

e a s t i n g t o n COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW LOOK | NEW FEEL | ON PAPER & ON LINE

We want to hear from you...

Contributions to ECN are welcome from anyone with an interest in the parish of Eastington. Send your items to ecn.articles@gmail.com. We'd also love you to share any pictures you may have of the parish, past and present, so why not post them on our Facebook page so that we can build our ECN photo library for future editions. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter too!

*The editor reserves the right to reject or shorten contributions.
The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.*

Next deadline for submission: Thursday 21st May 2015
Next Delivery: Saturday 30th May 2015

Inside this Issue:

Inside this commemorative issue we have a letter from Eastington Community News, which was 'born' way back in 1989! We highlight some of the issues we still face in our parish and celebrate some of the achievements people in the parish have enjoyed over the last 50 editions.

We have regular articles and news from Eastington Parish Council, the churches and numerous groups, all actively participating in village life. If you are involved in a group or other activity in the parish why not send in your article and you may see it in the ECN when it pops through your letter box or on line at ecn.me.uk.

We also hear about the 'reincarnation' of Nupend

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Editor**

telephone kiosk. It's not the Tardis but it will be packed with information and artwork and it's now open for business!

Eastington Community Orchard looks back over 25 ECN editions to remind us how Coneygree Orchard grew to 58 trees, the first ten of which will be able to bear fruit this year. Equally, the allotments are thriving and are now in their 6th year of growth, having started from a field previously used by grazing cows.

Take a look at our 'Events' pages for some of the things going on in and around the parish, and don't forget to visit the on-line colour version of ECN. You can also follow us on Twitter, and go to Facebook and 'Like' our page.

Here's to another 50 editions!



 @eastingtonnews

 Eastington Community News

sign post

A letter from Eastington News

I was born 150 editions ago! Actually, I'm a re-incarnation of the original 'Eastington News' that enjoyed a long life in the last century but one, and I was mentored by the local Temperance Society - but I digress...

I was born in 1989, the 'issue' of a humble Parish Council Newsletter and a great need in the community at that time. The parish of Eastington was under the threat of development of 1000 houses and feelings were strong, so 'weapons' were needed! So I embodied the super-power of communication, which helped people to unite in their quest, and as a result the threat was vanquished.

My life as a newsletter has had it's ups and downs since then, but I have always been available as a focus for the voice of the community - a voice raised both in celebration and in defence. I'm still delivered to every household in the village and hamlets by my faithful volunteers, and I aim to keep us all informed of what is going on. I also provide a place to talk about what we value most in our parish life and how best to protect and maintain it - not always by resisting change, but by directing change towards what most of us would wish, most of the time.

A quick trawl through the memory banks of the 50 editions, since my last big birthday, highlights some recurring concerns; some celebrations of good times; and much inspiration.

Here, with all due apologies to those I fail to mention, is a quick round up:-

Some Perennial Concerns

Planning issues

Always a concern. Some wins (e.g. Stroud Rugby Football Club); some disappointments (e.g. Swallowcroft extension); some good compromises (Millend Mill); lots of active groups, named in acronyms! (e.g. KER, DSS, SPA SDC, EIP, NDP, OAHN, ONS, CLT) and the continuing highs and lows of the story of 'West of Stonehouse' (WoS). Together we are hoping to gain more control over all new developments via the Local and Neighbourhood Plans, and the new Community Land Trust - and your voice, especially in all the surveys that have taken place, will count, so I keep speaking up on this issue.

Traffic and parking

Another difficult one, but some improvements have been made including speed limits; the build out at Bath Road and other projects to make life safer including the recent 'Eastington Approaches to Reducing traffic Speed (EARS) group. Work continues, so keep on talking about it!

Flooding

Many improvements made, largely based on our good communications.

Litter, fly tipping and dog dirt

it's shameful how often the latter crops up. The Youth Group's litter picking exercises have helped a lot, and we must just keep on communicating our disapproval to those who would spoil our environment.

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 Website contact | info@ecn.me.uk

sign post

Special celebrations in the last 50 editions

OHMG Community Centre

What a fantastic and hard won achievement by so many dedicated volunteers who still work hard to promote and manage it.

Snakey Lane Play Park

Another great landmark achieved by determined volunteers.

The Allotments (TEAS)

What a long wait...what a huge success...and we have a pond!

The Community Orchard Project (ECO group)

The new path through the Coneygree orchard. Have you tried the apple juice yet?

Our glorious Jubilee celebrations, and school pupils 'Cooking for the Queen'



New facilities for the School; the Village Hall; William Morris House; Orchard Lea - and the fish at Churchend Weir; and a proper village pub with the arrival of the Old Badger.

Regular Celebrations of Village Life in the last 50 editions

Parish and District Councillors' letters and information. Thanks to Ken Stephens, Muriel Bullock and all the councillors who have contributed.

The Spring and Autumn flower and vegetable shows - always a success. Thanks to Queenie Jones, all the team, those remembered in the trophies, and all the contestants.

Nature - thanks to 'Birder', Val Taylor, Val Hicken and all who have contributed in this area from time to time. We are lucky to have such richness and abundance around us.

Footpaths - thanks to Bill Edwards for keeping us aware of these tremendous assets.

Canal restoration - thanks to Ken Burgin for his regular updates on this exciting project, now about to transform our leisure facilities.

History - thanks to Steve Mills (and A E Keyes) for insights into our colourful history.

Faith - thanks to our two church leaders, Richard Amys and Ken Burgin for all their community work and inspirational words to their followers. We wish Richard well in his retirement.

Royal British Legion - sadly now no longer based in Eastington.

Eastington Primary school - thanks to Malcolm Strang, teachers, and pupils past and present.

Activities - thanks to all our regular contributors including Eastington Playgroup, Slimming World Jolly Joggers, Brownies, Bluebells, Severn Vale Rotary, Stroud Valleys/Severn Vale biodiversity projects and many others who have contributed at different times over the years.

And our annual village events - including the The Eastington Hose show - famous now for over 70 years, our May Day celebrations, the School Duck Race and many other seasonal celebrations.

'Vibrant Village of the Year' Award in 2010.

I hope to continue to provide a forum for our parish for at least another 50 editions, both via the printed word and now through my evolved 'self'! Take a look at me on line; 'Tweet' ; and 'Follow'

Website - www.ecn.me.uk

Twitter - [eastingtonnews](https://twitter.com/eastingtonnews)

Facebook - [eastingtoncommunitynews](https://www.facebook.com/eastingtoncommunitynews)

Eastington Community News

councils

PARISH MATTERS

Just as we thought spring had arrived, back comes winter. On the plus side we do have more daylight, so it makes getting up in the morning a little easier.

The Parish Council is still very busy. We are advertising for a new Clerk. You can see our advert by going to www.ecn.me. The applicant should ideally be well qualified to deal with a very busy Parish.

Some Councillors attended the appeal hearing for the Bath Road development at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on the 5th March. We were very well supported by 30 or more Parishioners and our District Councillor, and we now have to wait for the inspector to inform us of her decision which could take up to 8 weeks. The other outline planning application for 36 dwellings on Claypits Road is waiting for Councillors to consult with our planning expert, and then to hopefully meet with the developer's agent. We have an extension until the end of March to submit our reply to Stroud District Council (SDC) planning department. If parishioners have objections to this application they should make them known to SDC.

By the time this goes to print we are hoping to have co-opted someone to complete are our full Council of 9 councillors. May is the month we hold our Parish Council AGM (12th) and our annual Parish meeting (19th). Please support us at the Parish meeting, when there will be time to meet and question your Councillors.

We are contacting groups in the Parish to invite them to do a presentation about themselves. We now have a very good Parishioner attendance at our monthly meeting. This is very encouraging for us, as we welcome your views and sometimes criticisms - after all we are there to try to carry out your requests.

We are doing our best to update the Parish web site, as we know from the emails we receive, some of you are frustrated at the lack of up to date information. While we are trying to get this rectified, if you require information please get in touch with the Chair who will be happy to send it to you.

Muriel Bullock

Chair Eastington Parish Council | murielbullock@gmail.com | 01453826172



councils

District Councillor - Ken Stephens

It was not easy arriving at my decision to step down as your District Councillor, as you can imagine. I would like to thank my many supporters who voted for me, and entrusted me to represent you all as District Councillor for the past 20 years. There have been many topics to address over the years and I would like to think that my effort have helped in some ways.

Ken Stephens

I would like to thank Ken for his dedication and genuine care in representing us over two decades. It takes an immense amount of unseen work to support a community as District Councillor, and for that we are deeply grateful. -
Ed

Cotswold Care Hospice Severnside Supporters Group

**Coffee Morning - in aid of Cotswold Care Hospice
Saturday May 9th - 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Russell Cottage, The Green, Frampton**
(by kind permission of Dot and John Newton)

**Cake stall | Bring and Buy stall | Plant
stall | Raffle**

Information from:

**Anne Roberts - 01452 740498 | Di Merrett -
01452 740400 | Jacky Naylor - 01453 828682**

New Craft Centre facility

Caroline and Peter (who run Mobility Corner) are opening a new Craft Centre at their Wotton premises. The centre will sell a range of craft materials but will also be offering a range of craft workshops. It will also operate as a drop-in facility for people who would just like to 'have a go'. The range of crafts on offer includes papercrafts, painting, decopatch and the use of air drying clays (no firing required).

The emphasis will be on having fun while you create your masterpiece to take home and enjoy free refreshments. Children are welcome - highchairs are available on request - toilets are available on-site and there is free parking nearby.

Bookings can be made for parties and for groups of all ages and crafting ability. The facilities can be made available to schools, clubs and societies at favourable rates.

Wotton might be a fair step from Eastington, but then we have not had this sort of facility in the area before - might well be worth a trip!
Tel: 01453 845295

See our advert on page 20

The work of the Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau

It is our local Bureau, with offices in Stroud and throughout the District. It is not always understood that we are a charity and last year the Bureau helped 4,000 people across the Stroud District.

The need for the service is unending- whether it is for help with debt, benefits, employment problems, housing and many other areas of concern. So I ask if you would consider supporting the Bureau. Details of how to make an on-line donation can be found on our website www.stroudcab.org.uk.

Alternatively, please write to the Finance Officer, asking for standing order/donation and gift aid forms to be sent to you.

Our address is: Stroud & District CAB, Unit 8, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud GL5 2BP.

Thank you

Ann Horner | Chair of the PR and Fundraising Committee | t: 01452 812128

churches



St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Eastington

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

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

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter everyone! I hope that amidst the mounds of chocolate eggs you will also find the joy of the Christian Faith. After the bleakness of the Lenten season, and the depths of grief and bewilderment that are found in Holy Week, particularly on Good Friday, the amazement brought about by the discovery of the empty tomb, then the various resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus Christ provide excitement and happiness that continues in the hearts of Christians right up to the present day.

Easter is always an exciting time for me personally, as I love the Spring. It's my favourite season – as I love to see new growth, hear the birds singing, and watch for returning migrants. There are signs of new life all around – the only downside is that the grass starts growing, so I'll have to fire up the lawnmower again! The daffodils I planted with my son Chris when we first moved here are all in bloom along our front fence, and look lovely. Currently there is plenty of cherry blossom out as well, and the weather is warming up at last.

Spring is a reminder to us all that the world is ever-changing, and try as we might, we can't stop that. We may try to deflect the changes, but eventually something will give, and that may eventually mean something very positive will come out of it – even if that outcome may seem initially dreadful. Obviously that is what happened on the first Easter – Christ died, Christ rose – but even those closest to Jesus found it difficult to accept what had happened, and many around at the time, and indeed since, have never accepted it.

Villages change as well, and if you look at where you live you will see, quite possibly, how much yours has. Is this a positive change, and has it always been so? There may have been downsides to it, but also many benefits – and these are mostly concerned with building. Whereas some of our parishes might, and indeed do, embrace some development, for others the feeling is that 'you can have too much of a good thing'! Yet the development of the schools at Eastington, Haresfield and Whitminster has been a very positive one for all concerned, and given us excellent facilities, as has the building of a community centre in Eastington, and the refurbishment of the Village Halls at Standish and Whitminster. The 'West of Stonehouse' development (actually Eastington, or more locally mainly Nastend) is the current 'bete noire' – but if this does ever become a reality, what will our approach be to the people who come to live there, or indeed those who work at the incinerator in Haresfield if that ever gets built?

Yours in Christ,

(Rector)

Revd Richard Amys, The Rectory, Millend Lane, Eastington, GL10 3SG. Email: richardjramys@aol.com.
Tel/fax 01453 822437. Day off – Saturday. (Mobile 07796 956050)

Benefice Website: www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cotswoldedgeparishes>.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/cotswold_edge.

churches

Baptism

Elizabeth Keveren and her daughter Isabelle Jane Keveren were baptised on 1st February.

Funerals

Dorothy 'Dot' Aldridge, formerly of Eastington, died on January 15th. Her funeral was conducted by the Revd Peggy Ludlow at Eastington Church on 29th January, followed by cremation at Gloucester Crematorium.

John Ellis, formerly of Claypits, Eastington, died on January 11th. His funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 2nd February, followed by cremation at Cheltenham Crematorium.

Eddie Price, of Frocester, died on January 23rd. His funeral was conducted by the Rector at Frocester Church on 16th February, followed by a committal at Westerleigh Crematorium. There was Memorial Service on March 2nd, 11am at Eastington Church.

Lauren Tandy, baptised at Eastington, died on February 11th, aged 17. Her funeral was conducted by the Rector at Eastington Church on 5th March, followed by burial in Eastington Cemetery.

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

Services in April and May *All services are taken by the Rector unless stated otherwise*

Sundays →	29th March Palm Sunday (p479 - red)	5th April Easter Day (p533 - white)	12th April 2nd of Easter (p538 - white)	19th April 3rd of Easter (p541 - white)	26th April 4th of Easter (p543 - white)
<i>Morning Service Readings</i> →	<i>Psalm 118.1-2, 19-24</i> 7 John 12.12-16 (p478) <i>(See Standish)</i>	<i>Acts 10.34-43 & Mark 16.1-8</i> (p535/7)	<i>Acts 4.32-35 & John 20.19-31</i> (p538/9)	<i>Acts 3.12-19 & Luke 24.36b-48</i> (p542/2)	<i>Acts 4.5-12 & John 10.11-18</i> (p544/5)
Eastington	Maundy Thursday 2 nd - 7.30pm (p498 - white) 1 <i>Corinthians 11.23-26 & John 13.1-17, 31b-35</i> (p500)	10.45am Holy Communion (Angela Reeder)	10.45am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong <i>Deuteronomy 7.7-13 & Revelation 2.1-11</i>	10.45am Holy Communion

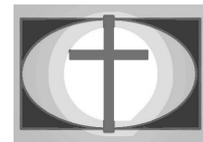
Sundays →	3rd May 5th of Easter (p546 - white)	10th May 6th of Easter (Rogation Sunday) (p549 - white)	17th May 7th of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day) (p557 - white)	24th May Pentecost (p559 - red)	31st May Trinity Sunday (p565 - white)
<i>Morning Service Readings</i> →	<i>Acts 8.26-40 & John 15.1-8</i> (p546/8)	<i>Acts 10.44-48 & John 15.9-17</i> (p549/51)	<i>1 John 5.9-13 & John 17.6-19</i> (p558)	<i>Acts 2.1-21 & John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15</i> (p563/4)	<i>Isaiah 6.1-6 & John 3.1-17</i> (p565/6)
Eastington	10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion Thu 14 th 7.30pm Ascension Day (p552 - white) <i>Acts 1.1-11 & Luke 24.44-53</i> (p 555)	6pm Evensong <i>Isaiah 61 & Luke 4.14-21</i>	10.45am Holy Communion (Rector's last Service at Eastington)	Benefice Communion 10am at Haresfield (Rector's final Service)

Benefice Website: www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cotswoldedgeparishes>.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/cotswold_edge

churches



Messy Easter	10am Monday 30 th March
Good Friday Service	10:30am Friday 3 rd April
Easter Day at the Café	11am Sunday 5 th April



Messy Easter is on the first Monday of the school holidays and is suitable for all ages (even the teenagers have been observed seriously engaging with the play doh at previous events!). There will be the usual craft activities, story, refreshments (including excellent cakes) and a chance to join in a couple of songs.

The Good Friday service will be more reflective as is befitting the subject matter in hand.

Easter Day at the Café will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and also tell the story of the lost sheep (including getting the children to hunt for previously hidden sheep around the building). Treasure at the Café at the beginning of March attracted over 45 people so if you want to experience church, but not as you might imagine it, this could be for you.

In the week after Easter, a group is going to Spring Harvest which is held at Butlins in

Minehead. This is a major Christian event which attracts thousands of participants with sessions and activities for all ages. We trust that this will be an enriching experience for those going on the trip.

Tumaini

Dr Susan Wilson MBE heads up an Aids Orphan charity called Tumaini operating in Tanzania and she will be visiting us to tell of their work. Tumaini means "hope" in Swahili.

Susan is an inspirational speaker and our special guest on Sunday on 19th April at 11am. In order to encourage as many to come as possible, this will be in the informal Café style with people sitting together around tables with refreshments provided.

If you have spare clothes (in good condition and clean) or are willing to provide teaching materials, such as exercise books, we will be collecting them on the day.

Minister, Rev Graham Miles, teaching some of the young people how to puppeteer in readiness for Puppets at the Café that took part on 2nd Feb



churches

Eastington Methodist Regular Church Activities	
Prayer Meetings	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am, Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Line Dancing	Tuesdays 10:30am - noon
Lunchtime Bible Study	Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Evening Bible Study House Group	Tuesday 8:00 – 9:45pm at The Pike Lock House
Youth Club (11-18)	Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Main Service (with crèche) or Café style all age	Sundays 11am
<i>Unless stated otherwise, these are held at EMC which is opposite the butchers in Eastington.</i>	

Please note that there is no youth club on Good Friday

If you are older and perhaps feel that it would be good to get to know more people in the village, you might like to consider coming to Hymn & Prayer which is held in the meeting room at Broadfield (you can't miss the building – its the one where it looks like they put the roof on upside down). This takes place a 2pm usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month with the next ones being on April 22nd and May 27th. If you need a lift, just let us know.

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

Eastington and Whitminster Baby and Toddler Groups

Eastington

Mondays 10-11:30am (most Mondays in the year)
at Eastington Methodist Church
Cost £1:50 for a Mum/Carer and child plus 50p for each extra person

Whitminster – Tiny Tigers

Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am (in term time)
at Whitminster Village Hall
Cost £2

Both groups are run by the same team of volunteers and the Youth and Family worker from Eastington Methodist Church. We aim to provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere where children can play, have fun and explore various crafts in a safe place. There are also healthy refreshments (chocolate biscuits for mums and carers), a singing time, and, every other week, a Bible story.

We are about to have the visit of the photographer (Whitminster 18/03/15, and Eastington 20/04/15), and on 29th April, at 10am, we'll be off to Go Bananas (the softplay centre at Ebley).

If you have children, or grandchildren of pre-school age (0-school age) feel free to pop in to either, or both of the groups and make some new friends.

For further information contact Beck Burgin 07511197265



groups

Village Agent News

Severn Trent Water: You may be able to reduce your water bill with Severn Trent, by installing a water meter. This way of paying is most relevant to you if you have low water usage. All you have to do is telephone 0345 709 0646 and an estimate can be done to see if going on a meter would save you money. There is no obligation to change the way you are charged, unless you decide to do so. The bill will include the sewage element with the water.

Men's 50+ Social Group: There is a new Men's 50+ Social Group at Kingsholm Stadium in Gloucester. You can talk about watching/playing sport with other men from around the county and enjoy some refreshments. It will be held at Gloster Boys' Bar, Lion's Den, Gloucester Rugby Club from 10.30-12. They meet Thursdays with the next meeting on Thursday 2nd and 30th April. To register your interest and for more information, please contact Katie Lake at GRCC on 01452 528491 or email katiel@grcc.org.uk. I am told that women, who are interested in sport, are also welcome as long as they are accompanying a man.

Aphasia: You may be interested in a support group for adults with Aphasia. Do you have difficulty communicating after a stroke or head injury? Finding it hard to speak does not mean you have nothing to say. At the group they help

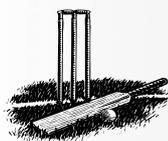
people with Aphasia through: supported communication, co-ordination exercises, Chi Gong, creative activities and much more. The group meets on Mondays in Tuffley. You can get more information from 01453 868811, www.aphasianow.org or mail@aphasianow.org

Friends for You: I am delighted to let you know that GRCC have secured funding from Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to launch, a volunteer befriending service in support of older, isolated and housebound people living in the community. Friends for You provides a free befriending service for older people, who maybe can't get out as much as they would like and who would enjoy some regular company in the comfort of their own home. A reliable, local volunteer visitor calling regularly each week, offering friendship and a listening ear has a positive impact on a person's state of mind and well-being, as well as enhancing their sense of belonging and feeling a valued part of their community. You may think you would like to become a volunteer, and give an hour a week to give someone friendship.

If you would like to find out more information please do contact Sue Black, Friends for You on 07810 630 167 or 01452 528491 or email sue.friendsforyou@grcc.org.uk

Please telephone me if you would like to discuss anything that I may be able to help you with or to make an appointment to see me in person.

Sue Colquhoun 07810 630 145



Do you play or have you played cricket?

Eastington Cricket Club requires players of any standard for the 2015 season, with most Saturdays (league) and 'friendlies' on Sundays, midweek days and midweek evenings. We play and practise at Owen Harris Memorial Ground.

Any standard/ability is welcome, to keep our club going.
Please contact Steve Gallagher on 01453 791209

g r o u p s

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

This is my favourite time of year, the daffodils are in full bloom, the first hint of spring green can be spotted in the hedgerows, lambs are making an appearance in the fields and the days are slowly getting longer and dare I say warmer. My thoughts turn towards the spring and summer days ahead.

So at Slimming World we have started preparing for summer and thinking about the weight we would like to lose before the summer is upon us, putting steps in place to achieve our targets and the foods we can enjoy on our weight loss journey. We have enjoyed sharing stories, recipes, ideas and tips to help everyone feel ready for the holiday season.

A brand new recipe book called Food Glorious Food has been launched which contains recipes for traditional favourites from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales including Welsh Onion cake, faggots and pan haggerty; all deliciously filling and tasty. We have also seen the launch of a healthy ready meal range exclusively available from Iceland, including chicken tikka, Singapore noodles, sausages, and also beef in red wine with vegetable crush. These are all made using good quality fresh ingredients, and includes the recipe on the back of the packs so you can cook it at home for the family. These meals are ideal for those days we struggle for time and when life is very busy.

We have enjoyed celebrating everyone's weight loss awards as well as our 'Couple of the Year' and our groups 'Greatest Loser 2015' award. The favourite part of my job as a Slimming World Consultant is seeing my members achieving their dreams, losing the weight they want to lose and becoming healthier and fitter. Celebrating their successes in a group and hearing all about their individual journey, makes our groups such a supportive and positive place to be.

So come along and find out for yourselves and let this summer see a slimmer healthier you. We meet every Wednesday 9.30am at a Stonehouse Community Centre and 5pm and at 7pm at Eastington Village Hall.

Lorna | 01453821751 or 07974937830

Merry Christmas!

It may seem a long way off, but a small group of individuals have been thinking ahead to Christmas 2015.

Many of us are able to spend Christmas with family and friends enjoying the festive celebrations. This isn't the case for everyone.

If you are someone who spends Christmas day alone and would appreciate sharing a lunch with other people who find their selves in a similar situation, or you are able to support this initiative by either donating some time or resources to support this idea, then we'd love to hear from you.

Please telephone: 01453 823285



groups

Nailsworth Festival 2015

There is a very full programme of exhibitions, walks, workshops, drama and other activities planned for the week. Festival brochures are available from the Nailsworth Information Centre, library or a number of shops in the town.

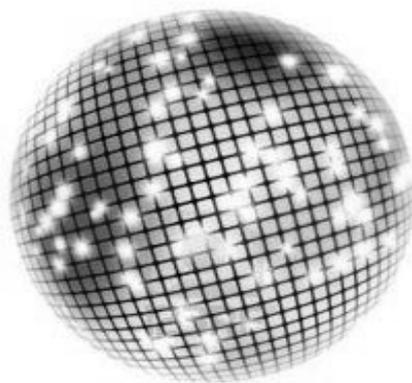
Tim Hughes | Festival Publicity | 01453 836993

Saturday May 16 - Saturday May 23rd
See the What's On pages www.ecn.me.uk



80'S DISCO

in aid of Eastington Playgroup



Saturday

18th April 2015

7.30pm to 12pm

Tickets £7.50

(including snacks)

Eastington Community Centre

OHMG, Eastington

Tel Jen 07890 234282 or

Katherine 07870 270015

fancy Dress encouraged



groups



Eastington Community Park

With the slight improvement in weather in recent weeks, the park group has been able to further capitalise on a generous grant, donated by Gloucester Environmental Trust (G.E.T.)

The grant from G.E.T. was for the purchase of plants to help give the park a natural and exploratory feel. Earlier work carried out was the planting of several trees and some raised beds.



The most recent and probably most exciting addition to the flora is the living Willow Tunnel. This was planted, woven and tied, by a small group of volunteers in the space of a couple hours, fantastic effort. As spring gets a good grip in the coming weeks, there should be signs growth. Already, without the

secrecy and mystery of a leafy cover, young children are racing through and exploring this structure.



We have also planted an 'edible hedge', but don't rush off to the park for a feast just yet, as all you will find are some rather chewy sticks! But in



time, we should have some soft fruits to enjoy. Some of you may have spotted a troop of Scout's planting the various fruits. A big thank you to Severnside Scouts, Frampton on Severn, for their enthusiastic support.

As ever we can always find more to do. Next on the flora agenda is to try our hand at creating a wild flower patch. The plan is to try a small strip to the side of a mound; then sit back and watch.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the Willow Tunnel and soft fruits, especially our consultants; Alice Fry and Tom Low.



nature watch

Beekeepers diary 7

February 10th. I am always delighted when I see bees in the garden for the first time each year. There are a few gathering pollen from the crocuses and snowdrops in our garden today. I have long known that they use snowdrops, but it's the first time I've seen it, probably because it is exceptionally mild for the time of year. These very early flowers seem to be species that produce pollen rather than nectar. This is a good arrangement for bees because pollen stimulates the queen to come back into lay.

I was astonished to read that during the foraging season a colony of bees will visit one and a quarter million flowers in search of pollen, bringing 20 to 30 kilograms of it back to base. I have always known that pollen is the primary food source for the larvae, but I had no idea they used so much of it. You never see vast amounts of pollen in the hives.

February 26th. Today Nick and I decided to install new pallets for the hives to stand on. By the time we arrived at the apiary there were good numbers of bees flying, so there was no question of shutting them in for the operation. I secured the hives with straps, so we could lift them without danger of them coming apart. I say 'we' but Nick lifted them on his own. The job was soon done and although the bees were a bit disorientated they sorted themselves out very quickly. They all look well, with plenty of activity around the hives and lovely full pollen baskets on their legs. I did receive an offer of help from two readers to lay new pallets. It was very brave, thank you.

March 7th. Today was perfect, sunny all day and beautifully warm in sheltered places. It enabled me to open the hives very briefly and drip the varroa mite treatment into them. The drops are oils which provoke the bees to groom themselves and clean the mites off. I have chosen this method rather than nicotine or chemical mite killers as it is organic and probably more bee friendly. Some very knowledgeable beekeepers think it is not efficient enough, but as long as our bees seem to be healthy I

shall continue with it. The preparations that actually kill the mites are losing their effectiveness. The mites have already developed a resistance to the chemicals just like head lice did to the early lotions.

The hive, which I started up from a very small nucleus, still needs to make up numbers this season, but I didn't see anything to worry about. I was very happy with the bee numbers in the other two hives and the amount of stores they all have. Unless we get a freakily cold or wet spring, they should have enough honey stores to last till the nectar flow begins.

14th March. The variety of flowers in the gardens is increasing almost daily so there are a greater variety of pollens coming in. The weather has become much more wintery again so this will slow things down, but I am very pleased what I have seen. Things can take care of themselves now apart from the need repeat the varroa drops soon.

I have noticed that the last batch of honey we extracted has now set in the jars and become fairly dark in colour. Clover would cause it to set in time. It still tastes gorgeous especially melted into hot toast and butter.

Val Hicken

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environment

Appeal Hearing – proposed development of 30 houses off Bath Road

At last our voices have been heard! After the botched appeal process over the 30 houses off Swallowcroft I was not holding out much hope for a sensible appeal hearing over the 30-house development off Bath Road.

How wrong I was. Firstly, the number of objections to the Planning Inspectorate convinced them to extend the deadline for comments by a week; then change the appeal from written comments to a hearing. The hearing was held at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on 5th March 2015 and was not at a good time for working people to attend. However, with publicity, posters, and personal contact, the room was filled with concerned parishioners.

With tables ranged in a square, we four principle speakers for the village were immediately opposite the Inspector, Mrs J Miles with two speakers from the District Council on the left, and three for the appellant on the right. Having distributed the agenda, the Inspector outlined what would happen. Briefly, the professionals had first go at each subject, then the Inspector asked questions, as appropriate. After that we were asked if we had any questions or additions to make.

Our main input was on the character, appearance and landscape impact of the development, followed by the sustainability of it. We emphasised the importance of this whole green space, whose field boundaries have remained unchanged since at least 1839. As evidence we submitted the results of the village appraisal and images showing how well used the footpaths were. The appellant said the footpaths would still be there! Yes but along tarmac paths through a housing estate! Not quite the same thing.

It was also pointed out that the village school was full now, with 14 extra children from these two developments most would have to commute to other schools. The appellant pointed out thousands of pounds would go to the school (true) that could improve the education for existing children, but it would not squeeze any more in.

We stressed that in our opinion it was obvious that the adverse impact was greater than any perceived benefit for the village. In conclusion we all felt that Mrs Miles had not just listened to our concerns but had made sure she understood our point of view. This was in complete contrast to our experience in January 2014 at the Swallowcroft site meeting when we felt ignored and sidelined. So we have great hope, but must now wait some weeks for the final verdict. A vote of thanks to all of you who made comments or attended the hearing.

Edwin Davies

Nupend Telephone Kiosk

Nupend's disused telephone kiosk has been renovated - the door frame has been repaired, it has been repainted, the electric light has been sorted out and the Parish Council is being relieved of the bills for the electricity. All this is thanks to the help and co-operation of Nupend businesses and residents.

So it is now open for business, any business really, and we hope it will be used (for instance) to display notices of forthcoming events, information, news items, photos of past times and present times, children's artwork, books, etc. Any local organisations that have notices of events, etc. please use it. The kiosk is now more than a convenient landmark used to direct visitors, delivery drivers, and strangers on a road that doesn't go much further. **Chris Darwent**



ECN apologises for the late publication of this item. Ed

environment

Eastington Community Orchard (E C O) Group

Looking back over ECN Editions 125 to 150

Foundation

ECO Group was set up after the Vibrant Village success, when we saw that several previous winners had a Community Orchard. After the OHMG and the Allotments, we had to have an orchard!

The Parish Council gave us the £500 prize money and rented us the Reserve Burial Ground. On the old maps it's called Coneygree Orchard, a medieval name for rabbit warren.

Building Coneygree Orchard

I say "building" rather than "planting" because we spend far more time building fruit cages, tree guards (against the rabbits), fences and pathways than actually planting or pruning trees. In the photo you can see there are more posts than trees or fruit bushes.



Kevin, the Orchard Warden, has logged 2,000 hours of effort in the four years of work parties so far, involving 27 people, with a core of a dozen. There are now 58 trees, the first ten of which will be able to bear fruit this year.

Waiting for fruit from Coneygree – Apple Days are born

To pay for the trees (and the posts and the path...) we had the bright idea of gathering apples and pears that nobody wanted. "Legalised Scrumpling" John called it! Sales over four years have grossed £5,000, collecting from 48 gardens and orchards in September and October.

We have the public Apple Day on or near 19th October at the OHMG. Around 40 people help out during that day, of all ages, learning and applying new skills.

What will be in the next 25 editions?

For edition 151 we will have the launch of our new Cider and Perry boxes and bottles. They're clearing and maturing nicely, ready for the summer and the BBQ season.

Further on we hope to support some older orchards with our charitable status giving access to Grants. Working with the restoration of the Canal will be important too.

With the good weather coming, you can join us in Coneygree Orchard on an occasional Saturday and enjoy some fresh air and exercise by ringing Kevin (827401) or Tom (823425)



e n v i r o n m e n t

The Eastington Allotments Society

Many congratulations to all concerned on achieving 150 editions of the ECN from everyone involved with TEAS.

We are now into our 6th season of 'allotmenting' and so relative newcomers to the longevity of the ECN. Interest in current allotments, though, began more than 8 years ago thanks, in the main to Parish Councillors Fiona Warin and Rob Gothard who, with the help of a number of other enthusiasts, worked to locate a suitable site which was acquired through the support of the Parish Council and the Charlie Bullock Fund. Ironically both Fiona and Rob had moved on before TEAS started in earnest and never to did get a plot for themselves but I think they still will look upon the achievement with some pride, particularly as the allotments were part of the success story that gained Eastington the first ever Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year award in 2010.



For the original group of 'allotmenters' turning a field, used for many years for grazing cows, into productive plots for vegetable growing proved to be extremely tough going and required a great deal of time spent digging and turning over the sticky clay loaded soil. Understandable some fell by the wayside but their places were soon filled and all of TEAS' 22 plots are now currently occupied.

In the Beginning.....We could only grow sticks

In terms of the immediate future, as well as seeing the current barren plots fill with luscious and (hopefully) edible greenery over the next few months, watch out for the appearance of the TEAS Club House (or large shed) and thanks, again, should go to the Charlie Bullock Trustees and Parish Council for their contributions to this community project.

All the best for the next 150 editions, which will, hopefully, occasionally include some more snippets (or should that be pickings) from the allotments.

Steve Gribble (TEAS Commitee)



environment

The Local Plan

Timing

In my last article I indicated that the Local Plan was due back to the re-convened Examination in Public (EIP) at the end of January. This never happened. The Planning Inspector was ill and so the EIP has been delayed until the middle of May.

New Consultation

Currently Stroud Council is consulting the public on the number of houses that they have determined are needed between now and 2031. They have increased the number from 9,500 to 11,200 and reintroduced the 'strategic site' of West of Stonehouse (WoS, or 'Stonehouse-M5 Growth Cluster') suggesting that this site could accommodate between 1,350 (3,172 people) and 3,550 houses (8,342 people). Stonehouse town currently has around 3,500 houses. So this change is to potentially introduce another town the size of Stonehouse, between Stonehouse and the Motorway corridor.

The closing date for this consultation is the 25th March 2015. The consultation is immensely complicated and most residents would struggle to complete the SDC response form. We have put an easy to complete response on the website: new-town.info

Eastington Parish remains under threat

On March 5th Tom Low, Andrew Niblett and others went to the planning appeal for Bath road. We will know the outcome shortly. The whole Parish continues to be threatened by developers, given that so much land is owned by them (60%), and Council Officers have encouraged developer plans for our Parish. (Bath Road being a particularly good example).

There are those that would believe that if WoS goes ahead the rest of the Parish will be protected and there are others that believe that a large development in Alkerton would result in WoS being

dismissed. Sadly neither of these beliefs has any value. Our Parish is near the Motorway and is vulnerable with this large amount of local land owned by developers. Whatever the outcome from the Local Plan Eastington will continue to be at the receiving end of numerous speculative planning applications. Our major defence is the soon-to-be-completed and out for consultation Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This is effectively the local plan for our neighbourhood. Please respond to this consultation when it appears early in April.

Cotswold Care Hospice

3rd annual

Solstice Walk

Friday 19th June

See the What's On pages at www.ecn.me.uk

Ken Stephens Steps Down

For the last two years Ken has been a significant supporter of our campaign and we are very sorry to lose him as a councillor for our parish. I stood against ken at the last election and lost to a good man. He has worked tirelessly to help us deliver success. Sadly on the 9th December 2014 councillors across all the political parties decided to abandon Stonehouse Town and Eastington Parish and vote through WoS as a strategic site. Ken defended us to the last but without most of his colleagues supporting him the day was lost. Ken, thank you for all you have done and enjoy your retirement.

Daniel James

events

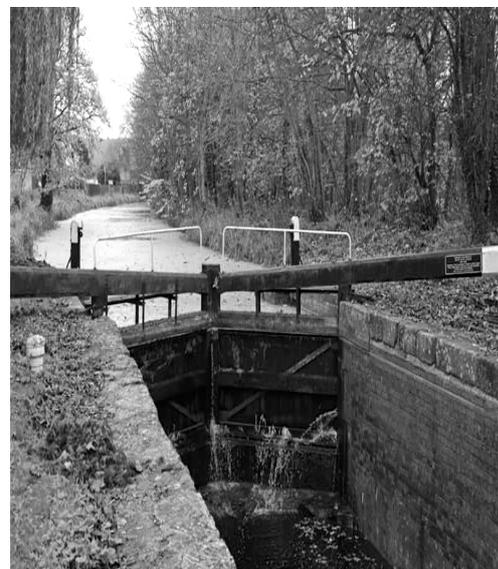

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The Stroudwater Navigation

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www.cotswoldcanalsheritage.org.uk which brings together a number of local groups, whose work focuses on the Stroudwater Navigation. The Cotswold Canals Trust will be there to inform visitors about the restoration work. In the afternoon Michael Handford and David Viner will be there to sign copies of their books and answer questions.

Light refreshments will available throughout the day.

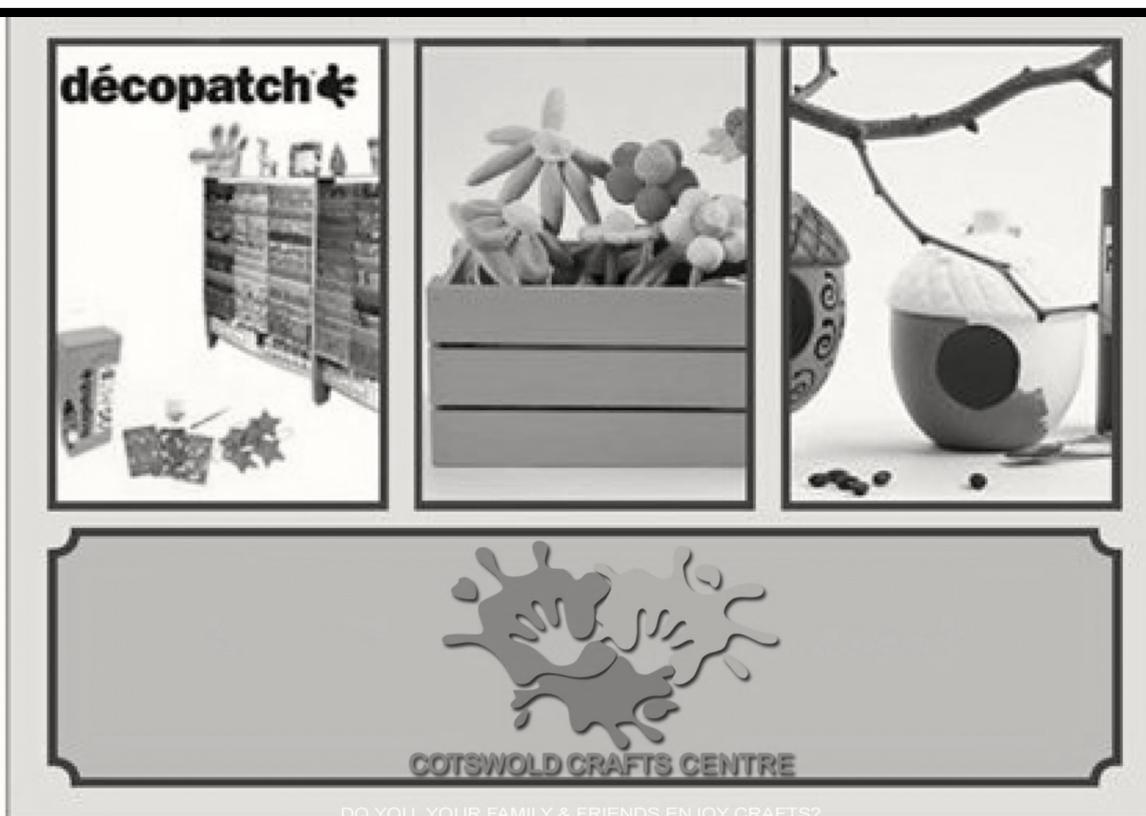
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