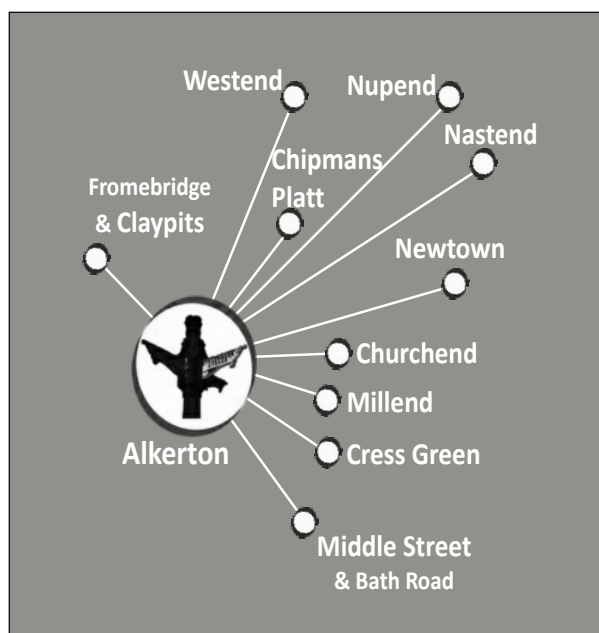




<https://eastington.website>

April/May 2021



Kingfisher: Derek Greenaway

Some of our lesser-spotted feathered friends



Sparrowhawk: Ed Davies



Egret: Derek Greenaway



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,

Here we are in print again, and lockdown is slowly easing just a little bit - but let's remember it is 'just a little' for now and not spoil all the progress so far by forgetting the rules. 'Hands, Face, Space' is still really important!

It was very pleasing (a little smug-making?!) to see that the Times Newspaper has voted the Stroud area the Best Place to live in the UK. Their article said that "*Stroud is spoilt for choice with excellent schools, transport links and countryside*" but "... *even better, it has a strong community spirit and knows how to celebrate all things local*". Eastington has always shown that Community Spirit really is the thing that makes a place worth living in!

I do hope that you managed to access the 'on-line only' version of ECN last time. We would appreciate any comments you have on the website and on print vs. on-line for ECN in the future.

We are coming to the end of our financial year and need to make decisions about and organise our advertising going forward. Some fresh thinking would be really helpful - if you might fancy volunteering as our **Advertising Manager** - or have any other help/ideas or comments to offer, **please get in touch** - by email, via facebook or in the post, contact details at the bottom of the page. Many Thanks.

We do need your input to be your ECN!

Wishing you a happy (and hopefully sunny) Eastertime.

Tom, Jan and Mary



Inside this issue...

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Deadline for next issue : Thursday May 20th (For delivery around 1st June 2021)

Please email your articles, stories, photos and events to articles@eastington.website
or, for ads please use advertising@eastington.website.

For comments and ideas, email jan@eastington.website, visit our page/message Jan Low on facebook or write to us at Hazel Cottage, Millend, Eastington, GL10 3SF.

ECN is written, produced and delivered entirely by volunteers, with advertising only paying for paper and printing. It is (normally!) delivered every two months to all the 780-odd homes in the main village and historic hamlets.

See it in colour : visit the Eastington Hub at <https://eastington.website>

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

Groups

Meet the Eastington Wombles



Great Uncle Bulgaria

As I am sure most of you know, the Wombles are shy and wonderful little creatures that keep the place clean and tidy by collecting rubbish.

Originally from Wimbledon common, they have spread all over the world, and we are lucky to have our very own pack here in Eastington - in the person of Tina Davies and all her hard working helpers.

They have been quietly collecting up rubbish and making Eastington a much nicer place to live over the last few months.

Wombles would like you to Recycle, Re-use and Re-think before throwing away - and if you do throw away, to do so responsibly. Sadly, there are some people who seem to find this difficult (it isn't) and for the benefit of everyone else it's Wombles to the Rescue!

Thank you, Wombles - you are very much appreciated.

I should also add that Wombles have a lot of fun!

Womble hunts are often undertaken in packs, with a big celebration at the end - such as a socially distanced coffee at the Big Green Bus in the OHMG car park . At the moment, of course, social distancing is paramount, and hunts can also be made alone or in small or family groups.

Mini Wombles are always welcome. In Womble culture, little Wombles only get their name when they start hunting, and they choose one from Uncle Bulgaria's great book of names - which includes all the wonderful-sounding place names you can think of, such as Tobermory, Orinoco, Bungo, Alderney and Toms.



The Wombles have been wombling in and all around Eastington and have collected sackfuls and sackfuls of rubbish and litter that would otherwise be spoiling our beautiful village. They even have a facebook page. If you would like to know more, or join in with the hunts, you can visit them on Facebook - search for Eastington Wombles - or you can send an email to wombles@eastington.website and we will make sure it gets to them.



The next organised hunt is scheduled for **Sunday 11th April**, during the Easter holidays, and you are very welcome to take part. Meet (not too closely!) In front of the **Kings Head at 10 am**, and afterwards in the OHMG car park if you wish, to celebrate your haul.

Tina will organise bags, and you can also help by buying your very own wombling stick for litter-picking. You can womble at any time - let the Wombles know about any hauls you make!

Community

Safer Streets for Pedestrians - please!

Dear Neighbour,

We are new residents at Fullers Close and use the Claypits/Alkerton Road to walk into Eastington village on a daily basis. We have found it to be a difficult and sometimes dangerous experience.

As part of their home education, I have been helping my children carry out some fieldwork to collect evidence for a community petition; ***Campaign for Safe Speed Limit in Eastington***. Upon assessing the area, we have found there to be no sources of information for road users to indicate that the road is regularly used by pedestrians. On 3/2/21 the children tallied the frequency of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists between 10.15am and 11.15am. The numbers are as follows: 84 vehicles, 13 pedestrians (6 children) and 8 cyclists. We have also observed that there is a high number of heavy-duty vehicles due to the local trading, construction and waste management facilities and nearby farms.

We know that our request is not novel, however with a second new estate in development, even more families and elderly individuals will be coming into the area who need safe access to the village. The composition of road users along the Claypits/Alkerton Road has, and is still, changing and this suggests a need for greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

We are asking for the traffic authorities to review and extend the village speed limit of 30mph with additional street lighting along Alkerton Road and Claypits up to the A38 junction, and to consider effective engineering/geometry changes to the road such as a wider pavement, safety barriers at road crossings and/or a cycle path. We also ask for traffic calming measures to be considered such as warning signs, a vehicle-activated sign, pedestrian crossings and/or a higher barrier on the M5 motorway bridge.

If you would like to help create a safer road environment fit for purpose, please fill in the form below.

We plan to collect your responses and present this along with our field research to the council and highway authorities.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Lucy, Jasper and Poppy

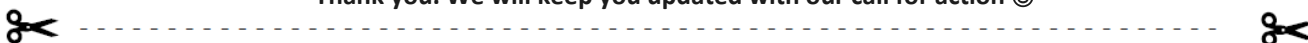
If you have any extra comments please add as required.

Please return this slip to 8, Fullers Close, Eastington, GL10 3WF.

Alternatively, you can find the online petition here - <https://www.change.org/eastington>

Or email me your response at lucindajaynejones@gmail.com

Thank you. We will keep you updated with our call for action ☺



Name(s): _____

I/We live in Eastington. (If not, please state your connection to the road on the back).

I/We would like Alkerton and Claypits Road (from the Coop roundabout to the A38 junction) to be safer and consent to be added to the petition; *Campaign for Safe Speed Limit in Eastington*.

Signature _____

How do you feel about walking along Alkerton/Claypits Road?

I/We opt for:

- ☐ 20mph speed limit (see 20splenty.org)
☐ 30mph speed limit
☐ More streetlights

- ☐ Pedestrian crossing
☐ Wider footpath
☐ Cycle path

- ☐ Higher bridge barrier
☐ Vehicle-activated sign
☐ Warning signs

Community

Eastington Baby and Toddler Group

Eastington Methodist Church

(opposite the butchers)

Mondays 10-11:30am

For any queries or to book your place call Beck Burgin 07511 197 265

After many months of lockdown, or only limited opening we are hoping to re-open on Monday 12th April. As yet the full details of the Covid-19 regulations are not available, but we do know that at least 15 parents/carers plus children will be able to meet both inside and outside.

If you have pre-school children you'd be most welcome to join us for toys, stories, crafts, and singing. It's an excellent opportunity to make friends with those in similar circumstances. Friendships that really help and last.

So why not join us on 12th?

The Old Badger



Team Badger have been continuing with their weekly free meals service for the elderly and vulnerable throughout this lockdown. A huge thank you to all involved, the chefs and the brilliant delivery volunteers.

Please ring 01453 822 892 on Thursdays 10am-2pm to check on the further availability of this service - or see facebook 'The Old Badger Inn'.

Hopefully outdoor pubbing will be possible again very soon and we can all enjoy some great Badger fare - please support our brilliant 'Local'!



Campaign for Safe Speed Limit in Eastington

additional comments

Community

The Big Green Coffee Machine in the OHMG car park



Well spring seems to have arrived in Eastington and down at the OHMG field another welcome addition has turned up in the form of the Big Green Coffee Machine.

For those of you that haven't seen it yet it's a beautiful old double decker bus and the owner, Louise, is providing delicious plant based food and drinks for us locals.

All the fare is locally sourced and seasonal so look forward to delightful cakes, flapjacks and savoury food such as the 'no' sausage rolls, yum!

As the weather improves, there are plans for fruit based ice lollies and low sugar, natural fruit based drinks. Not to mention nature engaging activities for the kids over Easter.

What a fabulous addition to village life and perfect timing when we shouldn't stray too far.

BGCM is there Weds to Sunday, for daily menus see the FaceBook page: The Big Green Coffee Machine.

When you visit the BGCM please continue to observe all the current Covid restrictions.

Gill Glover

Save The Date - and your unwanted goods!

The next **Great Eastington Yard Trail** is planned for

Sunday 13th June 11am-3pm (Covid Willing)

Thank you, Katie-Ann, for organising this!



SEVERNSIDE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE

Help for when it hurts



Registered Osteopath in Saul

Osteopathy is not just for neck and back pain
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- ❖ Sports injuries
- ❖ Womens health – before & after pregnancy
- ❖ Children with growth and postural problems



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Community



Red Nose Day – Friday March 19th 2021



Many of you may know that Comic Relief believes that a fair world, free from poverty, is possible, and that those closest to the issues have the best solutions. They partner amazing projects and organisations that are working to tackle some of the biggest challenges people face.

At school we learned about a boy called Ethan who has cerebral palsy – a brain condition which impacts on development. Ethan attended STEPS Education Centre which helped him build his physical strength and taught him how to communicate using Makaton (a form of sign language). Ethan loves to run and play with his friends in school now. You can find out more this amazing story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAKvelOllts>

Comic Relief also believes in the power of funny! Our School Council representatives thought about lots of fun ideas we could do to raise money.

Every class enjoyed Red Nose Day in different ways - red nose and spoon obstacle races, a jokathon and a Red Nose Day riddle hunt. Our class had enjoyed a talent competition, the Red Nose Day quiz and we designed red noses too. We had four winning designs!



Enjoy a few photos of the school having fun too....

Community



Everyone was kind and generous and together we raised a wonderful £169. We know it will make a real difference when joined together with all the fund raising that other schools across the country undertook. Changing lives and helping everyone be the best they can while having fun - brilliant.

By Class 4

Councils

PARISH MATTERS



I hope you are all well and looking forward to a little more freedom in the coming months.

Parish Council is still meeting via Zoom every 2nd Thursday of the month. All Parishioners are most welcome to join us and contribute if they wish. To join a meeting please contact the Clerk.

Census Day was Sunday 21 March 2021, but it's not too late to take part.

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It's your chance to help plan your community's public services. Make sure you're included by filling yours in. If you need help, visit census.gov.uk or call 0800 141 2021. Your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.

The Local Elections are taking place on Thursday 6th May. Eleven Eastington Parish Councillors will be elected. **If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, or would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk or phone 01453-799616.**

You can obtain election nomination papers from Stroud District Council. Please note the nomination deadline, for submission of papers is 4:00pm on Thursday 8th April and must be delivered in person to Stroud District Council offices at Ebley Mill.

Information about the elections in the Stroud District, including how to vote, can be found on the Stroud District Council website or phone 01453-766321.

We would like to say a big thank you to Tina and all the "Womblers" who have been doing litter picks around the Parish while taking their daily exercise.

We would also like to make organisations in the Parish aware of the Solar Fund - which is money received from the company that is responsible for the Council administered Solar panels in Cambridge on the A38. The aim of the fund is to provide money for projects which are of benefit to the Parish/Parishioners.

If you think you have a project that could be eligible for support from the fund, more information can be obtained from our web site or the Parish Clerk.

Muriel Bullock (Chairman) 01453 826172 07715962309 Muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Eastington Cricket Club

"If", "but" "hopefully" and "maybe" still dominate the prospects for cricket in 2021.

We have watered the square and done some other preparation but the pre season indoor nets have been lost to covid.

- **If** the medical situation allows the Government to relax restrictions in line with their route map;
- **If** the OHMG committee decide they can open up their facilities;
- **if** players feel they are ready to resume playing;
- **if** other clubs have enough players interested to start playing,

then, and only then, will there be cricket!

The ECB, the Glos Cricket Board and the Stroud and District Cricket League are encouraging everyone to be optimistic and to start tentative planning. Watch that space (OHMG) to see if anything is happening or, 'phone the secretary/chairman Keith Dench on 01453 764990 or the fixture secretary Roger Beese on 01453 823128.



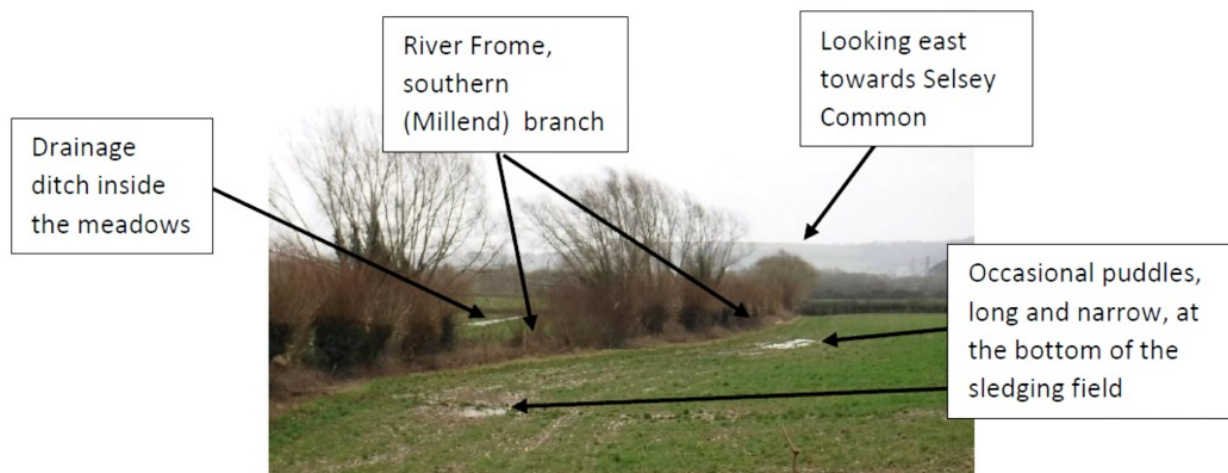
History

Another slice of history exposed by winter floods

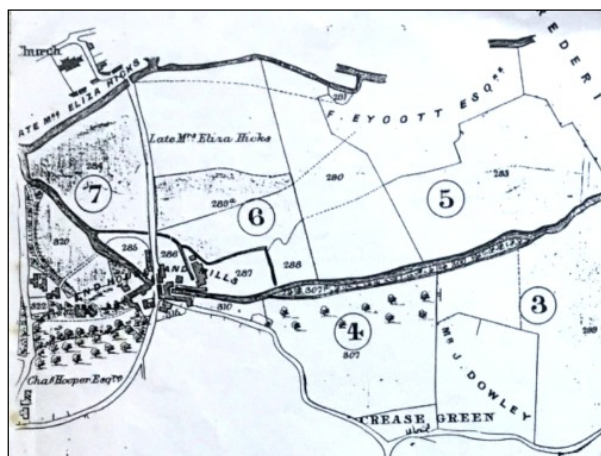
Remains of withey beds in Millend

Steve Mills' recent article about the field systems in the Meadows which can best be seen during heavy winter rains, reminded me of another industrial/agricultural system in the field between Millend and Cress Green. Much beloved by dog walkers, as well, many people will identify this as the village sledging field.

In the photograph below, taken from the garden of Hazel Cottage, Millend, puddles can be seen, emphasising a long narrow dip, running parallel to the River Frome.



This is all that remains of a significant ditch, originally as deep as the river itself, which ran for the full length of that 10-acre field and beyond. Its purpose, which only faded away after the Second World War, was to support two more rows of willow trees, like those that remain by the river now.



The 1839 Tithe map and others show the extent of the ditch or "leet" and the appropriate name for the field – Floodgate Furlong.

This 1872 map shows Floodgate Furlong as number 4, with the church in the top left corner, the curve of Millend Pitch lower left and Cress Green written as "Crease Green", lower right.

Withey Beds, canal barges and the wool Industry

More commonly known as withey beds in the West Country, these willows were pollarded in rotation every couple of years to provide a regular supply of flexible branches for making baskets. Prior to cheap metal or plastics, this was the primary method of storing materials, both in the dozens of woollen mills and in canal barges. What couldn't go in a sack went in a basket and the archives of the Stroudwater Canal Company contain references to baskets being a recognised unit of measurement for a cargo.

In Eastington, especially Millend, families would spend their winter evenings making baskets for sale to the mills – a genuine cottage industry.

Tom Low, Hazel Cottage, Millend

History

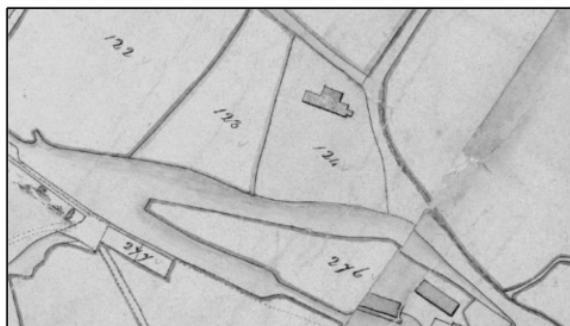
The Eastington Workhouse

By Stephen mills

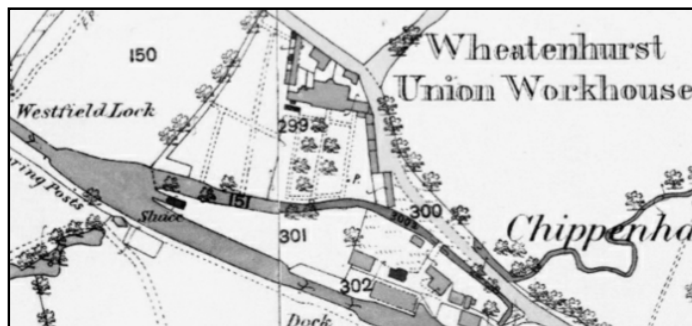
Everyone has heard about the workhouse. It's generally viewed as a place of hardship, misery, and absolutely the last resort for desperately poor people. And that was true for many workhouses, especially those in and around the major cities. But in some places, although life in the workhouse might be hard, it was not necessarily as brutal and soul-destroying, especially in more rural locations such as ours.

But how were the parish's poor helped before the advent of the workhouse? Often, they were 'farmed', where a private contractor undertook to look after them for a fixed annual amount. Able bodied paupers were expected to work, helping to contribute towards their upkeep. In other circumstances, the meagre wages of the poor were supplemented from parish funds, the amount given depending on the price of bread at the time, and the size of the particular family.

However, in 1835, all of the parishes in England and Wales were formed into what were known as *Poor Law Unions*, each with its own workhouse, and each managed by a Board of Guardians, usually made up of the local great and good. By the 1840s, hundreds of workhouses had been built across the country. Each Union provided a single workhouse to accommodate anyone unable to support themselves. However, Eastington was actually ahead of the game, as 'our' first parish workhouse pre-dated these developments, having been built in 1785. When the Poor Law Union was formed, it was enlarged, becoming the Wheatenhurst Union Workhouse. It was designed by architect Mr Fulljames, who was also responsible for the Dursley Union Workhouse. Day-to day operation now fell to an elected board of eighteen governors, who represented the various parishes covered. These included Eastington, Brookthorpe, Arlingham, Frampton, Fretherne, Frocester, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield, Longney, Moreton Valance, Standish and Whitminster.



The left hand map (1840s – the building in area 124) shows the original workhouse.



Notice how much bigger the rebuilt version was (1880s)

Unfortunate people could end up in the workhouse for a multitude of reasons – some were ill or infirm, and others were suffering from various forms of mental illness. In some cases, girls were there for simply being an unmarried mother. Some were temporary residents, whereas others were essentially there for the rest of their lives. In 1861, long-term residents in 'our' workhouse were classified as 'idiotic, insane or infirm'. These included the 'idiot' Sabina Browning, who had lived in the workhouse for 24 years, and the 'insane' Mary Humphries who had been there for 14 years. Infirm residents had been there for between 5 and 24 years.

The census of 1881 makes interesting reading and helps paint a picture of life at the time. The Master of the workhouse was now Walter Coleman, with his wife Clara as Matron. There was also a porter and a cook on site. There were 72 residents, with ages that ranged between little one year old Thomas Wintle and 87 year old Celia Banks from Fretherne. Residents' former occupations are listed where appropriate and include waterman, labourer, servant, farm labourer, drover, carpenter, sailor, nurse, and needlewoman, a true cross section of working class society. The residents various handicaps are classified, this time including blind, and deaf and dumb. But once again, a surprising number are simply tagged 'imbecile'.

History

Their numbers included 28 year old former servant Mary Bateman along with 4 year old Rose, 7 year old John, and 9 year old Louisa – one wonders what their story was. Then there was farm labourer George Gorin with what appears to be seven family members aged between 7 and 22. Two (aged 16 and 18) were noted as being deaf and dumb. What tragedy put them in the workhouse – was it family bereavement or simply being too poor to put enough food on the table? There were also individuals such as 70 year old needlewoman Prissilla Woodman from Frampton who may have been too poor or frail to look after herself. And there was former waterman James Banks, now 69 years old and blind.

In 1894, an old Eastington resident recalled that in earlier years, a number of needy local families had been 'given papers' to be taken in by the workhouse by Henry Hicks, Lord of the Manor. The families moved in but continued going out to work; their children also went to work in the village cloth mills. It seemed as if they continued to live their normal lives, but usefully, without the need to find the rent.

In some places, the Guardians continued with the often harsh conditions imposed by some of their predecessors. But by and large, inmates of our workhouse were treated more kindly. The kindness extended to various events laid on for them during the year. This included a Christmas entertainment, funded by the local gentry. For example, in 1891, it was recorded that:

"foremost, as always on these occasions, were Mr James T Stanton [of The Leaze, now Eastington Park] and his family, and also the family of the Rector of the parish. A Christmas tree ("well laden with fruit") was provided and gifts distributed by the Stantons to all residents. After, there was an evening of songs, music, readings and so on, "much to the enjoyment of the simple company".

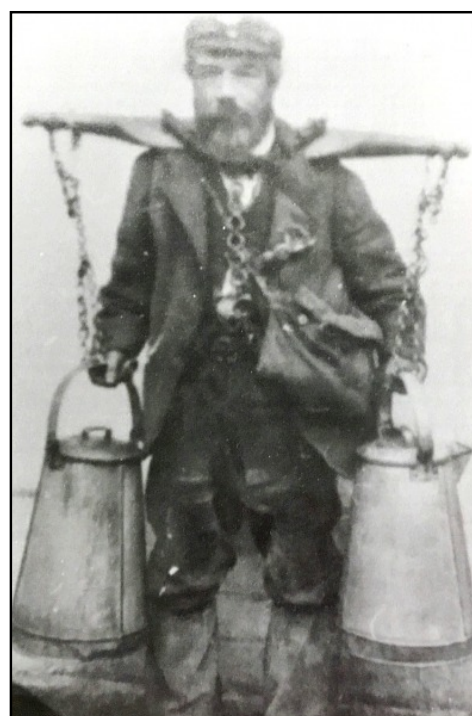
The workhouse continued to operate for some time and a fascinating insight into its later years was provided by the memories of the late Sylvia Bliss (see the ECN of October 2018 at: <https://ecn.eastington.website/2018/10/01/childhood-memories-of-eastington-the-workhouse/>).

But the end was in sight. Gradually, the public attitude towards poverty began to change as the state began to accept more responsibility for social welfare, and in 1930, the Unions were finally abolished. Many either closed or were converted to community hospitals or old people's homes. Eastington's stood empty for some years, before finally transforming into William Morris College. So, this landmark building continues to serve the community well into yet another century. Its use may have changed, but it carries on fulfilling an equally important role.



The workhouse, the early part of the last century

The workhouse milkman, Harry Butler, in 1907



Community



Vacancy: Play Assistant

We are currently looking for a Play Assistant to join our small team at our popular village Playgroup, located at Eastington Community Centre, Snakey Lane, Eastington, Stonehouse.

We provide care for children aged from 2.5 - 4 years old.

We are looking for an enthusiastic play assistant, working as part of our friendly team, to provide interesting activities to help children develop and learn through play.

Duties & Responsibilities

This role is for 12 hours per week, working Monday – Thursday mornings from 8.30am during termtime, with the potential to increase with demand. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in a career working with children. Main duties would include:

- Setting up play equipment and making sure play areas are safe.
- Ensuring children are meeting developmental milestones and tracking their progress through record keeping.
- Engage in positive interaction with children to build confidence and self-esteem.
- Ensure that children are safe and that their everyday needs are met.
- Preparing snacks for the children.
- Supervising children for fair behaviour during play, dealing with any minor injuries.
- Model and encourage good social skills, e.g. strong communication and conflict-resolution skills.

Key Skills & Requirements

- NVQ Level 3 in childcare is essential.
- Knowledge of Special Educational Needs is desirable but not essential.
- Applicants will be required to have: an excellent knowledge of the EYFS, the ability to carry out paper-based observations and effective communication skills with parents/carers.
- All mandatory training will be provided if not already achieved.
- The candidate must have an enthusiastic and passionate approach to early years development
- The candidate must be reliable and flexible
- Good communication skills are essential
- Eastington Playgroup takes safeguarding matters seriously and this position is subject to obtaining an enhanced DBS disclosure and registering with the DBS update Service.

To apply, please email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com by 30th April 2021 for an application pack.

Groups



WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Hedgehog admissions: **07949 976 717**

General Enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com

Lucky Severn Lottery

Stroud District Council has launched a weekly lottery for good causes in the area. Tickets cost £1 per week and 50% of tickets sold through our page will go to Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue. Please support us if you can:

<https://www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk/support/wild-hogs-hedgehog-rescue>



Watch hedgehogs – Live!

From the end of March, you will be able to watch some of our local hedgehogs live. Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue, tech charity Making Pi with support from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society are putting out intelligent feeding stations into gardens where there are strong hedgehog populations. The feeding stations upload videos of the visiting hedgehogs with their weight recording to a website which everyone can access: <http://sevenside.hedgehogrepublic.org/>

We already have five feeding stations in Kingsway and we will now have five in Arlingham to enable us to compare suburban and rural hedgehog populations. We know that suburban hedgehogs are doing much better than rural hedgehogs and we want to learn more so we can help them. If the hedgehog has been treated by us it will be microchipped; the feeding stations can read these and identify the individual. Please do visit the website at the end of March and see who is visiting our feeding stations.

You can also help hedgehogs in your own garden:

- Putting out clean water and cat food every night
- Make a 'hedgehog highway' with your neighbour
- Put a ramp in your pond so they can climb out
- Keep your dog on a lead after dark
- Leave piles of dry leaves and open compost heaps
- Check carefully for hedgehogs before you mow or strim, especially in long grass or weeds.
- Light bonfires only on the day you make them

Are you a European Citizen who needs to apply for Settled Status?



Following the UK's departure from the EU, the government has launched the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

If you are an EU national and have been resident in the UK by 31st December 2020 you can apply for settled or pre-settled status.

EU nationals who do not apply by the deadline risk losing their right to live, work and study in the UK, and could also lose access to public funds, pensions and the opportunity to apply for British citizenship. **The deadline for applications is 30th June.**

Stroud & Cotswold Citizens Advice will be helping people to understand the scheme and how to apply. If you, or anyone you know needs help on this please contact :-

Paul Lock:-paul.lock@ca-scd.org.uk **01285 425871**

Community



The Story of the Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground Part 2 - paperwork, paperwork, paperwork!

The last article in ECN told how the land at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground, then known as the 'Pies and Packers' field, was bequeathed to the people of Eastington by Shirley Harris, Owen's widow. It explained the purpose of the bequest, and how the Pavilion was obtained.

However, if we go back a little further, to around 1980, a Committee called the Eastington Sports and Playing Field Association had already been formed.

Their objective had been to buy some farmland for this purpose. The Village school and other organisations supported the venture, and with donations and fundraising quite a sum of money had accrued. No land was ever purchased, however, and some members of the original Committee had run out of energy. As is often the case, general interest was rather lack lustre.

At that time the 'Pies and Packers' field residents were large, long (about 2m, a perfect social distancing measure) black and white with a leg in each corner, yep, dairy cows! And there was no notion that they would be moo-ving out any time soon.

When the land was bequeathed to Eastington in 1989, this was recorded:

The Playing Field, known as Pies and Packers and comprising of some 8 acres of land, or thereabouts is owned by the Parish Council of Eastington.

The Village Hall is owned by a charitable trust for which the Parish Council are the Custodial Trustees under a scheme which is in the process of being formally constituted.

At this time a small number of people in Eastington were either on the Village Hall Committee and/or the Eastington Playing Field Association and/or the Parish Council. As there weren't enough willing folks to form individual Committees for all three it made sense to set up a joint charitable scheme for the two facilities i.e. the Playing Field and the Village Hall. And that's what happened, eventually....

After a lot of letter writing (3 years), on the 27th February 1992, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC*) sent a letter confirming the sealed scheme for both charities. This was formalised at a meeting in April 1992. So the Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity (OHMGC**) and the Eastington Village Hall Charity (EVH) had individual charity identities but were part of the same scheme. Joint meetings were held to manage both charities and the Parish Council became the Custodial Trustees of both assets - and this remains the case today.

This is just a summary of the paperwork that was involved then and there would be plenty more of that to come, not to mention that dreaded word – **fundraising**!!! More on that subject next time.....

Contact: Gill Glover: Centre Manager: 01453 828782,
Mark Cousins: 01453 828557, Martin Elliott: 01453 838712

**GRCC is a working organisation today and do amazing work in Gloucestershire for rural Communities. Have a look at the website: grcc.org.uk. Lots of interesting information on it.*

***OHMGC is still the governing body of the Owen Harris field and manages the Community Centre. Five of the people mentioned in the early documents are commendably still on the Committee today.*

Community



**HOME
START**
**Stroud and
Gloucester**



**Parenting experience is all you need to
become a Home-Start
volunteer**

**Learn new skills, meet new people and make a
long lasting difference to your community!
Families in your area are waiting right now for
your help**

**FREE training course starting
Wednesday 21st April—30th June**

**RECRUIT
ING**

Church



Eastington Methodist Church

At the time of writing, it looks like the constraints on what everyone can do caused by COVID-19 are going to be lifted stage by stage. As a result, we are planning a number of activities over Easter and a resumption of our other activities as and when we are allowed to do so.

We have been able to legally and safely continue COVID secure church services at 11am on Sunday mornings at the church but are also enabling people to take part remotely using Zoom simultaneously. Access using Zoom is very simple and involves going to www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk and clicking on the link provided on the opening page. If you are not confident, you can try out the link on your own to see what happens at other times or contact us and we will work with you to make sure everything is fine in advance.

Our prayer meetings at 8:30 – 9:00am on Tuesdays and Fridays and our evening Bible Study at 7:30pm on Tuesdays are all being conducted on ZOOM for the time being and you are welcome to join us.



We will be holding a reflective service on **Good Friday** where we will be listening to hymns and songs (congregations are still not allowed to sing), Bible readings and considering what happened on the day that Jesus was crucified. This service should also be available over ZOOM.

Our **Easter Sunday** service is an all age event where families will be allocated an area where they can sit with activities for the children. This is a celebration service marking the resurrection of Jesus when God raised Him from the dead thus proving that His dying was both necessary for the saving of people from their sin and that it was not all in vain. This service should also be available over ZOOM.

Our **Messy Church** on the Wednesday is a form of hands-on church worship with activities forming a key part of what will be happening. We don't think we will run out of space but please book your space with us in advance just in case and to avoid a potentially wasted journey.

A **Baby and Toddlers Group** picnic is planned for 10am on Thursday 1st April at Snakey Lane Park (OHMG). Those attending will need to bring their own food for their own use only and the event will not be able to take place if the weather is poor because the regulations do not permit such groups to meet indoors until 12th April. That change should permit the Baby and Toddlers Group sessions to resume in the building on that Monday and thereafter.

The best information available at the moment suggests that the **Youth Club** should be able to resume on Friday 17th April. It appears likely that parents should not enter the building at that time so if you wish to talk to one of the leaders, please ask your child to come and get us and/or give us a call if you need to collect them early or want to talk to us at other times. We are also aware that we have effectively missed two years' worth of new members thanks to COVID-19 and would welcome any new young people between the ages of 11 and 18. The club runs from 7pm – 9pm on Friday and has a sub of 75p per session. There is a registration form to be filled in.

Church






MESSY MOSS!

**Outside family craft and fun activity
at Brownings Orchard**

**Wednesday 14th April
10am - noon or 1 - 3pm**

Contact Roz 077 61 90 22 49
or Beck 075 11 19 72 65
to book your place.

Eastington
Methodist
Church

Are you struggling? - Where is God in all this?

I think we have all found life difficult in one way or another over the last year. Things we took for granted we have been prevented from doing including seeing family and going away on trips. For some, it has meant being put on furlough or, worse still, losing a job.

For others, it has meant loneliness and isolation, especially if living alone, possibly made worse by an inability to use new fangled things like ZOOM or WhatsApp over high-tech gadgets which has allowed others, but not you, to see and hear their friends and family whilst still stuck at home.

Sadly, some will have lost friends and family members either due to COVID or for other reasons and were possibly unable to be with them when they died or unable to mark their passing at a funeral.

"Where is God in all this?" seems a fair question to ask but too often is it a rhetorical one. By all means ask it - but it is only fair to listen for the answer. Jesus on the cross said "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27 vs 45). This was Good Friday when He was bearing all the sin of the world from the start of time to the end of it and, for the first time, Jesus was separated from God his Father by that sin – our sins. God's answer came early on the Sunday morning – Jesus was raised from the dead; he got His answer and that is what Easter is all about.

We would be happy to help you to find answers (or rediscover your faith if you have lost it) – please do make contact or just come along to our services.

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 or email: info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Church



We are pleased to announce St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington now has extended opening times. The church is open 7 days a week, between the approximate hours of 9am-4pm.

The Stroud District Foodbank donation point at the back of the church remains open for your donations. Many thanks to everyone for their kind donations over the last couple of months.

In the last couple of months, in person church services have recommenced at St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington.

A service of Holy Communion will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11am. This service will also be streamed online via our Facebook Page (search for Eastington Church). You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service online. Simply select the correct date on the Facebook page, and the service live stream will start about 5 minutes before 11am. The Order of Service can be downloaded by clicking the "about" section on the Facebook page.



On a final note, you are all warmly invited to celebrate Easter Sunday at St Michael and All Angels Church Eastington either in person or online via our Facebook page at 11am.

A quick reminder that you can contact any of the following people for further details, who are also available for any help and support, or further details about church services:

Rev Steve Harrison: 07466 858975 rectorstroudwater@gmail.com

Rev Liz Palin (currently on sabbatical)

Rev Dave Bishop: 01453 822332 tv2stroudwater@gmail.com

Mike Naylor: 01453 822728 mike@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk



FRAMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY TALKS

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of 2021 illustrated talks. The talks are on Friday evenings starting at 7.30pm, normally in Frampton Village Hall. The cost is normally £3.50/per person (reduction for members) including tea/coffee & biscuits.

Here is our **revised** provisional program for the remainder of 2021 (Covid restrictions dependent):-

23rd April John Newton: Cotswold Canals Connected, Stroudwater Phase 1B Stonehouse to Saul (Zoom)

4th June Jackie Harris: Sir Peter Scott - His Life and Impact

25th June Gareth Williams: Jenner talk OR Unravelling the Spiral (DNA)

13th August? VISIT to Jenner Museum OR Peter Scott house - Covid dependant, to be confirmed

24th Sept. William Reddaway: A Ride Round England - one man, one horse, 2,700 miles and 30 Cathedrals.

26th Nov. Philip Taubenheim: Tales of a Country Auctioneer

Please contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com for more details.

Community



Warning of Heartbreak

Just when many of us need our canine companions the most, dog-napping has become prevalent throughout the country.

This is organised crime on a huge scale - dogs and puppies are easy to steal and worth a great deal of money - for re-sale, breeding or cruel sports. Young and pedigree dogs are obviously most at risk, but absolutely no dog is immune.

At present, the theft of a dog, beloved though it may be, is treated in law the same as the theft of any other 'object'. Dog-nappers are ruthless and heartless monsters, and they know that even if they are caught they are likely to get away with a relatively small fine. They are happy to take this chance and go about the streets brazenly, taking dogs from gardens and outside shops. They have even been known to 'snatch' dogs that are out for a run with their owners. They bundle them swiftly into a van and are gone before you can blink.

Last October the Government debated this issue after two petitions were signed by almost 300,000 people urging them to make pet theft a specific offence - in order to empower judges to hand out much stiffer penalties and prison sentences. The government say that they are 'keen to act' but nothing yet has changed.

Dogs in Eastington are at risk - the police are aware of cases in our area and are warning us to be vigilant. There are reports of gateposts being marked with a black zip tie or similar where 'likely' dogs live. Please make sure that your faithful friend is safe - secure indoors or under your watchful eye at all times, even in the garden. Dog-walk with a friend if possible and please report ANY suspicious activity or vehicles to the police immediately - call 101 or report online: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk>.

Your dog is relying on you.



New Luxury Dementia Care Home

NOW OPEN

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