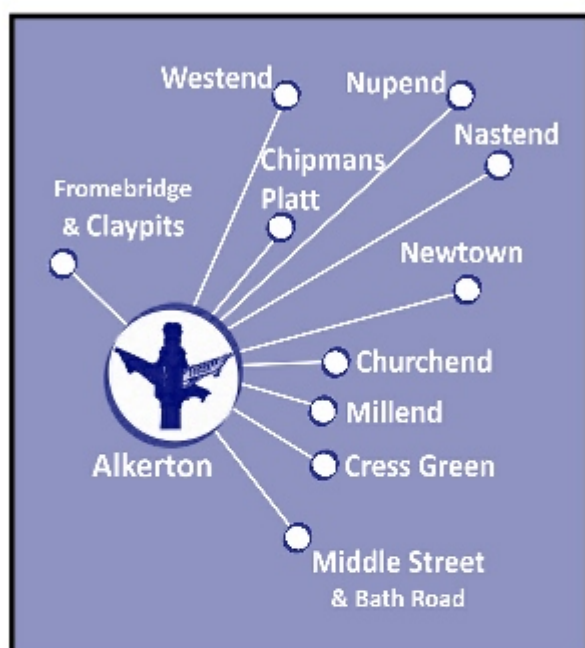




<https://eastington.website>

December/January 2021



Lynne Jessett



Photo by Jack Brown - as posted on Facebook



Love Eastington
@eastingtonnews

Celebrating Community
in Eastington

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

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



Hello Everyone,

With Halloween, Bonfire night and most of this horrid year behind us, the countdown to Christmas has clearly begun. Hopefully we will be able to see some of our friends and family in some way or another - and perhaps we will appreciate them all just a little bit more than is sometimes the case at big family gatherings!

If you have to be alone at least you will know that you are not the only one - do try to pick up that phone and chat to someone, and let us all try to make sure that those that live nearby are OK.

Winter lockdown has meant less incentive to get outside than in the spring - but there have been some dry and sunny days in which we could enjoy the spectacular colours that this autumn has produced. I hope that you have been able to enjoy these and get a boost to your spirits. Our time outside has not been restricted this time around, so we can get out and about and at least see a friendly face or two - albeit at a distance.

For some, of course, the continuing situation has just meant more work, worry and exhaustion - and our heartfelt thanks continue to go to all of you who have had to keep the wheels turning. To others, financial worries will be foremost. The best way that we can help everyone who is struggling is to stick to the rules and do all we can to hold this thing at bay until we get it beaten. Only we can do this: the Government can only do so much - in the end it is up to each and every one of us as individuals.

Wishing you all the very best of whatever this season may bring
- and hoping for a much better 2021 for all of us.

Be kind to yourselves and to each other!

Jan, Tom and Mary.

Inside this issue...

GROUPS

- 6 Playgroup
- 11 Community Land Trust
- 19 Community Orchards

ENVIRONMENT

- 4 Cotswold Canals Trust
- 14 Hedgehog Rescue

COUNCILS

- 7 District Councillors' letter
- 10 Parish Matters

COMMUNITY

- 2 Christmas Market
- 2 Community Centre
- 9 Citizens Advice
- 18 Gentle reminders

CHURCHES

- 20 Methodist Church
- 22 St Michael and All Angels

HISTORY

- 8 Charles Hooper
- 12 Mrs Louisa Cowley

EVENTS

- 15 Halloween

Deadline for next issue : **Thursday January 21st 2021** (For delivery around 1st Feb. 2021)

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 : visit the Eastington Hub at <https://eastington.website>

Community

Eastington Virtual Christmas Market



As this year is a little different Eastington School Parents' Association have setup Eastington Virtual Christmas Market, a private group on Facebook, where small businesses can sell their products and people can shop for nice Christmas presents in the absence of traditional markets.

All sellers are asked if they would kindly donate a percentage of what they make to the school PA. This is discretionary and can be made once the market has finished.

The market is now live and will run until Christmas Eve. Each business has its own album where you can see the products they have on offer. If you are interested in purchasing or would like more information then you can comment on the photo or message the seller directly. All sellers manage their own business, from advertising their products to payment and delivery. To name a few of the products for sale so far there are handmade wreaths, lampshades, Christmas decorations, leather bags and belts and many more.

If you have anything you would like to sell then please search for 'Eastington Virtual Christmas Market' on Facebook where you can ask to join the group. Please can you private message Amy Adams or Rebecca Hussey to register your interest as a seller too.

Merry Christmas! Happy shopping!

Eastington School PA



Community



These beautiful horses, that have become a familiar sight at Swallowcroft, are moving on.

Jackie and Samantha would like to say:

"A big Thank You to the lovely people of Eastington who took our horses into their hearts. Sadly we will be leaving soon."

... and Neil Darwent posted this on Facebook about some other familiar faces at Swallowcroft:

Hi everyone. It's been a while since I updated you on the Eastington Highland cattle now residing at Church Farm, Publow, just south of Bristol.

Both cow and calf are doing well and now have some new friends - a bunch of beautiful Ruby Red Devon cows and their calves. They are all still enjoying the freedom of the fields.



Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground



At the time of writing we are over half way through our second lockdown which has meant that for the second time our sports clubs and evening classes have been unable to use the facilities at the Community Centre since November 5th but hopefully it won't be too long before we can welcome everyone back to the Centre with its great facilities and beautiful surrounds.

On a good note we are very pleased that our super Eastington Playgroup and SP Carter Tuition are still using the Centre in the zoned areas set aside for them.

As I write this Eastington Playgroup are getting Christmas started and I can see that lots of my neighbours in the village are getting 'Christmas Ready' which is fantastic. I'm pretty sure that this Christmas Eastington will light up more than ever before. We are a very vibrant village after all!

So, on behalf of the Owen Harris Memorial Ground Committee we very much hope that you can see all of your nearest and dearest safely over the festive season and that you keep safe and have a wonderful time.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year at OHMG.

Contacts are: Gill Glover: 01453 828782 Centre Manager

Mark Cousins: 01453 828557, Martin Elliott: 01453 838712

Eastington Community Centre – built by the Community for the Community

Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity Registered Charity Number 1013643

Environment

Cotswold Canals Trust

From a report by John Newton Vice Chair, Cotswold Canals Trust

Heritage Fund grant £9 million to complete the Stroudwater canal restoration

Today the National Lottery Heritage Fund formally announced confirmation of a £9 million grant to enable reconnection of the canal to the national inland waterways network at Saul Junction, thereby enabling vessels to navigate to Stonehouse and then on to Stroud.

In 2018 Prince Charles opened the restored canal between Stroud and Stonehouse (Phase 1A, also made possible by a Lottery Heritage Fund grant) - but this section of canal has remained landlocked with no access to the rest of the UK canal system.



This additional funding (Phase 1B) will enable the major capital works to restore the canal to navigation by:

- reconstruction of the railway bridge at The Ocean, (pictured - programmed for May 2021),
- raising Walk Bridge on Whitminster Lane,
- constructing a canal channel under the M5 alongside the existing River Frome underpass,
- installing three new lift bridges for agricultural access across the canal
- reconnecting the canal and River Frome at two points on the Whitminster Section.
- restoration of six existing Heritage locks

Also required is to re-excavate a mile of new canal and build two new locks eastwards from the A38 roundabout through the fields to Westfield Lock in Eastington (pictured below).

This section of canal was destroyed when the M5 was constructed.

The current A38 roundabout canal works, now nearing completion, have been funded by Highways England in recognition of that previous destruction (see opposite page).

In addition to the major engineering works, extensive, on-going dredging will be required and some twenty-one hectares of new biodiversity habitats will be created, including reed beds, scrapes and orchards. Wherever possible a reconstructed 2-metre wide multi-use towpath will be established to optimise accessibility.



The historic canal archives, comprising some 100,000 documents dating from the original 1730's Company of Proprietors of The Stroudwater Navigation will be preserved and digitised for public access. These are believed to be the oldest continuous record of any canal company in the world.

Environment

This is a major community and volunteer-led project with a total value of some £23.5 million.

It is the culmination of many years of commitment from the Cotswold Canals Trust and other organisations, including Stroud District Council together with Gloucestershire County Council, The Canal & River Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

CCT hopes to complete the restoration by December 2024. Importantly, this project will present major opportunities for further local investment and job creation, work training and skills together with improved health and lifestyles (both on the water and alongside it).

The Cotswold Canals Trust is a charity dedicated to eventually re-opening the complete length of canal between the Severn and the Thames and reconnecting Stroud will be a major step in that vision; we are always looking for new volunteers to assist in and enjoy our many activities.

For more information please visit the website: www.cotswoldcanals.org.uk



By the time you read this, the amazing job of tunnelling under the Bristol Road (A38) roundabout will be finished and this channel will be full of (very deep) water. This is Highways England's way of saying "sorry we wrecked your canal in 1968". That is £4,200,000 worth of "sorry" and was the largest single donation to Phase 1B after the Heritage Lottery Fund.

And what happened to all the excavated soil?

It went to Northleach to help to shore up a wall supporting the old A40. This had been closed since 2015 when cracks developed. Using the spoil from this project saved £700,000 worth of repairs!

Our MP is Cotswold Canals Trust's newest Vice President

On 22nd July 2020, Siobhan Baillie MP became the newest Vice President of the Cotswold Canals Trust. She joins others including Rt Hon Sir Richard Needham, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown and David Drew.



In her own words... "At the end of July 2020, I received the great honour of becoming a Vice President of the Cotswold Canals Trust. I love spending time walking the canals and I have been a member of the Trust for a while.

"I supported the application for £9m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund because I know the Cotswold Canals Connected Project would mean a great deal to Stroud in terms of leisure amenities, regeneration, tourism and employment opportunities. I am thrilled that this has been successful and look forward to seeing the dream becoming a reality.

"I believe this is now more important than ever as Stroud, the Valleys and Vale start to recover from the pandemic. It is a positive way to

encourage tourism, more exercise and healthier lifestyles too. We can become a fitter and thinner nation with projects like this. Congratulations to you all for your foresight, hard work and achievements to date, I am committed to continuing championing your efforts for our community."

Groups



We have been very busy so far this term, and have taken all of the opportunities the good weather has had to offer and spent lots of time outside. We have looked a lot at safety especially around fireworks this year.



With firework displays cancelled we decided to let every child have the experience of using a sparkler at playgroup. We spoke about stop, drop and roll and then held a sparkler in a carrot to protect our little hands and waved it around to develop our gross motor skills. The children commented 'no touchy touchy it will burn you' and 'it's fizzing'.



Our intention was always to make over the allotment to use in all weathers and we have certainly been able to do that since we have changed it to artificial grass. We have continued to use the allotment in the rain and the children have particularly enjoyed using our new mud kitchen. We have enjoyed many homemade delights in there from ice cream cakes to pancakes and pizza with a stone and leaf topping! They were delicious.



We have planted some bulbs which we hope to see in the spring and use to talk to the children about growth and decay.

We have been developing our imaginations further indoors too, playing with cardboard boxes and loose parts. The children have been turning these everyday items into aeroplanes, houses and other amazing works of construction. By providing the children with loose parts it develops their creativity, imagination and critical thinking. Instead of being given a stable for the animals the children will make what they need using resources that are versatile.

We are looking forward to all of the Christmas fun we have planned and filling playgroup with Christmas singing.

Councils

District Councillors' News.

I'm sure you all know by now of the success by Cotswold Canals Connected in getting the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal through Eastington, and onwards to Saul Junction. This will involve three years of hard work, which should come to fruition in 2024.

Work at the Whitminster roundabout is expected to be finished by the end of November, the next major project will be the upgrade of the railway bridge at The Ocean, behind Stonehouse Court Hotel, due for completion at the end of May next year. Hopefully, I can be on the first boat from Saul through to Stroud.

Stroud District Council is currently holding two consultations, both online, because of Covid-19.

The first is on additional housing options - www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview. This is to consult on land that may have to be added to that already consulted on, which ended in January of this year.

If current extra figures for housing released by the Government are confirmed for the Stroud District, then the allocation Stroud will be expected to build up to 2040 will rise from 638 houses per annum to 786 p.a. This consultation includes 104 hectares of land in Whitminster, between the M5 and the A38, and substantial areas of land in Moreton Valence and Hardwicke, again, between the M5 and A38.

The second consultation is on Climate Change Action, and will include several online events to launch District Dialogues - www.stroud.gov.uk/draft2030strategy.

Both of these consultations end on December 16th. Everyone is invited to go online to have their say.

Because of the expanding roll-out of 3, 4 and 5G technology, there are likely to be more Mobile Phone etc masts springing up in the District. Not all of these masts have to get planning permission; some can be built as permitted development, provided a prior notification application is made to the Council. They have to meet the proper criteria to get consent, only appearance and siting can be objected to by the Council, which has a maximum of 56 days to approve any application, or the mast gets permission by default.

Both Stephen and John wish you all as Happy a Christmas as it is possible to have in these strange and trying times, and look forward to a much better 2021.

Cllr Stephen Davies 07802 595307 cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk

Cllr John Jones 07808 922918 cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk

Poppy Appeal 2020

An amazing £1525.32 was dropped into the Poppy Appeal tins in Eastington District this year.

Due to the Covid restrictions, we were not able to have our normal door-to-door collections, and the number of static collecting places was massively reduced - so we really were not expecting to raise such a huge amount.

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal, thank you!

Kathryn and Mary Gribble



History

A Famous but Forgotten Eastingtonian - Rediscovered!

by Stephen Mills

*Last time we learnt about **Charles Alexander Hooper**, born in Eastington in 1869 who went on to become a leading character the world of rugby in the 1890s. His name recently came to light again via an amazing chance discovery....*



The Middlesex team of 1895-96, with Hooper as captain in the middle. The photograph formed part of a series called 'Famous Footballers', issued by a national newspaper in 1895



A cigarette card of Charles Hooper from 1902, wearing a Middlesex shirt.

Unfortunately, his initial was misspelt as an E!

Charles Alexander lived at Eastington Lodge with his parents, Charles and Julia Hooper, who ran the village cloth mills. In 1880 he attended Clifton College, prior to going to Cambridge University and finding fame on the rugby field. He later went on to work as a solicitor and, in 1914, emigrated to Hong Kong, serving in the Hong Kong Special Police Force during the First World War. He died in London in 1950, aged 81.

Now, why after all these years, has his name suddenly cropped up? It was one of those strange coincidences that I mentioned earlier and actually came to light as a result of a TV programme on one of Sky's more obscure channels. The programme, called *Irish Pickers*, essentially involves two men driving round Ireland buying and selling antiques and collectibles. On this particular occasion, they were at a fair in Bantry, a small town in the south of the country, where they came across a wooden box with a brass plaque engraved "C A Hooper". At this point, my ears pricked up – Hooper is not a common name and I wondered if there might be a connection with 'our' family.

The programme's researcher discovered that boys at Clifton College were issued with such boxes to hold their personal and valuable belongings – there was the link! It appears that the box was Charles Alexander's from his days at Clifton.



So, a purchase from a seaside flea market in Ireland triggered memories of a long-forgotten Eastingtonian rugby player who was good enough to represent his country. Let's face it, you've got to be good to get your own cigarette card - perhaps it's time to check granddad's cigarette card collection that's been languishing in the attic and see if you've got one of CAH!



Are you being scammed?

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold has the following advice

- Be suspicious if you are contacted out of the blue, even if it's from a name you recognise
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- **Don't be rushed – you never need to make a decision straight away !**
and if you feel pressured say “no”, hang up the phone, or close the door
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you,
- remember that scammers are clever and can sound trustworthy
- Never respond to requests to make a bank transfer to a 'safe account'
- Your bank will never ask for your full PIN number or password over the phone
- Your bank will only use the last four digits on your card
- You may be asked to log onto your bank account via a link they will send you - do not do this
- HMRC and TV Licensing will not email or text you about refunds or rebates, nor ask you for personal details
- Never click on links included in suspicious emails
- To check whether an email is genuine click on the arrow on the sender's email address, if it shows a personal email address or one which looks unusual be suspicious
- If you receive an email or text which you feel is suspicious open a new tab and do a search
- Look out for poor grammar or spelling
- Be suspicious of organisations which do not use your full name

You can register your landline with the Telephone Preference Service by calling **0345 070 0707**, which should reduce the amount of nuisance calls you get .

Talk to your phone provider to see what privacy services and call-blocking services are available. These services aren't always free but are useful in ensuring any call coming through is from a trusted or known source.

Coronavirus - be aware of new scams

It's important you're aware of the many new scams around at the moment because of coronavirus. Scams to look out for include:

- advertising face masks or medical equipment at high prices
- emails or texts pretending to be from the government
- emails offering life insurance against coronavirus
- people knocking at your door and asking for money for charity
- If you see emails or texts about coronavirus from someone you don't know, or from an unusual email address, don't click on any links or buy anything.

Don't give money or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust - for example someone who knocks on the door and offers to help.

To check if something might be a scam and for further information go to our website
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/

Or call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm
– one of our friendly advisers will be able to help you.

Councils

PARISH MATTERS



I hope you are all well and coping with this second lockdown.

I would like to think we can look forward to as near a normal Christmas as possible.

It is with much sadness that I have to report the death of Jill Simmons.

She passed away on October 21st and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Jill served Eastington through the Parish Council for 30 years and she had a wealth of knowledge that she was happy to share.

Parish Council is continuing to use Zoom for its meetings which are available for all Parishioners to attend.

We have now co-opted two new Councillors both of whom live in Great Oldbury.

We shall be advertising for one more person to join us on the Parish Council so, if you are interested, please contact our Clerk at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk. Your application should include a short introduction and a reason why you would like to become a Councillor.

If you need further information on Parish matters, please contact either our Clerk at the email address above or me on either of the phone numbers below.

Muriel Bullock Chairman Eastington Parish Council **07715 972309** or **01453 826172**

To join the zoom meetings, or for further information, visit the parish council website at

<https://eastington-pc.gov.uk/meetings-minutes>

and select/download the meeting agenda, which will contain the zoom link

Bag2School



Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Monday 07th Dec

at **08.30** am / 😊

Any questions - please ask your
school collection organiser **Rachael Walton**

www.bag2school.com

Looking to have a clear out before Christmas?

Eastington Primary School are having a Bag2School Collection on **7th December 2020**.

Any unwanted items can be placed in black bags and left outside the office Reception doors.

Items will be for RE-USE, so **clean, tidy condition**, please:
clothes, shoes, hats, bags, belts, soft toys, jewellery,
curtains, household linens and towels
(no actual duvets, or pillows though, please)

Drop off times:

Parents of Eastington Primary School children

08.30am - 09.05am

Others

09.05am - 09.30am

THANK YOU

Groups



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



Completing 23 homes in December 2020

After seven months of working under Covid-compliant procedures, E G Carter will deliver all 23 homes in December, exactly as they promised in May post-lockdown. That is very impressive project management, not only of managing social distancing rules with up to 30 contractors on site but also coping with erratic bottlenecks in the supply chain.

Aster Homes, our partners who will be running the development, have been working through hundreds of applicants to find people with the relevant local connections to fulfil our aim – Eastington Homes for Eastington People.

All homes will be allocated by mid-December and quite a few of them will be occupied in good time for Christmas.

This is the largest project completed by our community since the OHMG Community Centre ten years ago and the largest community-led development of 100% affordable homes for rent, anywhere in Gloucestershire in living memory.

***Number 1 Fullers Close – perfect inside,
to be perfect outside very soon***



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

SEVERNSIDE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE

Help for when it hurts



Registered Osteopath in Saul

Osteopathy is not just for neck and back pain
But for so much more.....

- ❖ Help for aches, pains and stiffness
- ❖ Help for when you are unwell and unsure
- ❖ Sports injuries
- ❖ Womens health – before & after pregnancy
- ❖ Children with growth and postural problems



Caroline Tosh DO MSc FSCCO

T: 01452 740818

E: ctosh1@talktalk.net

www.severnsideosteopathy.uk

Registered with the General Osteopathic Council

Little Stars Childminding

Husband & Wife Partnership

Ofsted registered

**Providing A Warm & Loving Family Environment
in Eastington**

Call Lisa On

(01453) 825871 - 07752459661

Email - littlestars2015@outlook.com

History

Mrs Louisa Cowley - and a strange coincidence

Some of the older residents of the village will doubtless remember the late Mrs Louisa Cowley. Along with her husband Maurice, she lived in Eastington for most of her long and interesting life, a life than spanned three centuries!

Louisa was born in 1898 in the village of Berry Hill, a mile or so from Coleford in the Forest on Dean, one of no less than thirteen children. Times were doubtless hard, with her father and brothers working as miners in a nearby coal mine. Like many other youngsters at the time, at the age of 13, she left home, going to work as a domestic servant in Bristol. A year later, she was in service for the Capel family who lived at Oldbury House (now the Grange nursing home) in Eastington – the village was to become her home for almost the rest of her life.

On 23rd March 1918, she married Maurice Cowley in Eastington church. They continued to live in the village and subsequently had five children. Sadly, Maurice later lost his sight, an event that triggered Louisa's long-running involvement in helping others who had also become blind. For example, she often helped with fund raising and related activities, and each week, shepherded a party of blind people (including her husband) to a handicraft class in Stroud.

This was just one of her many undertakings and over the years, she became involved with numerous activities and organisations that included the British Legion, Infant Welfare, Womens' Institute, and the Methodist Church. For some years, she also held the post of school governor at Maidenhill School. She was a skilled needle worker and at home, made soft toys, crocheted, and embroidered. She was a regular prize winner at the Eastington Art & Handicrafts Show.

Louisa also had firm political beliefs, and for much of her life, was an active member of the Labour Party. In fact, she was a founder member of the Eastington branch in 1922, and carried on working as treasurer up to 1985 when the branch finally merged with Frampton. Remarkably, along with two friends, at the tender age of 91, she was invited to the House of Commons to view Prime Minister's Question Time and to meet David Blunkett and Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock. She had tea with the latter and they chatted for about 40 minutes. He later described Louisa and her two companions as "wonderful", saying that they represented the true values of the Party.



A faded newspaper cutting showing Louisa with Neil Kinnock at the House of Commons in 1989.

Louise (front left) was accompanied by Gwen Bishop (80) and Dorothy Aldridge (69), all long standing members of the Labour Party.

History

As her health began to suffer, in 1998, she eventually moved to the Cotswold House Care Home at Cainscross, where in 2000, a celebration was held for her 102nd birthday. She passed away later in the same year.

I was fortunate to meet Louisa, albeit briefly. About 35 years ago, we had a small history group in the village, and I was put in touch with her as someone with a long association with Eastington.



Louisa Cowley with the two volumes – taken around 1985

She had two volumes of the village magazine, covering the period June 1883 to December 1902 – these were originally her husband's.

They had been carefully bound by someone, an act that undoubtedly saved them from the bonfire.

The magazine was produced monthly by the local Temperance Association and unsurprisingly, filled many of its pages with reports on church and charitable events.

It also constantly warned the working man about the dangers of alcohol, the 'demon drink', and its potential consequences on working and family life.

Louisa showed me the two volumes and kindly allowed me to borrow them, but only for a day! As a result, I was only able to dip into a few of the magazines, but they provided many interesting snippets of village history that have since proved invaluable.

Remarkably, these two volumes resurfaced recently, when Louisa's granddaughter, Carol Sheppard of Tetbury, contacted Mike Naylor about another matter. She mentioned the volumes and asked if anyone would be interested in them – Mike kindly directed her to me and during our subsequent phone call, I realised that these were the same volumes that I had briefly examined all those years ago!

So, they are now back in the village, and I'm sure they will continue to provide some interesting insights on how our forefathers lived around the turn of the last century.

Many thanks to Mike for arranging the initial contact, and Carol for kindly donating the volumes. I've no doubt that they will be a rich source of material for future ECN articles.

By Stephen Mills

Environment



WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Thank you for your support of this charity which cares for and rehabilitates sick and injured hedgehogs. We are remaining open to admissions during lockdown. If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, please call us to arrange a no-contact handover.

Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717 General Enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com

Hibernation guide

Hibernation is a natural part of hedgehog lifecycles and the best place for healthy adult hedgehogs is out in the wild.



We only accept admissions of healthy hedgehogs that are too small to hibernate. (less than 450gm approx).

In mild weather please keep feeding hedgehogs (cat food – dry or wet and water) and in colder weather please do continue to put out clean water as all wildlife will benefit from this.

Here are our top 5 facts about hibernation:

1. Hedgehogs can hibernate successfully weighing as little as 450g
2. Hedgehogs only hibernate when temperatures drop below 5 degrees C
3. Hedgehogs emerge from hibernation when temperatures rise above 10 degrees C
4. Hedgehog heart rate decreases from 190 per minute to a 20 beats per minute
5. Hedgehog body temperature drops from 35 degrees C to 10 degrees C or less

You can help by building hedgehog houses or providing natural nesting spots in your garden. Hedgehogs like open compost heaps, brushwood and dry places under hedges and sheds. The nests need to be warm and dry. Providing dry leaves and hay for bedding will help the hedgehogs to create the best nest.

Please remember to be careful with bonfires. To hedgehogs, these look like the perfect nest – please always build the bonfire on the day you are going to light it, or move the bonfire before you start and light on one side only to provide an escape route for animals that may otherwise get trapped inside.



Events

Halloween

In previous years volunteers have organised a group Halloween Walk around the village, however we were unable to do this in 2020 due to social distancing.

We therefore came up with the idea of a Halloween Trail during Autumn half term, 19th – 30th October, which could raise funds for Eastington School.



The trail featured 26 houses who put up some amazing and terrifying displays at their homes with some spooktacular ghosts, skeletons, spiders, pumpkins and other ghoulish creations. We sold over 200 maps meaning we had over 200 people doing the trail despite the terrible weather, and claiming their treat by collecting the letters to make the phrase “Double double toil and trouble” from Song of the Witches in Macbeth.

A huge thanks to The Old Badger who did an amazing job of map sales and dishing out the treats to the successful trailers. And thanks too for all those who spent time decorating their houses so brilliantly.

Fund raising during these challenging times is difficult, so we are thrilled that with the support of the village we were able to raise £445 for the school.

Emma Hayward



(Left) two parts of a huge display by Ali Louise in Newtown which raised £165 for Teckles. She says “I’ve never decorated for Halloween before, but after the year we have all endured I thought it would cheer people up when passing through NewtownThe kids loved it !”

Community



New Luxury Dementia Care Home

OPENING WINTER, 50% ALREADY RESERVED

New **Holly Oak Dementia Care Home**, set within a tranquil park overlooking the town of Dursley, is part of the established and highly regarded Hollies Care Centre. The Hollies offers nursing, dementia and respite care, later life living suites and assisted living apartments so as needs change so can our support.

Maintaining the highest standard of qualified and trained staff, we have been accredited with the Gold Standard Framework (Commended) and in dementia care follow the internationally recognised 'Household Model of Care' which fully embraces a person centred approach.

Holly Oak offers a range of spacious rooms, state-of-the-art facilities and comforting luxuries such as Bessy's tearoom, a private bar, a beauty salon and garden aspect terraces. Our hospitality receives ongoing praise from the nutritional and delicious meals to the in-house catered special events.

An excellent standard of dedicated care gives peace of mind – our comprehensive measures ensure the health and safety of all.

We welcome immediate and planned admissions, please call or email us today to arrange a tour or for further information. We are always happy to discuss and assist with your planning.

Call **Duncan Pyne** on
tel **01453 541400** or
email **duncan@thehollies.co.uk**

thehollies.co.uk

Drake Lane, Dursley GL11 5HA

Community



GREAT OLDBURY PRIMARY ACADEMY



OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

"We are committed to ensuring our children experience the best education possible whilst we build positive working relationships with parents and carers."

At Great Oldbury Primary Academy, we can offer your child:

- A spacious, purpose built, beautifully designed new school with high quality facilities.
- A knowledge-rich curriculum which is engaging, exciting and which draws on their locality.
- Vast outdoor areas with an all-weather sports pitch and forest school area.
- High quality, experienced leaders and teaching staff.
- Experienced providers of education in Gloucestershire through our multi academy trust, the Gloucestershire Learning Alliance.



Contact us to find out more, or arrange a visit to one of our other schools

Email: greatoldbury@glatrust.org.uk

Phone: 01242 358017 (GLA Head Office)

Website: www.greatoldbury.org.uk

**OPEN TO EYFS AND YEAR 1
FROM SEPTEMBER 2021**



Community



The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. We want to better understand your needs, priorities and issues, so we can work together to deliver the highest quality of health care locally.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS SO IMPORTANT ...

Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to get in contact with us to give feedback on Frampton Surgery – we have forwarded on all of your comments and are working closely with the surgery.

Please do get in touch if you have any feedback on services and we will continue to represent you. You can email myppg@framptononsevern.com or call Ali on 01452 741988, or Jane on 01452 740964.

Dog Mess

We know that most of you are civilised people and pick up after your dog.

If you are not one of these people, yet, please read on.

You would not leave your own poo on people's doorsteps, or gardens or on the pavement, would you? Then why leave your dog's?? (Or allow your dog to roam free to do it). Dog waste, even from a very clean and well looked after dog, is more toxic than human waste, and a real danger to children and other animals.

The point is that a dog's digestive system can handle just about anything - and often does - which can make its output toxic without any harm to the dog. Even in the fields dog poo is a real problem. Amongst many other nasties, it can contain parasites, one of which can cause abortion in cows (and potentially in people too). At least one of our local farmers has lost calves this way.

Horse and cow waste consists mostly of grass and water and breaks down quickly so is much less of a problem. The output from your dog, on the other hand, can hang around for a long time, breeding bacteria all the while.

Please bag it up and dispose of properly in litter bins or your dustbin. Thank you.

Fireworks

This is another subject which has caused much debate lately - around bonfire night, of course, but this will apply at New Year - and other celebrations as well when the noise may be least expected.

The first thing to remember is that fireworks are dangerous. Every year in the UK, children are injured and over 100 fires in homes and buildings are caused by fireworks.

In addition, the noise of explosions causes an immense amount of distress and even death to wildlife, farm animals and pets. Not to mention the farmers, the pet owners and anyone with PTSD.

We know that fireworks are pretty, and you may enjoy them - but please spare a thought for those you are harming while you do so. Always take the trouble to warn those around you if you intend letting off fireworks - and make sure that you get them from a reputable, licensed source, for your own safety.

Some of the damage they do can be reduced by choosing the lower noise versions - they can be just as pretty and enjoyable. There is currently a petition for parliament to consider limiting the permitted maximum noise from firework explosions which you may care to consider signing -

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/549758>

And there is already one MP who is trying to find out the national mood about fireworks generally. You may wish to take part in his survey - see his website here: **<https://www.marcolonghi.org.uk>**

Please be a considerate neighbour!

Groups

Eastington Community Orchards



The current restrictions made it hard for ECO members to organise picking, pressing and bottling sessions.

Never-the-less, in small groups and in thoroughly Covid-cognisant conditions, we have harvested and preserved around 350 litres of nature's bounty.



Our Christmas elves have been busy packaging some of this into the ever-popular Christmas gift packs for you to share with friends and family - another problem solved?!

These, as well as our standard bottles are on sale at the Farm Shop - Various prices, similar to last year.

Club members should apply to Wendy for special discounts.

Some of you were disappointed last year - so "hurry while stocks last"!

Enjoy your juice and help to maintain your beautiful community orchards!



**NICK'S HOUSEHOLD
MAINTENANCE & REPAIR**

Local handyman

Happy to tackle most tasks,
no job too small.

Contact me on facebook

or phone **07771 976008**

when you require that "extra pair of hands"
to get a job done.

Advertise in ECN

Email

advertising @ eastington.website

For details



**Ultimate
Beauty By Louise**

**Summerhouse Salon
3 Brownings Close, Eastington**

**Beauty, Cosmetic & Personal care
Fully insured**

Gel manicure £25.00

Footlogix Pedicures from £20.00

Waxing from £8.00

Dermaplaning from £35.00

Novatan professional spray tan £15.00

..... And lots more treatments!

Call Louise on 07769 273893



Ultimate Beauty by Louise

Church

Eastington Methodist Church



There seems to be a widespread fear that Christmas will be cancelled this year or truncated to the point that it loses much of its value. The gift of the birth of Jesus Christ cannot be cancelled by the presence of a virus even if it has the capacity to cause mayhem and misery – but Christmas can be ignored or relegated to a level of minimal importance somewhere below that of the crackers and Christmas Tree by our own actions and priorities.

The second lockdown seems to have hit many people worse than the first. Maybe this is because the weather outside is not as nice as it was in the spring and early summer or perhaps it all seems never-ending.

On TV there seem to be all sorts of people featured giving advice about how to cope with loneliness and depression through this pandemic and the suggested remedy often involves communicating with other people and/or helping them out. The Church, as a community of people, has been doing this for millennia and continues to do so now. But beyond and above this, there is a God who we can know – One who is more than able to lift our spirits and hold us in His love if we let Him.

How can we know God? It is through getting to know His Son Jesus and Christmas is a good place to start but it cannot stop there. It is necessary to hear and read and comprehend the whole story.

The Gospel of John starts:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (*King James Version*)

If you would like to become a comprehender, why not get in touch and let us show you The Way.

SO WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS CHRISTMAS?

At this time of year we are usually in a position to publicise our Christmas events programme with some confidence that it will happen as expected. That is not so easy this year.

The 5th November second COVID-19 lockdown forced the closure of our Youth Club meetings and our services reverted to using Zoom again. The latter does have the advantage of enabling those taking part to have a jolly good sing worshipping God which is something that has not been permitted in physical church services due to the regulations. Meeting online is not quite the same as being able to meet up together but it is a lot better than nothing and we give thanks for it.

In theory, the lockdown is supposed to be lifted on 2nd December and if it is possible to do so, we will then resume our services within the building and be able to run Youth Club again (we will send out an email to those we have contact with to confirm this).

Because it falls within an exemption, we have been able to continue running the Toddlers Group on Monday mornings in a modified and COVID-19 secure way. If you would like to attend, please contact us in advance to ensure a place.



Church

Eastington Methodist Church

Meanwhile, back to Christmas, and subject to the regulations allowing them:-

All Age Christmas Services – Sunday 6th and 20th December at 11am at the Church. The one on the 6th will be taken by our minister, Rev Phil Summers, who is very skilled in the performing arts.

Messy Christmas – Tuesday 22nd December 10:30am – noon. We are unable to run this in the usual way with 50+ people crowded into the building so **pre-booking will be essential** to enable us to manage the numbers; please contact Roz, our Youth & Families Worker (contact details below).

Christmas Day – Friday 25th December at 10:30am. An opportunity to worship and experience the true meaning of Christmas together. This will be at the church which will have socially distanced seating and, unless the regulations are changed, we will have to listen to carols rather than sing them.

Christmas Messy Moss – These are outdoor bookable free family sessions for 5 to 11 year olds and their families. They will have a Christmas theme involving the natural world and be subject to a maximum of 5 people taking part plus Roz as leader. These will be run in Brownings orchard, the local Snakey Park (OHMG) or in your own garden and run for approximately one to one and a half hours at an agreed time over the course of the Christmas School holidays. There will be a range of activities from simple games, to crafts related to the outdoors, wildlife spotting and quiet contemplation. Messy Moss is expected to remain available by arrangement beyond the holiday period exploring other themes and can be booked for after school or on a Saturday. All COVID-19 requirements will be followed appropriate to outdoor activities. Again please contact Roz, our Youth & Families Worker (contact details below).

For those attending any events in the building: masks must be worn (except by young children and those who are exempt), hand sanitisation facilities are provided and other COVID-19 precautions apply.

As one might expect, Youth Club will not be running on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Contacts:

Roz on roz@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk or tel: 07761902249

Ken & Rebecca Burgin info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk or tel: 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Eastington Volunteers Coronavirus Helpline

A big thank you to all the kind volunteers who have been answering calls on the Eastington Volunteers Coronavirus helpline, keeping a watchful eye on the face book page, and helping wherever they can.

We have closed the phone line for the time being as there have been no calls for some time, hopefully because most people have now found themselves any help they need.

However, if you are forced to self isolate without backup then please feel free to post on our facebook group or on Love Eastington, and one of our volunteers will certainly come to your rescue.

Also, the Co-op can still take your shopping order and arrange for a delivery volunteer.

- Phone 0800 435902.

Anyone in need of other help can still phone the Gloucester/Stroud Help Hub on 01452 583 519 .

We will re-open the phone line if thing get more serious and there are people needing community help.

Church



St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington remains open for private prayer and reflection between the approximate hours of 9am-3pm (light and weather permitting) Thursdays to Sundays.

At the time of writing, it is unclear what the situation will be for Church services, both online and in Church buildings from December 2020. For the latest updates, please check our Facebook page by searching for "St Michael and All Angels Church Eastington".



Alternatively, you can contact any of the following people, who are also available for any help and support, or simply would like a chat:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Rev Steve Harrison | 07466 858975 | rectorstroudwater@gmail.com |
| Rev Liz Palin | 01452 741147 | tv1stroudwater@gmail.com |
| Rev Dave Bishop | 01453 822332 | tv2stroudwater@gmail.com |
| Mike & Jacky Naylor | 01453 822728 | mike@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk |
| Chris Amys | 07867 482586 | chris.amys@hotmail.com |

CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

We are pleased to announce a Communion Service will take place in St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington on **Christmas Eve at 11pm**, subject to any COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

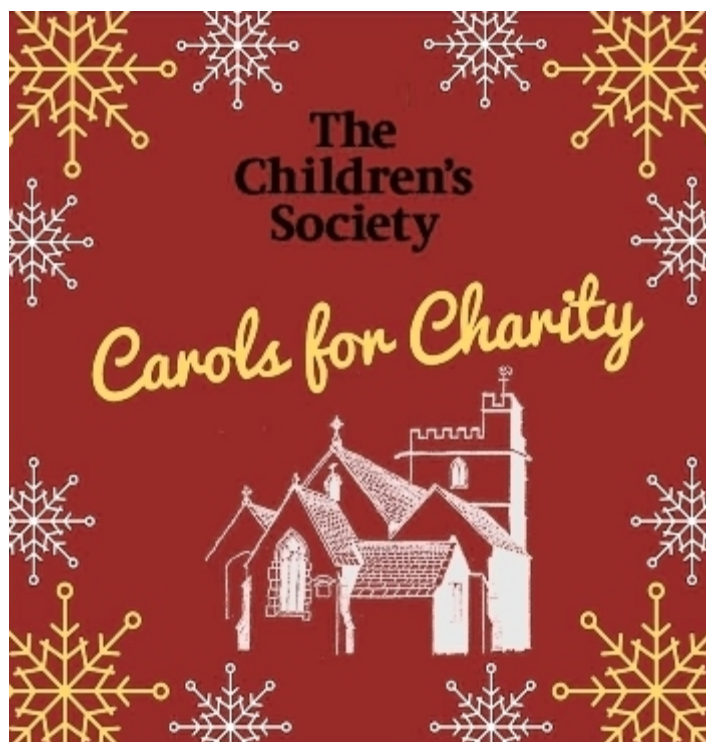
Everyone is welcome to attend, although due to COVID-19, people in vulnerable groups are discouraged from attending.



Although our annual Christingle service cannot take place in church this year due to COVID-19, you are invited to join us for an online family Christingle service on **Sunday 13th December 2020 at 9am**, which will be hosted on The Church of England's Facebook and YouTube channels.

The link, downloadable Order of Service and how you can participate in the Christingle making will be shared in the week leading up to the service

Church



CAROLS FOR CHARITY

This Christmas, the Cotswold Youth Singers under the directorship of Jane Williams, together with organist Chris Amys are embarking upon a fundraiser for charity, whilst also bringing some festive cheer to everyone in what will be a very different Christmas in 2020.

Between Advent Sunday and Christmas Day, for 27 consecutive days, videos will be uploaded via YouTube, Facebook and Twitter of Chris and the Cotswold Youth Singers, including a number of soloists, performing popular Christmas and Advent Carols and Anthems.

Just search for Eastington Church on social media.

In turn, we are asking members of the public to make donations to the Just Giving Page at

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/eastington

Monies raised will be shared equally between the Children's Society and St Michael and All Angels Church Eastington.

We hope that you thoroughly enjoy the music which will be uploaded this Christmas, whilst also being generous with your donations.

FUNDRAISING APPEAL FOR CHURCH ROOF

You may have recently noticed some scaffolding at the front of the church. This is in relation to a leak over the pulpit. Following some initial investigations, it is clear that a patch repair, similar to other leaks is not going to be possible. A large area of the roof is defective and in a very fragile condition. Extensive and costly repairs will be required, which will be well beyond our financial resources.

The situation is very serious and some action will be taken immediately. A local conservation architect is providing some very helpful and useful advice on how to proceed, together with further meetings to investigate in more detail the full extent of the necessary repair work.

The likely outcome is that we will have to provide some temporary protection to the roof before drawing up a specification of repair work and investigating grants. The architect suggests the process of raising funds and undertaking this work could take two years or so to complete. We will probably need to engage somebody (hopefully on a voluntary basis) who is competent to coordinate the fundraising.

If you are able to help us in any way, whether that be assisting us with our fundraising efforts, making a one-off donation or joining up to the Parish Giving Scheme, please contact Jacky Naylor on 01453 822728 or at jacky@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk. Thank you to the many kind individuals and organisations from the village and surrounding areas who have been so generous.

Church



REMEMBRANCE

On Remembrance Sunday a short service was held outside at the Village War Memorial, at which the names of the fallen from the village were ready out, a wreath was laid by Eastington Parish Council on behalf of the village, together with a minute silence, with the Last Post and Reveille being played by Gary Dingle.

ANNUAL MEETING

Following the annual meeting at St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington on 22nd October 2020, Mike Naylor was re-elected Churchwarden. Jacky Naylor was re-elected Treasurer and Chris Amys re-elected as Secretary, although Chris will be stepping down at the next annual meeting in May 2021 and therefore we are looking for a replacement.

Beryl Frith, Robin Harris and Angela Reader were also re-elected to the PCC.

There are 3 vacancies on the PCC, so 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 contact our Rector Steve Harrison on 07466 858975 and at rectorstroudwater@gmail.com.



Every year the Stroud District Foodbank lovingly prepares over 400 Christmas Hampers that go to local households. These hampers provide some extra treats to bring cheer over the holidays.

The Christmas Shopping List includes sweets, chocolates, luxury crisps, Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding, Mince Pies, Hot Chocolate, Nuts, Savoury Crackers, Gravy Granules, Dried Stuffing, Tinned Ham and Christmas Preserves.

If you would like to get involved, you can make donations in the foodbank basket at the back of the church. (Donations of Christmas items by the end of November, if possible, please)

You can also use the drop-off points in most local supermarkets, or phone 01453 367 077 for more information.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, as well as to everyone who kindly donated during the last couple of months for our Harvest collection.