and sell Christmas crafts made by the children – it continues to be a very popular event that starts the festive season off with some great smiles and memories!! Wish us all luck!



Also this term we have been concentrating on improving our listening skills as this is one of the first steps to reading. Free flow play, and going outside on the field, enjoying the fabulous new play park and also accessing the allotment continues.

We are holding an 'information afternoon' for prospective parents on Wednesday 3rd December so if you want more information and would like to come along please give us a ring or email us but don't worry if you miss this as we will also be organising another information afternoon in March 2015 ready for the next intake of children.

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 – email eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucescershire.co.uk or visit our website
www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com**

Registered Charity No. 1084981
OFSTED Registration No. 101782



Christmas Fayre – Saturday 29th November

Do come and join us at **The Grange Care Centre, Bristol Road, Eastington, from 2.00 to 4.00**, where you can enjoy musical entertainment; refreshments; various stalls; and a raffle.

We are also looking for a choir who would like to come and sing carols to our residents during December. If you can help, please contact Denise on 07903 885237

Public Rights of Way

PROWD (Public Rights of Way Defenders) - New Action Group

Following on from the last Eastington Parish Council meeting on November 11th, I am pleased to let you know that a new group has been formed to give our PROW's a higher profile and to encourage more people to use them, also, to ask regular users and dog walkers to report any problems that they come across.

The core of the group will be Councillor Jennie Corrie, Sally Mears, Ann Pitcher and myself. We will meet every quarter to discuss PROW issues. Once a venue has been found, the date and time will be circulated so that anyone may attend. Please log your email address with me in order to receive this information and up-dates on any activities. We would hope to organise some walks around the Parish, some footpath clearing and maintenance,

and possibly have some map reading sessions.

I cannot stress enough that the Public Rights Of Way, are your Public Rights Of Way, and they need to be defended.

We know that Amey (the County Councils PROW Contractor) had some ' bedding in ' problems in April, and that their sub-contractors were not in place to do the usual footpath clearance, but, despite having fewer staff, the PROW team in Shire Hall continue to do their best to maintain and improve our PROWs.

I have been very impressed and encouraged by the large number of Parishioners who have supported the protection of local footpaths including the Ramblers, our M.P. Mr Carmichael, and people from other Parishes.

Thank you for all your support.

Bill Edwards | 01453 824452 | edwards.parish@btinternet.com

Editors Note:

Since the publication of the last edition of ECN, I am reliably informed about a positive outcome for diversion of some footpaths in a neighbouring parish. It seems that a cooperative proposal by walkers and landowners is close to agreement for a workable solution - **Ed**.

Sustainability

Stroud Valley RSuDS (Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems) Project

Two of us joined Chris Uttley, RSuDS Project Officer for SDC, as he took a group of local people to the top of the Slad Valley to see the innovative work being undertaken to eventually prevent torrential flooding along the Slad & Painswick watercourse. Everyone is living in an area where flooding has happened in recent times, some of them with considerable damage to their properties. We, in Eastington, are of course downstream from that part of the Frome & therefore need to take note!

It wasn't raining on that morning but, as we all know, it had been pretty heavy in previous days so we needed waterproofs, wellies and walking poles to wend our way across & through woods & mud.



Chris was introducing us to the facts about the potential risks of 'Boscastle-like' flooding within one or two of the Stroud Valleys unless sufficient work is carried in the next few years to set up systems that can alleviate these risks.

We were shown how the techniques that have been considered, and are being installed, include permanent/semi-permanent designs that will collect, store & treat water resulting in a slower release into the environment. Designs tend to have a low cost, low energy input with low maintenance costs & result in positive impacts on the environment.

They are typically located in three main areas depending on their design: in-channel, across flood plains & land areas or across farmyard areas.

We were looking at one method of 'in-channel' system to develop

barriers with woody debris which result in reducing the speed of water flow & the collection of water into small pools upstream of the barrier.

The photos show how large logs are used to make these barriers – they are strategically placed, drilled & fixed in place with metal poles at least 6ft in length hammered through the wood & down into the ground.

The continuing support for this work from the County Council is vital to prove its viability and to provide alleviation in the sensitive rapid reaction catchments of the Frome catchment.



There are many designs that can be found in the following documents:

1) The Wild Trout Trust: www.wildtrout.org

http://www.wildtrout.org/sites/default/files/library/Large_Woody_Debris.pdf

2) Environment Agency: Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems (RSuDS)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291508/scho0612buwh-e-e.pdf

Pauline Allen & Rik Loveridge



What`s happening William Morris House College?

We realise that despite being part of Eastington since the `70s we are very little known by the local residents. We wish to redress this, so let me introduce who and what we are.

William Morris House College is a residential and day provision Specialist College for young people with special educational needs, catering for young people from Gloucestershire as well as students from other cities and counties across the UK. We are a part of the International Camphill Movement, which was founded in 1941 in Scotland. We value an education which uses meaningful work especially in hand crafts such as weaving, felting, wood work, and candle making, as well as working to care for the land and grow our own flowers and produce. We then use this in our food processing to make jams, preserves and juices. Through rhythmic work in the houses, preparing food, cleaning and doing the laundry, students also learn valuable independence and self-help skills. The mornings are taken up with more formal class

based study and activity and two mornings are devoted to movement and drama. Many go out on work experience and to leisure activities in the local community. We promote students preparation for life in the modern world, but value the use of awareness, of the course, and of the year and the seasons, through the celebration of festivals, some of which are being lost in the modern materialistic society.

We employ more than 60 people, and also have volunteer workers staying with us to help, usually for one year, who come from many parts of Europe and the World. Realising we have a very low local profile, we made a start to change this some two or so years back by helping the local apple growers (Community Orchards) to make juice using our Food Processing Workshop Facilities. This has been very successful and helps to keep a contact with the people of Eastington. We have also always been good customers of local shops and especially the butcher.

What`s new?

All special colleges are undergoing a difficult time at the moment due to the austerity cuts and new funding regulations. However, we are optimistic that we will overcome this. One very new and important development is the construction, now very far advanced, of a new workshop complex on land we acquired 4 years ago, situated behind our existing site. This will give us not only state of the art facilities for 3 workshops but also a café and kitchen/food processing facility. We hope to use the facility, which will be set in landscaped grounds, will not only be for college use, but in a flexible and open way will attract all walks of life to learn craft skills, develop vocational skills and enjoy café facilities close to attractive canal walks. We hope to keep our local community informed through regular contributions to the Eastington Community News.



Adrian Standing

Village Agent News – Xmas Quiz



We hope you enjoy our quiz and that it does not task your brains too much. For a change we have themed our quiz this year on the First World War, and Gloucestershire local knowledge. You'll find the answers at the end of this newsletter!

1. Who wrote about the Tailor of Gloucester?
2. What is a Dursley Lantern?
3. What animal is a Gloucester Old Spot?
4. There are five beers made by Uley Brewery how many can you name?
5. Who is Berkeley's most famous doctor?
6. Which King is buried in Gloucester Cathedral?
7. Where does the annual event of Cheese Rolling take place in Gloucestershire?
8. Who wrote the music for the hymn Jerusalem?
9. Which 'new' weapon was introduced into battle in The First World War?
10. Who was the mistress of Henry the second, who was born at Manor Farm Frampton on Severn?
11. Who wrote the music to the song 'Keep The Home Fires Burning'?
12. Which location in Gloucester City was the former site of William The Conqueror's Palace?
13. Which public house was the author Laurie Lee's, drinking haunt?
14. What is the date of Armistice Day?
15. From what metal objects were Victoria Crosses reputed to be made of?
16. Who was the British Prime Minister at the beginning of The First World War?
17. What is the full Roman name for Gloucester?
18. Which Gloucestershire school did Stephen Fry attend?
19. Which Stroud MP 1837 - 1841 went on to become Prime Minister?
20. How many Farthings in one shilling?
21. What coin were new recruits given to enlist for service in the First World War?
22. Where is the Museum of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire

**If you would like information or advice on any other matters, please contact your village agent
I would like to wish you all Seasons Greetings for Christmas and The New Year.**

Sue Colquhoun | Village Agent | 07810 630145.

Eastington's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The Steering Group would like to thank all of you who completed the questionnaire that was sent out in September. A big thanks is also given to the Kings Head Inn, the Old Badger Inn, the Post Office, the Co-Op, and Broomhall butchers for being the drop off point for the questionnaires. There was a good response with approximately 250 forms completed. The questionnaire responses are currently being analysed and incorporated into the draft plan, which will then be reviewed and checked.

Discussions have also started with Stroud District Council to check the plan is in alignment with the Local Plan and complies with current legislation and planning guidelines.


For further information on Eastington's Neighbourhood Plan and how you can get involved, please visit www.eastingtonndp.co.uk, email eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com or ring me on telephone number 01453 799616.

Peter-Edis Bates | Chairman Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Parkinson's Branch Meetings

Looking for ways to raise awareness of people who suffer from Parkinson's, and help that is available locally.

You may not know that there is local branch in Cirencester that hold meetings every third Monday in the month, with a grand Xmas Lunch at Minchinhampton Golf club.



Children's Parties

Bohemian Beads Children's Parties

Do you want an unusual and entertaining party activity for children? Then why not have a jewellery making party!

I teach brownies/guides too
Please contact for more details
07810015220
info@bohemianbeads.co.uk
or
www.bohemiankids.co.uk

The meetings are designed to support and encourage other sufferers, to exchange their experiences with each other. We have qualified medical talks amid many other interesting visitors.

We meet at St Lawrence's Church hall in Cirencester and parking is easy. If you have difficulty travelling to the meetings we organise a Minibus that will take you there. The bus leaves B&Q at 1.15 pm to arrive at the meeting by 2pm.

Contacts can be made through our village agent Sue Colquhoun | 07810 630145
or
committee member Marjorie Cunningham | 01453 822692

Community Group – ‘Don’t Strangle Stroud’

Where are we now?

On December 9th 2014 SDC will vote on the number of houses they believe are needed between now and 2031. The Office of National Statistics suggests that the population in our district will grow from 114,000 today to 126,500 by 2031, around 11%. In response to this population growth the council commissioned a consultancy report that has, remarkably, arrived at a figure for housing growth of 11,200 or around a 22% increase in housing stock for an 11% increase in population.

Needless to say the report contains a number of very basic errors that inflate the housing requirement by about 900 houses. As the ECN goes to print we are challenging these with the evidence to support the challenges. If the council decline to accept the arithmetic mistakes these will then be presented to the Inspector in January.

Politics

It appears to us that both the Labour and Conservative groups and the smaller parties, will unite to vote this higher number through. West of Stonehouse (WoS) will probably be included. Ken, David Drew and Tom Williams have worked tirelessly to prevent this happening. We believe our task has been made much harder because there are indications that the SDC political Labour Leadership is considering abandoning Eastington and Stonehouse. That they are likely to be joined by the Conservatives is indeed very unfortunate.

Calculating the future housing requirement is quite difficult and requires a keen interest in demography and also skills in using the DCLG and ONS website spreadsheets. In addition you need to understand how these calculations are made. It is probable that very few councillors understand this and are therefore relying on the consultancy report and officers advice. As the consultant’s report will be guided by his commission it will say what his paymasters want it to say, and of course it does.

The Arithmetic

To justify West of Stonehouse the figure has to be in excess of 11,000. Around 10,500 would rule this out. If the errors were corrected then the figure would be around 10,500 hence correcting the errors are likely to be resisted. The “errors” are very basic and it is surprising that an “expert” in his field, the consultant, should make such basic mistakes. It is true however that to get beyond 10,500 any consultant would need to be very creative.

The Inspector

Obviously the Inspector at the reconvened EIP will consider carefully the evidence we submit but the pressure to build anything everywhere is very great. The Inspector requires an “objective assessment” of housing need. He will not accept “errors” where they are proven to be errors.

Does the Council decision enable SDC to resist planning applications?

The answer is almost certainly not. 11,200 houses require 450 houses to be built every year until 2031. The average over the last 20 years has been around 380. SDC have to have enough land allocated and developers must be able and willing to build 2,250 houses in the next 5-year period. If this cannot be done, and invariably the developers argue that it cannot, then an Inspector at appeal will consider that SDC does not have a 5-year land supply. Over the last few years one planning appeal after another has been lost, as SDC has conceded that it does not have a 5-year land supply. The higher the housing number agreed the more difficult it becomes to achieve the 5-year land supply. SDC have chosen a very high number because of this decision. Nowhere is now safe.

For latest information go to: www.new-town.info

West of Stonehouse

Of course many will believe that the WoS development will protect the rest of the District and the rest of the Parish. Sadly this will not be the case.

Strategic Site

If WoS is approved the 'strategic site' between Stonehouse and the motorway will just go on and be developed further. The private land available for such development is 500 acres plus 1,000 acres of council land. Yes, the first phase is 1,350. This plan will rise to at least 2,000 within the first year on sustainability grounds with the prospect of some of the allocation to other areas being transferred to WoS this was proposed by Council Officers in the Planning Advisory Panel (PAP) in March 2013. There is already keen pre-application interest in a retail park; a football stadium and distribution warehousing near the motorway junction. Such a development will lead to a plethora of planning applications for the parish.

Next Steps

We are very grateful for the incredibly generous donations that we have received which has made it possible to employ a Barrister. We still need your help for the next phase.

Stonehouse, Eastington, and the Stanleys have come together under the Acronym of SPA (Strategy Planning Association). They are together offering funds to continue to support a planning consultant and Barrister for the reconvened EIP. This team will represent all our communities. We have a strong case. The maths is wrong, but changing the numbers, will be resisted at SDC by those who have been pressing for the WoS development for many years. With the right legal support and a coherent case we can still prevail and avoid the fate of becoming a Kingsway or even a Bradley Stoke.

Daniel James | Don't Strangle Stroud (DSS) | www.new-town.info

Stop Smoking ?

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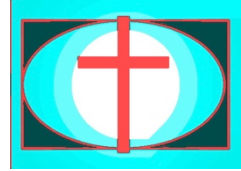
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Eastington Methodist Church

Christmas is coming - Remember to invite the birthday boy

Christmas will soon be upon us and, for many, there will be opportunities to meet relatives and friends and perhaps socialise with work colleagues at the annual Christmas bash. Decorations will be retrieved from the loft and the annual ritual of trying to figure out which Christmas Tree bulb has blown will be undertaken until the frustration of it all results in the purchase of those new-fangled LED lights that are supposed to last for 50,000+ hours (i.e. about 6 years continuous use or perhaps a lifetime of Christmases). Food and drink will probably be consumed possibly in too great a quantity and we can all gather round the telly to see relatively new films that have not been on before. Presents will be exchanged, some will be really good, others will be duplicates of what is already owned and some you would not want to be seen dead in.



All fine and dandy but, on its own, that is not really what Christmas is all about. It is about a gift and one that lasts forever and should never disappoint – after all, Jesus is for life and not just for Christmas.

<i>This Christmas at EMC</i>	
<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
Carols @ The Cafe Carols, crafts, Christmas story video & refreshments – all ages	Sunday 7 th December at 11am
Carols by Candlelight Traditional carols followed by seasonal refreshments	Sunday 21 st December at 6pm
Messy Christmas Fun for all ages with crafts, cakes etc.	Monday 22 nd December at 10am – 11:30pm
Christmas Day A celebration with carols and a chance to say Thank You	Thursday 25 th December at 10:30am

Kidzone/Junior Youth Club

Earlier in the year we decided to change Kidzone to Junior Youth Club and put it on at a new time and on a Friday instead of a Wednesday. We had hoped that this might bolster diminishing numbers but it failed to do so. It is therefore with some sadness that we have concluded that there is no longer sufficient demand to make running a weekday club for children viable. We have been running such a club for many years but numbers had dropped to the point that there were often more leaders than children. The remaining older attendees who are in Year 6 at school are being allowed to come to the main youth club at 7pm of Fridays instead of having to wait until they leave primary school next July.

Should a proven demand develop, the church is quite willing to consider restarting a children's club. In the meantime, children are most welcome at the Messy events, which are suitable for all ages.

EMC Youth Club

The main youth group continues to be well attended on Friday evenings and is supplemented with the occasional outing or themed sleepover. We will not be meeting on Boxing Day or on Friday 2nd January during the holiday period.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward | Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin | 01453 827414 | www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Community Produce

Eastington Community Orchard (E C O) Group PARISH APPLE DAY 2014 - Saturday October 18th



We had a really good turn out again this year, despite very strong winds (but no rain).

Families with children of all ages joined in to share the work, which doesn't seem like real work when you are enjoying yourselves!

Everybody took home their share of juice, we produced over 200 bottles of pasteurised juice for sale and had quite a few gallons available for cider and perry making as well.

A **BIG thank-you** to all who donated apples and pears throughout the season.

Sales at Xmas Fairs

Now we are taking the juice made on all of our Apple Days (five ECO days plus Parish Day) to market.

This is our stand at Slimbridge Village Hall, where David Aston headed up a sales effort of £236. That will buy a few fruit trees!

Your best opportunity to buy our bottled juice and Xmas Gift Pack will be at Eastington School Christmas Bazaar on 7th December 12pm – 3pm.



Christmas Gift Pack 2014

This year's design includes for the first time, jam made from berries and currants grown in Coneygree Community Orchard.

Also included are 250ml bottles of Apple and Pear juice and popular our Mixed Apple juice.

If you can't manage to catch us at Fairs, you can buy direct from **Tom at 823425**.

Gift packs are £6 each or two for £10



www.eastingtonorchards.org.uk

Beekeepers Diary Part 5

October 14th. The hives are full of stores and the weather remains beautiful. I popped round to remove an empty box and tidy things up a bit, when I discovered a sizable cluster of bees hanging in a clump under their hive. It is so lovely and warm that all three colonies were flying, so I left them to their own devices hoping they would put themselves away in the evening. I checked on them as the evening chill set in and was puzzled to find the cluster was still hanging around outside. A few puffs of smoke dispersed them, so I imagined they would crawl back indoors.

October 15th. They are there again so Nick smoked them away and blocked off the underneath of the hive with a board. However they found a way round it and several handfuls of bees were still there. This is very curious and I haven't a clue what's going on, so I did a Google search which wasn't really helpful.

October 17th. The weather is still gorgeous, so I opened up that hive. I couldn't understand what I found. There is a whole comb of unhatched drone brood and no new worker brood. Has the queen become a drone layer, which can happen when they run out of fertile eggs? I didn't see the queen. Has she gone under the hive for some reason and some workers gone with her? There wasn't any space for her to lay eggs, so I put an empty frame into the middle of the brood area for her to use. I scooped up the bees from under the hive in a mug and threw them back into the top of the hive, checking that there wasn't a queen left clinging to the underside of the floor. Then I emailed the Stroud beekeepers, hoping for enlightenment. The reply was curt and suggested bad beekeeping on my behalf, but I'm pleased to say that the

next day I received an apology. The apiary manager had looked into one of his hives and found a similar situation there. We concluded it must be something to do with the freakily hot autumn weather, coupled with the amazing honey flow from the ivy and late garden flowers. Perhaps the bees have been seduced into thinking it is spring and are making drones in preparation to swarm again.

After I scooped up all the bees and returned them to the hive, the temperature dropped considerably for the night and bees haven't overflowed under the hive again. I don't know what has happened to all those drones that were developing. I gave one more varroa treatment to each colony, as drone brood creates a good environment for the mites to breed in. Now the bees are all shut up again and will just have to take their chances through the winter.

If you are thinking of planting a bee garden for next year, here are a few suggestions for common garden plants which are popular with bees: cotoneaster, buddlea, mahonia, pussy willow, lavender, rosemary, sage, hebes, cosmos daisies, michaelmas daisies, sedum (ice plant), snowdrops, catmint, campanula, cranesbill geranium, dandelions.

If you are a keen gardener you can go to Google where you will find an excellent list of plants listed by season. You need to type in 'gardening for bees uk'. Then go to the British Bee Keepers Association article where you will find several pages of plants amongst which are some exciting suggestions.

Val Hicken

Active Community

Come and join Jolly Joggers for some hi-viz nighttime action! 7.00pm on Wednesdays

Hello Jollies! We are a group of friends who meet every Wednesday outside the Co-op in Eastington for a spot of light jogging! Beginners are welcome and we also invite more experienced runners as well. The idea is to have fun, get fit and feel safe exercising in the fresh air. Think of it as the 'M5' of fitness...start in the slow lane, progress to the middle and before you know it you'll be challenging yourself at the ultimate level...the fast lane! We have a doubling back system so the faster ones go on ahead, then return to the group...the rest continue in their own time whilst maintaining a safe group at all times.

We do leave very promptly at 7.00pm. Hi-viz. gear, a torch and good trainers are all you need. During these winter months we will walk/jog/run to The Stonehouse Court Hotel and mainly back to Eastington along the pavements. This takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

We are looking for new beginners so please get in touch if you would like to start. Don't be put off by

the 'jogging/running 'thing! We have our wonderful 'brisk walkers' too and I really want to encourage anyone out there to give it a whirl. I know how it feels, as I started as a complete beginner not even able to run 100 yards!

We will be entering a 5K in 3 months time to help motivate our members, and once you start jogging regularly, your improvement in terms of strength and stamina will astound you! Sounds good? It is totally free and you will notice a difference in your fitness and body shape in 4 weeks. My plans are to increase our sessions to twice a week and then thrice...you will become so fit and toned once you reach this stage.

Feel invigorated in the cool fresh night air get out of the house and have a laugh with friends. With no gym fees what are you waiting for? Just turn up or phone me for more information. A warm welcome awaits!

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"I very much appreciate all that I have learnt from Hazel about rewiring the brain through trance. Hazel's no-nonsense intuitive approach creates a very clear space in which to make beneficial changes to mental habits and belief systems."

Kate D

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Alkerton Rangers FC

With the 2014-15 season well underway both Alkerton sides have settled sides and are now producing the goods on the pitch. Under the stewardship of Kyle Anderton and Anth Beard, the First team are now in Division 4 of the Stroud & District League and have won 6 of their 8 matches at the time of writing, with Nathan Whittaker scoring freely. They are well positioned to take advantage of slip-ups from the teams around them so there are high hopes of a successive divisional title.



The Reserve team, managed by Kev Bond, were promoted to Division 6 last term but with key players absent have had a poor start. Now with 4 wins under their belt there is a renewed confidence and another promotion cannot be ruled out. Steven Morgan and Andy Broadley are the chief marksmen at present. On November 15th the Reserves were part of history when their encounter with Sharpness 3rds was officiated by former Football League referee Brian Stevens in his 3000th match. Alkerton Rangers Football Club would like to congratulate Brian on this milestone and hope he continues for many a game to come.

Paul

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

From January 7th Eastington group will have two sessions. First session starts at 5pm; second session starts at 7pm. Or Stonehouse at 9.30 am. All groups held on Wednesdays.



Firstly I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. 2014 has been an amazing year for both Slimming World groups and I am so proud of all my members, firstly for all their amazing personal achievements, both in weight loss and life changing decisions, but also secondly for making both groups such a welcoming, happy, positive and successful place to be. Both groups have grown in size this year so, as you can see above, Eastington will be running two sessions from January.

I've just celebrated 11 years as a Slimming World Consultant and when I first opened Eastington group 11 years ago, in the village I am so proud to be a resident of, I never thought I would also have a group in Stonehouse, and now be turning Eastington into a double group. Thank you everyone for your support and confidence in me.

So what's been happening over the last couple of weeks at group? Well we have been really concentrating on lots of healthy foods, recipes and meals to enjoy and boost our weight losses. We've been sharing ideas and supporting each other to lose weight and feel healthier. We have also been preparing ourselves for the festive time, ahead, putting together ideas for meals to enjoy and share with family and friends, some you can see in the yummy photos above.

Christmas is a time for friends and family and with Slimming World our plan is all based around healthy everyday foods and there are endless ideas and recipes to cater for every situation. So we can all enjoy the festive season and the memories it will make.



We have also shared ideas to try and become more active, for members with limited movement to others who really step it up. Every step we take counts towards a healthier lifestyle and each achievement no matter how small it seems needs to be celebrated. I for one know how difficult it can be. The surgery to my spine at the end of June meant a lot of time in bed and inactivity. Through very small steps I have built back up to being out and about with my family, dogs and horses and each day when I can I add in another tiny improvement. So what will 2015 bring us.....

The answer is no one knows what the future may have in store for us but we can help ourselves by losing weight and becoming healthier. Your local Slimming World groups are there with the doors open wide to welcome you, if you have a little or a lot of weight to lose we are there for you and will celebrate your achievements along the way, pick you up and dust you down when you need our help and support you all the way to the weight you want to be. Live the dream. Best wishes, Lorna

New members are welcome at all my groups every week of the year. You can just turn up or call me on 01453821751. We meet at Stonehouse community centre 9.30am Wednesdays and also Eastington Village Hall 5pm and 7pm Wednesdays.

RESTORING THE COTSWOLD CANALS: FROM SAUL JUNCTION TO STONEHOUSE (PHASE 1B)

The following article is re-printed from "TROW" by permission of Val Kirby

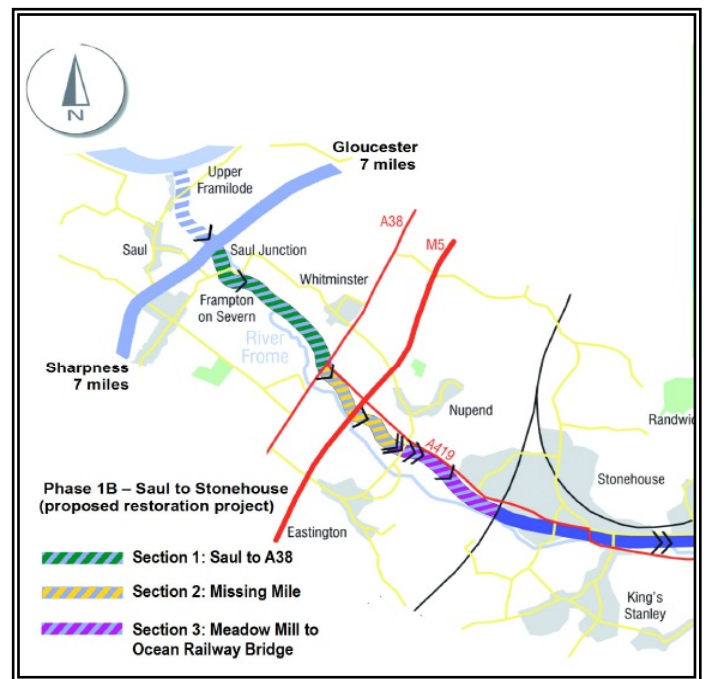
On November 11th the Parish Council voted to become a Partner in Phase 1B
- more details of opportunities and benefits in the February 2015 ECN

Val Kirby, chair of Phase 1B working group

In June CCT Council agreed to defer our Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for Phase 1B until November 2015. Since then the Phase 1B group has been working hard to re-organise our project plan. The delay is a huge benefit: it allows us to plan in more detail, involve more people in our thinking and planning, and build up wide-ranging support from partners, volunteers and local communities (ed: that includes Eastington)

- A sustainable canal - how the canal, once opened, will be managed;
- Heritage known and interpreted – explaining how people will be able to get involved in the unique cultural and natural heritage features of the canal and its setting;
- Skills and expertise – all about volunteering, and how this can help people develop transferable skills;
- The natural environment –how the restoration will benefit wildlife and be energy and

On the technical side: plans for restoring and recreating the canal, its locks, bridges, landing stages and so on are making good progress. We are also working on:



We ran 2 half-day conferences in October on the contribution that volunteers can make to the project: over 100 people came along and gave us lots of ideas. Over the next few months there will be other conferences and workshops on specific themes.

Then there will be public consultation on the draft bid, which we plan to have ready by early summer 2015. Listening to what people say is a vitally important part of building the bid: we would also be delighted if more people had the time and the energy to get directly involved in the work itself. You would be particularly welcome if you have some knowledge of the natural environment, or are involved in a local business or community group. But whatever your background or experience, if you would like to get involved, please contact

Val Kirby 01453 753762 or 07969 789938: valkirby@gmail.com

Quiz answers

1. Beatrix Potter
2. A term used when a gentleman wore his shirt tails outside his trousers so that he could be seen.
3. A Pig
4. Hogs Head Pale Ale, Uley Bitter, Old Ric, Laurie Lee's Bitter, Pig's Ear, Old Spot Pale Ale Strong.
5. Edward Jenner.
6. Edward 11
7. At Coopers Hill
8. Sir Hubert Parry in 1916
9. The tank
10. Fair Rosamund
11. Ivor Novello
12. Kingsholm
13. The Woolpack in Slad
14. 11th November 1918
15. Guns and canons from Crimean War
16. Herbert Asquith
17. Glevum or Colonia Nervia Glevensium
18. Stouts Hill
19. Lord John Russell
20. 48 farthings
21. A guinea.
22. Gloucester Docks

The Cotswold Youth Singers
present

A Concert of Christmas Music



at

St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington
Tuesday 16th December 2014, 7pm

Musical Director: Jane Williams

Accompanists: Bernard Leach

Luke Bailey

Tickets £5 from Choir members
and on the door

Seasonal Refreshments and Raffle

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- Sporting people

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Wednesdays 8 pm

Leonard Stanley School

Thursdays 8 pm

Eastington Community Centre (OHMG)

Fridays 9.30 am

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