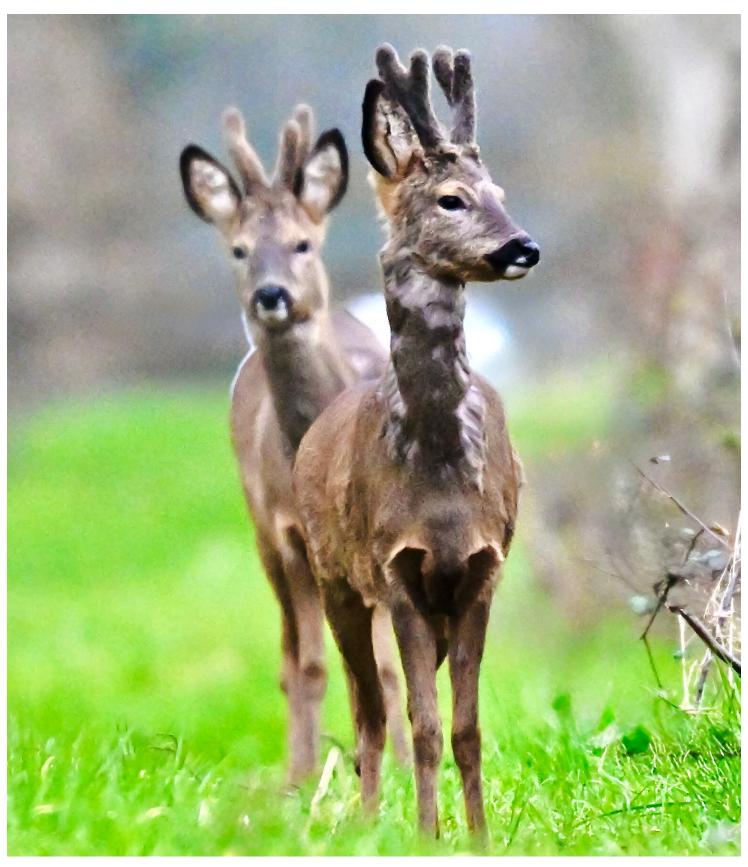


EGN Eastington Community News

A free, locally produced publication celebrating community in Eastington.

COVER BY:

Ian Lewis



News | Youth | Community | History Environment | Business

Eastington Village Hall



For your function or group meeting

Central village location £8 per hour Kitchen, tables & chairs Stage, toilets etc

Check availability and book on-line:

evh.eastington.website

Eastington Community Centre

Owen Harris Memorial Ground



email: enquiries@ohmq.org.uk web: www.ohmg.org.uk

The main hall can host 80 people seated or 150 standing. Small meeting room available. Fully equipped kitchen and bar available.

> Eastington Community Centre, OHMG Building, Snakey Lane, Eastington, GL103AQ



Large, modern village hall with a capacity of 200 people.

Excellent, up-to-date facilities, stage and bar.

The perfect setting for your wedding, birthday or celebration.

> Call Pam Culver on 01453 821 153

ksvhbookings@gmail.com

www.kingsstanleyvillagehall.org.uk



Community Centre

Bookings can be made through our online HallMaster Booking System: https://www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/community-and-sports-facilities

For further information, email: booking@greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk

> Community Centre Daniels Way, Great Oldbury GL10 3XR

Editor's Note

Welcome to issue 210.

As always, it is a pleasure to share the latest news, events and stories from around the village. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Whether you're a regular reader or picking up ECN for the first time - welcome! We'd like to take a moment to wish the very best of luck to our two local residents standing as candidates in the upcoming by-election. Your dedication to our community is truly appreciated good luck to you both.

Happy reading, The ECN Team x

p.s. Some useful info:

- 1. The deadline for the next issue is: 14/7/25, to be delivered around: 1/8/25.
- 3. The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the ECN team.
- 4. If you would like to see this magazine in colour, visit the Eastington Hub at: https://eastington.website

COVER BY:

Ian Lewis

"Early morning walks can bring surprising rewards if patient."

within the Eastington boundary. By the 19th century, roe deer had all but disappeared from the **UK. Since reintroductions** from Europe, and having no natural predator, they have become Britain's most abundant deer. Young male roe deer start arowing their first set of antlers in their first winter. The small tines (points) and secondary branches suggest these two young male deer to be about two years of age.

WORK FOR THE FRONT COVER OF THE NEXT ISSUE, PLEASE EMAIL: ARTICLES@ **EASTINGTON.WEBSITE**



articles@eastington.website

ecn.eastington.website

f Eastington Community News

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DELIVERERS:

Eight hundred magazines later... thank you to the twenty-seven lovely people who have delivered this issue.

Contents

EVENTS	05
NEWS	06
YOUTH	12
COMMUNITY	18
HISTORY	24
ENVIRONMENT	28
BUSINESS	32



STRAWBERRY EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday 28th June 2-5pm

Strawberries & Cream Prosecco

Musical Entertainment Children's Activities

At St Michael & All Angel's Church Eastington

Tickets £10.00 | Children £5.00

Tricia: 07724 551711/01453 822415





Eastington Community Land Trust Ltd. (ECLT)

Eastington Homes **Eastington People**

Providing the Affordable Homes that Eastington Needs

BY TOM LONG

Quite a spectacular day as the first pair of two-bed semis has its roof put on.

Also visible now is the roadway, which should be completed (at least to sub-base level) all the way to the main entrance by the time this issue is published.

There are nearly thirty tradesmen on site every day now, taking advantage of the good weather. By the time you read this, several other timber-frames will be erected and the site will look very busy.

From the drone footage below, you can see



foundations in all stages of readiness. The sequence is in reverse order, the first pair of semis being at the end of the cul-de-sac and working back towards the entrance.

You can see colour versions with the ability to enlarge for interest on the ECLT website, including drone footage:

https://eclt.eastington.website/?page id=3640

Please remember, this is a building site which is a dangerous place and the public should not enter. Completion will be in early 2026.

EASTINGTON CLT WAS SET UP BY CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF EASTINGTON IN RESPONSE TO THE LACK OF AFFORDABLE LOCAL HOUSING, BOTH FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS AND FOR EXTENDED FAMILY SUPPORT FOR THE OLDER GENERATIONS. ECLT'S PRIMARY AIM IS TO SERVE LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS WHILST HELPING TO LIMIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE.

HTTPS://ECLT.EASTINGTON.WEBSITE tom@eastingtonclt.uk Tel: 07974 369680



Eastington Parish Council Newsletter

Parish Matters BY CLLR MURIEL BULLOCK



The May meeting of the Parish Council is always a very busy one.

We elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and Councillors to groups and committees.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2024

There have been unexpected challenges this year, including the untimely and sad death of our friend and fellow Councillor Richard Maisey. He helped the Council navigate a number of formal complaints, freedom of information requests and a challenge from Great Oldbury Parish Council for additional financial settlement following the boundary changes. The Council was assured there was no justification or legal obligation for one.

On a more positive note, we were able to start the refurbishment of the Snakey Park playground which has been in use for seven vears. We have also had the speed camera installed on Bath Road, and the contractor also did the first phase of widening of the pavement on Bath Road (the second phase will be started when B.T/Openreach have lowered their cabinet).

I would like to thank all Councillors for their hard work and support during the difficult/ frustrating time.

I would also like to thank our Clerk who did most of the work.

I also thank all the residents who have spoken to me and given me encouragement to continue as Chair of the Council.

Councillors asked me to stand as Chair for this coming year, I reluctantly agreed on the understanding if we had more bullying and negativity which is affecting all Councillors, I would have to consider my position again.

I have been a Councillor in this Parish since 2010 and Chair from 2013 and have never experienced the level of bullying that has continued for so long.

HTTPS://EASTINGTON-PC/GOV.UK

Eastington Parish Council clerk: clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk Eastington Parish Council chair: muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07747 634217

UPCOMING MEETINGS

12th June 2025 at 7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting at The Village Hall
10th July 2025 at 7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting at The Village Hall
14th August 2025 at 7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting at The Village Hall

Snakey Park Refurb Update nakey Park BY MARIANNE SIMPSON



Consisting of repairs to the:

- Parallel bars and surface matting
- Tunnels rotten timber logs removed and area re-turfed
- Embankment slide replacement timber for handrail for steps
- Turret repairs to roof and surface matting
- Old willow tunnel was overgrown and blocked the CCTV to the allotments. This has been removed and a new willow tunnel planted.
- Old wooden boat has been removed and area turfed in preparation for new springers. While wooden play equipment is ecological and looks nice, it does not last forever.
- Damaged sunsail is being replaced and the timber supports have been stabilised and made safe.

Further works include:

- The broken benches to be replaced with recycled plastic benches, which have a 25year warranty. These are produced with lower carbon emissions and can be recycled at their end of life.

The work on the play area should be finished in the next couple of weeks and will include:

- Replacement of worn surface areas, with

wetpour safety surfacing, to improve safety of the supernova, cantilever swing and toddler swing.

- Other surface areas will be replaced with surface matting and new turf.

New play equipment will be installed:

- New flat seat swings
- New daisy springer
- New butterfly seesaw springer
- New work out cross rider with safety matting either side

The council is keen to promote Community Resilience and Wellbeing and recognise how vital play areas are for the health and wellbeing of young children and their families. Most of this work has been completed now, the sail is being reenforced and will be fitted soon. We have had very positive comments from the users we have met at the playpark during our regular visits to check progress.

HTTPS://EASTINGTON-PC/GOV.UK

Eastington Parish Council clerk:

clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Eastington Parish Council chair:

muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk

The Contribution of Councillor **Richard Maisey to Eastington**

BY TOM LOW, CHAIRMAN ECO

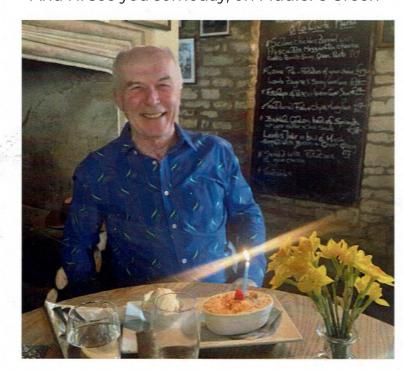
Richard died very suddenly on April 8th, aged 63.

He had lived in Nupend just three years but made a significant impact on the Parish. He will be sorely missed by many, including those expecting him to go far in politics. A passionate campaigner for combating Climate Change, he first became a Parish Councillor, then a District Councillor, making waves in the Planning Committees especially.

He acted as Agent for Dr Stephen Opher, ensuring the latter became Stroud's MP. There will be a lot of people seeing this photo who will say "I remember that chap, wearing a hat, discussing the environment on my doorstep", such was the amount of canvassing he undertook. Others will remember he attended the Village Drop-in every month and made a point of sitting at different tables to meet new people each time.

The first club he joined was the Orchard Group ECO, where he learned to graft an apple tree - a Siddington Russett - which stands in Coneygree Community Orchard, almost as a memorial. As a Welshman, Richard enjoyed his rugby and was famous for his voice, as witnessed by ECO members when he led the Wassail. At the Celebration of his life on May 2nd, the singing was appropriately led by the Sea Shanty Group, including "Bread of Heaven" and closing with:

> "Tell me old shipmates, I've gone for a trip mates And I'll see you someday, on Fiddler's Green"



Richard Mark Arnold Maisey

06 April 1952 – 08 April 2025

ISSUE 210

NEWS

Great Oldbury Council Newsletter

Spring Update
BY JENNI BINGHAM



The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 30th April 2025, and we were delighted to welcome a range of guest speakers for an engaging and informative evening.

We like many were saddened to hear of the news of the passing of Cllr Richard Maisey. He will be sorely missed throughout the community.

A special thank you to Jo from Sportily, who not only shared the inspiring work Sportily is doing locally but also kindly provided refreshments for everyone in attendance. Juanita of Juanita Zoe Yoga and her booking link is here: (https://bookwhen.com/juanitazoeyoga)

PCSO Jordan Perry joined us with an update on Highways Enforcement and explained how residents can stay informed by signing up to Gloucestershire Constabulary Community Alerts. We also heard from Josie Oaks, Animal Welfare Officer at Stroud District Council, who provided valuable advice on tackling dog fouling in public spaces. She has promised additional enforcement, so please do your part - pick up after your dog and help keep our community clean!

District Councillor Robert Brown shared an informative update on Planning matters, including anticipated pressures from development in areas bordering Great Oldbury, as well as the various proposals linked to Gloucestershire's devolution bid. The meeting also launched a Public Consultation, inviting residents to share ideas and priorities to help shape the Council's forthcoming Strategic Plan. If you haven't already, please do get involved and

have your say. In addition to the Annual Meeting, Dr. Simon Opher, MP for Stroud, paid a visit in April to the new Community Centre, expressing how impressed he was with the facilities. He also pledged support for helping local residents address covenants that currently prevent them from installing solar panels - a positive step for sustainability.

Thanks to funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund, we've recently installed new blinds in the Community Hall and purchased children's tables and benches, making the space even more versatile. You can explore all upcoming events and activities on our website at:

www.greatoldbury-pc.gov.uk/ whats-on-calendar

Looking ahead, the Council has applied for a grant from Stroud District Council to create a small sensory garden, and a separate application has been made to install a bike stand at Crocodile Park. We're also in the process of completing the transfer of Crocodile Park and the small play area near Great Oldbury Drive (junction with Rowbotham Way) to Parish Council ownership. Once complete, Robert Hitchins Ltd will provide a one-off financial contribution to support their ongoing maintenance.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to councillors and volunteers who kindly installed the VE Day 80th Anniversary lamp post signs. These have provided a touching opportunity for the community to pause and reflect: "We will remember them."

All Quiet on the Bath Road

BY SIMON CHAPMAN

All is calm along the Bath Road, Where trucks once thundered, with heavy load. No growl of gears, no engine's snarl – They've found some other place to mar.

> Frocester Hill is closed you see, Gifting us this brief, rare peace: A hush so deep, so wide, so still, We hear the whisper of the hill.

No startled dogs on morning walks, No pedestrians jolted from their talks. Diverted drivers go elsewhere, And miss our sleepy country air.

The postie strolls without a care,
Mid-road, as if no cars were there.
Old lockdown ways come back anew,
And hedgehogs cross with much ado -

They chat with birds, inspect the breeze,
The daisies nod, the robins tease.
Neighbours call from door to door,
Their voices floating, nothing more.

"Should we," they ask, "bring out the bunting?
A VE Day bash? Now that's worth something!"
Bath Road could host it, wide and proud No traffic now, no angry crowd.

But hush - one morning, the signs come down.

The trucks return from out of town.

With roars they rush, with fumes they fume,
The postie's peace gives way to gloom.

Speed demons shriek their fury past,
Diverted drivers return at last.
The hedgehogs start, the birds take flight,
The road forgets its gentle light.

Yet still we smile, though briefly blessed, We had a taste of quiet rest. And maybe, now the world's grown loud, We'll dream again beneath that cloud -

Of the Bath Road silent, slow, and kind, Of a moment of peace, a clearer mind.

Mother Goose Childcare Newsletter

BY BECCY CURTIS



Playgroup

Eastington Playgroup Newsletter

BY JENNY WINFIELD

We've had a busy time since the last edition.

At Eastington Primary School:

Over the past two warm months, our little goslings have been embracing the sunny weather with outdoor games, friendship bracelet-making and reading. Suncream and refilling water bottles have been our mantra along with plenty of cooling off in the shade. Friendships have grown stronger through copious amounts of football (until the ball is lost over the fence again - sorry Mr Dougan!), making this a spring to remember for those leaving for secondary school this September!



At Great Oldbury Primary Academy:

We completed a funny sponsored walk around the playground and a sponsored bake making chocolate chip cookies. We also decorated red nose biscuits in aid of

Red Nose Day. The children had great fun doing this and we managed to raise an amazing £282 in total for comic relief across both schools. Well done to all the children who participated and thank you to everyone who donated. We also had Mother's Day



where we designed and made cards using lots of different materials. We also made the special mums a bookmark filled with hearts to give them on the day.

After this came Easter where we took part in many easter activities and crafts. We had an Easter Egg hunt around the playground where the children had to find their counter which were exchanged for an easter egg to take home in the little Easter egg holder that we had made the week before to put them in. We had so much fun!

Mother Goose is a family-run wraparound childcare service for local families. Beccy has been running Mother Goose for Eastington Primary School since 2014, and more recently, Great Oldbury Primary Academy.

beccypeg@hotmail.com Tel: 07854 165418

Another busy term and one full of varied activities to enhance every area of the curriculum.

We read the story of *The Gruffalo*, retelling the story, exploring messy play, making and eating 'Gruffalo' crumble, and making our own Gruffalos out of clay. We made pancakes and enjoyed them for snack with our favourite toppings and dressed up as our favourite book characters.

We have had a great time developing our understanding of the world, watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies to understand life cycles and were so happy when we were able to release them before we broke up for Easter. We have read the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar, made a display around the book using different media and techniques and then enjoyed all the treats the hungry caterpillar ate one day for snack time talking about which are healthy and unhealthy. Yum yum!

We celebrated St. Patrick's day. We used fingerprints to paint rainbows and identify colours, we decorated hats and we had to find green rocks left around the room by 'cheeky leprechauns'. Once found we dropped them in a vinegar solution and watched them fizz and dissolve to reveal a shamrock coin for us to keep, developing our scientific knowledge of why things happen and how they work. We also engaged in some (questionable) Irish dancing, which the children LOVED! We have been enjoying the beautiful weather with lots of outside and water play.





EASTINGTON PLAYGROUP HAS BEEN PROVIDING CARE AND EDUCATION FOR LOCAL FAMILIES SINCE 1998. THE PLAYGROUP IS OPEN ON MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO AND A HALF TO FOUR YEARS.

eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com WWW.EASTINGTONPLAYGROUP.CO.UK Tel: 07977 342742

ISSUE 210



Eastington Primary School Newsletter

Vikings!
BY ZOE AVASTU



William Morris School Newsletter

William Morris pupils take part in Eastington Spring Show

BY ANNA ROWLAND

Class 4 were very lucky to be involved in a hands-on School Experience Day about the Vikings.

Clive the storyteller was a master, who brought our history topic alive with his tales of long ago.

To start the day, we enjoyed an exciting assembly about the Vikings. The sound of The Viking drum and the storyteller's extraordinary costume meant we were all entranced before he even began. Marnie found it strange yet fascinating when she walked into the room, feeling excited and a bit apprehensive about the morning ahead. Eliza loved the banging of the drums, though at first, she was nervous.

We acted out being on board a long boat and discussed why people from those times might have chosen to sail the seas to lands far away. Eoin said, "I enjoyed learning about the different roles on the long boat – I was given the role of a rower, which must have been exhausting for the Vikings, as I found it tiring just pretending." Ethan said, "While we were enacting being on long boats, we were attacked by polar bears, which was exciting and scary at the same time."

With great theatrics, Clive the storyteller enacted stories of the Viking gods. Later, we returned for a workshop with him, where we talked and role-played Viking life in more detail. Sullivan said that it was brilliant being involved in the role play. "My group had to pretend that we were attacked by a kraken, I lost my arm during the attack and so I had

to be thrown overboard due to my injuries!" Bea, "My favourite part of the day was the story about Thor and Loki, because it was full of trickery."

Iris, "Thor thought he was entering a cave, but it was actually a giant's glove."
Rosie, "I loved the fact that Thor didn't know that he drank the sea! This was all trickery."

EASTINGTON PRIMARY IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL LOCATED ON MILLEND LANE IN CHURCHEND.

WWW.EASTINGTONPRIMARY.CO.UK Tel: 01453 822922

All in all, we had a brilliant time.





Six green-fingered pupils from William Morris School were warmly welcomed into the local community when they took part in the Eastington Spring Show for the very first time.

The annual event at the village hall provided a wonderful opportunity for the young gardeners to share their springtime efforts with fellow growers in the area.



As a bonus, a handful of the children's entries were recognised by the judges. Kameron, from Rose Class, took first place in the hyacinth category with his trio of blossoms, while Bobby, from Lark Class, won second prize in the trumpet daffodil class. Brandon (Lark Class) and Cole (Rose Class) were both

highly commended for their tulips, as were Taiani (Rose Class) for her massed daffodils and Oscar (Rose Class) for his single hyacinth. Pupils also entered the Any Other Arts and Crafts section of the show, with colourful pieces inspired by classroom topics such as Food Glorious Food and Movement in Art. The display, created by Seedling and Sapling classes, earned a well-deserved third prize.



Amanda Brown, Horticulture Teacher at William Morris, said taking part in the event had been a wonderful experience. "Our pupils felt really welcomed, and it was lovely for them to be part of something so rooted in the local community. We're already looking ahead to the Eastington Autumn Show. Kameron is hoping to enter some school-grown pumpkins!"

WILLIAM MORRIS SCHOOL IS AN INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL BASED IN EASTINGTON. THE SCHOOL SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS AND ASSOCIATED SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES.

info@william-morris.org.uk
WWW.NOVALIS-TRUST.ORG.UK

14 | EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS | 15

TwoCan Theatre Newsletter

BY LOUISE PARTRIDGE



TwoCan Inclusive Theatre Company has been offering creative activities...

...for people for over eleven years, growing a fantastic team of eleven regular practitioners who deliver a wide range of programmes and weekly sessions. The staff team has more than 265 years of experience between them, and all are passionate about using creativity to develop a sense of self and confidence to find authentic voices. The team comes from a wide range of backgrounds with experience in the arts industry, health care and education.

When the charity moved into Easington it was able to expand its staff, gaining a new team member who sole purpose was to focus on improving the emotional well-being of individuals. TwoCan wanted someone

who could specifically help individuals with their emotional challenges, supporting them in times of stress and anxiety, able to provide comfort and companionship. So, Birdy joined the TwoCan community.

Don't let the name confuse you, Birdy is a Collie/Labrador cross who works two days a week for TwoCan as a therapy dog. She does not perform specific tasks like an assistance dog who have been highly trained to assist their owners in

every day-to-day activity. Instead, she uses her friendly and calm temperament and unconditional affection and companionship to boost mood, reduces loneliness, and increase overall well-being.

You may have seen Birdy out and about in the village, she is usually showing off one of her bright work vests and taking a group on a walk. She loves the occasional trip to the Badger and Lazy Goose and finds the staff there have the same qualities as her; they are non-judgmental and they are great listeners.

TWOCAN IS AN INCLUSIVE THEATRE COMPANY BASED IN EASTINGTON. YOU CAN FOLLOW THEM FOR MORE UPDATES ON FACEBOOK: @TWOCAN INCLUSIVE OR ON THEIR WEBSITE:

WWW.TWOCANTHEATRE.ORG.UK

louise@twocantheatre.org.uk



MONDAYS

Preschool Dance Class

with Amy Addle 9:30am @ Eastington Village Hall

TwoCan Playgroup Session

with TwoCan Inclusive 10:45am @ TwoCan, Alkerton

TUESDAYS

Frampton-On-Severn Toddler Time

with Frampton Toddler Group 9:30am @ Cadbury Hall

Little Feet Toddler & Parent Group

with Church of Christ the King 9:30am @ Pike Lock House, Eastington

WEDNESDAYS

Baby Bounce and Rhyme

with Gloucestershire Libraries 10:30am @ Stonehouse Library

Wellbeing Walking Group

with Sportily 1:30pm @ Great Oldbury Community Centre

Street Dancing Class

with Defined Dance From 4:30pm @The Community Centre, OHMG

TWOCAN TIDDLERS

A supportive, inclusive space:
A session for **everyone** where all needs are catered for!



Mondays 11am-12 noon (Term Time)

Children's Clubs

In and around Eastington

THURSDAYS

Nature Tots

with Wildlife Trust
Monthly, 10:00am @ Coaley Peak

Youth Theatre Club

with TwoCan From 5:00pm @ TwoCan, Alkerton Road

FRIDAYS

Community Sports Cafe

with Sportily 12:15pm @ Great Oldbury Community Centre

Youth Club

with Church of Christ the King 7:00pm @ Eastington Methodist Church

SATURDAYS

Youth Rangers

with Wildlife Trust Monthly, 12:30pm @ Robinswood Hill

Preschool Dance Class

with Amy Addle 9:15am @ Great Oldbury Community Centre

Lego Club

with Gloucestershire Libraries 10:00am @ Dursley Library

Library Littles

with Gloucestershire Libraries 11:00am @ Stonehouse Library

SUNDAYS

Running Club

with Junior Parkrun 9:00am @ Oldends Lane Playing Fields

For further details about these clubs, see online or email us.



Frampton Village Society

BY JOHN NEWTON

"I'm thinking of renting on my own for the first time. It feels like there's so much to think about! What should I be looking out for?"

Most properties available for rent are listed online or with lettings agents.

Renting directly from a landlord might be a bit cheaper before you move in, as they may ask for fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. But you'll have to deal with them directly if any issues arise during the tenancy. Some landlords use a lettings agent to find their tenants and then manage the properties themselves. If an agent is managing the property, then you'll deal with them rather than with the landlord directly, e.g. if you need to get any repairs done.

Never pay any money before you've seen the property as this is a common tactic used by rental fraudsters. If you can, take someone with you when viewing properties for a second opinion. If repairs are being done when you view a property, take photographs and send an email afterwards so you've got a record of the issues and that you were told they'd be sorted before you move in. Things often happen very quickly when trying to find somewhere to rent. Ask the landlord or letting agent the following key questions to make sure properties you're considering are suitable:

• Is the tenancy for a self-contained property or are there are shared facilities?

- · Is it a joint tenancy with other people?
- · How much is the rent? Is it payable monthly or weekly?
- How long is the tenancy for?
- · Are bills included in the rent?
- · Are any appliances or furniture included?
- · Is there a break clause allowing any fixed term to be ended early, if needed?
- · Does the landlord need a guarantor?
- · Is there a tenancy deposit, how much is it, and how will it be protected?

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks. A deposit can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent.

Avoid 'subletting' - renting directly from an existing tenant, as they might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you, which could cause problems later. If a tenant shows you the property on behalf of the landlord, they should give you the landlord's contact details.

If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask.

If you run into problems, you can find information on our website:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call us on 0808 800 5010.

Musical Satire of the 20th Century.

For our March talk we were delighted to welcome back Peter Gill who entertained us a year or so ago with the humour of Noel Coward. On this occasion he took us on a journey through the 20th Century describing how the lyrics of songs were used to reflect current feelings at the time.

Starting with the First World War he reflected on how songs being sung at home in the UK were 'modified' in the trenches. A Long Way to Tipperary became A Long Time to Become Hairy (moustaches) or, more often, a Long Way to Tickle Mary with even more bawdy words to follow! Mademoiselle from Armentières became another song originating from the 1830s which, with rewriting of the lyrics, became risqué during the conflicts. It was explained that, following the wars, the 'art' of wordsmithing to reflect society with the likes of Noel Coward and Cole Porter became popular, amusing and lucrative.

Record companies saw the commercial value and promoted the likes of George Formby cleaning windows, Flanders and Swann having the gas man coming to call and Tom Lehrer poisoning pigeons in the park.

The inclusion of social comment continued well into the second half of the century with Lonnie Donegan's My Old Man's a Dustman and Allan Sherman's Camp Granada.

Further development, it was explained, became a little more sophisticated with

the emergence of a more challenging style presented by Billy Connoly, Victoria Wood and the Monty Python Team. An example of all the genres of the musical satire covered were brilliantly performed by Peter who played and sang the full version of Victoria Wood's Let's Do It and finishing off the evening with a sing along to Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. An evening of beaming smiles and laughter from the audience.

It's understood that Peter Gill may be appearing at Cadbury Hall later in the year so look out for an event not to be missed.

Should you be interested in becoming a member, please contact Kelvin Broad on 01452 740775 - kelvinsbroad@outlook.com.

Remaining Talks for 2025

27th June: A Different View of Our World with Andy Bluett - An interesting view of Planet Earth based on aerial and satellite photography

1st August: Visit Frocester Court

26th September: A Safari Trip to Southern Africa with Sir John Southby

- Exploring the inviting sights of a South African Tour

24th October: AGM & Bill Wood Event 28th November: Super-Bomb with Gareth Williams - How British Scientists created the Manhattan Project

13th December: Christmas Supper



Heart of the Village Report

BY SUE WITHERS

Eastington + Church Roof Appeal

Eastington Church Roof Appeal

BY GILL GLOVER

Wednesday 19th March Theme: Daffodils

This month rather than do a running report I wanted to pass on the feedback we have received from our guests and helpers.

Joanne Z wrote:

"I discovered this amazing Heart of the Village tea party by chance. I received such a warm and genuine welcome by the kind ladies who do so much to bring together people, in the village who otherwise may be on their own, to belong to a community again. Long may it last. Ladies you deserve a big thank you from all of us who attend".

Patricia P wrote:

"Words can have many meanings, for some "The Heart of the Village" could mean the centre, a physical location, where roads meet etc... for me "The Heart of the Village" is far more to do with its people. People with a variety of backgrounds, ages, experiences, hopes and dreams all coming together to

chat, share stories, laughter and tears and of course tea & cake. I believe it is that sense of shared humanity that gives the village its heart".

Phyl V wrote:

"Myself and my sisters originally started coming to catch up with our cousin whom we hadn't seen for some time. Now we come every month and really enjoy it. It's a lovely friendly atmosphere where you can have varied conversations and most importantly a giggle!! Congratulations to the ladies who organise it every month & who serve

us all with tea & cakes which are beautifully laid out on the tables. Which makes it all very welcoming. Many thanks and may it long continue".

Wednesday 16th April Theme: Easter

Another fantastic turnout and a room filled with joy. Once again a big THANK YOU to the kind people that gave up their time to make cakes and donate raffle prizes.

Dates For the Diary:

June 18th	2:00pm - 4:00pm
July 16th	2:00pm - 4:00pm
August 20th	2:00pm - 4:00pm

HEART OF THE VILLAGE IS A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN POP-IN EVENT THAT OCCURS ONCE A MONTH AT THE VILLAGE HALL. LOOK OUT FOR THE TEAPOT CHALKBOARD SIGN ERECTED ON THE RAILINGS OUTSIDE ON THE DAY.

SUE: 07949 548539



What a brilliant start to 2025 for the roof appeal.

A little bit of Paris arrived in Eastington on Friday 21st March when the renowned quartet, Swing from Paris (https://swingfromparis.co.uk) performed in the church to a sellout audience. The wine was nicely chilled due to the



temporarily repurposed font and by the end so was everyone else. They were absolutely amazing, (thank you SFP). What a fantastic event for Eastington and a very hard act to follow.

But there was a close second as on Saturday 29th March we held an entirely different type of event at the church. Eastington based award winning Florist, Lynne Jessett, demonstrated how to make the best use of a small bunch of flowers by adding in some hedgerow greenery. The stupendous floral display was raffled at the end and green was the word of the day for those that didn't

win it! Although some of us were slightly relieved as we were all mentally working out where in our house we would actually put it! Thank you so much Lynne for giving up your time, especially as Sunday 30th March was a very busy day for you. (https://www.lynnejessettfloristry.com)

Prior to receiving this Newsletter, ECRA will have raised more funds by hosting a hospitality event for the Community Land Trusts new development at Home Ground and by running a Car Boot at the OHMG, Eastington Community Centre. Again, thanks to CLT for asking us to host your important 'Digging the first Turf' ceremony and many thanks to the OHMG Committee for letting ECRA have use of the Community Centre at no cost.

Other up and coming events:

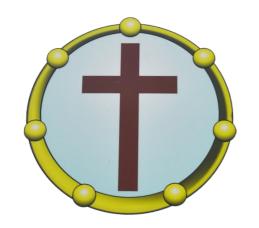
Strawberries and Prosecco afternoon on Saturday 28th June to include musical entertainment and refreshments. Last year it was such a beautiful day, let's hope for the same this year.

History Day on Saturday 4th October during which there will be a series of talks from the Stroud Textile Trust, Stroud Historical Industries and Battlefields of Gloucestershire. Attendees will be able to chat to our experts and enjoy delicious refreshments.

Follow ECRA on facebook:

Eastington Church Roof Appeal – ECRA Project Leader, Mike Naylor: 01453 828682 Fundraiser, Gill Glover: 01453 828782

20 | EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS ISSUE 210 ISSUE 210 EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS | **21**



Church of Christ the King

BY BARBARA LANG

Good news!

The Church of Christ the King @ Pike Lock House is open for events!

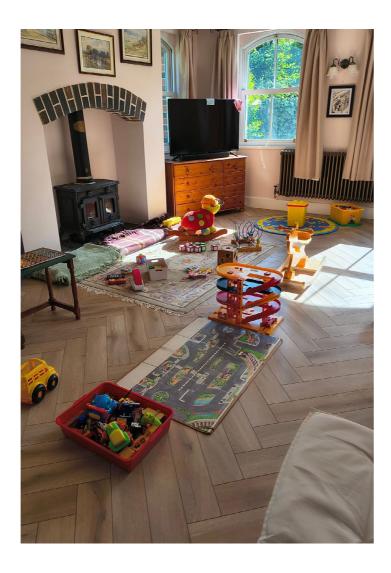
Our first programme to run from the newly altered and refurbished Pike Lock House is the long-awaited re-opening of the Parent and Toddler group organised and run by Beck Burgin. The group now runs on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm in Term-time only at Pike Lock House, GL10

The doors open and there will be tea, coffee and toast provided from 9:30 am to help those dropping off older children at the primary schools. We hope to see you on a Tuesday soon!

Pike Lock House provides a warm and homely atmosphere for people from Eastington, Whitminster and Great Oldbury to relax, meet each other and chat about life. There is a large lounge, kitchen and bathroom area for our Church events here. We know your pre-school children will enjoy visiting us at the *Little Feet Parent* and Toddler Group. Grandparents, great grandparents and carers are also invited!

This is a very exciting step for our Church, and we are looking forward to meeting with you @ Pike Lock House. Please watch this space for more events

For more information about events or general information about the Church, please contact us.



Beck:

01453 827414 or **075111 97265** rebecca.burgin@pikelock.com

Barbara: 07570 401365 minister@coctke.org.uk



Church Services and News

We have returned to our regular pattern of services for June and July with Holy Communion on the 1st and 4th Sundays and a Sunday "Light" service on the 2nd Sunday which is a shorter and less formal service based on a theme aimed at children and a younger congregation.

Our Annual Meeting took place on 13th May when members of the electoral roll and Parochial Church Council elected officers for the forthcoming year and approved the accounts and report for the year ending 31st December 2024. Thanks were recorded to all those who have given so much time in undertaking various tasks for the Church. Particular mention was made of unlocking/ locking the Church, care and maintenance of the Church, running the library and help with weddings.

The bellringers and flower group continue to thrive. One new ringer is making good progress, and three new members of the flower group have joined following a recent flower arranging demonstration. If you would like to get involved with either bellringing or flower arranging, you will be very welcome. Speak to the Churchwarden.

Stroud Food Bank Collection Point

We are grateful for your contributions to our collection point in the Church. This enables us to make regular trips to the Food Bank with donations which are of course vital to enable this valuable work to continue.

St. Michael and All Angels Church

BY MIKE NAYLOR

Ukraine Appeal

Please don't forget the desperate plight of Ukrainians who are affected by the war and will continue to be even if there is an end to hostilities. A list of requisites at the back of the Church will be regularly updated.

Library

The library as always is very popular and we have recently added a bookcase dedicated to children's books.

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.

......

Rev Liz Palin:

tv1stroudwater@gmail.com **Rev Dave Bishop:** tv2stroudwater@gmail.com **Churchwarden Mike Naylor:** mike@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk

22 | EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS ISSUE 210 ISSUE 210 EASTINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS | 23

Down Memory Lane...

Eastington Band of Hope Picnic Party, 1907





Eastington Show, 1935





WI visit to Selsley Herb Farm, no date

No info available - do you recognise anyone?



Thank you to Megan Timbrell for these scans.

ISSUE 210

Jolly Boating Weather

BY STEPHEN MILLS

Boat trips have always been a bit of an adventure for us landlubbers, so if there's an offer, we usually jump at it.

Today, it's possible to enjoy an aquatic dawdling along parts of the restored sections of the Stroudwater Canal that cuts through the village. Once an important route mainly for bringing coal to the many mills and factories strung out along the five valleys, like so many other canals, it's use is now almost entirely for pleasure purposes, and likely to stay that way even once fully reopened.

But trips along the canal are not a new thing, and only a generation or two ago, such an outing was one of the highlights of the year for

school parties, church groups, and so on. As the Stroudwater was a working commercial waterway, pleasure trips were not exactly a regular occurrence, but when they did take place, it was often an excuse to dress up and pack a picnic. Given today's wealth of different 'entertainments' easily available, a boat trip along the canal might seem an unlikely event to get excited about, but in an age when most people rarely strayed far from the village, it was something of a





novelty to be looked forward to and enjoyed.

Of course, there were no trip boats for the general public to travel on. There were a few well-appointed small boats sometimes used by Stroudwater company directors for inspecting their investment, but everyone else was limited to making the best of traveling on a working boat. Sometimes these were traditional narrow boats, or more probably a barge of some sort, or



even an older Severn trow. Whatever the option, it must have required a significant scrubbing out before the trip, especially as the bulk of the canal's freight was coal.

And goodness me, didn't they cram them in! There was no Health & Safety to speak of, so it wasn't unusual for every inch to be taken up. No doubt the odd person fell overboard, but there doesn't seem to be any records of fatalities, at least in our area. The usual itinerary seems to have been a leisurely pace for a few miles, followed by disembarking for water-side refreshments or a picnic and sometimes games, followed by an equally leisurely return journey at the end of the day.

The accompanying photos show the Bristol Road lock on the Stroudwater Canal that eventually disappeared under the A38 roundabout near the current entrance road to Fromebridge Mill – there are few photos of this. The boat is on the section of canal immediately below the lock, showing the

Bristol Road wharf on the right, once an important source of coal for local villages and mills.

Interestingly, during the 1950s, there was a growing interest in the country's waterways. The advent of the Inland Waterways Association, formed in 1946, boosted this, with the aim of campaigning for the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration, and sensitive development of British canals and navigations. The Association began organising boat trips

that allowed members to discover new waterways, many of which were off limits to the public. Such trips gave a glimpse into an otherwise hidden world, a bit like our local Stroudwater trips must have done. It must have been an eye-opener to experience travelling through a lock, under bridges, and perhaps catch a glimpse of commercial boats and their crews at work. But of course, unlike some canals elsewhere, travellers on the Stroudwater had the benefit of our glorious countryside to gaze at as they drifted along!

STEPHEN MILLS HAS LIVED IN EASTINGTON FOR THE PAST 54 YEARS, AND ALMOST SINCE ARRIVING, HE'S BEEN RESEARCHING AND RECORDING THE VILLAGE'S LONG AND INTERESTING HISTORY. STEPHEN'S REAL INTEREST IS IN THE AREA'S RICH INDUSTRIAL PAST; HIS PHD FOCUSED ON THE WOOLLEN CLOTH MILLS OF THE STROUD VALLEYS. HE WORKS FOR PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY AND HE'S ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY.

The Green Bit

Snails, stings and wild things



Are you a snail tapper?

Snails are incredible mollusks. Besides the aesthetically pleasing image that they have accumulated over time with their alienesque retractable eye stalks and portable shell homes, these mucus-surfing marvels help maintain healthy ecosystems by breaking down decaying plant material, thereby recycling nutrients back into the soil. They're nature's tiny compost machines!

Despite their size, some snails have up to 14,000 teeth that they use to scrape the surface of their food. A believable fact when you find your precious vegetation destroyed within one night. Garden snails are also known to be able to sleep for up to three years during droughts, so if you notice a shell that hasn't moved in some time, there is a chance it isn't empty.

But - before you go checking - be warned! When a snail is suddenly lifted from a surface, it can feel pain and potentially injure its mantle. Snails can be injured or even killed if their mantle (the soft part of the body) is pulled away from the shell. So, a warning tap helps prevent this by encouraging the snail to retract and break

suction, making it easier to lift the snail without causing harm.

That being said, in winter when some types of snail hybernate, tapping won't help. If you've ever picked up a snail to the sound of peeling, that is the mucus plug. Once sealed, these membranes dry up and become waterproof, effectively maintaining a suitable environment for the snail while it waits for warmer and/or wetter conditions. Placing the snail in a safe and humid spot will ensure the snail can stay hydrated and reseal itself. The alternative, and maybe best, scenario? We could just leave them be.

30 DAYS WILD!

Get ready to connect with nature like

never before! 30 Days Wild is The

Wildlife Trusts' annual challenge,

inviting you to do something wild

Have you seen this insect highlighted in the square

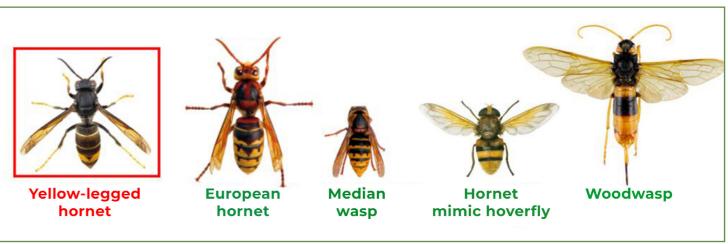
above?

It is the yellow-legged hornet - a highly aggressive predator of native insects and a serious threat to honey bees and other vital pollinators.

Originally from Asia, this invasive nonnative species was accidentally introduced to France in 2004. Since then, it has spread rapidly across Europe, with confirmed UK sightings since 2016. This hornet can be

...there are countless ways to make nature part of your daily routine. Every action counts! Along the way, you'll boost your wellbeing, help local wildlife and make a real difference for the planet.

FIND OUT MORE HERE:



identified by its entirey dark body and yellow tipped legs, distinct from our native hornets that are usually more brown/orange with dark legs.

Keep an eye out around: Flowering plants, beehives, rotting or fermenting fruit, proteinrich foods and street markets. They're typically active from February to November across England and Wales.

These hornets can devastate local insect populations and pose a real risk to pollinators, especially honey bees, so it is necessary to report sightings immediately. This insect stings, so do not distrub an active nest. Take care when taking a photo. You can report it via:

App: Asian Hornet Watch Online: **nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet** Email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

.....

Find out more here and report a sighting: (this is a code can be scanned via a phone camera)



every day throughout June. Whether it's planting wildflowers for bees, listening to birdsong, or simply pausing WWW.WILDLIFETRUSTS.ORG to watch the clouds... /30DAYSWILD

ENVIRONMENT

Eastington Community Speedwatch

Volunteer for a safer village

Eastington Wombles Litter Picking

Volunteer for a cleaner village



The Eastington Community Speedwatch group (CSW) would like to highlight to residents that we operate independently of the Parish Council's speed camera on Bath Road.

Eastington has two Speedwatch groups. The parish council group processes data produced by the camera on Bath Road (CSW+). The second group is run by three local volunteers who collect data via a handheld speed gun (CSW). Both initiatives work in direct partnership with the police, where data is combined to create an accurate account of road safety in Eastington. This is considered the ideal set up; evidence suggests that the best results come from parishes where CSW and CSW+ are being operated simultaneously.

Unlike the fixed yellow 'Gatso' enforcement cameras, this initiative, provided by the police since the 1980s, is focused on prevention rather than punishment. For

the resident-run CSW group, volunteers use a handheld speed gun to regularly record vehicles exceeding the speed limit, who then receive a warning letter. As the data is recorded manually, monitoring can take place anywhere in the village and at times to suit all volunteers, making the monitoring both flexible and random and therefore more reflective of drivers' behavour.

Research has shown that where volunteers are seen on the side of the road as part of this scheme, the number of drivers receiving second letters is reduced to 5%, indicating that the vast majority of drivers react positively to the group's presence and amend their speeds accordingly. For those receiving further letters, escalation occurs.

Both groups are looking for more volunteers. Full training is provided (and simple to follow) and volunteer time kept to a minimum.

To join the resident-led CSW group email: **eventscommittee@eastington.website**To join the parish council CSW+ group email: **karen.linforth@eastington-pc.gov.uk**



Every piece of litter picked up makes a difference.

Whether you've got five spare minutes or you're joining a full-scale community cleanup, your effort counts. We can all do our bit - a little more "Womble" goes a long way!

Littering doesn't just spoil the view - it harms our environment. Wildlife can get trapped in discarded rubbish or mistake plastic for food. Litter also pollutes water sources and creates spaces that feel neglected and unwelcoming.

A clean environment benefits everyone. It lifts our spirits, encourages pride in our community and sets a positive example - especially for children. When young people see how easy it is to make a difference, it starts a ripple effect

that inspires others to care too.

Join Us!

Community litter picks take place on the last Sunday of each month, and everyone is welcome. Please come wearing hi-vis and bring a picker.

Upcoming Litter Pick Dates

29th June

27th July

31st August

Keep an eye out for extra sessions throughout the year. Timings and meeting places can be found on our facebook group: *Eastington Wombles*. Let's work together to keep Eastington clean, green, and a place we're proud to call home.



Smart watering strategies for Summer

As summer settles in and the days get longer (and warmer), keeping your garden watered becomes essential but that doesn't have to mean drenching everything with a hose!



1. Water Early or Late

The best time to water is early in the morning or late evening, when it's cooler. This gives your plants time to absorb moisture before the sun evaporates it.

2. Target the Roots

Skip the leaves and water directly at the base of your plants so the roots can soak it up where they need it most.

3. Irrigation

Drip irrigation systems are brilliant for slow, efficient watering. They deliver moisture right to the roots and reduce waste.

4. Reuse What You Can

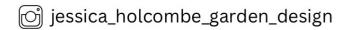
Save water from the kitchen e.g leftover cool veggie cooking water or rainwater from a butt.

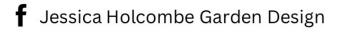
6. Know Your Plants

Not all plants need the same amount of water, and targeting your effort in the right place will make a difference. E.g Mediterranean herbs like rosemary or lavender prefer drier conditions, overwatering can do more harm than good.



jess@jhgardendesign.co.uk









Make a difference in your local community - become a volunteer with Citizens Advice

We are currently looking for **Admin & Triage Volunteers** to join our team.
You must be computer literate, but we provide full training for the role.
You'll be a friendly face, greeting callers at the door of our Stroud office, Cirencester office or our Dursley outreach at the library. You will triage callers without an appointment – identifying emergencies and signposting to other agencies when appropriate.
Alongside this you will carry out a range of administrative tasks supporting our frontline advisers, like communicating with clients over telephone or email, and handling inward and outbound post.

You will also be trained once you are familiar with the tasks above to answer our freephone helpline to clients (this does not involve giving advice).

We ask that you can regularly volunteer **6-8 hours per week** with us and can commit to a period of at least **6 months**.

To find out more and apply, visit: https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/volunteering/

Or email us at: info@ca-scd.org.uk





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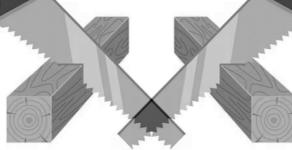
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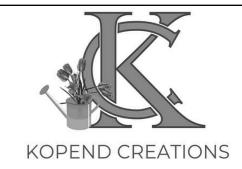
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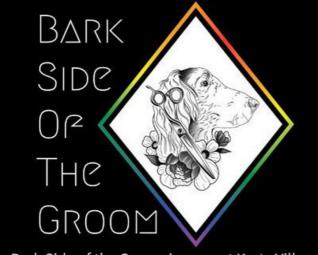
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Village Diary

JUNE

2nd June, 7:30pm Every Monday

Board Games Night

@ The Badger

3rd June, 7:00pm

Quiz Night with Royal British Legion

@ The Wool Pack, Stonehouse

5th June, 10:00am Every Thursday

Coffee, Bingo & Chat

@ Eastington Village Hall

5th June, 7:30pm **Bingo Night**

@ The Badger

6th June, 9:30am Every Friday

Craft & Chat

@ Eastington Village Hall

11th June, 7:00am - 10:00pm

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Local By-election

@ Eastington Village Hall

12th June, 7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting

@ Eastington Village Hall

15th June, 4:00pm

Father's Day: Dadfest

@ The Badger

18th June, 2:00pm

Heart of the Village Pop-in

@ Eastington Village Hall

19th June, 7:30pm

Quiz Night

@ The Badger

22nd June, 4:00pm Live Music: Sam Eason

@ The Badger

28th June, 2:00pm

ECRA Strawberry Extravaganza

@St Michael & All Angel's

29th June, 10:00am

Wombles Litter Pick

@ TBD

29th June, 12:00pm

Summer Fete & Duck Races

@ Eastington Primary School

29th June, 4:00pm

Live Music: Jon Fisher

@ The Badger

30th June - 13th July

Live: Wimbledon

@ The Badger

JULY

10th July 7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting

@ Eastington Village Hall

10th July, 7:30pm

Bingo Night

@ The Badger

13th July, 4:00pm

Live Music: Whiteshillbillies

@ The Badger

14th July, 11:59pm

Issue 211 Submission Deadline

16th July, 2:00pm

Heart of the Village Pop-in

@ Eastington Village Hall

19th July, 12:00pm

Frampton Sheep & Pony Racing 2025

@ Stocklands, Perry Way

20th July, 4:00pm

Live Music: Fabba Mania

@ The Badger

21st July

Summer Holidays Begin

@ Eastington Primary School

24th July, 7:30pm

Quiz Night

@ The Badger

26th July, 11:00am

Greenways Family Day

@ Stroud Green Farm

27th July, 10:00am

Wombles Litter Pick

@ TBD

27th July, 4:00pm

Live Music: Monterey Jack

@ The Badger

For further details about these events, see online or email us. If you would like to add an event in the next issue, please email: articles@eastington.website.