

e a s t i n g t o n

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your news... your ECN!

Contributions to ECN are welcome from anyone connected with Eastington Parish, past or present. Send your copy by email to the Articles Editor - ecn.articles@gmail.com

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The editor reserves the right to reject or shorten contributions.

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

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**Christmas edition****Jolly Joggers?****Diary Dates**

Fri 11th Dec @ 7.30pm – Cotswold Youth Singers Christmas Concert (CoE) at St Michael's Church

Sun 13th December @ 14:00 Next **Community Walk** : at the Kings Head House Hotel.

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Editor**



@eastingtonnews



Eastington Community News

editorial

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité; these words came ringing to our ears after so many young people were brutally massacred in Paris on Friday 13th November. News and developments following those atrocities will naturally move on before and after this edition of 'Community News' reaches your door. Each time something so terrible like this happens, it's harder to imagine how we can continue to enjoy the sort of liberty and freedom to which we have become accustomed. How can it not affect us?

Scenes of support and unity between English and French supporters and players at Wembley Stadium four days later were deeply moving, as previous rivals put aside their differences to sing together *La Marseillaise*. In the early 1800s it would have been very difficult for our great (many times) great grandparents to have imagined such scenes of camaraderie between French and English people, but in a similar way, however hard to imagine now, maybe that gives us some hope that eventually there could be a peaceful outcome to the terrors visited on us all at this time?

Unity and support for each other are cornerstones too of communities such as ours. From Class 3 pupils, Anna and Ruth Watt of Eastington Primary School, we hear how good it is to take care of each other, and to help people around us (p7). Ruth is a leading member of the Rights Respecting Team at the School where ideas about rights and responsibilities are shaped. Given the 'boisterous antics' at some recent Parish meetings, maybe some adults might benefit from such concepts!

Camaraderie between a wide range of ages was experienced locally during the well-supported community walks. These were organised by Bill Edwards and colleagues from PROWD and the 'Community Walking Group' (p12). A new concept to me for a team activity is the practice of 'Zorbing'. In fancy dress it seems even more challenging as the pictures on p16 show.

Undertaking the complete process of compiling articles for ECN this time has given me good insight of the workings of the 'new look ECN'. By standing in for Chris Osman (just for this edition,) it has strengthened further my appreciation of the terrific work put in by her to modernise our publication. I am afraid I am not as 'sharp-eyed' as Chris in proof reading, so may I please ask for your understanding for things I may have missed.

How many of us have raised an eyebrow on seeing the first Christmas decoration in late summer? Commercial outlets are bold in making 'open season' on Christmas to maximise their sales, and know how vulnerable children are to temptations of early celebration and presents. Given how eager commercial enterprises are to cash in on Christmas, is it not surprising that Digital Cinema Media (DCM) have banned the new 'Lord's Prayer advert' that was to be shown in cinemas before Christmas? How reasonable is it to flaunt the trimmings of Christmas in commercial interest, while denying the founder of the festival His message, in case someone might be offended by the notion for a good and responsible life?

From all of us in the ECN team may we wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



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Looking to the future

signpost

The Local Plan, in which 'West Stonehouse' (WoS) is now a major development site for the whole District, was finally approved on 19th November. It's explained well by Daniel James (p20,) and I share his disappointment that our 30-year long battle against it has finally been lost. One of the happiest times for me was making numerous friendships, particularly in the early decades when the term 'WoS' was first used. Sadly, some of those supporters are no longer with us. Working with the Planners, to influence the design and layout of the WoS development, now seems to be in our best interest; a point reinforced in our District Councillor's letter (p5). Indeed, our Parish Council has already started talking to developers and planners.

The past few years have been really tough for communities, as developers had a field day scrabbling to gain planning permissions before a Local Plan was formally approved. Communities across the District faced a similar onslaught as the Council apparently lost control of the planning process. So, it's easy to understand why a large sigh of relief was heard as Stroud (SDC) became the first District Council in Gloucestershire to have its Plan adopted.

With the WoS development being foisted on us, the biggest question facing Eastington is 'how do we plan for the future heart of the village and remaining hamlets?' Our strength of community has been fuelled by modest growth over sixty years, and continuing such a realistic approach could serve us well for the future. Being ready when the next development takes place, by identifying precious things around us, would ensure those could be enjoyed by future generations too.

During extensive work defending Planning Appeals for Bath Road site and land at Bath Road Bungalow, it became clear we desperately need a document listing things most important to everyone in Eastington. Such a document would provide essential evidence to ensure future development is sympathetic to the character and form of the place where we live. It's called an 'Environmental Character Assessment' (ECA,) where views and places are described with reasons to say why these are important to the quality of life of residents. In future, developers would be referred to the ECA before submitting plans. Some experienced parishes like Kingswood have already been sufficiently insightful to prepare an ECA as a base to support their NDP, and to ensure that precious things are not damaged by inappropriate development.

These days, communities wanting to begin an NDP are advised to first prepare an ECA and other documents as the 'legs' that support the NDP 'table'. Since beginning our NDP a couple of years back a lot of things have changed; not least of which is the reason for doing it. Although some had hoped that rapidly submitting our NDP would stop some things that we didn't like in Stroud's Local Plan, that was a misconception and plainly wrong from the very start. An NDP can only bring extra development, over and above that already defined in the Local Plan. With the spectre of WoS hanging over us, maybe we missed seeing some of the better parts of Stroud's Plan? There were certainly very helpful policies in the Local Plan that helped defeat some recent Planning Appeals.

I'm sure there is much gratitude for the huge amount of work and time put in to the NDP so far. As can be seen in Parish Matters (p4,) and a note on p14 to all of you who took time to respond to the 'NDP consultation draft, the intention is to push ahead to formally submit the Plan to SDC; ready or not. There will be a Parish Council meeting 5th January 2016 (to be confirmed,) specially to 'sign it off'. No significant upgrading can be made after that. Given all that has changed since beginning the NDP, and that some members are planning to 'move on', would it not be an appropriate time to take stock, regroup and invite new members to join the NDP Group who have longer-term commitment to the parish? There is still considerably more work needed to shape the future of this place where we live.

Andrew Niblett

councils



PARISH MATTERS

It has been another busy time for the Parish Council. The Inspector's report on the SDC (Stroud District Council) Local Plan has arrived and it contains the news we were all hoping wouldn't come; the development known as the West of Stonehouse (WoS) is confirmed to be included in the Plan. (Actually it's in the Parish of Eastington)

While the Parish Council continues to object to the West of Stonehouse Planning Application, we have already begun talks with SDC and the developers to put some of our views to them and get an idea of their time line. Assuming the application receives planning permission, the developers anticipate first houses being occupied towards the end of 2016 / beginning of 2017.

If there is a good side to this it is the Parish should have more protection against further development.

As a few of you will know, EPC have complained about the name of this development as it lacked links with Eastington Parish. I have asked for it to be renamed and was asked to put forward some suggestions. If anyone would like to send me their suggestions, the Council can choose the favourite.

We are still working hard on our NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) and are hoping to complete it by the end of November, which if accepted by SDC will go to referendum next summer.

We were expecting the Ecotricity Planning Application to be submitted to SDC mid-October, but as at writing this article we haven't seen the formal plans. Ecotricity has said it will provide the Parish Council with a paper copy of the plans so that we can hold our own public meeting to garner views. SDC has indicated that they won't be able to consider the application prior to March 2016.

I'd also like to let you know that the Parish Council has joined social media – you can find us on Facebook/ EastingtonPC or Twitter @Eastington_PC. Follow us for all the latest updates from the Parish Council.

Muriel Bullock (01453 826172) (Chair of Eastington Parish Council)

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas break and will resume on 4th January.

GCSE French Tuition

Not feeling very confident about your looming GCSE exam?

Help is at hand!

A few sessions could help you

- improve your speaking and pronunciation,
- sort out the dreaded verbs,
- or fix whatever gives you the most trouble.

Friendly tutor with
years of experience

Start in January.
Rate: £22 for ¾ hr

Contact Helen on 01453 792453
Email: lingos@cheesetoasties.com



Wanted

Garage to Rent

or garage space

Suitable for Storing

Small Classic Car

Preferably in or near

Eastington

Contact: Mike Naylor

01453 828682/ 07796 221188

Letter from your District Councillor

councils

Dear all, Merry Christmas and all the best for 2016.

Christmas is my favourite time of the year for many reasons, the gathering of Family and Friends to share good food, presents and good times. I enjoy all the traditions of Carols, Christmas Trees and over indulging, but I also find that it is a good time to stop and take stock of what is good with the World as well as those things we want to improve which leads to those so difficult to keep New Year's Resolutions. Local Politics is often about helping people and if I can help let me know, but this can lead to a view of a World beset by problems which is not how I see the World at all. There are many amazing things happening in this beautiful and exciting part of the world where we are lucky enough to live. However we can not be complacent and must continue to strive to make things better.

So looking back on 2015. It has been an interesting and busy year for me particularly after being elected to the privilege of representing Eastington and Standish on Stroud District Council. This has been a learning curve particularly on all things planning, some applications we have had a good result on others we have not been so lucky. I have enjoyed meeting many people and particularly working with the Parish Council where I have strived to do what I can to help particularly in understanding the challenges we face and getting answers to some of the questions. With the Stroud District Council Local Plan moving forward the development West of Stonehouse is inevitable and I am proud to have played a part in the detailed conversations now going on about how this development will look at the facilities required to support this level of expansion. There is still much to be done.

And looking forward to 2016. We will continue to have Planning Applications and will continue to have to be vigilant as we review each application on it's merit. This will include the proposed development by Ecotricity which we should scrutinise and I have previously outlined concerns that need to be addressed in previous articles. As part of this activity there will also be further work on the Neighbourhood Plan which I look forward to helping with where I can. There will also be elections, in May 2016 when the whole Stroud District Council will be up for re-election, including me. Due to Boundary Commission changes Eastington will be part of Severn Ward including Frampton, Saul, Whitminster and Arlingham which I will be standing again to represent, (Standish will move to Hardwicke.)

But that is all in the future, for now let us enjoy the many events around Christmas and the New Year.

Merry Christmas,

Stephen....

Councillor Stephen Davies
Eastington and Standish Ward

Email: Cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk

Tel: 07802 595 307

Twitter: @cllrsdavies

Eastington Village Hall



**For your function or
group meeting !**

**phone Queenie
on 824340**

*Central village location, £7.50 per hour,
kitchen, tables and chairs, stage etc.*

c h u r c h e s

Eastington Methodist Church

 <p>Christmas at the Cate</p> <p>Carols</p> <p>Sunday 13th December 11:00am – noon</p>	<p>Messy CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Family Craft Activities</p>  <p>Cakes Drinks</p> <p>Christmas Story</p> <p>Monday 21st December 10:00 – 11:30am</p>	<p>CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT</p>  <p>Sunday 20th December At the earlier time of 5:00 pm followed by refreshments</p>	<p>Christmas</p>  <p>Day 10:30am</p>
<p><i>A warm invitation for you to come and join us at any or all of the above events!</i></p>			

It's that time of year again – it's Christmas. The time when as a church we remember God's gift of His son who was born among us, lived with us and then died for us. But is that what most people think about at this time of year? Probably not.

As a church, we will be trying to highlight the true story of Christmas from under all the fluff and commercialism that the world has tried to bury it in. Yes, getting together with our families, having a meal together and sharing presents is good. There may be some better than usual stuff on TV and time off of work may provide a welcome break – but is that what Christmas should be all about?

So let us celebrate Christmas and the reason behind it. Let us have fun but also why not engage with its origins for “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...” (*Isaiah 9:6(part)*) - it does not get much better than that does it?

Zorbing in fancy dress at the District Youth Weekend

Youth Club In addition to the usual 7pm Friday Youth Club, there was a District Youth Weekend in Midsommer Norton in Somerset and a Themed Sleepover at the church. Both were opportunities to have fun and learn stuff.

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If you are a young person in secondary school, why not come along on a Friday evening and have a look at what we get up to? We are always happy to see new faces and why not bring a friend (and it doesn't matter if they don't live in Eastington).

We are starting to look ahead to next year and hope to take a group to Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead for five days just after Easter.

May we wish you a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a blessed NEW YEAR.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin 01453 827414 www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk



Eastington Primary School

school

At our school we talk about values that are important to us. Values mean a lot as they help us to be more confident about growing up and how to face a changing world. Values make us stop and think and try to make us better people.

This term we have been thinking about 'diligence'. It means working hard and putting in much care and effort. In whole school assemblies we have learnt about the work of Marie Curie and her determination to succeed even when things were tough for her. We found out about the artist Seurat and how he took over twenty years to complete a painting and get it right.

Our Class assembly this week is about a diligent character called Mrs Cole from the book "I'll Take You to Mrs Cole!" by Michael Foreman. We are acting out the story to show the importance of being diligent. We want to share with everyone how good it is to take care of each other, work hard and help people around us.

As sisters, we try very hard to do these things and Ruth enjoys being a part of the Rights Respecting Team to lead ideas about rights and responsibilities.



Anna and Ruth Watt (Class 3)



"At the Heart of the Village" - Cotswold Avenue



churches

News from Eastington Church



Pastoral concerns:

Angela Reeder (01453 827446)

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Alec Jeakins (01452 883403)

Churchwardens:

Mike Naylor (01453 828682) &

Jill Simmons (01453 825303)

Website:

www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk

Twitter and Facebook: @Cotswold_Edge & "Cotswold Edge Parishes"

Church Services in December 2015 and January 2016

Sunday 6 th December 2015	Sunday 13 th December 2015	Sunday 20 th December 2015	Thursday 24 th December 2015		Sunday 27 th December 2015
2 nd Sunday of Advent	3 rd Sunday of Advent	4 th Sunday of Advent	Christmas Eve		1 st Sunday of Christmas
10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion	4pm Christmas Carol Service	6pm Christingle Service	11.30pm Midnight Mass	10am Benefice Birthday Service

Sunday 3 rd January 2016	Sunday 10 th January 2016	Sunday 17 th January 2016	Sunday 24 th January 2016	Sunday 31 st January 2016
2 nd Sunday of Christmas	Baptism of Christ	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Candlemass
10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion	6pm BCP Evensong	10.45am Holy Communion	10am Benefice Service at Standish



St Michael and All Angel's Eastington
Christingle Service
At 6pm
On Christmas Eve



Lasting for about 40 minutes, the service is suitable for all ages, and each child who brings a collecting candle will be given a Christingle – an orange decorated with sweets and a lighted candle. All money raised goes to the Children's Society, a national charity who uses the money to help disadvantaged children.

Further information be will distributed during November through Eastington School where you can also get a collecting candle, which you will need to receive the Christingle orange. For more information, please contact Eastington Primary School on 01453 822933 or Mike Naylor on 01453 828683.

Eastington Christmas Tree Festival:
27th-29th November 2015

churches

After many months of planning, the first ever Christmas Tree Festival will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church Eastington between Friday 27th and Sunday 29th November.

The spectacular Christmas Tree Festival will take place in the village's 600 year old historic Church, with over 25 beautiful trees which have been individually and creatively decorated by local families, businesses and organisations.

Festival director Jacky Naylor says: *"The Christmas Tree Festival is a new venture for the Church, and will bring together a wide range of local companies, families, charities and other organisations in a festive spirit. It will be a great example to showcase that Eastington is a vibrant village."*



The Festival is being run to raise funds for Eastington Church. Following a report that was commissioned by the church earlier this year, the church discovered that thousands of pounds would need to be spent on maintenance repairs within the next 5 years. These are essential to the conservation and enhancement of the church building for the enjoyment of others for future generations.



A **Preview Evening** will be held on **Friday 27th November** between **6pm and 9pm**, where for **£5**, visitors will be able to get a sneak preview of the Festival, as well as festive drinks and nibbles.

Festival Exhibition opens on **Saturday 28th November** between **10am and 6pm**, and **Sunday 29th November** between **10am and 4pm**. **Entry** to the Festival is **free**.

Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite Christmas tree, with prizes awarded to the most popular. Voting discs and Festival programmes can be purchased for £2.

During the weekend, festive refreshments including mince pies will be available in the church, as well as a raffle, **and for the first time in over 10 years, the church will be floodlit throughout the Festival.**

An **Advent Carol Service** will conclude the festival at **4pm** on **Sunday 29th November** in Eastington Church. We will celebrate the Christmas Tree Festival, the start of the season of advent and our preparation for Christmas. The Cotswold Youth Singers will perform during the service, with festive refreshments available afterwards.

churches

Eastington Church Choir

We are an RSCM-affiliated adult church choir serving the church of St Michael and All Angels, Eastington. The choir sings regularly at church services, and are looking for anyone who would like to sing and be part of the choir for our upcoming church services including:

- Carol Service (Sunday 20th December 2015 at 4pm);
- Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve at 11.30pm);
- Birthday Service (Sunday 27th December 2015 at 10am);
- Baptism of Christ (Sunday 10th January 2016 at 10.45am);
- BCP Evensong (Sunday 17th January 2016 at 6pm).



The choir would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to sing with the choir. Please contact Shirley at shirleyjb2015@gmail.com or Chris at chris.amys@hotmail.com or on 01453 821656.

Cello and Piano Concert at St Michaels on 17th October

A musical treat performed by Benjamin Dry Cello, accompanied by Geoffrey Poole on piano.



If you thought that Dry and Poole was an unlikely combination to produce harmony you would have been very wrong. Those who came along to the concert in church were treated to some truly lovely playing by Benjamin Dry on cello accompanied by Geoffrey Poole, who worked wonders with our rather tired piano. Their performance included Beethoven's Sonata in A, some Fantasy Pieces by Schumann, and a Schubert sonata.

Among the comments received after the concert were that the standard of cello playing was the best ever heard by some. Also how refreshing it was to have a performance of live music. There was no charge for admission but the size of the retiring collection was ample evidence of the extent to which the audience enjoyed the performance.

If you would like more information on either of these musicians, you can get this from their respective web sites at www.benjamindry.com and www.geffreypoole.com/events.

French Evening at Cleeve Cottage on 31st October

Jacky and Mike Naylor opened their house at the end of October for a French Evening in aid of church funds. Over 50 attended, who enjoyed a delicious 2 course meal, wine tasting, raffle and French quiz. Thank you to Jacky and Mike for allowing the event to be held at their house, and to everyone who helped made the event happen. Just under £600 was raised for church funds.



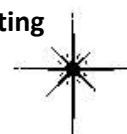


q u i z

Here we are at “ That time of the year” again –Christmas has come round so quickly as it seems to do every year. We have been busy taxing our brains again to prepare another Christmas Quiz for you, which we hope you will enjoy. Just to give you a clue, all the answers needing a named person, or place, have a connection to Gloucestershire.

1. Where in the Stroud Valleys was the first lawn mower made ?
2. Which of Charles Dickens’s literary characters is said to be base on the legendary Gloucester Miser Jem Wood ?
3. How many Stroud valleys are there?
4. Who is the famous Gloucestershire and England cricketer, born in Stroud, now known for his abilities as an artist?
5. Which Queen lived a Sudeley Castle ?
6. Who is the folk singer song writer who lives near Stroud?
7. Which of the Queen’s children have houses in Gloucestershire, and what are the names of the houses?
8. Which author enjoyed a drink at the Woolpack Inn Slad?
9. Who is the screenwriter and dramatist, noted for his work ‘Pennies from Heaven, born in The Forest of Dean?
10. Which sisters lived at Batsford in the 20 century?
11. Which Vicar wrote about Thomas the Tank engine?
12. Where is the silver gilded cup known as the Anne Boleyn Cup kept?
13. Who does the legend say walked from Gloucester to become Lord Mayor of London?
14. Where in Gloucester did Ivor Novello study music and songwriting ?
15. Which king was killed at Berkeley Castle?
16. Who is the musician who lived in Highnam and famous for his hymn Jerusalem?
17. Who is the author who has used the pseudonym Robert Galbraith?
18. Which singer had a hit with ‘Unchained Melody,’ in the 1950’s?
19. Who is the Gloucester Philanthropist noted for starting the Sunday Schools movement in 18th century?
20. Who wrote the Tailor of Gloucester?

From myself, Sue Colquhoun and colleagues, we would like to wish you all Seasons Greeting and hope you have enjoyed our Quiz. To check your answers please turn to page 24



groups PROWD

The 'free' copies of walks in the Parish are available at the Kings Head House Hotel, and at The Old Badger. They are very popular - I have replenished them twice already!!

We have had three new kissing gates installed in Nupend, and Arthur Spencer, and Robin and Celia Harris have generously met the total costs. A very big 'thank you' to them for such a gift to the Community. One of the old stiles removed was in good enough condition to be used on another path that was lacking a stile. 'Thank you' to Alan Spencer for installing it.

I recently cleared a footpath in the Westend area with the staunch help of Sally Mears. We worked hard and had almost finished, when we discovered a two-foot deep hole in the middle of the path!! It had been covered over with a sheet of cardboard (!!!!) and was almost impossible to see because autumn leaves had covered it. This could have been extremely dangerous, and we were lucky not to have had an accident. The County Footpaths Officer was informed, and she has contacted the landowner. The hole is now filled in!!

I also recently walked some paths over at Frocester, but it had not been well maintained where the path crosses the railway track. I've contacted Network Rail, and our PROW Officer. Network Rail say that they will up-grade the path as soon as they have the resources!

The organised walk with Eastington Community Walking Group on 18th October was very well attended and about 30 people turned up (including a number of pushchairs). After half-a-mile or so most of the younger ones went on their own 'adventure' in the capable hands of Jenny Epson. The rest of the group walked to the top of Cress Green, over the Bath Road (by Osborne House) and onto a return leg that took us over Wicksters Brook, to finish up at The Kings Head. Some of us went on to the Old Badger for "a swift half!!" I have received many favourable comments about the walk.

Our latest walk was on Sunday 8th November, starting at The Badger. 45 people turned up (!!!!!!!) including about 15 children and five dogs. Quite a crowd!! We walked down the field West of Springhill towards the river Frome and followed the river, (using the M5 underpass,) to the A38. Here I donned a reflective jacket, and so did Gill Glover. We ushered everyone across the road in small groups until we were all safely across the road. We then walked across a field (not a footpath!) to Fromebridge Mill. This had taken just under an hour. Unfortunately the weather had become a bit threatening, so, instead of stopping for a nice cup of tea, Vanessa took some photo's before we walked up the long driveway back to the A38, to come out by the old Canal Wharf. Here we crossed the road again, in small groups, and continued our walk towards Westend. We



encountered some excitable bullocks in the second field who raced around us, but they eventually ran off into a corner of the field and we all arrived safely at the Motorway bridge on Grove Lane in Westend. Next we walked down the lane for about half-a mile before taking a path to the West, which took us back to the A419. This is a very busy road, but with my "high viz" jacket on, it was possible to safely stop the traffic to allow small groups to cross the road. We continued to walk across the fields towards where the canal ends, and then back up Springhill to the Old Badger!! We had walked for two-and-a-half hours and managed to get back before it was too dark, and before the rain came !

I must just finish with a special mention to a plucky three-year-old lad called Dexter who walked the whole way!! Amazing! Well done!

Best wishes to all walkers for a hearty Yuletide!!

Bill Edwards

Next Walk : 13th December 1400 at the Kings Head House Hotel. I hope to see you there.



Registered Charity No. 1084981

OFSTED



Registration No. 101782

groups

November 2015

We have had a busy start to the new school term and have been settling into routines and supporting others becoming more independent in their transition to playgroup. Children have been focusing on how to keep safe and to support this we made our very own 'Fire Station' where the children have re-enacted the 'STOP, DROP AND ROLL' to prevent burns which was supported with our book about 'How Sparkey the Spider got his Wings'. We have looked at 'Bonfire night' and safety, how to keep ourselves safe near the road and we will also be learning about 'stranger danger' too.

We will be learning about the other festivals such as Diwali, Hanukah, and Christmas.

Our focus will be on creative play and talking about the lives of others.

Also this term we will be concentrating on improving our listening skills as this is one of the first steps to reading. Free flow play, and going outside and accessing the allotment still continues.



Nativity Play

Whilst writing this newsletter we have started to think about our Christmas Nativity Play 'Our First Nativity' and we have been auditioning for various parts ready for our grand performance on our final day of term before Christmas— we have a very busy time ahead. We are also planning a trip down to Eastington Primary School to watch their Nativity play which the children all love to see.

Christmas Fair

The committee are organising another Christmas Fair after our very successful one last year which will take place on Saturday 21st November at the OHMG from 2.30pm – 5pm so please come along, everyone is welcome.

The children have been very busy making Christmas gifts which will also be sold at our Christmas Fair and there will also be a wide variety of stalls selling that 'special' Christmas gift to buy for a loved one. We have also persuaded Santa to visit us and he has managed to squeeze us into his very busy time schedule. We look forward to seeing you there!



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

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

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

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

If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Playleader

07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucestershire.co.uk or visit our website www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com

groups

You know it's great to get out of the house and meet up with friends, new and old. Sometimes the only therapy you need is to come along to a friendly place, chat over the woes of child rearing and maybe off-load a bit when the going gets tough, over a cuppa and a piece of cake! I often think my classes are mainly for the adults, the children get a lot of fun and musical exposure of course but the adults are having a wonderful time singing their hearts out too!! Whatever you get out of it, we always have tremendous fun in a warm and welcoming environment at Teddytunes. This has been fed back to me many times by my lovely parents and you know what...I'm over the moon with that!

Vanessa Cousins 07806 802540 give me a buzz anytime for more info.

Teddy Tunes



Jolly Joggers!

Hello! We are the jollies! All shapes and sizes all abilities, all sorts of people young and not so young but all YOUNG AT HEART! And you too can get a young heart if you come along and give us a go. No experience needed and no special equipment just a hi viz jacket, head torch and trainers. Oh and a positive attitude...we welcome complete beginners who will start with brisk walking and if you're a proper fast runner we will be pleased to have you join our 'rapacious racers'. Make a change in your life, pick up the phone or contact us on facebook. Go for it! We look forward to welcoming you!

01453 828557/07806802540/Jolly Joggers facebook

Eastington's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

councils

The Steering Group would like to thank all of you who responded to the consultation this summer. There was a good response with many comments analysed from parishioners and numerous statutory bodies. All the comments have helped to shape amendments to the draft plan, and we're working with Stroud District Council to ensure the plan complies with local and national planning policy. We're at the final push to amend the Plan and by the time you read this we will have hopefully submitted to Stroud District Council.

All the comments will be included in our Consultation Statement which is a report we submit with the NDP; comments have been grouped by theme and responses will be made against each comment as to what action has been taken. This document, along with other supporting evidence will be available on the NDP website.

For the latest NDP steering group minutes or further information on Eastington's Neighbourhood Plan, please visit www.eastingtonndp.co.uk, email eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com or ring the Parish Clerk on telephone number 01453 799616.

councils

Dog waste bins – change of policy at Stroud District Council

Stroud District Council has recently reviewed options to reduce existing costs and to prevent rising costs in the future in relation to dog waste bins. Following changes to waste legislation, it is now deemed acceptable for litter bins to also be utilised for disposal of bagged dog waste. Furthermore, dog owners may also take bagged dog waste home with them and dispose of it in their normal household refuse.

The District Council has decided that:

1. Where damaged or stolen District Council-owned dog waste bins are reported, a review of the need for that bin will be undertaken. Where no absolute need for the bin exists, for example where a suitable litter bin is in close proximity, the dog waste bin may be removed from the location.
2. The District Council will not now be providing additional dog-waste bins unless exceptional circumstances are identified. Where organisations may wish to provide additional dog waste bins, they will be advised that they will be required to cover the cost of both provision and emptying of the bin.

The Parish Council owns 3 dog waste bins in the parish and has been asked to make financial contributions to the cost of emptying those bins. Currently, the Parish Council has declined to make voluntary contributions but may be required to do so in the future.

Although our Gloucestershire County Councillor, Lesley Williams, has not prepared an article for us in this edition, she would be happy to hear from you if you have questions or comments.

e-mail: lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk phone: 01453 791277 / 822684

Orchard Dean, Castle Street, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse. Glos. GL10 3JX

BLUEBELLS**groups**

Bluebells over "60's" club has been running for 44 years. In the early days it had a membership of over 100 and there were regular speakers and entertainment.

A highlight of those early years was the Christmas meal, which was prepared and delivered to the Village hall by local butcher, Joe Broomhall. It consisted of a freshly roasted turkey, large saucepans of mashed potatoes, and salads, followed by tinned fruit and cream. But this has had to change over the years with Christmas meals being enjoyed at the local pubs. A much appreciated entertainment was the visit by the local school with seasonal music and songs.

The group have been meeting twice a month and many long lasting friendships have been formed. In recent years, however, the numbers have unfortunately dropped to around 20 so the group has decided to close. I am sure it will be missed.

Anne Shill

As Chair of the Parish Council I would like to say a huge thank you to Anne and her helpers for providing a much needed opportunity for our senior Parishioners to socialise. Anne has been organiser for 25 years and feels it is time for a change. If anyone has any ideas on other ways to help this group of people to get together please can you get in touch with me. I would be happy to help to co-ordinate.

Muriel Bullock (01453 826172)

community



Cotswold Canals Trust

Perseverance - Trip Boat Operations



Santa Cruises at Saul Junction

December 2015

Saturdays: 5th 12th & 19th

Sundays: 6th 13th & 20st

First Trip - 10:00am

Last Trip - 3:30pm

20 minute boat trip with Santa on board *Perseverance*
at The Visitor Centre, Saul Junction,
Nr Frampton on Severn, GL2 7LA

Adult: £5 - Includes a mince pie & hot drink

Child: £5 - Includes a present

How to find us

From Junction 13 on M5, or A38 at Whitminster,
follow signs to Frampton-on-Severn

Then follow the brown Tourist Information signs to Saul Junction
The Visitor Centre is canal-side 200m beyond The Stables Café

Pre-booking not necessary

Just turn up and have fun!

Operated by Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers
All proceeds to restoration funds

www.cotswoldcanals.com



Cotswold Canals Trust, Bell House, Wallbridge Lock, Stroud Gloucestershire, GL5 3JS, Tel: 01453 752 568
Registered Charity no.: 0269721 Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1NZ
Registered in England no.: 01207787



groups

Christmas Gift Packs 2015

Eastington Community Orchard Group (ECO)

NEW for 2015

Cider and Perry gift pack

A 500ml bottle of each

In a rustic, natural cotton **Tote Bag**, presented as an apple blossom
and reusable (see rear of picture below)

£7.50 per gift pack

We also have our popular apple and pear juices in an attractive gift pack:

250 ml Apple and Pear (soft and sweet)

250 ml Mixed Apples from village orchards

110 grm Smooth Blackcurrant Jam

Shown on the left above, with apple-shaped gift tag for £ 6

Available from any ECO member you know or ring Tom on 823425

Profits go towards re-generating more orchards for Eastington

Security

Police Advice

When out at Night Leave on a Light

Opportunistic thieves prefer to work when they are hidden by the darkness so most burglaries occur at night. This means it's no surprise that the number of burglaries increases as the nights get longer during the autumn and winter months.

By making sure all your doors and windows are always locked, leaving lights and/or televisions on to make your home look occupied when it's not, we can begin to reduce the number of burglaries. Please take the time to read out five top tips below to help tackle this increasing number of burglaries.

Top 5 tips to make your home more secure during the winter months

1. Burglars are less likely to target a home that looks occupied. Use a timer to switch lights on when you're away.
2. Close your curtains and blinds so burglars can't see your valuables through your windows.
3. Lock your sheds and outbuildings – and an outside light can blow the cover of darkness for a would-be thief.
4. Carry out a general security check. It takes no more than two minutes to lock your windows and doors.
5. Dispose of your empty boxes carefully do not leave them outside and advertise to the burglars your new TVs and expensive gadgets.

You can purchase crime prevention items from our reception at Stroud Police Station, Light timers £2.20, Shed Alarms £8.00 and Smartwater £10.50 are just a few of the popular items that we sell. Smartwater is a good way of marking your property with a unique code to you and makes reuniting you with your property easier and thieves don't like it.

Have you also thought about joining a local Neighbourhood Watch group? Essentially it concerns crime prevention but, just as importantly, it involves neighbours working together as a community to make their area a safer place. This in turn instils a sense of security amongst residents, knowing their homes and other property are being cared for by their neighbours. This and an improved social contact are the hallmarks of a successful Watch.

Please Contact PCSO 9081 Liz Ward if you need any advice
Stroud Police Station
elizabeth.ward @gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk
Phone 101 non-emergency

home & garden

Is your garden too much to manage?

Stroud Valleys Project Wildlife Gardening can help!

Lots of outdoor work can seem really daunting.
We can provide a team to tackle those difficult jobs for you.



We offer a range of services including:-

- Pond creation and restoration
- Tree planting (woodlands and orchards)
- Hedge work (planting, laying and gapping up)
- Creating wildflower meadows
- Installing fencing and kissing gates
- Coppicing

Rationale Behind our Trading Arm

Our aim is to help local people to garden for wildlife so that the Stroud District area is the best it can be for nature, to improve habitat and encourage wildlife. In addition, our aim is to provide meaningful opportunities for our volunteers to work in this field of work. The wildlife gardening scheme provides a bridge between volunteering and paid work for our volunteers and is the next step for many of our volunteers who have increasing levels of fitness and knowledge.

We aim to tackle jobs that would take one or two people a long time and that we can tackle quickly with a team. By employing our team and making a charity donation, you are helping and supporting this process. We charge £250 per day. This includes our qualified and experienced project officer, a team of volunteers (3-8 people), all tools and insurance.

To discuss your needs please contact Clare Mahdiyone on 01453 753358

Cotswold Canal Trust (CCT)

Press Release for Eastington News.

November 19th 2015

As we go to press, a car-load of documents was due to leave Eastington on a historic journey to the regional HQ of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Exeter.

There, the Cotswold Canals Trust and its partners were to deliver their final submission in the £15 million bid to restore the Stroudwater Navigation from Stonehouse to Saul.

An answer to the bid is expected next April. By this time, the first section of canal restoration from Brimscombe through Stroud is expected to be nearing completion. If successful, development work on the new section would begin immediately, with a target date for the completed link to the national canal network within seven years.

groups

Eastington's New Settlement: West of Stonehouse (WoS)

.....or should that be North of Eastington (NoE)? - Ed

Many parishioners will know by now that the Inspector has approved Stroud District Council's (SDC's) Local Plan. The Local Plan will be endorsed by SDC on the 19th November. 1,350 houses West of Stonehouse will now certainly be built over the next 15 years or so. This development will also include a significant increase in employment-land adjacent to the existing industrial site.

Of course I, and many others, are very disappointed with this decision, but that decision has been made because of the significant pressure for new housing across the country, driven by the unprecedented growth in our population, along with the decision to make the largest allocation in Eastington. The ONS state as follows (29 October 2015) :-

"Overall, this means that we are projecting that the population of the UK will increase by 9.7 million people (15%) over the next 25 years. Of the 9.7 million... 4.7 million (49%) is due to projected natural change and 5.0 million (51%) is due to projected net migration."

For us locally we now need to work with SDC and the developers, Hitchens, to create an attractive estate, which avoids coalescence with the hamlets of Nastend and Nupend, and at the same time creating at least some connectivity to Stonehouse, consistent with the Inspectors decision and SDC policy.

With this in mind our local District Councillor, Stephen Davies, has agreed to lead the negotiations with SDC to support the best possible outcome for our local community. Stephen is keen to harness local enthusiastic residents who have an interest in, and knowledge of, good planning as well as councillors from all the wards directly affected and in addition, councillors who have a particular interest in the best possible outcome for this strategic site. The Parish Council continues to support professional expertise from a Planning Consultant, Ian Stuart, enabling his expert knowledge to be available to Stephen to ensure our parish is represented to best effect.

Currently our Parish has almost 700 houses and about 1,500 people. When WoS has been completed we will have over 2,000 houses and a population around 4,700: About three times the size.

groups

The new site will have some shops and a new primary school. The road through the site leads to the Industrial estate with plans for an additional 2,000 jobs. The jobs and new houses together will almost double the current traffic on the A419 (before considering any potential effect from the newly proposed Eco-tricity site). For all of us who are aware of the constraints on this road at peak times, it is obvious that access to both Stonehouse, Stroud and beyond will be severely restricted at times. As the economy improves the Department of Transport suggest that current base traffic will grow by an additional annual amount of 2% each year.

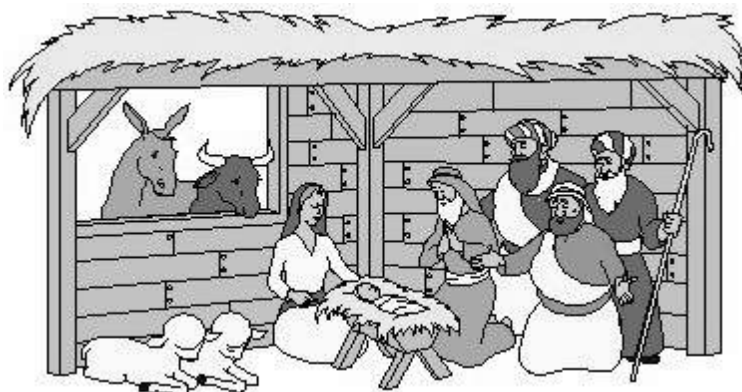
WoS and natural traffic growth will result in additional traffic through Eastington, Frocester and Kings Stanley as drivers seek to avoid the congestion. District Councillor Stephen Davies, and those of us supporting him, will need to work closely with SDC to ensure everything possible is done to minimise the effects of these dramatic increase in traffic volumes.

Of course the community will be affected in other ways: will the Parish continue with the current boundaries, given that the major centre of population will move to the northern part of the Parish? what relationship will the new school have with Eastington Primary School? what effect will the new shops and services have on Eastington facilities and Stonehouse town Centre? what will the relationship be between Stonehouse and this “urban extension” which has no connectivity to the town centre? These are just some of the questions that at this stage remain unanswered.

The threat of WoS has always felt very negative, but now that the decision has been made we need to work hard to turn this threat into an opportunity, and work together with the District Council and the developers to make the very best of this significant change to our parish and wider community.

Daniel James

Don't Strangle Stroud (DSS)



home & garden

Sign up for garden waste collections

The district's households can now sign up to have their garden waste collected and recycled. As part of improvements being made to its waste and recycling services between now and the end of next year, Stroud District Council is introducing an optional, paid for service, which will allow residents to have their garden waste collected

Councillor Simon Pickering, chair of Stroud District Council's Environment Committee, said:

"Residents can sign up to the new service now although collections will run from February to November each year. There's an initial, one-off £20 charge for the wheelie-bin and an annual subscription fee of £36. Whilst we are already lucky enough to have a large number of residents who are dedicated to home or community composting, this collection service will be a welcome option for many keen gardeners."

Subscribers to the service will receive a brown wheelie-bin for grass clippings, twigs, leaves, bark, hedge cuttings, flowers, plants, weeds, fallen fruit and small branches, which will be collected fortnightly over the 10-month period from February to November. The annual subscription fee equates to a charge of £1.64 per collection.

Councillor Pickering added:

"When the service begins it will be available to the majority of households, however if you currently have to use a green bag rather than a wheelie-bin for your recycling you should contact the council to see if the service is available to you. Households which generate a large amount of garden waste can have more than one bin and it's also perfectly fine for neighbours to club together and share their garden waste bin."

The introduction of the garden collection waste scheme will see the current system, where paid for garden waste bags are used to collect garden waste and sent to landfill, come to an end in January.

Residents can sign up online at www.stroud.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling the council on 01453 754424.

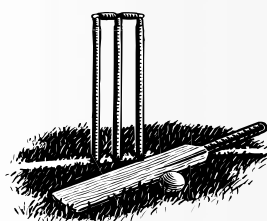


**STARTS FRIDAY 8TH JAN
AT EASTINGTON VILLAGE HALL 9.15am**

Easy to follow routines suitable to work at your own pace.
Everyone welcome. No experience necessary.

**Drop in & join in the fun whilst keeping fit!
£5 drop in.**

Contact Kelly 07548129424



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



community

Helping older people in Gloucestershire feel more independent, secure and have a better quality of life.

Village Agent News

We hope there are people who will find this information useful.

There is a Free Telephone Directory Service for people who are registered blind. By simply dialling 195 you can register for this service. When registered you are allocated a card and pin number which when you need a telephone number you quote your pin number and they can tell you the number for free, they can also help to dial a number for you if necessary.

There is a Blind person's tax allowance for those people who are registered blind or severely sight impaired and registered with the local council as being so. For the tax year 2015-2016 the amount is £2290. A couple can both claim this allowance. You can transfer your allowance to your spouse or civil partner if you don't pay tax or don't earn enough to use all of your allowance. This information and more can be found on the GOV.UK website.

The sighted guide NCBI website gives useful information for people on how to act when around those who are blind in order to help them the correct way. You can also contact them and ask for leaflets on 01830 7033.

It is also worth noting that the shingles vaccination is now available to people who are aged 70, 71, 72, 78 or 79 on 1st September 2015. People aged 80 or over on 1st September 2015 are not part of the national programme because the vaccine seems to be less effective in this

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2015

A big thank you to all those who have donated this year to the appeal.

As of 12/11/2015 the Eastington District have collected £2565.23, this includes a generous donation from the Eastington Horse Show

Thank you for all the shops, businesses and door to door collectors that have helped this year.

If you would like to help with the door to door collections next year please give me a call on 01453 825279.



Kathryn Gribble
Eastington District Poppy Appeal Organiser

money



Top Tips to avoid Christmas Debt

1. **Plan early for Christmas.** Be realistic and budget accordingly. Work out how much you are going to spend on each person – and stick to it.
2. **Don't forget the everyday bills.** Remember that rent, the mortgage, utility bills, food bills and other existing debts still have to be paid – and the consequences can be severe if they're not. Even though it's Christmas, get your priorities right.
3. **Don't bank on an overdraft.** If you do need more money, don't just run up an overdraft without talking to your bank first – it will work out much more expensive.
4. **Keep things simple.** If you can afford to pay for your goods outright by cash, cheque, or debit card, don't be persuaded to take out extended credit agreements unless they really do work out cheaper.
5. **Buy safe to be safe.** Whatever the deal, whatever the temptation, don't buy from unauthorised traders and don't borrow from unauthorised lenders. The initial savings and convenience may prove to be a false economy.
6. **Read the small print.** Check for hidden extras in any credit agreement. Work out the total amount payable. Ensure that the monthly instalments are within your budget before signing. Interest free credit can seem attractive, but if you don't pay on time, or miss a payment, you could have to pay a lot more.
7. **Do your own credit checks.** If you are going to use a credit card, shop around and compare terms. Some cards charge high interest rates, but provide interest free periods or discounts. Budget for all these costs and put the payment dates in your diary.
8. **Get advice early as problems can get bigger and more expensive.** Citizens Advice, Stroud District provides advice online, in person and via Freephone. Details are <http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>

1. Thrupp	19. Robert Raikes
3. Five	17. J K Rowling
5. Catherine Parr	15. Edward 2 nd
7. Prince Charles – Highgrove (Princess Anne Gatcombe Park)	13. Dick Whittington
9. Dennis Potter	11. Rev Awdry
10. Mitford Sisters	14. Gloucester Cathedral
12. St John Baptist Church Cirencester	16. Hubert Parry
18. Jimmy Young	20. Beatrix Potter
2. Scrooge	4. Jack Russell
6. Johnny Coppin?	8. Laurie Lee

Christmas Quiz Answers 2015

don't use this page!!

must be 24/28 pages