

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

Hello Readers,



May we wish you a very Happy Christmas (be it 'merry' or peaceful as is your preference) and all the very best for 2018, from all of us here at ECN.



We are happy to report on yet more successful events organised, run and supported by you, the wonderful community of Eastington. Jennifer Empson and her team at the Eastington Primary School P.A. gave us a very well organised Halloween experience, Anna-Marie Smart and the Ladies of Eastington gave us an excellent Xmas Fayre in the Village Hall, Donna Dalby and the ladies at the playgroup pampered and primped us at the Community Centre while Vanessa Cousins, Bill Edwards and co. try to keep us healthy and happy with their regular community walks - and there are many more goings-on too.

A big thank you to everyone involved in all the happenings in the Parish, as well as to all those who keep vigilant and help to defend our little corner of the world against the ever present threat of inappropriate (or as in the case of the roundabout, just plain careless) developments.

Warmest Wishes

Mary, Jan and Tom

email : info@ecnme.uk

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Christmas Tree Festival 1 st - 3 rd December, see page 15	Santa Cruises 2 nd - 17 th December, see page 17	Christmas Bazaar & Silent Auction 8 th December, see pages 5 & 14
Community Land Trust AGM 7 th December, 7:30, village hall	Rudolph's Ramble 17 th December, 10:30 (see page 5)	Detox Walk 21 st January, 1pm at the Badger

Next deadline for submission: Monday 22nd January 2018

Email your articles to articles@ecn.me.uk

Next Delivery: Weekend of February 3rd, 2018

*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 it in colour on our website: www.ecn.me.uk

Councils

PARISH MATTERS



We welcome Lynne Farnden to the parish council following her co-option in October. The Council is now back to full complement and Lynne is looking forward to assisting with our various projects.

Some of you have contacted us about the recent works on Chipmans Platt roundabout; the works are being carried out by Severn Trent Water in relation to the West of Stonehouse development. Unfortunately, Amey Highways and Severn Trent Water both overlooked the detail that the roundabout is a designated "Conservation Road Verge" which means it has a special ecostructure and needs to be protected. A restoration/re-instatement scheme is to be produced and implemented and Gloucestershire County Council is investigating how the mistake was made, to prevent this happening again in the future. If you'd like to know more about Conservation Road Verges, please have a look at this County Council webpage at this short-link.

<https://goo.gl/AzFmgL> .



Planning continues to be a very busy area for the parish council with the recent Local Plan Review and applications for planning consent continue to arrive thick and fast. The most recent being the hotel and restaurant/pub proposed for land at Pike Lock. The parish council's planning committee meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, usually at 6pm at the village hall. Please do come along and let the committee know your views about any planning matter. Stroud District Council's upgraded planning website has had a lot of teething troubles and it has been difficult to view the plans online, we're advised that they are working hard to resolve the issues.

It has been almost 12 months since two of the publically-accessible defibrillators were installed in the parish (one at the community centre and one at Westend Suites). We're discussing alternative locations at Alkerton Cross for the 3rd defibrillator, originally planned for the Co-op. Some good news, we now have permission to install a 4th defibrillator at the church at Churchend.

The Parish Office will close on Friday 22nd December re-opening on Tuesday 2nd 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

Environment

Chipmans Platt Roundabout

Val Taylor has long been a champion of Chipmans Platt roundabout (what most of us probably still know as the Little Chef roundabout), and has catalogued and photographed nearly 100 different species of wild flowers and grasses to be found on that one little island.

The full list can be seen on the ecn website, and it makes for fascinating reading even if you are not a botanist - surely plants with ancient names like prickly sow-thistle, hairy St John's-wort, false fox-sedge, biting stonecrop and beaked hawksbeard deserve some of our attention.

Val writes: "The Key species are the Bee and Pyramidal orchids and the wonderfully named Corky-fruited water dropwort of the carrot family. However, the real value of the whole is the plant diversity and consequently the wildlife - butterflies, moths, bees, ants and other insects - it attracts. There's nowhere else in the parish quite like it (with the adjacent verges).



Corky-fruited water dropwort



Bee Orchid

Remember the days when your car headlights and windscreens were covered in insects? Well, it doesn't happen nowadays. The decrease in insect populations is catastrophic. I know some can be pesky, but the seriousness of their demise cannot be underestimated. Not only are they pollinators of our food crops but most are at the bottom of the food chain for other species of insects, reptiles, birds, mammals – ultimately us.

Lastly, it's not just what's on the island but the aesthetic, too. It's lovely to look at. I have enjoyed many years walking over it, photographing it, driving round it, watching the seasons change; it's brightened my life."

The Conservation Road Verges register is maintained by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) . It attempts to to identify and protect verges of significant wildlife or community value in the County. The idea is to ensure that these verges receive appropriate conservation management as part of highways maintenance and related schemes.



Pyramidal Orchid

Our roundabout is designated CVR009 on the register. Sadly, this does not afford any legal protection, but the sites on the register are recognised by the planning authorities and the National Planning Policy Framework as being an important part of the biodiversity requirement.

Val, and during her recent absence, Andrew Niblett have been instrumental in ensuring that our roundabout is and stays on the register and that the various bits of District and County Council honour this.



Photos: Val Taylor



Groups

Walkie Talkies



We enjoyed a simply stunning walk on 15th October starting at Stamages Lane, Painswick. The route took us through meandering lanes, up muddy paddocks and through pretty fields and over streams. The views were very impressive and the low autumn sun was warm and welcoming as we journeyed through the Slad valley, quarry, Hawkwood, Wick street and Sheepscombe. The walk took us about 4 hours and approx. 7 miles.



Up hill and down dale our legs did ache a bit afterwards so a medicinal drink was much needed and enjoyed afterwards at The Falcon. Bill Edwards lead a very enjoyable walk also in and around the fields of Eastington.

November's walk was lead by Wendy Fabbro and took us under the M5 underpass and over fields eventually coming out at a stile up to A38. After a few yards we crossed over and walked through the solar farm to Wickster's Brook and onto The George at Cam. After a brief rest we continued to Elmcote farm, through lovely fields and

onto Saint Peter's church. The route continued until we eventually walked through Farmer Cozens's fields and homeward bound to the Kings Head before departing. Thank you Wendy for leading this very interesting walk.

We meet mostly at the Badger 1:00 pm every third week of the month - however, please note that for our **Rudolf's Ramble** Sunday 17th December we are starting at the earlier time of 10.30 am at The Old Lodge Minchinhampton.

After that, our next walk is '**The detox walk**' Sunday 21 January 1:00 pm at The Badger Inn details on all notice boards.

Find us on Facebook under **The Eastington Community Walking Group**

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop me an email, we'd love to hear from you. We welcome people of any age. And we welcome dogs on leads with poo bags. We have lots of exciting and beautiful routes to share with you so come along and join us next time!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all!

Vanessa and co.

vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk

01453 828557 / 07806 802540



Groups

PROWD

I'm pleased to say that PROWD has been awarded monies from local Funding, so, I hope to be able to start ordering more kissing gates in the near future.

Obviously it all depends on weather conditions as to when they can be installed.

Good walking during the Winter months.

Best wishes, Bill Edwards 824452



Rudolph's Ramble

**Sunday 17th December 10:30 am Meet at The Old Lodge,
Minchinhampton Common.**



We normally meet at the Badger 1pm every third week of the month - however, **please note** our Rudolph's Ramble Sunday 17th December will be starting at the earlier time of 10.30 am at The Old Lodge Minchinhampton.

Included are mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine afterwards hosted by Vivienne and Steve Taylor.

Please book your place by phoning me 01453 828557 / 07806 802540.

We will walk for approx. 2 hours, up and around Amberley.

I can give two people a lift in my car if you need and others can give lifts as well. Just get in touch.

See you all there - Vanessa.



The Eastington Community Walking Group.

Eastington School P.A. Christmas Silent Auction

In Aid of Eastington School Parent's Association and as a part of this year's Christmas Celebration we are running our first 'silent auction'. Our generous business community has donated some super items that you can bid for.

These range from a full Christmas make-over, to an MOT and include days out, a days work from a first class builder, a window cleaning session, Cinema and Rugby tickets etc etc etc

The full list of lots and details of how to bid are listed on Facebook at 'Love Eastington',

or enquire at the school or email : eastingtonschoolpa@gmail.com

or download all details and a bidding form from www.ecn.me.uk/pdfs/silentauction.pdf (pdf 4 pages)

Closing date Friday 8th December

Groups

Eastington School Parents' Association - Halloween Walk

In October we held our third Halloween walk and we just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who made it such a good event. We met at The Badger where we had our first treats then we were welcomed at lots of houses along the way finally finishing at Kings Head House where we played some games and had a pumpkin competition. It's only made possible by our brilliant hosts who make such an effort to decorate and give out so many sweets.

We think in total we had about 100 children which is amazing. People came from far and wide and we have heard on the grape vine that a couple of other local communities are going to run their own next year, which is great.

See you next year!



Registered Charity No. 1084981

Eastington Playgroup

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

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 offer half days and full days, Monday to Thursday and we accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers.

From September 2017 we will also be taking the 30 hour funded places (subject to parent eligibility) and expect to be very busy, so please don't miss your chance to reserve a space for your child. 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.

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

07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com

or visit our website www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com

Groups



Eastington Playgroup

This half term we have been very busy fundraising and also thinking about others. We have also been fundraising for Children in need and the children have been dressing up and baking cakes to sell to raise money for others less fortunate than ourselves.

Well done Playgroup children we have raised £35 in cake sales and dressing up donations.



Pamper Evening - Playgroup would like to thank everyone who was involved and supported our Pamper evening on Friday 17th November. We were delighted to see not only parents from Playgroup and school but also people from the village. It was a very enjoyable evening, we had a hairdresser, many beauticians giving mini treatments such as massage, reflexology, threading and manicures all equally popular. There was also a Clairvoyant to visit which was very interesting and some stalls selling Christmas goodies. All topped off with a fantastic raffle and a glass of fizz.

Such a lovely evening and all raised funds will help support Playgroup to continue to extend children's learning and keep up to date with new experiences.

Thank you 'Ladies of Eastington' you were so generous in donating your profits from your Christmas Craft event to us - we are very excited to use the money to put towards our Christmas presents for the children this year. Thank you again very much!

Christmas Tree Festival We are also planning to enter the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's & All Angels Eastington church – our tree will be themed 'Our Tree of the Natural World', the children will be drawing a picture to hang on the tree of something they love about nature to focus on the natural world they live in. Everyone is invited to come and 'vote' for their favourite tree, £2 per voting disc.

If you read this in time, please come along and enjoy.

Saturday 2nd December – Exhibition open 10am – 6pm

Sunday 3rd December – Exhibition open 10am – 4pm



Acknowledgement - Pamela Joyce Harris

Trevor, Sarah and Lyndon would like to thank those who sent cards or attended Pam's funeral service and generously donated to her charity choice.

A total of £688.00 has now been passed on to Cancer Research UK.

Trevor Harris

Groups

Ladies of Eastington

Well what an eventful couple of months we've had. Firstly a night making tree decorations for our Ladies Of Eastington Tree in the Christmas Tree Festival and then our super Christmas Fayre which we held in the village hall. All of our stallholders produce was absolutely delightful, well displayed and certainly well received. We managed to make a donation of all our profits to Eastington Playgroup, so really well done ladies, I'm very proud of you all for your help and hard work in making that day a huge success. Thank you.



A donation of £158.25 to Eastington Playgroup!! Mandy has told me the money is to go towards presents for the children from Father Christmas a huge thank you to all our Ladies involved.



We don't have a meeting at the village hall in December but instead are having a night out at The Old Badger on the 14/12/17 with a few nibbles, if you are a 'Lady Of Eastington' and haven't yet put your name down for food please let me know ASAP on 07581 010884.

Many thanks and a Merry Christmas to all.

Anna-Marie Smart

Planning

Spotlight on Ecotricity threat to William Morris College

Here in Eastington we are well aware of the threat posed to William Morris College by the Ecotricity plans. The original proposal, to build a huge football stadium right on William Morris's doorstep would have been catastrophic for the college. The new proposal (not yet fully disclosed) is to move the planned football stadium just across the road to the site north of the A419, and leave the site south of the A419 'open', just waiting for more favourable planning conditions to build a business park there. Neither of these prospects bring any comfort at all to the college.

Over recent weeks, both the work and the plight of the threatened College have been highlighted with two important visitors.

In October, Gloucestershire County Council leader Cllr Mark Hawthorne visited William Morris College, saying *"I felt it was important to see for myself what effect the proposed development might have on the college. I found it inspiring to meet the staff and students and see the important work they are involved in."* He was able to see that the college provides essential learning and independence skills for young people with learning difficulties and major conditions including severe autism, and that if the business park were ever to be built, the disruption would be massive - shattering the oasis of calm necessary for young people who are extremely vulnerable to any disruption.

Cllr Hawthorne also strongly rejected claims by Dale Vince that county council highways has been dragging its feet over the planning application. He said it was a *"complicated application and serious reservations had been raised about the impact on the local transport network."*

In November, Jo-Anne Bradford of KER, along with other members of the group and Stroud Green Councillor Martin Whiteside met with our Green Party MEP Molly Scott Cato. They were able to voice the concerns of the community regarding the Ecotricity proposals and to accompany her on a visit to William Morris College.

Molly began by saying *"As a Green Party we shouldn't always jump to protect any new development as we lose credibility, but we should question if the development is justifiable....."* The visit to William Morris college certainly reinforced the point that this development cannot be considered as justifiable. Well done Eastington!



Our hot-off-the-press **Local Plan** is already under review. The plan undergoes a rolling five-year review and Stroud planners are starting to consider what should be in the plan come 2021.

Part of this review is an exercise known as 'SALA' - Strategic Assessment of Land Availability. This is a 'desk' study wherein planners study a map and without regard to any 'human' considerations simply pinpoint areas that geographically look as though they might be suitable for 'development'. This is done in order to calculate their 'buffer stock' of potential housing and employment land, which legally they have to maintain. Sadly, of course, builders and developers take it to mean that they have every right to expect to be allowed to build there, and defending the places identified in this manner becomes very much more difficult.

The Ecotricity sites have been included in this process. The only way to try to protect valued sites from almost guaranteed development in the future is to prevent their inclusion in the updated Plan. **You can object to Stroud DC if you want to protect these sites.** Write to "Local Plan Review, The Planning Strategy Team, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Stroud GL5 4UB" and describe why these sites are important to you, or what other areas in the district might be more beneficially developed.

This consultation phase closes on 5th December - Please do not delay.

Please see the KER website keepeastingtonrural.wordpress.com for more details

Groups

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

At groups we are enjoying getting ready for the Festivities ahead, learning how to still lose weight successfully during this more challenging time of the year. From the preparations of Christmas Shopping - not only the present buying trips and food shop but also the joy of buying a new outfit for a party or for the big day itself in that all important smaller size - through to the celebrations, the works Christmas Do, the friends get together and the family celebrations. We've had fun in group learning about better food and drink choices, how to plan ahead to protect our weight loss journeys and how to put together a beautiful menu for lots of different situations.

For example

The Christmas Day Menu

To Start -

- Homemade tomato and basil soup
- Hot smoked salmon with prawns

The Main Event -

- Roast lean Turkey
- Slimming World sausages wrapped in lean bacon
- Slimming World roast potatoes
- Slimming World roast parsnips
- Sprouts, Carrots, peas, cauliflower
- Stuffing ball
- Gravy

To Finish - a choice of

- Fresh fruit salad
- Slimming World Christmas pudding

Tomato and Basil soup

Low calorie cooking spray
 900g ripe tomatoes, 1 tsp dried oregano
 1 large onion chopped, 2 garlic cloves crushed
 1 litre hot vegetable stock
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 2 tbsp chopped fresh basil
 Roasted cherry tomatoes and fresh basil leaves, to garnish

- Arrange tomatoes on a baking tray, spray lightly with low calorie cooking spray and sprinkle with the oregano. Bake in a preheated oven at 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas 6 for 10-15 minutes, until the tomatoes start to soften and the skins begin to char.
- Meanwhile place the onion and garlic in a large, heavy-based saucepan with 300ml of the stock. Bring to boil, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Peel and chop the roasted tomatoes and add to the pan along with the remaining stock. Simmer for 15-20 minutes.
- Purée the soup in a blender or food processor. Return the soup back to the pan to reheat, season well and add the basil. Serve garnished with some roasted cherry tomatoes and basil leaves.

Slimming World Roasties

- Par boil your potatoes for five minutes and drain
- Fluff up the surface of the potatoes by shaking them in the pan or colander, this will make them crispy on the outside.
- Put into a non-stick roasting pan, mist with low calorie cooking spray, sprinkle lightly with sea salt, garlic and grated lemon zest and bake in a moderate pre-heated oven for about 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Tip: For even more flavour add sage leaves or sprigs of rosemary to the potatoes

We've shared lots of delicious recipes with each other to help and support each other through the weeks and will continue to do so right through December, through the Christmas holidays and on through to the new year. Our groups are held every single week, 52 weeks of the year so that all important support in group is there every single week. It's never too late to join us and if you want to get started now before the New Year is here come along and join us and get a head start on that weight loss you want to achieve in 2018.

We welcome new members every week. I look forward to meeting you.

So from all of us at both Eastington and Stonehouse groups we wish you a Very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes, Lorna x

Groups

Teddytunes

"Come along and have a good old fashioned sing song at **Teddytunes!**"

Every Thursday morning during termtime at Frampton Village Hall Hall 10:00 - 11:30 am.



Fun musical coffee mornings with Vanessa and her guitar! Everyone's welcome. Bring your friends and make new friends. Join our marvellous 'glamorous grannies' on hand with tea and homemade cake...feel uplifted as we sing sea shanties, blow bubbles, have a laugh. Join the Dancing, clapping...banging of drums and sleeping of lions....

At Teddytunes I play "live" guitar and piano and have a large and varied selection of top quality instruments for the children to play. We encourage the little ones to sing a tune and tap to a beat. I believe all babies are born musical and your voice is very special to them. Children and babies are stimulated by melodies and rhyme and this early stimulation can greatly enhance speech and language development. As their confidence grows you will delight in their achievements at Teddytunes.

£6 plus £1 for each additional child or adult. Pay as you go and you may join any week, just turn up. Have a look at our website for

pictures and directions etc. Find us on Facebook for video clips of our classes in action. Please get in touch any time for more info. 07806 802540 / www.teddytunes.co.uk / vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk. A warm welcome awaits....

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all! Vanessa Cousins

Ps last Teddies Thursday 14th Dec. Back Jan 4th.

Hair and Beauty House Eastington

re-launches as

Ladies and Gents Hairdressing

using L'Oréal quality products

Tues-Fri: 9-5 pm and Sat 9-1 pm

* Late night Thursday open 'til 8 pm

BEAUTY ROOM Now open

Gels, Waxing etc.



Christmas Offers and Gift Vouchers available

01453 791251

An out of town salon experience



History

A notable Eastington auction

It's true – you can find anything on the internet if you look long enough. At other times, things seem to find you. The subject of this article is one of the latter, and given the major changes taking place in the lower end of the village, its appearance was strangely timely.

I stumbled across an internet auction that harked back to a much earlier one – in this case, it was 1832 and the lot in question encompassed Nupend, Nastend, West End and several farms. I managed to buy the sales particulars that describe one enormous lot that essentially covered a sizable chunk of the village beyond the canal. It's not clear who was selling this great tract of land and buildings, although potential bidders were directed to Mr Savage 'the principal tenant in the village'. The sale was advertised in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bath, Bristol, Dursley, and Covent Garden in London, amongst others. The auction itself was held at the Auction Market in London at 12 o'clock on Thursday the 25th of October 1832, with Mr George Robins presiding.

Details of what was on offer provide an interesting insight into the makeup of that part of the village and how some of the residents made their livings. The sale particulars describe:

a valuable freehold investment known as Nupend, Nastend or Nassend, West End and Elm Tree Farms, consisting of suitable farm houses, labourers' cottages and 415 acres.

In Disneyesque fashion it goes on to describe capital land, divided into snug farms and occupied by a respectable, happy and contented tenantry (I wonder how happy they really were?!) - situated in the rich Vale of Gloucester. No less than four farm houses were mentioned and the fertility of the land was emphasised – it was described as proverbially rich and suitable for all forms of agriculture.

Further attractions for potential buyers included its proximity to the Bristol-Birmingham high road, and the Thames and Severn Canal that runs parallel with the boundary of the property (it's actually the Stroudwater Canal at this point. It doesn't become the Thames & Severn until it reaches Wallbridge in Stroud). The nearness of the canal was stressed as a useful means for transporting agricultural produce to the ports of Bristol and London. Of the 415 acres of land offered, around 170 were considered to be arable. It was suggested that the rental income generated from the farms etc. would amount to £784-17-0 a year, although the sale particulars quietly noted that this was 20% lower than it had been in earlier times. However, it goes on to state that:

it may be inferred, now that the sun shines so brilliantly on the efforts of its industrious and talented farmer, that the former rental may (and at no great distance of time) be contemplated.

Apart from arable land and buildings, the lot also included groves, orchards and plantations. As if this wasn't enough to attract a wealthy buyer, a further inducement was noted:

there are several interesting spots to erect a corresponding mansion, and so inviting that a man of taste will find it exceedingly difficult to resist the temptation; and if he be fond of field sports he may indulge in it to his heart's content, with lots of game everywhere.

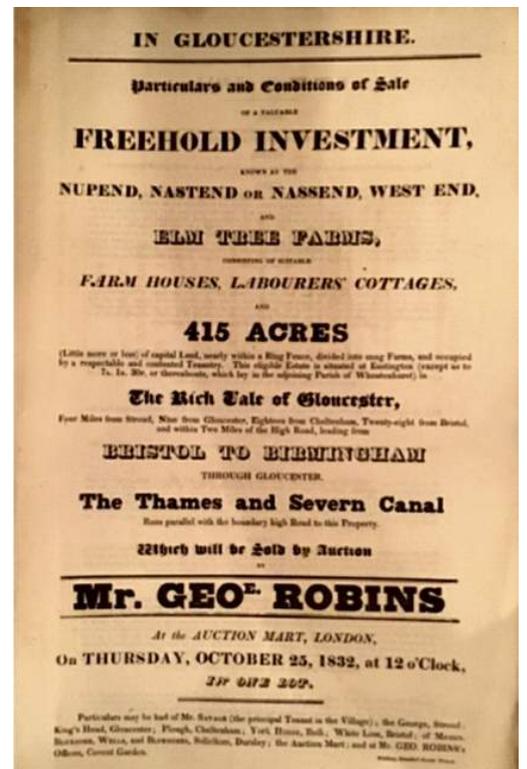
The fine details of the sale make interesting reading as it provides the names of individuals actively working the land at the time. The biggest farm offered was being run by Joseph Savage, with smaller ones occupied by Thomas Mitchell and Ann Carefield. A 'good dwelling house', garden, orchard and other land was occupied by a Mr Hawkins. Also mentioned was a grove of thriving young oaks and timber, as well as sundry plantations. The annual rental value of each is listed, as it was for various cottages and gardens at Nastend, as well as a farm house converted into two dwellings. Other cottages mentioned were at Nupend and West End. Between them all, they supposedly provided a rental income of £79 each year.

History

These papers are an interesting and rare survivor that for 175 years, somehow managed to escape the wastepaper basket or fireplace! They offer a fleeting glimpse into a time long gone, when many villagers earned their daily bread working on the land. But times change and the rosy picture painted in the sales documents don't necessarily tell the whole story. At the time, agriculture in general was going through tough times and farm workers often faced great hardship. It can only be imagined how difficult it must have been to live in a rundown tied cottage, hot and dusty in the summer and freezing cold in the winter. It was certainly no rural idyll.

Once again, changes are taking place in this part of the village, but this time, it won't be wheat and barley being grown and harvested. A new, very different crop is appearing, as houses begin to smother this venerable land. I wonder what it will look like in another 175 years?

***Much of the area covered by the sale, as shown on the 1881 OS map
- and the cover of the sales particulars of 1832***



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017 Eastington & District

LIVE ON



Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal. Special thanks are owed to our loyal band of door-to-door collectors, our local shops, school, petrol stations and pubs. Together we raised over £2500 in Eastington & District.

Your poppy supports the armed forces community past and present.

To find out more about how your donation helps visit rbl.org.uk

Community

Eastington Cricket Club

The Autumn work on the square has been done; those who need all year cricket are playing evening indoor games and the rest are dreaming of newly mown grass, cricket bat oil and sunshine!

2017 brought successes and improvements on and off the pitch. Winning the last 9 games took us to runners up position in division 1 of the Stroud League resulting in promotion and a new challenge for 2018. We won 13 and lost 4 league matches. Will Beese won the league batting (ave. 79.91, two hundreds, best 130 not out) and all-rounder awards.

The AGM was held in October where Neil Campbell was elected to the committee, joining the present officers who were re-elected.

The club held an end of season dinner at The Whitminster Hotel where appreciations were made of Will's batting and bowling, dad Roger's captaincy and batting (ave.44.3); Freddie Burrige's batting and bowling (ave. 28.2/19.3); Simon Wright's bowling (ave.13.6) and Keith Dench's 50 years as a player for E.C.C.

Despite the successful performances we still need more players, especially those who would like to play every game. However, occasional players are also welcome, so let us know if you are interested and when you are available.

Nets will take place at Maidenhill School on 8th, 15th, and 22nd April, 11am to 12.00.

Contacts: Roger Beese (captain) 01453-823128, 07884438417; Keith Dench (Secretary) 01453-764990



Eastington Community Centre

'Perfect for your special Party'

Modern attractive venue

Fabulous setting with countryside views

(Fully Licensed Bar)

For more information and bookings

contact Vanessa on 01453 828557



Churches

**St Michael and All Angels Eastington
Christmas Celebrations 2017**

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd December: Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 17th December: Carol Service 3 pm

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December:

Christingle Service 6pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm



Christingle Service

**At 6pm
On Christmas Eve**



We would love to see you and your family at this special candlelit nativity service - it's a lovely way to start the Christmas festival.

Lasting for about 40 minutes, the service raises money for the Children's Society, a national charity who uses the money to help disadvantaged children.

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. Call in at the Church from December to get a collecting candle.



Sunday 17th December 3:00 pm

Family Carol Service

Everyone is welcome

Community



EASTINGTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (ECLT) LIMITED

Secretary: Tom Low 01453 823425 / 07974 369680 Email: tom@eastingtonclt.uk

First Annual General Meeting (AGM)

7th December 2017

7.30pm for 7.45pm in the Village Hall

Members of ECLT are welcome to attend the AGM, where an exhibition of the designs for the proposed 23 houses for affordable rent, in Claypits, will be on display.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Board of Trustees, after the Financial Report and Board Report for 2016/17 have been delivered. The agenda and links to the draft accounts were e-mailed to all members on 22nd November 2017. Please contact the secretary if you need a re-supply: tom@eastingtonclt.uk

**** **New Members will be welcome too, membership £1** ****

The formal Annual Board Report will be published in early 2018 – news of this in the next ECN.

Affordable Homes for Eastington People

Pancreatic Cancer - An Appeal from Kim Ponting

Hello, my name is Kim and I live in the village. I wanted to ask for your help and support in a massive challenge I have set myself. In August of this year my dad passed away from Pancreatic cancer after only being diagnosed literally a year before, so my life has been turned upside down with this loss. I've decided to run the London Marathon in order to raise vital funds to help research this deadly cancer. Pancreatic cancer has one of the lowest survival rates and is not widely talked about but has a devastating effect on families so I want to do my bit. I have set myself a target of raising £2500 to go towards this fantastic charity Pancreatic Cancer UK. My brother is also running with me so in total we hope to donate £5000.

This is where you guys come in, I am training within the village so would love you to wave if you see me on my run and I would love for you to send me a donation of whatever you can to my just giving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Kim-Ponting>

This will be a huge challenge for me as I have recently had a baby boy born on the 17th July so as you can imagine my life is busy (I also have a 2 year old) and I am mostly sleep deprived but I am determined to give this a go! Your support means the world to me and my family and I hope I can help prevent other families go through what mine had to with the fantastic research this charity does.

Thank you so much in advance for all of your help and support, it means so much.

Kim



Events



Cotswold Canals Trust
Endeavour Trip Boat Operations



Santa Cruises at Saul Junction

December 2017

Saturdays: 2nd 9th 16th & 23rd

Sundays: 3rd 10th & 17th

First Trip — 10:00am
Last Trip — 3:30pm

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

Adult: £7 - Includes a mince pie & hot drink

Child: £7 - Includes a present

How to find us

From Junction 13 on M5, or A38 at Whitminster

Follow signs to Frampton-on-Severn

Then follow the brown Tourist Information signs to Saul Junction

The Visitor Centre is canal-side 200m beyond The Stables Café

Pre-booking not necessary

Just turn up and have fun!

Operated by Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers

All proceeds to restoration funds

cotswoldcanals.com



Groups

FRAMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY TALKS

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of 2018 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 Bradley on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com.

The Village Society continues to provide funding for various projects and initiatives within Frampton on Severn.

2018 Programme of talks for your diary:

26th January: The Fab 50's - Virginia & David Adsett

23rd February: Zimbabwe Steam Safari - Peter Berry

23rd March: Percy Grainger Folk Song Collecting in Gloucestershire - Gwilym Davies

27th April: Only Fools and Corsets! - Lorraine Parsloe

18th May: Woodchester Mansion & it's History - Woodchester team

22nd June: Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire - Dame Janet Trotter

Scarecrow Festival - date to be confirmed

17th August: Annual Visit - to Woodchester Mansion

28th September: The Queens Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard - Shaun McCormack

26th October: AGM and Bill Wood Memorial Presentation

23rd November: Get 'Orf Moy Land! - John Putley

1st December: Christmas Dinner

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Councils

District Councillor's Newsletter

We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2018.

It is always a good time of year to look back at what has happened in the last year and look forward into 2018. As it is Christmas I think it is only right that we focus at the many good things done by local government, rather than the important task of challenging and holding to account those things that don't always work well.

At Stroud District Council we have seen the first full year of the new **refuse collection and recycling** scheme. Although there are financial challenges implementing this the increase in recycling has been nothing short of phenomenal. The amount of landfill has been halved, recycling has increased and food waste collected exceeds 500 tonnes when previously we didn't collect this at all.

In other good news with the Stroud **Local Plan** in place we have seen an improvement in planning decisions. More appeals for inappropriate development have been rejected and some for appropriate development succeed. We have also seen the start of work at **West of Stonehouse**. There are still issues about the detailed plan for this development but I believe we have made progress. For example we have got **commitment to buffers** and I am now working with the Parish Council on the detailed definition of these. This will not be easy but we will continue to work to get the best result we can. It is important that we build these much needed homes.

Looking forward to 2018, the consultation on the next revision of the local plan has started and Eastington Parish Council has started to discuss their input into this process.

Personally I am pleased that **Ecotricity** have dropped their plans for a business park, and we await a new application for just a football stadium and will judge that appropriately. 2018 will be another busy year for planning and vigilance is key.

Finally if there is anything we can do to help, please contact

District Councillor John Jones at cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk or

District and County Councillor Stephen Davies at cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk.

Stephen....



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Churches



Eastington Methodist Church



Carols at the Café at 11am on 10th 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 and, as an incentive to come, there will be a small prize for those who bring a correctly completed word search puzzle and verse (below).

Christmas Word Search

Y	A	D	T	S	B	P	C	C	E	AFRAID ANGEL BORN CHRIST DAVID DAY GOOD GREAT JOY LORD NEWS PEOPLE SAVIOUR SHEPHERDS
S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	T	
A	I	O	S	E	C	R	R	A	E	
F	V	L	E	B	L	D	I	V	L	
R	A	U	E	A	T	P	S	I	P	
A	D	U	N	R	A	R	T	O	O	
I	C	G	D	N	E	S	I	U	E	
D	E	T	O	R	R	L	W	R	P	
L	C	Y	O	J	G	O	E	E	S	
Y	N	I	G	K	T	N	B	O	N	

Now insert the words above in the text beneath to find the message of Christmas (the words above are not in the correct order).

The _____ said to the _____, "Don't be _____! I am here with _____
 _____ for you, which brings _____ to all _____. This very _____ in _____'s
 town your _____ was _____, _____ the _____! Luke 2:10-11

Eastington Methodist Church Activities	
Baby & Toddlers Group	Mondays 10 – 11:30am
Prayer Meeting	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am
Lunchtime Bible Study	Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Bible Study House Group	Tuesdays – 7:30pm (at The Pike Lock House GL10 3RT)
Prayer Meeting	Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Youth Club (11-18)	Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Main Service (separate activities for children/young people available)	Sundays 11am (Café Church – Dec 10th & Jan 14th)
<i>All held at EMC which is opposite the butchers in Eastington, unless stated otherwise</i>	

Churches

Messy Christmas 10am on Wednesday 20th 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

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 22nd December. There probably won't be one on 29th December. We will confirm with the young people nearer the time if there will be one on 5th 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.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin 01453 827414



www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Winter planting at Browning's Orchard



On bright winter days it's bracing and pleasant to be out in the orchard, digging holes for trees. This photo from 2012, in Coneygree Orchard, shows winter clothing but you soon warm up and there's always the roaring fire at The Old Badger to look forward to!

Brownings Orchard is ready to take its first 20 trees this winter and preparing the holes will be done on December 2nd.

The saplings are already in the nursery at Coneygree, having been made by ECO members in the spring. We used prunings from the existing trees to graft

onto rootstocks which only cost £4. A similar sapling from a commercial nursery would cost £15, so learning to graft our own is very worthwhile – as well as technically satisfying.

Watch out for e-mails if you are already a member and posts on our facebook page and so that you can join in and help us re-create this orchard, which provided vital cider and perry to the travellers passing through or staying at the King's Head, in days gone by.



Eastington community Orchards

www.ecogroup.me

School

Eastington Primary School

Here at Eastington Primary, our community stretches far and wide, beyond our school gates and even beyond the village itself. We are lucky enough to have pen pals in both London and Kenya. Some of the children in Class 4 would like to share their experiences with you.

My pen pal is Ana and she goes to Charles Dickens school in London. We went to Wick Court Farm to meet them. When we spent time we each other, I felt really happy because she was very kind to me. One the walk we picked flowers. I loved meeting my buddy and hearing about her life.

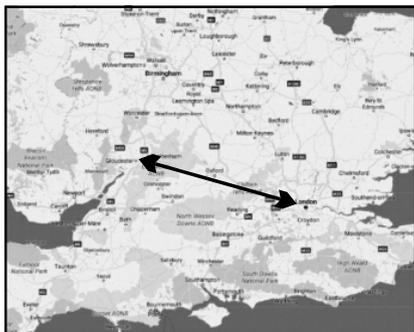
By Bea, year 5

My buddy's name is Yonzy. He lives in London. To be paired up, we met at Wick Court Farm. It was so nerve-racking on the way there because all we knew was their name. When I met Yonzy I was astonished to hear that he was ten years old and only around a centimetre taller than me! One main difference is that he lives in the city and I live in a village but we both love video games.

By Cameron, year 5

I like my pen pal Elias. He lives in London and Charles Dickens is the school he goes to. When I first met him, I felt rather worried that he was going to be completely different from me, but as time passed, I grew into him. He is kind, but with quite a mischievous sense of humour, meaning he is quite funny to talk to! I really giggle at some of the tricks he plays! Most of all though, I really enjoyed having a game of football with him and all our friends. I would really want to see him again.

By James, year 5



My pen pal's name is Sirra and she goes to Charles Dickens Primary school in London. We met at Wick Court Farm. When I met her, she told me a bit about herself. She is eleven years old and is in year 6. She is really kind and quite funny too. I was really excited to have a London buddy. They have a different experience to us because they live in such a big city.

By Daisy, year 5



School



My pen pal's name is Ashly, she lives in Kenya. Ashly goes to Langa Langa Primary in Gilgil. We sent Easter cards last year and Mr Dougan took them to Kenya for us. It is wonderful to have letters back from the other side of the world. We have raised money for them as they couldn't do their homework without light. We bought them 64 solar lights. Even though there are about 7,000 miles between us, we still are great friends completely through letters! I can't wait for the next one.

By Matilda, year 4

My pen pal lives in Kenya. She likes to draw animals in their habitat and she is very good at it. I am looking forward to chatting more with her in our letters. She is very excited and would like me to draw her an elephant. She also likes drawing and I have been hoping for her to send me more of her pictures. She is a very good artist. We have raised money for the Kenyan children to have lights at home to do their homework.

By Imi, year 4

My pen pal's name is Sylvania. She lives in Kenya and goes to Langa Langa Primary. We write letters to each other. Her letters are covered in her amazing drawings. She doesn't get paper too often and her school usually writes on pre-used paper but when she writes to me she uses lined paper as a special usage. She writes as neatly as possible so she doesn't waste paper. Two years ago we raised money in a fun run to buy solar lamps for them, so the children could revise for their exams. To think we are 7,000 miles away and yet we are still friends.

By Max, year 4

My buddy goes to Langa Langa Primary in Kenya. I like having a buddy because it gives me something to think about at home and what their reaction is to my letters. It's also quite fun writing the actual letter. It makes me feel happy writing to her. We also make Easter cards to the children. I hope my card got a good reaction.

By Ted, year 4



Community

Fieldfare Café at Thistledown Farm



Now serving our new lunch menu Weds to Sun & brunch at the weekend!

Fieldfare Café is located on our family farm overlooking Woodchester Park, with stunning views from our dining conservatory and open kitchen. Our food is prepared with a charcoal BBQ and wood-fired clay oven using local produce, foraged ingredients and free range meats. We serve vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options, and stock a range of locally-sourced alcohols. From Oct - March guests can explore all 75 acres of our farm, so why not come up for lunch, have a walk around the farm and then warm up beside our woodburner with a hot drink - we donate 5% of all hot drinks sales to charity. We're open 9am - 4:30pm Weds to Sun and offer brunch Sat & Sun. Join our mailing list for details of events such as vegan tapas nights, wood-fired sourdough pizzas, storytelling sessions and foraging walks!

thistledown.org.uk 01453 860420 thistledown farm, tinkley lane, nympsfield, GL10 3UH

Our campsite was established 10 years ago and has won many awards including the 'England's Number One Campsite' from: Guardian Travel, Cool Camping, MSN Travel, Red Bull Adventure Guide and more! A couple of years ago we decided to set up a café for the campers but it's since proved even more popular with locals. Our café uses free range meats and Organic produce wherever possible, including award-winning local suppliers such as Salt Bakehouse and Woefulthane Organic Dairy. We are now open Wednesday - Sunday for lunch, and offer brunch at the weekend and evening meals and pop-up events on selected nights. Our dining conservatory offers stunning views of Woodchester Park and houses the open kitchen where meals are prepared using our wood-fired clay oven and charcoal barbecue.

We are now donating 5% of all hot drinks sales to Stroud Valleys Project to spend on tree planting and habitat creation within the Stroud District. They rely on donations and volunteers to operate so hopefully this will make a big difference and enable the planting of thousands of extra trees per year. We feel sure that this will resonate with a lot of our customers, especially once we start seeing the woodland creation that's been funded by it - in two months we've already raised nearly £500 for SVP!

**The Big Garden Birdwatch
Sat 27th - Mon 29th Jan**

Join in the RSPB annual National Bird Survey, which helps to assess our bird population trends.

If you would like to take part, you can register online at www.rspb.org.uk, or you can pick up a survey form from the SVP eco shop at 8, Threadneedle Street in Stroud during January.

For more information, contact Stroud Valleys Project 01453 753358.
www.stroudvalleysproject.org

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