



www.ecn.me.uk

April - May 2019



Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

Written by You, Produced by Tom & Jan Low and Mary Gribble.



Email: info@ecn.me.uk

Dear Readers,

Welcome to spring! - we hope you are all enjoying the sunshine.

We hope also that you like our new blue pages format, and that the new category index will help you to find that special service you are looking for.

Please support our advertisers where possible - without them there could be no ECN - so do remember to tell them that you saw their ad here!

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of Reg (Kieth) Parry. Reg will leave a big gap - amongst many other things he was chairman of the Allotments Society and a stalwart of the Bethal Pentecostal Church. He and his wife Maryann were with ECN from the beginning, and must have delivered over 160 editions. He will be much missed.

Tom, Jan and Mary.

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Deadline for next issue : Thursday 23rd May - for delivery around 1st June

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

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 and find all the other goodies at our hub www.eastington.website

Councils

PARISH MATTERS



Enclosed in this month's newsletter is the Parish Housing needs survey for 2019.

We last conducted this survey in 2013/14 and the valuable information it revealed was the foundation for both our Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031 (NDP) and the Eastington Community Land Trust (ECLT). People's circumstances and needs change, so it's important that we update our understanding of what you, our parishioners, want and need.

If you can spare a few minutes to complete the survey we would appreciate it.

In a previous edition of the ECN we mentioned the Community Governance Review taking place in Stroud district. The recommendations are currently being consulted upon, with proposals for a small boundary amendment at Oldends Industrial Estate (to move the boundary so the whole industrial estate sits within Stonehouse parish instead of split between Eastington and Stonehouse) and to increase the number of councillors on Eastington Parish Council to 10. At the last meeting of the Parish Council, councillors voted to request the total number is increased to 11 councillors (an addition of 2 new councillors) and to request another Community Governance Review takes place in 2022 specifically for Eastington to manage the area of Great Oldbury (by which time there will be a growing community living there). There will be further discussion about this at the 8th April parish council meeting so please do let your views be known.

We still wait to learn when the Ecotricity planning application will be decided by Stroud District Council, meanwhile we continue to review and comment on the many applications that arise from the Great Oldbury development.

A contractor has been appointed to create the new memorial garden at the burial ground, work should start in the coming weeks so that the area is available to enjoy this summer.

The roundabout at Alkerton Cross will be undergoing an update soon, with new plants to show off our lovely direction-post.

We are coming to the time of year when we update the planters in the village gateways for the summer, please do get in touch if you would like to help with this task.

We have been working closely with the Primary School to improve road safety around the school at pick up and drop off times. We are currently pursuing the following options with Gloucestershire Highways:

- A painted T-line/H-line on the road around the corner from Spring Hill into Churchend.
- The use of temporary and advisory 20mph signs ("20 is Plenty").
- The reclaiming (thus widening) of the path from the Lock.

The next drop-in event to talk to councillors about highways, road safety, kissing gates etc will be on 17th May at 6.30pm (venue to be confirmed) – keep an eye on local notice boards and social media for more details.

All minutes and reports are available on our website – www.eastington-pc.gov.uk or get in touch with the Clerk with any queries

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

Community

Stonehouse Rotary - Purple 4 Polio - at the School

For over 30 years, Rotary and its members have been committed to fighting to eradicate polio across the world. The Purple4Polio initiative was launched by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland to raise funds and awareness for our efforts to eradicate polio and promote the work of our global campaign, 'End Polio Now'.

When a child receives their life saving polio drops on mass polio immunisation days, in many countries their little finger is painted with a purple dye so it is clear that they have received their life saving vaccine.

Thanks to Rotary, and the support of our partners WHO, Unicef, CDC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, there are now just three countries still classed as endemic: Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan. To finish the job over 2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have to be administered each and every year in over 60 countries until the world is finally certified polio free.

In the last Issue of ECN we showed you photos of the children of Eastington School receiving purple crocus bulbs from Rotary members, and planting them on the little island by the Church. Happily, these have now all come up and bloomed (in purple!) And have made a splendid show.

Rotary member Bryan Webstar visited the school in February and took this lovely photo of the Headmistress Zoe Avastu with some of the little 'planters'. He said that he quizzed them on whether they remembered why they planted the crocuses. Not only did the children remember what Dr. Charles Buckley had told them, but also remembered finding the fossilized tooth and the abundance of worms they had found as they dug. The worms, no doubt, contributing to the quality of the flowers!



Groups

First Eastington Brownies

Our Mamma Mia sleepover in January was a huge success and the Brownies all wanted to know when we could do it again! I never knew that so many meatballs could be eaten in one sitting, (they were absolutely enthralled by the concept of Smash, and that you could make mash without a potato) next time they do want to peel the potatoes though!

We all had a fabulous time in our Abba costumes dancing around to Swedish hits of the past in a girl only space - in a way that they never would behave if Girlguiding wasn't a girl only space.

They really did have a midnight feast, or at least 11.57pm, unfortunately one brownie could not be woken by her friends, and was devastated the next day to discover she had missed out on the feast! Despite the leaders not hearing a thing about the feast; I do confess to hiding the popcorn, I didn't think it would be very sleep inducing to have popcorn loose in sleeping bags.

Everyone achieved the Swedish Song Challenge and there wasn't a jot of homesickness, so next time we are venturing further afield; - can't wait to see which theme they choose for us.



We had a beautiful Thinking Day ceremony with candles of different colours shining out in the dark to remind us of girl guides and girl scouts all over the world. Thinking Day is 22nd February every year, it was the joint birthdays of Lord & Lady Baden Powell so is very fitting that we remember everyone around the world. We also celebrated Chinese New Year, where the girls learnt a new skill by playing a Malteser game with chopsticks (they then ate the Maltesers, obviously).

We carried on the food theme by cooking pancakes over a tea light for shrove Tuesday and smothering them in Nutella, yes you really can eat them.



Finally, big Congratulations to Ella & Ava for being our first Brownies to achieve a Gold Award in the transition year of the new Brownie programme. This was possible because they had both completed the 3 Adventures parts of the old programme and made their Brownie Promise; in addition they did 3 of the new Interest badges, taught the other brownies a game about the fun they have had at Brownies and visited their new Guide unit to find out all about Guides.

Congratulations girls you have been fabulous Brownies - enjoy your time at Guides and look out for those international opportunities. We will really miss you both.

If you would like to join 1st Eastington brownies please contact
Pauline Dobson, 01453 825577, panda.dobson@btinternet.com

Groups

PROWD - Public Rights of Way Defenders

By the time you read this, the Vernal Equinox (20th March) will have already happened!! So, ' Spring ' has arrived although we have hardly had a ' Winter ' as it has been so unseasonably mild, with so many Spring flowers appearing early.

It has been a good time for walking our lovely footpaths, and thanks to two generous donations by local residents, Miss Daphne Du Pre and Westend Office Suites, there are now two new kissing gates on footpath EEA22 which runs South of Mole Grove and connects Westend with Nupend. In fact, Nupend has many interesting footpaths and bridleways to explore, which allows longer walks for the more able.

The long awaited kissing gate at Fromebridge Mill has now been delivered and should be installed by mid April.

There are other on-going discussions with regard to other paths which will be reported when I have more information.

Those of you who are interested in saving an old, and well used path that runs through the field (with recent new fencing) from the top of Swallowcroft to Cress Green, can contact me for information on what action can be taken. If you don't fight for your paths..... it's easy to lose them!!!!

Best wishes for a good walking year ahead, Bill Edwards (Public Rights Of Way Defenders)

edwards.parish@btinternet.com 01453 824452

Eastington Walking Group



"Come and join the Walkie Talkies"

Fun Walks for Everyone

on the third Sunday of each month.

Normally meeting at 1pm at the Badger

and walking for 5 miles or so over about 3 hours

(including drinking time)

Children welcome, also dogs with leads and poo bags

Please get in touch for confirmation / more info.

07806 802540 / 01453 828557 cousins.vanessa@gmail.com



Find 'Eastington Community Walking Group' on facebook

NEXT WALK : Sunday 21st April meet-up 1pm at the old Badger inn

Walking to Three Horse Shoes pub in Frampton

A lovely walk about five miles 3 hours as normal, including drinking time

Community

Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue

Registered Charity 1168800

01452 740684 or 07949 976717



Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue
Old Bakery Cottage, The Street
Frampton on Severn GL2 7EA
wildhogshedgehogrescue@gmail.com

Hello from Wild Hogs.

Well, we're into April and our local hedgehogs will be out of hibernation getting on with their lives.

We've overwintered quite a few in the hospital and will be releasing them back to where they were found. This year, with such a mild winter, some of those in the hospital never hibernated and it seems as if some of those outside didn't either – we had a handful of admissions in January and February.



Now in spring, you can support hogs living in your area by leaving out some dried cat food with a shallow dish of clean water. Please also be mindful of the dangers in your garden: strimmers, netting, dogs, ponds and bonfires claim lives every year though we do our best to save any casualties brought to us.

If you see a hedgehog during the day that is wobbly, laying out or with obvious injuries, **please give us a call for advice.**

We have a lot of events planned for this summer, including our Open Day on August 10th. Come and visit us then - or see us at:

- Mon. 6th May 2 pm – 4 pm Hidden Gardens Frampton-on-Severn
- Sun. 26th May 2 pm – 4 pm Longfield Open Gardens Frampton-on-Severn
- Sun. 23th June 12 noon on Quedgeley Dog Show Fishers Meadow, Quedgeley
- Sat. 6th July 7 pm – 10 pm Steve Backshall talk Statford Park Leisure Centre
- Sun. 7th July 11 am – 5 pm Big Festival of Nature Stratford Park, Stroud
- Sun. 8th Sept All day at Frampton Country Fair, Frampton Court.

We are happy to give talks on our work with hedgehogs to our donors and supporters such as schools, care homes, community groups and similar organisations. We can also accept visiting groups of up to 4 supporters at the hedgehog hospital by prior arrangement.

Longfield Severnside Supporters Group

invites you to our
Coffee Morning
Saturday April 13th
from 10 a.m. to 12 noon



Russell Cottage, The Green,
Frampton on Severn, GL2 7EP
(by kind permission of Dot and John
Newton)

Severnside Singers, Cake stall
Bring and Buy stall, Plant stall

Information from Anne Roberts 01452 740498 Di Merrett 01452 740400 Dot Newton 01452 741899

Community

Eastington Primary School

As a school we have recently had a 'Whole School Health Week.'



We were very fortunate to receive visits from people who were experts in different aspects of health and participate in lots of new activities. Lessons during the week focused on resilience by making ourselves a Superhero, developing our self-confidence and a pride in 'being me'.

We enjoyed mindfulness sessions with Mandy Johnson, we were taught strategies and techniques for relaxing. Class 5 took some time to learn some adapted yoga moves for children, taught by Mrs Mifflin which Class 5 then shared with other children too.

On a slightly more energetic note, we also had Mr Meloscia organising circuits for us and Miss Mills teaching all the classes some groovy moves in her Street Dance sessions.

Children were thrilled when Mr Powell led a whole school assembly on the 5 Ways To Wellbeing:

Take notice - Keep learning - Be active - Connect - Give

This is something we are going to develop even further to make our playtimes extra fun for everyone.

By the School Council



easter egg hunt

Come join the fun!

Join us for the **Eastington Egg Hunt** on **Saturday 6th April** between **10am and 4pm.**

Our **Disney Pixar** themed hunt begins at Eastington Primary School. Enjoy **refreshments, activities** and **bouncy castle** along the way, and why not dress up as your favourite character?

Maps cost £3 for your first child, £2 for siblings*

They can be purchased in advance from Eastington School or Eastington Playgroup. Maps can also be bought on the day.

***Money raised will go towards vital learning equipment for Eastington Primary School and Eastington Playgroup.**

Groups



Eastington PlayGroup



Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our recent Bingo evening, we had a brilliant turnout with some fabulous prizes on offer. We made a healthy profit and this has enabled us to purchase some new toys and replace some tired ones too. Thank you to all that donated prizes, many local businesses were very generous, Redrow developers donated a Kindle and we had some meal vouchers with many other offerings.

We will definitely organise another bingo evening following the successful turnout to this one. We will keep you all posted.

Last term we looked at occupations and invited various professions into playgroup which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The police talked to the children about stranger danger and in an emergency, we should go to a police officer if we are lost. The vet brought in her dog which the children loved stroking and learning about being safe with other people's dogs. We used the money raised at the Christmas nativity to pay for a Bristol Zoo experience. They came in and showed us some cockroaches, scorpions, a tarantula and a giant snail all of which were very fascinating.



We also enjoyed a little trip along to the Kings Head for afternoon tea where the children saw Angela make hot chocolate for everyone which was delicious.



We have a very full half term ahead and are organising the **Village Egg Hunt** in conjunction with Eastington Primary School which will be held on **Saturday 6th April** at the start of the Easter holidays. This is a great family day out with a theme of Disney Pixar. Don't forget to put this date in your diary.

Preparing ahead, we continue with our support for the children leaving us to start school in September by running our Pre School Sessions at Eastington Primary School. These sessions will be available for the children that are lucky to be offered a place at our fantastic local school.

If you would like any information regarding this or Playgroup in general please contact us and we will be happy to have a chat.

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

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

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

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

If you would like more details please contact our administrator Michelle

07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com

or visit our website www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

Groups

Teddytunes



Every Thursday term time 10-11.30 One hour of musical fun with Vanessa and her guitar. Learn easy to sing action songs and nursery rhymes followed by social session with homemade cake and refreshments. Dancing with bubbles at the end. Come on down to beautiful Frampton on Severn for some musical fun and frolics! Feel exhilarated and uplifted with the joy that singing with others will give you. Make new friends, enjoy a fabulous mornings entertainment! Pay as you go, £6 a session, start any week, no sign up fee or hidden extras. We take you and your baby from any age (mine joined as newborns!) Please do call me or message me anytime for queries or directions
Bye for now! Vanessa 07806 802540 / 01453 828557
We have a very lively Facebook page please find us 'TeddyTunes'.
www.teddytunes.co.uk vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk



Jolly Joggers

Come join the Jollies!

We are a group of friends meeting at least once a week welcoming people of all abilities. Our group is totally free and open to all.

Within the beginners we have 3 distinct groups...the brisk walkers, walking to jogging and fast jogging. We offer support and company on these dark nights and fun and laughter! Please phone Vanessa for more details or visit our lively Facebook page (search Jolly Joggers Eastington, and look out for circle of trainers that's us)!

Come on out and get started with your fitness program. All you need is hi viz jacket and a torch.

We welcome you! Vanessa 07806 802540 / 01453 828557 vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk



Community Wellbeing Service

The **Independence Trust** will be available to talk about and answer questions on their Community Wellbeing Service. COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE! *Teas and coffees available.*

Wednesday 24th April, from 11.00 am at Cadbury Hall

The Community Wellbeing Service is a free and confidential service for anyone over the age of 16. It can connect you to local services and groups that can help improve your general wellbeing and meet your wider social needs. It can guide and support on issues such as:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- General health and fitness
- Housing and environment
- Long term health conditions
- Loneliness
- Debt and finance

www.independencetrust.co.uk 0345 8638323 *Sometimes we all need a bit of extra help.*



The **Patient** Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services and health care locally.

WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS - myppg@framptononsevern.com 01452 741988

Community

From Our Neighbourhood Warden

Tips for the spring and summer

Hopefully we will enjoy a few hot days over the spring and summer; there are a few things that we still need to consider, staying safe and look after our property / possessions and living next door to our neighbours.

- Remember to close your window when you leave your house, you don't want uninvited visitors.
- If you are working in your garden either the front or back please lock the door you can't see.
- When you go on holiday have timers to turn table lamps on and off, this helps give the impression someone is at home.
- Ask your neighbour to draw your curtains in the morning and the evenings
- Respect your neighbours when you have a bonfire, no one likes their laundry smelling of smoke or their house filled with smoke or not being able to sit in their garden due to the smoke.
- Respect your neighbours when playing music; think of volume and how long you play the music for.
- If you are having a party in your garden please speak to your neighbours and let them know you are having one; they can be prepared.
- In the summer we might have our bedroom windows open at night and you might hear noises that normally you wouldn't hear when your windows are closed. Please be considerate if you leave your house early or come home late in the evening, as people are sleeping.
- If you have animals don't forget they need to keep cool as well and don't leave dogs in your vehicles.
- Always pick up the dogs fouling when you are out walking your dog, no one likes to see or step in to dogs mess.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me Carol Novoth, Neighbourhood Warden.

carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk or mobile 07970250343.

Two Events in aid of Cancer Charities



QUIZ NIGHT
 QUIZ MASTER
PAUL GRIEST
MAGPIES SOCIAL CLUB
SATURDAY APRIL 13th
7:30PM
TEAMS OF 4 MAX
£10:00 PER TEAM
RAFFLE
ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TO A
CANCER RELATED CHARITY
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE
EVENT, A DRINK AND A LAUGH
GUARANTEED

MICHAEL CARMAN
MEMORIAL CUP
STONEHOUSE XI
V
KINGS STANLEY
SAT. 18TH MAY
STONEHOUSE
TOWN FC



Community



COTSWOLD CANALS
connected

Opportunities

A collection of taster events and activities to engage, enthuse and excite everyone about the canal project.

Something for everyone, on and off the water – walks, talks, boats, wildlife and creativity -and it's all free!

Welcome to Cotswold Canals Connected Opportunities!

Contact us for more information about access and facilities. Everyone is welcome!

Share your ideas and feedback at every event to inform our activities plan. This will be submitted for a Stage 2 Heritage Fund application in November.

More info on Cotswold Canals Connected website & facebook page about activities and project updates.

email: hello@cotswoldcanalsconnected.org
Phone: 07394666180
Website: www.cotswoldcanalsconnected.org
Facebook: @CotswoldCanalsConnected

COTSWOLD CANALS connected  

The Canal is a fantastic resource, and the restoration will benefit us all. Come along and see:-

Construction Talk, Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm.

Motorways, train lines & the missing mile - hear the engineering challenges from Ken Burgin, CCT CEO & scheme architect. George Room, The Sub Rooms, Stroud. Fully accessible.

Meet the Volunteers, Thursday 25 April, 11am-2pm.

Chat about opportunities along the canal for wildlife, construction and restoration. Meet the volunteers & find out what's in it for you. Queen Elizabeth II Park, GL5 3HQ

Canal Trail, Saturday 4 + Sunday 5 May, 11am-4pm

Grab a map at Stroud train station to find storytellers, boating, local history, wildlife and fun activities all the way to Stonehouse. Food stalls along the route. For train times check out the www.trainline.com

Visit a Mill, Saturday 11 May + Sunday 12 May

See the waterwheels power textile machinery and historic looms at the Gigg Weaving Shed, GL6 0JF 10am-12pm and at Dunkirk Mill, GL5 5HH 2pm-4pm. For more info see www.stroud-textile.org.uk

Bug Bioblitz, Thursday 30 May, 10am - 1pm

Look for otters, dragonflies, kingfishers & mammals tracks along the banks of the canal & River Frome. Meet at Fromebridge Mill, GL2 7PD. Great for families, unmade path.

Green Spaces Walk, Saturday 1 June, 9.30am-1.30pm

Circular walk along the Long Ground, Canal, Capel's Mill, to Park Gardens and back. meet local eco experts at Stratford Park. Mostly accessible - quite far!

Nicer on the Water, Saturday 1 June, 11am-4pm

SUP Stroud, Boatmobility, Stroud Canoe Club, and CCT's trip boat meet for a day floating on the water. Bring a picnic, towel, friends and family. Ryeford. Accessible location & accessible boats.

History

Megan Timbrell has deep roots in Eastington. Coming from a long line of Eastingtonians, she was born in Cress Green and lived there for many years at what is now Cress Green Cattery. Her mother, Mrs Sylvia Bliss, has written down some of her early (and amazingly detailed) memories of life in Eastington. Megan has been typing and collating these and ECN has been printing excerpts for you. Here is the next instalment. This is precious living history, and tells of a time – such a short while ago really – when things were so very very different..

MEMOIR - by Mrs Sylvia Bliss - part 4

Pre-War Days

The 1920's to 1930's were days when we could walk freely around the fields, then thick with moon daises, cornflowers, cowslips, orchids, vetches and many different grasses. The hedgerows were where we picked white violets and primroses and there were dog roses, sloe bushes and crab apple trees. Many of the ponds, trees and hedgerows have now disappeared under new farming methods and new developments. A way of life that we once knew is no more, but we have many new amenities now and we are very grateful for them.

As children we didn't realize the hard life our parents had to endure, the washing in the copper, the irons heated on the fire, the wood to be chopped – that awful black-leading of the grates, the candles and the oil lamps. No cars, no telephones and only a few had electricity, to say nothing of the shed up the garden! Cold sheets, cold bedrooms, the walk to work in all weathers or the cycle ride - I remember the acetylene cycle lamps (one had to spit on the carbide to produce the gas) and what a smell it had!

If it was a wet morning and your coat got soaked on the way to work, it stayed soaked all day and likewise shoes. There was poverty in this village even when I was a child but it was very much worse in my parents day. If the father drank or was unemployed the children as good as starved and couldn't go to school as they had no shoes. They relied entirely on the help of friends and neighbours (no Family Allowance or Support Groups then or Unemployment Pay).

There were some families where the children went home at midday to bread and lard, school meals had not started then. I believe cups of cocoa were provided at the school for the very poor.

School

My memories of primary school are patchy, the main event of the year being May Day celebrations always held on 1st May.

The May Queen was chosen by vote of the whole school as were her attendants, 4 girls and 2 boys. I was Maid of Honour in 1929. We carried baskets of flowers and wore white dresses and panama hats. Some of the boys wore satin outfits (like Little Lord Fautleroy I always thought) with tri-corn hats. The crowning ceremony was performed by the wife of the Headmaster – Mrs Rowbotham. The whole school would then parade around the village dancing at various houses and chosen places where there was enough space to do so. This would last all day, everyone taking time off for lunch to resume again, always at the workhouse, the first call of the afternoon. Back to school the next day, no doubt with aching feet!

The music was provided by boys playing Kazoo's, a shaped strip of tin with an inset on the top covered with gauze. It sounded like a comb and paper if anyone remembers that now! They blew through it while humming the tune.

Bigger boys carried the Maypole and then held it upright for the dancing. The Spiders Web and the Plait are the ones I remember best. There had been many hours of practice for these complicated manoeuvres.

The teaching and the discipline were good. I especially remember Miss Amy Benfield who really made us work, taking a real interest in all the pupils.

The infant teacher was Miss Watts who had taught at the school for 50 years when she retired in 1953. In the 20's and 30's she travelled from Stroud to Stonehouse on the railcar each morning, then walking down the meadows to the school. We all loved her; she was a good old-fashioned no-nonsense teacher but very kind and considerate.

History

Sport

In the 30's Eastington had a fine football team, which crowds of us supported on Saturday afternoons when they played at home on the field now part of William Morris House.

When they played away, we would cycle to see them at such far-away places at King Stanley, Whiteshill, Frampton on Severn or Saul. I think Nupend too had a football team at the time. When Cup Final Day arrived we would turn up with royal Blue and White ribbon bosses which we had painstakingly made during the week. No showers or baths for the team then, they would change in the Kings Head and trot down to the field. I assume that the visiting team would take their dirty knees home with them (probably cycling).

Characters

At that time there were many memorable characters that we knew and felt affection for.

George Baltic was one, always turning up at our door just as we were about to eat at midday on Saturdays, sucking his old clay pipe. He knew my father was a soft touch and would find a bob or two for him to go to the Kings Head.

There was Cocker Woodman and his brother Joe with the dog he boasted to have trained to hide behind the hedge when the local bobby appeared as he had no license for it!

Percy Dyer, with the bad limp, would travel around with the threshing machine owned by Mr Jesse Vines of Hardwicke, from farm to farm standing on the top, cutting the bond of sheaves as they were fed in.

Freddie Kent from the workhouse, a tall man with broad shoulders, but bowed from carrying a yoke and heavy buckets of milk from Mr Reynolds farm at Nupend back to the workhouse.

Mr Betteridge who live at Frampton on Severn but was well known as the carrier of parcels from the LMS railway station through the village, the little horse trotting along pulling the trap.

'Doughy' Sadler who made the most delicious batch cakes which we always had for Sunday tea. He baked his bread in his premises behind the shop/off licence in Bath Road (now known as Coppers)

Mr William Powell our milkman for many years, came as Doughy Sadler did on a motorbike and sidecar (Sunday deliveries then)

Bertie Underwood, our local cobbler - he was only about three foot tall and looked like a little gnome. He was the same age as my Mother's own brothers so they always kept in contact with him. My own children loved him and would go and sit with him in his little shed while he sewed a strap on their sandals or handle on a shopping bag.

I must not miss out my Grandfather, Robert William Shill who from 1911, delivered the Citizen Newspaper around the village. His wife had died at the age of 41 leaving him with seven children, the youngest a baby of a few months. Before there was a newsagent in the village, every evening after his days work at Bonds Mill he would walk to the LMS station at Stonehouse and collect the papers from the 6.00 p.m. train.

He was was paid 2d (old pence) per dozen and the amount of papers each evening was about 7 dozen.

In the winter he carried a candle lantern or, later, a carbide lamp. I can well remember looking out from my home, then at Canal House, to see if he was coming and could see the lamp bobbing about as he come nearer.

Coming nearer to present day, Mr Owen Harris was certainly a character. His appearance (quite deliberate I believe) of being a country yokel was quite untrue as it hid a shrewd brain and a ready wit. He, like a few of us, found it very difficult to accept the inevitable changes that have come to the village.

He did his best to halt the progress by keeping his much loved horse and old farming implements and making good, solid, old fashioned hay ricks. It is not easy to live ones entire life in a village that is changing before your eyes. Sadly, Owen is no longer with us, and for me and I know a number of others, it seemed that the heart of Eastington went with him.

Groups

Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

Another Spring is springing and we've had a fantastic couple of months at Groups. Free food February was a brilliant month of sharing all the wonderful foods we can eat while following our Slimming World Extra Easy plan and the Groups members lost an amazing 44 stones over the month. So what can you eat - here's a selection of yummy foods my members enjoy while still losing weight.



**Breakfast - Slimming World
English Style**



**Omelette for lunch
filling and tasty**



Yummy Lunch

Thankyou to my lovely members for letting me share their photos.

So now we've moved into March and the mixed weather has kept us on our toes with food choices. One day it's warming comforting foods and the next we're looking at Summer food choices.

We've continued to talk about Body Magic our activity programme and many have tried and enjoyed new activity ideas which has been great to hear and learn about. So we continue to move through the year supporting each other to reach our weight loss goals and celebrating Target weights achieved.



Slimming World Roast dinner - delicious

If you'd like to come along and join us at one of our friendly groups you can on any week of the year. We meet at Stonehouse community centre at 9.30am Wednesdays or at Eastington village hall at 5pm or 7pm.

Best wishes Lorna 07974937830

Local Talent

A couple of months ago we used local magazines such as this one to advertise for a new Receptionist/Admin Assistant to join the Severnside Osteopathic Practice here in Saul. Within days applications started to come in, and we have now recruited someone for the position.

The calibre of the applicants so impressed us however, that we asked this magazine to include this note to thank all of them once again for getting in touch, and to remind everyone else that there is a huge amount of talent right here on our doorstep!

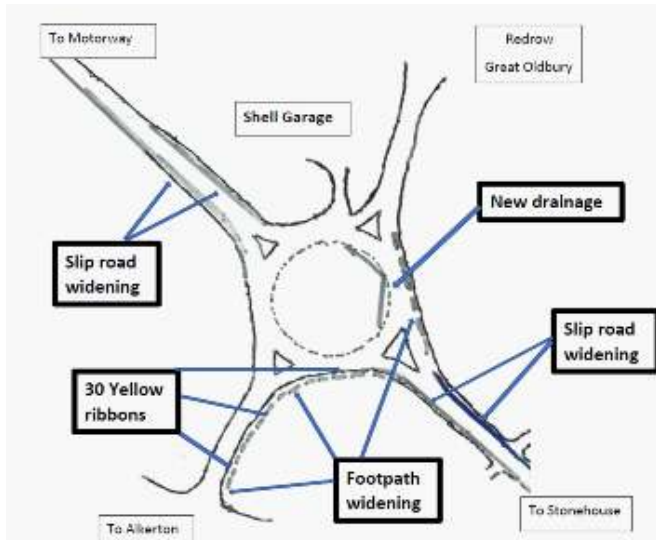
Caroline Tosh

Severnside Osteopathic Practice, Saul

Community

What's all the fuss at the Shell Garage Roundabout at Chipmans Platt ?

For several years now, Gloucester County Council (GCC) have been planning £4 million-worth of improvements - to our roundabout, to the Oldends Lane and Horse-trough roundabouts and to the traffic lights at Bridgend, all on the A 419. There have been plenty of public consultations and meetings with our Parish Council and Stonehouse Town Council so there should be no real surprises - but work is now actually starting and will be going on for some months..



The purpose of the works is to improve traffic flow into and out of the roundabouts by widening the road to create extra lanes for 200-400 metres in each direction as shown.

The footpaths are also to be widened to 2-metres to take cyclists and pedestrians.

This has involved some early works to improve the drainage, especially across the roundabout, which you will already have seen happening.

Parish Council and local volunteers have been at pains to stress to GCC that environmental damage should be minimised, especially after the shock of the wanton destruction of hedgerows and 200-year-old oak trees by Redrow at Great Oldbury.

GCC appeared to be taking this on board but, as we have seen before, instructions from planners so often seem to fail to reach the man with the JCB – or in this case chainsaw.

A meeting with GCC, named “meet the contractor”, was supposedly due in March - BUT a **subcontractor** showed up in **February**, wielding chainsaws for “essential preparation”. This seemed to include “removal of all trees back to the fence line”. The message about environmental conservation had been completely lost or conveniently forgotten somewhere.....

There is such an instrument as the **GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSERVATION ROAD VERGES SITE REGISTER**. This should ensure that *“Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) coordinate efforts to identify and protect verges only of significant wildlife including community value in the County. By working together, activities are ongoing to ensure that these verges receive appropriate conservation management as part of highways maintenance and related schemes”*

Our roundabout and its verges are on this register, designated as CRV009. Articles in ECN over the years (notably based on the work of Val Taylor) have highlighted the richness of this very special little habitat and the rare wild flowers and insects found there. It is a special place, and the contractors have now been made aware of their duty of care under this recognised protection.

See previous ECN article online at this link: www.bit.ly/rbout



Why the Yellow Ribbons on the trees?

Volunteers did not wait for any more “oops, sorry” moments – once trees are felled, they take a generation to re-grow. “Replacement” is a poor substitute!

The most vulnerable verge has three rows of trees, so yellow ribbons were tied to all the trees furthest from the road where we believed contractors did not need to clear so drastically. This sharpened the attitudes of GCC, Amey and the contractor when talking to the Parish Council.

The ribbons are still there, a reminder that we are watching and a clear sign to any gung-ho tree surgeon to ask questions first and chop second. Or not at all.

Church

St Michael and All Angels, Eastington

Easter at Eastington Church

Bishop Robert is visiting the Stroudwater Team on Sunday 14th April (Palm Sunday), starting in Frampton-on-Severn with a Palm Sunday possession on The Village Green at 9.30am, followed by a Palm Sunday Service at Stonehouse Church at 10.30am.



On Thursday 18th April (Maundy Thursday) at 7pm, we will be having our annual Agape service in the Lady Chapel at Eastington Church. This is an informal communion, during which we have a 3 course-meal. Due to catering purposes, please us know whether you are intending to come along by contacting Chris Amys on 01453 821656 or at chris.amys@hotmail.com.

On Friday 19th April (Good Friday) at 6pm, we will be holding a Devotional Service in Eastington Church. This will be an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and look ahead to his resurrection.

Join along and experience Easter with us on Sunday 21st April 2019 (Easter Day) where we will be celebrating Easter in our Communion Service at Eastington Church at 10am.

New Family Service!



Eastington Church has recently started a new style of informal and relaxed worship with our Rector Steve Harrison. This service differs from our usual approach to worship, but will have many of the essential ingredients that you would expect from a Church service, such a time for prayer and reflection, as well as traditional and modern music. We will also share the communion during the service, and have the opportunity to meet friends after the service when refreshments will be served.

This is an exciting time at Eastington Church as we begin our journey to offer something new to your community. We hope that as many of you will get involved so that our worship is shaped into what you would like from your local parish Church.

Our next informal communion service with audio-visuals will be on Sunday 19th May at 11.15am, followed by refreshments, where everyone will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Upcoming Church Services

There are a number of services taking place at Eastington Church and across the Stroudwater Team during the next couple of months. In particular, we are pleased to be joined by the Bishop of Tewkesbury on Palm Sunday (see next page).

In addition, there are a number of services taking place across the Stroudwater Team throughout Holy Week and Easter Day, further details of which are on the Notice Board at Eastington Church.

Church

St Michael and All Angels, Eastington

| Date | Time | Church | Service |
|--|--|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 th April | 11.15am | Eastington | Morning Praise |
| Sunday 14 th April Palm Sunday | Palm Sunday Possession on the Village Green in Frampton-on-Severn at 9.30am, followed by service at Stonehouse Church at 10.30am | | |
| Holy Week | Please see Notice Board at Eastington Church for details of Church services taking place during Holy Week across the Stroudwater Team. | | |
| Thursday 18 th April Maundy Thursday | 7pm | Eastington | Agape |
| Friday 19 th April Good Friday | 6pm | Eastington | Devotional Service |
| Sunday 21 st April Easter Day | 10am | Eastington | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 28 th April | 11.15am | Eastington | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 5 th May | 11.15am | Eastington | Morning Praise |
| Sunday 12 th May | 11.15am | Eastington | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 19 th May | 11.15am | Eastington | Holy Communion with audio-visuals |
| Sunday 26 th May | 11.15am | Eastington | Holy Communion |

Eastington Church Annual Meeting

Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7pm

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7pm at Eastington Church. All parishioners are encouraged to attend to discuss and vote upon matters which will have a significant bearing upon the future of the Church within our village.



There will be two vacancies for Churchwardens and nine vacancies for the Church Council, including a Secretary and Treasurer. At present, we do not have anyone who is intending to stand as Churchwarden or Treasurer. Therefore unless individuals are willing to come forward to stand as a Churchwarden or Treasurer, the Church faces an uncertain future.

If you would like to offer whatever talents you possess to ensure our Church is conserved, maintained and enhanced for the enjoyment of present and future generations, please come along to our Annual Meeting at Eastington Church on Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7pm, or alternatively you are invited to have an informal discussion with our Rector Steve Harrison, who can be contacted on **07466 858975** and at rectorstroudwater@gmail.com.

Community



A Cello Concert with Benjamin Dry

Who last performed for us in October 2015

Programme to include:
Suits 2 and 3 by J.S.Bach

Saturday 25th. May 2019
Eastington Church @ 7.00pm

Free admission with retiring collection.
Refreshments available during the interval

For more information
please contact Robin Harris on 01453 823433
or email harrisnestings@gmail.com



Blue Frog Theatre Company Community Project 2019

I am looking to create an original piece of community theatre based on local stories in and around our Parish of Eastington. I recently came across an article in the ECN about 'The Band of Hope' and wondered if anyone had any more information on this or perhaps where I could find some. I would also welcome any local historical stories that anyone might know of that you think may be worth having a look at. Please get in touch if you have a story that you think could be of interest.

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Frog-Drama-Education-Specialists>

Community

Cake and the Country

Beautiful Bespoke Baking



Jan Lawry moved to Westend just over two years ago and has already established herself as the area's favourite cake maker with her company, Cake and the Country. Jan started the company just over ten years ago in response to a need for beautiful, bespoke cakes made from fresh locally sourced ingredients – the difference is that Cake and the Country doesn't have a "shop front" so can offer the perfect cake at a reasonable cost.

With a lifelong love of baking from watching her mother make amazing cakes, pastries and pies, Jan trained in patisserie at The New Forest Cookery School and then went on to learn sugarcraft with the world famous cake maker to the stars, Peggy Porschen, in Belgravia London. Jan has also trained with Richard Bertinet in Bath learning to make delicious fresh breads and pastries.

Since moving to Gloucestershire with partner Max (a Gloucestershire lad) and their beloved cocker spaniel, Beryl, Jan now supplies bespoke cakes throughout the county and has recently launched "The Saturday Night Cake-Away" – delivering a freshly made box of cupcakes or traybakes. Her order book is also busy, with orders already in place for 2020!

Want to know more? Take a look at her Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Stonehousecake/>

to read her 5* reviews and gallery of photos.

Contact Jan on **07754 419075** for your next special occasion cake or to order a Saturday Night Cake-Away.



LADIES OF EASTINGTON

Not as grand as it sounds! We are a group of women who meet up on the **last Thursday of each month**, to have a natter, share ideas and get out of the house.

We usually meet at the Kings Head, but check with Anna-Marie on 07581 010884

Check out our facebook page. Let us know if you would like to join us - or just turn up at a meetingThere will always someone there to offer a smile and a hello.

Eastington Yard Trail - Spring 2019



So now we have Christmas, new year, Valentine's and other occasions out the way, time to think about spring cleaning, and what a perfect way to declutter, on your own doorstep!

Looking to fix a date soon - please let me know if you are interested - to have a stall or just a mooch.

Contact me via facebook or on 07786 989 368

Or email yardtrail@eastington.website Thanks. Katie-Ann Potter

Church

Eastington Methodist Church



| Eastington Methodist Church Main Activities | |
|--|---|
| Baby & Toddlers Group | Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am |
| Prayer Meetings | Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am |
| Lunchtime Bible Study | Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm |
| Bible Study House group at The Pike Lock House | Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30pm |
| Youth Club (11-18) – <u>except on April 12th</u> | Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm |
| Café Church (all ages together) | 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays 11am |
| Main Services (separate activities for children/young people available) | The other Sundays 11am |
| For more information call Ken or Rebecca Burgin on 01453 827414 or visit : www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk | |



On a quiet, calm night 107 years ago, the White Star ocean liner Titanic impacted an iceberg with a glancing blow. What happened next has horrified and fascinated people ever since and it is a story of many “what ifs”. With hindsight, if just one thing had been different, the outcome could well have been very different including in no particular order: enough lifeboats, less speed, the nearby ship California interpreting the distress rockets correctly and/or having it's radio switched on, being a couple of hundred metres further north or south, the captain heeding the iceberg warnings or even hitting the iceberg head on (which would have bent the front but not sunk the ship). If only they had foresight.

What about our lives? Are we steaming at full speed into the future ignoring the warnings and hoping for the best without God? The Bible is full of warnings and is very clear about the consequences of ignoring them. Whether we collide into one of life's icebergs or whether we have a safe and comfortable life with few problems, in the end we all need a lifeboat – our physical bodies are not designed to last forever. For Christians, Jesus is that lifeboat and there is no other. Most importantly, a lifeboat is of no use if it cannot be found or if there is no seat reserved for you. Understanding the Easter Story is a good start in making sure you have a place in God's lifeboat so why not join us this season to find out more?

Both of the April Café Church sessions have an Easter theme with the first exploring Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the exuberant acclaim of the people. The second one falls on Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

In the intervening week, Jesus' popularity turned into hostility and the crowds that had shouted “Hosanna” only a few days before shouted “Crucify”.

We will be holding a **Good Friday** service of reflection at 10:30am on April 19th.

Palm Sunday
11:00am on 14th April

CAFÉ CHURCH



Easter Sunday
11:00am on 21st April



Jesus is Alive!



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

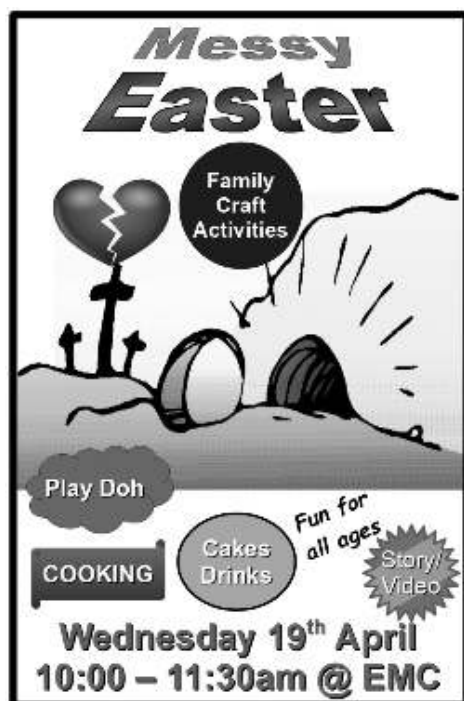


CAFÉ CHURCH



Church

Eastington Methodist Church



On the Wednesday before Easter (in the school holidays) we have another **Messy Church** which is suitable for all ages; even the very young.

We are taking a small number of young people to Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead during the first week of the school holidays so there won't be a Youth Club on Friday April 12th but there will be one on the 19th (Good Friday).

From Easter, those children currently in Year 6 are welcome to join the **Youth Club** which runs on Friday evening from 7:00 – 9:00pm. Any parent with questions is welcome to contact us or pop in to see what we do and satisfy themselves that we have appropriate safeguarding procedures in place.

The **May Café Church** sessions on Sunday 12th & 19th are on the themes of Following Jesus (being called) and Going out for Jesus (being sent).

Ken and Rebecca Burgin 01453 827414
www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk



01453 377034
www.spotdesk.co.uk

Spotdesk Coworking
 Unit 5, Stonehouse Commercial
 Centre
 Bristol Road
 Stonehouse
 GL10 3RD

Just opened: a new shared office / coworking space. With solid wood desks available for freelancers, small businesses or charities to come and work in a professional workspace.

Working from home can be lonely and can leave you feeling isolated. We know, we've done it too! What we're offering is a shared office to cut the cost of starting and running your business. An enjoyable way to spend your working day with others.

We offer high speed wi-fi, printer, coffee, tea and kitchen area. If you are thinking of starting a business or are already in business then call us and we can set up a membership.

Payment is by direct debit, monthly and you can choose from 4, 10 or unlimited days per month.



Councils

District Councillors Newsletter

Cllrs Davies and Jones took the new Chief Executive of Stroud District Council, Kathy O'Leary on a tour of Severn Ward in February. We toured Eastington, Frampton on Severn, Arlingham, Fretherne with Saul and Whitminster. We were able to point out various places of interest including the Snakey Park complex and the site of the proposed ECLT development. We continued down through Frampton to the church, the site of the former Cadbury Bros factory, then on to Arlingham Passage, through Saul to where the Stroudwater Navigation used to join with the River Severn and on to Saul Junction to see the Canals junction there. We then came back through Whitminster, where Whitminster House by the church dates back to the Domesday Book in parts, and crossed the Stroudwater Canal at Walk Bridge. We finished our tour at Starbucks, meeting there with the Eastington Parish Council Chair and Planning advisor, after showing Kathy the Great Oldbury site. Kathy then went on to attend the Eastington Parish Council meeting in the village hall where she spoke about her new role and what she hoped to achieve, and was able to answer questions from members of the public.

The Forest Green Rovers 'Ecotricity' Stadium application is due now to go to the Development Control Committee next month. Prior to that, all SDC Members will be invited to meet the Chairman of FGR for a question and answer session. At the time of writing, no date has been fixed for this, but please contact either of your Ward Councillors if you have any issues you would like raised.

Everyone should have received their Council Tax demand notices by now, for the first time there is no booklet enclosed with it detailing SDC services and how the Council Tax is worked out. Instead, details can be found at www.stroud.gov.uk This is a County-wide initiative, which SDC is taking part in this year.

An Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer has been appointed at Ebley Mill, his name is Patrick Arran.

As usual, if anyone has any concerns or issues relating to Stroud District Council, please contact either,

Cllr Stephen Davies, cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk 07802 595307 Cllr John Jones, cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk 07808 922918.

A Parishioner's view

Ten of the leaders of voluntary groups were able to meet Kathy O'Leary prior to the Parish Council. This was a welcome opportunity to put across the very positive things which we achieve as a community, to balance the necessary negativity about the environmental disasters at Great Oldbury.

TEAS, PROWD, ECLT, Walkie-Talkies, OHMG, KER, Cotswold Canal Trust, ECO, ECN and the NDP committee all had a chance for a chat with the very relaxed and personable Mrs O'Leary. All were impressed by her handling of the Q&A afterwards, having a strong Planning background, she will be a welcome change at the top of Stroud DC.

We had provided a pictorial map of the parish to assist her and our councillors on their drive about. It was the first time in her various tours of parishes that she had had a map, which scored us some points. Having put some faces to the achievements in the pictures and the site visits, Mrs O'Leary has an aide memoire in her favourite style – she was a Geography graduate originally!



Mrs. Kathy O'Leary

Community



Intergeneration Connections

Story telling, rhyming & crafts

Last Friday of each month at 10am

At the Kings Head House, Eastington

Bringing Together, Learning Together, Growing Together

 Find us on Facebook

K THE KING'S HEAD HOUSE

01453 822277
info@thekingsheadhouse.com
Bath Road, Eastington
GL10 3AA

Do you know of anyone who may benefit from this social interaction?

Would you like to support a group like this?

Please come along to the Kings Head House Hotel

on the last Friday of each Month at 10 am

- to share a story, sing your socks off and have a natter.

All ages welcome.

We look forward to seeing you!

Community



Eastington Community Land Trust Ltd. (ECLT) Providing the homes that Eastington needs

ECLT's project to build 23 homes for affordable rent in Claypits has ticked almost all the technical boxes for the Stroud DC Planners. There remain just a few legal hoops to jump through before planning permission can be officially granted and a start-on-site date can be inked in. At that point our Housing Association partners, Aster Homes, will be taking most of the burden from ECLT whose trustees will be meeting for the 50th time on April 4th.



This will be the largest physical evidence of the work of so many volunteers - including ECLT, the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Development Committee and the delivery team of the ECN. They have all helped to conduct progressive stages of research and public consultation, starting with:

- the Parish Plan in 2013
- the Housing Needs Survey 2014
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016
- Incorporation of ECLT as a Community Benefit Society 2016
- Planning Application for 23 homes for affordable homes submitted 2018

..... and continuing into a new cycle, with the Housing Needs Survey 2019 issued by the Parish Council and delivered to you with this edition of ECN.

Please support the Parish Council in this 5-yearly Housing Needs Survey

by returning your form as soon as possible - whether or not you foresee a housing need for your family

ECLT will await the outcome of this 2019 Survey to be reported by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and we stand ready to plan for whatever you, the parishioners, say we need next to improve Eastington's housing supply.

The ECLT project in Claypits shows that the community can deliver better results for the people of this parish by providing the type of homes that the market developers don't always get around to building.

Tom Low
ECLT Secretary

*******Join the ECLT! - it costs £1 for lifetime membership - we have 115 members so far *******

*A Registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 7425
registered address: Hazel Cottage, Millend, Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 3SF,*

www.eastingtonclt.uk 01453 823425