



<https://ecn.eastington.website>

Apr / May 2022

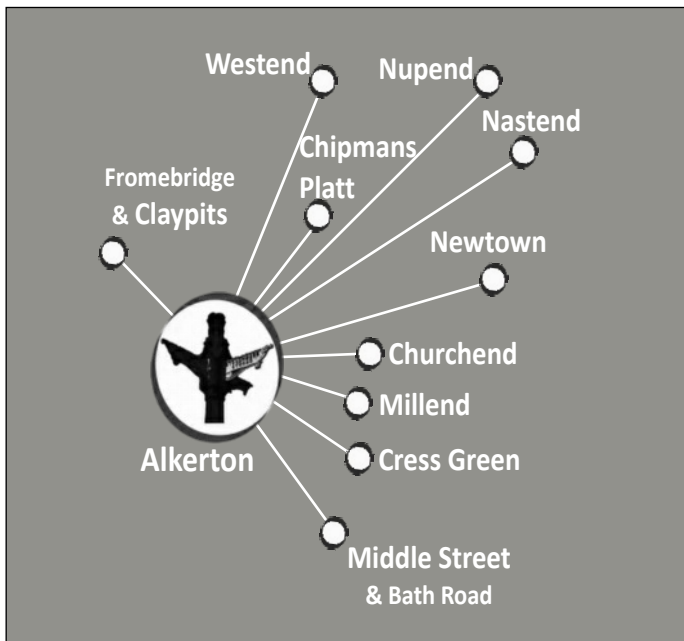
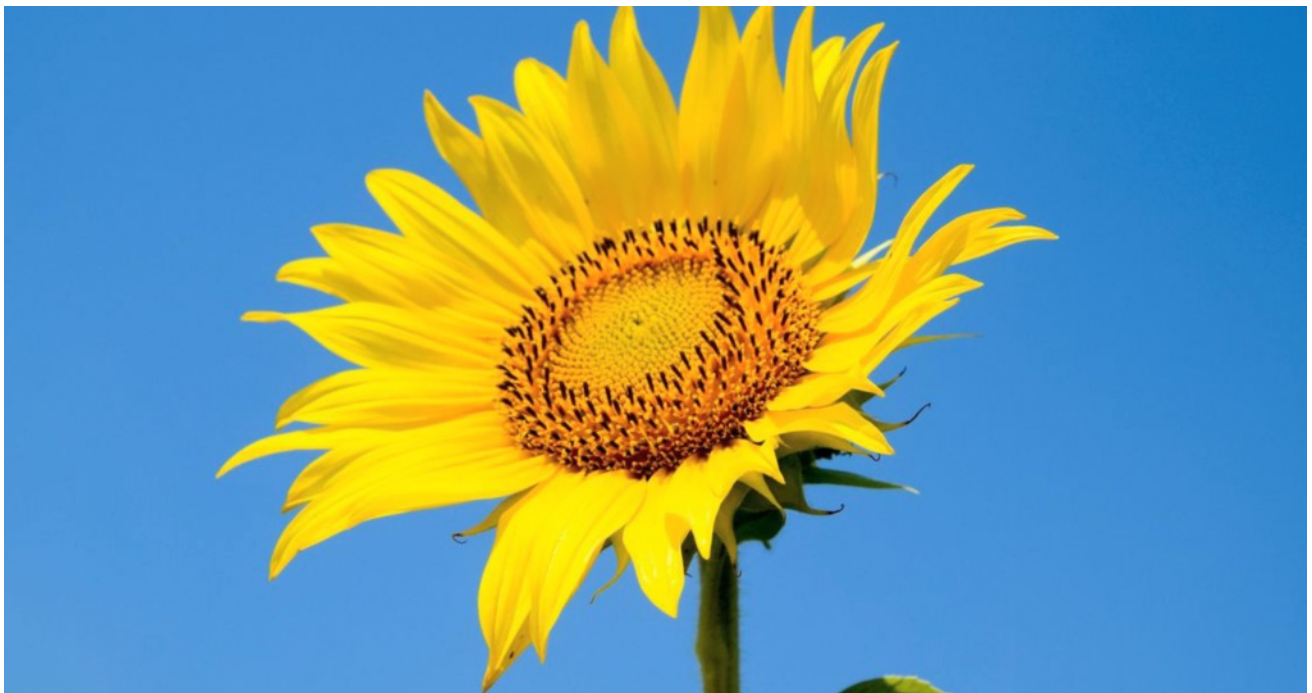


Photo: Ian Lewis



Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

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



Hello again,

We are still enjoying the early spring as I write. What a joy to see - and feel - some real sunshine, to see the blossom and emerging flowers, and to see more people out and about. Even if there is cold weather in the forecast, this welcome taster is bringing hope of the summer to come.

And hope is a big word right now. For many of the brave people of Ukraine, hope may be all they have left after terrible privations - hope for their country based on faith and belief in themselves, each other and their communities. The many stories that we are hearing of courageous acts and neighbourhoods coming together just to survive are both heart-breaking and awe-inspiring.

Putin will be brought to account for his crimes eventually. We must hope that long before then he comes to realise that the only threat to his security is of his own making - born of self-isolation from any genuine interaction with or concern for others - and put a stop to this horror.

In the meantime, we can give what we can to the humanitarian appeals, give thanks for the relative peace in our own lives and appreciate our own community.

Tom, Jan and Mary

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Diary Dates

Austerity Lunch for the Ukraine, Saturday 30th April (page 19)

Longfield Community Hospice spring walk at 10.30 am on Sunday 15 May (page 8)

Deadline for next issue : Thursday 19th May (For delivery around 1st June 2022)

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

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

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

Community

Eastington Primary School

World Book Day 2022

Class 4 pupils have been learning about writing Blogs in their computing lessons.

Below are some Blogs about World Book Day.

Thursday 3rd March, 2022

Dear Blog,

Today for World Book Day, we dressed up as our favourite book characters. I dressed up as 'Dog Man' (from the creator of Captain Underpants). He has very big ears. We also went into the hall to draw on a big piece of paper a house with a haunted and non-haunted side. It was labelled with a sentence to describe each section in the picture. At breaktime we ran around, and Mrs Williams was Percy the Park-keeper and Mrs Yorke was Bill the Burglar with a bag of swag! At the end of the day we write a book review of our favourite book. Today was fun and my favourite part was drawing the house and labelling it with descriptions. -Red.

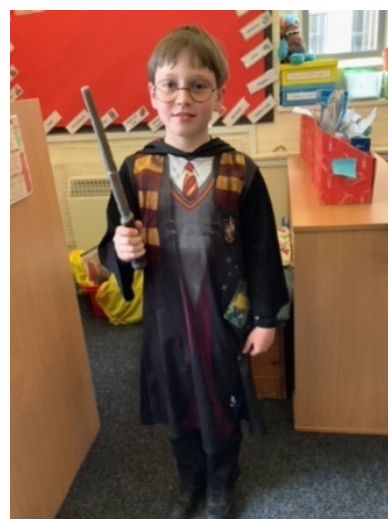


On Thursday 3rd March 2022, which was World Book Day, my school dressed up as our favourite book characters and did some fun activities. I dressed up as Chloe from Dork Diaries and my friends dresses up as Zoey ad Nikki. We got to read to Class 1 children and we drew luxury and haunted houses on paper and described them.

-Jasmine

On Thursday 3rd March 2022, Eastington Primary School celebrated World Book Day. We all came as our favourite book character and brought our favourite books to share. We had a special assembly in the hall. We shared our books in class-I was Harry Potter and so was my friend, Jack. We also had a workshop with Emma, the Forest School leader, where we drew houses in different settings and described them. We had our normal maths, English and spelling lessons but the rest of the day was about books and having fun!

-Arlo



Community

Eastington Primary School

My school celebrated World Book Day on 3rd March 2022. Everyone came to school dressed as their favourite book character and brought in their favourite book! We also did fun activities with Forest School leader Emma and my class drew houses in paradise and spooky houses and then improved our descriptions of them. There was an awesome 'Bonanza Quiz' which had lots and lots of questions about books. We also got to share books with Class 1! -Katie



News from our Stroud District Councillors

The planning application for the **Eco Park** on both sides of the A419, between J13 of the M5 and Chipman's Platt has been registered at Ebley Mill.

It is numbered S.22/0206/OUT and can be found on the SDC planning portal site. It differs from the application approved for the FGR stadium in that, as well as the 5000-seat football stadium, it includes, office buildings, warehousing/storage, works units, an hotel, a care home, including nursing home facilities, as well as training pitches for the football club. Parking for visitors to the stadium will be shared with the commercial units on the site, which differs from the previous application which had its own designated parking. Comments relating to the application will be considered up to the writing of the report by the handling officer, the application is likely to rumble on for several weeks yet.

You can see drawings and submit comments on-line - go to

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/planning>, select 'search planning applications twice, then enter S.22/0206/OUT in the keyword/ref box. Closing date for comments is given as 5th April although, as indicated above, this may be extended. Ed

The **Solar Farm** application in Moreton Valence and Whitminster went before the Development Control Committee at SDC on 29th of March, the local press will carry the result of that meeting.

The SDC Draft **Local Plan** is due for its Examination in Public in the coming weeks, it is hoped the Planning Inspectorate will approve the Draft Plan without alteration, so that it can be formally adopted by SDC in the early autumn.

Anyone with SDC issues can contact either

cllr.Stephen.Davies@stroud.gov.uk 07802 595307 or

cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk 0780 8922918

Groups



We've had a very busy term so far and may the weather continue!

Chinese New Year – the year of the tiger, sparked some interesting new foods to try. The children have enjoyed making Chinese lanterns and dragons.

During the Winter Olympic games, we used maps to discover and explore our world, looked at different countries, their flags and discussed their cultures. The children particularly enjoyed the interactive globe where they could hear interesting facts for their chosen country!



'World Book Day' saw many children dress up and bring in their favourite book to share!

'Stick Man' has been our story theme and the children have enjoyed collecting sticks and other natural resources, to make pictures and sculptures. Dancing many, many, many times to the 'stick song' was also a must during our theme!!

We have been lucky with the weather recently and have been able to spend a lot of time at our allotment putting together our new mud kitchen addition, and weeding the flower beds ready for planting towards Easter. We have also enjoyed making and using nature paintbrushes, taking equipment to our allotment to paint what we could see.

We have been delighted to invite Mums into Playgroup for our 'afternoon tea' to celebrate Mother's Day. We spent the week baking some lovely sweet treats and the children thoroughly enjoying sharing them!!

As Easter approaches quickly, we will be looking forward to an Easter Egg hunt for the children and making Easter biscuits!



We have very limited spaces left for this academic year, so please get in touch.

It is never too early to register your child with us. Sessions for September 2022 are already filling up, so please contact us on **07977 342742** or email us at eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com to arrange a visit or for a registration form.

Community



The usual pre season tension is in the air: Where did I leave my cricket kit at the end of last season and did I wash my kit after the last game?

Those who found their kit (and washed it!) have had two net sessions already. There are two more arranged:

- Sunday April 3rd, 11.00 a m - 12.30, outdoors at Stroud C.C.
- Sunday 10th April, also outdoors at Stroud C.C. 4.30 p m - 6.00 p m.

Anyone interested in playing for Eastington in 2022 is invited.

The first match is versus Hawkesbury Upton (away) on 24th April at 1.30 p m.

The second is versus The Commoners, at Nympsfield, on 1st May.

Preparations of the cricket square at The Owen Harris Memorial Ground are underway and we will begin our Stroud League Premier Division games in May.

For more info 'phone captain Paul Hancock on 07793145254

or Roger Beese on 01452 812487 (NB-new number)

or Keith Dench on 01453 764990.

Eastington Craft and Chat Group

We enjoyed a lovely day out at Cheltenham Craft Festival in Cheltenham Town Hall.



It was a very interesting day, the crafts on display were truly amazing - and although quite expensive I'm sure were well worth the money. We had a rest and coffees in the cafe, then some of us had a wander around Cheltenham at leisure. The weather was very kind to us at least it was dry. We hired KB Coaches mini bus for the occasion, so no worries about driving or parking.

A really good day out enjoyed by all of us.

For any more information please contact Linda Seeley on 07773 027266

New members very welcome

History

Eastington's coal wharf

Stephen Mills

For more than two centuries, the Stroudwater Canal was one of Eastington's most important features. Opened in 1779, its arrival cut through the village, creating an important trade route to the 'outside' world. At the time, its impact must have been significant, perhaps as great as when the M5 sliced through the parish during the 1970s. In its earlier days, it not only acted as a conduit for goods and commodities, but also as a provider of news and information, carried by passing boats.

As we've mentioned in previous articles, woollen cloth production was the most important local industrial enterprise, providing employment for many people. The village's three mills were originally powered by water wheels, but as the industry became more mechanised, steam engines began to play an increasingly important role. These required a reliable supply of coal throughout the year, but the often poor state of local roads frequently made this difficult. It was not until the long-awaited Stroudwater Canal eventually arrived that this problem was finally overcome. Although the canal carried many things over its lifetime, coal was always the biggest and most important cargo.

As the 19th century progressed, coal grew in importance for the mills and factories in the area. It was used to heat buildings, warm dye vats but perhaps most importantly, raise steam for the growing number of steam engines being installed. Eastington's mills were some of the first in the area to benefit from the introduction of steam power. This was a result of their ownership and subsequent expansion by the wealthy local clothier family headed by Henry Hicks, Lord of the Manor.

The amount of coal carried along the canal grew steadily, driven by its availability and much reduced price. It powered much of the industry packed into the Five Valleys, but was also increasingly used for heating homes throughout the village. Immediately below Pike Bridge, the village coal wharf was established (Figures 1 and 2). The wharf house was built by the canal company for Samuel Smith in 1779. From here, for much of the 19th and into the 20th centuries, coal was distributed to the village and surrounding area. Much of the coal not destined for the mills was bought by the village 'coal club' at preferential rates, a great benefit to the many workers on meagre wages. The wharf house also later managed to achieve a degree of notoriety, as for part of its life, it apparently doubled as a cider house, much frequented by passing boatmen.

The coal wharf itself was a simple affair, consisting of a cottage, stacking yard, and a few sheds.



This shows the coal wharf with stacks of coal on the left, and Pike lock and bridge keeper's house behind n the right

History



Map of 1886. The wharf was immediately below Pike Lock and bridge

During its lifetime, the coal supply business was operated by several families. For example, in 1876, the owner was recorded as the wonderfully-named Zaccheus Whiting, formerly of Chalford. He ran two boats on the canal, *Jane*, and *Nellie*. Zaccheus had been born in Frampton Mansell in 1834, but later (with his wife Emma) moved to Chalford then finally, Chipmans Platt. He was followed by a Mr Beard who continued to operate canal boats up to the 1930s.

Whiting's boat *Nellie* by the coal wharf around 1915

A closer look at the extreme right hand side of this photo shows several wooden structures lying on the ground.....



.....These were essentially wheelbarrows minus the wheel, and used to manually unload coal from boats – this must have been an arduous job, but just one of many similar ones to be found on the canal.

Coal continued to be transported along the canal almost until its end, although cargoes slowly dwindled in the face of competition from railways, then road transport. The canal was finally formally abandoned by an Act of Parliament granted in 1954. However, the coal business continued at the wharf for some time, and although now long gone, some of the original wharf cottage survives, subsumed into the newer house built on site, something of a reminder of the days when 'King Coal' reigned supreme!

Events



Remember a loved one by taking part in this year's Walk

Longfield Community Hospice will be hosting a spring walk at 10.30 am on **Sunday 15 May** and encourages locals to sign up for the perfect family day out.

The **'Walk for Longfield'** will offer a choice of 5 or 10K routes, setting off from Longfield's beautiful hospice grounds in Minchinhampton and crossing Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons. Having taken in the stunning views, a cuppa and home-baked cakes will await you on your return. This is a great family event, which caters for adults, children and pets - dogs are welcome too!

All walkers will have the chance to hang a message in memory of their loved ones in Longfield's picturesque grounds.

A Covid-friendly event, with lots of fresh countryside air and outdoor space, it's the perfect opportunity to boost your physical and mental wellbeing. It's a great way of remembering your loved ones and spending quality time with friends and family in the local countryside.

All money raised will help fund Longfield's vital work providing care for adults in Gloucestershire with life-limiting conditions and support for their families and carers.

Register your interest now, at longfield.org.uk/event/walk-for-longfield.

Claire Ellis



The local community supporting Longfield's walk in 2017 – fun for everyone.

Groups



WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717

General Enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com

Traditionally, spring is the time hedgehogs emerge from hibernation. This year, the weather has been so mild that many of them haven't hibernated or have only done so for a short time. This means they need food and water, at a time when their natural food is limited. Hedgehogs naturally eat earthworms, beetles, bugs and caterpillars as their main diet. Snails and slugs only form a small supplementary part of their food. If you want to support hedgehogs in your garden, please put out meaty cat food or dried cat biscuits and fresh water. Please don't feed them mealworms or suet pellets as they are bad for them in large quantities and particularly damaging for growing hoglets.



Hedgehogs start to breed in the spring and mating hedgehogs can often be heard in gardens late at night. Hedgehog females are the sole carers of hoglets and often build nests under decking or sheds or in long grass. They can have between 1 and 9 hoglets, although 3-4 are common. Hoglets are born without spines, with their eyes and ears closed but within 2 – 3 months are starting to forage independently.

Please remember to check for hedgehogs before you start to mow or strim the lawn. They do not move and are easily missed. If you find an injured hedgehog, please phone us immediately.

Dates for the diary:

7th May 11am – 4pm: Start of Hedgehog Awareness week, Leaf and Ground garden centre, Dursley

10th July 10am – 4pm: Wild Hogs Big Summer Open Day, 2 The Small Barn, Walk Farm, Whitminster Ln, Frampton on Severn. Stalls, BBQ, Tour of the Centre.

Ukulele!

Do you play ukulele? Would like to learn?

Come and join us on a Monday evening at 7:00pm in the Kings Stanley village hall. We are a small, friendly and informal group of players of various abilities know as The Stanley Strummers.

Complete beginners welcome.

If you think you might be interested in joining us then please telephone Tony for more information on 07974 568322.

"When I first joined the group I had never played anything, but if you learn just three or four chords then you can play along to hundreds of songs" Ray Bensley



Events

Eastington Horse Show

It is with great sadness, due to the ongoing development in the area, that after all these years we will have to call a closure on Eastington Horse Show.

The 26th Annual Show was held at Claypits in 1951 – the first show being held in 1925, so has been going for 97 years, possibly omitting the war years. For many years it was Eastington and Frocester Horse Show.

Apart from so much enjoyment given to many, a substantial amount of money has been raised for the community – (the defibrillator at the church was a show donation). Over the years St Michaels Church, The Bluebells, Eastington Methodist Church, Owen Harris Community Centre, The Air Ambulance (of whom we have had first hand assistance – landing on the show field), have all benefited. We are very grateful to our many generous sponsors who have contributed to the success of the show over the years.

As anyone connected to these events will appreciate how much work and time is required to set it up, the transportation of the equipment (Berkeley Pony Club kindly making their Show Jumps available), skilled people to erect the tents, the ground force to mark out and put in the posts and rope line rings. The skilled team to plan show jumping courses and the dressage arenas, and every year organise the Gymkhana Games so much enjoyed by the children. Judges and Stewards who have generously given their time rewarded by dining on a fabulous lunch – again kindly donated. The dedication over the years of our hard working secretaries has been instrumental in the success of the shows.

The variation of horses competing has always been a great attraction, from the minuscule Shetland Ponies to the imposing huge Shire Horses. The Dog Show was always a popular feature, and was reinstated the last few years.

Cups were donated by local families. Each year the committee gathered these up for the polishing, and on the day of the show they were displayed in the Secretaries Tent, before presentation to the winner of each class.





The photo shown is of Alan Jenkins, who organised the Gymkhana for many years and gave so much pleasure to so many children, being presented with a memento by Pat Smyth (International Show Jumper who competed with, amongst others, Prince Hal and Tosca). The photo shoot was on Herbie Watkins Farm at Alkerton, whose daughter Jenny and husband Andy, run the Show Jumping to this day. Princess Anne brought her children, Zara and Peter one year, to compete on their ponies.

A part of our village activity and enjoyment has sadly come to an end, but, again, many thanks to all those who contributed in any way, and made it so much fun over the years, and the farmers who have kindly accommodated us.

Jim Pegler, our one time stalwart of the show, has recently died having given many years of unstinting support, he seemed to know every judge in the country. Our thoughts are with his family.



The Shetland and the Shire



Drive Through Ice Cream

Community



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Email **info@thehollies.co.uk**

thehollies.co.uk

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the Hollies

NURSING CARE HOME

Groups

ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE

We are so glad to have been able to continue with our fortnightly breakfasts at The Whitminster Inn and have enjoyed some exceptional speakers.

In just the last few weeks we have enjoyed the knowledge and experience from newly appointed manager Stevie Edge-McKie of Farms for City Children about the work at Wick Court, the inside track on Fraud Investigations from local man Mike Hodge, the fascinating history of metal detecting by enthusiast Ian Walkley and most recently, from Peter Wood, the history and post BREXIT challenges of elvering in Gloucestershire.

Along with their enthusiasm for their work came some fascinating history and a number of highly amusing anecdotes. Among these, as I'm sure you can imagine, were a number on the topic of fraud and some very interesting and surprising insights to metal detecting. To compliment these was the fascinating history of elvering and it being a lifeline to many in Gloucester Docks during slack times along with various entertaining tales of international trade. These ranged from those countries that proved to be straight forward with honest traders paying on time, whereas some other countries were, shall we say, less so. On occasion, corrupt from the bottom up, with nothing done without bribes at every level.

It is impossible to share all of these with you and can only suggest that you come along, enjoy a traditional English breakfast, good company and hear from such speakers for yourself . . . you can be sure of a warm welcome too.

Speaking of a warm welcome, members of Severn Vale Rotary were well received by Tesco's and customers 5th March when we held a bucket collection for the Red Cross in Ukraine. People were very pleased to make donations and more than £2,700 was collected. Many thanks to all who contributed.

With thanks in mind, we must take this opportunity to give you a warm thank you. Your support for our January computer collections contributed to over 100 computers and laptops and more than 80 flat screen monitors going to IT Schools Africa, the Cheltenham based charity, Your support is very much appreciated. As, indeed, it will be for our Quiz Night at Elmore Village Hall Friday 29th April. We look forward to seeing you for what promises to be a fun evening.

With regard to local projects, while Frampton-on-Severn Community Orchard can't be progressed before Autumn, we await information on hands-on projects at Wick Court together with a possible litter pick in Frampton. Meanwhile, planning is in hand for this year's Frampton Open Gardens for Longfield, our local hospice, Friday 29th May. This year we are also holding a 'Gathering on the Green' of old and interesting cars be sure to make a note of the date.

As usual, we have not lost sight of our enjoyment, along with our breakfasts, of social get togethers. Currently, a visit to Road Green Vinyard at North Nibley is being looked into and another to Stroud Brewery for local ales and a wood fired Pizza could there be a theme emerging here ?

For information on events and breakfast meetings, please visit www.severnvalerotary.org.uk or contact keith.rog@hotmail.com

With best wishes from members of Severn Vale Rotary for a happy, warm and sunny Spring 2022

Councils

Eastington Parish Council

New defibrillator installed

A new portable AED (Automated External Defibrillator) has been installed in Great Oldbury at the Travelodge Hotel entrance. Defibrillators are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. This is when the victim's heart stops beating, they will collapse, lose consciousness, and will stop breathing. A sudden cardiac arrest can strike without warning. An AED is designed for use by non-medical personnel, so even an inexperienced person can operate one. However, a few hours training is recommended and the more people in the community who can respond to a medical emergency by providing defibrillation quickly and with the confidence training provides, survival rates are greatly increased.

Free 2-hour lifesaving resuscitation and public access defibrillator training

- early access to a public access defibrillator can raise the chance of survival from 9 - 15% to up to 74% and could save a life.

The parish council has arranged training on the use of the defibrillator. The training will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 24th April in the Eastington Village Hall. There will be 2 sessions. Please can you let the Parish Clerk know if you are interested in attending. Depending on demand, other dates may also be available.

There are 5 other defibrillators installed in Eastington. These are located at:

- Westend Suites – on the outside wall of the first business unit on the right
- Eastington Community Centre – left of the front door
- St Michael's Church – on the outside wall of the Lychgate inside the churchyard
- Old Badger Inn – on the front wall
- John Stayte Services

All are available 24 hours a day. In the event of a medical emergency please call 999 and the operator will direct you to the closest defibrillator and talk you through how to use it.

Planning application

Ecotricity has submitted a planning application.

S.22/0206/OUT | Proposed Eco-Park development comprising a 5,000 capacity football stadium, indoor and outdoor playing pitches, an Academy building, up to 37,700 sq.metres of Class E offices and 18,000 sq. metres of B2/B8 employment floorspace with up to 2,750 sq. metres of ancillary Class E food/retail/creche, a hotel with up to 100 beds, a Care Village including a 70 bed Care Home, as well as associated access, parking, landscaping and other ancillary works. Outline with access details submitted. Land At M5 Junction 13 West Of Stonehouse Eastington.

The parish council would encourage parishioners to go on to the Stroud District Council website and view this application at <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications>

Or go to the Stroud District Council website, click on Planning and building, then click on Search planning applications and search for S.22/0206/OUT . You will then be able to submit comments or objections to the application. The deadline to respond is 5th April.

/Cont'd

Councils

Eastington Parish Council Cont'd

Speed data The parish council has been aware of residents' concerns regarding the increase in traffic through the village and the dangers of speeding vehicles. Regular speed checks were carried out by the police throughout last year with many motorists being caught and fined. However, while this inevitably deterred some drivers from speeding, it continues to be an issue.

The parish council is working with Highways to come up with additional measures, particularly along Bath Road and Claypits. During February the parish council arranged for a speed survey to be carried out. It paid for 6 speed strips to be installed, 3 along Bath Road and 3 along the Claypits. The data gathered included speed data, volume of traffic and an HGV count. You can view the speed data report on the parish council website.

Trees The parish council has received 50 saplings from the County Council for planting in Eastington. These trees are to replace Ash trees which had to be felled due to ash dieback disease. If you would like a tree, and have enough space in your garden, please contact the Clerk as soon as possible. They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Councillor vacancy The parish council has 1 councillor vacancy. If you are interested in applying, or would like further information, please contact the Clerk.

Part-time Planning Clerk The parish council has a vacancy for a part-time Planning Clerk. If anyone is interested in this role, or knows anyone who may be interested, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Marianne Simpson, Eastington Parish Council Clerk, clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk 01453 799616



Millend/Cress Green Path

We asked County Councillor Nick Housden why the renovation of this path had stopped half way. He has replied:

"We have completed the section of the pathway that was in the worst condition and in the new financial year there are plans to complete the entirety of this path."

Coffee and Chat at the Badger on Tuesdays!



Just let people know that after a 2 year break, the afternoon coffee and chat is back!

2:30 to 4:30 in the Old Badger, each Tuesday afternoon.
With a quiz thrown in as well.

Everyone welcome - Do come and join us!



Churches



Eastington Methodist Church

At this time of year new life is breaking out all over the place as the days get longer and the weather warmer. This coincides nicely with the timing of Easter when, on the third day after His execution on the cross, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to bring us all new life.

His death paid the price and makes a way for us to enter this new life, a life that will last forever. Better still, it is free; a free gift yes, but not unconditional. It does not have to be earned, otherwise it would not be a gift, but to possess a gift, one has to receive it from the giver.

The gift of a new life with Jesus starts as soon as you truly accept it and not at some point in the future when the span of earthly life expires. One old hymn describes the process as being "ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven" – what is there not to like about that!

At our 10th April Café Church we will be looking at Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the adulation of the crowds. By the following Friday, things had gone very dark and the crowds were shouting "crucify" and we have a reflective service at 10:30am. By the Sunday, it had all changed again as the shock of Jesus' body going missing turned into the joy of meeting the resurrected and living Jesus.

Palm Sunday
Café Church
 Sun 10th April at 11am



Easter
@ EMC

Good Friday
Reflection
 15th April at 10:30am



Easter Sunday
 17th April at 11am
He's Alive!



The Café Church services start with hot and cold drinks and finish with cakes. Everyone is welcome and there is something for all age groups to engage with.

Churches



Eastington Methodist Church

Youth Club

– we expect youth club to be running every Friday throughout April and May except for Good Friday (April 15th).

We have seen an influx of new members over the last few weeks which is encouraging. Now the clocks have changed and as the evening get longer, some weeks may find us at the OHMG Snakey Lane park/field for some of the evening.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in helping us run the youth club.

Eastington Methodist Church Main Activities (please check the website for details)		
Baby & Toddler Group		Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Prayer Meetings using Zoom:		Tuesdays & Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Lunchtime Bible Study (includes a light lunch)		Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Bible Study House group using Zoom		Tuesdays 7:30 – 8:45pm
Youth Club (11-18)		Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Sundays at 11am:	Café Church (all ages together)	Sunday Apr 10th, May 8th
	Morning Services (refreshments afterwards)	The other Sundays 11am

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 07511197265 or email: info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Stretch & Tone

2pm Fridays at the village hall



A gentle class done standing,
on chairs and on mats

Suitable for most people as
exercises can be adapted if needed

*Improve muscle tone,
balance and flexibility*

Contact Kelly 07548 129 424

kellyhogg@talktalk.net

Churches



**STROUDWATER
TEAM OF CHURCHES**

St. Michael and All Angels Church Eastington



We have a full programme of services and other events for Easter which are set out below and fortunate to have services both for Palm Sunday and the following week on Easter Day although at the earlier time of 10.30am.

After the Easter break, we are arranging an Austerity Lunch for Ukraine on 30th April from 12 noon onwards at the Church. Home made soup with bread followed by a pudding will be served for a suggested donation of £5.00. We already have some offers of vegetables for the soup and any further donations of vegetables, bread or puddings would be greatly appreciated. We intend to keep the food costs to zero so that all proceeds can be passed on to the British Red Cross appeal for Ukraine. We could also do with a bit more manpower from cooks to servers! Also, we need to find some food warmer plates to keep the soup hot. If you would like to get involved in any way and make a contribution to help the desperate people of Ukraine who are now facing unimaginable horror, please contact: **Jacky or Mike Naylor 01453 828682**

Please remember The Stroud District Foodbank, especially having regard to the cost-of-living inflation and the stark choice between food or fuel which many will face in the forthcoming months. A reminder there is a collection point at the back of the church which remains open during the day time. All donations are gratefully received and taken to the Foodbank on a weekly basis.

The well-used library at the back of the church is re-stocked with fresh books on a regular basis. You are welcome to come into the church for a quiet browse.

Help!

We are looking for an organist
to play for occasional Sundays and weddings
(we have 16 planned this year!).

If you are interested or know of somebody please
get in touch.





Churches

Easter Dates 2022

Palm Sunday & Procession 10th April 2022:

10.00am Procession leaves Park Estate.
 11.00am Service on the Green behind St Cyr's
 11.15 am Eastington – Val Winder lay led

Maundy Thursday:

Lunch at Standish Village Hall
 7pm Agape Service at Stonehouse Methodist Church

Good Friday:

10.00am Service at Haresfield Church
 11.30am Walk of Witness starting from outside the Globe Pub
 2pm Reflection at Standish Church

Easter Saturday:

6pm Easter Vigil at Standish Church

Easter Day 17th April 2022:

6am Dawn Service on the Green, behind St Cyr's, followed by breakfast
 10.30 Communion at Eastington Church

24th April 2022:

11.15 am Service at Eastington – Rev. Richard Bryant

For further information on forthcoming events taking place in Eastington and across the Team you can ask to receive the weekly pew sheet by emailing: officestroudwater@gmail.com.

Austerity Lunch for Ukraine

Saturday 30th April 2022

12 Noon onwards
 At the Church

Home-made soup, bread and a
 pudding
 Suggested donation £5.00

All are welcome and your support
 will help provide relief for those
 in desperate need at this time



All produce will be donated and every
 penny collected will be donated to the
 British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal

Churches



From Rector Steve March 2022

Dear friends

I am sure you share in my disbelief and sadness that the ongoing conflict Russia is imposing on the people of Ukraine. I have commented to a few people that I battle to believe that this is happening. It's not that I can't process the facts, it is that I find it hard to understand that in this modern era one country would be so brash as to invade another in this manner.

The outrage which this massive incursion is inspiring is entirely justified and I hope that the inconveniences which sanctions will bring us will be seen as a cost we pay for their freedom.

President Volodymyr Zelensky is a huge inspiration and his contribution to peace through tireless challenge and encouragement to Western governments has surely brought in massive quantities of material that would otherwise not have been forthcoming. Material is nothing without the will of the people to fight, and he has inspired his people and others to offer a heroic resistance which is revealing the weakness of the Russian military machine. His inspiring example in the face of grave threat must call us to raise our eyes to look for hope in the bleakest of situations. One of my hopes is the next time the West invades a sovereign nation on the flimsiest of pretexts we remember this hour and are equally outraged.

I've heard of someone who's faith has been shattered by this invasion and the suffering of those people. It does beg the question, as any situation of sufferings does - where is God, what is God's culpability here, if God has the power to act and doesn't then isn't he equally to blame? These questions challenge us and our faith, and they are questions that remain no matter the scale of the suffering. The sad truth is that this isn't the first or last time that people will suffer needlessly and around the world in every moment of everyday people suffer in some way.

Faith isn't the denial of suffering, but the choice to live in hope and joy while facing the stark truth of the world around us. Faith looks at suffering and smiles through the tears. If we have no faith and no hope then the suffering and evil win and we are left with nothing but the desolate ashes of loss.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, that in the midst of pain and loss and fear they would remain hopeful, that moments of joy would seek them out. We pray for courage in the face of great adversity. We pray for the failure of the Russian war machine. We pray that the light and love of Christ would overwhelm the darkness. We pray for world leaders that they would remain steadfast. We pray for President Volodymyr Zelensky, that God would keep him and his family safe. We pray for President Vladimir Putin, that the Holy Spirit would break his heart with the revelation of his sin. We pray for ourselves, to remain faithful when we feel weak and powerless.

Steve Harrison

If you would like more information or simply to be in touch, please contact one of the Team clergy:

Rev Steve Harrison: general queries but particularly events in the Stanleys, Selsley, Frocester, Moreton Valence and Whitminster: rectorstroudwater@gmail.com

Rev Liz Palin: Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Fretherne, Framilode and Saul: tv1stroudwater@gmail.com

Rev Dave Bishop: Stonehouse, Standish, Eastington, Haresfield: tv2stroudwater@gmail.com

STROUD AND COTSWOLD CITIZENS ADVICE.... "We are still here"

- We are a local Charity, totally independent of government, providing free confidential impartial advice to everyone in the area. We rely on the dedication of our fully trained volunteers supported by a small team of paid staff. We have been providing a Service in Stroud since 1958, when we were known as the CAB.
- Now that restrictions are being eased, we are working very hard to manage face to face interviews again. We are also making every effort to reopen our outreach and community hub services.
- Our main areas of enquiry at this time are: Employment, Energy issues, Welfare Benefits and Debt issues. We are extremely grateful for our core funding from The District, Town and Parish Councils, but we still need to raise an additional £25,000 every year to maintain the Service.
- Citizens Advice in Stroud has a very active PR and Fundraising Committee. We are extremely grateful for all donations as this source of funding is vital to the continuation of our Service.
- WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HELP US - EVERY PENNY COUNTS! Regular standing orders or one-off donations...Remembering us in your Will...Becoming a volunteer...Supporting our events.

Our next planned event is an Evening Concert of Classical Music featuring the internationally acclaimed pianist Clare Hammond on Saturday, 21st May 2022 at Holy Trinity Church Stroud.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US, OR NEED ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT US ON:-

freephone: 0808 800 510 or on our website at: citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk

Frampton Village Society Talks

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of 2022 illustrated talks which we hope will be of interest to all local people. The talks are normally on Friday evenings starting at 7.30pm in Frampton Village Hall, but during Covid we have been organising some talks electronically via Zoom. The situation is under review. You need not be a member of the Society to attend; the non-member cost is £3.50 per person including refreshments if in hall.

Our upcoming programme of talks include:-

22nd April Philip Mugridge A year in the life of a Wildlife Photographer

27th May Nicholas Herbert Trade on the River Severn in Gloucestershire

For more information please contact **Kelvin Broad** on **01452 740775** or email kelvinsbroad@btinternet.com

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Caroline Tosh DO MSc FSCCO

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Great Oldbury Little Learners Open day



If you are looking for your child to join our nursery and pre school, come along for a tour of our setting and find out more about us.



Dates:

**Wednesday 6th April
at 10am**

**Wednesday 6th April
at 2pm**

**Thursday 28th April at
10am**

**Thursday 28th April at
2pm**

Please email greatoldbury@glatrust.org.uk or call us on 01453 572007 if you require any more information.

THANK YOU

To everyone who has had all the jabs for which they are eligible

Vaccination is still the most effective weapon against Covid in all its forms. It protects you AND helps to stop the spread to others.

If you have not had all the jabs you are able to, please think about doing so. You will protect yourself and perhaps deny the virus one more refuge - it really is a numbers game.

Find available drop-in centres here:-

<https://covid19.glos.nhs.uk/vaccinations/#link-dropin>

Self-testing at home

To further help stop the virus from spreading, it is advisable to test yourself before going into crowded situations, just to make sure you are not carrying any virus around.

The latest tests are very easy and comfortable to do. At the time of writing, universal free supplies are set to end after the 1st of April, but you can still buy kits from the chemist. They currently cost (very approximately) around £2 a go. This situation may change - check government websites for up-to-date information.

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Look after yourself

With most restrictions now lifted, we have to learn to 'live with Covid' .

This means taking responsibility for own own disease prevention as well as looking out for those around us. Getting all your eligible jabs is the most effective thing, but remember that the restrictions did help too. So continue to look after yourself; - good hand hygiene, good ventilation, mask up where appropriate - you know the drill! Be kind too yourself.