

Signpost

Your news... *your* ECN!

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

BUT we are just the technicians - it is you, the contributors, that make the magazine what it is.

This is absolutely YOUR magazine. We just want to help us all to share with each other the 'goings on' in the Parish in a way that every one can access.



So why not join in? **Share your story** or advertise your local 'event' (no charge for charity events). Just email us at articles@ecn.me.uk. Contributions, stories, posters and photos are always welcome from anyone connected to Eastington. You can also write to us at Hazel Cottage, Millend GL10 3SF.

This magazine is delivered free to every home in the Parish. This is thanks to an army of wonderful volunteers and a host of loyal advertisers. If you have a local business and would like to reach every single resident in the parish then please email us at advertising@ecn.me.uk

If you would like to help out in any way at all or have comments or ideas to share then please email us at info@ecn.me.uk - we would really appreciate hearing from you.

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Pond Restoration

9 February, Pond near OHMG

Walking Group

19 February, 13:00, Coaley,

Primary School Quiz

24 February

Jumble Sale

25th Feb, 10:00, Village Hall

Village Entry Gate Drop In

4 March, 10:00 - 12:00
Eastington Village Hall

Stay and Play

Wednesday 8th March 10am

Quiz Night at the Badger

12 March, 18:00

Easter Egg Hunt

22nd March, 10:00 - 16:00

Next deadline for submission: Friday March 24th 2017

Next Delivery: Weekend of 1st April

*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

Events

Wassailing – a Tradition Reborn

The night of 18 January was relatively mild, which was just as well as the newly formed Eastington Wassailers were preparing to meet and greet an old Gloucestershire Underleaf apple tree in Nastend, show appreciation for the many years of fruitful production, and wish for a good crop in the season to come. Proceedings were accompanied by old wassail songs, and greatly helped along by lashings of mulled cider – from local apples of course!

The word Wassail come from the Anglo-Saxon greeting, meaning ‘be in good health’. It is unknown how old the tradition is, but the origins are surely in Pagan times, in common with many other pre-Christian Winter festivities. It was our intention to bring this tradition back to life in the Parish, as has been happening all over the apple-growing parts of the country.



In fact, there are different types of wassailing. In one tradition you visit the neighbours, singing and offering them a drink from a wooden wassail bowl in exchange for food. This has largely been replaced by carolling. We were more interested in the other ancient custom where you visit apple orchards and sing to the trees to promote a good harvest. However, such a jaunt seemed a bit ambitious for our first outing, so we chose the old Underleaf to represent all the trees in the Parish, including the community orchard at Coneygree near the church (and trees yet to be planted at the new Brownings site, behind the Kings Head!)

We had selected 3 wassail songs to sing: one from our own county, one from Norfolk and a last from our neighbouring county, Somerset. After the second song our Wassail Queen, Charlotte Cousins, poured mulled cider around the roots of the tree and then placed a piece of toast soaked in cider in the branches. This is to thank the tree and to encourage good spirits. We then sang the final song (right) and finished off by making a raucous din (including banging old dustbins), intended to drive away evil spirits.

Such goings on in darkest Nastend might seem a bit wacky or indulgent, but such a ceremony reminds us that we should not take nature for granted, but should value and protect it. After all, with no apple trees there would be none of our lovely locally-produced juice and cider!

Julian Plested. Photos by Andy Harris



For more info and colour pics see
www.ecogroup.me

Events

Eastington's First Egg Hunt!

Easter this year will feature a rather special village event.

For the first time we will be holding an Easter Egg Trail. The trail is being organised by Eastington School Parents Association and Eastington Playgroup to raise funds for much needed learning equipment.

You will be able to buy your map from the start of the trail in the school hall, follow the map and signs to find the eggs. Each egg will be decorated in the theme of a character from a children's book, we are already expecting to see a Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland, Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang and at least one Mr Man. Each egg will also have a letter on it, collect all the letters and at the end of the trail tell us the magic phrase you can have a chocolate egg!

On the way you can stop off at the village hall for refreshments and a bounce on a bouncy castle and at the end of the trail you can have a well deserved rest, buy a lovely home made cake and take part in some Easter crafts and have a read in our specially created book corner.

There are plenty of opportunities to be a part of the event, we will be looking for kind house holders who live along the route to allow us to pop an egg in front of their house. The route will run from the school, left at the mill, cutting through to Cress Green, down through Middle Street, then back into the village along Bath Road, turning left along the main road to the village hall and then down the lane back to the school. If you would be happy to host an egg please let us know.

Each of our eggs will be sponsored by a local company and the response to our appeal has been amazing, so we'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the companies who have pledged to sponsor an egg and don't forget to get your donation to us in plenty of time to secure a good choice of eggs!

The eggs will all be created by volunteers so if you would like to get involved by creating an egg please get in touch and we will give you the details.

We are really excited to be planning this event, there are so many brilliant ideas and so many people helping, in different ways to make it a success, so please save the date!

Saturday 22nd April

10am to 4pm.

Jen & Aimee

jen.empson@gmail.com



Community

A Little Piece of England

The government is committed to building 250,000 houses per year. This equates to an area the size of the Isle of Wight every 5.5 years about 38,000 Hectares. A city the size of Birmingham every 2.5 years. Much of this building will be on green fields used for food production.

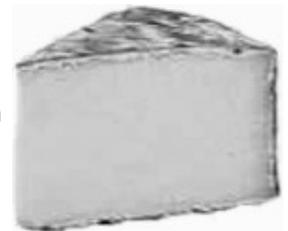
In reflecting upon these scary facts perhaps it is time to think a little about our agricultural heritage. A very special treat for me over Christmas was to visit Standish Park farm, 300 acres of beautiful rolling hillside on the edge of the Beacon.



This farm is very special as it is home to about 40 Old Gloucester cows and one bull. These magnificent animals make up almost 10% of the breeding females in the country. They are large cattle, coloured a rich dark brown in the cows, calves and steers, and almost black in the bulls. They have a white belly and a white stripe along the spine (finched back) continuing over the tail, and they normally have well-developed white horns with black tips. Originally they were kept because of their gentle temperament and as draught, milk and meat cattle. Unfortunately, they only produce about 30% of the milk of the modern milking cow which perhaps explains their decline.

Jonathan Crump who farms this land has shown huge enterprise converting their high protein and high butterfat milk into unpasteurised cheese, single and double Gloucester. Single Gloucester can only be produced in Gloucestershire and is a PDO cheese (product designation of origin) and the farm must have at least one Gloucester cow. What is unique to Jonathan's cheeses is that they are produced exclusively from the only herd of Gloucester cows in Gloucestershire.

In 2014 the Daily Mail ran a story urging people to eat single Gloucester cheese to save this "very rare" breed. Over the Christmas period my extended family consumed 12 pounds of these quite exquisite cheeses. The single Gloucester matures at about 2 months, it is soft and very pale it has a wonderful firm taste with a hint of citrus after each mouthful. The double has the colour of a pale red Leicester it is a harder cheese, rich, creamy and has a rounded clean mellow and buttery flavour, matured for at least 4 or 5 months.



You do not have to eat this cheese to save the breed as once you have tried, you will want to eat more simply because it is quite delicious. My 1 ½ year-old granddaughter will vouch for that.

For those Francophiles out there the single Gloucester has a little in common with a young Cantal bought from a French market on warm sunny day. Jonathan clearly loves his cows and to see him wandering amongst the herd who happily follow him is a small part of a disappearing England that we must not lose.

These contented cows and Jonathan are producing something very special and for those who appreciate a taxing walk up a steep hill, what better way to spend 3 or 4 hours walking from our parish along the bridle path to Oxlynch lane and then a brisk walk up the lane, through the farm to the top of the Beacon. Armed, of course, with fresh crispy bread and a large chunk of Gloucester cheese. Look back down the hill at those spectacular gentle cattle and enjoy their truly delicious cheese. The view from the top is pretty good too!



Over the next few editions I would intend to highlight a few of our local farms who make such a contribution to food production, in or adjoining our Parish.

Daniel James

Village Entry Gates

Following the outcome of a public meeting on road safety a few years ago, the Parish Council successfully raised the money during this financial year to install entry gates to Eastington village. Not only that, but they managed to raise enough for two more gates at either end of Westend.



Artist's Impression

The gates (something like the artist's impression in the picture), placed either side of the road, are one of the various psychological methods that have been shown to help reduce the speed of traffic by reinforcing the idea that the village is well looked after and has a close community.

Indeed, the erection of entry gates is included in Gloucestershire's Community Approaches to Road Safety (CARS) road safety toolkit, and around £7k towards the cost has been made available to Eastington PC via Gloucestershire's Road Safety Community Engagement Hub.

Now that the installation of the gates is progressing, the Parish Council is asking for parishioners to come forward to help with the gate maintenance - see below.

EARS (Eastington's Approaches to Road Safety) Group is holding a public drop-in session at the Village Hall on Saturday 4 March from 10am – 12 noon.

Come along and find out:

- Where the gates will be located.
- How you can help with the integrated flower planters.
- How you can help with the general upkeep of the entry gate areas.

The entry gates work by showing we have a caring and involved community; so let's get involved.

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.



- Last Chance to help out!!
Thursday February 9th.

If you would like to help out **please call us on 01453 735358**, or email: info@stroudvalleysproject.org or alternatively pop in to our eco shop at 8 Threadneedle Street, Stroud, GL5 1AF.

Groups

Cotswold Canal Trust has plans for The Gatehouse



The Pillbox was built as part of a national wartime defence program of 'stop lines' which fortified 'natural' barriers to slow down enemy advances across the country.

Stop line Green was built in 1940 to protect Bristol and the Port of Avon; its northern end included this and 15 other pillboxes along the Stroudwater Navigation Canal.

The pill box is of an unusual design, having the gun turret on the roof, enabling it to fire over adjacent buildings as well as having some anti-aircraft capability. Two factories were under its protection - Sperry's Gyroscope and Hoffman Manufacturing. These were 'shadow' factories of bigger, more centrally based concerns, intended to produce wartime munitions in the comparative safety of the countryside.

However, documents discovered soon after the war showed that the Germans had indeed planned an air strike on Stonehouse, and the Sperry factory in particular, in the February of 1943. This would have been devastating for the whole area if it had taken place, but at that point Germany was having a hard time on the Russian front and happily for us the raid was cancelled.

After the war the pillbox was adapted to be a gatehouse for Bonds Mill and it contains the controls to operate the adjacent bridge across the canal. In 1994 the bridge was replaced with a composite plastic lift bridge - the first in the world for vehicular traffic. A number of modifications have since been made to The Gatehouse, and it now functions as office space.

We hope to have details of when the exhibition will open, in the next edition of ECN.

Plans are underway to create a permanent historical exhibition in the gun turret of the old pillbox, now known as the Gatehouse, that stands guard on the canal at Bond's Mill.

The CCT are to engage with the Stonehouse History Group, The Museum in the Park, the Glos. Wildlife trust and other local groups and schools. They aim to produce and promote study packs concerning all aspects of the canal - from wildlife to industrial uses as well as the World War II studies inspired by the Gatehouse pillbox.

It is also hoped that walks and talks along the canalside will be facilitated.



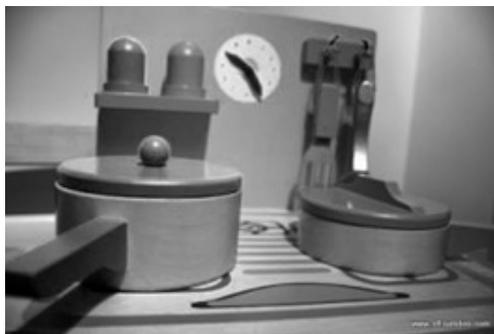
Visit by Queen Mary, the then Queen Mother, in 1941. Note the camouflage paint on the pillbox.

Groups



Registered Charity No. 1084981

Firstly, we would like to start this newsletter by thanking the many local businesses that very kindly donated prizes for our amazing raffle at our Christmas Nativity. We were overwhelmed by the generosity from everyone and from the proceeds we will be able to help update our home corner with resources to help children’s learning for supporting children’s personal, social and emotional skills and also their communication and understanding of the world around them.



2016 ended on a high with another wonderful Nativity performance, the children's fabulous singing was heard by a very special man with a beard and red jacket who flew in to deliver some presents, much to the children's delight.

We returned to playgroup in January, concentrating on working in small key groups for role play, story making, junk modelling and practising using scissors and pen control. We have been enjoying our new role play area, where the staff have been spending time supporting children’s imaginative play and also supporting and modelling the care for our new toys that we have purchased.

We will also be looking at Chinese New Year – it’s the Year of the Rooster and we look forward to trying some Chinese Food, making lanterns and also making a Chinese Dragon.

During this half term we are also looking to encourage child initiated play, forming friendships and being kind to others and this will coincide with making Valentine’s Day cards for someone special.



If you have a child that you would like to send to our playgroup, and you would like to have a look around why not give us a ring on 07977 342 742.

Please remember that you can place your child’s name on our waiting list even if your child is not yet 2 ½ years old (which is our minimum age), and children do not need to be potty trained as we are happy to help support this when your child is ready.

We are offering a stay and play on Wednesday 8th March from 10 – 11.30am, if you would like to come along and meet us then please let us know.

We currently offer half days and full days, Monday to Thursday, and in September 2017 we will be taking the 30 hour funded places (subject to parent eligibility) so we expect to be very busy, so please don’t miss your chance to reserve a space for your child.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 5 years in a well established community based group.

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

We accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers.

Please contact Mandy Owen, Play Leader. Tel 07977 342 742 email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com

Community

Dog Bin News!



In response to requests from parishioners, Eastington Parish Council is currently working to improve and extend the provision of dog waste bins in the parish. A number of bins are currently available along many of the popular dog walking routes, but increasingly there are calls for more to be made available.

Installing extra dog waste bins is expensive. You may be surprised to learn that the cost to the parish of installing a single dog bin is about £400 - and the process can take months to complete. In addition, Stroud District Council’s annual charge for emptying these designated bins is more than £200. Pricey – but fortunately, we have found a satisfactory option which is cheaper.

As many of you are aware, Stroud District Council’s new rubbish and re-cycling arrangements allow dog owners to dispose of their bags of dog waste in general refuse bins. **This means that dog walkers can deposit their used bags in any public litter bin** they pass on their walks. Allowing for existing litter bins to be used for bagged dog waste is particularly helpful, as well as making a significant cost saving for the parish – and therefore you in your council tax! Also, there is no charge for emptying a ‘dual purpose’ bin, saving us even more cash. Given this potential saving of public money, EPC’s current plan is to install more litter/dog waste bins throughout the parish.

To raise awareness, and so that responsible dog owners are in no doubt that this is acceptable, the new notice stickers (above) will be put on all ‘dual purpose’ bins.

One of the most frequent complaints EPC receives is regarding the non-emptying of dog waste bins. To make such a report, please ring Stroud District Council on Tel: 01453 766321.

And please remember: Always have enough bags with you when out with your dog
IT IS NEVER OK to leave dog poo ANYWHERE
 It is a danger to other animals, especially pregnant cows, and to children.

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

Community

Eastington Primary School: A Day of Reflection.

On Tuesday 10th January Eastington School held a Reflection Day for all of the pupils. This was a day where pupils thought about their place in the world and how they could contribute to this in a positive way.

There were lots of different activities for us to think about. Here are some of the activities we did and also some of our thoughts.

We were asked to think of a dream for the world. We wrote on clouds – Perin wished for clean water for everyone and Lily wished for everyone to have a warm home. Daniel wished that everyone had a Mum and a Dad.

We made a mobile of these big dreams – we hope they will come true.



We also thought about how we are all unique and precious. We put a shiny bead onto the branch of a tree. Ollie enjoyed this as it gave him some quiet time. We thought about how we are loved and also about the people we love. We wrote our names onto a heart.

There was also a tent where we sat very still and explored our own thoughts. It was covered in purple lights. If we wanted to we could draw or write our thoughts down. Ella and Chloe really liked it because they could be quiet and think.

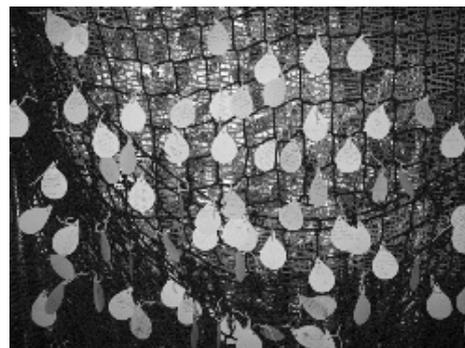
We also thought about people who might be sad or ill. We made a little stretcher and wrote either our name or their name to show we were thinking about them.

At another table we looked at some pictures that reminded us to be thankful. We drew and wrote about what we were thankful for. Georgia was thankful for her family and George was thankful for his friends.

We also thought about what we might be sorry for – we wrote this onto a tear drop and then we were reminded that saying sorry is a very powerful word and it often solves our worries and makes them go away.

We tried this in our class room and it really works!

We thought about our place in the community and how we are all linked to each other. We created a really long paper chain of all our friends – both in school and outside of school.



At the end of the day we showed our parents and carers what we had experienced.



They wrote some of their dreams too!

It was a great day.

By Class 2

Groups

PROWD and Eastington Walking Group

Welcome to the New Year !!

I see that the '*Danger, Bull in field*' signs have been removed from the meadows. I know that some people found them to be intimidating. Thank you Alan for doing that.

The signage that was promised by Woodlands Trust in Stanley Wood has not materialised yet!

Thank you to the Horse Riders in the Nupend area for not using the footpaths,---- they are in better shape now.

Good news on the blocked footpath in Frocester (EFR32). The County Footpaths Officer hopes to have this opened before the end of February. Thank you to all those walkers who supported me in this task.

You may have noticed that three new kissing gates have been installed in the fields to the East of the new housing development in Swallowcroft. Thank you to the developer for carrying out their commitment to do so.

Well, the year has started with a lot of cold and murky weather,----- let's hope that we see more of the Sun soon, rather than the odd glimpse.

The organized walk on 15th January was from the Kings Head to Frampton. About 12 people showed up. The walk went up to Claypits, then across the fields to the Lakes, and on to the Three Horseshoes for a rest and a "bite-to-eat" !! The whole trip was about 4 hours long, including the break. Well done to all you sturdy walkers!!

Next walk: 19 February at COALEY PEAK car park at 13:00 (n.b. the time and place!) 3-4 hours.

also : 19th March, details to be announced.

Please contact me if you have any footpath concerns. Tel. 824452

Bill Edwards



Last time, we showed you this 1952 picture sent in by Daniel Morgan and asked if anyone remembered the day and knew who the ladies were. Well, Alice Elliot (one of our delivery team) came up with some of the answers!

Steve Morgan is standing in the front with Mr BeeBee and then from left to right, we have Alice herself, then Margaret King, a 'not sure' at the back, then Doreen Jones and Marian Jones, another 'not sure' at the back, and finally Mavis Lusty standing on the right. Thank you Alice - and I hope your memories of the day are as happy and summery as the picture.



Eastington Community Land Trust (ECLT)

Progress on building 23 homes with Affordable Rent for Eastington People

Status of ECLT

ECLT became a community benefit society (non-charitable) incorporated under the FCA, register number 7425 on November 3rd. This required the election of a Board of Trustees at a Special General Meeting in December and the subsequent election of a Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair: Tom Morrison Vice Chair: Cllr Muriel Bullock

Secretary: Tom Low Treasurer: Lynne Farnden

Trustees: Alan Brasier, Cllr Alison Loverage, Cllr Sharon Wells, Paul Mannings, Martin Elliot

Co-optee: Cllr John Jones

We now have over 80 members from the parish and encourage anyone who wishes to support us in our objectives to join for a lifetime membership of £1.00. Every member has a vote at General Meetings.

Progress on Feasibility Study for 23 houses

The project to build 23 homes with affordable rent is now at pre-application stage with Stroud DC. This stage involves meetings with various specialists and the gathering of technical data.

We have commissioned six preliminary reports and have received positive feedback to date. We await air quality analysis and have completed the following :

Ground Survey, Environmental /Ecological Analysis, Highways Access,
Topographical Survey, and Acoustic Survey

Our architect has used this information together with our Housing Needs Survey to provide a first-cut layout which we have considered and provided feedback to him for modification. We have asked for three alternative layouts, which we will bring to the Parish Council, Stroud DC planners and most importantly the Eastington community.

Funding

To preserve local sources of funding, most of our consultancy expenses are coming from a £9,750 government grant, with a top-up from the Parish Solar Fund of £2,000. Further grants are available to take us up to Planning Approval, following which a Housing Association (Aster) will organise the funding for the build stages.

ECLT Board will meet on 2nd and 16th February and 2nd and 16th March in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

As with the Parish Council, the public are welcome to attend as observers with one item for open questions. The agenda will be available on www.eastingtonclt.uk

Tom Low, Secretary ECLT

Community

Village Agent News

Hello Everyone. Now that we are into 2017 it maybe that some people are thinking that it would be good to try something new. If so, you might be interested in this.

SGS College are offering a **free 3 day course**.

It is called **Refresh 2 Impress**, and will be held at the Stroud Campus, Stratford Park. The course is free for those who are retired and over fifty. It is especially designed for people who are young at heart and wanting to learn new skills, meet new people and have fun. The course includes a maths qualification, lunch and refreshments every day, and a variety of 'taster sessions' which may include art, yoga or dance, circus skills, creative writing, first aid or IT.

The course will be held from **Tuesday 14th to Thursday 16th February**.

To book your place call 0800 056 6940 or email emailacl@sgscol.ac.uk or see the website www.suitedbootedrecruited.co.uk/courses/refresh2impress

Another course is planned for April.

I would like to tell you a bit about a new project in the county, called **Going the Extra Mile** which has been funded by the Big Lottery and European Social Fund. The aim of the project is to offer extra support to people who feel very out of touch with employment or training possibilities, who would like to get into work but may have lost confidence and need some extra help. Amanda, the local worker, can offer one-to-one support with job searches and help people get CVs out to employers. This can include daily support when required. People of any age can be supported but there is a particular remit for over 50s and people going back to work following their children starting to school. They also have access to funding and can apply on behalf of participants for various types of things, including help with training courses and travel. The project aims to be inclusive, individuals who have a disability or a particular need can be referred to workers with particular specialisms. If you think that this project could benefit you contact Amanda on 07823 776 670 or 01452 528491.

New **Hearing Aid Clinics** will be held at the GL11 Community Hub, Fairmead, Cam, GL11 5JS. The clinic will be held on 1st Tuesday of the month from 2pm -3pm. Also for anyone who has easy access to Stroud a clinic will be held at Stroudwater Court, 1 Cainscross Road, Stroud, GL5 4ET on the 4th Thursday of each month from 10am – 12noon. Please phone to make an appointment beforehand on 01452 372999. Please note that the usual clinics are still being held at Marybrook Medical Centre in Berkeley, Prices Mill Surgery in Nailsworth and at various venues throughout the county.

Penny French. Phone: **07776 245 726**. Email: pennyf@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

INSERT NAME HERE

Advertise in Eastington Community News - on the Blue Pages!
Apply NOW to take advantage of our once-a-year February offer of Blue Page annual rates.

Save over 30% on regular prices.

Support your local community

and **put your name into every household in the Parish** every other month.

Email: advertising@ecn.me.uk or write to Hazel Cottage, Millend, GL10 3SF

Over 50? Try something New for FREE

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH THE KIDS?

join our FREE course and...

REFRESH² IMPRESS!

Courses for the young at heart

Dates are:

SGS Stroud Campus

Tues 14th February - Thurs 16th February

Refresh 2 Impress - a FREE course for the retired and over fifties, especially designed for people who are young at heart and wanting to learn new skills, meet new people and have fun.

Courses include:

- **FREE** maths qualification to get on the brain train
- **FREE** lunch and refreshments every day
- **FREE** *Taster Sessions, which may include:
 - Art - 'Make and Take'
 - Active and Wellbeing - Yoga, Table Tennis, Dance
 - Circus Skills, Horticulture
 - Creative Writing
 - First Aid at home
 - IT
 - African Drumming

** Sessions dependent on tutor availability*

Location:

**SGS Stroud Campus, Stratford Road,
Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AH**

To book your place call **0800 056 6940**
email acl@sgscol.ac.uk,
online www.suitedbootedrecruited.co.uk

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Council

Newsletter from our District Councillors



I don't think it is too late to wish you a Happy New Year, and as 2017 is well and truly underway so is activity at your District Council.

First of all looking back, this was the first Christmas of the new waste collection system. I would be interested in any feedback good or bad. Generally it seems to have worked well. There has been an issue about the emptying of Dog Bins but I believe that this has been resolved, again let me know if there are any on-going problems.



Looking forward the application by Ecotricity for a football stadium and business park should come before Stroud District Council Development and Control Committee soon, probably March. Can I stress that despite some of the press releases from Ecotricity this is not "a done deal." It is very important that you make your views known on the Stroud District Council Planning Website, whether you are for or against. I, along with the Parish Council, will be opposing this due to concerns about the Traffic and that this is not in the Stroud District Plan which does include West of Stonehouse. There is also no clear Employment requirement as West of Stonehouse includes allocated employment land.

Talking of West of Stonehouse, the Master Plan for the first phase has been approved and now includes Buffer Zones due to pressure applied by me and others. The next debate will be the size of these buffers when the detailed plan is submitted. As I have often said the detail matters and Councillor John Jones and I will continue to work on this.

In other news, Stroud District Council has apologised for any inconvenience caused by the early collection of some Council Tax in December.

January and February will see the Council deciding the budget and setting the council tax. The Council's finances are sound and we are not faced with sort of the cuts and redundancies being announced by councils across the UK. Nevertheless, we need to keep looking at how we can save money, reduce costs and increase our income. Gloucestershire's devolution bid is 'on hold'. Devolution to the 'shires' is no longer near the top of the ministerial agenda.

Finally, be aware that the A38 at Berkeley Bridge will be closed between the 14th and 23rd February. The crane being used to replace the bridge is so big it will cover both carriageways.

The Gloucester-Bristol railway line will be closed over the weekend of 17th-20th February.

As always, both of your District Councillors can be contacted by email or phone:-

cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk tel: 07802595307 or cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk tel: 07808922918

Eastington Community Orchard Group sitting down on the job!

Thanks to a grant from the Charlie Bullock Fund, ECO will now be able to keep the Community Orchards' grass in better shape - with their new lawn mower!

With the addition of Brownings Orchard, this was becoming an unmanageable task. The trees didn't mind too much, but now the volunteers hope to be able to provide more attractive green spaces for the village.



Council

Newsletter from our County Councillor



Talk around Gloucester county council is all about the Budget, which will be announced next month. Although as a Labour Councillor I am not part of the administration and so have no advance knowledge of the detail, the general direction is pretty clear, £11 Million needs to be saved and there will be more cuts to services.

The government is allowing a small additional council tax increase that is to be put towards adult social care which will reduce the level of cuts in that area. Children's centres are being reduced in number and reorganised on a hub and spoke pattern, this will be cheaper to operate but also less accessible to many people.

There is not likely to be any increase in spend on the roads, so pot holes and patching are here to stay for the foreseeable future, although the stretch between the old Badger and the Co-op is in the programme for the next financial year.

For 2016/17 each Councillor was allocated £30,000 for highway repairs in their area in addition to the overall spend. This is expected to be reduced to £20,000 in the coming year, it sounds a lot but does not pay for a great deal when spread between Stonehouse, Eastington, Standish and Ebley, all part of my Division.

While the Budget dominates discussion the steady round of meetings and day to day concerns continues. I aim to attend all full Parish and Town Council meetings, although this is not always possible, and then there are numerous committee and other meetings in Shire Hall to do with County Wide issues.

Locally I am particularly concerned about the impact on Eastington of the various developments along the A419. House building on the "West of Stonehouse" / Oldbury End site may well start before the end of the year, the first to be built will be at the west end of the site, feeding into the Chipmans Platt roundabout. The planning application for Eco Park at junction 13 is expected to be decided sometime this summer, a proposal for four retail units at Ryeford by the traffic lights is in the pipeline and 200 houses are being built in the Stanley's as I write.

The fear must be that the increase in traffic and the inevitable increase in congestion particularly at Junction 13 and at the Chipmans Platt roundabout will encourage people to use Eastington as a by-pass, either from the A38 through Claypits or if coming from the South or East coming through Frocester.

Managing the traffic flow and designing the roundabouts, traffic lights and road improvements is a County Council responsibility, I am maintaining close contact with the highways department to do my utmost to ensure that the impact on Eastington is appreciated and reduced as far as is possible.

Life is very busy, never dull and always interesting.

Should you have any questions or points of view, please contact me, and can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year.

Lesley Williams – County Councillor – Stonehouse Division

Lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk

01453 822684/07855 187263

Council

Parish Matters



Happy New Year

Hope you had a good Christmas

We are pleased to report two of the defibrillators are now active, one at the OHMG Community Centre and one at Westend Office Suites. We are still waiting for permission to place the third one at the Co-op.

It was announced in the previous edition that the Council was going to apply for Quality Status. I am pleased to announce we have been awarded this, we are now "going for gold" this will mean a commitment by all Councillors as we have to work towards a three year plan.

Muriel Bullock

Muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk 01453826172 00715962309

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

The Local Council Award Scheme is run on behalf of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) by the Improvement and Development Board. Councils can apply for an award at one of three levels:

The Foundation Award demonstrates that a council meets the minimum requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.

The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development

The Parish Council now normally meets at 7pm in the Village Hall on the second Thursday in each month.

A huge "Thank You" is due to everyone involved in obtaining the defibrillators for Eastington.

This includes the British Heart foundation, the Community Heartbeat Trust, the Horse Show and of course Ellie and Julie at the Old Badger - and all of you who contributed towards their generous fund raising efforts. Thanks are also due to Julie Shirley and the PC who worked so hard to make this happen.

These devices have saved many lives - a sudden cardiac arrest can affect anyone and speedy action is vital. They are very easy to operate (even without special training) as the machine itself will 'talk' you through the simple process.

However, some training courses will be arranged, including the techniques of CPR which may also be required.

There is some useful information on these life saving matters on these websites:

St Johns Ambulance : www.sja.org.uk

The Heartbeat Trust : www.communityheartbeat.org.uk



Parish Councillor Jill Simmons receives a cheque for funds raised of over £3000 from Julie Gilborson at The Old Badger.

Events

Frampton Village Society Talks

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of illustrated talks held in Frampton on Severn which we hope will be of interest to local people. The talks are on Friday evenings starting at 7.30 in our Village Hall and are organised by Frampton on Severn Village Society, which raises funds for various village projects.

You need not be a member of the Society to attend and the cost is £3.30/per person, but entrance is cheaper for members and tea/coffee plus biscuits are provided for all!

Should you be interested in becoming a member, please contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you, member or not!

Our programme for 2017 is :-

- 24th Feb: Rosamund Green, a story of our village – Jean & David Speed
- 28th April: Gloucester and its Tall Ships – Tony Condor
- 26th May: Sudbrook and Severn Tunnels – David Harrison
- 23rd June: Strange Things do Happen – Susan Marshfield
- 25th June: Frampton Scarecrow Festival (in conjunction with Hidden Gardens)
- 18th August: Visit to Dunkirk Mill (textile talk), followed by a meal
- 22nd Sept: Gertrude Jeckyll and the Classic English Garden Style – Roger Turner
- 27th Oct: AGM and Bill Wood Memorial Presentation
- 24th Nov: The Stroudwater Canal, history & restoration proposals – Clive Field & John Newton



CHARITY NIGHT

join us for a

Quiz and Curry

in aid of **Cancer Research UK**

Venue – Elmore Village Hall

Time – 7.30pm on Friday 24th February 2017

Teams of four (but singles and pairs welcome)

Cost of Evening including meal - £12

Pay bar

For tickets contact Nigel **01452 740121**

or Joe **01452 740935**

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Groups

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

Wow what an amazing year 2016 was for weight loss in our Groups. During 2016 Eastington and Stonehouse AM Slimming World Groups loss an amazing



- so proud of all of our amazing members. I wonder what we will achieve in 2017? How did we do this? By following Slimming Worlds Extra Easy food Optimising plan - we have eaten our way slimmer, with the wide range of food choices and generous meal sizes. There is no hunger with Slimming World just lots of healthy foods to choose from - no matter how big your appetite may be.

I love my role as a consultant, helping and supporting my members through there weight loss journeys and celebrating the achievements. Our Groups are welcoming, friendly and fun. So if you'd like to lose weight this year come along and find out for yourself how Slimming World can help you. Women and men are welcome and we even offer a healthy plan for our young adults (11-15 years old with GP approval) we are accredited by the Royal college of Midwives as well as the Diabetic Association. Slimming World offers everyone safe, healthy weight loss.

We meet on Wednesday morning at 9.30am in Stonehouse Community Centre and also in Eastington Village Hall at 5pm or 7pm on Wednesdays. I look forward to welcoming you.

Lorna x

Eastington Primary School

Quiz Night

Friday 24th Feb

**More information and
Tickets available from the school office**

M. A. SMITH **Local Builder**

Call for a friendly chat
and a free quote

No job too small

Phone: 01453 820 860

Mobile/text: 0771 750 7789

Email: gus8max@hotmail.co.uk

4 Cotswold Avenue Eastington GL10 3AR

Meet Andy Murray - Neighbourhood Warden

Hello to all residents within Eastington parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself as your new Neighbourhood warden. Who am I? – Well, before you ask, I'm neither the tennis player of the same name nor am I any good at tennis!

I'm 40 years old and was born and raised in the market town of Ledbury in Herefordshire. Growing up in a rural area has provided me with the knowledge and experience which will allow me to provide help and assistance with concerns to rural communities.

My previous career was customer service focused, working for a local security company as Operations Supervisor which involved working with the police and local authorities.



In my role as Neighbourhood Warden, I will be acting as the eyes and ears of your community and my aim will be to provide a reassuring presence and help with tackling low level disorder and crime issues, which are important to all local citizens. To achieve this, I will be working with other local stakeholders such as the police, parish council, businesses and most importantly, you.

I've been a Neighbourhood warden for 9 years serving other communities within the district.

Whilst Neighbourhood Wardens are not a second police force and only have some delegated enforcement powers, I will report incidents and concerns as and when they happen, and work with other agencies to bring about community betterment.

If you would like to meet me and discuss any issues you may have, then I would be happy to come and visit you at a time which is convenient to you.

I can be contacted using the following methods:

- Stroud District Council via the Community & Facilities service on 01453 754276 where all messages will be passed onto me.
- Mobile: 07795 840730 (please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP when I'm next on duty).
- Email at andy.murray@stroud.gov.uk

I look forward to working with you.

Andy Murray



Victoria Drive Phone Box

The Parish council has agreed to adopt the phone box from BT and has approved it's adaptation to become a mini-library/book exchange.

The adoption process is in progress (thanks, Julie) and BT have asked about the number of panes of glass to be replaced. We take this as a good sign that they are prepared to put the structure in good order before we take it over! It seems basically sound but desperately in need of some TLC.

Lots of people have expressed an interest in this project and we will be in touch with you all as soon as we have a go - ahead.

Churches

St Michael & All Angels Church, Eastington

Team Rector: Vacancy
 Team Vicar: Revd Charles Minchin
 (01453 822332)
 Honorary Curate: Revd Angela Reeder
 (01453 827446)
 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 February and March 2017

Date	Time	Church	Service	Minister
Sunday 5 th February	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	Angela Reeder
Sunday 12 th February	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	John McHale
Sunday 19 th February	10am	Frocester	Benefice Service	John McHale
	6pm	Eastington	Evensong	Lay-led
Sunday 26 th February	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	Pat Freeth
Wednesday 1 st March	7.30pm	Eastington	Ash Wednesday Service	Peter Cheeseman
Sunday 5 th March	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	Angela Reeder
Sunday 12 th March	10.45am	Eastington	Holy Communion	Pauline Godfrey
Sunday 19 th March	10am	Haresfield	Benefice Service	Peter Newing
	6pm	Eastington	Evensong	Lay-led
Sunday 26 th March	10.45am	Eastington	Mothering Sunday Service	Pat Freeth

News from Eastington Church

On 1st December 2016, the Stroudwater Team was inaugurated, and a celebration service took place in Eastington Church on 31st January 2017 with the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Archdeacon of Gloucester and the Area Dean for Stroud.

The Stroudwater Team draws together 15 parishes and churches to work together under the Leadership of a Team Rector supported by two Team Vicars, a team of Readers and many others playing a part in the full life of these churches.

The Team will give us the opportunity to do things together that we cannot do alone. We look forward to the future as we build on the past and present in order to further the Mission of our churches in this lovely part of Gloucester Diocese.

We will shortly post an advert for the new Team Rector, with the aim of announcing the successful candidate at the start of the summer. Plans are also underway to fill the remaining position of Team Vicar.

Christingle Service

Over 200 adults and children filled Eastington Church on Christmas Eve to celebrate Christingle and Christmas. Over 80 Christingles were handed out and over £300 was raised for the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who came along, to those who donated money to the Children's Society, and the huge number of helpers who made the service a success.



Churches

Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday 26th March 2017 at 10.45am

Lasting for under an hour, the Mothering Sunday Service is a special service where families are invited to give thanks for and to those who care for us. During the service, flowers will be given out to mums and to anyone who would like to receive a posy.

The service is suitable for all ages, with refreshments served afterwards. If you would like to come and receive a posy, please contact Muriel Bullock at
1 Broadfield Road, Eastington GL10 3BL or on 01453 826172 **by Friday**



Eastington Church Needs You!

The Friends of Eastington Church was established in 2013, with the aim of maintaining, conserving and enhancing the fabric and interior of Eastington Church so that the church continues to serve the local community for years to come.

Eastington Church is involved in every aspect of our village, sometimes in ways that are obvious, sometimes less so. We realise that many people have an attachment to our Church; those who were married or baptised here; present and past parishioners; those who have visited and admired its historic interior and those who have developed an affection for this church as a place of prayer and service to the local community.

Due to the church's age, work is constantly required to keep the building in good condition. In addition to regular planned maintenance, there are numerous repairs needed in the next 5-10 years. Some of our urgent projects include the following:

Repairs to the masonry around tower; *Repairs to the West Window behind font;*
Maintenance of lighting and heating systems; *Replacement of tiles and lead flashings on roof.*

Please join the Friends of Eastington Church so that future generations can enjoy this place of worship and so that it can continue to serve the people of Eastington for many years to come.

Membership is open to all regardless of religious beliefs. New members are always welcome. The membership fee is a suggested donation of **£15 per person**. If you wish to give more we shall be very happy to receive it.

Eastington Church receives no statutory, government or other church funding – every penny we need to maintain and the building has to be raised through fundraising, donations and regular contributions.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider completing the Gift Aid Declaration as this significantly increases your donation to the Friends' scheme by 25% at no cost to yourself.

Electoral Roll



Belong



Participate



Contribute

The church's Electoral Roll is the register of its voting members; it is a list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Electoral rolls provide an indication of the real membership and strength of the church.

On 22nd February 2017, notice will be given of the intended revision to the electoral roll for Eastington Church. The revision will take place from 8th March 2017 until 21st March 2017.

Open to all baptised adults (over 16 years) who live in the parish, or who have worshipped regularly at Eastington Church for at least six months and are committed to being part of the life of the local Church of England congregation.

Enrolment is a way of saying.... "I belong". For us it is an act of commitment to Eastington Church and the church as a whole. It opens the way for a greater involvement in the life of the church at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels.

For more information please contact Chris Amys on 01453 821656 or at chris.amys@hotmail.com.

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>	

Messy Half Term – Wednesday 15th February

We have another Messy event coming up from 10:30am to about 11:30am during the February half term week. This will include the usual craft activities, a songs or two, a talk/video followed by the usual array of cakes together with hot and cold drinks. The event is free, suitable for all ages and all are welcome.

February Café Church – Sunday 19th February

The Café Church in February will be at 11am on the third Sunday of the month (usually it is the second) as we hope to coincide it with a visit from the Brownies.

Youth Club

The youth club runs at 7pm on Fridays.

On Saturday March 4th, we are expecting to take a group to a District event called JUMP.

This involves a visit to Wild Place near Cribbs Causeway to have a go at climbing and team building activities followed by a visit to a Methodist Church in Filton for a youth service, a Fish & Chips supper and a silent disco.



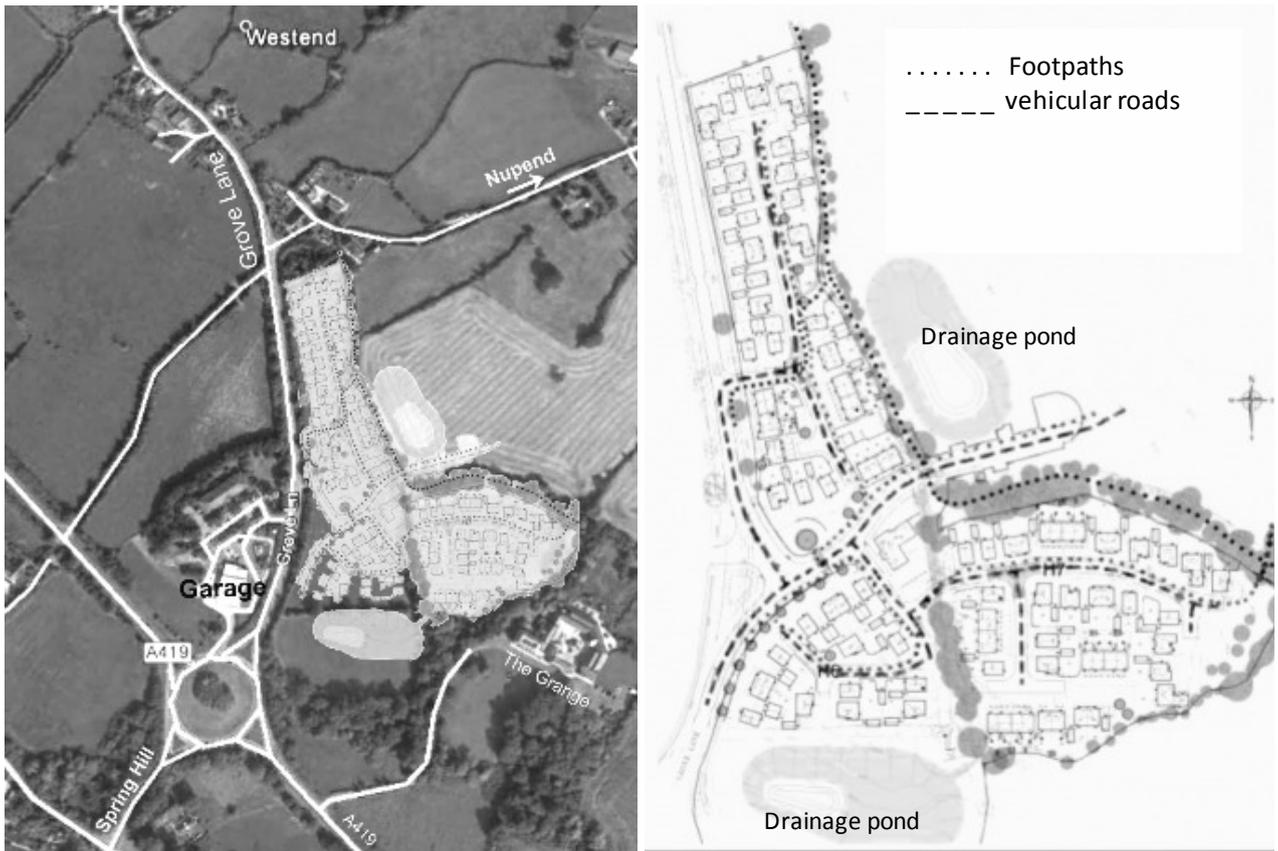
Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Community

West of Stonehouse gets a little closer....



(Not necessarily accurately to scale)

The detailed planning application (“reserved matters”) for the first phase of the West of Stonehouse development has been filed at SDC By the builders ‘Redrow’. It is worth a look, as there are lots of detailed diagrams of the proposed layout, access roads etc.

The above diagrams give a flavour. This application is for 103 units including 15 ‘social’ rent and 16 ‘affordable’ rent units. They are virtually all 2-storey buildings (with single story garages in front), with just the two dwellings at the very top centre of the diagram being described as 2.5 stories.

The threatened vehicular access onto Nupend lane has been removed, as mentioned previously.

The SDC Local Plan (p58) describes the overall development as ‘an urban extension to Stonehouse’. There is no mention in the application for this phase of any improved access to Stonehouse, nor any new ‘facilities’. The Design and Access document remarks that the new houses are within walking/cycling distance of Churchend (...and therefore our school....).

Completely missing is the agreed ‘structural landscape buffer’ between this part of the development and the existing Westend houses at the junction of Grove Lane and Nupend Lane. The Stroud Local Plan and our Neighbourhood Development Plan require structural landscape buffers to protect the distinct identity of each of the hamlets. This was specifically added to the Approved Revised Area Masterplan in December 2016.

To see the application plans in detail, and/or make comments go to

www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning

and search for application ref S.17/0095/REM

Jan Low

Community



Frocester WI's annual Jumble Sale comes to Eastington!

Saturday 25th February

Eastington Village Hall

Doors Open 10am

Entry fee 20p



Come and grab a bargain, and of course a cake!

Please bring jumble donations to the hall on the morning of the sale

Old Badger Inn
Eastington

www.oldbadgerinn.co.uk



Sunday 12th March

6 pm start

Fun General Knowledge Quiz

Music Round, Pot Luck
Creative Play-Doh round
Plus more....

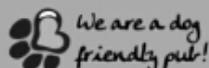
Cash Prizes

NEW

QUIZ NIGHT

£1 per person

Max teams of 6



For further details, speak to Julie!

ENJOY ADVENTURE? JOIN THE PACK.

Sevenside Cubs

Meet on Monday Evenings at Frampton Scout Hut
6.30-8pm

Boys and Girls aged between 8-10 Years
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Sevenside Scout Group
Frampton Scout Hut
Whitminster Lane

Call Kim on 07872107298
or email sevensidecubs@gmail.com

www.scouts.org.uk



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