



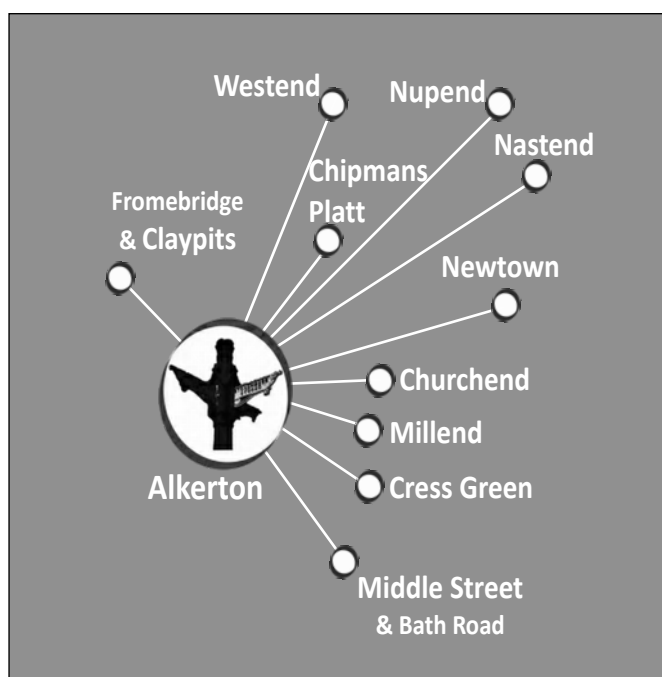
eastington community news

edition
185

On-line

<https://eastington.website>

February / March 2021



Photos: Val Taylor



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,

Once again Covid has 'kept us off the streets', but this time we have produced our first ever on-line-only version of ECN. If you know of anyone who cannot access us on-line and would really like to have a copy, a printable version is available from our PDF library (see the 'Other Goodies' tab on our website). I am happy to print one off at home for anyone on request - just let us know.

We were delighted to see the news from the school that both their in-school and 'digital learning' programmes are working well - all credit to the school and to all you parents who are working so hard to help our little people to flourish in such difficult times.

We were also pleased to see that 'Team Badger' is once again offering their free meal service in the community - if you know of anyone (including yourself!) who is elderly, vulnerable or alone and who might welcome a home-cooked pub meal now and again, please give them a ring (see page 18) and a volunteer will deliver.

Our thanks to them and to all in the community who are going out of their way to help others.

You will be seeing this magazine without the familiar 'blue pages' - but do not forget that we have a host of established and trusted local tradespeople around us, many of whom are still able to provide their services. Please support them where you can. Find them by clicking the 'blue pages' tab on our website.

We hope that by the time the next edition comes around, in April, many of us will have had our jobs and the situation will be easing - hang on in there!

Stay safe

Jan, Tom and Mary.

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Deadline for next issue : Wednesday 24th March 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.

<https://ecn.eastington.website>

Community



Eastington Community Land Trust

Providing the Affordable homes that Eastington needs.

Fullers Close now fully occupied!



All of the 23 affordable new homes at Fullers Close, Claypits are now fully occupied - all let to people with strong Eastington roots or close connections - and all in time for Christmas!

The properties include one-bedroom bungalows, one-bedroom flats and two and three-bedroom houses.

Here are some extracts from the press release issued by Aster, our Housing Association partner in this development:-

Local residents move into new affordable homes in time for Christmas

A group of local residents are set to enjoy Christmas in a new affordable home thanks to a joint partnership between Eastington Community Land Trust (ECLT) and housing association, Aster Group.

.....

Eastington CLT was set up by concerned residents of Eastington in response to the lack of affordable housing in the area. Tom Low, ECLT Secretary said: "The scale and experience of Aster Group has been a great help to ECLT. We are pleased to have achieved 100% of homes being let to people with a strong local connection, strengthening community bonds. Too many of our young people have had to move away to find affordable housing and now some of them are able to come back.

Leslie Peacey who recently moved into his new one-bedroom flat said: "I've gone from thinking the worst where I'd never get to have my own home to being on cloud nine. Without the Eastington CLT I wouldn't be able to stay in the village I was born and bred in, living in a brand new flat, which we can afford. And the amazing thing is I already know about 75% of the people in this community – it means the world."

Helen Bone, Senior Manager for Growth & Affordable Housing at Homes England, said: "Twenty-three sets of keys have arrived under the tree early this year for the new residents of Fullers Close, many of whom will be spending the holidays in their new homes. Eastington CLT and Aster have worked with Stroud District Council, Homes England and local construction company EG Carter and Co Ltd to fund and build these much-needed new affordable homes. The volunteers at Eastington CLT have worked extremely hard to bring this project forward for their local community.

Amanda Williams, Group development director at Aster said: "This project is an exemplary community-led housing development where we have worked with the local people to shape and deliver homes that the community truly needs.

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, 01453 823425

<https://eclt.eastington.website>

PARISH MATTERS



As some of you already know, Eastington Parish Council continues to meet remotely during these trying times. We are pleased to welcome Parishioners who join our meetings.

We have recently welcomed another new Councillor, so we now have two council members who represent Great Oldbury. This means we still have one more vacancy.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk or phone 01453 799616. Please be aware working hours are Monday and Thursday, so you may not get an instant reply.

Councillors are continuing to work with Highways and other partners as much as they can, whilst observing Covid-19 restrictions.

Please keep to Covid-19 advice and stay safe.

Muriel Bullock Chairman EPC muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk.

District Councillor Report – January 2021

Cllr Stephen Davies and Cllr John Jones

Can I wish you a belated Happy New Year in the hope that 2021 will be an improvement on last year. With the roll out of the Vaccine I hope that things will improve although I think this will be a gradual process.

Before Christmas we had some flooding issues in Eastington. Details of the District Council's response to flooding can be found at www.stroud.gov.uk/flooding.

The number for help and support is 01453 766 321, the out of office hours number is 01453 222104.

I am aware that there was an issue over Christmas with this number that has hopefully now been addressed.

Construction is now due to start at the Broadfield Road Sheltered Housing Scheme. A contractor has been appointed, Beard Construction. This site will provide much needed housing and I look forward to its completion. It is also great to see the fast progress at the Eastington Community Land Trust Project and I understand there are plans for further expansion which we will support when they come to Council.

In other news we are expecting the next draft of the Stroud Local Plan in the Spring, the specific date is being impacted by Covid. This will reflect the adjustment down of the required number of Houses required to be built after the Secretary of State reacted to pressure from MPs including from our own MP Siobhan Baillie. This is good news as it takes some pressure off the Planners to find further local sites for development. The proposed sites are not in the Eastington Parish. **

If you have any questions on this or anything else please get in touch with us, you can contact us on either

cllr.Stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk (07802 595 307) or

cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk (07808 922 918)

**** But it just might affect Whitminster - please see page 19 - Ed.**

Community

Eastington Primary School



GIVING

We do hope the readers of ECN are well and are handling the many additional challenges we are facing right now – we know life is tough for people in different ways. We hope you are managing to find little pleasures where you can – playing a board game, enjoying a walk around the village, exercising with Joe Wicks or puzzling over who the masked singer is.

This isn't the start of the year we wanted at school but it has been brilliant to see children, families, teachers, TAs, admin officer, cleaner all working so hard to support each other inside and outside school.

Learning has continued digitally, reaching our children in the safety of their homes, and with critical worker children at school. Eastington School is stronger as we work together - the children will clearly benefit in the short and long term too.

Our school has a really strong emphasis on the five ways of well-being:

- **Connect** – Talk and listen, be there, feel connected;
- **Give** – Give your time, your words and your presence;
- **Take Notice** – Remember the simple things that give you joy;
- **Keep Learning** – Embrace new experiences, see opportunities, surprise yourself;
- **Be Active** – Do what you can, enjoy what you do, move your mood.

We are fortunate to have started our journey with Andy Lewis (British gold medalist para-triathlete) in Summer 2019 when he worked with our older children. He inspired us all and since then we have explored well-being in many different ways.

In Autumn term when we were all working on site, our children enjoyed outdoor learning with wonderful Ms Levan & Miss Colleen with a focus on 'taking notice' and sports afternoons with our brilliant sports coaches, Mr Meloscia (football and rugby) and Miss Mills (dance) focusing on 'being active'.

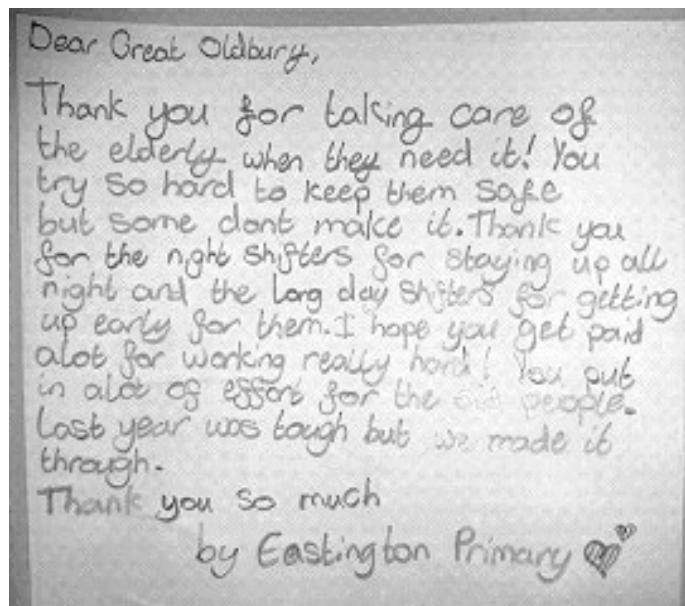
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Community

Eastington Primary School

'Giving' is one of the five ways of well-being and the children in the two hubs at school have made some cards and written some lovely messages to critical workers who are in our locality. They thought carefully how important each business in the community is and how they play a vital role. We hope giving a little treat of a heart-felt card and some chocolates will make a few more people smile in a difficult time.

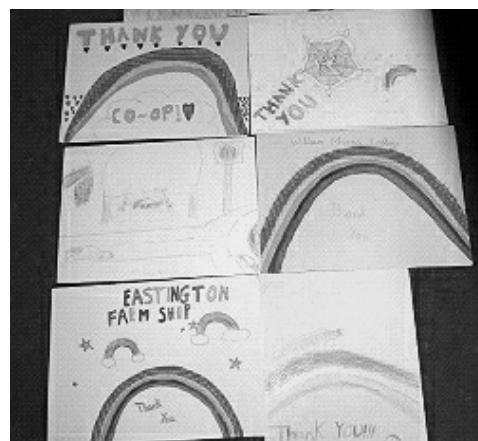
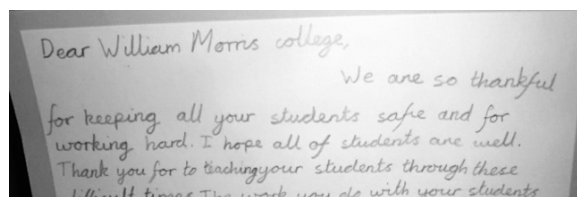
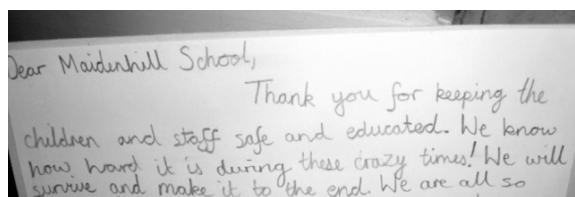


This Letter to Great Oldbury House Care Home (formerly The Grange) reads:

Thank you for taking care of the elderly when they need it! You try so hard to keep them safe but some don't make it. Thank you for the night shifters for staying up all night and the long day shifters for getting up early for them. I hope you get paid a lot for working really hard! You put in a lot of effort for the old people.

Last year was tough but we made it through.

Thank you so much



Keep looking after yourself and each other.

From all the children and staff at school

Groups



Charity number 1084981
OFSTED Registration No. 101782

We have been happy to welcome back so many of our children after the Christmas holidays. We enjoyed the build up to Christmas with lots of craft, biscuit decorating (Covid friendly) and performing Christmas songs to parents on our Facebook page.

Since being back we have enjoyed playing outside and going on frosty walks, recalling our Christmas fun, exploring texture and sound and discussing Winter and hibernation.



We have limited spaces remaining for children to start in September. We take children from 2 years 6 months and offer childcare 9am-3pm, Monday to Thursday, term time only.

Please like our Facebook page to see some of the exciting things we do and feel free to call us to find out more about availability.

It is never too early to register your child with us.

Owen Harris Memorial Ground, Snakey Lane, Eastington Gloucester GL10 3AQ

Telephone number 07977 342 742

Email: eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com

For all enquiries and registration forms

Community

Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground



We are very lucky in the Eastington Community to have the great facilities at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground with the Community Centre, wonderful public field and play park areas. All thanks are due to many, many local people who over decades have worked tirelessly as volunteers and either donated or contributed to the recreational area that we enjoy today.

How did we get there? Well apart from hard work, blood, sweat and tears much of it has been down to generosity of spirit and 'who you know' not to mention a lot of luck and coincidence.

The eight acre field was bequeathed to the people of Eastington in 1989 by Mrs Shirley Harris, the widow of local Farmer Owen Harris. It was Owen Harris' express wish that the land be used for the purpose of 'a playing field, recreation ground and community social centre' for the benefit of Eastington residents.

Historically the field had been used for agricultural purposes and was called the Pies and Packers field.

The entrance to the field, Snakey Lane, which in bygone times was the old road through Alkerton to the Bristol road (A38), had become redundant so the first job was to clear it of trees and give proper field access.

As luck would have it a local resident was involved with improvement works on the M5 at the time and was able to provide numerous (about 40) lorry loads of free aggregate waste that were used to make the lane more substantive and a car parking area. What a gift but imagine shifting that lot – phew!

Field works also commenced in order make the land suitable for a playing field. A local firm laid the drainage and the ground was ploughed with a wheat crop sown. This clever strategy enabled the land to be cleared of deep rooted weeds and the sale of the wheat provided the money for the field grass seed.

The local Cricketers were very keen to have a village site on which to play and successfully applied for a grant in order to set up the Cricket square, probably it's the original square that is there today.

Everyone agreed that a building of some sort was required in order to provide for the sports players and also to have a room that could be hired for income which was desperately needed for improvements.

Just by chance one of the Committee members met someone selling decommissioned Government buildings. This resulted in the purchase of a terrapin that had formally been a 'Training Induction Centre' at Heysham Nuclear Power Station in Morecambe, Lancashire. The Terrapin consisted of a small kitchen, toilets, showers and a meeting room so was perfect. However the logistics of getting this building to site seemed insurmountable, unless you knew of a local firm that provided cranes and a local haulage company. Luckily, once again, the Eastington folks had some contacts.

The Pavilion was craned onto the 3+ haulage trucks to bring it all that way back from Morecambe where it was craned into position on the ground that had been prepared for it with drains, water and electricity, all achieved by volunteers.

So in 1994 the OHMG site had its first Community Centre! Was it all plain sailing up to this point or following this? Of course not, but what an amazing achievement.

More of the story to come next time

Contacts are:

Gill Glover: Centre Manager: 01453 828782

Mark Cousins: 01453 828557

Martin Elliott: 01453 838712

Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity
Registered Charity Number 1013643

History

Hidden History in the Landscape

Stephen Mills

There are many reminders of our ancestors lives and activities that remain in the countryside around us. This might be the pattern of lanes and footpaths still in use, or field boundaries unchanged for centuries. However, there are also more subtle hints that only become visible under certain conditions – one such example is known as ‘ridge and furrow’, a remnant of an ancient type of ploughing that began in the post-Roman period and in some places, continued up to the 17th century. Under normal conditions, it’s easy to miss the signs, but they become apparent when the sun is low, there has been a scattering of snow, or even (as here) when our recent flood waters receded. It was then that a distinctive pattern of little valleys and ridges re-emerged from the ground.

These distinctive patterns are less common than they once were, as many were destroyed by deep ploughing during the Second World War, when every strip of usable land was turned over to food production. However, Eastington has a number of places where the ridge and furrow pattern still survives – a prime example can be seen in the fields bordering the River Frome as it winds its way downstream from Beards Mill towards Millend. As we all know, these flood regularly, and this is probably why they’ve survived relatively unscathed. As the floods gradually drain away, the patterns in the ground once again became visible (Picture 1). Picture 2 is an aerial view from dryer times, where the various patterns of ridge and furrow are clearly visible.



Picture 1. Water-filled furrows near Millend



Picture 2 An area close to that in Picture 1 (courtesy of Google Earth). As ploughing improved, features tended to become straighter. Earlier ones are often curved or S-shaped.

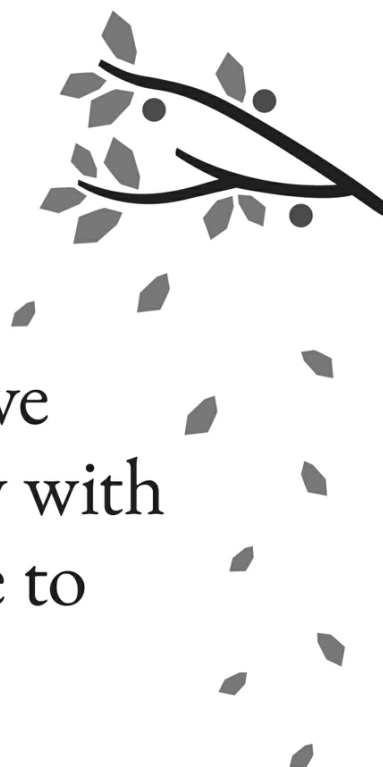
But how were these ripples in the land actually formed? Unlike farming today, throughout the Middle Ages, large open fields were often held in common and were split up into long strips that were ‘farmed’ by different families. These could be retained by the same family over many generations. Although they could vary in length, strips were traditionally a furlong (or a ‘furrow-long’) in length – usually about 200 metres. Ridge and furrow patterns were created by the repeated use of simple one-sided ploughs in use at the time. The plough’s blade cut through the soil, forcing it against a board – this turned it over and moved it sideways (Picture 3). When the oxen reached the end of the strip, they were turned round and the plough pulled in the reverse direction. This gradually pushed soil towards the middle, slowly building up a series of central raised strips (ridges), with small valleys (furrows) between them. This process actually provided some advantages as it effectively increased the surface area, and also encouraged water to drain into the furrows. The wetter furrows proved to be better suited to growing crops such as oats, barley, peas and beans. Wheat might be grown along the ridges.

Over many seasons, and indeed centuries, the ridges got higher and the furrows deeper, but since the end of this type of ploughing perhaps four centuries or more ago, the weather has slowly flattened them. However, the remnants of many are still there, a largely forgotten reminder of our forefathers’ very different way of life, one that was governed not by the clock, but by the seasons, the weather, and how well the year’s crops had grown. Although we might consider traces of this ancient way of farming to be an interesting side line in history, to the families working the land in this way, they could literally mean the difference between life and death.



Ploughing with oxen in the 1300s, as illustrated in the Luttrell Psalter

Advertisement



A friendly & supportive care home community with an abundance of space to keep you safe

The Hollies, set within a park in the tranquil countryside on the edge of Dursley, offers a full range of care and accommodation with the reassurance of comprehensive measures to ensure the health and safety of all.

The Hollies community comprises the **Hollies Nursing Care Home and Suites, Holly Oak Dementia Care Home, Respite Care and Apartments for Independent Living**. All facilities are state-of-the-art with luxurious and beautifully appointed rooms and living spaces. We focus on each resident's individual care and have earned 5* reviews. Being family run means we can choose to maintain high staff ratios and set our standards high.

Residents and families can enjoy the many other valued amenities from Bessy's Tea Room, a private bar and hair salon to garden feature walks, sun terraces and an orchard.

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 **Jo** or **Duncan** on **01453 541400** or email **info@thehollies.co.uk**

thehollies.co.uk

Drake Lane, Dursley GL11 5HA

Groups



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Contact us to secure a place, or to find out more

Email: greatoldbury@glatrust.org.uk

Phone: 01242 358017 (GLA Head Office)

Website: www.greatoldbury.org.uk



SPACES STILL AVAILABLE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Community



Longfield Hospice Virtual Jurassic Coastline Challenge 8 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

If you are looking for a new challenge to get stuck into, Longfield Hospice many have just the answer.

Following the success of their virtual Grand Canyon Challenge last year, the Hospice is looking for people to sign up to a new adventure and tackle the spectacular Jurassic Coastline, virtually, by the end of March 2021. Taking on 65 miles of walking, running or cycling – you can decide which suits you best or choose to combine your exercise to reach the 65 mile goal.

Sign up and you'll get access to the '[My Virtual Mission](#)' website to track your exercise on the map and check out the real, spectacular Jurassic Coastline views through Google Street View on some of the trails. The Hospice would love supporters to invite your family, friends and colleagues to take part too and have fun racing them to the finish, whilst keeping fit!

There are 4 different price points to choose from to take part: £15, £25, £40 and £60. Everyone who raises or donates £25 or more will receive a medal to commemorate completing their virtual journey through the dramatic Jurassic Coastline. The Hospice have also set up a [Just Giving page](#) bespoke to this challenge so you can also encourage others to sponsor you!

Every pound you raise from your Jurassic adventure will help to fund free care and support for patients and their families throughout Gloucestershire during this extremely challenging time.

If you would like to get fit this New Year, find your competitive streak, and take on an impressive virtual challenge for your local community hospice. Please contact the hospice on events@longfield.org.uk or call the fundraising team on **01453 886 868**.

Vicki Hayward Communications Co-ordinator Vicki.Hayward@longfield.org.uk Tel: 01453 886868

Longfield, Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire GL5 2PQ



Photo: Jack Brown

Great Oldbury School coming along....

Community



The Surgery Whitminster Lane , Frampton-on-Severn, Glos GL2 7HU

Tel: (01452) 740213

Email: frampton.surgery@nhs.net Website: www.framptonsurgery.co.uk

Dr V Blackburn, Dr L Benson, Dr V Mason, Dr R Pead,
Dr H Van't Hoff Dr S Wood & Mr T Brock-Hastings

Frampton Surgery Update

The surgery would like to wish a Happy New Year to all patients. 2020 was certainly a challenging year but we are hopeful that we will start to experience normality again in 2021!

Once again we would like to thank everyone for their patience and support whilst we continue to navigate through this pandemic. We are putting regular updates onto the surgery website www.framptonsurgery.co.uk so please visit the website for up to date information. There is also a facility to provide feedback through the website if you have any comments or general enquiries.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Our local network are working together to staff "vaccination hubs" at various sites across the county, dependent on delivery of vaccine.

Gloucestershire is leading the way in vaccinating patients. At Frampton all patients aged 80 and over have been contacted to offer appointments to receive the vaccination at the local vaccination hub. The team are working through the list of patients aged 75-79 to offer appointments. We thank you for your support in working with us and waiting to be contacted and offered an appointment. For further information and the list of priority groups, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-why-you-are-being-asked-to-wait/why-you-have-to-wait-for-your-covid-19-vaccine>

We are working in partnership with our colleagues at Gloucester Health and Care to provide the vaccine for any patients that are housebound and unable to attend the vaccination hub.

We will be contacting patients to book the second vaccination appointment when clinics are set up in line with the updated national guidance.

Appointments and Attending the Surgery

As we continue through such uncertain times we would like to thank all our patients for supporting the surgery by always contacting us by phone and only attending the surgery for pre-booked appointments or to collect prescriptions.

We have ensured that any urgent medical concerns have been dealt with appropriately since the start of the pandemic and we will continue to do so with our Duty Doctor system to assess urgent calls. We have also continued to provide follow up and management of routine issues. We will continue to provide this care and we thank you for your patience and acceptance of longer wait times for routine appointments.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Sue Price to our reception team; you may speak to Sue when calling the surgery. We are in the process of recruiting to a vacancy but are hopeful to introduce our next new employee on the next update.

Dispensary and Medications

The dispensary team have been kept very busy and are continuing to experience a high number of prescription requests. We are continuing to maintain a 3 working day turnaround for the majority of requests.

If you run out of medication when the surgery is closed you can call 111. An emergency request will be sent to a pharmacy of your choice to ensure you have a supply of medication to last you until the surgery is next open.



The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients working with Frampton's GP surgery to help improve services. 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 01542 741988, or Jane on 01452 740964.

Groups

FRAMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY TALKS

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of 2021 illustrated talks held in Frampton on Severn which we hope will be of interest to local people. The talks are on Friday evenings starting at 7.30pm in our Village Hall and are organised by Frampton on Severn Village Society, which raises funds for various village projects. You need not be a member of the Society to attend and the cost is £3.50/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, please contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com.

The Frampton on Severn Village Society 2021 programme of talks is nearly finalised but unfortunately it is not clear as to when we can return to presentations in our Village Hall due to the current Covid-19 situation. We will advise as events unfold (hopefully for the better!)

Provisional 2021 programme of talks for your diaries:

<u>22nd Jan.</u>	Rose Hewlett: James Clifford, an Elizabethan Entrepreneur (by Zoom)
<u>26th Feb.</u>	Tony Condor: History of Saul Junction
<u>26th March</u>	James Littleton: From Elmore to Baghdad to Mogadishu
<u>4th June</u>	Philip Taubenheim: Tales of a Country Auctioneer
<u>25th June</u>	Gareth Williams: Jenner talk OR Unravelling the spiral
<u>13th August?</u>	VISIT to Jenner Museum OR Peter Scott house
<u>24th Sep.</u>	William Reddaway: A Ride Round England: one man, one horse, 2,700 miles & 30 cathedrals
<u>22nd Oct.</u>	AGM and Bill Wood Memorial Presentation
<u>26th Nov</u>	John Newton: Cotswold Canals Connected, Stroudwater Phase 1B Stonehouse to Saul
<u>December</u>	Village Society Christmas Dinner on 4 th OR 11 th

Eastington Cricket Club

Although we managed to play a few away games in the summer the winter indoor leagues have been cancelled.

Pre season nets have been arranged for 11 am on 21st March, 28th March, and 11th April and a pre league friendly on 25th April - but whether or not these take place will depend on the pandemic situation.

We are unlikely to know before March what league fixtures we will have in 2021.

To check on what the situation is 'phone:

Secretary/Chairman Keith Dench 01453-764990;

Fixture Secretary Roger Beese 01453- 823128 or

Captain Paul Hancock 01452-720960.

Community

Help with employment problems during Covid pandemic.



If you or anyone you know has difficulties with the employment situation, please know that we are able to offer advice by Freephone and email (but sadly as yet, not face to face contact).

Unfortunately, the number of enquiries about Employment problems has soared over the last 10 months. Many people have needed advice on whether they are entitled to furlough pay, how this is calculated, and whether they might be able to claim Universal Credit in addition.

Redundancy is also a big issue and many have concerns about how they will get a redundancy payment if their employer is unable to pay it.

The reason so many people need further help to understand the system is shown in the following example.

Mrs D was managing by having 2 jobs, this meant that in lockdown her income came from a mixture of paid work and furlough payments. It got further confused by a change in the National Minimum Wage during this time which gave her a small increase. She was then offered redundancy from one job, and again it was important to be aware of the calculation of her redundancy pay, and any other payments which she might be due. Finally, she needed to know if she had any entitlement to Universal Credit to boost her income.

Being uncertain of how she would be able to manage and what action she should consider, understandably caused Mrs D great anxiety.

By having these payments calculated and explained to her by our adviser meant that she was able to make informed decisions and became able to cope with her situation.

We also advise on a whole range of other employment issues. The knock-on effects of job loss can cause financial as well as relationship and housing difficulties.

For help with any of these issues contact Stroud Citizens Advice on

Freephone: **0808 800 0510** or **0808 800 0511** Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm.

Email: advice@ca-scd.org.uk

Or use our on-line form for email advice:-

<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice>

www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk

Please support our Local Businesses!

Some of our local businesses have had to close completely for the time being, some are operating in a different way and some remain open for business (almost) as normal - please think 'local first' if you need goods or a service - we are lucky to have so many trusty tradespeople right here in and around Eastington - and we don't want to lose them! They need our support now and as times improve.

For a directory of all the great tradespeople who who are supporting our community through ECN, please visit

www.bluepages.eastington.website



Church

Eastington Methodist Church

The lockdown which started at the beginning of the year has meant that we had to suspend our Youth Club and Toddler Group meetings until circumstances improve and the regulations relax. After prayerful consideration and consultation with our members, it was decided to continue the 11am Sunday Morning services within the church building which is explicitly permitted in the lockdown regulations. We have the procedures in place to maintain a COVID secure environment and, with careful use of space, it has been possible to go somewhat beyond the minimum recommended spacings. We would welcome others to join us but wrap up warm as the need for good ventilation does not help with heating and please be aware that social interactions and singing are not permitted under the regulations prevailing at the time of writing.

Our prayer meetings and Bible Studies are all being conducted on ZOOM so please visit www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk for the timings and the ZOOM link.

Another thing that has been badly affected by the lockdown is our Into the Book sessions at both Eastington and Whitminster Schools where we would normally act out stories from the Bible in front of an assembly. In the latter part of last year, the group got together and videoed several stories. For now, we are not allowed to meet as a group at all so it has been down to just Ken & Beck to act out and create these videos ...(the naughtiness has a sort of amusing charm all of its own!)... not sure whether to put them on Youtube or not.



Trust in the LORD

We live in very strange, difficult, unusual and unsettling times. We can't see some people, and we see too much of others. We're cut off from our family, our friends, and often our work colleagues. We're isolated. And then there's the uncertainty. When will we get the vaccine? Will it solve the problem? When will all this end?

On top of that, the fear. Will we catch the virus? Will we be ok if we do? Will there be enough beds if we need to go into hospital? What will happen if we're not ok?

In difficult times, when everything is shaken, we need a firm foundation. A solid rock on which to stand. Something, or rather someone on whom we can rely.

This reminds me of a song my children used to enjoy when they were younger.

It begins with a question...

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?*

The answer comes in the chorus...

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

When there are storms in life we can have a sure/solid/secure foundation if we put our trust in Jesus. Jesus "the Son of God who loved" us so much that he "gave himself for us". The one "who is able to keep us".

The Bible says: "trust in the LORD (God/Jesus) with all your heart."

And it promises that when we do that, and continue to do it, we will find "peace beyond understanding", even in the storms.

**If you'd like to know more; or you'd just like someone to talk to;
or if we can help in any way; give us a call. Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414**

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Church



St Michael and All Angels

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.

If there are any changes due to COVID-19, these will be widely circulated on our Facebook page, which you can access by searching "Eastington Church". Details will also be posted on our Facebook page for upcoming church services, whether in church and live streaming, together with details of services at neighbouring churches. You can also search for "[Stroudwater Team of Churches](#)" on Facebook for Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Night Prayer at 9pm on Mondays to Saturdays.



Alternatively, you can contact any of the following people for further details, who are also available for any help and support, or simply for 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

URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP WITH THE CHURCH ROOF



You may have noticed the scaffolding which has been in place at the front of the church for some time. This is in relation to a number of leaks in church. Following investigation, it is clear a patch repair is not possible and the entire nave roof will need replacing, with initial estimates suggesting the cost will be in excess of £200,000 and therefore well beyond our financial resources. The situation is very serious.

We are very grateful to a local conservation architect who is continuing to provide helpful advice on how to proceed. Some temporary protection to the roof will be made, but a much longer term solution will be required. As such, we are appealing for people to come forward to assist us with our fundraising efforts. In particular we would be interested to hear from those with experience

with applying for grants, fundraising events, as well as any other ideas or incentives.

Please contact Mike Naylor on **01453 822728** or at mike@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk for further details.

Church



St Michael and All Angels

CAROLS FOR CHARITY

Between Advent Sunday and Christmas Day 2020, videos were uploaded daily via YouTube, Facebook and Twitter (search for Eastington Church on social media) of Jane Williams, her choir the Cotswold Youth Singers and organist Chris Amys performing popular Christmas Carols.

Thank you to everyone who donated via the Just Giving Page. Over £860 was raised, which is being shared 50/50 between the Children's Society and St Michael and All Angels Church Eastington. Thank you also to Jane Williams, her choir the Cotswold Youth Singers and organist Chris Amys for putting together this fundraiser. They spent hours recording the music over 3 recording sessions whilst in a COVID-19 secure environment.



FLOWER FESTIVAL – WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

We are pleased to announce that, subject to any COVID-19 restrictions, we will be holding a flower festival at Eastington Church between Friday 25th and Sunday 27th June 2021.



Festival Director Jessica Amys is looking to celebrate all things British during the summer, such as afternoon tea, picnics, Wimbledon, weddings, BBQs etc. The intention is to fill the church with numerous flower displays, a mixture of small, medium and large, covering its windows, porch, pillars, pew ends etc.

Jessica would like to hear from anyone who would like to get their hands green and get involved with the flower festival, which was postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19. Everyone is welcome to get involved, regardless if they are a professional or amateur florist.

If you can please display expressions of interest by the end of February 2021, this will help Jessica with finalising a framework for the flower festival itself, as well as allowing sufficient time for everyone to make plans and preparations for their displays.

Jessica can be contacted on **07968 047213** and at jessicaamys@hotmail.com.

Community

The Old Badger Inn



During the lockdown, Team Badger is once again offering Free meals on Friday for the elderly or vulnerable.

No fuss - just call us on **01453 822 892** each Thursday between 10am - 2pm

to place an order for you or a loved one who is in need of a home-cooked pub meal.

And one of our team of volunteers will deliver it to the door on Friday.

Find us on Facebook



Eastington Weather - Photos from Facebook



Millend Lakes - June Snell



Tom Low



Whitney Gorman

Councils

A background to the Local Plan Review and what it means for Whitminster.

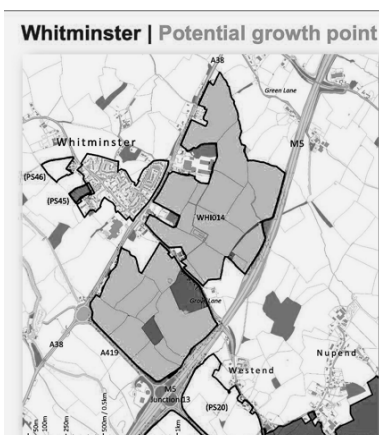
Stroud District Council has to provide a 'Local Plan' indicating where future development might reasonably take place over a given period. This Plan is reviewed every 5 years or so. The current 'live' plan (which included Great Oldbury) was adopted in 2015, covering housing needs up to 2031. The 5-year review of this plan is currently in its final stages. The revised plan will cover requirements up to 2040, subject to the next review in (around) 2025.

The Government dictates the number of houses (and associated industry etc) that the District is expected to provide. This number can fluctuate with population growth etc, and one district might be asked to 'help out' another if scope for building is limited. Stroud have to show that they can identify sufficient 'potential' growth areas to satisfy all these needs during the plan period; if they do not, Government may override local planning decisions. The purpose of Local (and Neighbourhood) Plans is to ensure that sufficient potential is demonstrated and that the development areas that go forward are the best ones for the community, based on policies born of consultation.

The main stages of the Local Plan review process are as follows:

1. It starts with the Government declaring the housing numbers required of Stroud over the new plan period, and Stroud deciding how much land will be needed over and above that already in the Plan.
2. A 'Call for land' is issued, (2016/7) wherein, with or without prompting from Stroud, owners or option-holders register their land for the SALA (Strategic Assessment of Land Allocation) for this review.
3. Stroud assesses the proposed sites for viability, and in 2017/18 drew up an 'Issues and Options' document for public consultation. This included questions of e.g. distributed housing vs. large new towns, as well as comments on possible individual sites. This was followed by the the 'Emerging Strategy' document (2018) for further consultation and finally a draft Plan in 2019 for yet more consultations - ending in January 2020. Various large sites were being considered at this stage, including Sharpness, Wisloe in Berkeley Vale and a smaller one at Cam - but the potential Whitminster site had not yet been proposed.
4. In August 2020 the Government moved the goal posts on housing numbers quite dramatically and it emerged that even more land might be required. A further call for land was made, and this time the Whitminster site was included as one of a number of 'potential 'growth points'.
5. So, In October 2020 Stroud produced the plan add-on document 'Additional Housing Options' - and public consultation on this was held (on-line due to Covid) - closing December 2020.
6. A new version of the Draft Plan is now being drawn up - based on all the above and should be ready for a final round of consultation in the coming spring/summer before being submitted as the final 'Consultation Draft'.
7. This will be considered by the Government Planning Inspectorate in an 'Examination in Public' later in this year, and subject still to some further tweaks, twiddles and appeals, could be adopted by early 2022.

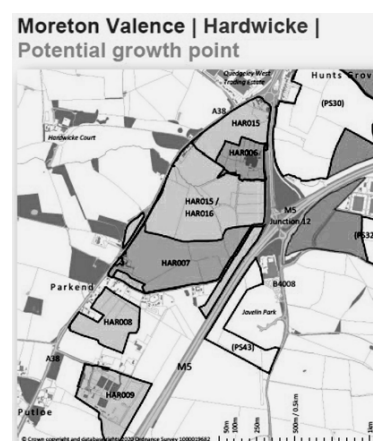
Which of the proposed development sites will finally make the Consultation Draft is not yet certain, but it is highly possible that the Whitminster site will be included. If not, the odds are that it will be proposed again and included in the next review (around 2025). In the meantime, the Government has decided that the increase in housing numbers should be aimed more at the north than the south of the country as part of its levelling up policy - and the pressure on Stroud to find new sites has recently been reduced. This could well make the difference - for now.



Left: The site at Whitminster that has (belatedly) been proposed by Hitchens as suitable for a development of something like 2,500 houses with associated, school, shops, industry and other infrastructure.

The trenches that people have seen being dug will be part of a 'scoping' exercise to begin to provide the environmental evidence that the site is suitable.

Right: further areas between the M5 and the A38, all the way up to Moreton Valence will also be considered.



Community

Coronavirus Help

The Eastington Volunteers Coronavirus helpline phone number is now closed - the number of calls dwindled to zero - hopefully because everyone has found a way to access any help they need.

However, help is still available through Facebook! 'Eastington Coronavirus Community Volunteers' or 'Love Eastington' - there are still plenty of willing volunteers in Eastington!

For help with shopping if you are self-isolating, the Co-op will take orders over the phone for later collection or a volunteer delivery can be arranged. Call **0800 435 902**.

You can also contact

**Gloucestershire's
community help hub**

Gloucestershire's councils and partners created this community help hub to connect people and services offering or needing help. Information will be shared via Stroud District Council.

If you, or someone you know, needs help (or if you have help to offer) please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helphub> and complete a simple form - or phone

01452 583 519 Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm.

If you feel isolated, or have general health or other difficulties you can also contact

The Independence Trust Community Wellbeing service on

03458 638 323 Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm



Wash your hands often and well.

Cover your face (mouth AND nose)

Keep your distance

Let's look after ourselves and each other !