

# Eastington Community News

## A New Look for ECN - and a new Website!

You may have noticed that the ECN is gradually acquiring a new look, and we have also started to produce an on-line version - if you haven't noticed this yet, take a look:

[www.ecn.me.uk](http://www.ecn.me.uk)

We hope that this will be the very beginning of a process to improve the way we communicate as a community, - and we could do with some help!

ECN is a completely independent venture; we already have around 40 volunteers who give their time to bring you the magazine - and we are encouraged by the Parish Survey, which showed how many of you appreciate this.

A large part of the website, initially, will come directly from the magazine, including all the articles, links to groups, clubs and societies and to the advertisers that support us.

We also hope to explore areas not so easily dealt with in print, and to expand into a real 'go to' place for up-to-the-minute information about our community.

### Would you like to be involved in this exciting project?

This doesn't necessarily require any technical knowledge (although we will need that as well!). Mostly we would like people to mentor areas of the site, making sure it's up to date. One of the flagship areas will be the 'What's On' pages, and coordinating this will be a key role. We would also like to 'recruit' a webmaster and a technical team eventually. **Could you help with this?**

Please email [info@ecn.me.uk](mailto:info@ecn.me.uk) to let us know if you would enjoy being involved in this exciting development now or in the future. We would love to hear from you.

Many thanks

Andrew, Chris, Tom & Jan, and all at ECN

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

**Eastington - Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010**

## Inside this Issue:



**Keep fit and healthy with Vanessa's Jolly Joggers - jog to P9**



**'Yummy' Slimming World recipes from Lorna on P14 & P15**



**Millend gets a new water wheel. Read Stephen's article on P16 & P17**



## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of ECN for 2015 and I hope you have been able to make the most of the first few fine sunny days of the year. There has been little chance of the ground drying before another band of storms arrived, so it's easy to understand why the old English name for February was *Solmonath*; it meant 'mud month' and the more determined walkers among you will know just how muddy the fields and paths have become. The footpaths group, 'PROWD', have an update in this issue, and it's good to hear about an amicable solution for some footpath diversions.

The start of a year can mean New Year resolutions for some, and it's not too late to try something new. Maybe Jolly Joggers have something to suit you or perhaps 'Street Dancing' could be for you? "Defined Dance" is starting new dance classes for adults and children at Eastington Community Centre.

In 'Bee Keeper's Diary' we learn about getting through winter life in the hives; how more fortunate bees at the centre can be a toasty 33C, while those on the outside shiver. They will certainly be looking forward to spring flowers, and maybe you are too. So you might like to make a note in your diary for Saturday March 21st when Eastington Spring Flower Show will be opened at 2:00 pm in the Village Hall.

In 'Parish Matters' we hear from the Parish Council that planning issues remain at the top of their agenda; The Planning Appeal for Land off Bath Road is under consideration by the appointed Planning Inspector, and her opinion is awaited. The Examination in Public (EIP) of the Local (Stroud) Plan has now been extended from two days to four. It would be speculative (at the time of writing) to read this as creating time to make the Plan 'sound' or to give all interested parties adequate talking time. By the time you read this we should have the benefit of 20:20 hindsight. Local planning groups give further perspective to these matters, as does our District Councillor, Ken Stephens, who additionally considers the Boundary Commission Review and recent intervention of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to allow the Javelin Park Incinerator.

Playgroup learnt about Chinese New Year and Chinese food, but traditional stories like '*the three billy goats gruff*' and '*Goldilocks*' also retain their interest. An alternative oriental cuisine can be savoured at Eastington School on 27th February when they hold their School Quiz and Thai food evening.

We read from the Rector about his preparation for retirement; and news of events and services at St. Michael's. There something new at the Methodists Church in the form of 'cafe style' services, and more messy events like Messy Easter; and cakes too. And in the report from Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity, (OHMGC) there is an invitation for new trustees and announcement of their Annual General Meeting to be held this summer.

Millend Mill renovations are at an advanced stage and nearing completion. Steve Mills gives us a very interesting insight into the newly installed water wheel. It's good to have a 'good news' story about a development. With the guidance of a truly community formulated Neighbourhood Development Plan, maybe we can look forward to more developments that fit well with Eastington in the future.

May 2015 be a good year for you.

**Andrew Niblett - Editor**

**Next Deadline:** *Articles by THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015*

**Next Delivery:** *Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015*

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# Councils

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEWSLETTER

### Local Plan

I expect you will all no doubt be aware of what happened at the Council meeting in December. It was not the best day of my life. You may be aware from the tenure of my last newsletter that I was not surprised at what happened. One of the things that I am the most disappointed about is what did not happen from July to December last year. I had hoped that the Planning liaison structure that was created at the beginning of this civic year would have had more impact and input into what went on in meeting the EIP inspector's new data requirements than it did. In fact in my opinion it had no influence at all in what was tabled at the December meeting. Much work is being done to continue the defence of our rural parish for the resumption of the EIP scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of January. My opinion is that very few of the people who voted for the creation of a new settlement actually understood the full ramifications to the district of the decision and what exactly the position would be after the decision.

### Boundary Commission Review

I made reference to this in my last newsletter. I said that amongst the recommendations I had been led to believe the District Council was making to the commission would be a new ward consisting of the Parishes of Eastington, Standish and Whitminster. On looking at the small print I find that this is not a totally true picture. Unless I am reading the plans wrong, the proposed ward will not include all of the residents of those parishes. Everything to the west of the motor way in Eastington would be in the Severn Ward. Newtown would be in Stonehouse ward. Parts of Standish Parish around Little Haresfield would be in the ward to the north and a part of Whitminster Parish would also be in a ward to its north.

All this is driven by numbers only and the system seems to care little for community links. The three parishes involved would be in wards with a total of at least seven, perhaps eight, separate district councillors and two possibly three county councillors. The phrase absolute nonsense springs to my mind. There will be a period of public consultation in the coming months for residents to give their opinion on these proposals.

### Javelin Park Incinerator

Another disaster for the vale, in my opinion, with the decision of the secretary of State to allow the planning consent on appeal. What ever happens now a large sum of public money will be spent on a proposal for a project that will destroy the vale with something that the vast majority of the local community does not want or need and is not the best way of treating our long term waste needs.

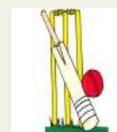
How many of the supporters of this monstrosity actually live within sight or sound of it? Very few if any I think. A mile or so to the north a lot of time, money, and energy was spent making sure that the new motor way service area was basically buried and the visual impact on the vale as minimal as possible.

You do wonder what was the point of all that with this decision.

A very disgruntled and disappointed  
**Ken Stephens, January 2015**

### EASTINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Eastington Cricket Club is always in need of players and helpers, especially a groundsman to prepare pitches. Anyone interested please phone Roger (07884438417) or Keith (01453-764990)



# Councils

## PARISH MATTERS

Happy New Year everyone - if it's not too late. I hope you all had a good festive break. The Eastington Parish Council has been very busy since the beginning of the New Year. Some of the councillors and parishioners have been working with our planning consultant as he prepares our opposition to the Bath Road appeal against the refusal of Bathurst's planning application; preparation for the restart of the Examination in Public (EIP) of Stroud District Councils (SDC) Local Plan [29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January] has also been a high priority.

Eastington Parish Council has joined with Stonehouse Town Council and Standish Parish Council to form 'Stroud Planning Alliance' (SPA); this helps with additional resource and finance. If you would like to know more about this group please get in touch, or better still come to Parish Council meetings the second Tuesday in every month. Details can be found on our web site or on the notice board outside the Co-op.

We are setting our budget for 2015/16. This is a challenge as we are still fighting planning applications in the Parish. We also want to set up a Parish office in the Community Centre (OHMG) to enable us to have a safe storage for our records, and an appropriate work place for our Clerk. Parishioners will be able to visit the Parish Office by appointment. If I can be of help please contact me.

**Muriel Bullock | Chair, Eastington Parish Council**  
[murielbullock@gmail.com](mailto:murielbullock@gmail.com) | 01453 826172 |

### Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Thank you for your responses to the survey, they have been analysed and now the Plan is near completion, with the policies currently being written.

Discussions are on-going with Stroud District Council on Eastington's NDP and how it complies with Stroud District Council's Local Plan, planning legislation and guidelines. Unfortunately Stroud District Council's Full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 suddenly agreed to include the proposed West of Stonehouse site for development in the Parish of Eastington. This may cause a delay in the production of Eastington's NDP as this now has to be included as a consideration in the plan.

The Steering Group is also watching with interest the progress of the Local Plan at the Examination in Public (EIP) on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015, and the resulting judgement of the Inspector as this will have a very significant impact on Eastington's NDP. A case of watch this space!

For further information on Eastington's Neighbourhood Plan and how you can get involved, please visit [www.eastingtonndp.co.uk](http://www.eastingtonndp.co.uk), email [eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com) or ring me on 01453 799616

**Peter Edis-Bates**  
**Chairman, Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan**

# Strategic Planning Alliance

## Examination in Public Of the Local Plan Reconvenes

On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30 of January The EIP adjourned last April gets back to work. The Inspector “now wishes to resume Stage 1 of the examination in order to review and assess the work undertaken by the Council before deciding whether to proceed to stage 2”.

### A NEWLY FORMED ACTION GROUP

DSS, KER and Eastington Parish Council have joined forces with Stonehouse Town Council, Standish Parish Council under the banner of the Strategic Planning Alliance (SPA)

### How many houses do we need?

SDC commissioned, after the Inspectors Initial Conclusions in June last year, a second *Objectively Assessed Housing Need* (OAHN). SDC believed that the first OAHN did not state enough houses in the plan. This new OAHN prepared by a second management Consultant, Neil MacDonald (NMCD), raises the number of houses required in the planning period (2006 – 2031) from the previous OAHN. The number has risen from 9, 500 to 11,200. To understand the scale of building Stonehouse has about 3500 homes. It would appear that an OAHN can realise any answer the SDC wishes.

### SDC plans for more commuters

To achieve this remarkable change between 2 OAHNs, NMCD has had to employ much imagination and invention and very limited amounts of evidence. In addition he has introduced a new policy for SDC to provide an additional 800 houses for commuters, which very conveniently matches the reintroduction of the WoS site which in the last consultation was to provide houses for local jobs.

## The Law and the Evidence

We have received definitive advice from 2 barristers that there are a number of significant breeches in the Consultative process required of SDC. These opinions have been ignored by SDC.

We provided irrefutable evidence from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) that NMCD’s creative approach to inflating the housing need was simply wrong. SDC’s response was to state that NMCD “believes” he is right. It appears that it is for the Inspector to determine whether “Beliefs” or evidence prevails.

### SDC Planning for an urban Sprawl

There is no doubt that SDC have our parish in their sights. Plans are being developed for a Retail Park and a football Stadium between the “Starbucks” roundabout and the Motorway on the right hand side of the A 419.

A new site was introduced in the December 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting of “M5 Catchment North of Eastington for 700 houses” (not pursued at this stage) this in addition to the Bath Road plans. It seems inevitable should we lose the WoS battle Eastington and Stonehouse, will, over the next 20 years become a large urban sprawl.

### What will be the Outcome

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January the SPA team will include a Barrister, Planning Consultant and Statistician. We believe we have a good chance of coming out of this round with a positive outcome for our communities. Equally there are those in SDC who believe that as long as the NUMBER is big enough the Inspector will just accept it with the evidence base just taking a back seat. We will know the answer to that in February. What is certain is that there will be another round of consultation on whatever changes survive the Inspector. For that we will need all the help we can get. Please let us know if you are prepared to support this fight for the future of our Parish.

For all the details of the new Local Plan and the SPA submission to the Inspector go to <https://strategicplanningalliance.wordpress.com/spa-to-eip/>

**Daniel James**

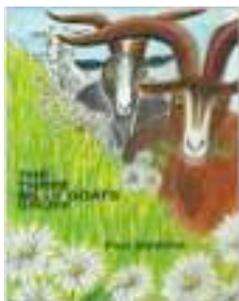
# Education

## Eastington Playgroup

Charity Number Registered Charity No. 1084981  
OFSTED Registration No. 101782



We welcome back all the children to Playgroup and look forward to a great year ahead in 2015.



Following very busy fundraising events and a fabulous Christmas Nativity performance we are looking forward to some sunshine to letting off some steam outside.

This half term we are focusing on settling new children into the new, looking at nursery rhymes, showing awareness of rhyme and enjoying rhyming activities. We will be listening to the traditional stories of The Ginger Bread Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and also

The Three Billy Goats Gruff. All of these activities will encourage children's awareness of how stories are structured, the principal characters, to think of alternative endings to stories and encourage them to join in with any repeated refrains. 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 sheep.



Also during this half term we will be focusing on friendships linking with 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**

**If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Play Leader**

Tel 07977 342 742 | email [eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk](mailto:eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk)

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# Eastington Primary School



Quiz Night

with

Thai Food

Friday 27 February

Teams of 4 to 6 people

Bar from 7pm - heads down 7:30pm

Thai Break for meal - 8.30pm

Tickets on Sale from School

£6 per person

All proceeds raised will benefit Eastington School via the Parents Association



# Churches

## St Michael and All Angels' Church, Eastington

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

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

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



Dear Friends,

As most of you probably now know, I have decided to take early retirement, and my final service will be on May 31st, 10am at Haresfield Church. I do hope you will be able to come.

Although I'm not 100% sure of where Angela and I will be moving to, it looks hopeful that it will be a new-build house in Quedgeley, just up the Bristol Road from the roundabout and the junction with Fieldcourt Drive and Naas Lane – two previous ones have fallen through for different reasons – so fingers crossed for 3rd time lucky!

I have been asked what might happen to the benefice after I leave, and when will a new incumbent be appointed – the answer is that I don't know. It would be wrong for me to speculate, but I'm sure that the 6 Parochial Church Councils will manage to keep everything on an even keel until those kind of decisions are made.

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 one of our churches, and you think it should be, please contact me at the Rectory by Sunday 8th March. Application forms will be at the back of each church, and on our website.

Please remember members of our PCC in prayer as they plan for the future. They are due to meet together on Saturday 7th February with other PCCs in the benefice to share what is happening in their churches, and how they can work together to be more relevant in our local communities, and I am grateful to the Revd. Cate Williams for agreeing to come and facilitate the day in Standish Village Hall, from 10am to 4pm. Cate is a fairly recent addition to the diocesan team, leading on Outreach and Evangelism. I'm sure she will be good.

Yours in Christ, (Rector)

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

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

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## St Michael and All Angels' Church

### **Baptisms**

**Simon Kingley Reeve** was baptised at Eastington on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Weddings**

**Oliver Cooper and Sarah Hazard** were married in Wycliffe College Chapel on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Funeral**

**Douglas Edwin George Handy 'Doug'**, of Eastington, died on November 17<sup>th</sup>. His funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 28<sup>th</sup> November, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

**Ruby Knight**, formerly of Eastington, died on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 12<sup>th</sup> December, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

**Floss Davies**, of Eastington, died on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was conducted by the Rector at Gloucester Crematorium on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Joan Ellen Tily**, formerly of Nupend, died on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 29<sup>th</sup> December, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

**Zona Priddy**, formerly of Nupend, died on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 9<sup>th</sup> January, followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

**Ron Bomberg**, of Eastington, died on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. A service of Thanksgiving was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 16<sup>th</sup> January, preceded by a committal at Gloucester Crematorium.

### **Services in February and March** *All services are taken by the Rector unless stated otherwise*

1 <sup>st</sup> February 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  (p428 - white) <i>Deuteronomy 18.15-20 &amp; Mark 1.21-28</i> (p428/9)	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent (p446 - green)  <i>Proverbs 8.1, 22-31 &amp; John 1.1-14</i>  (p447/8)	15 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday Next before Lent (p449 - green)  <i>1 Kings 19.1-16 &amp; 2 Peter</i>  <i>1.16-21</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent (p458 - purple)  <i>1 Peter 3.18-22 &amp; Mark 1.9-15</i>  (p459)
10.45am  Holy Communion	10.45am  Holy Communion	6pm  Evensong	10.45am  Holy Communion

### **Holy Week and Easter Services in the benefice**

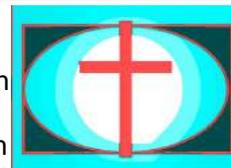
Holy Monday	7.30pm BCP Holy Communion at Frocester
Holy Tuesday	7.30pm BCP Holy Communion at Moreton Valence
Holy Wednesday	11am Holy Communion at Moreton Hill Care Centre (no Agape service this year)
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion at Eastington (no Vigil this year)
Good Friday	10am Holy Communion at Haresfield 2-3pm Reflective Service at Whitminster
Easter Day	8am BCP Communion at Frocester, 9.15 Communion at Haresfield and at Standish (trad) 10.45am Holy Communion at Eastington, 11am at Whitminster 6pm Easter Songs of Praise at Moreton Valence

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## Eastington Methodist Church

### Café Church

In December we tried something new for us – a Sunday church service in the style of a café. This has been tried by other churches to good effect but we had not done it ourselves. We have run messy events and drop in café sessions at the church, both of which include drinks and an excellent range of cakes so there was plenty of experience on those aspects.



The December Café Church did attract people who would not normally come and the feedback was very positive. Encouraged by requests to do it again, the decision has been made to run a series of these on the first Sundays of the month at 11am. These are all age events and suitable for young families, children and teenagers as well as adults. People sit round tables, just like a café, rather than in rows of chairs all pointing forwards.

Last year, we ran a few themed youth sleepovers at the church that started on a Saturday and concluded after the Sunday morning service with the young people usually taking part in the latter. There have been requests to run more of these too.



We therefore intend to run a youth sleepover in preparation for, and leading into, the Café Church sessions – at least for some of them (some of us have not

really come to terms with the prospect of running a youth sleepover every month!!). Therefore, the plan for the Café Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February is that it will be preceded by a youth sleepover starting at 2pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January. The young people involved will put together a puppet show about one of Jesus' parables with training by Graham Miles our minister (who owns the puppets) and the result will then form a part of the Café Church session. All jolly good stuff so why not come along to this or one of the subsequent ones? – you will be very welcome.

Normality resumes on the other Sunday mornings with a crèche for younger children. The services over the next few weeks will be looking at some of the parables that Jesus taught to the crowds and then explained to His disciples.

### Thank you John

John West, one of our regular leaders at the Friday Youth Club, retired as a leader at the end of the year after many years helping us out. Youth Clubs up and down the country rely very heavily on people like John to be able to run at all and we will miss him. We are very fortunate in that Aeron, one of our older young people, has developed a real interest in helping out with youth club. He is going on a training day in January and considering pursuing further education in youth work.

### Messy February Half Term & Messy Easter

There are two Messy events over the next couple of months with the first being on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at and the second on Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> at EMC and both in school holidays with a starting time of 10am. As usual, these will feature an array of craft activities with some music, short message in some form and refreshments (including more cakes) at the end.

**Ken Burgin | Senior Steward | Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin | 01453 827414**  
[www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk](http://www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk)

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# Groups

## JOIN JOLLY JOGGERS ...

Get fit, get slim and feel good! Every Wednesday 7pm prompt outside the Co-op in Eastington. Let's do it! Make a change in your life and join us now. Absolutely FREE!

We are a group of friends who meet at least once a week to exercise in the fresh air. We welcome anyone out there who wishes to get started with running or is currently running and needs company on these cold dark nights or maybe needs a bit of extra motivation.

If you feel nervous or shy about joining us please don't worry about anything. I will be by your side the whole way and we can head back whenever you feel ready. The idea is to have maximum fun facilitating maximum calorie burning in a safe environment...with zero gym fees (and zero expensive equipment) what are you waiting for! A good head torch hi viz jacket and good pair of trainers you need.

A few of us have entered Minch 10k in March and we are currently training for this. With other races planned...there's plenty to aim for...if you're with Jollies 'you're going places' defo!!

We look forward to welcoming you!

Vanessa | 07806 802540 | 01453 828557  
[vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk) [www.teddytunes.co.uk](http://www.teddytunes.co.uk)



What ever your speed we can accommodate your needs. Our faster group race on ahead doubling back and switching to a more challenging route...linking up with the slower ones later on and we all sprint to the finish together!



Find JollyJoggers on Facebook...see what people are talking about... search Vanessa Lavy Cousins.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret Lawrence would like to say thank you to all friends and neighbours for supporting her Macmillan coffee morning, raising £233.

Special thanks go to Joyce, Pat C, Glennis and Pat R

ECN would like to apologise to Margaret and her friends and neighbours for the late publication of this item.

**ECN Articles Editor**

# Groups

## Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity report

The essential work of the small management and trustee committee continues to maintain and improve facilities for users of the community centre and sports field.

It is with sadness we report the loss of Chairman of Trustees Ron Bomberg, who died on 2 January after a short illness. He will be missed by the small team of 8 or 9 people, who look after the building and field for the benefit of all who use the facilities. Ron provided loyal support and encouragement over many years both in the planning and maintaining the community facility.

The Annual General Meeting is due in the summer, which will undertake the usual tasks of appointing committee officers and trustees, approving accounts and making an annual report. There is a request for support for volunteers to help in various ways to continue the task to improve facilities. If you have the time and skills we will be pleased to hear from you.

There are new ideas to improve facilities and also the prospect of new users under consideration, which can involve everyone in their formulation. OHMG continue to work closely with existing main users such as Playgroup, sports groups and regular users of the hall and meeting rooms.

**John Morris**  
**OHMG Charity Trustee**  
**T: 822353**

**LET'S DANCE!**  
 Brand New Dance Classes  
 @ Eastington Community Centre - The Owen Harris Memorial Ground (Snakey Lane)

**DEFINED DANCE**

Defined Dance a new branch school of The Sally Prout School of Dancing LTD brings you new dance classes for 2015. These new classes will be offering an extended range of dance genres working towards exams, competitions, festivals and performances both locally and nationally.

Tailored to suit all age ranges and abilities from 4 and up.

Fees charged on a Termly contract basis.

To enroll and secure your place please contact Jade or Zoe through the below contact details.

STREET DANCE / MUSICAL THEATRE / CONTEMPORARY / DANCE PERFORMANCE



For enrolment, general enquiries or further information please contact:  
 Jade Elliott: 07837751833 / [jade.elliott26@gmail.com](mailto:jade.elliott26@gmail.com)  
 Zoe Bocking: 07894238604 / [zbocking1@gmail.com](mailto:zbocking1@gmail.com)

### Defined Dance

Classes are held on Wednesdays at the Eastington Community Centre. The timetable is as follows:  
**Primary Street (ages 4-10 years) 5:30pm – 6:30pm**  
**Secondary Street (ages 11-16 years) 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

The above timetable will be for the first 5 weeks only until February half term, after this period classes will be split further taking into account ages, abilities and class size.

Defined Dance has not forgotten about you adults either as we are also offering every Thursday at Eastington Community Centre the following classes:  
**Advanced Street (for ages 19+ with previous dance experience) 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Adults Fitness and Street Dance – 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

Just simply turn up to any of the classes above or for general enquiries, enrolment, fees or further information please contact either: **Jade or Zoe - details above.**



## Remembering Ron Bomberg...

In 1947, despite the ten-foot snow, Ron was playing cricket in the back streets of the East End of London. He said they played on bomb sites and unexploded bombs were lying hidden in the outfield! A good preparation for some rural Gloucestershire pitches! He moved to Sussex, played cricket at Bowley, and taught at a special school for maladjusted children called Farney Close where, as Chair of the Governors, he developed links with local clubs to reintegrate boys into society. He has since visited the school almost annually, amongst other things, to check the state of the cricket square!

Ron found his way to Gloucestershire and started playing for Eastington in 1967. He played in the Holloway Cup winning side in 1970; became captain and led the side to the Stroud League title in 1972. Ron was an accurate, economical, medium paced bowler who could pin batsmen down, especially on damp pitches. His batting consisted mainly of stonewall defensive blocks punctuated with exhilarating drives; very useful attributes for a lower order batsman. He once used both for some considerable time when he and I, as the last pair, took Eastington to victory at local rivals Frocester. He reminded me of that match every time we met on that ground for years and years afterwards.

There wasn't much that could stop Ron playing cricket but one event at Stonehouse certainly did. Ron, having said that he needed the loo, had left us fielding with 10 men. Some considerable time passed before another fielder was sent to see if he was ok. Eventually, after some delay, both returned. Ron had been unable to escape from a cracked plastic toilet seat that clamped his skin every time he sought to rise; pain only subsiding when he sat down again. Eventually, and with some difficulty, using his spinning finger to good effect, Ron unscrewed the nuts that held the seat to the pan so he, seat still attached, could escape and prise open the crack.

Ron was one of the club's main fundraisers, selling lottery tickets for many years to anyone who couldn't run fast enough. With the rest of the committee and some of the players he hand built a cricket pavilion (still standing) at Stratford Court, Stroud where Eastington were playing at the time. The Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity (OHMGC) was formed to run and develop the community facility and Ron became a member (and later Chairman) of the charity, and the cricket club's representative. Now an impressive solar powered community hall has changing and kitchen facilities.

Ron had always been a knowledgeable cricketer, of both tactics and laws. If you wanted to know what the umpire's decision should be for an obscure or unusual event, then Ron was the man to ask! A car accident towards the end of the century led Ron to reduce his playing so he took an umpiring course. Umpiring in the Stroud, County and West of England leagues he was twice voted GACUS umpire of the year. Back problems in his late 60's meant retirement, but he became one of the first boundary umpire assessors, a job that he did until very recently.

Ron married the daughter of an Eastington player and his influence naturally led to his wife and daughter doing the teas and scoring; his sons, daughter and grandson playing for the club. In 2012, despite the back problem, his 73 years, 45 of them as an Eastington CC member, he was still no stranger to doing work on the square. We nominated him for a Gloucestershire Cricket Board/ NatWest OSCA, that's an outstanding service to cricket award. This was duly awarded, at Lords, in October 2012 in recognition of a lifetime of achievement in cricket. The awards celebrate the volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the success and survival of the grass roots game, their selflessness and dedication, and the huge amount of time they give up for the good of others...Without people like Ron, cricket and cricket clubs simply would not survive.

**Keith Dench**

**Eastington - Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010**

# Groups

## Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

Wow! What an amazing January it has been. The 7th of the month saw the launch of the new 5pm session at Eastington and it was fabulous to welcome so many to start their weight loss journeys. We have also welcomed new members to the other group meetings too and it's fantastic seeing everyone's brilliant weight losses. So in this issue I thought I would share with you all a couple of recipes that are firm favourites across all groups

Tuck into this healthy-version of an all American classic. In this recipe lean pork is slow-cooked then shredded or 'pulled' and layered with a bbq sauce.

### BBQ Pulled Pork in the slow cooker

#### Ingredients

1.5-2kg pork shoulder, all fat removed  
5 tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp mustard powder  
500g passata  
3 tbsp balsamic vinegar  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed  
3 tbsp sweetener  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Method



- In a small bowl, mix passata, Worcestershire sauce, balsamic vinegar, mustard powder, garlic, sweetener and seasoning. Transfer to a small pan and simmer for 15 minutes, or until the sauce thickens.
- Meanwhile, trim and remove all visible fat from the pork and sear all sides in a hot frying pan. Transfer to a slow cooker coat with the sauce and cook for 8-12 hours on MEDIUM.
- Remove the pork from the slow cooker and place on a cutting board. Allow the meat to cool for approximately 15 minutes, then shred into bite-sized pieces using two forks.

**Tip:** Chef's tip: On an Extra Easy day serve with our hot and spicy coleslaw, Slimming World chips and 60g wholemeal roll (Healthy Extra 'b' choice).

### Suitable for freezing

There are hundreds of wonderful recipes and each week we learn new ones. So if you love food but would also love to lose weight come along and join us. Suitable for everyone, family, single, vegetarians, large appetites, grazers 11-15 year olds, young and older. We meet at Stonehouse Community Centre 9.30am Wednesday mornings or Eastington Village Hall Wednesdays 5pm and 7pm. A warm and friendly welcome awaits.

Now check out the recipe for Chicken Tikka Masala...

## Groups

### Chicken tikka masala with coriander rice

Winter nights were made for this rich, smooth curry with just the right kick.

#### Ingredients

Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 4 skinless chicken breasts, cut into small chunks  
 250g dried basmati rice  
 A large handful of fresh coriander, finely chopped  
 600g green beans, halved  
 2 tsp black mustard seeds  
 200g fat-free natural fromage frais  
 Lime wedges, to serve  
 For the marinade

250g fat-free natural yogurt  
 Juice of 1 lime  
 1 tbsp tandoori spice blend  
 2 cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and finely grated  
 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped



#### Method

- Put the marinade ingredients in a large glass bowl, season with salt and stir. Add the chicken and mix to coat evenly. Cover and leave to marinate in the fridge for 4-6 hours, or overnight if time allows.
- About 40 minutes before you want to eat, put the rice in a pan with 650 ml water and bring to the boil. Season well and stir in half the chopped coriander. Cover tightly, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the heat and leave to stand undisturbed for 10-15 minutes.
- Meanwhile make the sauce. Spray a large, heavy-based frying pan with low calorie cooking spray and cook the garlic, chilli and tandoori spices over a medium heat for 30-40 seconds. Stir in the passata and tomato purée, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until the sauce has thickened.
- Preheat your grill to high. Thread the chicken onto metal skewers and grill for 5 minutes on each side, or until cooked through. Discard the marinade.
- Meanwhile boil the beans for 2-4 minutes. Drain well. Place a frying pan sprayed with low calorie cooking spray over a high heat, add the mustard seeds and beans and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes or until fragrant. Season well.
- Remove the cooked chicken pieces from the skewers and add to the sauce. Simmer for 6-8 minutes, then remove from the heat and stir in the fromage frais. Garnish the chicken tikka masala and rice with the remaining coriander, and serve with the beans and the lime wedges for squeezing over.

#### For the Sauce

Low calorie cooking spray  
 1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped  
 1 tbsp tandoori spice blend  
 500g passata with onions and garlic

**Tip:** Have the full Friday-night curry experience and serve the chicken tikka masala with a ready to eat small poppadom (2½ Syns each)

**Call Lorna 01453821751 also Facebook - Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World, please like us and share us with your friends.**



## Environment

### Millend Mill gets a new water wheel

Over the course of a week during last October, something quite remarkable happened in Eastington. For the first time in nearly a century, a water wheel driven by the River Frome began turning in one of our two remaining mills (Millend).

We've talked about this mill in the past but to recap briefly, it was built around 1815 to produce woollen cloth and was later converted successively to a maltings, corn mill, saw mill, and finally used for the storage of antiques. The past few years have seen an extensive programme of rebuilding of the main mill and its conversion into apartments.

The ground floor has become a large open entrance area. As part of this, two of the remaining wheel pits that formerly housed the three large 15 ft diameter water wheels that originally provided power for the mill, were opened up. It's now possible to see the river flowing under the mill through their outlet tunnels. This now makes an interesting feature and focal point for the lobby area. To further enhance this, one of the pits has now been fitted with a new water wheel. This has been made largely of wood and was designed and constructed by David Empringham Woodworking of High Wycombe. The company has worked on a number of important heritage projects around the country that have included both traditional water mills and windmills. Recent projects have included a windmill in Oxfordshire and a watermill in Worcestershire. Closer to home, between 2002 and 2009, they also restored Stanway watermill near Winchcombe. This now produces flour using locally grown grain. Their work gained an award from the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), citing the comprehensive, meticulous restoration.

At Millend Mill, the company manufactured a complete set of parts that included a pattern for the hubs, a machined steel shaft with shell bearings, and oak rims and spokes, paddles, etc. for the wheel. The individual components were made off site, with the wheel being assembled piece-by-piece within the existing wheel pit. The mill's



original wheels were very wide, so the pit was narrowed in order to accommodate its more modest replacement. The entrance to the pit was dammed off during the assembly process and a new steel grill located at the pit's inlet so as to protect the wheel from any debris floating downstream.

***The wheel's shaft in place and the first side frame being assembled***

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# Environment

The assembly process went like clockwork, and the entire wheel was put together over the course of less than a week. At the moment, it's purely ornamental. However, it's hoped that at some point in the future, it can be coupled up to power an electrical generator. This will produce pollution-free electricity from what is at the moment, a



largely wasted resource. Although there are currently a few small such hydroelectric projects operating within the Stroud valleys, it would be good to see another one working, this time within the village.

*Nearing completion, with the first paddles being fitted*

The company redeveloping the mill should be commended for the current project. There has been no requirement for them to fund and install a water wheel – it has simply been a desire to create something special in what is already an elegant building with a long interesting history. Similarly, they have been careful to retain various other features that reflect the mill's lengthy working life. Its conversion and re-use for apartments is ushering in a new chapter - it's going to be a great asset for Eastington.



***The finished article - hopefully, it will be eventually power an electrical generator***

**Stephen Mills**

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# Environment

## Public Rights of Way Defenders (PROWD)

Well, we certainly are having a mixed bag of weather to start the New Year; some sunny days, rain, frost, and even a smattering of snow! But those of us who have dogs have to get out into it whatever the weather. We have had a few really lovely sunny days, and

### 9 January 2015

The first meeting of the group was held today at The Kings Head Hotel at 10 am. It was attended by the core-members, Jennie, Ann, Sally and Bill.

It was an enthusiastic meeting where all members present discussed the latest news on footpath diversions at Pidgemore Farm. The new paths should be in-place by Feb/Mar, once all the necessary legal paperwork has been completed.

We also talked about the new stiles that will be installed, and other repairs that will be carried out by the County Footpaths Officers contractor, when the land is dry enough for him to proceed.

We discussed the possibility of producing some maps that would show clearly where walkers could access circular walks of interest with-in the Parish, possibly with some accompanying notes.

We also talked of ways of getting funding for PROW's. Jennie has already secured some funding from our Parish Council for repairs and improvements. Sally will look into the possibility of having some maps printed.

I would like, once again, thank all those people who have supported the PROWD group. We are here to protect, and improve our PROWD heritage, so, please don't hesitate to contact us with your observations and suggestions.

**Bill Edwards | 01453 824452**

Next meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February -10.00  
(venue to be confirmed)



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## Nature Watch

### Beekeeper's Diary

Winter is a time of rest for the beekeeper, also for the bees. However they do not hibernate. Staying alive through the winter is a cooperative act. The queen must be kept alive at all costs, although she will probably be off lay through the coldest spells.



The workers form a large cluster round her on the nearest honeycombs, pointing their heads inwards and their tails outwards and vibrate their bodies to generate heat. Thousands of bee bodies shivering raises the temperature to around 33 degrees centigrade in the centre of the cluster. This is warm enough for the bees in the middle to consume the honey in the combs they are huddling on.

Life isn't so cosy for the bees on the outside of the cluster though (only about 10 degrees) so the outside bees have to work their way back into the middle to warm up and feed leaving some of their sisters take a turn at shielding the colony from the cold. Whole colonies can starve, even with honey stores close by, if it is too cold to cross the gap. Fortunately I have never witnessed that first hand.

#### January 11<sup>th</sup>

On warm days bees can break cluster and move across a gap to fresh combs still full of stores. They can also utilise such days to throw out any corpses and to fly out just far enough to void themselves.

Today is lovely so I strolled round to see what was happening and to make sure the strong winds hadn't blown anything over. All the hives were intact. The mouse guards are still in place. There were no heaps of dead bees outside the entrances.

One thing caused me to raise an eyebrow though. The wood on my brand new hive looked saturated and I wondered if it was wet through to the inside, so I lifted the roof. It was dry. A couple of bees buzzed me and I could see them all jostling about under the feed hole.

One hive had six bees crawling across the entrance and two dead bees had just been jettisoned. I lifted the third roof just far enough to see it was busy round the feed hole. This all looks good.

The pallets that they stand on are really rickety, slippery and dangerous to move around on. We really must do something about it.....some other day.

**Val Hicken**

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**The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors**

# Events

## The 26<sup>th</sup> Eastington Spring Flower Show

**Saturday March 21st 2015 at 2pm -3.30pm in the Village Hall - Admission 20p**

**Sponsored by The Old Badger Inn**



### **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 11am, March 21st 2015**

CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER
--------------	--------------	--------------

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

Exhibitors Name:-----

Address:-----

**Eastington - Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010**

# Events

## THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### Hints to exhibitors:

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

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

**AWARDS:** 1<sup>st</sup> - £1      2<sup>nd</sup> - 50p      3<sup>rd</sup> - 25p

**POINTS :**    3                    2                    1

SECRETARY: Mrs S Underdown, 3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG.

Tel: 01453 823285

Steward:                    Mrs Q Jones

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## Events

### Eastington Spring Flower 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.

**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.**

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Katie Fforde, Author

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## Severn Vale Rotary

### A great big thanks to readers of ECN for supporting the Severn Vale Rotary Bike and Computer collections.



Both appeals have been supported so well and thanks for your donations of bikes and computers.

In November two van loads of old bikes were delivered to the Gloucester Bike project. This Gloucester based group is a not-for-profit social enterprise that works with vulnerable youngsters and adults, teaching bike maintenance and repair. Vulnerable teenagers get help to progress their lives. Refurbished bikes are donated to charities, schools and other organisations. Some are sold at affordable prices to fund the work of the project. More details on this socially successful project are on their web

site [www.gloucestershirebikeproject.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirebikeproject.co.uk).

On 10th January 2015 redundant computers were collected at the Tesco stores in Stroud and Quedgeley. Again we were overwhelmed with the support from the local community. We were able to deliver a fully loaded van of computers to the Cheltenham based 'IT Schools Africa' Rotary Charity. Computers are refurbished in prison workshops where 1700 prisoners have benefited from this programme at Winchester



prison. Over 10 years 44000 fully functional refurbished computers have been sent out to 1500 schools across 20 countries on the continent of Africa. Thousands of school children in these countries have benefited from the generosity of people who have donated their redundant computers to this very worthwhile charity.

([www.itschoolsafrica.org](http://www.itschoolsafrica.org)).

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Severn Vale may I extend a great big thanks and best wishes for 2015. We hope you will continue to support us and would love to see you on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February for a blues, jazz and country evening. Profits to the Shriver Deaf School in South India.

**David Granger – President of Severn Vale Rotary Club**

**Jade-Olivia  
Patrick  
Band**

**Blues & jazz  
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