

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

Your production team are Tom & Jan Low and Mary Gribble.

BUT we are just the technicians - it is all the great contributors out there in the community that are the stars of the show and make the magazine what it is.

This is absolutely YOUR magazine. We have no agenda other than to help us all to share with each other the 'goings on' in the Parish in a way that every one can access.



Why not join in? Contributions are welcome from anyone connected to Eastington, and photos are always welcome too. Share your group's activities and achievements or advertise your local 'events' (no charge at our discretion). Just email to articles@ecn.me.uk.

As you know, this magazine is delivered free to every home in the Parish. This is only possible thanks to an army of wonderful volunteers and a host of loyal advertisers. If you have a local business and would like to support the magazine whilst reaching every single resident in the parish (and beyond via the website) then please email advertising@ecn.me.uk for our modest price list. We will be printing a new set of 'blue pages' soon, and big discounts are on offer.

If you would like to help out in any way at all or have ideas to share then please email info@ecn.me.uk.

We hope you enjoy this special edition!

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Outside Kings Head
18th December, 2pm

Wildlife Pond Restoration

Pond by Community Centre
26th January, 2nd & 9th February

Next deadline for submission: Friday January 20th 2017

Next Delivery: Weekend of 4/5 February

*Space is limited - we may have to omit, postpone or shorten articles.
The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.*

See photographs from ECN in colour on our website: www.ecn.me.uk

Editorial



Merry Christmas, Eastington !!

Volunteers win Multiple Grants

Several Volunteer groups have been working hard recently to bring money into our Parish to provide more community facilities.

November has seen the work of many months come to fruition for:-

- Friends of Snakey Park** £15,000 from Glos Environmental Trust, which means the Skate Park is now fully funded and work can start
- Community Land Trust** £10,000 from Locality to pay for the Feasibility Study for 23 Affordable Rent homes.
- Community Orchards** £5,000 from Glos Environmental Trust, to pay for works at Brownings Orchard (trees, tree guards, fencing, gates etc)

All three groups benefited in October from grants channelled by the Parish Council, which helped to show external funding bodies that the Parish was supportive. For example, ECLT received £2,000 from the Solar Fund which proved "matched funding" to Locality - £2000 seed-corn gained us £10,000 government money.

Well done to all those who toiled over submission criteria and on-line application forms (they are endless!).

Time for parishioners to come out and help these groups spend the money and provide the skate park, orchard and homes. SEE PAGES 10, 4, and 22



RUDOLF'S RAMBLE Sunday 18th December

Santa needs you.....

Santa's cheeky Reindeers have played a trick on him and have hidden all the words to his magic spell.



If we manage to find them all then we can start our own Christmas preparations at **Eastington Methodist Church** where we can make decorations, drink hot chocolate, eat mince pies and have a festive sing along.

Everyone welcome for carols and mince pies from 3pm

The ramble will begin outside the King's Head at 2 pm.

We hope to see you there. Liz and Jen xx



Jen.empson@gmail.com

Eastington Community Walking Group

Churches

Christmas 2016 at Eastington Church

You are warmly invited to join us at Eastington Church to celebrate Christmas. There is something for everyone from Traditional Carol Services, a Christmas Concert, Midnight Mass and Christingle.

Friday 9th December 2016

7pm - Cotswold Youth Singers and

Whiteshill & Ruscombe Community Choir Christmas Concert

Tickets £5 and £2.50 (under 18s) - available from choir members and on the door

Saturday 10th December 2016

5.30pm - Stroud Branch Bell Ringer's Carol Service

Sunday 18th December 2016

6pm - 9 Lessons and Carols

*Singing supported by the Eastington Church Choir and Cotswold Youth Singers
Festive refreshments served after the service*

Saturday 24th December 2016 (Christmas Eve)

6pm - Christingle Service

*Christingle collection donated to the Children's Society
Please contact Gary & Jackie Dingle (01453 825542) for more information*

11.30pm - Midnight Mass with the Archdeacon of Gloucester

Singing supported by the Eastington Church Choir



Groups

ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOURS!



Saturday October 22nd was a beautiful Autumn day. It marked what is now an annual event for the Parish – the Apple Day. On this day people come together, young and old, to celebrate the apple and pear harvest, do something useful with it, and have some fun in the process.

On the day, before the public started arriving at the OHMG around noon, volunteers with the Eastington Community Orchards (ECO) group prepared the site, installing the large scratting machine (for chopping up the fruit) and the heavy wooden press (for squeezing the juice out). These were sited just in front of the hall, together with a hosepipe to wash the fruit, plus a large urn to pasteurise the juice prior to bottling. This ensures that the juice can be stored long term.

Baskets of apples and pears collected over the preceding week were brought to the hall, but there was still more picking to be done! At around 10.00am, teams set off to local gardens and orchards to bring in more fruit to feed the scratting machine and the press.

I went with John, Karen, Chris and boys to the house of donors in Gossington, Ben and Lisa Lundy. This family, together with many other households in the area, are regular suppliers of fruit to ECO. The Lundy family have a large orchard in a delightful garden that also features a natural bathing pool. Their fruit trees are well looked after and were loaded with near-perfect apples.

One medium sized Bramley tree quickly yielded six baskets of high quality fruit.



Groups



On returning to base, everything was in full swing.

Over the course of the afternoon around 60 visitors came to join in and something like 400 litres of juice were produced.



Not all juice was pasteurised. Some was poured directly into plastic bottles for immediate consumption and some selected apple and pear juice was kept aside to make cider and perry. (Last year's cider batch is currently being tested and treated prior to bottling).

The donors of the fruit and the workers are rewarded with bottles of juice.

Bottles of juice and cider are available to the local community. Some is sold at Christmas gatherings, such as the carol service in the Cathedral and local Craft Fairs. If you would like to buy some, see contact details below - (our special packs make great Christmas gifts!)

On a personal note, I am delighted to be involved with the ECO group as a volunteer. I was born in Nastend but spent most of my working life far away, only recently returning to care for my Dad, Keith, also born nearby. Volunteering with ECO has given me a chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and do something useful and worthwhile for the community. I have also managed to learn a lot in the process. For example, back in the early Spring, I joined other group members on a tree grafting course. We as a family also donate fruit to ECO, apples and pears. Prior to me returning to Nastend, an Underleaf tree in our garden had provided fruit which makes excellent juice. The Underleaf is a traditional Gloucestershire apple, now rarely found. I'm pleased to say that the two grafts we took from the tree while on the course are both doing well. One will be planted in our garden and the other has been donated to ECO. This young tree will either go into the established Coneygree orchard, near the church, or the newly acquired Brownings orchard behind the King's Head.

Although the juice-making season has drawn to a close, there are still many opportunities for people who would like to volunteer with ECO, not least in helping to clear the Brownings site prior to planting. For more information, please contact Tom Low (tom@ecogroup.me) - or see our website www.ecogroup.me and our Facebook page 'Eastington Community Orchards'

Julian Plested

Groups



Eastington Playgroup



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

We have started the Autumn term by discussing Bonfire night and how to keep ourselves safe, making firework pictures and learning about holding hands and staying with an adult when out and about.

We are also looking at the similarities and differences between people, noticing that we are all different and what makes us unique and individual.

We will be remembering others and making Remembrance Day poppies.

And of course, we have the exciting task of making lots of crafts for Christmas – the gifts and decorations were available for parents to purchase at our Christmas Fayre on Sunday 20th November.



Finally, we have started our auditions for the Christmas Nativity, and we have been busy learning new songs, making scenery and props and becoming accustomed to the children's new characters for the big day on **Thursday 15th December**. After the big performance, we are hoping that Father Christmas might be able to squeeze in a visit to see us - fingers crossed!!

We hold this event every year followed by refreshments and a fantastic raffle, it continues to be a very popular event that starts the festive season off with some great smiles and memories!! Wish us all luck!

If you are interested in finding out more about our Playgroup, then please feel free to contact the friendly staff to arrange a visit to pop up and find out more.

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

If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Playleader 07977 342 742

email eastingtonplaygroup@eygloucescershire.co.uk or visit our website

www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com



Registered charity No. 1084981 OFSTED Registration No. 101782

Community

Halloween Happenings

Eastington was a very spooky place to be just before Halloween this year....

We had our second Children's Halloween walk on Friday 28th October.

The Halloween walk is organised as a part of The Eastington Community Walking Group and is one of a number of themed walks we arrange for children during the year.



We were amazed by the number of terrifyingly dressed little witches, skeletons, zombies, vampires and other monsters that joined us, we think we had about 50-60 in total!

We met at the Badger and headed down to the village hall, passed the mill and through Cress Green and Middle Street, before heading back along Bath Road for some fun and games at the Kings Head House.

As a part of the walk we pre arranged some houses that were happy to welcome trick or treaters. Our hosts were brilliant, from offering home made marshmallows, to dressing up as terrified princesses, offering tricks with very tart apples and one family who were mercifully able to keep the pet werewolf under control.

Even our old Morris Minor got in on the spooky action!



Talk is already turning to our Christmas Walk - The Rudolf Ramble.

If you would like to get involved look up Eastington Community Walking Group on Facebook.

By Jen and Liz



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Events

Playgroup Christmas Fayre

It was lovely to see so many people at the Playgroup Christmas Fayre. We raised £584.65 which is fantastic!

Playgroup are saving to improve their roleplay/home corner to help the childrens' personal social and emotional skills, sharing, caring and also their communication skills. The money raised today will be put by for this.

Thank you so much to the lovely Eastington community for coming along and supporting Playgroup !

Louisa Langley

- Playgroup Treasurer



Christmas Fashion Show Winners:

1. Emmy Hanks, age 3, as Anna from 'Frozen' (centre)
2. Tom Hadley, age 4, as Santa (centre back)
3. Jack Hussey, age 4, as Rudolph (right)

Come and play badminton



Every Thursday night, 8pm at Whitminster Village Hall

All welcome

Enquiries: Joy Spencer on 01453 823240

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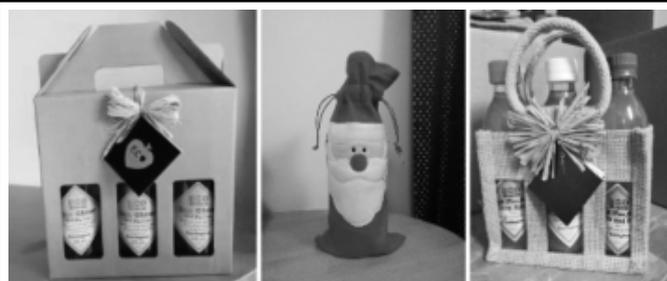
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Phone: 01453 820 860

Mobile/text: 0771 750 7789

Email: gus8max@hotmail.co.uk

4 Cotswold Avenue Eastington GL10 3AR



ECO Group Xmas Cider and Juice packs

Email tom@ecogroup.me

For prices and details

C.C.S. Property Maintenance Services

Please note that the Phone number printed in the blue pages should read:

Call Paul on mobile 07831 689000

PROWD (Public Rights Of Way Defenders)

and Eastington Walking Group

I'm writing this article on 17th November, so I can't say much about the next walk which will take place on 20th Nov. as we will have gone to press after that date. I only hope that the forecast is wrong, and that all of the stalwart walkers have a great walk.!

I have had an email from Woodland Trust informing me that the section of the Cotswold Way footpath that was being mis-used by Cyclists and Horse riders, is now going to have new signage to make very clear that they are to use the Bridleway only.

On the subject of Bridleways, I noticed that in the Nupend area, Horse riders are using the FOOTPATHS, which are being churned-up. I would respectfully ask ALL Horse riders in that area to PLEASE, keep to the Bridleways so that footpaths are still walkable during the Winter. Thank you.

I hope to do some footpath clearing and 'waymarking' in Nupend in the coming months.

Many people have supported me in demanding that a blocked footpath in Frocester is fully re-instated. In its present state, it is a danger to walkers on a busy lane. County Footpaths Officer is pursuing the matter.

One of our local Farmers , the only one to be supportive of "Open Green Spaces" is upset that walkers are "making" their own paths across his fields. He fully accepts that walkers are entitled to use the TWO designated Public Rights Of Way, and wants people keep to these paths. The fields concerned, are the last two fields between the new housing development in Swallowcroft, and Cress Green. Most walkers respect the Country Code, please do the same and keep to the two existing paths. Thank you.

We now have three printed maps of walks around Eastington. They are available, free, at The Kings Head Hotel and The Old Badger, and are were made possible by the financial generosity of our Parish Council.

Next Walk : Sunday 18th December 14:00 at The Kings Head. A lovely one hour stroll before the Holiday !!!!

Please contact me if you have any footpath issues, Tel. 824452, email: edwards.parish@btinternet.com

Best wishes for a Happy Yuletide and a healthy New Year. Bill Edwards

Letter from our District Councillors

Taxi fares in Stroud. The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group of the Licensing Committee which has met to discuss the request from the Stroud Taxi Association to increase fares will be considered by the full Community Services and Licensing Committee at it's meeting early in December.

The new **Waste Collection Scheme** has not gone as smoothly as had been hoped, but it is still early days. There will be recommendations made and implemented from the feedback received so far. Many of the problems have been caused by new crews, particularly on the Food Waste collection not knowing the area, (really not a good enough excuse), and by residents not getting the bins out by 6:00 am on the day of collection. As the food waste bins are lockable, we suggest putting them out the night before to avoid collection being missed. Every household should have received a collection day calendar saying which bins to put out on their relevant days. It is worth noting that in the first week of the new scheme starting, over 40 tonnes of food waste was collected throughout the District, which means 40 tonnes less going to landfill.

As always, both of your District Councillors can be contacted either by email,
cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk tel. 07802595307,
or cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk tel 07808922918

Groups / History

An update from the playground

Things are progressing nicely in the playground and we are happy to give a few updates.

Skate Ramps

Most of our attention has been focused on fundraising and getting designs for the new skate ramps. The good news is that most of the funding is now in place. We have a budget of £60,000, we already have £40,000 and we have a funding application in for the final £20,000, we are expecting to hear the result of this any day now, so please keep your fingers crossed for us!



Once we have the funding in place we will be able to start fine tuning the design with our preferred supplier. We will be asking for users to come and meet the designers to ensure that we can include as many ideas as possible. If you would like to be involved please get in touch.

We are really grateful to the Parish Council and the committee of OHMG for their continued support.

Play Equipment

We now have funding in place from the section 106 money that was given to the community for the Swallowcroft development. This will be used for further play equipment in the main park, we have chosen to put a slight delay on committing to specific items of equipment while we have been uncertain if any of the funds will be needed on the skate ramps, but we are hoping for some baby swings, a climbing frame, a roundabout and some form of shade or shelter. We will put updates on our facebook page as soon as we can.

Park Rangers

We recently asked for members of the community to come forward to help manage the park. As the area has grown in popularity we have found that we need to be able to check the site and empty the bin a little more often at peak times. We are pleased to say that we will be training up our first group of rangers in the early spring, because we have a larger group of volunteers available we shouldn't need to ask anyone to volunteer more than once every few weeks.

If you would be interested in becoming a ranger please do get in touch.

Eastington.yg@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/Eastington.playground.project



Daniel Morgan (who used to live in Middle Hall Farm) has sent us this photograph, taken circa 1952, in what used to be the field next to the Village Hall. It looks as if it was a May Queen celebration. The boy in the cowboy outfit is Daniel's elder brother - does anyone recognise any of the girls?

The donkey's name was Mr Beebee. He was very stubborn, only moving when he felt like it - and once got wedged in the doorway of the village shop after being teased by sugarlumps - anyone have a memory going back that far?

Council

PARISH MATTERS

It's been another couple of busy months in the parish. We continue to work on our response to the Ecotricity planning application; we hope you were able to attend the drop-in event on 17th November. Even though the 'deadline' for comments has passed, Stroud District Council will accept comments until the application goes to the Development Control Committee for decision, we anticipate this will be early 2017. To view the application please visit the Stroud District Council planning website at

www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning ref: S.16/0043/OUT

We spent quite a lot of time in October liaising with Stroud District Council regarding the West of Stonehouse masterplan that was decided on 25th October. We were able to achieve some amendments to the masterplan including the removal of two vehicle access points onto Nupend lane.

We were fortunate to receive a donation from the Horse Show towards a 4th defibrillator, which we hope to purchase and locate in the Churchend area. Community Heartbeat Trust will 'adopt' our 3 defibrillators already purchased which will be installed at the Co-op, Owen Harris Memorial Ground and Westend Suites in due course. This means that Community Heartbeat will look after the defibs for us and maintain the units annually and replace the pads when required. Community Heartbeat will also put on a training session, the date is still to be arranged but keep checking our Facebook and Twitter pages for updates.

The Parish Council is submitting an application for the Local Council Award Scheme; this is a framework that demonstrates a council is operating to an accredited standard. For more information on the scheme please visit the National Association of Local Councils:- <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/improvement-and-development/local-council-award-scheme>

Pond Improvement - see below. Please let SVP know if you intend to come along so we can make sure we have enough equipment to go around.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 23rd December until Tuesday 3rd January. The Parish Council wishes you all a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Julie Shirley Clerk to Eastington Parish Council 01453 799616 clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: EastingtonPC Twitter: @Eastington_PC

Stroud Valleys Project

is a local environmental charity that works across the Stroud District.

In partnership with Eastington Parish Council we are looking for volunteers who are interested in improving and restoring the wildlife pond adjacent to Eastington Community Centre.

The pond and wildlife area is in need of some love, care & attention with pond clearance, scrub control and access improvements needed. We are initially planning three sessions at the pond in the New Year dates:

- Thursday January 26th
- Thursday February 2nd
- Thursday February 9th.

If you're interested in getting involved please either call us on **01453 735358**, email: info@stroudvalleysproject.org or alternatively pop in to our eco shop at 8 Threadneedle Street, Stroud, GL5 1AF.



Eastington pond at present!

Community



Advice from our Police Community Support Officer



Unfortunately we are experiencing a lot of Non Dwelling (Sheds, Garages) break-ins along the A38 Corridor over the last 2 months. There have also been attempts in the villages surrounding Stroud.

Although many people take steps to protect their homes and the property inside them, they often leave valuable equipment in gardens and unsecured sheds, providing easy pickings for opportunist thieves.

Sheds can be full to the brim with power tools, cycles and garden equipment. Most burglars know that behind the door to your shed there could be an Aladdin's Cave of many thousands of pounds worth of expensive equipment. Most items that can be stolen from a shed can be easily resold online or at a car boot sale, so make life a bit harder for a thief and protect your valuables.

Most sheds are not strong enough to withstand a determined attempt to break into them, so wherever possible find an alternative secure location for your equipment, such as a locked garage or your house.

A few tips to improve shed security:

- install a good lock
- fit a shed alarm
- make sure that any items stored in your shed are security-marked with your postcode, registered and properly secured; a forensic DNA marker is a good option
- reconsider where you store expensive bikes; if you have nowhere else to store them then make sure they are security-marked and registered with Bike Register
- some of the equipment stored in a shed could be used to break into your home so take particular care to remove or secure these
- grow prickly plants close to the shed window
- use a garden security light
- display a sign on your shed warning thieves that all valuables have been removed
- make sure that access to your garden is difficult for a thief; keep gates shut and locked and fences and boundary walls in good repair
- don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden – these could be used to break into your home
- One of the most important, and often over looked, is to copy down the make, model and serial numbers of your garden machines such as drills, hedge cutters and lawnmowers and provide these to your insurers should you have your property stolen.
- Photograph ride on movers and either engrave, paint or mark with a forensic marker with your postcode in a prominent place.
- Remember to record all serial numbers

Liz Ward - Police Community Support Officer- 249081 Stroud Local Policing Team
Gloucestershire Constabulary

Stroud Police Station, The Cross, Parliament Street, Stroud, GL5 1QQ
Force Control Room - Dial 101



No Mobile, When Mobile

Will you help make using ANY mobile phone when driving SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE?

The Road Safety Partnership is seeking everyone's help with this brand new road safety campaign. Its aim is to change people's attitudes about mobile phones and driving.

The national campaign will run between 14th and 20th November, but this is a life-saving matter for ever. Drivers must take responsibility for their behaviour behind the wheel.

We need your help to exert some social pressure on family and friends and anyone who might be risking YOUR life along with others.

Here are some ways you could help your community:



1. Promote the '**My Red Thumb**' campaign to your local school or youth group
<http://www.myredthumb.com/>



2. Display the **campaign posters** available through the RSP website
www.roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk



3. Promote the **mobile phone policy** to your local business community
<http://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/drivers/distraction/mobile-phones/>



4. If you have a group **newsletter** or magazine perhaps you too could include an article - see
<http://think.direct.gov.uk/mobile-phones.html>

The tragic deaths of four members of the same family on the A34, killed by a driver who was using his mobile phone and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, illustrates how vital this campaign is.

Using mobile phones is one of the most dangerous behaviours for motorists, putting drivers, passengers and others on the road at risk of death and serious harm. And it is a behaviour seen too frequently on our roads but together we can help to make it **socially unacceptable**.

Some Facts:

- ❖ Using a mobile phone, sat nav or any similar device whilst driving means that the driver's attention is distracted from the road. Research shows using a mobile phone while driving can make you **four times more likely to have a crash**.
- ❖ Reaction times for drivers using a hand-held phone are **50% worse** than when driving normally
- ❖ Using a **hands-free phone** while driving does **not** significantly reduce the risks because the problems are caused mainly by the mental distraction and divided attention.
- ❖ Studies show that drivers using a **hands-free or handheld** mobile phone are slower at recognising and reacting to hazards. Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.
- ❖ Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. In 4.6 seconds a car travelling at 30 mph would have travelled 61.7 metres (202.4 feet) that's about the wingspan of a 747 Jumbo Jet! **Think about it.**



Groups

Eastington Cricket Club

In 1865, two years after W.G.Grace made his first class debut aged 14, Eastington beat Selsey Hill by 5 runs. Since then Eastington's home ground moved to Stroud and back again. In 2016, now firmly established in the Stroud League and playing at The Owen Harris Memorial Ground in the village, we finished 3rd in our division following a very successful season.

Having just had our end of season dinner and the A.G.M. we now look forward to next season under the guidance of a new captain with a team whose average age has gone down over the last two seasons.



We could always do with more players aged 14 or over, so, if you are interested, have a word with

Roger Beese (captain) 01453 823128 / 07884 438417 or

Keith Dench (Chairman/Secretary) 01453 764990.

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World

Wow what a busy and successful few months we've enjoyed at group. Planning our Christmas has been lots of fun from that new Christmas outfit we can feel fantastic wearing, down to planning our festive feasts.

Weight losses this year have been truly inspirational. Hundreds of weight loss awards achieved including a ten and a half stone award achieved this week to a brilliant person who joined us at group only 47 weeks ago. A real transformation.

What I enjoy the most about running my Slimming World groups is the fantastic support shown by members to each other, supporting each other through those trickier weeks when life has been rather tough to celebrating each achievement and weight loss goal.

We have discussed how we can keep food optimising right the way through the festivities and into 2017. Lots of amazing meals thought about and how we can enjoy a brilliant foodie Christmas with our family and friends, from Christmas parties, shopping trips as well as Christmas Day menus and not forgetting New Years Eve. We can eat well, enjoy the celebrations and still lose weight. So why leave it to the new year? Come along and join us now and start 2017 feeling brilliant.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

We meet at Stonehouse community centre at 9.30am every Wednesday and Eastington Village Hall at 5pm or 7pm every Wednesday.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Best wishes Lorna xx



Strawberry Santas



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Poppy Appeal 2016.

So far in Eastington District we have raised £2254.43.

A big thank you especially to all those who helped with the street collections.

Kathryn Gribble, Poppy Appeal Honorary Local Organiser

Groups

Come on down and twinkle the stars at Teddytunes



Fun musical coffee mornings with Vanessa, her guitar and Granny Clare. Designed for parents, grand parents, carers, their babies and children aged 0-5 Everyone's welcome!

Singing together is such fun and hugely beneficial in so many ways! Even if you're not that keen on singing you can join in with the shakers! Learn new songs and practice the old ones. Feel uplifted and inspired by the experience. Develop your child's natural instinct to make music, to engage, to smile.

It's a social club for the grown ups as well. Many people say to me it's their 'therapy', a chance to meet friends, a tonic. Relax afterwards with a cuppa, fruit and homemade cake all in for £5. It's a whole mornings entertainment. We look forward to welcoming you.

We have a lovely Facebook page offering cake recipes, lyrics, help and advice and more. Just come along any week no sign up and no obligation. Find us on Facebook and at www.teddytunes.co.uk

Thursday term time Frampton Village Hall 10-11.30 £5 first child & parent £1 each subsequent sibling child or adult. Please phone me any time 07806 802540 for further information

Eastington Walking Group

Our walking group welcomes everyone from near and far in the Parish and links in with the PROWD group headed up by Bill Edwards (edwards.parish@btinternet.com)

We usually walk for about 3-4 hours on third week of the month. Dogs are welcome but to be put on leads near live stock, please, and do clear up mess etc.

We have all ages from little Dex who is four to older members. If you can cock your leg over a style you're in!!

Next Walk: Sunday 18th December 2pm lead by Bill Edwards. Details will be shown on notice boards outside Badger and Co-op and on line.

Up and coming walks...January 15th, February 19th, March 19th details to follow.

On January 15th we will walk to Frampton on Severn. I did this recently and it's an absolutely fabulous route. We will probably set off earlier, say 1pm, to be confirmed. (to factor in drinking time at the Shoes!)

Please get in touch if you have any queries.

Why not join us on Facebook? Search 'Eastington Community Walking Group'

Vanessa Cousins 01453 828557 / 07806 802540 email: vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk



Community



Alone this Christmas?



Well Don't Be!



We are hoping to host a community based three course Christmas lunch with all the trimmings for anyone, young or old, who may find themselves alone this Christmas Day.

If there is enough interest, we will be holding this at the Village Hall between 12:00—15:00

Donations of all kinds, whether it's time, food preparation, crackers, anything to make the day special would be gratefully received!



If you are interested or know someone who is, please complete a slip available from the Co-op or contact Linda Allen on 01453826503



Planning Matters

West of Stonehouse Development (WoS)

On the 25th October Stroud's Development Control Committee considered aspects of the Eastington area 'masterplan' for the WoS development - namely whether or not 'Condition 46' was being fulfilled. Condition 46 refers, among other things, to strategic landscaping within the site and along the boundaries and is meant to "allow a quality development, which is also sympathetic to the surrounding hamlets and landscape".

Both the Parish Council and residents had submitted their concerns - a major one being the lack of a 'buffer' zone protecting the integrity of Nupend (as the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plans require). Stephen Davies, our Local Councillor, sat through the meeting until almost 11pm to make the point that the structural buffers must be included and John Longmuir, senior planner, also supported this approach.

Other concerns were raised, and the Officers have requested some changes to the document.

These include more details of the potential buffer for Nupend, a pedestrian route across the site near the Western entrance, the removal of two potential vehicle access points along Nupend Lane, more details on sustainable design and a review of buildings and building heights especially along Grove Lane.

The committee voted to accept the document subject to the above.

I think we should be concerned at this stage that the WoS outline planning application (approved last January) ignores significant elements of SDC policy. The strategic objective was for WoS to be an "urban extension" to Stonehouse. In particular, the policy requires the Council to "promote opportunities to improve transport connectivity with Stonehouse for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and private car". To date this has been ignored and there seem to be no plans to create good links between the new estate and Stonehouse itself.

Ecotricity

Ecotricity have responded to the first round of consultation - particularly in relation to pedestrians and traffic. They propose a footbridge across the A419 and traffic lights at the head of the motorway slip road in addition to the dual carriageway to Chipmans Platt roundabout. So far we have seen nothing that attempts to manage the increased traffic flow along the A419 towards Stroud.

Ecotricity's own traffic consultant admits that the A419 will reach saturation in the peak hours with WoS, and this statement assumes 400 of WoS commuters commuting to Stonehouse and not accessing the A419.

If, like me, you have seen the growing queues on Junction 13 in the morning recently, we have to wonder about the threat to businesses, jobs and residents alike if this is allowed to get worse.

County Highways have said that (expensive) remodelling of the roundabouts on A419 would help to ensure that journey times were not increased (!) - But this only relates to the A419 stretch to Ebley bypass, ignoring the effect on all the surrounding areas.

This planning application is the first major challenge to the Local Plan. Will our Councillors reject it on the grounds that it is not in the Plan, and has absolutely no place there? And will any subsequent appeals be treated similarly?

Recently Neil Carmichael, our MP, wrote to the Chief Planning Inspector urging her to ensure that all Inspectors paid due attention to the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plans when making their decisions. We can only hope that Development Control Committee will wish to adhere to their own Local Plan so recently adopted.

Daniel James

Community

From our NEW Village Agent - Penny French



Helping older people in Gloucestershire have a better quality of life Village and Community Agents work with the over 50s in Gloucestershire, providing easy access to a wide range of information that will enable them to make informed choices about their present and future needs.

As I sit to write this article I realise that the next one that I write will be in the New Year! So Christmas is just around the corner. I wish you all an enjoyable Festive Season and I hope to see some of you at clubs and groups during the next month.

People often ask me about **Carers Allowance** if they are caring for somebody on a regular basis. I will try to clarify the criteria for those who are unsure about eligibility. Some of the rules about this are complicated and you may need to get advice from DWP on **0345 608 4321** or you can go online and use the Benefit Calculator (<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>) to work out how other benefits may be affected. Alternatively you can contact myself on **07776 245 726** or CAB on **0808 8000 510** for advice and assistance.

In some cases you may meet the conditions for both Carers Allowance and another benefit such as Retirement Pension or ESA. A carer could get £62.10 a week if they care for someone at least 35 hours a week. They can be related to you but don't have to be, nor do you need to live with the person you care for.

The person who needs the care must already get one of these benefits:

- Personal Independence Payment- daily living component
- Disability Living Allowance – the middle or highest care rate
- Attendance Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic rate with a War Disablement Pension
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

The carer may be able to get Carers Allowance if they are:

- Over 16
- Have been living in England Scotland or Wales for 2 of the last 3 years
- Are not in full time education or studying for more than 21 hours a week or earn no more than £110 each week

GRCC's **In Touch** project supports clubs and activities for those aged 50+ throughout Gloucestershire. So if you want to join a club or find an activity local to you, or if you would like to start a new club or need advice on what funding is available, register your club details for up to date information on available funding and for the monthly newsletter; then contact Kevin Dower or Julie Prichard for details on **01452 528491**.

Did you know that you could hire a riser/recliner chair? This could be an ideal solution for those who are recovering from medical treatment or for anyone who thinks they might benefit from using a reclining chair to try it out. Hire costs are £75 for the first month and £35 monthly thereafter. If you are interested in benefiting from the service contact FRP on **01452 524333** or have a look at their website on www.frglos.org.uk

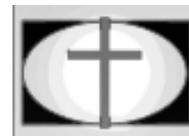
Penny French. Mobile: **07776 245 726.**

Email: pennyf@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Churches



Eastington Methodist Church



Eastington Methodist Church Activities	
Baby & Toddlers Group	Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Prayer Meetings	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am & Fridays 8:30am – 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 (+ youth session)	Sundays 11am
<i>Please check on the web page for other events or variations or call to check what is happening. Unless stated otherwise, these are held at EMC which is opposite the butchers in Eastington.</i>	

Carols at the Café at 11am on 11th December

We kick off the Christmas period with Carols at the Café. Drinks and cakes will be provided. In addition to singing some carols, there will also be a Christmas related craft activity. This event is suitable for all ages.

Missionary Evening 8:00pm on Tuesday 13th December

EMC helps support a family which lives and works in a Muslim country with the aim of sharing the Gospel of Jesus within their local community. This is not without risk and they will be telling us their story at The Pike Lock House (which is next to the canal near the A419 Shell petrol station roundabout).

Messy Christmas on Monday 19th December

A chance to come along to the church to make things, hear the Christmas story, sing and eat more excellent cakes.

Suitable for all ages and usually very popular.

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30am

Our Christmas day service this year will be led by our minister Reverend Graham Miles. Please come and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with us - the service is slightly earlier than normal and will finish in plenty of time to get back home for lunch.



Youth Club

The youth club will run at 7pm on Fridays up to and including 23rd December. There won't be one on 30th December. We will confirm with the young people nearer the time if there will be one on 6th January. If (when) they forget, or to check what other things are running over and around Christmas, please check the church web page or give us a call.

Church Car Park

A gentle reminder that the church car park is provided for those using the church building or involved in church activities. There have been quite a few occasions recently when legitimate users have found it up to half full, and one occasion completely full, of unauthorised vehicles. There is a clear notice (when not obstructed by one or more unauthorised parked vehicles).

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Churches

News from Eastington Church

Pastoral concerns: Angela Reeder (01453 827446)

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Alec Jeakins (01452 883403)

Churchwardens: Mike Naylor (01453 828682)

& Muriel Bullock (01453 826172)

Website: www.cotswoldedgeparishes.org.uk

Twitter: Tweet and follow us @Eastington_

Facebook: Like us by searching for 'St Michael & All Angels Church, Eastington'



Eastington Church and Benefice Services in December 2016 and January 2017

Date	Time	Church	Service	Minister
Sunday 4 th December 2016	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	A Reeder
Sunday 11 th December 2016	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	J McHale
Sunday 18 th December 2016	6pm	Eastington	9 Lessons and Carols	Lay-led
Christmas Eve	6pm	Eastington	Christingle	Lay-led
	11.30pm	Eastington	Midnight Mass	Archdeacon of Gloucester
Christmas Day	10am	Standish	Christmas Day Communion	J McHale
New Year's Day	10am	Moreton Valence	Benefice Birthday Service	J McHale
Sunday 8 th January 2017	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	TBA
Sunday 15 th January 2017	10am	TBA	Benefice Holy Communion	TBA
	6pm	Eastington	Evensong	Lay-led
Sunday 22 nd January 2017	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	P Freeth
Sunday 29 th January 2017	10am	Eastington	Benefice Holy Communion	TBA

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 will be 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.

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 18th December 2016 at 6pm); and

Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve at 11.30pm).

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



	Stroud Branch Bell Ringers' Carol Service	
Saturday 10 th December 2016, 5:30pm		



All Souls Service at Eastington Church

About 100 people came to Eastington Church on Sunday 6th November 2016 as we gave thanks for the departed. The names of the departed loved ones were read out and the congregation placed lighted candles on the altar in memory of people they know who have died, with each little light being a sign of our faith in the light of God's kingdom.

VACANCY – Church Treasurer

After a number of years, our current treasurer Ian Hodges has stepped down as treasurer, thus creating a vacancy for this essential role in the life of the church and parish. The church is extremely grateful to Ian not only for the way in which he has maintained and presented the accounts, but also for agreeing to continue carrying out the functions of the role while we seek a successor.

The church is therefore looking for someone to take over as treasurer. You will need to have a good brain for figures and a sense of humour, but above all be dedicated. Experience is not necessary as full training can be provided. The vacancy does not carry a salary but is very rewarding.

If this is a role that you think you might be able to take on, or would like to explore further, please contact either Muriel Bullock (01453 826172) or Mike Naylor (01453 828682).

The Cotswold Youth Singers
and Whiteshill & Ruscombe
Community Choir
present their

Christmas Concert



Hear the Soft Lullaby

St Michael & All Angels Church, Eastington
Friday 9th December 2016 at 7 pm

Tickets: £5 and £2.50 (under 18s)
from choir members or on the door

Community



EASTINGTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (ECLT)

Parish – Based Initiative to Build 23 Affordable Homes for Rent

ECLT is a group of volunteers who have come together to help alleviate the shortage of Affordable Rented homes in our Parish.

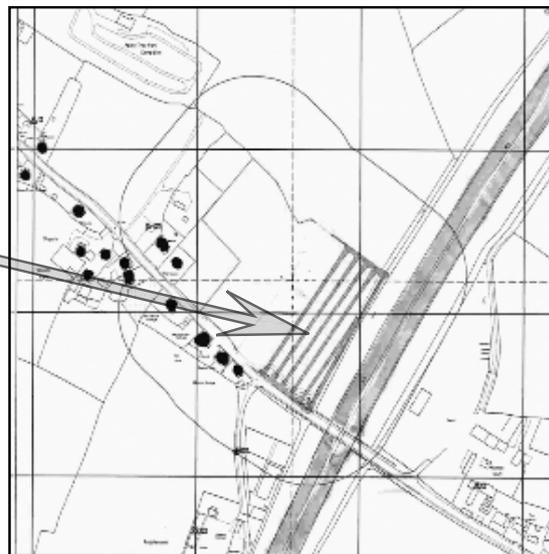
This was highlighted in the Parish Plan 2013 and the subsequent Housing Needs Survey of 2014.

We now have a proposal to meet that need - 23 houses, mainly 1 and 2 bedroom – on a site in Claypits.

The map shows a close-up of Claypits, with the motorway running from the top right-hand corner, the road from the A38 coming in from the top left and the proposed site shaded in.

The proposal complies with the Stroud DC Local Plan as well as the new Eastington Neighbourhood Plan.

This report is to inform all parishioners of the outline proposal and further details will be reported in the next edition of the ECN, as design work evolves.



To start you off, here is the background:

1. - ECLT – what it is and what it aims to achieve
2. - how ECLT arrived at this choice of site,
3. - what is happening now and what happens next

1. ECLT – what it is and what it aims to achieve

Eastington Community Land Trust (ECLT) was set up in 2013 by ordinary parishioners in response to the lack of affordable housing both for the children of the parish as they grow up and for extended family support as we grow up even more. The land for the affordable houses will be held by ECLT in perpetuity as a parish asset and will be kept for rental with priority to people with parish connections in perpetuity as well.

The primary aim is to try to fulfil this need whilst helping to resist other, unwanted development in our Parish, as far as possible. Independent measurement of “the need” was undertaken at the Parish Council’s instruction in January 2014. You can read it all at www.tomlow.co.uk/parishplan where there is an excellent summary on the last page

ECLT was incorporated as a Community Benefit Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, on 3rd November 2016 to make it fully independent of the Parish Council, in much the same way as the Village Hall or OHMG Community Centre.

There are currently 84 members who have paid their £1 lifetime membership and who will annually elect the Board of Trustees on a democratic basis.

Any person living or working in the parish or who has family links to the parish, is entitled to join by contacting the secretary : tom@eastingtonclt.uk (and paying £1.00).

2. How ECLT arrived at this choice of site

ECLT has followed on from the work of both the Parish Plan 2013 and the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) of 2016.

During the NDP process, the principle was established that any houses should be within 800 metres of Alkerton Cross retail facilities AND 800 metres of the community facilities around the Owen Harris Memorial Ground. The diagram below shows how circles drawn around both points intersect in a rugby ball shape.

Every landowner inside the “Rugby Ball” was interviewed (some several times) to establish whether they would sell land for affordable housing.

Only two were willing to sell at a price which allowed 100% affordable homes to rent, of which the Claypits site (C) was closest to Alkerton Cross.



The location complies with NDP policy 8.0.6 and Stroud DC Local Plan policy HC4 (Exception sites), as confirmed by the Parish Council and Stroud DC planners.

3. What is happening now and what happens next

We have started what is called “pre-application” studies, consultations and discussions. The objective is to prove the Feasibility – in planning, community and financial terms – of the Project. A grant of £10,000 from a Government agency called Locality Groundworks has been obtained, boosted by £2,000 from the Parish Council Solar Fund.

The first element is to employ a number of specialists to look at the site and identify any issues that may prove either expensive or indeed impossible to resolve. These include : Ground Survey, a Highways report and a Sound survey.

Community consultation began in the 2011/12 Parish Survey, then the 2013/14 Housing Needs Survey and the NDP from 2014 to 2016. Now that a specific site has been identified, ECLT will be listening to ideas to improve the scheme and to concerns parishioners may have, in order to move to full Planning Application with a consensus which works.

Finally in this stage, ECLT needs to produce a Feasibility Study, complete with Project Plan and Business Plan, which stacks up. For this we will be working closely with Aster Group, a Housing Association with a strong track record of helping CLTs. Aster have 27,000 affordable homes, spread across the West Country. Aster must find the funding (maybe £2.5 million) and take responsibility for the build phase.

What happens next? Everything depends on the Feasibility Study. If it is positive, ECLT will move to a full Planning Application. At a best guess, this would be in the Spring of next year.

There would be further public consultation, discussions with the Parish Council and with Stroud DC Planners.

Watch out for updates in the Eastington Community News and for banners and leaflets advertising Village Hall meetings. Come along to those to see the detailed plans and to make your views known, please.

Event

Eastington Air Show!

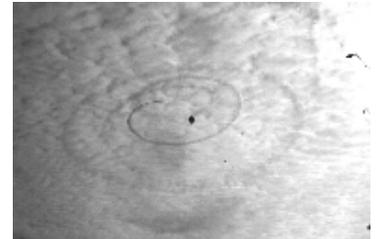
In the morning of the 10th October, we were treated to a most unusual display of airborne dare-devilry.

We spotted the balloon first - not unusual - but there seemed to be something close to it - binoculars showed this to be a small helicopter.

It looked like this was actually towing the balloon at first, but this turned out to be quite wrong.



Next a bi-plane zoomed into the scene, in full smoke. I thought - goodness! I do hope that balloonist knows about this!



The plane continued to run rings and spirals around the balloon .

What on earth was it all about??

It turned out that this was only the dessert course! The stunt pilot, Rich Goodwin, had just completed a world first 'knife-edge' manoeuvre between two hot air balloons at Gloucestershire airport, flying a specially modified Pitts Special S2S stunt plane .

The two balloons had been tethered at just 100 ft, tied together by a ribbon - which was cut by the wing as the plane turned sideways and flew between them just a few feet from the ground.

The feat had been repeated with the two balloons flying free, at around 1500 feet.

The final part of this performance was the part that we saw - being filmed from the helicopter - with the pilot performing aerobatics around the one balloon, experiencing up to six times the force of gravity and flying at speeds of up to 200 mph.

Interesting jobs some people have!

Jan Low



<http://www.richgoodwinairshows.com>