



Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownhill Newsletter

Welcome to the October issue of the newsletter.

This is YOUR newsletter and everyone in Eastcombe, Bussage or Brownhill is welcome to submit a contribution—we will do our best to include as many as possible. Please send your news, updates and photos to eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com by noon on the 20th of each month.

You can read the newsletter online at www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/ and www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/. You can also opt to receive the newsletter FREE by email: if you would like it delivered direct to your inbox each month, please contact eastcombebandedbnews@gmail.com to be added to the circulation list.

Printed copies of the newsletter are available to buy at 60p per copy (to cover printing costs) from Eastcombe Post Office, The Lamb Inn, The Ram Inn and Chalford Parish Centre.

We hope you enjoy the October issue.

No More Disappointments!

Don't miss the debut novel from Brownhill author, Sarah Edghill: *A Thousand Tiny Disappointments!*

A Thousand Tiny Disappointments is about a woman whose mother dies unexpectedly, leaving her home to a stranger,' says Sarah.

'Martha is left facing the ultimate moral dilemma: should she carry out her mother's last wishes, or destroy the evidence so that no one will ever know?' It is a theme that has been in the news recently, with James Bond actor, Daniel Craig, insisting he won't feel obliged to leave his fortune to his children.

'Martha's arrogant brother believes inheritance is his right,' says Sarah. 'But she is less certain and struggles to deal with her own grief, as well as feelings of resentment and incomprehension at her mother's actions.'

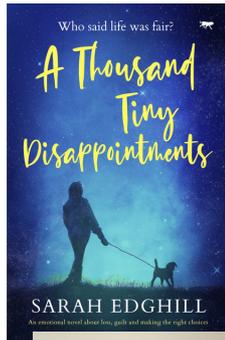
Sarah came up with the idea for the book at the start of last year and finished writing it during the first lockdown. 'In some ways, the timing was ideal,' she says. 'We were being told to stay at home and keep away from friends and family and the isolation and loneliness was hard. But as a writer, I felt lucky to be able to take myself off for hours on end and lose myself in this imaginary world I'd created.'

Sarah worked for many years as a journalist, before turning her hand to fiction. She and her husband Mat moved to Chalford Hill in 1997, but, for the last 20 years, they have lived in Brownhill with their three children, Sam, Maddy and Jess.

'The Stroud Valleys are full of so many creative people,' she says. 'Artists, sculptors, writers, musicians. It's an inspiring place and there is so much talent wherever you go. I can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else.'

A Thousand Tiny Disappointments is published by Bloodhound Books and available through Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk/Thousand-Tiny-Disappointments-Sarah-Edghill-ebook/dp/B09D98XVMC/ref=sr_1_1?child=1&geniuslink=true) and local bookshops.

Sarah will also be appearing at Stroud Book Festival in November.

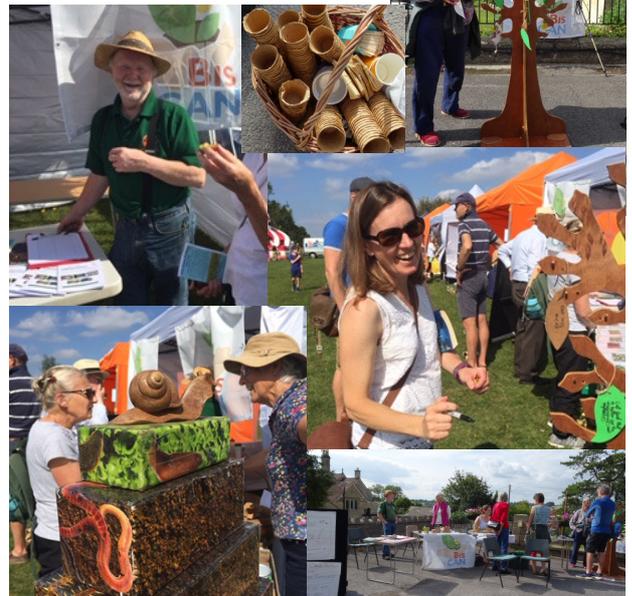


BisCAN Get Busy!

Members of the Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge Climate Action Group have been getting out and about, meeting the public.



A stall at Bisley Fete at the end of August, another at Oakridge Fete in the first week of September and the Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show on 11th September all gave the chance to chat to visitors, some of whom made pledges detailing the small but vital changes they were prepared to make to help nature recovery.



For more details and news of upcoming events, see page 2, our website: www.biscan.info or our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/973630170157770

To get in touch, email bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com or call Martin Brown on 01452 770878 or Lesley Greene on 01452 770018.

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council News:

<https://bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/> Parish Clerk: 01452 771089/email admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – UPDATE

THE STEERING GROUP OF THE NDP ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS interested in getting involved with the development of this important local plan.

We are planning a series of Focus Groups in November, covering 5 topic areas. We will meet for 4 sessions (each about 1½-2 hours) where we welcome ANY resident with an interest to get involved and help to develop draft policies for YOUR NDP.

The topics are:

- Housing – Tony Martin tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov
- Nature and Wildlife – Lesley Green - lesley.greene@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov
- Energy and Employment – Roger Budgeon - roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk
- Communications and Transport – Martin Brown - martinandrewbrown59@gmail.com
- Landscape and Environment – Jenny Exley - jenexley36@gmail.com

Please email the relevant person to let them know that you would like to be included. For more information about the NDP, visit: www.bisleyeastcombeoakridge-ndp2030.org.uk/

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be held on **October 6th** with agenda details posted on parish notice boards and the parish website a few days in advance.

The People's Patch



In autumn 2019 a small group in Eastcombe and Bussage decided it would be good to start up a community allotment in our area. The idea was to create a welcoming garden space where people could meet and chat while growing fruit and veg. We were delighted to rent a plot

from Chalford Parish Council and began plans for our newly named 'People's Patch'.

Starting a project, let alone a community based one, during lockdown was challenging! However, we cleared our plot and, abiding by all the appropriate Covid restrictions, managed to plant some fruit and veg, with limited success and very welcome support from other allotment tenants.

This year, we have begun to tidy our plot and to grow a wider variety of produce including: potatoes, strawberries, beans, courgettes, squashes, brassicas, chard and parsnips.

It is our aim to be able to welcome anyone who would like to do some gardening, but doesn't feel able to take on the responsibility of managing their own allotment. We aim to offer people the chance to meet others with a shared interest in growing and building relationships



within the community. We want to be as inclusive as possible and hope to create spaces for everyone, whether they have any green fingered expertise or not!

At present we are seeking practical help from the community to clear more areas on the plot and help tidy

and edge the allotment.

We hope to have a couple of working parties in October or November and would be delighted if you could lend a hand for a few hours.

If you would be interested in helping over the next couple of months or possibly joining us next spring for the new growing season, please contact us via sissonsscott@gmail.com.

BisCAN (Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network)



Many visitors to the recent BisCAN events pledged the small changes they would make to reduce their carbon footprint.

These included promises to:

- Plant an orchard or copse.
- Encourage ChalCAN to set up a community composting scheme
- Walk to the shop
- Continue to shop British and recycle all I can
- Travel by rail rather than air
- Replace lights with LEDs
- Be more organised so as to use less petrol
- Holiday in the UK
- Share my car/motor home

Upcoming BisCAN Events:



Home Energy Evening

Saturday 16th October
7–9pm

Eastcombe Village Hall

Presentations & advice from:

Kevin Sweeney (Eco Engineering)
Roger Budgeon (Green Shop, Bisley)
Paul Sheridan (Severn Wye)

- **Opportunities for Q&A**
- **Refreshments provided**

Find out how to make YOUR home more energy-efficient

ORGANISED BY
BisCAN



BISLEY, EASTCOMBE & OAKRIDGE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021:

01453 887204 or info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook.

Councillors – we have not one but three new councillors: **Emily Mayo** will represent the Hill Ward. Emily has lived in France Lynch for 5 years and runs a cattery and doggy day care facility. She is particularly interested in the environment and is our youngest member of the Council. **Andrew Morris-Wyatt** will represent our Valley Ward. Andrew was born and brought up in the area, moving to London for his work. He returned to the area in 2013 and lives on Marle Hill. Andrew's interests lie in planning and environment. **David Wright** joins us as a Bussage Ward Councillor. David is retired and has a background in the power industry. He has the expertise to assist with our plans for the provision of EV charging and to make the Parish Centre more environmentally sound.

We still have **2 further vacancies** in the **Bussage Ward**. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

Trees – there are still a number of ash trees in Frith Wood which have suspected ash dieback. Our Arboriculturist will inspect the trees soon to determine whether they need to be felled.

Grass cutting – we are currently considering our mowing schedule/regime for 2022 and where we can possibly reduce the number of cuts in areas without obstructing sight lines. Public land in our parish is split between three bodies: Parish, District and County. We may take on the maintenance of some of the District responsibilities but it is early days and we need to consider our resources.

Silver Street Car Park – we have decided to accept an offer from Stroud District Council for the transfer of this car park to Chalford Parish Council. A small group will be considering the fairest way in which the car park can be managed for the benefit of residents in the area.

Chalk Wood - There are 11 social housing dwellings at this Middle Hill development and these are allocated by Homeseekers, controlled by District Councils within Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. There are 180 people in Homeseekers that want to live in Chalford. The agreement between the developer and the District Council states that when the homes go onto the market (sometime later this year) the first month will be for people with a strong connection to our parish. If properties are still available after this, people in Brimscombe and Thrupp, Bisley and Minchinhampton will be considered during the second month and from the third month, people in the Stroud District area will be considered. The three bandings (gold, silver and bronze) for allocation of housing are dispensed with and the council will check each individual application to ensure the local connection criteria is met.

Playing field accessibility - Chalford Parish Council and its Footpath Group plan to improve, where possible, the entrances to its playing fields, so that wheelchairs and mobility scooters can access. This will be done by widening the existing entrances, whilst making sure there are effective barriers to stop children running out onto roads.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting? - Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 7 October at 7.00 pm. Please contact the Clerk beforehand if you would like to attend using the contact details above, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time for your issue on the agenda.

Frith Wood Tree of Thanks

Frith Wood Bussage has meant so much to so many through Covid 19.

On **Saturday 16th October** the community is invited to come together to decorate a beech tree with memories and messages of thanks.

This is to celebrate the wood and to remember people and things important to us as we emerge from Covid.

On the day we will also launch a new charity, the **Friends of Frith Wood**, set up to look after the Parish Council's part of the wood into the future.

Everyone is invited to add a small decoration or message to the tree. There will be music, cake and games!

To find out more, go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/992424204824783 or ring Sophie on 07973 529603.



ChalCAN Update:



ChalCAN is running a full programme of events linked to national **Great**

Big Green Week (18th-26th Sept) and **COP26** (31st Oct-12th November). Come along and get involved! Check our website: www.chalcan.org.uk/ or Facebook page for details.

Find out more about installing solar panels on your home, including a possible local bulk purchase scheme. France Lynch Church Rooms, Thursday 7th October 7.30-9.30 pm

What role can wind energy play in meeting energy needs locally? Find out on Thursday 14th October 7.30-9.30pm, Methodist Chapel, Midway, Chalford Hill

Friends of Frith Wood: family fun on Saturday 16th October 10.30-12.30pm.

Enjoy a great local walk without leaving the area! ChalCAN has mapped some great walks, available on our website as printable pdfs. You can also download the routes to your phone.

Hedgehog Highways: Hedgehogs are in decline and need our help. With recent sightings around Frith Wood, Chalford Biodiversity Action are launching a campaign to encourage householders to make holes in fences to link gardens, leave leaf piles and wild areas, and to take care if lighting bonfires and strimming. Watch out for posters or visit www.hedgehogstreet.org/ for further information.

To find out more or get involved, see our latest newsletter, visit our website or Facebook page or contact Penny info@chalcan.org.uk.

Eastcombe Baptist Church

Services are held every Sunday morning at 10:30am at the Baptist church in Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe.

Painting Workshops

John Bailey will be offering Watercolour Painting Workshops at his studio in Oakridge on Wednesday mornings, 9.30-12.30, starting in October.

The sessions will be suitable both for beginners and people wanting to improve their painting skills. Cost: £40 for 5 sessions.

Please contact John if interested: 01285 760659 or email johnbailey@yahoo.co.uk.



St Augustine of Canterbury, Eastcombe & St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Our October services will continue to be held in person and visitors are always welcome.

Services confirmed at time of going to press are:

Oct 10th: Bussage (Holy Communion) 9.30am

Oct 17th: Bussage (Morning Prayer*) 9.30am

*Morning Prayer is a simpler & shorter service.

On the other Sundays there will be services in different parts of the Benefice.

Weddings, Funerals and baptisms are now able to go ahead as normal.

For full details, why not sign up to our mailing list?

Email: pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com or Revd Sue Murray vicar@bisleybenefice.org.uk

Eastcombe Primary School

... are holding a Bag2school collection on Monday 4th October.

Bag2school is a company that specialises in good quality, reusable 2nd hand clothing, which they collect from schools & other organisations in return for a fee, helping to generate funds for the school. The more they collect on the day (decided by weight), the more money is generated for the school. Find out more by visiting their website www.bag2school.com.

To collect as much as possible and raise the maximum amount possible for our school, **we are asking for your donations of good quality adults or children's clothing:** paired shoes, hats, belts, scarves, socks and handbags. **You can also donate soft toys and household linen** such as curtains, towels, bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers.

Bag2school DO NOT accept: duvets, pillows or cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bathroom mats), soiled or ripped clothing, school uniforms or corporate work wear, textile off cuts or yarn.

Please place your donation in large bags or bin bags and **deliver them to our school playground (please drop bags over the wall) on the morning of Monday 4th October between the hours of 7:45am - 8:45am.** Due to Covid restrictions and a lack of storage space at the school, **please do not deliver before the day if at all possible.** However, if you are unable to deliver on the day and wish to donate, please contact the school on 01452 770227.

Thank you for your help!



Frith Community Café

The Community Café, held every Wednesday morning from 10.15am at Frith Youth Centre, Brownshill, is once again thriving and very popular. Come and join us any time for a coffee, cake and chat - we will make you welcome.

With Covid precautions in mind, please bring a mask to wear when standing up.

We are planning to hold our popular Christmas Fayre at the Cafe on Wednesday 10th November. This will be confirmed 2 weeks before the event. Renia will be contacting our regular stallholders.

We donate profits to The Frith Youth Centre via Chalford Parish Council for use by the Youth Team, to help their work with local young people.

The Cafe is so popular that I could do with some more wonderful volunteers to help run it. This involves helping every 7 weeks or so, setting up the Cafe and serving with another volunteer and maybe making a cake or biscuits.

The volunteers have formed a very friendly band and it is a good way to meet people—all welcome. If you can help, please contact me, Carol Lambert, on 01453 884584.



Bussage Primary School: September 2021

It has been an exciting start to our Autumn 2021 term as the children start their new themes.

Rainbows are exploring a theme called "Into the Woods", while Years 1 & 2 will learn "All About Me".

Years 3 & 4 are learning about water in their theme "H2O" and will be visiting the Waterways Museum and going on a boat, as well as having a live stream assembly from Severn Trent.

Years 5 & 6 theme is "Evacuate, Evacuate", centred around World War 2, and have already been on a railway trip as evacuees!

Visit www.bussageprimaryschool.co.uk/ and the class blogs for updates.

If you are new to the area or have a child who will be starting school soon, we would love to show you around our school, please contact the school for more details. We currently have spaces in our Rainbow Class.

You can contact the school on 01453 883 205.

Eastcombe WI:

Eastcombe WI will be hosting a **Soup Lunch and Craft Stalls on Saturday 23rd October** 12.30-2.30pm at the Scout & Guide Headquarters, Eastcombe. £6 Adults £3 Children.

There will be three choices of soup, with bread & butter. Proceeds will go to Stroud Women's Refuge, The British Legion and Longfield.

Eastcombe WI are a friendly group who enjoy friendships, speakers and outings. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Eastcombe Village Hall, at 7.15pm, with most meetings open to visitors for a small fee.

For further information please contact the Secretary - Margery Lambert - on 01453 886697.

The National Garden Scheme

Spring is just around the corner!



Even as summer slips away into the mellow fruit-fullness of Autumn, members of Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownhill National Garden Scheme (NGS) are already thinking about May 2022 and their annual Open Garden event. Each year a group of keen local gardeners throw open their garden gates and invite visitors to step inside to see the normally hidden treasures to raise money for national & local charities.

We already have a dozen or so gardens lined up for this spectacular event but, we are always on the look out for new gardens willing to open their gates for the NGS, especially in Brownhill, which is currently under represented in the group. You don't need rolling acres of manicured lawn and orangeries, just a well planted, interesting or quirky garden that you would like others to enjoy.

If you can help, please contact glen.beswetherick@btinternet.com

Visiting Gardens...

Due to Covid, members of the Hilltop Gardening Club have had to find new ways of enjoying gardens this last year: by Zoom, visiting the gardens of local members, with tea, and, more recently, using our own cars to visit larger gardens by appointment. Recent gardens visited include Conderton Manor Gardens – a sheer delight - and Brockworth Court gardens and house. Our coach trip to Waterperry was also well attended in July - an educational experience, especially the trial planting beds.

Our latest visit by coach was to Kiftsgate Court Gardens in Chipping Campden, in July and we were blessed with sunny weather. The backcloth of a stunning stone mansion provided a wonderful ambience, and, with numbers limited to pre-booked tickets, we never felt crowded.

The vistas from the top of the hill were extensive. Most individual garden 'rooms' at Kiftsgate are on level ground and the more intrepid climbed down a steep rocky path to a lawn with a reflective half-moon pool overlooking dense forests and distant views.

The colour and texture combinations were inspirational. Gardens for different seasons included the sensual white and silver sunken courtyard, and a border of bright yellows and orange. Although the roses were over, including the famous tree rose 'Kiftsgate' for which the gardens are known, we were able to still revel in the variety of ferns, orchard fruits, and unexpected use of plants.

The gardens evolved from the beginning of the 20th century under the influence of Heather Muir, influenced by her friend Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote, a neighbouring garden. Heather's successor opened the gardens to the public and now Anne Chambers, the third plantswoman and an incredibly knowledgeable designer and gardener with an eye for colour, has continued the earlier themes with varied plants choices. Of course, as usual we brought back special plants from their extensive sales area.

Coming up: a visit to Sezincote and Batsford Arboretum on 5 October for the autumn colours! Visit www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk/ for more details.

Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show

The Hilltop Gardening Club's Autumn Show was held on September 11th at Eastcombe Village Hall.

After the cancellation of last year's event due to Covid, we were pleased to have 258 class entries from 37 entrants—more entries than in 2019.

This year there were several new aspects to the show. A special award of a David Austin voucher for the best specimen rose was kindly donated by Mark Abbott in memory of his mother Peggy Abbott, who was a valued member of the club. There were also cash prizes in the children's classes, although the number of entries in these was disappointing.

The prizes were presented by district councillor Martin Brown and congratulations go to the following people:

- Dave Collins Plate for most points in Show: Esme Ridge, the youngest ever winner of this prize.
- Phyllis Gaston Trophy for 2nd highest points in Show: Robert Bryant.
- Mr. Fothergill's Seed Cup for most points in Fruit/Vegetable Classes: Phoebe Luckyn-Malone.
- Jim Page Trophy for most points in Flowers/Pot Plants Classes: Esme Ridge.
- Wrenn Trophy for most points in Home Produce Classes: Janet Gaskell.
- Cotswold Trophy for photography was shared between Heather Collins and Andrew Fraser.
- The children's award went to Isla Khokhar and the David Austin voucher for the best specimen rose to Robert Bryant.

Outside the hall, BISCAN manned stalls to promote awareness of climate change and local ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Plants were also on sale.

Thank you to all who entered, the judges, and those who helped to set up and clear the hall.



Judges Colin & Rosemary Smith (Vegetables and Flower Classes)



District Council Notes from Councillor Martin Brown

01452 770878

cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

New Council Plan: A new 5 year Plan, currently going through committees, aims to enact the goals of SDC's ambitious 2030 Carbon Neutral commitment for the District. Read the draft plan here: <https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1015/Item%205%20-%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Draft%20Council%20Plan.pdf>.

Brimscombe Port: With demolition beginning in October, remaining tenants will leave the site by the end of September. The Grace Network has found a new site at nearby Brimscombe Mills and SDC have been providing support to them and to Rush, in partnership with Active Gloucestershire, Friends of Rush and the local MP: <https://wecanmove.net/blog/new-home-rush-skatepark>

Sports Kit Donations: As children return to school, the BBC's 'Kit out the Nation' campaign, running until 2nd October, is collecting outgrown sports kit with the aim of redistributing it to children who need it. Items can be dropped off at Stratford Park Leisure Centre.

Noise Abatement Notice:

A Stroud resident was recently served with a Noise Abatement Notice due to the playing of amplified music at high volumes, regularly and unreasonably disturbing neighbours. When he failed to comply, he was taken to court and fined £5735, reduced on appeal to £1,000 with a £100 victim surcharge and a £500 contribution towards costs. Report noise nuisance to: www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-noise-nuisance

Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill: Stroud District Council supports the Bill for a new law to protect the future of life on earth, one of 82 councils across the country to do so. Designed to reverse climate and ecological breakdown, it requires the UK to take responsibility for its share of greenhouse gas emissions, to actively restore bio diverse habitats, and to stop damaging our natural world through the production, transportation and disposal of goods. It has the support of 110 MPs across 8 political parties in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. You can also join the campaign as an individual: www.ceebill.uk/join_the_campaign

FANCY PLAYING NETBALL?

A group of keen amateur netballers play in the sports hall at Thomas Keble every Thursday night from 8-9pm & would love to hear from new players.

The standard is good, so not for beginners, but if you played and loved netball at school (even if that was years ago), come along for a free trial session and see how you get on. All welcome, from 14 upwards.

Please call or text Sarah on 07778 793993 for more information.



Great Footpath News!

The Footpath Group have secured funding from the Ramblers Association and Stroud Rotary to renovate one of the paths between Eastcombe and Bisley.

Work will start in October to tackle the path from the bottom of Fidges Lane up to the Copsegrove fields, installing steps and hand rail at the bottom and a new kissing gate at the top to replace the dilapidated stiles.

New volunteers are always welcome to join our friendly group on a regular or occasional basis. We usually meet on a WEDNESDAY or FRIDAY MORNING 10am-12pm.

If you would like know more, email Scott on sissonsscott@gmail.com or text 07547 485926.



SCREEN ON THE GREEN

All welcome at Eastcombe Village Hall for an uplifting film, shown on our bright, wide screen.

Dream Horse (2021) – Drama

Starring: Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Joanna Page
Director: Euros Lyn

The true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely race horse bred by small town bartender, Jan Vokes. With little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream to compete alongside the racing elite. Their investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks and becomes a beacon of hope for their struggling community.



Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall
Date: Saturday 30th October 2021
Time: Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm
Admission: £3.50 per person

Selection of Ice Creams £1.50 each

October Nature Notes

With autumn well underway, shortening days bring colder nights and the possibility of frost. Towards the end of the month, the hour goes back, signalling the end of British Summer Time.



Although autumn is traditionally a time to tidy the garden, adopting a more natural approach can really help wildlife through autumn and winter.

Shelter is important, whether it be piles of leaves or logs, a compost heap or an area of long grass left uncut for the winter. Dense shrubs provide shelter for small mammals such as voles and hedgehogs, while ivy is a valuable source of nectar for butterflies such as brimstone or peacock which spend the winter as adult insects. Allowing vegetation to die back naturally and leaving the soil undisturbed will also protect huge numbers of invertebrate larvae, including those of the large hawk-moths, while a pile of damp stones could accommodate beetles, spiders, toads or newts.

Feeding the birds will help them (and give you something to watch), and leaving seed heads on thistles and sunflowers also provides for the birds through the coldest months.

There are still berries in the hedgerows, but the leaves of deciduous trees are changing colour and fungi appearing in the fields. Summer birds have migrated south, but winter visitors now arrive, including flocks of redwings and fieldfares, Bewick's swans and starlings, the latter a distinctive feature of the colder skies with their startling in-flight displays, called murmurations.

October is also a good time to look ahead, planting spring bulbs and planning borders for next summer.



CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER!

Carol's recipe for October is:

PASTA CARBONARA WITH BACON, COURGETTES & PEAS

This is really quick and easy. All done in 20 minutes. Serves 2

INGREDIENTS:

- 180g fresh tagliatelle pasta
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 5 rashers of smoked back bacon
- 1 large courgette
- 75g frozen peas
- 50g parmesan cheese (grated)
- 4 tablespoons double cream
- Juice of half a lemon
- Black pepper to taste



METHOD:

1. Set a large pan of water to boil for the pasta.
2. Heat olive oil in a large frying pan. Cut bacon into bite sized pieces and add to pan.
3. Cut courgette in half lengthways, slice into half moons and add.
4. Fry for a few minutes until the bacon and courgettes brown. Reduce heat but keep warm.
5. Add the pasta to the boiling water. Boil for 5 minutes or until cooked, adding peas at the last minute. Drain and return to pan.
6. Add courgettes, bacon and half the grated parmesan to the pasta.
7. Stir in cream, lemon juice and black pepper.
8. Serve, sprinkling the remaining Parmesan cheese over. Enjoy!

Biodiversity Update:

September saw members of BisCAN checking on the trees planted in Hodge's Field, Eastcombe, at Easter, to encourage biodiversity (photo, right, from May issue).

The trees are growing slowly and will need care as they establish, especially with lots of other plants competing for space.

Volunteers painstakingly cleared around each sapling, making some interesting discoveries as they did so— including a rather surprised elephant hawk moth caterpillar!



Who's Who on the Hilltop? We asked Christine Prince, Clerk to Chalford Parish Council...

My childhood was spent in the idyllic south Devon seaside village of Shaldon, where my mother ran the local pub. I return often to visit relatives. Next stop was Marlow, Buckinghamshire, where I began a career in Human Resources with the Lovell Group of companies.

I met my partner, Gordon, in Marlow and we settled in the village of Monks Risborough, where our son, Andrew, was born. How did we end up in Chalford? A bit of a fluke, really. Gordon was asked to relocate to near to the M5, north of Bristol. After looking at The Malverns and nearby areas, we were drawn towards Stroud and after many weekends house hunting, decided on Chalford. That was in 1997 and I have now lived in Chalford longer than anywhere else.

When we first moved here, I did some lecturing at Stroud College and, later, assisted Jenny Taylor, the Clerk to Chalford Parish Council. When Jenny retired, I took on the role of Clerk, an extremely busy, varied but enjoyable job. With the assistance of my colleague, Kate, we manage the Chalford Parish Centre on a daily basis. With 15 councillors, we have our hands full with meetings, communications and trying our best to service the needs of our residents.

I also volunteer as Treasurer for Eastcombe Village Hall—I enjoy working with figures. 2020 and 2021 were both quiet for obvious reasons, but bookings are now picking up. It's great to see organisations returning to the hall again.

My escapes are numerous; I love the fresh air and take every opportunity to walk or to work on my allotment; Chalford is the perfect place for these interests. I am an avid reader and must have one or two (or possibly more) books on the go at once. Ancestry is another of my interests and I can lose myself in that for hours. I enjoy going to concerts and the theatre with friends and have been trying for a few years to play the keyboard again, but finding the time can be difficult!

Wedding Hats: Alan Postlethwaite recalls some of his long distance walks:

I once wandered down past the Baptist church to Toadsmoor Pond, then over the Lypiatt ridge and down the Horns valley into Stroud for a bus home. I continued the walk by following the Stroudwater canal to where it once met the Severn at Framilode.

Later, I turned right to follow the Severn Way to Ironbridge, then up past Telford to pick up the Shropshire Union Canal to Chester, then the Dee estuary and round the Wirral to Birkenhead. I took a bus through the Mersey tunnel into Liverpool to walk through the docks and up the great sandy beaches past Formby to Southport where I caught trains home via Wigan.

On another occasion, I walked down to the Dane-way Inn, then up through the great park to Cirencester, onwards to the Marlborough Downs, across Salisbury Plain, through the New Forest, round the Isle of Wight, Hayling Island and along the south coast to Margate. After a notional crossing to Dunkirk, I walked the beach into Belgium to walk the Western Front via Ypres and the Somme to St Quentin to visit the battlefields and cemetery of my grandfather, Sam, who died there in 1918.

These two walks had something in common - I stayed at a farmhouse B&B during each, one in Shropshire and the other near Armentieres. Each was run by a retired farmer and his wife, just for the company of occasional visitors. In both of my bedrooms, there was an old fashioned wardrobe whose top shelf held all the beautiful hats that the farmer's wife had worn at their children's weddings. I felt the presence of those children.

A word of warning - you need to be fit and resourceful to do long distance walking.

À bientôt!



Village History: Sketching in the Past...

Eastcombe artist Pete Westley has created a series of illustrations of Eastcombe, Bussage and Brownhill as they once were. Month by month, we are sharing some of these with you, along with their stories.

This month, we look at 1 and 2 Laburnum Cottages in Fidges Lane, Eastcombe.

Owner of No.1, Tony Davis, describes their history:

The cottages likely have their origins in the first part of the 18th century, although an exact date is unknown. 1 Laburnum Cottages was built first and 2 Laburnum Cottages later, initially as an extension to No.1. As further sections were added over the years, what is now No.2 became a separate home, the evidence suggesting this had already happened by the 1850s.

I have deeds for No.1 going back as far as 1813, but the property is probably up to a hundred years older than that. The 1813 deed is signed by a Samuel Cox and his wife Sarah. Samuel is described as a Mason (I assume a stone mason) and he and his wife signed the deed with a cross mark, suggesting they were illiterate. Other deeds from the 1850's indicate a rise in schooling as the next generation of the Cox family are able to sign their names.

A sketch in deeds from the 1850s shows a bake house and brew house to the rear of the properties, while a stone and brick bread oven remains in my kitchen to this day; I uncovered it in the 1980s, bricked up and plastered over—it is large enough to have supplied other cottages besides Laburnum. A well was also shown on old plans and I located and uncovered this to the front of the property.

Both properties retain historic features, No.1 in particular, including the 18th century original spiral staircase, inglenook fireplace and adjacent built in spice cupboard. In the 1980s both cottages also still had evidence of outside 'privies'. At No.1 this was part of a derelict outhouse, subsequently developed into a garage, while No.2's privy was a complete building similar to that which still survives at Fort View, opposite. Unfortunately, it was completely demolished, although some of its stone was reused in garden terracing.



FAIR HOMES CHALFORD

A group of people are coming together to explore options for fairer, more affordable, and sustainable housing in Chalford and surrounding villages.

The aim of the group will be to eventually build homes that meet the changing needs of local people.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to get involved send Lewis an email: fairhomeschalford@outlook.com

You can also join the 'Fair Homes Chalford' Facebook Group to stay up to date.

Stalls available -
but they're going fast!

Could you contribute to the next newsletter?

Please send:

- Items of news*
 - An update about your local group*
 - An upcoming event*
 - A local feature*
- (*max 300 words) to

eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com

by noon on 20th October.



What's on in October?

4 Oct: Eastcombe Primary School Bag2School Collection

5 Oct: Hilltop Gardening Club visit Sezincote & Batsford Arboretum

6 Oct: Bisley-with-Lypiatt PC Meeting

7 Oct: Chalford PC full meeting 7pm/ ChalCAN Solar PV panels evening, 7.30-9.30pm, France Lynch Church Rooms

14 Oct: ChalCAN Wind Energy Evening 7.30-9.30pm, Methodist Chapel, Midway, Chalford Hill

16 Oct: BisCAN Energy Evening at Eastcombe Village Hall, 7-9pm/Frith Wood Tree of Thanks Event

20 Oct: Deadline for contributions to October issue of the newsletter

23 Oct: Eastcombe WI Soup Lunch, 12.30-2.30pm, Eastcombe Scout Hut

30 Oct: Screen on the Green: 'Dream Horse' 7.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall

Name that View!

How well do you know our villages?

Did you recognise last month's location? Well done if you identified it as a close up shot of the Millennium Sculpture on Eastcombe green.



This month's photo is again taken somewhere in or around the three villages.

Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the November issue.