



# Eastington Community News

edition  
196

<https://ecn.eastington.website>

Feb 2023-March 2023



Eastington Community News  
Love Eastington

Celebrating Community  
in Eastington



## PRESS RELEASE

**6 January 2023 Longfield's Ale Amble returns – the perfect day out for beer and rugby fans!**



Pic caption: Ben Hudson  
enjoying a pint of ale at Stroud Brewery.

Longfield Community Hospice is organising the perfect day out for beer and rugby fans, with its popular Ale Amble returning to Stroud Brewery on **11 March from 11 am-3 pm.**

Starting and finishing at Stroud's iconic brewery, the Amble will follow a scenic four-mile circular walk, with pit stops for a tipple at two pubs along the way. The route takes in the majestic hills of the Heavens surrounding the parishes of Thrupp and Lypiatt. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and exercise with family and friends.

Walkers will be welcomed back at the brewery with a free pint (or soft drink for under 18s) before catching up with a Six Nations rugby match on the big screen. Food will also be available on the premises.

Kirsty Murray, Community and Events Officer at Longfield is organising the event. She said:  
"We're delighted to bring back this popular event, which offers something for everyone. Please register and encourage family and friends to join in too! Your donations or sponsorship will really make a difference to the care we provide patients with life-limiting conditions and their families across Gloucestershire."

Longfield is a Community Hospice based in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, Longfield also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing services at the hospice.

To sign up for the event, visit [www.longfield.org.uk/event/ale-amble](http://www.longfield.org.uk/event/ale-amble)

**An early bird discount will apply to all registrations made before 30 January.** Registration will be £15 for an adult or £10 for a child and you can choose to make a donation or raise sponsorship. You will also receive a Longfield t-shirt to wear proudly on the day!

Find out more about your local hospice at [www.longfield.org.uk](http://www.longfield.org.uk).

Twitter: @longfieldcare

Facebook: @LongfieldHospice

Instagram: @longfield\_care

Longfield is a Community Hospice based in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, Longfield also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing services at the hospice in Minchinhampton. For media enquiries, please contact Jo Fairburn, Media and Communications Officer at [jo.fairburn@longfield.org.uk](mailto:jo.fairburn@longfield.org.uk) or call 07876 598441

## Your news.....your ECN!

Written by You, Produced by Sue Halas and delivered by many!

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our winter edition of the ECN. Our cover may have a snowy feel but Inside you will find some great articles and plenty of winter warmth!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter but we do need more articles. Do you have any local stories, memories or old photos? Would you like to advertise any events happening in April or May?



In our next issue will be celebrating Springtime! So kids, if you have any pictures, stories or poems, please send them in.

Please email everything to [articles@eastington.website](mailto:articles@eastington.website)

Best Wishes & Thank You

Sue Halas, Editor

Jan Low, Technical Support

Gill Glover, Distribution Manager

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**Deadline for next issue : Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**(For delivery around 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 )**

Please email your articles, stories, photos and events to [articles@eastington.website](mailto:articles@eastington.website)

or, for ads please use [advertising@eastington.website](mailto: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>**





## Apple Juice sales pay for a dozen new trees Come along on February 18<sup>th</sup> and help us plant them!

Our Apple Juice sales at Xmas Fairs and through the Farm Shop reached £1,000 gross, with enough net profit to buy a dozen trees. Thank you all for supporting the hard work of our ECO volunteers.

This winter we will be planting five of those trees in Coneygree Community Orchard, near the church and school. You can help out and enjoy a bright winter's day by coming down at:

10.00 to 12.30 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

You will learn the right way to plant young trees. Mulled apple juice will be served!

If time permits, we will also do some winter pruning, an ancient skill which you can apply to your own garden. There will be a further work party to continue the pruning on:

**10.00 to 12.30 on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**



Tree planting is very satisfying because you are giving new life to something that your great-grandchildren will enjoy.

The tiny 2 year old tree that Julian and John have proudly established will be twice the size of its support post in 10 years' time.



Membership of ECO is free to all parishioners. Please contact me, Tom Low, on 823425 or [tom@tomlow.uk](mailto:tom@tomlow.uk) to let me know when you want to come along for a sample work-party.

You can see more photos and details of our trees at: [eco.eastington.website](http://eco.eastington.website)



## Start your own cut flower patch



February is a great time to be planning ahead in the garden, and for me I have been planning my cut flower patch for 2023.

I love to grow my own cut flowers, and you don't need lots of space to grow your own, so in this article I am sharing how you can start your own cut flower patch.

You don't need to be an expert grower to give cut flowers a go. If you wait until the frost has passed most seed can be started by directly sowing into the ground.

Seed is a lot less expensive than plants, so the risk is generally much lower if things don't go to plan.

Add them to gaps in existing borders, added to an allotment or grown in a raised bed – so why not give it a go?



- **Sweet Peas**

These grow vertically and will need something to grow up. E.g. an obelisk, bamboo canes or arch way.

I love them for the nostalgia, they come in a huge variety of colours and have the most wonderful scent. Sweet peas will flower from late Spring through to Summer.



- **Cosmos**

Cosmos is a staple to any cut flower patch. The daisy-like flower heads are a magnet for pollinators, they flower profusely and even the foliage has a beautiful delicate texture. Pinching these (snipping out the top of the young plant) will encourage lots of side shoots which will give you the maximum number of flowers possible.



- **Dahlia's**

You will be spoilt for choice, from the small pom-pom variety to the huge dinner plate types (yes they really produce dinner plate sized blooms!). Keep picking and they will keep flowering all Summer long, right up until the first frost. As 2022 was a strange year for weather I still had Dahlia's flowering in November!

I hope you have found this useful, and maybe tempted you to try growing your own cut flowers.

Come and find me on social media and let me know, I would love to hear from you.



[www.jhgardendesign.co.uk](http://www.jhgardendesign.co.uk)



[jessica\\_holcombe\\_garden\\_design](https://www.instagram.com/jessica_holcombe_garden_design)



Jessica Holcombe Garden Design

## A Winter Warmer

### Broccoli and Cauliflower Soup

#### Ingredients

1/2oz butter  
4 tbsp olive oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, chopped  
1 large cauliflower - cut into florets  
1 large broccoli - cut into florets  
1.5 litres vegetable stock  
3 stale slices bread



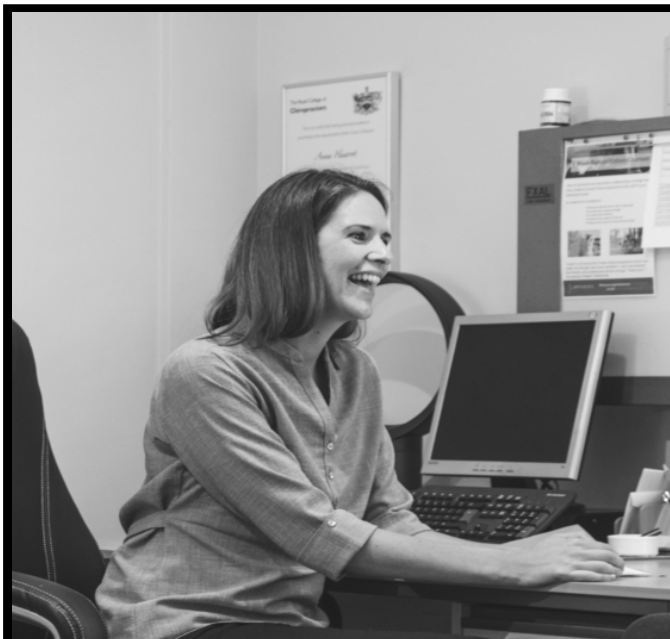
#### Method

##### STEP 1

Heat the butter and 1 tbsp olive oil in a large pan and fry the onion with a pinch of salt for 10 minutes until soft. Add the garlic to the pan and cook for another minute, then add the chopped stem and florets of the cauliflower with the stem and florets of the broccoli. Fry for a few minutes, tossing in the butter and oil, then pour in 1.5 litres of vegetable stock.

##### STEP 2

Simmer for 20 minutes until the vegetables have cooked, then use a stick blender to whizz until smooth. Season. Heat 3 tbsp of olive oil in a non-stick frying pan and tear up the stale slices of bread to make croutons. Fry for 4-5 minutes until deep golden-brown, then season. Spoon the soup between four bowls and top with the croutons to serve.



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We hope to welcome you in soon.

Book an appointment

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**[www.spinavita.co.uk](http://www.spinavita.co.uk)**

62 Westbourne Drive, Hardwicke,  
Gloucester, GL2 4RU

### Insights at Spinavita

Chiropractors are best known for treating back and neck pain though people can also consult us on a range of other related conditions. Chiropractic is a regulated primary healthcare profession. The Spinavita team are trained to diagnose, treat, manage and prevent disorders of the musculoskeletal system (bones, joints, and muscles), as well as the effects those disorders can have on the nervous system and general health.

Our team of experienced Chiropractors understand how the spine and body should function and appreciate that every person experiences pain and injury differently. That is why Anna, Mel, Jessica and Jennifer create bespoke treatment plans aiming to reduce your pain, improve function and increase your mobility. As well as manual treatment, they are able to offer advice on self-help, therapeutic exercises and lifestyle changes to help you to reach your goals and optimise your performance.

Chiropractic treatment involves safe, often gentle, specific spinal manipulation to free joints in the spine or other areas of the body that are not moving properly. Additionally, chiropractors use a variety of other techniques including ice, heat, laser therapy, exercise and acupuncture, as well as advise on posture and lifestyle.

At Spinavita, we understand that living with pain or injury can make day to day life miserable and frustrating. Whether if you've been suffering for days, weeks, months or years, our highly trained team are on hand to help. To book an appointment, please call 01452 883232.



## Javelin Park Waste-to-Energy Facility

Stephen Mills

Like most of us, I had driven countless times past the plant located by Junction 12 of the M5 near Quedgeley, and although it's not in Eastington, the top of its stack is clearly visible from parts of the village. I often wondered how it worked and what went on inside, but I recently found out courtesy of an introduction and tour of the facility.

### *Javelin Park waste-to-energy plant (courtesy UBB)*



There are mixed opinions on the plant's 'modernist' appearance, and early in the planning process, the project caused much local controversy. The planning application was initially rejected in 2013 by the local planning authority; however, following an appeal by the developers, in 2015, the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles) gave his approval. The plant was subsequently built and now manages much of Gloucestershire's waste left after recycling and reuse.

### The actual process

Javelin Park takes in around 130,000 tonnes of municipal waste each year. It has a capacity of 190,000 tonnes, so it also handles some commercial wastes as well. After arriving via refuse collection lorries or HGVs, each carrying up to 25 tonnes, wastes are first deposited in a reception bunker with a capacity of approximately 10,000 tonnes. From here, overhead cranes lift the required amount to the top of an inclined moving grate (this is the bit where the 'magic' happens). Waste travels slowly down the grate - the first few meters essentially dry the incoming materials, followed by the actual combustion process that takes place at around 1000°C, encouraged by pressurised air from above and below (underfire and overfire air). Air for the combustion process is pre-heated through a heat exchanger, using steam that has passed through the turbine. Finally, the last section of the grate handles the residual ash, before feeding it into a quench bath. The whole journey takes about an hour.

The heat from the combustion process is used to generate steam in a boiler at 282°C – this is superheated to 427°C using flue gas, before being fed to the turbine at a pressure of 60 Bar (6 Mega Pascals, or 870 psi). The turbine drives an electricity generator rated at 16.5 MW, although it regularly generates up to 19 Mega Watts (MW); around 2.9 MW is consumed running the plant, with at least 14.5 MW of electricity exported to the national grid, enough to power the equivalent around 25,000 homes. Once the steam has passed through the turbine, it is condensed back to water using large air-cooled condensers, before circulating back to the boiler for reuse.



### How clean is the plant – what does it emit?

Understandably, this is a question often asked. Apart from the occasional whiff of steam from the plant's stack, there never appear to be any visible emissions. The flue gases generated from burning the waste are quenched in a conditioning tower, after which they are scrubbed using a mixture of lime and activated carbon – this neutralises any acidic species present; for example, burning PVC contained within the waste stream can create hydrochloric acid.



The gases then pass through a series of long bag filters (a bit like giant versions of the old-fashioned Hoover bags) to remove particulates. There are no less than 900 individual bags arranged in six banks of 150 - these have a lifetime of around 5 years. As the gases pass through the bags, a crust of particulates, lime and activated carbon ('filter cake') forms on the outside. Sensors measure the pressure drop as the cake thickens, and when too low, a jet of air is pulsed into the individual bag, causing the cake to detach and fall to the bottom for collection.

After cleaning, flue gas is finally exhausted through the stack. Emissions must meet stringent regulated levels imposed by the Environment Agency, in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive. Levels are monitored constantly using a Continuous Emissions Monitoring system that operates around the clock. This measures levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, hydrochloric acid, and dust. It also checks for volatile organic compounds – these can be formed during the combustion of a wide range of materials such as paints, disinfectants, adhesives, carpets, and upholstery. Fortunately, emissions from the plant fall below permitted levels for all of the above.

### **What's left at the end?**

Given the range of materials that can find their way into the incoming waste stream, it would be surprising if there weren't some solids left at the end of the process. There are two main streams, one of which is known as incinerator bottom ash or IBA. This is made up of inert aggregates, ceramics, glass, clinker, and metals – the latter are recovered for recycling, and the remainder used as construction aggregate, suitable for road bases etc.

The other solid stream consists of the residues from the flue gas cleaning process, mainly spent lime and particulates - Air Pollution Control residues (APCr). Because of their alkaline nature, this material is classed as a hazardous waste and is disposed of in specialised landfills. Each year, the plant recovers around 37,000 tonnes of IBA aggregates, 3,000 tonnes of recovered metals, and produces 5,000 tonnes of APCr.

Overall, only around 2.5% of what arrives at Javelin Park ends up in landfill, a good thing as most local landfills such as the one at Hempstead, have now been closed and capped. But even here, historical buried waste is making a useful contribution, as landfill gas (LFG) is being recovered and used to produce electricity. LFG is composed of roughly 50% methane and 50% carbon dioxide.

### **Final thoughts**

When it comes to the provision of affordable, sustainable energy, there are undoubtedly difficult days ahead, and any process that can generate electricity and feed it into the national grid is to be welcomed. Waste-to-energy plants take unwanted, troublesome materials and turn them into something useful, in the process, eliminating much of the need for landfills with all their attendant problems. In the case of the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, because of the organic content of the incoming waste, around half of the energy produced can be classified as renewable – Ofgem check and certify this.

One area we haven't mentioned is that of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a major greenhouse gas. There are now a number of technologies commercially available capable of capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from plant flue gas, although most efforts have focused on larger point sources such as fossil fuel-fired power stations and industrial applications. However, this might become a necessity for waste-to-energy plants at some point in the future. There are several waste-to-energy projects underway around the world examining this. For example, at Twence in the Netherlands, Klemetsrud in Norway, and Saga City in Japan.

Around much of the developed world, volumes of municipal solid waste continue to rise. Historically, much of this has ended up in landfills, an option that is becoming increasingly environmentally unsustainable and uneconomic. Although waste-to-energy plants are not universally loved, they nevertheless play a vital role in transforming the world's growing mountains of detritus into useful products such as electricity, heat and building materials. They also obviate much of the need for often unsightly landfills, another major bonus. Fortunately, modern plants are much cleaner and more efficient than some of their predecessors.

It was encouraging to see just how effective plants such as the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility can be in minimising environmental impacts and helping meet the world's ever-growing demand for energy.



## Eastington Primary School

### Class 2

Here in Class 2, we have been rather busy since the Christmas break. Our favourite thing so far this term has definitely been our English lessons! Our writing unit has been poetry. We have looked at the book, 'Love our Earth'. In the book, the author describes lots of different environments around the world. We loved reading it! The pictures were beautiful and the description was amazing.

We used the book to help us write our own descriptions about different places. First, we learnt all about similes and alliteration to make our writing really descriptive and interesting, just like the poem in the book.



## Eastington Primary School

Class 2 continued.....

Here are some of the sentences we from our poems. Can you spot the alliteration and similes we have included?

**Clemmie** - I see a deer lapping up water, a boat sailing across the lake, grass as black as a cat, a big hill and a blue and yellow kingfisher.

**David** – I see thin bridges hanging across the water, garden green grass covering rocks, dark shadows in the water, people hurrying and bridges hanging like vines.

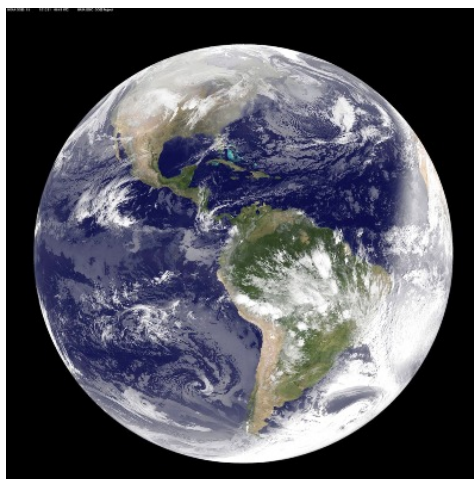
**Ella** – I see a giant giraffe as tall as a pine tree, black grass as dark as the night, tall trees, an icy river and a female moose.

**Tommy** – I see a brown wooden bridge, a door as red as a Christmas jumper, a still shaded shadow, people running as fast as the wind and garden green grass.

**Jay** – I see an enormous strong bridge, icy cold icebergs, a cold hide-out as scary as a shark, shaded shadows and snow falling down.

**Georgia** – I see rain dribbling from the sky, two deer lapping up water, birds flying like the wind, a hill as tall as a tree and a lake as white as can be.

We hope you enjoyed reading some of our descriptions as much as we enjoyed writing them.





## St. Michael and All Angels Church Eastington

### Christingle Service



The popular Christingle Service never fails to get us in the mood for Christmas and was exceptionally successful this year as we put behind us the disruption in the past two years or so caused by the Pandemic. The Church was packed with around 190 including 80 children who enjoyed the wonderful festive atmosphere and spectacle of the candle lit service. A total of £400.00 was raised for the Children's Society so, many thanks to those who supported this event and for the generous donations. We aim to do better next year!

### Church Tours and Church Roof

We have been advised by Historic England that St Michael and All Angels Church has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register. This comes after some lobbying on our part in view of the condition of the roof cover which is in urgent need of replacement. This should not be taken to be a criticism of our stewardship of the building but is a recognition by Historic England that we are facing a significant challenge which is beyond the resources that we can find locally. Inclusion in the list will act as a working tool to help define the scale of the problem and prioritise action by Historic England, local authorities, funding bodies and others who can play a part in making the Church building safe and sustainable for future generations.

There are funds that we can access to get the project underway but cannot make progress until we have a team of enthusiastic helpers to make plans and see this through. Although the objective will be to preserve the church as a place of worship it is also a place of great historic interest and for the project to be viable it must also serve the wider interests of the local community. Various local organisations will be invited to become stakeholders.

Although outwardly the Church may seem to be in a serviceable condition it is in fact extremely fragile – especially the roof. We are organising a couple of “Church Tours” during Lent to give an outline of the Church's history, its conservation and the challenge of preserving it.

This will hopefully provide an opportunity for anyone interested to get to know the Church. Dates are yet to be fixed but will be published on social media and posters. If you are interested in getting involved contact Mike Naylor 01453 828682.



## Church Services

Services in February and March will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11.15.

## Food Bank Update

It was heartening to see that so many responded with generous contributions to our collection point in church over the festive season. All donations are gratefully received and taken to the Foodbank on a weekly basis.

Please continue to remember those who are facing the stark choice between food or fuel particularly during the cold winter months.

There is a collection point at the back of the church which remains open during the day time.

## Ukraine

We continue to maintain a collection point in the Church for specific items for Ukraine. The list is as follows:

Boots and new socks, baby food and hygiene items, tinned food, chocolate, torches, batteries, medicines, medical equipment, adult hygiene, clean new underwear, and working android tablets.

All items collected are taken on a weekly basis to the Polish Association and Ukrainian Church in Gloucester who then transport the goods overland to the areas in Ukraine where the need is greatest.

## Library

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 and borrow a book for a very modest fee. There are also up to date magazines, jigsaw puzzles and a few story CD's as well.

This resource continues to be very popular and generates some useful income for the Church.

## Information

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

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](mailto:rectorstroudwater@gmail.com)

**Rev Liz Palin:** Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Fretherne, Framilode and Saul: [tv1stroudwater@gmail.com](mailto:tv1stroudwater@gmail.com)

**Rev Dave Bishop:** Stonehouse, Standish, Eastington, Haresfield: [tv2stroudwater@gmail.com](mailto:tv2stroudwater@gmail.com)



## Church of Christ the King Eastington

Our world seems to be a particularly dark place at the moment with wars, injustice, desperate need, violence sickness and greed. Some of these have had knock on effects that have adversely affected our own lives in our own country whilst other problems seem to be almost self-inflicted. None of this is new; we see it happen again and again throughout history and the Bible records many such incidents.

Light and hope may seem in short supply but the Bible points to a God who takes a real interest in the lives and suffering of His people. Not every situation is resolved in the way that perhaps we would like (although miracles do happen). For example, if everyone who was ill and dying was prayed for and those prayers were answered every time, there would be a lot of very very old people amongst us.

What can be transformed is our perception, reaction and acceptance of our situations through getting to know Jesus Christ. It sets a very different context and provides light and hope when, to the human mind, there may be none. Beyond our lifespan here on this planet is eternal life with Jesus if we believe and belong to Him. John 14 vs 1 – 7 (New Living Translation) says:

*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”<sup>5</sup> “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”*

### Building Update:



The Methodist Church has sold the church building but unfortunately not to us - the former congregation that used it to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and maintained it. Whilst the sale goes through, we will be able to continue to rent the building but after that it will be up to the new owner(s) about whom we know very little. This obviously creates quite a lot of uncertainty going forward and we look to God to guide us. It is therefore possible that we will need to change the venue for our activities sometime before the next Eastington Community News comes out so please check our website for updates.

Church Main Activities (please check the website for details and variations)		
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)		Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Youth Club (11-18)		Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Sundays at 11am:	Café Church (all ages together)	Sunday Feb 12th, Mar 12th
	Morning Services (refreshments afterwards)	The other Sundays

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@CoCtKE.org.uk](mailto:info@CoCtKE.org.uk)  
[www. CoCtKE.org.uk](http://www.CoCtKE.org.uk)

### **PARKING AT THE CO-OP**

Our friendly Co-op is a wonderful amenity for all, usually busy throughout its long opening hours. At a time when the trend is towards fewer but larger food retailers we're lucky to have it.

With popularity comes problems, however, notably car parking. Of course for those lucky enough to live right in the village the question of parking probably doesn't arise, but for passing commuters and those who need to come by car this is a plea to park considerately.

Many people choose to park across the entrance to the small access road to the right hand side of the shop or at various points down it, particularly for some reason in front of the lovely new bench that has been erected by its side. A cursory glance shows two things: that there are several dwellings down this side road, and across its entrance there is faded but legible lettering saying "KEEP CLEAR".

Those who park across this access road often ask what the fuss is about, they're only in the shop for five minutes. All those "five minute" stops add up, however, and amount to at best an irritating inconvenience and at worst a hazard. Frequently an emergency vehicle would be unable to reach any of the houses in the access road. "I'm sorry your house is burning down, just give me a few minutes while I make up my mind between Co-op and branded kettle descaler." So this is a plea. If you're a motorist using the shop please park considerately, and if you're just visiting and see someone blocking the access road, maybe a very friendly word with them? It's all about a moment's consideration.

Paul Halas (on behalf of residents at The Cross)



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- ➡ Plant Operators (Gloucestershire) and Plant Hire desk Controller - Head office

As good as our word, as strong as our name.




### **The Badger Warm Space**

From Monday - Friday 2.30pm - 5pm

Free Tea, Coffee and Biscuits in the Snug Area for everyone.



Information from Facebook

## Oldbury House

Eastington Memories from Sylvia Bliss who died 3 years ago aged 95. She was born in Canal House Eastington and spent over 40 years living at Cress Green.

Sylvia wrote this piece about the Nuns at Oldbury House for the parish magazine in 1984.

Many thanks to her daughter Megan Timbrell

## **ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL – OLDBURY HOUSE**

A page in history of the village will be turned when St George's School leave Oldbury House after being with us for almost 40 years.

It was in 1946 that the signboard was erected on the entrance gate to Oldbury House, causing much speculation among those of us who lived nearby, not knowing quite what to expect. When they did arrive and we saw robed sisters walking the highways of the village, it was something that the villagers had not seen before. It did not take us long once we had met and talked with them, to appreciate the quality of life they had brought to the community.

St George's is a registered boarding school belonging to the community of St Peter of Westminster which was formed in 1926. During the Second World War, they were evacuated five times and were with Miss Lloyd Baker at Hardwicke Court for a time before taking up permanent residence at Oldbury House. There were then from 4 to 6 sisters in charge of 28 girls who came from all walks of life and points of the country. They were young teenagers and all had one thing in common – family or social problems.

One of the older girls who came with them had been orphaned as a very young baby and lived with the sisters. She was Maud Duncan, who later became House Mistress and Music Teacher. She endeared herself to the girls and also the village children – including my own – who went to her for piano lessons. Through this contact, they were incorporated into the plays, functions and parties that were held at the school. I can remember the peace and tranquillity that was almost tangible each time we entered the building. We all felt we were encountering 'goodness' in a very real sense.

Miss Duncan left the school in 1965 to take a post as Deputy Headmistress at the Shrubberies School for the Mentally Handicapped in Stonehouse. She also taught at St Rose's Convent and at Yercombe Lodge in Wotton-under-Edge. She returned to the School in 1982, sadly already ill and was devotedly nursed there until her death in 1983.

In 1965 there were not so many Sisters and only 12 girls, who all had additional needs. Sister Winifred Agnes and Sister Pauline carried on doing all the work – with the help of lay staff. They are particularly well known in the life of the Parish Church and Clergy from all denominations in the area and have been welcomed and received great blessing from their contacts with them.

Sister Winifred Agnes, now elderly, frail and blind, but mentally still active, speaks lovingly of her former girls and tells with pride that the son of one of them is now Bishop of Madagascar. Sister Winifred is devotedly cared for by Sister Pauline and the staff.



So, together with the dog, two half-Siamese cats, the rabbit, guinea pig and an assortment of birds, they will soon be on their way to the Mother House at Harphill where they will stay temporarily until their new home "Well Close" in Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham, is ready for them.

The Parish will miss them, for however brief the encounter that anyone has had with the Sisters, their influence has been memorable and I personally feel that Eastington has been made a better place for them having been here.

Our love and prayers go with them.



## ***WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE***

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717 General Enquiries: [wildhogsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wildhogsoffice@gmail.com)



Valentine's Day will be coming up soon and hedgehogs start to look for a mate in the Spring. The males awake from hibernation before the females roam large distances looking for a female. Mating hedgehogs are very noisy so listen out for them in your gardens from about March onwards, depending on the weather. If we get another cold snap, they may stay in hibernation for a while longer.

Any hedgehog out in the day will need help. If you are concerned about a hedgehog please always give us a call on 07949 976717.



Happy new year to everyone!! The final term of the year was as usual cheery, energetic, and full of glitter and sparkle. We were absolutely delighted to welcome our parents into playgroup on the final day to watch our Christmas show 'The Greatest Day.' The children excelled and sang and danced throughout the entire show. We have some wonderful performers and are always amazed by the children's confidence and ability to remember tricky words and where they must stand, when it is a highlight of the academic year. We were shocked and happy to have snow at the beginning of December, as it is a great learning experience that we cannot plan for which the children enjoyed exploring. We wrapped up warm and went outside to roll big snowballs, we listened to the sound of our footprints in the snow and looked at the prints we left, and we warmed up with some delicious hot chocolate! We also brought some snow inside, using our polar animals to discuss different habitats and exploring and discussing the feel of the snow with bare hands and talking about the change to water and how/why it's happened.



We held our festive fun run and fete last term and are so grateful to those that joined in the fun. Families dressed up to run around the field and the children were able to take part in an obstacle course. It was so lovely to have families of playgroup and members of the community join us and the effort that went into the costumes. We had a reindeer, and a reindeer pulling Santa on his sleigh, and some fabulous Christmas jumpers to name a few. Thank you to those who came to support playgroup.

This term we have lots of exciting learning opportunities lined up for the children. We have already been looking at recycled construction and building for a purpose. The children have used their imaginations to build models and have been reevaluating how to change things when they don't quite go to plan. The children have used big blocks to work together to build and have discussed how to make their plans work.



We have spaces for September 2023 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](mailto:eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com) for a registration form or 07977342742 to book a visit.

## PARISH Council

At our Parish Council meeting in January we had a presentation from the Programme Manager of the proposed Frocester Estate Solar Farm Development. The site borders the Eastington Parish boundary and would be accessed off Bath Road. It is planned to generate 50 MW over a 200-acre site, a fixed tilt solar panel system with battery storage. Several footpaths run across the fields and would have to be offset. Lorries would likely travel from the A38 down Bath Road. The build period would be around 6 months and involve 13 lorry movements per day. The solar panels would be on posts which are piled in and there would be some noise disturbance from the piling. The site would be twice as big as the solar farm at Cambridge. Extra hedge and tree planting would be carried out and the whole site fenced. The grassland will be grazed by sheep. There would be a community benefit fund. The proposed solar site is likely to be submitted to planning in late Spring and if approved, construction would start in 2026. Time was given to listen to the views of parishioners and the council will continue to communicate on this matter.

The Parish Council also set its draft budget for the next financial year. It has kept the precept (council tax) at £97080, the same as the last 2 years, as it was mindful of the cost-of-living pressures for parishioners. This works out at £82.45 for the year, or £1.58 per week, on a Band D property.

The burial path in the burial ground is being resurfaced and work is progressing well, despite delays caused by the bad weather over the last month and should be finished by the time you read this.

The next project is to repair and re-surface Snakey Park Lane. This work is scheduled to be carried out during the half-term week, the week beginning 20th February. There will be times where the lane will be closed to traffic, however pedestrians will have access. We will try to keep any inconvenience during the works to a minimum.

Stroud District Council (SDC) is carrying out a Community Governance Review across the district. As part of the review the future governance of Great Oldbury is being considered. At this stage of the initial consultation, SDC are seeking the views of the parish council and residents as to what it thinks the community governance arrangements should be within Eastington based on what was concluded as part of the last review in 2018 and any new considerations which the parish considers relevant to better reflect the local governance within the area. This will then enable Stroud District Council to formulate their draft recommendations based on the evidence provided and consultation submissions received before going out to a second consultation. The parish council is keen to ensure that the Eastington hamlets of Nastend, Westend and Nupend remain within Eastington parish. Great Oldbury could become its own parish. They have their own community group and facilities. The first consultation runs until the end of January 2023. During the next stage of the Review, we expect a further full consultation on the proposals to take place with residents.

The Stroud District Council Local Plan Review Examination starts on 7th March and the parish council have employed a planning consultant to make representations on our behalf. This review includes the Eco Park M5 Junction 13 (allocated for a strategic mixed use development, to include employment, a sports stadium, sports pitches, a 70 bed care village, a hotel and canal and open space uses.).

In December, one of our long-standing councillors, Jennifer Corrie, stood down. The parish council would like to thank Jennie for all her hard work in the parish. We will miss her greatly; she was a great support to Cllr Bullock (Chair) and the rest of the council.

At our January meeting we welcomed a new Councillor, Dr Peter Spencer-Phillips, who lives in Nupend. He has already volunteered to be part of the Getting Around Group and the Churchyard and Burial Ground Group and we are looking forward to the skills and support he can bring to the council.

The council still has 3 councillor vacancies so if anyone is interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Clerk via email or phone for further information.

Marianne Simpson

Eastington Parish Council Clerk

clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk      01453 799616

EXCELLENT  
REVIEWS

# Luxury Care Home Community

**The Hollies Nursing Care Home   Holly Oak Dementia Care Home   Apartments by the Hollies**

The **Hollies**, renowned for its excellence in nursing, dementia and residential care provides the ultimate in state-of-the-art accommodation. Spacious, beautifully designed rooms, suites and living areas along with pretty gardens provide residents with a high quality of living. Exceptional dining caters for the most discerning preferences and needs.

The all new **Bessys Tea Room** for a cream tea or special event, **The Old English Pub** for a favourite drink and cosy lounges create the social heart beat for residents, families and friends. Come and be treated at Bessys Tea Room, call to book now on 01453 541400.

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**Hollies**



## ROTARY in the SEVERN VALE

As with so many, November and December have been a busy couple months for your local Rotary. That said, while maintaining our regular breakfasts, we've been able to combine community activities and social events with the all-important time with our families.

We welcomed local playwright Brian Dimmock to our next breakfast. His talk was entitled "Inspiration, Perspiration, Aspiration and Ego". Brian has lived locally for many years and incorporated tales of some of the local characters he's come across and included in his play performed a Framilode earlier in the year. He is currently working on another play planned to be performed in Frampton Chapel after Easter – some of our members may be included in the cast again. Judging by the applause, Brian proved a most popular speaker.

Following our next breakfast, Stuart Watts, a previous very interesting speaker from Retro Track & Air, hosted a visit his company works in Cam. Several Merlin engines were in various states of repair in one workshop with a partly rebuilt Gloster Gladiator in another and in a third some classic racing cars still in regular use. It is hoped to organise a further visit for those unable to attend.

Our final breakfast of 2022 saw a change of menu from our traditional Full English to include Buck's Fizz, Smoked Salmon and Croissants accompanied by Scrambled Eggs. Rather than an exchange of cards and 'carefully selected gifts' we'd decided to give donations of food for delivery to Stroud Foodbank later in the day. Entertainment was in the form of Colin Ellis as MC and two other members delivering readings from Dylan Thomas . . . with dodgy Welsh accents throughout !

Community activities and fundraising included a successful Fun Quiz & Curry Night and the now well established and the so warmly welcomed Christmas Carol Float. Whilst weather wasn't as kind as it might've been, our tour of the area was enjoyed by both those staying warm inside their homes almost as much as those visiting Santa on the float.

A small group of us were able to beat the weather after Christmas with a visit to Wick Court for painting of one of the much used and enjoyed out-buildings.



Rotary Christmas tree collection January 2023.

Work is well underway with preparations for our sponsored canal side walk in aid of the much in demand local charity Sunflowers Suicide Support. The walk will have stewards from Severn Vale Rotary along its route from Gloucester Docks to Saul Junction. Free parking and return ride on a vintage bus is planned with ice cream available half way at The Pilot Inn.

***Make a note of the date . . . Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023.***

For information on events and breakfast meetings, please visit [www.severnvalerotary.org.uk](http://www.severnvalerotary.org.uk) or contact [keith.rog@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.rog@hotmail.com)

## Kids Stuff

### Winter Word Search



### Weird Winter Facts

Did you know?

Guinness World Records reports the largest snowflake (15" in diameter and 8" thick) had fallen during a storm in January 1887 at Fort Keogh.

Every snowflake has six sides.

The sun looks bigger in the Winter

Some animals possess the exceptional ability to change to white colour in the Winter. The barren-ground caribou, arctic hare, arctic fox, ptarmigan, and ermine all have the ability to turn white.



COLD FREEZING GLOVES HAT SCARF  
SNOW SNOWFLAKE SOCKS WARM

Winter is also a fun time to take a nature walk. Next time you take a nature walk after it snows, look for animal footprints. Play a game where you have to guess what kind of animals made the footprints.

### SEVERNSIDE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE

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## PIANO LESSONS

Piano lessons locally in Eastington, or online to anywhere in the world.

- . All ages and abilities catered for
- . Take exams or play for fun

I have taught piano and keyboards for several years - in Stroud and Aberdeen - and am now living in Eastington, and teaching both locally and online. Many of my pupils are currently taking exams.



#### Contact:

Elizabeth-Anne Ponting

**079 1001 6565**

Elizabeth-anne@aberdeenpiano.co.uk



## How to Boost your State Pension

Do you know someone on a state pension who struggles to make ends meet? Or perhaps a couple? What if they could get a boost to their income? Too good to be true? A lot of other state pensioners certainly think so: a third of those who are eligible miss out. That's a million older people scrimping and saving and going cold when they don't need to.

This pension boost is called 'Pension Credit'. It not only provides extra pension income: **it can also cover or reduce a host of other costs – rent, mortgage payments, council tax, energy and utilities, TV licence, dentists and opticians and more.** Overall, the effects really can be transformative to pensioners who are struggling.

How to qualify? State pensioner households may be eligible if income is less than £182.60 per week for single people and £278.80 for couples. Pensioner households with higher income may be eligible in some circumstances – for instance if there is a carer in the household or a disability.

So, have a think: do you know someone who may qualify? If in doubt, search for Pension Credit online, ring the Pension Credit Helpline - **0800 99 1234** (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday), or get in touch with us at Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds, **0808 800 0510** (10am-4pm Monday to Thursday, 10am-1pm Friday) where we can check you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. Don't hesitate – Pension Credit can make a big difference.

## Press Release December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Longfield Community Hospice** is calling for local people to join their team of loyal volunteers.

The Minchinhampton-based hospice is currently supported by 400 committed volunteers, working across every department. Last year, volunteers donated over 48,000 hours of their time across all areas of Longfield's work.

In addition to giving something back to the community, volunteering boosts a sense of purpose and personal accomplishment and can be a great way of forming strong friendships. Volunteers are usually aged 16 and above.

Ally Edwards, Longfield's Volunteer Services Advisor explained:

"We have a fantastic team of volunteers at Longfield, but we're always happy to welcome more. We have vacancies across the hospice, ranging from volunteer van drivers and assistants in our charity shops, to trustees and counsellors.

For most volunteering opportunities you do not require particular skills or qualifications as we will give support and training wherever necessary. An enthusiasm for hospice care and a willingness to try new things are often more important. People from all walks of life and all ages volunteer for us."

Lucy began volunteering at Longfield earlier this year, helping initially in the Wellbeing Centre and more recently in the Marketing Department. When asked about her motivation for volunteering, she said:

"Longfield is right on the doorstep so it's lovely to be able to support the local community and the cause is very close to my heart. As soon as I walked through the door, I was really touched by the sense of tranquillity and lightness that radiates out. I knew immediately that this is where I wanted to offer my time and help. Don't hesitate to volunteer, you will be welcomed with open arms at Longfield and every bit of help that you give will make a huge difference, rippling out into many people's lives."

To find out more about the hospice and the volunteer opportunities currently available, visit [www.longfield.org.uk](http://www.longfield.org.uk) or telephone 01453 886868 and ask to speak to Ally Edwards.

**If you have enough to share,  
please remember others in these difficult times**



### **What is a food bank? How does it work?**

Food and other essentials like toiletries are donated at various collection points ( see below). These are collected, sorted, stored and organised by a team of volunteers based at the warehouse in Brimscombe. There are 3 paid part time staff , over 150 regular volunteers and a further large team of volunteers involved with collections.

People in need can be referred to the foodbank by any of the caring agencies - these include Citizens Advice, P3, Stroud District Council housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors and social services as well as local schools and doctor's surgeries. Clients will receive a food bank voucher - typically for a parcel of three days worth of food and emergency supplies. Each client will also be supported by a volunteer who can help direct them to other sources of help that may be available, according to specific needs.

### **How can I help?**

Donations of (non-perishable!) food and household essentials are always needed.

**There is a collection basket at the back of St Michael's Church**, and this is taken weekly to Brimscombe.

Donations can be made directly to the Warehouse at Unit 19, Canal Iron Works, Hope Mills Lane, Brimscombe, Stroud, GL5 2SH between 10-12 or 14-16 Mon-Friday. There are also collection points in Stroud Tescos and Sainsburys. All donations are gratefully received, but of particular need at present are tinned meat and fish, cooking oil and cleaning/washing materials.

If you might like to become a volunteer, or for any other enquires, you can contact Stroud Foodbank on 01453 367077 - more information is available on the website and on Twitter

**<http://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk> and [https://twitter.com/SD\\_foodbank](https://twitter.com/SD_foodbank)**

Stroud District Food bank is a registered charity (no 1176306) managed by a board of volunteer trustees. It is a member of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks. <https://www.trusselltrust.org>

