



eastington **community** news

edition
178

www.ecn.me.uk

Dec 2019 - Jan 2020



Love Eastington
@eastingtonnews

Celebrating Community in
the Parish of Eastington

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

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



Hello Dear Readers,

A hearty welcome to your winter edition of ECN.

Once again, the world seems mired in politics and, although I can happily report that this is a fully Brexit-free zone, we do have our own local political sagas going on. Please see pages 9 and 15, and make sure that Stroud District Council are made aware of your views!

On a much more cheerful note, we see that Congratulations are due to many of our contributors this time:- to Eastington Cricket Club on their promotion to the Premier Division, to ECLT for finally getting the affordable housing scheme off (or rather on) the ground, to the Blue Frog Theatre company on their terrific performance in the Church this autumn, to the the Cotswold Canal Trust for gaining the funding to start 'our' phase of the Canal restoration, to Christopher Handbury whose Qigong based health classes celebrate 8 successful years at the Community Centre and to all the people who have put together so many seasonal activities for us to enjoy!

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas time and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Tom, Jan and Mary.

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Deadline for next issue : Thursday 23rd January 2020 (For delivery around 1st Feb. 2020)

Please email your articles, stories, photos and events to articles@eastington.website

or, for ads please use advertising@eastington.website

Space is limited - we may omit, edit or shorten articles. Views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.

See it in colour, via the Hub: <https://eastington.website>

Community



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

Building begins at Puddleworth Close, Claypits

After three years of planning (and another five or six in background), at last work has started on our first 23 affordable homes. It has taken 65 ECLT board meetings (we are all volunteers) and £85,000 of grants from various sources to make it this far.

We are now dependent on EG Carter of Gloucester, building to ECLT's designs for our Housing Association Partners, Aster Homes. The bulk of the £4 million project cost comes from Homes England, an agency of the Home Office.

Whilst the scale of the machines being used is impressive, at this early stage it is difficult to make out what the site will eventually become.

A lot of this is because the first installations are underground pipes (water supply, storm water drainage and foul drainage), manholes, and telephone and electrical ducting.

It will be around Easter 2020 before the first brick walls sprout up.



The spine road will soon be following - quite vital as a protection to the underground mains (water and fibre cables) that pass under the site to link regional supply networks.

ECN will bring you more exciting photos in the next edition.

Delivery will be around the end of 2020, dependant on the vagaries of the weather, of course!

All these homes are for affordable rent, to be let by Aster Homes through the Stroud DC waiting list – Homeseeker Plus - but with a preference for people with an Eastington Local Connection.

If you think you may qualify but have not already registered, please go to: www.homeseekerplus.co.uk. For more details also see <https://eastingtonclt.uk/about/the-housing-register/>

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

Councils



Parish Matters

As many of you may already be aware, our Parish Clerk, Julie Shirley, resigned in October. We would like to thank her for giving us four and a half years of outstanding work, and we wish her every success in her new ventures. Julie has left the Council in a very healthy position as a Gold Standard Council.

In the interim period we would like to welcome Anita Sach, Clerk. Anita has provided temporary support for us in the past and we know that we are in safe hands. The vacant Clerk/RFO position is already advertised and we are hoping to appointing a new, permanent clerk before Christmas.

Memorial Garden

After what could be considered a 'shaky start', the contractors have completed the initial work on the Memorial Garden. Whilst awaiting the next phase of planting in the Spring, Councillors will cover the ground with weed suppressant.

Spring Hill and Bath Road

Following extensive negotiation, Highways have agreed the amount of money they will allocate to improving the pedestrian paths along sections of both Spring Hill and Bath Road. At the last council meeting it was agreed by Council to go ahead as soon as possible.

Snakey Park

Improvements to the Play Park are also imminent, and we are currently waiting for our chosen contractors to begin work. They need to try out a sample of the material they will use to repair areas, and this work is very dependent on weather conditions.

Great Oldbury

Council has had leaflets printed to welcome the new residents and these will have been delivered by the time you read this.

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

Muriel Bullock Chair 07715 962309



Winter Greetings from the Ladies Of Eastington



We are a small and welcoming friendship group set up to provide support, conversation, laughter and a reason to get out of the house for an evening!

We meet up on the last Thursday of each month (during term time) at The King's Head House from 7:30pm onwards.

At our November meeting we were busy reviving old and creating new decorations for our contribution to the Eastington Christmas Tree Festival.



Future meeting dates include 30th January, 27th February and 26th March - why not come along?

Contact Karina on 07929175712

or join us on Facebook Ladies of Eastington and see what we are about.

Community

Eastington Primary School - Class 4

Here in Class 4, we have started our school year thinking about our new school values. We have been talking about what they are, what they mean and how we can use them to strive to be independent, life-long learners who are kind, cooperative, resilient, responsible and ambitious in all we do.

Be kind – show respect and care

We are aiming high together to be kind. Being kind means looking out for others, caring for them and treating everyone with respect. I have seen kindness in our school when children open doors for others and say thank you.

Jessica Hyde



Be cooperative – work well together

We are aiming high together to be cooperative. Being cooperative means that you work well together and share your ideas. I have seen this in class 4, when we did problem solving. My group and I used teamwork to complete the problem. Cooperative work is great. A group of brains are better than one!

Marcie Young

Be resilient – keep trying

We are aiming high together to be resilient. Being resilient means that you don't give up and you keep on trying. I have been resilient in my artwork, keeping on trying until it is exactly how I want it to be.

Harrison Hart



Be responsible – reflect and learn

We are aiming high together to be responsible. Being responsible means that you learn from your mistakes and you reflect on what you have done. I have been responsible in trial and error in problem solving. I had a go at a question, answered it, reflected on what I had done before having another go.

Lily Winfield

Be ambitious – challenge yourself

We are aiming high together to be ambitious. Being ambitious means to challenge yourself to be the best that you can be and push yourself out of your comfort zone. I tried to be ambitious in maths, so that I could get onto the problem and explain my thinking.

Maude Hayward



Playgroup



After a week of Halloween and firework celebrations over the half term holiday, we have returned to playgroup to create an exciting Christmas performance 'The Magic of Christmas' which we will perform at the end of term.

We are also looking forward to making lots of Christmas crafts and cooking delicious treats to eat.

We are currently in the process of making our christmas tree to enter for the Eastington 'Christmas Tree Festival' which will be held at the church – our tree will be called 'The community Starts with Us' and be on display along with many others between 6th and 8th December.
We hope that you can all visit and vote for us!



Finally, after a very successful Bingo evening last February we are planning another event, please come along for the chance to win some fantastic prizes!



Save the date –7th February 2020

**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.**

Our playgroup operates 4 days a week offering full and half day sessions.

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

If you would like more details please contact Michelle our administrator.

07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com or visit our website
www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

Groups

Eastington Cricket Club



Players with trophies at the annual club dinner

Eastington Cricket Club had a very successful season in the Stroud and District Cricket League this year. They finished top of Division 1 and gained promotion into the Premier Division for 2020.

Will Beese won the league's individual batting award and Fred Burridge the award for the league's best all rounder.

There will be one excuse less for departing batsmen next season thanks to the Co-op! The Owen Harris Memorial Ground, in a nice rural setting, has the disadvantage of hedgerows and farm buildings as a backdrop for a ball travelling at high speed towards a batsman who may well not see the ball for the trees! A grant from the Co-op community fund has enabled the club to purchase two sight screens.

Unfortunately, we have to let visiting batsmen use the screens as well, and seeing the ball is still not a guarantee you will actually hit it, but it helps!

Winter cricket is also available as we are taking part in an evening indoor cricket league. Indoor nets will be on offer prior to the new outdoor season starting in May.

Anyone interested in playing for Eastington is welcome to contact the captain, Roger Beese, on 01453 823128 or, for general enquiries, the Secretary, Keith Dench, on 01453 764990.

Badminton Club

Our badminton club meets 8pm – 10pm on Thursday evenings at Whitminster Village Hall. It's a small club, and would welcome new players who enjoy a friendly game.

Contact Joy Spencer on 01453 823240



Groups

Eastington Walking Group



Fun Walks for Everyone

Walks are generally about 5 miles(3-ish hours)
Usually starting at the Badger and ending at a pub somewhere!
Dogs with poo bags welcome

And... The next walk is



Contact Vanessa for details
01453 828557 / 07806 802540
Or watch the Badger Notice board



EASTINGTON FARM SHOP

MIDDLEHALL FARM

Bath Road, Eastington, Stonehouse,
Gloucetershire, GL10 3AY

Wednesday 8am - 6pm
Thursday 8am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 6pm
Saturday 8am - 6pm
Sunday 9am - 1pm

We look forward
to seeing you soon



Jolly Joggers

Meet every Monday during term time
Outside the co-op 7pm sharp
Everyone welcome, all abilities.

Event

Paper Memories - Blue Frog Theatre Company



Blue Frog Theatre Company's 'Paper Memories' was a performance based on local stories, shared and passed down through generations, giving an insight into the history of the village through the eyes of some of Eastington's most colourful characters. It was truly a celebration of community and was performed at Eastington Church in September.

The cast, all of whom were local folk, did an amazing job and brought the stories to life. However, it wasn't just about the performance; so many people were involved in making the event happen - from all those people who gave up their time to meet and share their memories to the wonderful bell ringers and of course all those who provided lovely homemade cake and served tea, coffee and even a glass of wine if you fancied it.

A full church that night celebrated the wonderful village of Eastington. Thank you to all those who made it possible, it was a very memorable evening enjoyed by all. So many incredible stories to tell and so many wonderful characters.....perhaps another performance, who knows. Thank you all.

If you would be interested in being involved in any of Blue Frog's productions in the future, please get in touch as preparations are underway for our next performance. 'The Village Hall Tour' 2020 is a comedy of two acts and will be casted in the new year so watch this space.

Liane Hadley .



Councils

Local Plan Review – Good News & Bad News

Every 6 or 7 years, Stroud DC have to review the Local Plan. It affects Housing and Industrial Land allocation in particular, and the new plan will run from 2022 to 2040

The Good News

No further commercial house building is planned outside of Great Oldbury.

Specifically, no sites are planned for around Alkerton, although all other villages of similar size will have an allocation (e.g. Whitminster, Frampton, Minchinhampton).

Thanks go to the Parish Council for sticking to our Neighbourhood Development Plan and to ECLT for building the homes that *are* required by Housing Needs surveys, ensuring that they are exclusively affordable homes primarily for Eastington-connected people. (see page 2).

The Bad News

Land at Junction 13 has been 'allocated' for a football stadium north of the A 419 and an industrial park south of the A 419. This closely resembles the Ecotricity/Forest Green Rovers recent proposals (but does not give them any 'right' to it). Please see the on-going saga of the football stadium on page 15, which is now urgent.

Allocating industrial land so close to Junction 13 seems a poor strategic idea. It can be described as a "honeypot" site which will attract all the demand for new factories and drain the life out of more dispersed sites at e.g. Oldends Lane, Littlecombe, Cam, Sharpness and the Stroud Valleys.

- *Stroud DC own dozens of factories and workshops in all these dispersed locations and will lose considerable income to the "honeypot". How's that for an "own-goal"?*
- *All workers will have to travel by car – what price Stroud Zero-carbon 2030?*
- *The dispersed industrial sites were properly strategically planned – by Stroud DC.*

Public Consultation

Stroud DC will conduct a series of open-days in December where you can browse the plans and discuss reasoning with the Planners (send complaints to local.plan@stroud.gov.uk). Nearest open days:-

4th December - Stonehouse - The Magpies Pavilion at Oldends Lane (across the railway) 2pm – 6pm

16th December – Slimbridge Village Hall – 2pm – 6.30pm (and 17th December 9.30 – 12.30)

Consultation is open to January 22nd. You can see plans at www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview

Keep Eastington Rural

Eastington Community Orchard Group

Christmas packs of juice at the Farm Shop!



After being completely washed out on Apple Day and for the next three Saturdays, there is less apple juice available for sale this year, sadly. However, we had made some prior to the big day and sold a fair bit at the Yard Sale earlier in October.

Since then we have bottled enough to make up some Christmas Packs for you and these will be available at Hannah's Farm Shop from next weekend (**Saturday Nov 30th**). Supplies are limited, however - so don't delay if you would like to buy some!

History

Lost cottages

Stephen Mills

Everything eventually wears out or falls to bits, and houses are no exception. Even when they are meticulously maintained, there comes a time when their upkeep simply becomes too much or they no longer fulfil a need.

But a bit of background to the two cottages pictured here. Well-known postcard collector Howard Beards from Stroud, recently asked if anything was known about them.

The first, I was able to help a little with - this was Vernal Cottage. From what I've been able to discover, it stood in the corner of the field at the end of the lane that runs from Millend up to Cress Green. It was located just beyond the last cottage on the left. There are now only a few remnants left deep in the undergrowth. Howard suspects that the photo may have been taken by the Stonehouse photographer Frederick J Restall, who was active between c1910 to 1927.

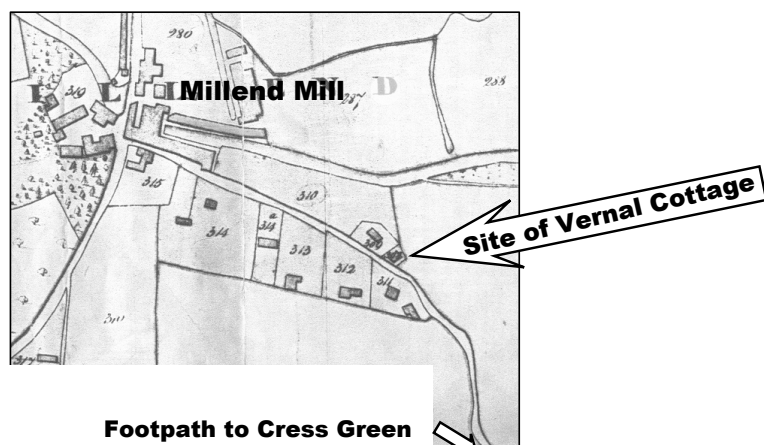
Apparently the cottage was demolished in the early 1950s by Mr Keyes, who farmed the land at the time. It's been suggested that it may have taken its name from that of the field sometimes referred to as 'Bloody Vernal', a name that supposedly commemorates a 'battle' that took place there during the Civil War – probably no more than a bit of a scuffle!



Vernal cottage

The house with the two chimneys is what is now Hazel Cottage and Millend Mill is just visible in the background.

it would be interesting to identify the little girl holding the cat.



History

Lost Cottages Contd...

The photograph of the second cottage carries the impressed mark of Walter G Lewis, an Eastington-based photographer.

He was born in 1874 and died in 1957 and was descended from a family that lived at Nupend.

We've not been able to identify this one so far. It may be that it has been demolished or modernised, changing its appearance.

Does anyone recognise it?



Cotswold Canal Trust - Stroudwater Navigation Restoration



The Cotswold Canals Trust is working with SDC and other partners to restore the local canal network. The current phase of the project includes reinstating the waterway, locks, bridges and wetlands which were destroyed when the A38/A419 roundabout and the M5 were built in the 1960s. This is part of the so-called 'missing mile'.

£872,000 of development 'starter' money came from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2018, and the Trust will find out early next year if 'Cotswold Canals Connected' will receive all of the £9 million for the whole Stonehouse/Saul stretch from Lottery funding.

Much of the overall restoration work is being done by CCT volunteers but where the project crosses major rail or road infrastructure, the works will be professionally procured and undertaken by contractors.

In May 2019 Highways England awarded £4 million towards the infrastructure needed for restoration of the missing mile. The work required on the roundabout, as shown in the picture, has now been given the go-ahead and contractors will commence work this month (December 2019).

The project will enhance historic features near to the M5 and A38, will increase biodiversity with more than 30 hectares of wildlife habitats, will improve flood prevention measures and will provide for community orchards. The scheme will also provide an off-carriageway pedestrian and cycle route through the roundabout.

No doubt some disruption to traffic will occur,

- but this time in a really worthwhile and eco-friendly cause!

Groups

Health Class Celebrates 8 Years at the Community Centre.



Chinese Medicine Practitioner and best-selling Author Christopher Handbury celebrates his 8th year of teaching his Qigong health and healing classes at the Eastington community centre.

You may not have heard of Qigong before (pronounced Chee-Gong), but you may be familiar with other Eastern practices like Yoga and Tai Chi. The main difference between the three is that Qigong is primarily a medical health system, but all have great therapeutic value.

In China's hospitals, physical movements and mindful methods are prescribed as part of your recovery, often alongside acupuncture, massage and herbal therapies. You would visit the hospital or clinic for treatment and then practice specific exercises at home to encourage the healing process.

Qigong is often described as 'energy work' or 'vital breath' and aims to restore the balance of the body and mind when illness and injury cause symptoms of physical and emotional pain. Christopher says, "we all need to learn ways to manage our health and to feel happy everyday so we can become our own doctors for better health... Qigong can show you how".

Following a car accident in 2002, which left him with a neck injury and years of chronic pain, Christopher found his solution in the traditional medical practice of Qigong.



He has now been studying Qigong for the past 16 years and teaching locally for 10 years. He currently studies and trains with some of the worlds leading health systems and teachers. Last year he began publishing his teaching of Qigong, his book titled '*What is Qigong? A step-by step guide to growing a successful daily practice of Qigong*' has become a best-selling book and received worldwide acclaim from other practitioners and students alike. His second book is due for release early 2020.

During Christopher's Qigong classes students learn how to treat and relieve many common symptoms of poor health, how to choose the right foods for the seasons to improve energy, which points on the body you can massage to treat pains and injuries and how to calm and restore harmony to the emotions so we can live a less stressful daily life. "We are a school that teaches you how to actively be part of your own health journey and have some fun along the way too!" he says.

In celebration of his 8 years at the community centre and as a thank you for local support over the years, Christopher is offering a special discount to ECN readers for his January 'Back School' course and for those attending his Qigong class a free copy of his book to help new students with their learning journey.

You can contact Christopher at The Stonehouse Holistic Centre on 01453 828000

or visit www.chi-fit.uk for Qigong class information.

Groups



QIGONG

MEDICAL HEALTH EXERCISE


- Relieve those aches and pains
- Boost your vital energy
- Feel youthful again and have fun

Join us in January for 12 weeks of gentle and holistic exercise. New term starts Jan 7th 2020

Tuesday	10.00am	Stonehouse
Tuesday	7.00pm	Eastington
Thursday	7.00pm	Stonehouse
Thursday	8.10pm	Stonehouse

Call 01453 828000 or visit www.chi-fit.uk

ECN readers get FREE a copy of best-selling Qigong book 'What is Qigong?' when you join for January.



FREE
QIGONG BOOK
Worth £12.99



BACK SCHOOL

Spinal Dynamic Healing

Learn how to relieve common problems associated with spinal and postural problems.
Easy to learn, floor based movement therapy for complete well-being and mobility.

"It's like Yoga meets Tai Chi with a sprinkle of magic!"

10 Week Course - Starts Jan 14th 2020
Every Tuesday evening at 8pm £100
Eastington Community Centre

£10 off for ECN Readers - Enter Code ECN10
Find out more and book online at www.stonehouseholistic.com
Call 01453 828000 for a chat before booking

Anxiety

Insomnia

Depression

Fatigue

IBS - PMT Pain

Foot Pain

Headaches

Neck Stiffness

Lumbar Pain

Hip Pain

Sciatica

Knee Pain

Groups



Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue

Old Bakery Cottage
The Street
Frampton on Severn
Gloucestershire GL2 7EA
07949 976717
Registered Charity 1168800

Hello from Wild Hogs.

Well what a busy year we've had! We've now been able to release most of the hoglets which came to us over the summer and it's great to know they're boosting the population in their local areas – without us they would have had no chance. And now here we are in December!

Nature may be slowing down for the winter but we in the hospital are as busy as ever, and it's obvious that many of you who support us are still keeping an eye on the wildlife in your gardens. The mild autumn has encouraged late breeding and we have had 27 admissions to the hospital this week. Most of these are young hogs, too small to survive hibernation.

We tried out a wonderful new idea at Halloween with our 'Create on the Wild Side' activity day for children in Frampton Village Hall. It was at the end of a rather wet half term week, and everyone who came had great fun. The pictures below are a few from our Facebook page, where you can get an idea of the wide range of hedgehog creations which the kids came up with. There are also lots of photos of hedgehogs in the hospital and you don't need to sign in to Facebook to have a look. There is also a lovely set of photos on our website – definitely worth a look!



There are a few Christmas events coming up where we will have a merchandise stall, so you'll be able to buy hedgehog-themed presents as well as food and crafts from other vendors. Come and find us at any of the events below:

Sat 7th December: Christmas Craft Fair, The Wool Barn, Frampton of Severn – 10am to 2pm

Sun 8th December: Vegan Christmas Market, Blackfriars, Ladybellegate, Gloucester – 11am to 3pm

Fri 13th December: Gloucester Market, The Cross, Gloucester - all day

Sat 14th December: Arlingham Christmas Fair, Arlingham Village Hall

Sun 15th December: Teckels Artisan Christmas Fair, Stonehouse Community Centre GL10 2NS – 11am to 4pm

Finally, we at Wild Hogs would like to thank you all for your amazing support throughout the year – without it we couldn't do our wonderful work. May we wish you an enjoyable festive season and a good year in 2020.

Councils

Ecotricity – FGR Stadium

Second Planning Application and First Application Appeal



Ecotricity are trying our patience and soaking up Stroud DC planning staff time (and our money) by pursuing a twin-track of:

1. A second application, possibly to be heard in mid-December by SDC
2. An appeal to H.M Inspectorate against refusal of the first application, scheduled for 18-21st February 2020

1. The Second Planning Application

There may or may not be a special meeting of the Development Control Committee for this application in mid December.

You can still send in objections on the Stroud DC planning website, reference S.19/1418/OUT.

In theory, although virtually identical, this will be treated as a new application, so you do need to make a new response.

Watch social media for announcements, in case there is a date fixed. When it is, you can attend the meeting at Ebley Mill. Last time both of our District Councillors, the Parish Council, KER and William Morris College all spoke against the stadium and there were two dozen people to support them - this counts with Councillors.

2. The Appeal (against the first application's refusal) and Public Hearing - Starting 18th February

This process is organised by the Government Inspectorate in Bristol but normally involves extensive preparation by both sides. Both Ecotricity and Stroud DC are likely to have solicitors and barristers to brief too - so this date really seems to have been set in unusual haste.

Previous objections/support will be presented to the inspector, and all people who previously responded should have been notified of the appeal date (over 250, we understand, but some seem to have been missed out.) You have until December 10th to add anything.

- If you DID object and have NOT been notified – complain to Stroud DC planners on (01453) 754871
- By all means make an extra objection to the Inspector. *Bear in mind that if FGR really want a 'Championship' stadium (as they say they do) they should be asking for 20,000+ seats to be considered - try that for traffic!*

The Parish Council will vote soon to appoint a specialist planning consultant to represent Eastington. He/she will collate all the objections since this whole saga kicked off in 2017 and attend the 4-day Public Hearing.

Anyone who has responded can attend the Public Hearing but you may be limited to 3 minutes if you want to address the Inspector. It is really worth turning up for a session or two, however, to show the Inspector that we care.

We will bring you more details in the February/March Eastington News.

Keep Eastington Rural

Groups



Frocester Women's Institute



Whist Drive and Raffle

on Thursday 6 February 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

At FROCESTER CRICKET CLUB, GL10 3TW

All welcome £3.00 entry .

Poppy Appeal

We raised £2,151.19 in our local collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year. We would like to thank the local shops for their support in having a collecting box, and of course we thank our band of door to door collectors. If anyone would like to help next year with the door to door collections, or your shop or business would like a collecting tin please get in touch.

Thank you, Kathryn & Mary Gribble, 01453 825279.



A festive poster for an Artisan Christmas Fair. The background is blue with white snowflakes and stars. On the left, there are three large, shiny Christmas ornaments (one blue, one silver, one gold). The text 'Artisan Christmas Fair' is written in a large, elegant font. Below it, the date and time 'Sunday 15th December 11am-4pm' are listed. The location 'Stonehouse Community Centre GL10 2NS' is also provided. A list of activities includes 'Beautiful gifts, live festive music, scrumptious cakes and steaming hot toddies await!'. The Teckels logo is in the top right corner, with the tagline 'Because every animal is special'. A small dog icon and the text 'Sociable dogs welcome!' are also present. At the bottom, contact information for Hannah is provided: 'Contact Hannah for bookings or info: 01452 740300, or volunteer@teckelsanimalsanctuaries.co.uk'. A small Christmas tree is in the bottom right corner.

Groups



Next meeting: Tuesday 10th December. 7:30

in The Kings Head House Hotel meeting room

Next Book: I know why the Caged Bird Sings. Maya Angelou

Written in 1969 this autobiography describes the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma.

Now the basis of a major Radio 4 drama, Maya Angelou's debut memoir paints a portrait of 'a brilliant writer, a fierce friend and a truly phenomenal woman'.



AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY

COME ALONG TO A WEEKLY CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB AT
THE KINGS HEAD HOUSE EASTINGTON
EVERY MONDAY 3:45-4:45.

THIS WILL BE A GREAT SPACE FOR CHILDREN TO MEET
NEW FRIENDS, DISCUSS AND PARTAKE WITH A VARIETY OF
DIFFERENT BOOKS AND ACTIVITIES, OPENING THEIR
IMAGINATIONS TO ALL KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES.

AGE 7-11 £3 PER CHILD
DRINK AND SNACK AVAILABLE.
PLEASE BOOK A PLACE DIRECTLY WITH ME, OR VIA
FACEBOOK
LIZ HANKS / BOOKENDS INTERGENERATIONAL
STORYTELLING

Meet Father Christmas!



Are you wondering where for your little ones
can meet Father Christmas and get into the
festive spirit?

Booking is now open to come and meet Father
Christmas in our beautiful Georgian Manor
House during our **Christmas Fair**.

Saxon Barn at Priory Farm, Leonard Stanley

Sunday 15th December 11am - 3 pm

More details and booking here: <https://www.kingsstanleyplaygroup.org/events>

All proceeds to Kings Stanley Playgroup

Church


St Michael & All Angels, Eastington

Christmas is a time for generosity.

The gifts we give do not have to be expensive or extravagant, but sometimes the time spent with a neighbour or a smile at someone we see can be just as meaningful. Sometimes we forget that God gave us the most precious gift of all, his Son Jesus Christ.

This Christmas, everyone is invited to celebrate his birth.

You can #FollowTheStar on social media, as well as searching for "Eastington Church" and the "Stroudwater Team" on Facebook and Twitter, where there will be regular updates of Christmas events and Church services, as well as festive thoughts, prayers and reflections.



Join us at our Christingle



Share the light with the Christingles

We would love for you, your friends and your family to join us at our Christingle celebration so we can support more vulnerable children.

Christmas Eve @ 6pm

St Michael & All Angels, Eastington

For further details, please contact either Gary and Jacky Dingle on 01453 825542 or Mike and Jacky Naylor on 01453 828682


Sunday 1st December @ 11.15am: Advent Service

Sunday 15th December @ 6pm: Carol Service

Christmas Eve @ 6pm: Christingle

Christmas Eve @ 11pm: Midnight Mass

Thousands of Christmas services and events are taking place in churches all over the country. Find your nearest and get involved at ACHurchNearYou.com.



You can also #FollowTheStar with us this year at any of our Christmas Services, including our:

- Advent Service Sunday 1st December at 11.15am
- Carol Service on Sunday 15th December at 6pm,
- Christingle Service at 6pm Christmas Eve
- Midnight Mass at 11pm on Christmas Eve.

From all of us at St Michael and All Angels, we hope that you have a blessed Christmas and pray that your Christmas leads you ever closer to the joy and peace of knowing Jesus Christ.



Church

Eastington Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting the Christmas Tree Festival again this year **between 6th and 8th December 2019**.

The Festival is being run to raise essential funds for ongoing maintenance repairs to the Church building, to ensure pastoral care is available for those in need, and to enhance the Church for the enjoyment of the local community for future generations.

There will be approximately 30 Christmas Trees, all of which will be beautifully decorated and individually themed by local families, households, businesses and organisations.

We are looking forward to bringing together the local community, showcasing that Eastington is a vibrant village. Our aim is to welcome everybody to our Church and to show the local and wider community what goes on in Eastington.



The Festival gets underway on **Friday 6th December 2019** when the Exhibition opens **between 2pm and 4pm** to coincide with the School run for young families.

The Exhibition reopens on **Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm**.

There is a small entrance fee of £2 for adults, with children being able to attend for free. Festive refreshments and a raffle will be available throughout the Festival.

Christmas Tree Festival Concert

To conclude the Festival, the Stanley Singers will be performing a festive concert in Church amid the splendour of the Christmas Trees on **Sunday 8th December 2019 at 7pm**.

Tickets for the concert are £5 per person which includes refreshments during the interval.

For further details, please contact Chris Amys on 01453 821656.

Church

St Michael & All Angels, Eastington

Church Library

The library in our Parish Church continues to thrive and is well used. In addition to a wide variety of books for adults and children, we also have magazines, audio books and jigsaw puzzles.

A comfortable well-lit area is available for those who wish to sit and browse. We have a number of regular borrowers and buyers who find this small library a real community asset. The library can be found at the back of the Church and is available to anyone who wishes to borrow and/or buy.

The church is open daily from approximately 9am to 4pm.

Contact details

If you have any pastoral concerns this Christmas, please do not hesitate to contact any of our clergy who would be more than willing to offer their help, support and guidance.

Team Rector: Revd Steve Harrison: 07466 858975 rectorstroudwater@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Liz Palin: 01452 741147 tv1stroudwater@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Dave Bishop: 01453 822332 tv2stroudwater@gmail.com

Reverse Advent Calendar for Stroud Foodbank

DECEMBER 1 DECORATE A BOX	2 SOCKS	3 NAPPIES	4 CHOCOLATE SPREAD	5 SHOPPING BAG
6 CEREAL BAR	7 TIGHTS	8 WIPES	9 SOCKS	10 TIN OPENERS
11 CHILD'S TOOTHBRUSH	12 MILK POWDER	13 CONDITIONER	14 TOOTHPASTE	15 TOILET ROLL
16 BABY FOOD	17 SHAVING FOAM	18 PEANUT BUTTER	19 SMALL BAG OF SUGAR	20 DEODORANT
21 RAZORS	22 BABY BATH	23 WASHING UP LIQUID	24 TOOTHBRUSH	warehouse closed 20th Dec until 6th January

Every year the Stroud District Foodbank prepares over 400 Christmas Hampers that go to local households.

One of the ways in which we are getting involved this year is the Reverse Advent Calendar.

Simply decorate a box, fill it with all the items on the Calendar and bring it along to our Carol Service on Sunday 15th December 2019 at 6pm.

We will deliver the boxes to the Stroud District Foodbank.

If you have any queries, please contact Jacky Naylor on 01453 828682.

Church



Burns Night Supper at Cleeve Cottage

Millend, Eastington

25th January 2020 @ 7.30 pm

£10.00 a ticket to include a glass of wine

Tickets £10.00 per head to include haggis, neaps and tatties followed by Cranachan a traditional Scottish pudding plus a beer or glass of wine or maybe a small nip!!

(Dietary options available but please let us know in advance)

Entrance by Ticket only available from:
Jacky and Mike Naylor 01453 828682

All proceeds to St Michael and All Angels Church Funds

Slimbridge VARIETY SHOW GROUP
Presents its 2019 Pantomime

**Treasure Island:
Long John Silver returns**

5th, 6th & 7th December, 7.30pm
Saturday matinee, 2.30pm
Slimbridge Village Hall
Tickets: £8.00 adult, £5.00 child



Tickets available from Slimbridge Post Office or Box office: 07518 710764

Buy your tickets now me hearties!

Saul Junction Santa Cruises



Saturdays & Sundays
30 Nov / 1st 7&8 14&15 21&22 Dec 2019
First Trip 10am • Last Trip 3:30pm
20 minute boat trip with Santa on board Endeavour

A truly unique way to visit Father Christmas! - take a 20 minute boat trip along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal on our trip boat Endeavour. Rudolph will be causing his usual mischief at Saul Junction Visitor Centre and Father Christmas will be handing out gifts to the children as you cruise. Tickets cost £7 per person which includes a present for children.

Follow the signs for Saul Junction, GL2 7LA

Church



Eastington Methodist Church

Eastington Methodist Church Main Activities	
Baby & Toddlers Group	Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Prayer Meetings : <i>(Tuesdays are often held whilst prayer walking in the area)</i>	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Lunchtime Bible Study	Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Bible Study House group (except first Tuesdays) at The Pike Lock House	Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30pm
Youth Club (11-18)	Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Café Church (all ages together)	Sunday Dec 8th & 15th, Jan 12th & 19th all at 11am
Other Services	The other Sundays 11am
For more information call Ken or Rebecca Burgin on 01453 827414 or visit: www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk	

Messy Christmas

Cakes
Drinks

Sunday
8th December
11:00 am – 12:30pm

Family
Craft
Activities

Christmas
Theme

Suitable for all ages

Christmas Day Service

10:30am - 11:30am

Carols at the CAFÉ

11am Sunday 15th December

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

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

It is nearly that time of year again when once again we celebrate Christmas and when EMC encourages everyone to think about its true meaning (which isn't turkey, chocolate or spending a fortune in the shops second guessing what relatives and friends might want by way of presents). Its about a baby in a far off land with a culturally unsound start in life being visited by shepherd and wise men and then at risk of death thanks to a paranoid despot. The next generation of those in power got him and He was killed on the cross. In doing so, He made a way by which we can be reconciled to God and be saved. Now that is a priceless gift and not one to try and get a refund for!

Church



Eastington Methodist Church

Our two **Café Church** services in December will be concentrating on Christmas with the one on the 8th being in the form of one of our Messy events. The one on the 15th will be **Carols at the Café**. In the New year we will revert to looking at the stories in Genesis, the first book of the Bible with the Call of Abraham on January 12th and God's Covenant and the Birth of Isaac on the 19th

At 10:30am on **CHRISTMAS DAY** we will be having our Christmas service. This will be suitable for all ages and will be led by our own Minister, Revd. Phil Summers.

Generally, our normal round of activities will continue until Sunday 22nd December when there will be a break until Sunday 5th January. The exceptions will be our Sunday morning services which will continue throughout and Youth Club is expected to be running on the 3rd January but not on December 27th.

On the **Youth Club** front, we have seen a good influx of younger members in recent months and we would be interested in hearing from any Christians living in the area who might be interested in helping us run it. We would need to carry out DBS background checks and there would be training opportunities. Please get in contact if interested.

We are also seeking to appoint a new church **Youth and Families Worker**. This is a 20 hour a week part time paid post with an application deadline of 6th January. Details are available on the church webpages.

Village Agent / Community Wellbeing service

There was a query on Facebook recently about the our 'Village Agent', so I thought I would clarify the situation at least insofar as I understand it. Please let ECN know if you have any further information. Ed.

What used to be the Village Agent scheme has been replaced by something called the 'Community Wellbeing Service'. This comes under GRCC - (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council www.grcc.org.uk)

It is a free and confidential service aiming to connect you to the appropriate local assistance (charity, organisation etc) if you have problems related to mental or physical health, general fitness, social isolation, debt, bereavement or any other challenges to your 'wellbeing'.

Info is available on the grcc website or you can contact your GP Surgery or contact GRCC by phone on 01452 528491

However, it gets complicated as there are various 'service providers'. We come under 'Stroud' area (or 'Stroud and Berkely Vale') and the actual providers of the service in this region are the Independence Trust, which you can find here:

www.independencetrust.co.uk/communitywellbeing

Telephone: 0345 863 8323 Email: communitywellbeing.stroud@NHS.net

Groups

FRAMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY TALKS

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of 2019 illustrated talks held in Frampton on Severn which we hope will be of interest to local people.

The monthly talks are on a Friday evening starting at 7.30pm in Frampton Village Hall and are organised by Frampton on Severn Village Society, which raises funds for various village projects.

You need not be a member of the Society to attend and the cost is £3.50/per person, but entrance is cheaper for members and tea/coffee plus biscuits are provided for all!

Should you be interested in becoming a member, or for more details, please contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or email: paulbradly@hotmail.com

Programme of talks for 2020

- 24th Jan: The Downton's Story - Anne & Andy Downton recall this local success story
- 28th Feb: My year as Lord Mayor of Gloucester – Chris Witts.
- 27th Mar: From Elmore to Baghdad & Mogadishu– James Littleton reflects on working in conflict countries.
- 24th April: History of Saul junction – Tony Condor.
- 22nd May: Tales of a Country Auctioneer - Philip Taubenheim. Bring your artefact for an opinion.
- 3rd July: Sir Peter Scott, Life and Impact – Jackie Harris.
- 14th Aug: Visit to Scott House, the purpose-built home which hosted the world of conservation.
- 25th Sept: Year in the life of a Wildlife Photographer – Philip Muggeridge.
- 27th Nov: James Clifford, Elizabethan Entrepreneur – Rose Hewlett.



The **Patient Participation Group (PPG)** is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. We want to understand your needs, priorities and issues please **email feedback or suggestions to** myppg@framptononsevern.com.

if you can spare just an hour or two a month, please come along to our Patient Participation Group and help us to better understand patient issues, priorities and needs.

Please call Alison on 01453 741988 or email myppg@framptononsevern.com

We simply want to help Frampton Surgery deliver the best quality of healthcare locally

WELLBEING COURSE - Wednesday 15th, 22nd, 29th January and 5th February 7.30-9.00 pm

at the Garden Room, Westmont, Bridge Road, Frampton on Severn

Strategies for wellbeing and self-care **With Rachel Stevens, Holistic Practitioner** BA Hons. MSTAT CNHC

This course will enhance your wellbeing and give you the self-care tools and techniques to reduce stress, anxiety and pain, aid sleep and support a positive outlook on life. 'Wellbeing' will take place over four evenings, in a safe and supportive group. It will cover relaxation and breathing techniques, mind-body awareness techniques, mindfulness and meditation, self-care techniques and goal setting.

FEE £60 for all four sessions (£40 with concessions) Places limited to six, so book now by emailing myppg@framptononsevern.com or calling Harriet on 07786 668369.