

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!



Dear Readers,

We bring you a little colour in these grey February days - a brief look back at the super job all of you did who supported the Eastington Christmas Tree festival. Well done to all concerned.

Looking ahead, in this issue we feature more of the big village events that are coming up as well as some reminders of the great venues that we are lucky enough to have in (or very close to) the village itself. For such a small village we do rather well, with our own Village Hall, the Community Centre and sports facilities and our own two great 'pubs' - not forgetting our school and churches - all with 'goings on' to which we are welcomed and can take part in - often, for many of us, without needing to even think about the car.

Enjoy!

Your production team: Tom & Jan Low and Mary Gribble (email : info@ecn.me.uk)

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Diary Dates

Cafe Church, 11am 11 th February, Methodist Church	Messy Half Term, 10am Wed 14 th Feb, Methodist Church	Snakey Park Working Party, 10am Saturday 17 th Feb,, Snakey Park
Jumble Sale, 10am, Sat 24 th Feb, Frocester Cricket Club	Quiz and Curry Night, Fri 2 nd March, Elmore Village Hall	Severn Bore Breakfast, 8:30 Sun 4 th March, Hill Farm, Longney
Yard Trail Sunday 8 th April	Easter Egg Hunt, from 10am Sunday 14 th April	Fun Family Walk 3 rd Sunday of each month

Next deadline for submission: Monday 19th March for delivery on the weekend of the 1st April 2018

Please email your stories and photos to articles@ecn.me.uk

Or write to Hazel Cottage, Millend, Eastington

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

See it in colour and more on our website: www.ecn.me.uk

School

Eastington Primary School

Here, at Eastington Primary School, class two have been learning how to become Super Heroes! We want to be great thinkers with good mental health. We learn to 'bounce back' and as this is not necessarily an innate skill; we all need to practice.

Through thought provoking and exciting activities, we are encouraged to develop resilience, self-confidence and a pride in 'being me'.

We want our children to have the skills to think before acting and it is hoped that this will create more confident, resilient children with raised aspirations and sense of self.

Some of the children in class 2 would like to tell you what makes them special, a time when they have shown resilience, what they need to get better at and how they can help others in their daily lives. Here is what they have to say!

Marcie has been resilient in maths, she's found division tricky but hasn't given up!

Harrison helps others by helping them up if they fall over.

Nathan is special because he has French heritage in his family, he wants to get better at speaking French too.

Jack helped his Dad when he hurt his leg.

Dexter wants to get better at swimming and swim 10 metres.

Basil is special because he knows a lot about dinosaurs.

Rosa is special because she can put her leg all the way around her head!

Rio helped Finley when he fell over in the playground.

Maude has shown resilience in her ballet classes, preparing for the Peter Pan show.

Rubie has been resilient when trying to play basketball at school. She didn't get the ball in the hoop, but she tried and tried and eventually it went in.

Seren is going to help others by picking up litter from the floor.

Quinn is special because he plays football for a local football team.

Lola is special because she won a bike race with Phoenix.

Adam is special because he can swim 25 metres.

Maisie has been resilient when learning to ride her bike.

Freya would like to get better at her joined-up handwriting.

Emma is kind and helpful to others.

Harry is special because he scored a goal at football.

Liyah would like to get better at front crawl in her swimming lessons.

Purdey is special because she is kind to injured animals.

Phoenix would like to get better at her maths.

Bethan is special because she competes in cheer leading competitions.

Oscar is special because he is the only person in class 2 that can speak Japanese.

Laila was resilient when learning to ride her bike.

Finley was resilient in a football match because he fell down and stood straight back up and scored a goal.

Florence needs to get better at remembering to use capital letters at the beginning of her sentences.

Harun has shown resilience in his writing recently.

Violet would like to get better at her maths.

Izzy was resilient in maths recently, she tried her best.

Jacob is special because he has a farmyard and chickens.



School



Update From Eastington Parents Association

Firstly some great news. Over the Christmas period the PA raised £2,500 to support the school. This is a significant increase on last year's total and wouldn't be possible without our brilliant committee and all those who contributed including the people who; manned stalls, donated items for hampers, baked cakes, promised items for the auction, purchased and wrapped over 100 gifts, donated toys and books (and in some cases brought them back again!), came to help set up, made beautiful things for the locally made stall, cleared up, placed auction bids, purchased tea towels, made posters, arranged and ran wreath making, and of course everyone who attended the events and spent their hard earned money and all the many other contributions, big and small that really make a difference to the school.

Increasingly these events are supported by the wider community, as volunteers at events, donating items and as small businesses sponsoring us, we couldn't do it without you so thank you.

Every penny goes towards improving the educational experience for our children and the impact of these additional funds is felt by every child in the school.

Our next Major event is Eastington Egg Hunt. We know this went down really well last year and we are pleased to say we have already had a fantastic response from many local businesses who are interested in sponsoring eggs. Closer to the time we will be appealing for volunteers to help on the day so please join us if you can.

Jen Empson – Chair



“save the date”

for this year's village egg hunt !

It will take place on

Saturday 14th April, from 10am - 5pm

throughout the whole village.

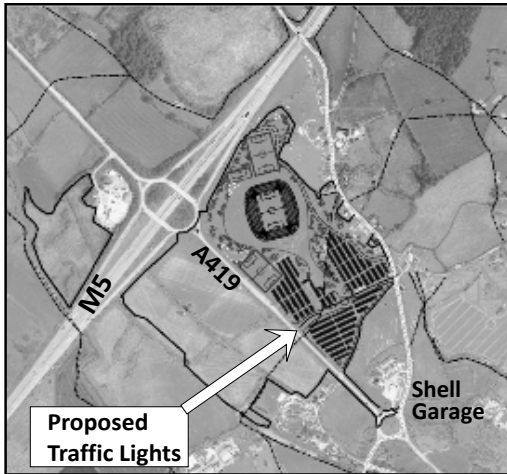
The theme this year is Children's TV programs and characters -
there will be lots of fun and games for all.

The Vale Community Hospital Fete

The Vale Community Hospital is holding a fete Saturday May 12th 2-5pm. The stalls are £10 or £5 for a charity. If anyone is interested in having a stall please get in touch with Carrie Watt-Boyd at wattboyd2@gmail.com

Planning

Ecotricity - The New Stadium Proposal



Following discussions with Stroud District Planners, Ecotricity have been advised that their original proposal would not fly and so have amended their planning application.

It retains the original planning reference S.16/0043/OUT

The planning application no longer includes any employment/business park and the proposed Nature Conservation Area to the west of the M5 has been removed.

The 'Sports Complex' has been reduced in scale and repositioned to the north of the A419 as shown

Consequently, this outline application is now 'just' for a replacement 5,000 capacity stadium for Forest Green Rovers Football Club (FGRFC) Including a Club Shop, food and beverage

facilities, a health and fitness suite all purely for FGRFC as well as training /conference rooms and office space for FGRFC staff.

The proposal also includes two full size grass training pitches, a goal practice area, parking for around 1,740 cars, and parking for coaches and bicycles. A parkland setting is envisaged with the planting of some additional 500 trees and 1.8km of new hedgerows. In addition full planning permission is being sought for traffic light controlled access off the A419, including a pedestrian crossing, and a foot/cycleway along the south side of the A419 with some reinstatement of the hedges and lay-bys.

It should be noted that some of this work will be provided under the Gloucestershire Growth Deal, wherein the Government has already agreed to invest £4.4m by 2021 via GFirst LEP for junction improvements and carriageway widening within the A419. This was meant to provide necessary improvements to the road before any effects of the stadium were considered.

It should also be noted that all pretence of a 'public amenity' for sporting activity has been dropped, and the whole project is **entirely** for the benefit of Forest Green Rovers.

The upside of this is that activity should be limited to Saturday afternoons and the occasional Tuesday evening. The Downside is that it will sit empty, as a white elephant, for the rest of the time – until FGR decide to make some cash by renting it out for goodness-only-knows-what purposes when they run out of money.

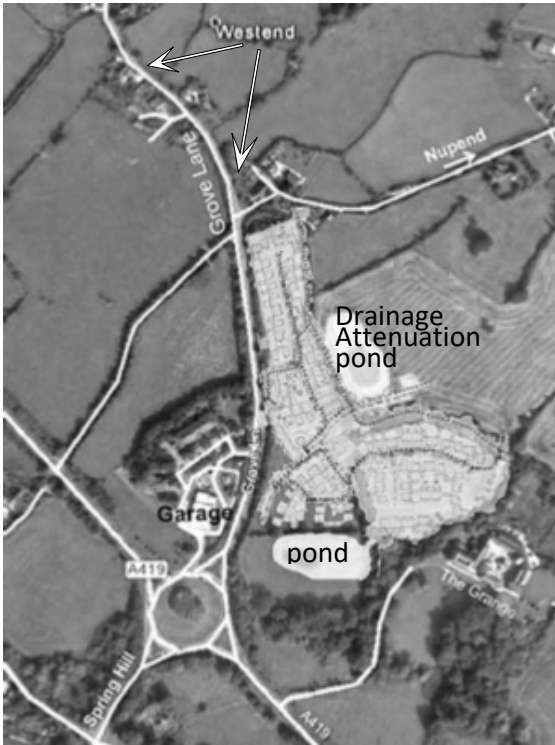
From our point of view the new proposal is an improvement (for the moment!) on the old. The business park was really the greater threat in terms of traffic and general nuisance. However, it would be naive to believe that this threat has gone away!

The main problem is that when the revision of the Local Plan coming along (effective 2023), these sites – both North and South of the A419 – may well be included as possible 'strategic' development sites. If this occurs, it will make it much harder to argue against any development on them. It is hard to understand how a football stadium of such limited appeal might in any way be considered a 'strategic' development, but we seem to have to demonstrate this. In any case, the revised Local Plan cannot come into force before 2023, so any planning permission that allows work to commence before this is still contravening the Local Plan as it stands.

Everyone opposed to this new application should make a FRESH objection on the Stroud planning website (same ref no S.16/0043/OUT) or, if you are experiencing problems with the website (and it has been 'difficult' lately) you may email the planners directly at david.lowin@stroud.gov.uk - or write to The Planning Office at Ebley Mill, Stroud.

Planning

West of Stonehouse development



The building of the new 'spine' road continues apace, to the point where it is already hard to remember exactly what Grove Lane looked like before they started.

As reported last time, the Planning Application for the first phase originally submitted by Redrow, was rejected mainly for non-compliance with provisions in the Masterplan for buffer zones around Westend and Nupend.

This problem has been 'shelved' by both the builders and the planners for the moment as Redrow have now submitted plans for just the two land parcels that don't have direct 'sensitive' borders with Westend – leaving it to another builder, Barratts, to argue about the buffer zones(!) The original owner of the whole site and authors of the Masterplan (Hitchens) are nowhere to be seen in all this.

The Redrow application will probably be passed, although there are still some contentious arguments on-going about the bridleway and it's crossing of the new road. Redrow seem disinclined to take this very real problem seriously.

Two discussions have taken place with Barratts and suggestions made about re-arranging the housing just a little

in order to give our hamlets the breathing space promised in the Masterplan/Local plan. However, Barratts seem disinclined to move very much from the original designs, which build right up to people's back gardens, and we shall have to wait for the Planning Application itself to see what we can do next.

If builders were just a little more sensitive to the needs and sensitivities of 'indigenous' populations – not to say a little more careful about following the guidelines and provisions that they are supposed to – they would get much less opposition in general. !





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

Community

Owen Harris Memorial Ground and Eastington Community Centre Snakey Lane



Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity
Registered Charity Number 1013643

Regular Activities

Monday	7 - 8 pm (Main Hall) Zumba with Holly Tel: 07891785277 www.facebook.com/zumbawithhollyAS/
	7.30 - 9 pm (Upstairs) African Drumming Monday 29th January & fortnightly thereafter. £7 to include drum hire. Booking essential. Tel: 07549 624669 facebook: Eastington African Drummers
Tuesday	7 - 9 pm (Main Hal) Qi Gong Healing and Vital Energy Restoration with Christopher Handbury Tel: 01453 828000 www.chi-fit.uk
Wednesday	5 - 9 pm (Main Hall) Define Dancing School with Jade Tel: 07837 751833 www.defineddance.co.uk
Thursday	8 - 9:30 pm (Main Hall) Yoga with Carol Maguire Tel: 07814 341092 carolmaguire.co.uk
Friday	11:30 -12:30 pm Pilates with Cath details on 07747466807 cathclasses.co.uk 1:45 – 3:45 pm (Main Hall) Japanese Shintaido with Nagako Cooper Tel: 07906 586674 http://www.shintaido.co.uk/
Saturday	Mornings (Main Hall) Taekwon-Do with Mark Clutterbuck Tel: 07737 313560 www.facebook.com/pg/newhorizonsmartialarts

In addition to the above, the Community Centre (www.ohmg.org.uk) hosts the following:

- Eastington Playgroup Mondays to Thursdays 9am-3pm.
- The Japanese School uses the entire building every 1st and 3rd week in the month.
- The grounds provide pitches and facilities for various sporting clubs including
 - Alkerton Rangers Football Club
 - Eastington Cricket Club
 - Bowmen of Minchinhampton



**Come and visit our beautiful centre,
Allotments,
Skate Park & Playground!**

**Available
for weddings, christenings, parties and events
CALL NOW: 01453 828557**

Groups

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

Firstly I want to mention a big



to my friends and fellow consultants Sarah and Ali who have been looking after our lovely Groups while I've been recovering.

The support you have shown to me and our fab groups has been fantastic. I'm looking forward to start returning to groups from 24th January.

So what has been happening in groups? Everyone had a lovely time celebrating their achievements at the Christmas party with a lovely food taster. And it's part of being such a caring, friendly and welcoming group

that makes our weight loss journeys easier. Not only do we have the fabulous and generous Extra Easy Food Optimising Plan to loose weight we also have the support of the whole group beside us too, helping us celebrate those brilliant weeks but also to help us through those weeks that are tough because 'life happens' to us all. It's the support of everyone that helps us to focus ahead and to achieve our dream weight.

2017 was an amazing year for our groups with Marc from Stonehouse Group getting to the National Man of the Year finals and Giulia from Eastington Group attending the National Woman of the Year regional finals.

Overall weight loss for the two groups in 2017 was an incredible

Now into January we have welcomed lots of lovely new members to group and helped them begin their weight loss journeys and it's not too late to come along, we welcome new members every single week of the year so come along and join us.

Lorna 07974 937830

593
STONES
11 lbs

Cotswold Rangers Youth FC

Are looking for football players - boys or girls. All Levels of players welcome.

Wanting to Join a team ? Then we want you !

We have age groups from 4 years old , who train with the under 7s

and we have age groups all the way to under 12s

All of our coaches are qualified coaches.

If interested please get in contact with Ian Neville club Chairman **07791 063761**

Or email **ianneville01@gmail.com**

We look forward to hearing from you

Groups



Eastington Playgroup



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 hopefully be able to restore our allotment with bark chippings, top soil and mend a few broken items. Playing and exploring outside helps children to learn about their natural world, developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

They also develop care and concern for living things and the environment which is so important to develop into kind and caring individuals.



2017 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. The children enjoyed the story of the Elves and the Shoe Maker, learning about textures, sizes and matching pairs of shoes. We talked about the seasons, explored ice and looked at factual books to find out information.

We spent a week cooking pizzas, using tools to prepare the ingredients whilst learning about British Values, such as being polite and encouraging appropriate table manners. This term we also looked at Chinese New Year – year of the dog and we tasted a variety of different Chinese food whilst retelling the story in different ways using play animals, drawing pictures and roleplay.

We are currently full however we have spaces available for September 2018 and we expect to be very busy, so please don't miss your chance to reserve a space for your child.

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

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

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

If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Play Leader

Tel 07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com

Groups

Teddytunes

Calling all babies, toddlers, children, parents, grandparents, friends and carers!

Come along to a Teddytunes session near you and release your 'inner child' (or your outer child if you like). Every Thursday during term time we meet at Frampton Village Hall 10am for musical merriment, cordial capers and fabulous frolics. All washed down with good coffee (or herb tea) chocolate biscuits (posh ones with lots of chocolate on top) and home made cake.

It's a whole mornings entertainment and I guarantee you will feel uplifted (worn out more like) and ready for a lie down in a dark corner after hopping round the room with new friends and a gossip at the hatch with our glamorous grannies'.

Leave your inhibitions at the door and get ready for an experience you'll never forget. Enjoy learning new songs, mumbling through traditional ones, banging two sticks together with gusto, making a complete fool of yourself, laughing your head off and looking forward to the end when you can be wafted into serenity under the parachute...what's not to like? We're all gagging for a coffee by the end and you'll be trying to escape while you're little one is desperately tugging at your coat in order to stay for just 'one more minute'. We all know they only come for the bubbles and the biscuits (and that's just the Dads) but 'hey hoe' I'm happy with that.

So, we welcome you wholeheartedly! Vanessa Cousins 01453 828557 or 07806 802540

Every Thursday during term time 10-11.30 Frampton Village Hall, Frampton on Severn

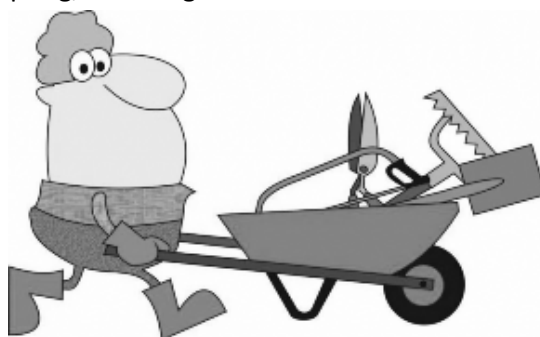
£6 plus £1 for each additional child or adult. Pay as you go Find us on Facebook for video clips of our classes in action. Please get in touch any time www.teddytunes.co.uk / vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk.



Snakey Park Playground - Park Working Party

On **Saturday the 17th February** we will be having a working party in the park. We have a few jobs to get done ready for spring, including:

- Planting trees
- Arrange top soil
- Fixing up willow tunnels
- Gardening
- Sign cleaning
- Littler picking



We will be meeting at 10a.m. at the park and absolutely everyone is invited. It's a great opportunity for us to contribute to our community and a brilliant opportunity for children to learn how they can have a positive impact on our community.

Also we are very happy to say that the Kings Head House has very kindly offered us refreshments. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers so if you are planning to come please let us know via the facebook event or by emailing snakey.park@gmail.com

Cress Green Cattery

Cress Green Cattery; The Next Chapter

After 40 years of successful business we have taken the baton and are the new owners of 'Cress Green Cattery'.

What for some locals and clients was a surprise, was for us a well supported transition. Steve has been popping in, getting to know the previous owner's procedures for a good few months... from the very start we wanted to ensure the high standards and excellent reputation remained. Although no amount of preparation can get you ready for a house move at the beginning of December!

Not scared of a challenge though, as a family we embraced the whirlwind of the festive period on top of changing schools, unpacking, putting up decs and entertaining family. We juggled those demands on top of our 30 furry guests and changing over to a digital booking system with smiles on our faces.



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-  Fully Insulated
-  Individually Heated
-  Full Height Bedroom
-  Spacious Exercise Area





Cress Green, Eastington,
Stonehouse, Glocs. GL10 3BG
01453 824938

info@cressgreencattery.co.uk www.cressgreencattery.co.uk



Our clients have been fantastic. Some were more than a little surprised to see our new faces but most have been wonderfully supportive - many helping us to settle our own 'nerves' at taking on a new venture at such a challenging time in the calendar.

Clients are loving the new system of booking that not only gives them instant email confirmation but also gives us the facility of sending epostcards of their furry family member while they're away. Seeing your pet snuggled up in a cosy bed, eating their dinner or getting a brush and cuddle a few times is reassuring and comforting.

We've also maintained the relationship with 'Five Valleys Cat Rescue' and have our first 'foster placement'. I think the hardest part of that role will be resisting the urge to adopt! Mister Tom is our first placement and we're all falling in love already!

As a family we're trying to get involved in community events- we've always been of the mindset you get out what you put in. So we jumped at the idea of sponsoring an egg for the Easter Hunt, we're looking forward to donating a tree to the orchard that we happened across last week and we kept all our 'goodies' when we moved, ready for the Yard Sale. I've already enjoyed a wine tasting evening with 'The Ladies of Eastington' and as I write we're weighing up whether to join the 'Walkie Talkies' today (it IS very cold out there!).

So if you have a feline family member who'll need looking after while you're away - we're here to help. But more importantly for us... we're looking forward to getting to know lots of you in what we're discovering is, a wonderful and friendly village.

Keely and Steve Folker.

cressgreencattery.co.uk



Councils

PARISH MATTERS



Here we are at the start of another year, hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

Planning continues to be the main area of work for the parish council, five applications received in the first two weeks of January. The biggest one is the revised Ecotricity plans, application reference S.16/0043/OUT – the revised drawings and files are available on Stroud District Council's planning website, but the files are slow to load. Stroud DC has two paper copies of the files available in their Reception area at Ebley Mill. The stadium has been moved across the A419, and the business park has been dropped from the plans. Please do make your comments to Stroud DC and copy to the Parish Council so that we may know your views.

The Parish Council has finalised its budget for 2018/19 and the precept (parish portion of the council tax) will be £70,580 which is a 0.53% increase on average Band D properties. We have several projects we want to achieve in the coming years but didn't want to burden you with a big increase in the precept, so will be "saving up" over 3 years to do things like resurface the burial ground footpath. Please visit our website if you would like to see a breakdown of the budget.

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Village Hall (usually 7pm), please do come along and say hello and let us know any issues that need our attention.

Julie Shirley Clerk to Eastington Parish Council

Tel: 01453 799616

<i>Thistledown Café</i>		woodfired food, homemade cakes gourmet coffee & stunning views	
			
<p>Freshly prepared lunches served Weds – Sun, and brunches Fri – Sun</p> <p>Thistledown 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 Fri to Sun. Join our mailing list for details of events such as vegan tapas nights, wood-fired sourdough pizzas, storytelling sessions and foraging walks!</p>			
<p>thistledown.org.uk 01453 860420 thistledown farm, tinkley lane, nympsfield, GL10 3UH</p>			

Church

Eastington Christmas Tree Festival 2017



A huge thank you to all the businesses, organisations and individuals who took part in the Christmas Tree Festival in December and helped to make it such a massive success again. Without the support and help of the village it would not have happened – another success for Eastington!

The trees, installations and creativity involved in making them were truly outstanding. The comments we had from all of the hundreds of people who came and visited throughout the weekend were just amazing. They truly appreciated all of the hard work that had gone into each and every one of them.

The following are the list of winners people voted for:

- Julie Mitchell - Poppies, Berries & Poinsettias – Lest We Forget - 1st Adult
- Frampton on Severn WI Patchwork Group – Partridges in a Pear Tree - 2nd Adult
- Frocester WI - Frocester Follies – 3rd Adult
- William Morris College - Festive Forest - 1st Youngsters Tree
- Eastington Primary School – The Night Before Christmas - 2nd Youngsters Tree
- Sam Spencer – Eastington Rocks - 3rd Youngsters Tree

The 'Guess the Number of Balloons' was won by the Smith Family from Stonehouse who guessed 96 – well done!

Here is a reminder of all the entrants and their trees:-

Julie Mitchell	Poppies, Berries & Poinsettias – Lest we Forget
William Morris College	Festive Forest
Eastington Primary School	The Night Before Christmas
Frampton on Severn WI Patchwork Group	Partridges in a Pear Tree
Sam Spencer	Eastington Rocks
Eastington Playgroup	Our Natural World
Frocester WI	Frocester Follies
Cotswold Youth Singers	Angel Voices
Lynne Jones	Sew Christmassy
Middle Street Gang	Middle Street Dog Walkers Tree
Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue	I'm Dreaming of a Wild Hogmas'
Eastington Bell Ringers	Christingle Bells
Frampton on Severn WI	'The Green Goddess
Smiths of Gloucester	'Dig Deep to help others at Christmas'

Liz Hughes	Christmas Twee
Ladies of Eastington	Ladies of Eastington
Arc Energy Resources	'Arc the Herald Angels Sing'
St. Michaels & All Angels Flower Group	Trinity Trees
he Old Badger	A Badgers Tail
The Kings Head	The Kings Tree (Charles II)
Sandra Ellwood	The Lavender Tree
Mrs. Sew & Sew	A Liberty Christmas
Kathryn Gribble	RBL Poppy Appeal
Sevenside Longfield Supporters Group	The Caring Tree
J Broomhall Ltd	Butchers Choice
Margaret & Tim Douglas	The Douglas Tree
Naylor Powell	Home for Christmas
The Holy Knits	Pray One, Knit One
Nupend Book Club	The Book Club

Councils

District Councillors' Newsletter

The Great Oldbury development, previously known as **West of Stonehouse**, is continuing apace, with planning applications for Reserved Matters, which include layout, house design, landscaping, and buffer zones have started to arrive on the Planning Officer's desk at Ebley Mill at a faster rate than before. These applications are being submitted by individual building companies, Redrow and Barratts, to whom the plots of land have been sold, while Robert Hitchens still has control over the Masterplan. Please be assured that Cllr Stephen Davies and myself will do all we can to get the best results for Eastington parish residents. At the planning meeting at Ebley Mill earlier in January, we both supported Eastington Parish Council's statement and its comments on the application that was in front of the planning committee that evening, in addition, Cllr Davies asked for broadband cable ducting to be installed in all new roads as they were being built, to prevent them being dug up later, while I asked for the Highways condition on installation of wheel washing facilities on the sites to be extended to include catchment tanks for those washing facilities, to prevent contaminated runoff entering local watercourses.

We understand that the **Ecotricity** proposal to build an "Eco Business Park" adjacent to the northern side of the A419 close to J13 of the M5 has been shelved indefinitely. Instead, it is now proposed to build the new stadium for Forest Green Rovers FC on that site, as close to the M5 slip road as is possible. The area will have one outdoor practice/training pitch, and an area for goalkeeping training to be held. All the car parking will be at the Shell Service station end of the site. These plans are in Outline at the moment, and still have some way to go before any decision is made.

While all drivers are more than fed up with the current phases of **roadworks and traffic lights** in the area, there are Highway plans for works to all the roundabouts between J13 and Horsetrough at Stonehouse to be implemented soon, to "Improve Traffic Flow" on the A419. So the daily commute may not improve in the near future. Lets hope the local by-roads will not have to take the brunt of drivers' frustrations.

As ever, if we can be of any help in any matters, either at SDC or County level, please contact

Cllr John Jones on 07808922918, email cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk

Or

Cllr Stephen Davies on 07802595307, email cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk



THE NAIL BOX

CND Shellac & Nail Art
including the latest trend...
Mirror Chrome, Glitter & Foils



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French **£25.00**

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Councils

Village Agent News (!)

The Village Agents scheme has been replaced .

As usual with something new there is a plethora of confusing new names, responsibilities, websites and phone numbers. As far as your editor can work out, this service is still run by Gloucester County (as 'Community Connectors') , but is 'provided' by a company called 'Independence Trust (Herefordshire Housing)' and then known as the Community Wellbeing service -see Below.

You can still go to the website www.villageagents.org.uk and, for Stroud District, this will refer you to the website www.independencetrust.co.uk - from there, you can look at their list of services to discover 'Stroud and Berkeley Vale - Community Wellbeing Service'.

Fortunately Pauline Allen has been round these loops a few time trying to find help for someone, and has discovered that you can also call a direct line phone number for **Amanda Baker-Dibley** (Stroud area services) on **01453 755711** - she is only in on Tuesdays 9-5 but will pick up messages at other times and is keen to help.

Community Wellbeing Service

Here is an update from Penny French, our old Village Agent, on what has taken the place of the Village Agent Scheme:-

Since 1st October the Village and Community Agents have combined with the GP Social Prescribing scheme to become a new service called Community Wellbeing Agents and many of the Village Agents have been transferred to the new scheme.

Independence Trust is one of a number of Community Wellbeing providers in Gloucestershire who have been commissioned to offer the service in Stroud and Berkeley Vale.

Who can access the service and what can it offer?

The service is free and confidential for anyone over the age of 16 and its aim is to connect you to local services, organisations and groups that can help you to improve your general wellbeing and meet your wider social needs. Community Wellbeing Agents will help you with:-

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Long term health conditions
- General health and fitness
- Social isolation, housing and environment
- Debt and finance

How do I refer?

Referrals can be made directly using the number below and can also be made by GPs, health care professionals, voluntary and community groups as well as self-referral.

The service is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and the phone number is **0345 863 8323**.

Website is <http://www.independencetrust.co.uk/communitywellbeing>

Councils

Neighbourhood Warden

We have a new Neighbourhood Warden.

Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Wardens work to create a safer, cleaner and greener district by engaging with the local community and actively responding to community issues.

They will help to support vulnerable people, can offer free home security and crime prevention advice and can advise on dealing with bogus callers, antisocial behaviour, hate crime and bullying.

In addition, they work to keep our environment clean and green by dealing with such issues as litter, fly tipping, dog fouling and graffiti.



Andy Beamish is the Neighbourhood Warden for:

Arlingham, **Eastington**, Frampton-on-Severn, Fretherne-with-Saul, Kings Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Moreton Valance, Standish, Stonehouse, and Whitminster.

You can Telephone Andy on : **07811 263075** to report or seek advice on any of the above matters.

Email: andrew.beamish@stroud.gov.uk or see the

Stroud website: www.stroud.gov.uk/community-and-living

Follow the work of the wardens on **twitter** @sdc_wardens



Saturday 24th Feb

Frocester WI's Annual Jumble Sale



At the Frocester Cricket Pavilion

Doors open 10 am.

Entry Fee only 20p.

Lots of Bargains.....Lots of CAKE.....

Please bring jumble donations to the Cricket Club; 8:30 - 9:30 am on the day

Goings On



Variety of teas and coffees
Homemade cakes and cookies
Soft drinks
Takeaway available
Breakfast 7 days
7am-10am
Lunch Weds to Sun
12pm to 3pm

KINGS HEAD HOUSE
Bath road, Eastington, GL10 3AA
01453 822277
www.thekingsheadhouse.com
info@thekingsheadhouse.com

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Storytelling and Rhymes

Commencing 26th January 2018.

The last Friday of the month thereafter.

9:30am to 10:00am.



Cath's
Classes

at

Eastington
Community
Centre



Pilates

Fridays 11.30am - 12.30pm



Please bring your own mat or contact me for spares
£40.00 for a 6 week block booking for a guaranteed space or
charged at £7 a session for drop in sessions

For more information go to www.cathsclasses.co.uk

or Call 07747 466807

Groups

Walkie Talkies presents... Fun Family Walks!



Every 3rd Sunday of Each Month

1pm at The Old Badger
Eastington

Dogs on leads with poo bags are welcome

5-ish miles 3-ish hours

Please phone Vanessa for more info: 01453 828557 / 07806 802540

Goings On

WORDS & MUSIC EVERY MONDAY EVENING 8:00 PM FROCESTER GEORGE

The Coach House, Peters Street GL103TQ

ACOUSTIC MUSIC POETRY & SONG

A great place to hear local singers, musicians and poets in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where our sessions and floor spots are open to everyone.

Hello Everyone, we live in Eastington and organise a weekly Monday Music evening at the George in Frocester.

It takes place in the couch house , separate from the pub itself and performers and spectators alike are welcome to our acoustic 'open mike ' sessions.

We ask a small contribution of £1 per person for an evening of good company , in a warm place with nibbles , and accomplished and varied performances.

We are a well intentioned group hoping to welcome and entertain folks in the the area

The first 2018 evening was wonderful with a fine selection of local musicians and poets including Helen, Jules, Cas and Sandra from Eastington with visitors from as far afield as Bibury, Liverpool and Tetbury!

Do come and join us - any Monday evening.

David and Sandra Ireland . www.singaround.org

CHARITY NIGHT

Join us for a **Quiz and Curry**

in aid of **Alzheimer's Society**
and other Rotary Charities

Venue – Elmore Village Hall

Time – 7.30pm on Friday 2nd March 2018

Teams of 4 (but singles and pairs welcome)

Cost of evening including meal - £12 per person

Pay Bar

for tickets contact Nigel 01452 740121

or David 01452 740126



Registered Charity Number : 1100046



Severn Bore Breakfast Best of the Year? Sun 4th March 8.30am onwards

**Bacon Rolls
Tea/Coffee**

Hill Farm, Longney GL2 3SW

Follow the signs in Longney village

All proceeds to Rotary Charities

www.SevernValeRotary.org.uk



Registered charity numbered 1100046

Groups



EASTINGTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (ECLT) LIMITED

Secretary: Tom Low 01453 823425 / 07974 369680

Email: tom@eastingtonclt.uk

Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports for 2016/17

Chairman Tom Morrison and Treasurer Lynne Farnden provided detailed reports of the first year's activities. The Chairman's conclusion was

"ECLT Limited has had a very active and successful first year as a registered Community Benefit Society. Feasibility of our site and ideas has been proven, a dozen technical reports are ready on the shelf and positive relations established and sustained with Stroud DC, Parish Council and our Housing Association partners, Aster Group.

At the next AGM we should not only be reporting a successful Planning Application but seeing affordable homes rising from the fields of Claypits, and perhaps even some of those occupied."



Progress has only been possible through the acquisition of several grants amounting to almost £75,000, detailed by the Treasurer's report:

- Locality (Government) grant of £9,750 received and spent
- Further Locality Grant of £20,000 received with a commitment to £20,000 more (received in January 2018)
- Parish Council Solar Fund Grant of £4,000 released
- Stroud DC contractually committed to additional funding up to £20,000, of which £7,300 already received in the new financial year

ECLT's turnover for the year was £28,971, which is likely to be surpassed in 2017/18 as we work our way through the planning process. A full Annual Report will be published in the Spring.



Church



Eastington Methodist Church

Eastington Methodist Church Activities

Baby & Toddlers Group	Mondays 10 – 11:30am
Prayer Meetings	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am & Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am (currently at the Pike Lock House)
Lunchtime Bible Study	Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Bible Study House Group	Tuesdays – 7:30pm (at The Pike Lock House GL10 3RT)
Youth Club (11-18)	Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Main Service (separate activities for children/young people available)	Sundays 11am (Café Church – Feb 11th & Mar 11th)

All held at EMC which is opposite the butchers in Eastington, unless stated otherwise

CAFÉ CHURCH

Grace: How can Jesus accept us?



**11am Sunday
11th February**

Hands-on activities suitable for all ages with free cakes and drinks

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Messy FEBRUARY Half Term

Family Craft Activities

Cakes Drinks

CRAFTS

COOKING

Story/ video

**A free invitation to join us on
Wednesday 14th February
10:00 – 11:30am
Eastington Methodist Church**

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

February sees a Café Church closely followed by the Messy Half Term event a few days later; the theme for the 11th March Café Church will be “What does it mean to follow Jesus”. One of the things that this means is trusting in God’s love and provision for us.

As some of you know, our family got an unexpected surprise in October when my wife, Beck, went into to A&E in Gloucester with sudden chest pains and came out the following day with a diagnosis of cancer. At first, it was thought to be lung cancer quite possibly of a dangerous type that could have meant that Christmas 2017 may well have been her last.

Three biopsies later and further tests eventually determined that it is a somewhat less dangerous lymphoma, possibly of a fairly unusual type that has manifested itself, at least in part, as quite a large tumour.

Church

Eastington Methodist Church



Anyway, another scan just after Christmas showed that it was growing at quite a rate so she was immediately put on chemotherapy and last Friday morning her hair started to fall out and what little remained by the end of the day was shaved off as it just looked scruffy. She is now part way through six cycles of Chemotherapy which will be a big part of her life until the end of April and possibly into May.

Because the chemotherapy badly messes up the immune system, Beck has had to step back from many of the activities that heavily relied upon her input.

So where is God in all this? Well she is not feeling too bad in spite of the treatment and has been able to spend more time praying, reading, thinking and doing other stuff that previously she would not have had time to do. Knowing that people she knows and some she doesn't, some from all over the world, are praying for her is a great encouragement. Others have stepped in to help fill the gaps caused by her absence.

The point is that we all have a choice of facing our challenges alone or with God alongside us – we have opted for the latter and in doing so are finding blessings in the face of adversity.

Ken Burgin – Senior Steward

Ken, Beck & Liz Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Eastington Methodist Church Hall

Regular Activities

<u>Sunday</u>	10am – 11am Music Group rehearsal for the service 11am – 12:30pm – Main service, followed by refreshments (C) 6:00 – 7:00pm (on 1 st Sunday of month) Sunday Night Praise ©
<u>Monday</u>	10:00 – 11:30am – Eastington Baby and Toddler Group (C) 6:00 - 7pm – Eastington Rainbows (Victoria Fudge)
<u>Tuesday</u>	8:30 – 9am – Prayer Meeting (C) 10:30 – 12 noon – Line Dancing (Shirley Manley) 1:00 – 2:30pm – Day time Bible Study and lunch ©
<u>Wednesday</u>	6:00 – 7:30pm – Eastington Brownies (Pauline Dobson)
<u>Friday</u>	8:30 – 9:00am – Prayer Meeting (C) 7:00 – 9:00pm – Youth Club (C)

All events follow by (C) are run by the church. The hall is used on other numerous occasions at short notice for church activities. Contacts are Ken or Beck Burgin 01453 827414 or 07511197265 who can also pass on any other enquiries.

Environment

Cotswold Canal Trust

On the 30th November last year, a bid was submitted to the Heritage Lottery fund for £9.8 million towards restoring the canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction. The project known as Stroudwater Navigation Connected, will cost a total of £23.4 million, including volunteer input.

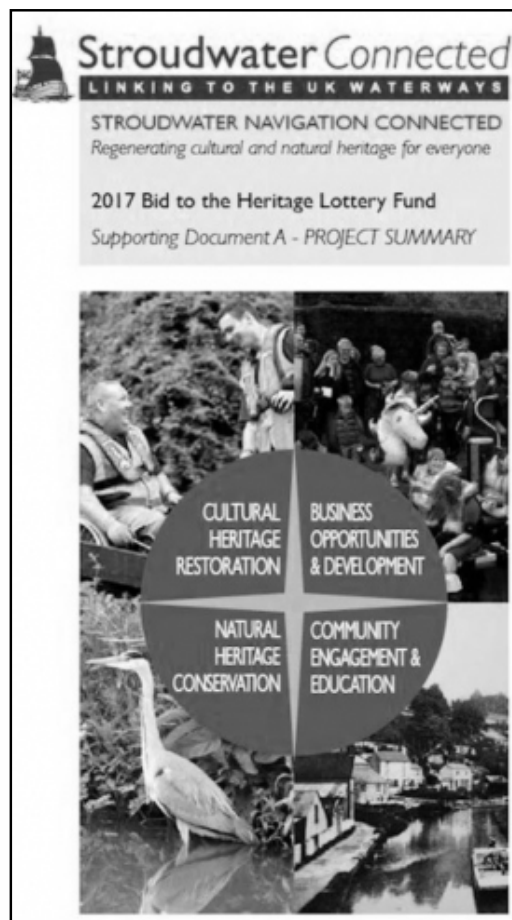
The bid, led by Stroud District Council, runs to roughly 1000 pages and is the culmination of several months' work by a team of largely Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers. Credit must especially go to Val Kirby for doing the lion's share.

A previous bid, submitted by the Cotswold Canals Trust in 2015, was rejected, citing a lack of funding commitments and uncertainties over land ownership.

Prospects for the latest bid have been transformed by Stroud District Council committing £3 million, together with large contributions from Gloucestershire County Council and the Canal and River Trust.

The bid includes proposals for taking the canal under the M5, reinstating the 'missing mile' near Eastington and getting under the Gloucester to Bristol railway line at Stonehouse Ocean. As well as restoring the canal, plans include creating over 30 hectares of priority habitats in one of UK's largest biodiversity offsetting projects.

The outcome should be known in April 2018.



Volunteering



If you have time to spare and energy to share, then why not come and assist in the restoration of the Cotswold Canals. As a Cotswold Canals Trust Volunteer you can learn new skills and enjoy being with others - you can get muddy or not as you choose since there are both outdoor and indoor jobs a-plenty to be tackled. Check out the Cotswold Canals website cotswoldcanals.com.

There is also a national organisation called the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) which will back up and assist local groups on restoration projects.

They organise working holidays for groups of volunteers to go and work where they are needed. The WRGies as they are known pay something like £70 for a week's very basic accommodation and some top notch home cooked food, and enjoy the camaraderie that only hard work in a group of this kind can bestow. Over the Christmas period, a group of WRGies came from all over the country to help with work on clearing the towpath & banks of the Stroudwater Navigation around Bond's Mill Bridge.

Check out www.waterways.org.uk/wrg/



Community

Eastington Village Hall



Regular activities at the Village Hall:-

Monday: Clog Dancing
Cello Groups

Tuesday: CrazyK9s Dog training classes Tel:07748 183739

Wednesday: Slimming World with Lorna tel: 07974 937830 all welcome.

Thursday : Second Thursday of each month, 7pm – Parish Council Meeting everyone may attend and there is a session at the beginning for ‘public’ voices to be heard. Agendas etc can be found at eastington-pc.gov.uk/parish-council

Monthly-ish – Ladies of Eastington - see ‘events coming up’ page on our website for details of next session

Friday & Sunday: Yoga with Chloe Witts Tel: 07849 774462



Use your Village Hall!

The hall boasts a pleasant atmosphere, toilets, a kitchen, ample tables and chairs and even a stage should you want it. It is a great venue for your party, meeting, club or any event.

The central village location makes it perfect for local events that people can walk to!

You can hire the hall and all it's facilities for just £7.50 per hour

Phone Queenie on 824342 for more information and bookings

Goings On

The Ladies of Eastington

A huge thanks to Anthony, Jamie and all the team at **The Kings Head** for hosting the first ever Ladies Of Eastington Wine tasting evening! It was informative, delicious and fun, I'm sure I'm not only speaking for myself when I say I now feel more confident when it comes to choosing wine, thank you, it was wonderful!

PS massive thanks to the chef, the food was sooo good.

Anna-Marie Smart



Burns Night - Thursday, 25 January

Burns night was duly celebrated in style at **the Badger** - with Haggis, wee drams of whisky and a real piper. We even saw Julie dancing!

An excellent evening all round - Thank you Julie and all the team.

The photo shows Tom Low delivering the traditional 'Address to the Haggis'

FREE EXERCISE

On your doorstep – Pay no Gym Fees

Come and help us build Brownings Community Orchard

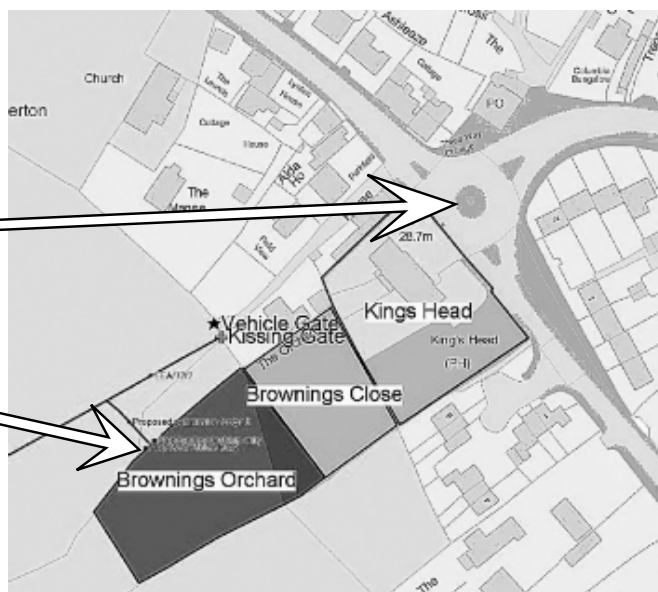
Easy walking distance of anyone in the village - here's Alkerton Cross

..... And here's the new orchard, down the lane and 50 metres across the field (you might need wellies)

No orchard skills needed – we will teach you whilst you dig or learn how to lay hedges.

Contact Eastington Community Orchards (ECO) at:

eco.eastington.website



Notice for animal lovers



We have had a courtesy notice from Eastington Park that there will be a fireworks display for a wedding there on Monday 12th February at 9:45pm.

Make sure your pets are safe.

NB After an e-petition signed by over a hundred thousand people, parliament has scheduled a debate for 29th January to consider fireworks safety issues. By the time this is printed, we will know whether or not there is likely to be any useful outcome from this. Ed