

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

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



Hello Dear Readers,

It is hard to believe that I am writing this introduction to the June edition while the wind is howling around Hazel Cottage like a banshee and the rain is drumming on the roof.

During the last little respite in the weather I planted out courgette and squash, tiny beet seedlings and even some sunflowers and outdoor tomatoes - all seeming, at the time, desperate to escape their snug greenhouse pots. I have been fearful for their survival ever since. However, on each soggy and windswept visit to the garden I am amazed at their resilience - that despite all that nature is throwing at them they are hanging on in there. They are not growing much, but they are all sitting tight, waiting patiently for things to improve.

A bit like us, perhaps, as we wait for the trials of lockdown finally to end so that we can be ourselves again, and flourish. (Some sunshine would help us, too!)

Perhaps summer will have shown itself by the time you read this - but whether in your woollies or your beachwear we hope you enjoy this edition of your ECN.

Jan, Tom and Mary.

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Deadline for next issue : Thursday 22nd July (For delivery around 1st August))

All contributions are welcome!

- Email your articles, stories, photos and events to articles@eastington.website

or, for ads please use advertising@eastington.website

(note to advertisers: New Blue Pages cycle starts next time - see page 17!)

****If you would like to help produce ECN, manage the advertising or the websites, please get in touch ****

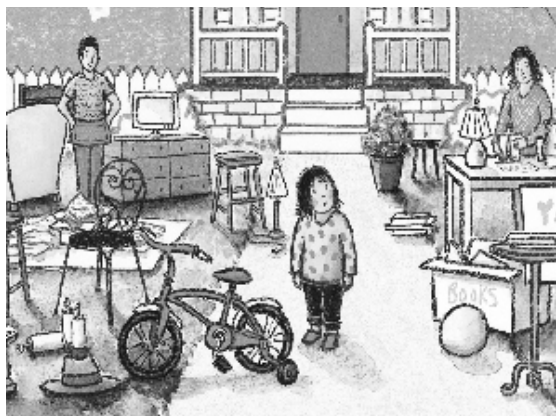
Space is limited - we may omit, edit or shorten articles. Views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.

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

Community

Eastington Yard Trail

Sunday 13th June 11am-3pm



Wander round the village, meet friends and neighbours
find a treasure or two - bargains galore!

And/or - turn your attic out onto your drive and
swap your unwanted stuff for cash.

To register to be put on the **trail map**,
please contact Katie-Ann
(£5 donation to charity)

07867 761 024

or email Katieannprice1985@gmail.com

PARISH MATTERS



We hope you are well and that, despite the rather unseasonal weather, you are cautiously enjoying your new 'freedom'.

I am pleased to report that Parish Council meetings are now face to face in the Village Hall. As previously, you are very welcome to join us. Covid safety measures are in place i.e. hand sanitiser, masks and fresh air.

All Councillors were returned unopposed after May's local elections, however, we are still three members short of our full quota.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk for details of how to apply.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with maintaining the very popular playpark. This would involve checking for wear/damage to equipment and emptying litter bins. If you can help, please get in touch.

If you would like to become more involved in your community, but the playpark isn't of interest, perhaps you would like to help with planting the gateway flower troughs in the Autumn. Again, please get in touch.

Muriel Bullock (Chair) Muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk

01453 826172

07715962309

Groups



We have had a lovely and busy Spring term exploring the world around us and developing our understanding of the world.



We have been exploring how things happen and work through experiments and exploring different materials and textures.

We have been lucky to spend a lot of time at the allotment, hanging our home-made bird feeders and making our bug mansion (pictured left).

We also enjoyed a 'shoe box oven' at the allotment. Melting chocolate over a tea light candle and then

dipping in our choice of strawberry or marshmallow. The children waited beautifully for their turn and understood the dangers about being around fire and sat away from it as instructed to keep safe.

We also had some caterpillars at playgroup which we watched grow into beautiful butterflies. The children learnt some brilliant new language such as cocoon, and learnt that the caterpillars needed to stay that way for 2 weeks. The children were able to draw the life cycle of a butterfly and were so excited to see how they changed.



We were very excited to fundraise throughout April inviting families to participate in our Covid friendly, socially distanced 'Sponsored Spring Stroll'.

We encouraged everyone to keep active by walking/travelling as many miles as they can in the most inventive way possible without using a car/train/plane and to ask family/friends to sponsor them through our just giving page.

We are pleased to announce that we made a fantastic £757 which will go towards further developing our allotment. Thank you to everyone who supported us and to our wonderful committee for setting this up.

After our recent job advert, we are excited to announce that Natalie Bayley will be joining our small, friendly and enthusiastic playgroup. Natalie comes to us with a wealth of experience and Early Years knowledge having worked in nurseries prior to having her own children. We are very excited for Natalie to join our team.

We have limited spaces for September so please get in contact if you require a place. It is never too early to register your child for a place, please email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com for a registration form.

Community



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

The Meaning of “Local Connection”

ECLT is committed to providing affordable homes that are needed by the Parish.

We are very proud of the fact that all 23 tenants of Fullers Close, Claypits had local connections to the traditional hamlets of Eastington.

Either:

- They already lived here
- Or they had family connections – parents, grandparents or children living here

Above all, it means that folks have settled in much more easily

– as one happy tenant put it “I knew 75% of my neighbours already!”

What’s next from ECLT

For all the 23 people who were pleased to have a new home in Fullers Close, there were a couple of dozen who missed out. A Housing Needs Survey in 2019 (HNS 2019) has shown that further affordable homes, wholly for “Local Connections”, are needed.

ECLT has been working on Project Two with to provide a further 21 homes for affordable rent, together with a new element highlighted by HNS 2019 – Affordable Shared Ownership.

Shared Ownership is for people who find buying a house on the open market unaffordable, but can raise a deposit and a mortgage for say, a half-share in a house, paying the remainder as rent. More than a dozen people asked for this part-buy/part rent arrangement in HNS 2019.

In partnership with Two Rivers Housing Association, ECLT intends to provide 10 shared ownership homes in Project Two.

Please watch out for details in the next edition of ECN.

Vacancies for two Trustees

ECLT now has two vacancies for volunteers, to serve on the Board of Trustees. The principal attribute they will have is a willingness to help our community provide affordable homes.

Please e-mail the Secretary at tom@eastingtonclt.ltd to arrange an initial chat, stating your interest and your local connection.

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](tel:01453823425)

For more information, please visit us at:

www.eastingtonclt.uk

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.

You need not be a member of the Society to attend and the cost is £3.50/per person including refreshments

provisional remaining 2021 programme of talks for your diaries:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>4th June</u> | Jackie Harris: Sir Peter Scott - His Life and Impact - <u>by Zoom</u> |
| <u>25th June</u> | Gareth Williams: Jenner talk OR Unravelling the Spiral (DNA) - <u>by Zoom</u> |
| <u>13th August?</u> | VISIT to Jenner Museum OR Peter Scott house - Covid dependant, to be confirmed |
| <u>24th Sept</u> | William Reddaway: A Ride Round England - one man, one horse,
2,700 miles and 30 Cathedrals. |
| <u>26th Nov.</u> | Philip Taubenheim: Tales of a Country Auctioneer |

For more info please contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com.



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History

Octavius T Hulbert, Eastington's Pied Piper

Stephen Mills

I recently came across an interesting news article published on the 20th October 1965 in The Sun newspaper concerning one of our long-departed residents – the wonderfully named Octavius T Hulbert.

He was remembered in the late Fred Ireland's memories of Eastington, recorded in 1992, where Fred recalled the celebrations at the end of the First World War (see ECN back issues 141 and 142):

I well remember the last World War peace celebrations. Tea and concerts in the Rector's Hall and burning the effigy of Little Willie, the German crown prince, in front of the King's Head Hotel.

As part of the celebrations, Octavius Hulbert sang comic songs, and later, there was a fancy dress exhibition on the cricket field, complete with a band seated on a farm wagon, with Octavius playing his trombone.

In later years, Octavius became a member of the Air Ministry Constabulary. This operated between 1942 and 1967, and was tasked with safeguarding military airfields. At its peak during the Second World War, it had a workforce of 3500 officers. However, after his retirement in 1957, Octavius slipped into a role that many parents would find even more stressful than protecting military establishments!

It started simply, just walking his two grandchildren to the village school in the mornings. However, this innocent pastime quickly blossomed into something else. As the Sun reported:

Yesterday morning Octavius was escorting 20 or more children across a busy main road [presumably by the village hall] and three quarters of a mile along a lane to their school.

The article goes on to note that there was no shortage of work for such a volunteer, as the mothers were 'particularly busy' early in the day, and grateful for his shepherding of their offspring to school.

The article stated that Octavius, who was 73 at the time, was clearly an engaging person to be with. The children took it in turns to walk with him, to hear his funny stories, and to hold the lead of his dog.

The children called him Grampy. The villagers called him the Pied Piper.



Recognise anyone?

Council

District Councillors' Newsletter

Stephen and John would like to thank all who voted in the recent elections to put them back at Ebley Mill. As District Councillors for Severn Ward of SDC, of which Eastington is part, it is our intention to do the best we can for all residents during the next three years. If anyone who would like any help on District Council matters, please get in touch on the contact details below.

The results of the recent elections mean that no one political party has overall control of Stroud District Council, so the Alliance of Green, Labour and Lib Dem parties looks set to continue.

The **Draft Local Plan** was approved by a majority decision at the full Council meeting on April 29th. None of the parcels of land in Moreton Valence and Whitminster parishes that were put forward in the extra consultation towards the end of last year were included in the Draft.

The Plan will now go for a public consultation in June and July for six weeks. Any adjustments coming from that consultation will be made before it goes for the Examination in Public by a Government Appointed Planning Inspector. This is where the parcels of land not included in the Draft, and some that were included, will come under extreme scrutiny - with Planning Barristers and Agents, employed by the developers and any opposing groups, arguing the case in front of the Inspector for respective parcels to be included, or taken out. The Public Examination is expected to start in the autumn of this year, with a final Local Plan being ready for adoption later in 2022.

Cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk 07802 595307

Cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk 07808 922913



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 Ultimate Beauty by Louise

Community

Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground

The Story - Part 3



Following on from the two previous articles this one is about 'fundraising' and the decades of hard work that has gone in to creating the current facilities that we have at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground today.

The first Committee, ESPFA (Eastington Sports and Playing field Association) had formed with idea of purchasing some land for a playing field. They were still in evidence in the late 1980's but by the early 1990's they had been replaced by ESCA (Eastington Sports and Community Association). At this time the Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity had formed and was governed by a board of Trustees who had the responsibility for managing the Village Hall and the newly obtained playing field. ESCA was a working group whose aim was to raise money for a new community facility at the site.

There doesn't seem to have been a lot of grant activity. SDC gave another grant of £2,000 in 1994 and in 1995 applications were made to the National Lottery (a new thing, try and think of the right 6 numbers between 1 and 50, you're bound to win), to the Foundation for Sports and Art and to the Langtree Trust. Later grant applications were also made to 'Awards for All', part of the Lottery. Some loans were also obtained, one from the Sports Council, who also gave a grant, and one from the Public Works Loan Board. This loan for £13,000 seems to have been granted to the Parish Council rather than the charity. These monies were mainly used to install drainage, fencing, site access and so on.

But local fundraising was the key at this time and members of ESCA worked incredibly hard and were very inventive. Some examples are: The 100 Club, a monthly draw to win £10 or £5 which raised over £1,000 annually for a number of years, Sponsor a brick, carol singing, bonfire nights, quiz nights, race nights, fun days and so many more initiatives.

In 1995 a head shaving competition raised a whopping £167.13. I don't have any details but am guessing it was either one person with a lot of hair sponsored by many people who had drunk a lot of beer, or many people who had drunk a lot of beer having their heads shaved. Hopefully not too much beer was drunk prior to the 'blind killer darts night', for which the pub landlord advised that he had 3 dart boards available – just as well by the sound of it.

Another good steady earner in the 90's was the waste paper collection which making around £300 a year for the Charity. Papers were collected every week and sold to the local authority; unfortunately by 1999 this income stream dried up. Now we pay the local authority to take our waste paper away, what happened there?

Local business sponsorship was also amazing. Every single business in Eastington was gifting something for the tombola, doing pub events (head shaving v popular) and giving so much more support with the physical and actual things that are the foundations of the site today. One shop keeper complained that he hadn't been asked for a donation, they had felt too embarrassed to keep asking him.

By 2001 ESCA, who had been managing the Village Hall, the temporary pavilion, the pavilion hirers (hard work) and the continual requirements for repairs and improvements at the site, folded. The pavilion was beyond economic repair and becoming a money pit and the idea of a new facility was looking very remote indeed.

But what was achieved by so many local people should be recognised and commended because all that hard work laid the foundations for what is there today.

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

Groups

Eastington Cricket Club

Eastington Cricket Club are playing Stroud League matches at The Owen Harris Memorial Ground albeit with covid 19 mitigations limiting some of the more social aspects of the game.

Home games in June, July and August are arranged for

- June 5th and 19th;
- July 10th and 17th;
- August 14th and 28th.

1.30 pm start.

Spectators are welcome but you may find access to buildings, including toilets, is not possible. This is under the control of the OHMG committee, not the cricket club.

We are grateful to The Co-operative Society for a grant towards most of the cost of a pair of sightscreens.



The hedgerows/buildings around the ground are not the ideal backdrop for spotting a small missile heading in your direction at up to 65 mph from about 20 metres away, let alone hitting it!

Batsmen will now have to think of another excuse.



For more information contact fixture secretary Roger Beese on 01453-823128 / 07884438417 or Chairman/Secretary Keith Dench on 01453-764990.

Come and Have a Cuppa with Queenie

Queenie Jones is inviting people to get together for a cuppa and a natter in the village hall.

Covid permitting, she hopes to start after the 21st June with 'get togethers' on

- Monday afternoons from 2-3 o'clock and
- Thursday mornings from 10-12 o'clock.

There will be tea and biscuits, and possibly a game of bingo.

Please ring Queenie on 01453 824340 so she has an idea of numbers.

You will be made very welcome!



History

Livery button with Hicks Family Crest found in Nupend

A gilt livery button, 28 mm (1 inch!) in diameter, with a buck's head and banner motto 'TOUT EN BONHEUR' (Figure 1) has been found in garden soil in Nupend.

The back surface (Figure 2) has FIRMIN & Co. in the name field and STRAND LONDON in the address field.

A search of the National Archives (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ecb1c423-95d9-4799-86c9-a52a4ec52e1e>) and the UK Detector Finds Database

(<https://www.ukdfd.co.uk/pages/button-makers.html>) confirms the manufacture date as early 19th century, circa 1800-1811.

This fits well with the crest being similar in design to those of the Hicks family who lived in Eastington from around 1785, according to an article by Stephen Mills published in ECN 117, Sep/Oct 2009 (see <https://ecnarchive.eastington.website/history/hicksfamily.html>).

The family lived in Millend House but then Henry Hicks, a wealthy clothier, bought the estate of Henry Stephens, along with the manorial rights and thus he became Lord of the Manor. Around 1815 he built The Leaze which we now know as Eastington Park.

It would be fascinating to know if anyone else has found similar buttons, and particularly if there are any records of Hicks family staff living in Nupend.

Dr Peter Spencer-Phillips, peterspencerphillips@gmail.com



Figure 1. The gilt livery button with Hicks family crest & motto
TOUT EN BONHEUR
(all in good time)



Figure 2. Reverse of livery button with
FIRMIN & Co. in the name field and
STRAND LONDON in the address field

The deeds for the plot in Nupend on which this was found go back to the '17th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth', i.e. around 1570 - the present day cottage however is a mere 200 years old, which fits well with the date of the button.

History

The Hicks button

Stephen Mills

What an interesting thing to emerge from the soil, one that takes us straight back to the days when Henry Hicks and his family were Lords of the Manor, important land and property holders, and kings of the village cloth trade.

Variants of the family crest were used by different branches of the Hicks family, some of which had illustrious backgrounds. For example, there were family connections with Beverstone Castle, and 'our' Hicks were also related to the notable Hicks-Beach and Hicks-Austin branches.

It seems that our Henry Hicks may have been quite a flamboyant character, so the adoption of buttons carrying the family crest doesn't appear that surprising. He seemed to like making a bit of a splash.

For example, according to a book of 1909, Henry's carriage had "somewhat startling liveries of sky-blue and scarlet facings". It's possible that this combination of colours reflected some of the products he produced in his cloth mills. The red could be a reference to the 'Stroudwater scarlets' manufactured in the area and used widely for military uniforms in the 18th and 19th centuries – there are references to Hicks buying imported cochineal, used to produce the characteristic red dyestuffs. And the blue may be a nod to 'Uley blues'. As its name suggests, this blue cloth was a speciality of the mills of nearby Uley. Hicks also had a connection with this through a partnership with mill owner Edward Sheppard, as for some years, they operated Millend Mill in Eastington in conjunction with Sheppards Mill in Uley. Whatever the origin, there seems little doubt that the Hicks carriage would have been visible from a mile away!

Hicks' also made something of a fashion statement in his private life. During the early part of the 19th century, there was widespread panic that Napoleon and his army intended to invade Britain. This led to the formation of numerous local militias, one of which was based in Frampton-on-Severn. Hicks became a 1st lieutenant in the 'Frampton Volunteers'.

Members were supplied with weapons and ammunition by the government, but had to provide their own uniforms. Hicks and his compatriots must have looked striking, as their uniforms consisted of a "round hat with cockade and scarlet feather; scarlet jacket, faced blue, lined and edged white, turnback blue; white waistcoat and breeches; gilt buttons with the letters F.V. surmounted by a crown; stockings of white cotton, black velvet hose, and half gaiters of black cloth". This getup would have been expensive – for example, the officers hat cost £1 16s 0d, and a sword belt 12s.

Like his carriage, you would certainly have seen Hicks coming.

I wonder if anyone will ever dig up an 'F.V.' button?



At the Heart of the Village



The Badger and the Co-op have both been absolutely brilliant with their generosity during the lockdowns - and thanks to all their great staff are pretty brilliant anyway!



Let's make sure we continue to support them and ALL our great local businesses!

Sustainability

Exciting news from our brilliant Farm Shop!



Eastington Farm Shop is very excited to let you know that we now have milk from our own dairy herd available. The milk is unhomogenised, batch pasteurised, whole milk – just like it used to be. It is sold in reusable glass bottles. Plastic free, and zero food miles.

The herd is milked on the farm, the milk is pasteurised on the farm and sold right here at the shop.

Many of you that walk the footpaths from Cress Green would have seen, or walked amongst the herd that are producing the wonderful white stuff!

We currently milk 180 cows, twice a day, 365 days a year.

Our pedigree cows have family lines that can be traced back 80 years to when our family started farming in Claypits.



We are moving towards a more sustainable method of farming known as regenerative agriculture. One aspect of this is working and creating habitats for wildlife to thrive within the farm. Some of you will have noticed the new trees planted (200 and counting!) - all native species and bee hives too. We have lots more plans for trees, hedges, wild flower pollinator strips and winter bird food.

By buying our milk you are helping to improve the environment and wildlife in the fields we are all lucky enough to enjoy.

We are continuing to improve the shop to provide you all with fresh produce from the local area and beyond. As well as our delicious coffees we now have a "Make your own Milkshake" bar.

You will be pleased to know indoor seating is back ready for a Great British Summer!

We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Eastington Farm Shop Team.

Community



Can you save money on your energy bills?

On 1 April 2021, the energy regulator Ofcom raised the price cap on standard and default energy tariffs. For the average household, bills are set to rise by £96 a year.

The new cap isn't the maximum users will pay, the cap sets a limit on the rates you pay for gas and electricity, so the more you use, the more you pay.

This is now a good time to see if you can save money by switching. In the last 5 months, Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds Districts have helped 175 households with energy issues. This includes saving money by switching, helping clients switch to green energy suppliers, helping clients to understand their energy bills and usage and finding grants and financial support for clients.

Our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk has lots of information to help you with your energy supply.

However, we understand that not everyone uses the internet and that some people have issues that need specialist advice. If you would like help with your energy bills, please get in touch. Your gas, electricity and water bills do not have to be worrying issues.

Our service is confidential, impartial and independent.

Call **0808 109 2056, 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511** (Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm) to speak to one of our friendly advisers.

If you don't need our help but would like to support our work with those in the community who need our advice, please see our website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk for details on how to donate.



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Community



Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Frampton surgery update

We know that there have been a large number of concerns during the last few months over the service being delivered by Frampton surgery. We are working with the surgery to improve the service and wanted to take this opportunity to update you on plans and progress.

Reception team:

The surgery is focusing on the training and development of the reception team, as they want all patients to be dealt with in an efficient, polite and caring way. The surgery is aware of patient concerns and is working hard to address problem areas. They really do welcome your feedback on how the reception team deal with your call and if you have any concerns, you can email frampton.surgery@nhs.net, or if you'd prefer you can email the PPG in confidence at myppg@framptononsevern.com.

Referrals:

If you are referred to a consultant or specialist, these referrals will be made within the following timescales:

Routine – within five working days,

Urgent – within two working days.,

Emergency (for example, to rule out cancer) – within 24 hours.

These targets simply mean when the referral is sent on to the specialist/hospital. The GP will try to give you an idea of how long you're going to wait for your appointment to come through at the time of referral. *If they do not, please ask.*

Unfortunately, most referral appointments are currently delayed due to the pandemic; many hospital departments are still working at reduced capacity due to staff shortages and redeployment. Unfortunately, the surgery has no control over this, i.e. waiting times. However, if your symptoms change or worsen, please let the surgery know. If appropriate, your GP can raise the priority of your referral to try and secure an earlier appointment.

If you decide to opt for private care, please let the surgery know and they will deal with this referral for you. It is helpful if you know which specialist you would like to see. We do appreciate this is not an option for everyone.

GP appointments:

If you are calling to make an appointment for an ongoing or routine issue you will be offered the next available appointment. At present this will be a telephone consultation, unless it is felt you need to be seen face-to-face. *Please be reassured that if there is a need to be seen face-to-face, you will be.*

At the moment, the wait for a routine appointment can be up to 4-6 weeks. We appreciate that this is a long time to wait and the surgery is looking at how this can be improved. If your symptoms change or worsen, please call the surgery and the receptionist will request a doctor to reassess your needs.

If you're unsure if you can wait, the reception team can record your concerns and talk to a doctor, who can then advise. If it is felt that it is urgent, the doctor will call you back on the same day. Likewise, if you are calling with a new and acute health issue, you will get called back by a doctor on the same day.

The surgery is currently developing a plan to increase face-to-face appointments as we start to move out of lockdown – this will take a lot of careful planning to ensure the continued safety of staff and patients and to prevent the spread of the virus. We will update you in the next newsletter. *We do understand that many patients would prefer to be seen face-to-face and the surgery is working to enable this around the constraints of COVID-19.*

**Confidentiality**

When a receptionist answers your call, they will ask you what your health problem is. They need this information to give to the doctor so they can evaluate when to call you. If one of the reception team calls you back to get more information on your symptoms, it's because the doctor has asked them to do so. Any details you give to the reception team will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. You can expect to be asked questions such as; what is the nature of the problem, how long has it been ongoing, what symptoms are you experiencing and have you taken any over-the-counter medications. All surgery staff are bound by the same data protection and information governance rules, guidance and laws. The reception staff dealing with calls are also now located away from the reception area to further aid confidentiality.

Prescriptions

The surgery advises three working days for a prescription to be processed and this is standard across all pharmacies and dispensing practices. NHS England has now asked that all doctors supply only *one* month's medication at a time. The surgery understand that this is a change for patients, some of whom have previously been prescribed 3 to 6 months' supply of medication at any one time. The surgery is being measured and monitored on this reduction and must comply.

This has an impact on the surgery as well, with many more prescriptions going through the dispensary. On top of this, there has also been a general increase in prescriptions given. The surgery has increased staffing in the dispensary so that it can meet the higher demand.

Some patients have had issues with 'owed' prescription items. This happens when the surgery's suppliers do not have a medication in stock. In this event, one of the dispensary team will contact you. The surgery can either continue to search for the missing item, or you can take the prescription to a local pharmacy. Community pharmacies tend to hold a much larger amount and variety of stock, as they have more space than dispensing practices. Frampton surgery is planning to increase the space for their dispensary, so they can hold more stock and reduce the risk of this happening.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

All of the vulnerable patients and those aged 44 and above have now been invited to have at least their first vaccination. NHS England has recently started sending text messages inviting 42 and 43-year-olds to the national vaccine centres. Once the surgery has received confirmation of vaccine delivery, they will be inviting these patients to go to local clinics at beaches Green.

There are a lot of amazing volunteers supporting the program - and it wouldn't be possible without their help - but it also takes considerable resources away from the surgery. It's supported by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and administration staff.

Complaints procedure

If you want to make a complaint, you can either call the surgery and ask to speak to the Practice Manager, write to The surgery, Frampton Surgery, Whitminster Lane, Frampton on Severn, GL2 HU

or email frampton.surgery@nhs.net. This mailbox is monitored all day, so please use this email address.

The surgery's full complaints procedure is available on their website - www.framptonsurgery.co.uk.

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

Please get in touch if you have any feedback on services and we will continue to represent you.

You can email myppg@framptononsevern.com in confidence, or call Ali on 741988, or Jane on 740964.

Church

Eastington Methodist Church



One of the church's great purposes is to serve individuals and groups within the community in which it is located. There are many ways in which this can be achieved and obvious examples in our case are the Toddler Group and the Youth Group which provide facilities and support. Less visible is the practical support that is given to individuals who may be facing adverse circumstances, or even crises, of one kind or another.

The Christian church has access to resources that are over and above those available to self-help and other non-church groups in that the church, underpinned by prayer, is able to call upon the power of Almighty God. That can make a huge difference in all areas of life including physical and mental health, relationships, finances and bereavement to name just a few.

Our God is full of forgiveness and love and He wants the best for you so please don't think that you don't deserve for things to get better.

So, whether you have big problems or just feel that life is not all that it should be, why not make contact?

In Matthew 11 verse 28 in the Bible, Jesus said: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Meetings, COVID and all that.....

At the time of writing, further COVID restrictions have just eased. As a church, we have continued to meet physically at 11am on Sundays throughout this year but the need for additional ventilation made this a cooler experience than was desirable in the colder weather. Over the last couple of months, we have nearly always been able to relay the 11am Sunday service live over Zoom using the mobile phone data network (please go to www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk to access this and other non-physical meetings or let us know if you want to join by telephone).

The **Monday Toddlers Group** at 10:00am has resumed in the building – please make contact to ensure there is a space available.

Our **Tuesday and Friday prayer meetings** at 8:30 – 9:00am on Tuesdays and Fridays are being conducted on ZOOM and you are welcome to join us or let us know of any prayer requests.

Tuesday Bible Studies are running at 7:30pm over Zoom and the daytime group is restarting in the afternoon meeting at the church (please contact us for details).

Youth Club has also resumed on Fridays at 7:00pm but attendance is very low and patchy and to enable it to continue, we need more young people to want to come and turn up. The age range is 11-18 but anyone currently in school year 6 (i.e. going to secondary school this September) is welcome to join now. Church attendance is not a requirement. Please note that there will be no Youth Club meeting on Friday June 4th (half term week).

All of our events and activities are covered by appropriate COVID precautions.

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

Community

Happy 100th Birthday Nellie !!



Oldbury House Care Home resident Nellie turned 100 on the 13th May.

The care home invited Eastington to help her to celebrate by sending a card - and Eastington responded in customary spirit!

They said "it was an amazing day and Nellie loved every bit of it. On her behalf, Thank You to everyone in the local community, groups, local businesses and individuals far and wide that took the time and sent cards, flowers, balloons and presents" "It has definitely

been a day of true celebration and a bit of welcome light hearted fun after a crazy year."

They had hoped that Nellie would receive 100 cards but ended up receiving over 280!!



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Church



We have a new format of services coming into operation across the Stroudwater Team as our churches come out of lockdown. On most Sundays, there will be church services across the Stroudwater Team at 8am, 9.30am, 11.15am and 6pm.

To keep up to date and for more details of services and events, email officestroudwater@gmail.com to receive the weekly pew sheet. This will also give you the link to Sunday's Evening Prayer via Zoom at 6pm.



Alternatively contact:

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

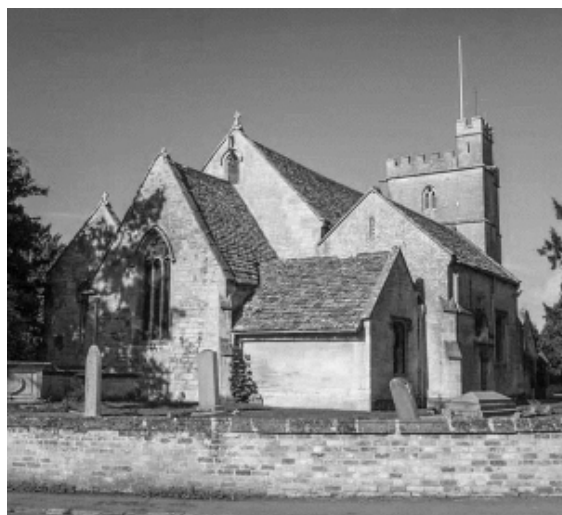
At St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastington, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11.15am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Baptisms and weddings have also resumed. Please contact us if you would like to get married or have a christening.

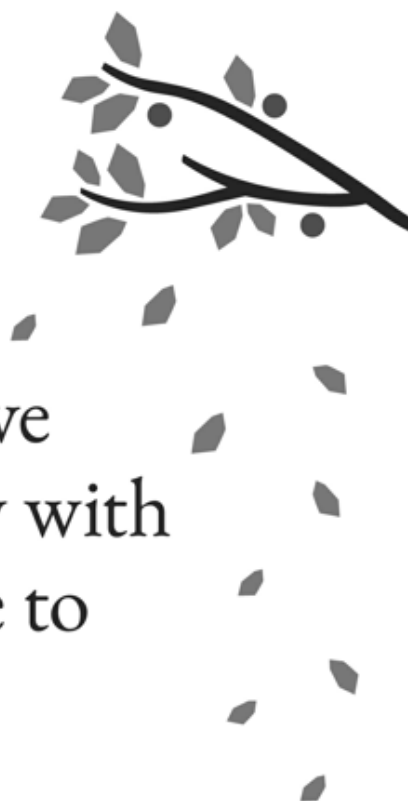
You can also join us for Daily Prayer between Mondays and Saturdays at 9.30am for Morning Prayer and 9pm for Compline on the Stroudwater Team Facebook page.

The church is open 7 days a week, between the approximate hours of 9am-4pm. Please come and visit if you would like to experience the beauty of the church building or would like to offer a prayer.

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.

The library at the back of the church is also open.





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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Admissions: 07949 976717 General Enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com

www.wildhogshedgehogrescue.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/Hodgehegs

This year we used Hedgehog Awareness week in May to raise funds to help us care for orphaned hoglets. Every year we receive calls about nests disturbances and often these lead to hoglets being brought into the rescue. Hedgehogs can build nests in the strangest of places! They often build nests under decking or sheds, use open compost heaps or in long grass and even use the covers from BBQs or tables. If you do disturb a hedgehog nest, please cover it back up immediately and call the rescue on the number above. As always, **please check before you mow or strim** the grass and don't cut under hedges or shrubs as you may injure a hedgehog or damage a nest.

Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue hand-rears around 60 hoglets a year. They require specialist food and medical care to survive the first few months of life. A typical hoglet will cost £80 to hand-rear from admission to release and the essential medicines and specialist food alone costs £15 per hoglet. You can donate to our hoglet appeal at:

<https://wildhogshedgehogrescue.enthuse.com/cf/hoglet> or follow the links from our website.



Can You Tell Your Swift from Your Swallow?

We have recently been enjoying the return of swifts, swallows and house martins from their wintering grounds in Africa. They fly all the way here for just three months to breed, usually nesting in any small opening or the eaves of our buildings and barns. The journey can take weeks - they do have 'stopovers' but many will spend long periods - even sleeping - on the wing. Once here, they spend most of their non-nest time in the air, catching their insect prey in flight and delighting us with their aerial acrobatics.



Martins are the smallest and stubbiest of the three with a more staccato call. They are bluish black with the distinctive white patch on the upper side of their rump



Swifts are more of a brown-black and have the longest and narrowest wings of the three. Their call is higher pitched and less chattery. They have tiny feet, are hardly able to walk and you are unlikely to see them 'perching' anywhere.



Swallows are blue-black with the more pronounced white underside. They have long tail streamers and a red patch under the throat. Their call is all chatter and they will often perch on telegraph wires or fences - especially when gathering.

Pictures courtesy of <https://www.rspb.org.uk> - visit the website for more fascinating information!