



Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

Welcome to the September issue of the newsletter.

This is YOUR newsletter and everyone in Eastcombe, Bussage or Brownshill 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 now read the newsletter online on the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council website (<https://bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/local-links/>) and the Chalford Parish Council website (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 September issue.

Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show: Saturday 11th September at Eastcombe Village Hall.

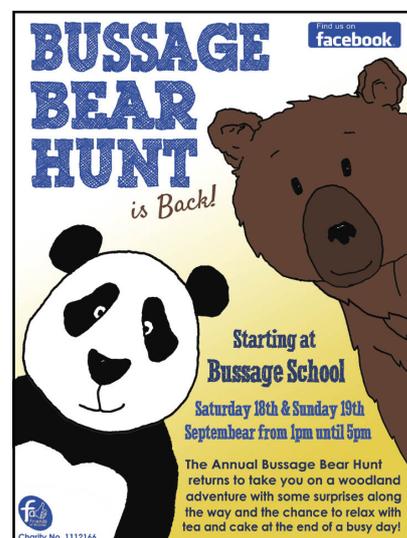
New at the show this year is a special prize for the best specimen rose. There will also be cash prizes for the winners of the children's competitions.

Schedules and entry forms available from:

Eastcombe Village Stores
The Lamb Inn
Head First
Stancombe Beech Farm Shop
Stroud Farm Services
Chalford PC Office
or contact Kathy on 01452 770824.



Above: Eastcombe Village Hall prior to the start of the 2019 show



Please enter as many categories as you can!

Entry forms must be received at one of the addresses listed by **4pm on Thursday 9th September.**

Please support us and help to make it a memorable day, as it has been for the last 35 years.

Full details on our website: www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk

Your Local Morris Dancers Return!

After months of Zoom, and dancing in the car park, the Ragged & Old are once again having regular practices on **Wednesday evenings at Bussage Village Hall, 8-9.30pm.**

Fancy a new challenge? Come and see what we're up to!

Contact Helen Watkinson: helenwatkinson909@btinternet.com or drop in on one of our practices.



September's Missing Eleven Days!

Nothing whatsoever happened in British history between 3rd and 13th September 1752—because the British Calendar Act of 1751 decreed that Thursday 3 September should become Thursday 14 September!

Until this date, the Julian Calendar had been used in Britain, comprising 365.25 days. This was fractionally too long, so that, over time, the calendar fell out of line with the seasons and became inaccurate. In 1752 Britain decided to adopt the Gregorian Calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII, who first introduced it in 1582. The Gregorian calendar has a leap year every four years (or more precisely, 97 leap years every 400 years) meaning that the year corresponds closely with the astronomical year (365.24219 days), falling only one day out every 3,300 years.

The change was not universally popular. Many people believed their lives would be shortened and protested in the streets, demanding "Give us back our 11 days!"

CALENDAR 1752						
September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council News: Eastcombe Ward

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

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Next year Queen Elizabeth celebrates 75 years on the throne and, to honour this anniversary, we are being asked to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'. Trees however, need to be planted over the winter and Eastcombe Ward are looking for a suitable location. Do you have any thoughts on where we could plant and what type of native tree you would like to see? Please let us know your thoughts using the contact details above.

St. Mary's Tree Preservation Order: Following a successful hearing at Stroud District Council's Meeting, the TPO on the remaining trees at St. Mary's has been granted. Many thanks to Councillors Jenny Exley and Lesley Green for helping to achieve this excellent result.

The **application to build on land at Fort View in Fidges Lane** recently went to appeal for a second time with a revised design and layout, after SDC refused permission. Once again the Planning Inspectorate went through the many resident and Parish Council objections and the appeal was dismissed. One of the reasons was because the new build would fill an area of open space, a characteristic of the Conservation Area in Fidges Lane. Our Conservation Area is a special place, to be protected.

EV Charging Points: GCC are funding the creation of 2 dedicated charging spots per parish, for residents who are unable to charge vehicles at home. Along with the other wards, we have been asked to identify potential sites in Eastcombe. Any thoughts on this welcomed using the contact details above.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: With confusion over the Government's Planning White Paper and future policy, the NDP Steering Group are considering a temporary pause in formulating the local NDP Policy Framework until the situation becomes clearer. In the meantime they will continue to analyse the results of the recently conducted surveys.

Fidges Lane Dog Waste Bin: Following initial problems with the emptying of this new bin, we are assured by SDC that the bin will now be emptied each week.

Next Meeting: The next full Parish Council meeting will be held on September 1st at Bisley Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. We are expecting Kathy O'Leary, Chief Executive of SDC, to attend. Agenda details will be posted on Parish Notice Boards and website a few days in advance. We are always pleased to see members of the public at our meetings and, don't forget, we are still looking for another councillor for Eastcombe Ward.

History of The Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show

Hilltop Gardening Club was founded in 1986 by Robert Bryant, now club President. Set up with the idea of bringing keen gardeners from Eastcombe, Bussage and Brownhill together so that ideas and advice could be exchanged, meetings and visits have long been the backbone of the club.



From the beginning it was decided to hold an annual Autumn Show and this became a well-established event—during the late 90s and early 2000s it was so popular that it was held at Bussage Primary School because there wasn't enough room at Eastcombe Village Hall. The first show was held in 1987, and subsequently every year with only a few exceptions. It was cancelled in 1997 due to the death of Princess Diana and was not held last year because of the pandemic.

The show returns this year on Saturday 11th September.

Prizes have always been awarded, but information regarding the original trophies is sketchy. We do know that there was a 'Toadsmoor' and 'Norah Oxford' which were first presented in 1988, but the fate of these is unknown.

The Wrenn Trophy in honour of K. Wrenn, a founder member, was added in 1989 and this is still presented today for the most points in the Home Produce class. The Dave Collins and Phyllis Gaston Trophies were also introduced in honour of founder members and first appeared in 2007 and 2008 respectively, again for 'Most Points' and 'Second Highest Points' in the show.

In 1989 the Cotswold Trophy for photography was introduced and this has formed part of the show ever since.

BisCAN (Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network)

BisCAN aims to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing our local carbon footprint, aiding nature recovery in our parish. Please join us!



Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn

Show: Sept 11th: Look out for the BisCAN stall outside St Augustine's Church, Eastcombe.

Great Big Green Week: 18-26 September

(greatbiggreenweek.com): a national week of climate action in the build-up to COP26. BisCAN events include a trip to **Overtown Farm, Cranham, September 21st, 10.30am**. Overtown is an organic lamb/beef farm with fabulous wildflower meadows. Visit www.biscan.info for details and to sign up.

BisCAN Meeting Thursday, September 23rd: details on our website www.biscan.info.

Energy Evening at Eastcombe Village Hall,

Saturday 16th October, 7-9pm: Come along to get advice on home heating and insulation from Roger Budgeon (Bisley Green Shop) and others.

Tree Protection: We would like to apply for protection for trees outside the Conservation Areas (where they are already protected). If you know a special tree, please tell us so that we can add it to the list.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Please complete this short survey to help assess local demand: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FSWV8TB>.

For further information, see our new website www.biscan.info or email bisleyeastcombeoakridge-can@gmail.com/call Martin Brown on 01452 770878 or Lesley Greene 01452 770018.

BisCAN now has a Facebook page!

Click [HERE](#) to visit or search for **Bisley Climate Action Network.**

CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2021:

01453 887204 or info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on [Facebook](#).

Littering - It's the time of year when we receive many complaints about litter! More than likely the perpetrators don't read this newsletter but, if you witness littering, please remind them that they are putting other people at risk, including those who are clearing away their mess!

Dog fouling: This is such a regular complaint, and again it is probably not readers, but others who allow their dogs to foul footpaths, playing fields and woods. If you witness this happening, please report to the Stroud District Council Dog Warden.

Overgrown hedges/foilage obstructing sight lines and footpath access is of constant concern at this time of year. We recommend inspection of your boundary to ensure you are not making someone else's life difficult. Thank you.

At the **Parish Centre you can pick up a multitude of information**, including **bus timetables**, **Bio-diversity Trail leaflets** and currently, schedules and entry forms for the **Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show on 11 September**. There is also a well-stocked **book swap**, the **Eastcombe, Bussage, Brownhill Newsletter** at 60p, **Chalford Heritage Trail booklets** £1, **Eleven Short Walks book** £2 and **local wildflower meadow cards** £2.50. And don't forget '**Barry**', our freezer of love! This contains nutritious meals supplied by The Long Table. Any donation towards the cost of a meal welcome.

With effect from 29 August, the **Stagecoach** service 61 is discontinued and replaced by service 67: Bussage – Cashes Green, via Stroud. Links between Stonehouse and Stroud are provided by service 64 and Dursley and Stroud become service 65.

Stroud District Council has asked us to consider taking on responsibility for Silver Street car park and we will be making a final decision on this at our Council meeting on 2 September.

In addition, the current trustees of **Bussage Village Hall** have asked the Council to become the sole Holding/Custodian Trustee for the hall. In order to provide stability we have agreed to do this and are currently dealing with the legal requirements.

Chalford's Footpath Volunteers will be back in action - weather permitting - on **Thursday 2 September** with a list of jobs ready to tackle in the weeks ahead. New volunteers are always welcome to join our friendly group on Thursday mornings. If you know of a problem on a Public Right of Way (PROW), let us know and we'll see what we can do. For more information, contact Christine in the Parish Office.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting? All meetings are open to the public and you are very welcome to come and view the council in action. Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 2 September at 7pm. Please contact the Clerk beforehand if you would like to attend, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time for your issue on the agenda. Contact details above.

NEWS from EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, a number of activities have re-started at the village hall (see schedule below). If you would like to book the hall please contact Felicity Waggett at felicity.w@media-maker.com or 01542 770426.

Over the past few years the Saturday night cinema has proved popular and we are pleased to announce that '**Screen on the Green**' will restart on **Saturday 18th September**, with the showing of '*The Father*'. See poster on page 6 for more details.

We want the hall to have the minimum environmental impact whilst offering excellent facilities for the community. To ensure sustainability and halve the electricity we use for lighting, LEDs have been installed in the main hall and car park. A small step, but, together with water saved by fixing a leak, these are moves in the right direction. We are also looking into the possibility of installing broadband at the hall to allow screening of live events (e.g. theatre and opera), to improve phone coverage and provide Wi-Fi for users of the annexe. If anyone can offer technical help with this project, please contact alex.lambert1@talktalk.net or telephone 01453 884584.

What's On at the Village Hall: September 2021

Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Tuesday weekly	10–11.30am	Toddlers	fritha.flipsta@gmail.com
3 rd Tuesday monthly	7.30–9.30pm	W.I.	marqlambert@btinternet.com
Wednesday evening	6.30–7.30pm	Move & Stretch	fitflexyoga108@gmail.com
Thursday morning	9.15–10.15 & 10.30–11.30am	"	"
Monday, Thursday & Friday evening, Friday morning		Dancing	Steve Holmes steveholmes.dance@btinternet.com
Friday afternoon		Tea dance	"
Sunday evening	7.30–9.30pm	Dance	"

ChalCAN UPDATE:

This autumn, ChalCAN is planning several events to mark *Great Big Green Week* and COP26 in Glasgow.

On **September 11th, 9am-3pm** we will be at the **Stroud Retrofit Fair** at **Stroud Sub Rooms**. Come along to find out how to improve the insulation in your home, and how to install sustainable energy sources, like solar PV.

19th September: ChalCAN will be at the **Community Market** at **Chalford Sports and Social Club 10am-1pm** where we'll be showcasing repairing, recycling and electric vehicles.

Bikeability sessions in September: it's not too late to take part—get in touch ASAP.

26th September, France Lynch Church Rooms, 6.30pm: ChalCAN will be showing **Tomorrow**, a documentary showcasing creative approaches to agriculture, economics, energy and education.

On **30th September**, ChalCAN will host an **information evening about heat pumps at Chalford Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm**, which will include local case studies and examples.

Dates, times and venues are subject to change—please check the [news and events page](#) of our website 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.

The Hilltop Village Band

Fancy a local outlet for your musical talent? The Hilltop Village Band is now meeting in **Bussage Village Hall on Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm.**

We play an eclectic mix of music - from folk, through classical to popular.

New members are welcome.

Contact Helen Watkinson:
helenwatkinson909@btinternet.com
for more details—or pop in and have a listen!



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

September services continue to be held in person and visitors are always welcome.

Sept 5th: Eastcombe (Morning Prayer*) 11am

Sept 12th: Bussage (Holy Communion) 9.30am

Sept 19th: Bussage (Morning Prayer*) 9.30am

Sept 19th: Eastcombe (Holy Communion) 11am

Sept 26th: Bussage (Holy Communion) 9.30am

*Morning Prayer is a simpler, lighter & shorter service.

Weddings, baptisms and funerals are now possible, in line with current guidelines.

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 you looking for a school place for September 2022? We invite you to come and have a look around our wonderful village school to find out all about us and everything we have to offer.

We encourage our children to '*Aim high, believe and achieve*' and endeavour to give a great education, enhanced by many 'memory making moments'. Our class sizes are small, our teaching and learning is personalised and we are a school at the heart of the community.

We will be hosting an open morning on **21 September 9.30-11.30am** and an open afternoon on **28 September 1.30-3pm** when you can come along and find out if we are the right school for you - no appointments necessary.

A recent survey of our current Reception parents told us that they chose Eastcombe Primary School for their child because:

- There is a family feeling and atmosphere.
- The children appear happy
- Lovely teachers
- Liked the setting
- Could take other children as well
- Small school and low numbers

We are delighted they joined our school family—will you? We also have places in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.

For further details visit our school [Facebook](#) page, our website: www.eastcombepriaryschool.co.uk/ or ring the school on 01452 770227.



Biodiversity in Brownhill

The Little Church in Brownhill, St Mary of the Angels, is open during the day and well worth a visit for its unusual design and beautiful setting.

Recently, local residents, with the support of Chalford Biodiversity, cleared brambles from the churchyard to allow the planting of native wildflowers and grasses. A mowing regime at the front of the church has also helped to protect the wild flowers there, providing cover for slow worms and a range of other creatures.

2021 has been particularly good for orchids, with three different varieties appearing in numbers in the churchyard, including bee orchids.

Work will begin again in the autumn to ensure that St Mary's continues to be a great habitat.

See [PAGE 8](#) for more about the history of St Mary of the Angels.



Bussage Primary School Update

As is traditional, we start the new academic year

with the **Bussage Bear Hunt** which returns on **Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September, 1-5pm.**

This year, the Bussage community has come out in force to make bears, and **there are over 50 bears for you to spot!**

The route starts and ends at the school on The Ridgeway, Bussage, where you will also find a number of stalls, a bouncy castle and a fantastic raffle!

Maps cost £4: complete the route and hand in your map to receive your very own bear.

We look forward to seeing you all there for a great weekend.



Eastcombe WI Meetings: July & August 2021

After 3 months of meeting as small groups in gardens, in July, we finally returned to our 'home' of Eastcombe Village Hall. We were welcomed by Margery, who read a letter from Claire. She couldn't join us due to isolation, but also welcomed us back together.

Business included thanks to the committee for organising garden meetings and to Ann for the food provided. Future events included Luncheon Club invited back to Minchinhampton Golf Club for Christmas lunch and a Soup lunch on 23 October. NFWI raffle tickets went on sale and volunteers were arranged for the next 3 meetings. The evening ended with a fun quiz set by Glenys and Sue, with refreshments. The winning table was Beryl, Joyce, Margery and Mary—who knew Beryl knew all about Lady Gaga?!

On 17th August we met again, our President, Claire, welcoming 24 members. We were also pleased to have a visitor for the first time in 18 months. The business part of the meeting was concluded fairly quickly; events to come include our Craft and Scrabble Club and Skittle evening. We then welcomed our speaker, Pam Slater, who entertained us with a wonderful talk about pearls; most members were wearing some at Pat's request. Pam brought along different shapes, sizes and colours, explained how pearl farms work and how to care for pearls. She was warmly applauded, with the vote of thanks led by Sue.

We 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. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 21st, when we will be hearing about *The Huge and Huggable History of the Teddy Bear*.

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

Eastcombe Bus Shelter

Update by Chris James

There are a number of **mugs**, some in sets, in the bus shelter - please help yourself. While in good usable condition, please clean thoroughly before use.

Our stock of **books** is now low for the first time since the shelter opened, so donations are being accepted again. We don't really want DVDs though.

The **succulent plants** have done well this summer but some are now drifting away. If you have any succulents in your garden, please pop a stem or two into a pot, at the edge of the pot, and donate to keep the garden wall going.

Thanks to everyone who helps to keep the shelter functioning. Generally, it's in great condition. We do have a few younger visitors who play football inside, and have, on occasion, tried to damage the painting. They are quite friendly and will stop if asked, so please do approach them if needed.

Chris James

CELEBRATING IN BROWNSHILL

With life returning to normal, Brownshill residents are holding a **late summer party** on **Saturday 18th September**.

Brownshill is usually a sociable place: safari suppers, pop up bars, and, before Covid, plans for a performance by a touring theatre company at St Mary's church. After a very quiet 18 months, it will be good to get together again.

Villagers who subscribe to the Brownshill email will hear more about the party shortly, but if there are residents not on the list who would like to find out more, please contact Sarah on sarahlingard13@gmail.com

Mary Brownbill's Autumn Plant Sale Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September 2-4pm

12, The Chestnuts, 
Bussage, GL68AT.

**A good selection of
perennials and shrubs.**

A donation will be made to
the churches of St Michael
& St Augustine.

Short Mat Bowls

Mondays from 1.45pm
at **Chalford Sports
& Social Club** 

Tea & Biscuits

Try it & see if it's for you—
first 3 sessions free.

Monday evenings possible if
sufficient interest.

For more details call Terry
on 07484 216410 or email
patteruk@btinternet.com

Eastcombe Village Group: Wine Walk

On 8th August, after yet another weekend of rain, the clouds parted and the 2021 Eastcombe Wine Walk got underway on a windy but sunny Sunday afternoon.

Without a PCR test in sight and no talk of quarantine, ticket holders were treated to a world tour with tastes of Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and France.

Armed with tokens for five glasses of wine, wine walkers could choose to 'spend' them with one host or spread them out across all five destinations. More tokens were also available to buy, if desired.

We were greeted by Luke & Emma representing South America, Tuula, Mike & Kathy in charge of Spain and Portugal, Louise & Deidre covering South Africa, Roy & Jenny Australia and Angelo & Suzanne France. The wine selections were fantastic, although, rising for work next day, some were not entirely sure that it had been sensible to buy extra glasses! Our lovely hosts also treated us to snacks and gave running commentaries on their gardening skills and philosophies.

It was lovely to meet so many fellow Eastcombers, and equally nice to meet those who joined us from other villages, including Bisley, Brownshill, Brimscombe, Bussage, Chalford, France Lynch, and Waterlane. A great time was had by all, especially nice after the trials of the past eighteen months. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Anthony & Sadhana



District Council Notes from Councillor Martin Brown

01452 770878

cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

Brimscombe Port: Plans for the redevelopment of the port have now reached the stage where present businesses will shortly have to move out. Demolition is the first phase of the work and is due to start in October, eventually leading to a sustainable (carbon-neutral) residential-led, mixed-use development, with 150 houses (30% 'affordable'), a boat basin connected to the canal, a community centre, cycle and footpaths and space for nature.

The businesses, including Rush Skate Park, Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids' Stuff, Kick Off Stroud, The Bike Drop, and Gloucestershire House Clearances are housed in buildings which are 'end-of-life' with leaky roofs and containing asbestos. There is much local support for these enterprises and the Council is working with them and with Active Gloucestershire to try to find new accommodation. A call out for new permanent premises has been launched: <https://wecanmove.net/blog/new-home-rush-skatepark>. Stroud Food Bank has already found a new site in town and Rush have been offered a site in Stratford Park, but financing a new building is difficult, so they are focusing on something large enough that can be converted. There's more information about the project here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port> and updates from the recent public meeting here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/bppresentation>

Animal welfare issues: Stroud District Council's Animal Welfare Officers have logged increased sightings of dogs with cropped ears and/or docked tails - five reported cases in the district in the last two months. Ear cropping and tail docking is illegal in the UK unless performed by a vet for medical reasons, and is referred to as 'mutilation' under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If you see a dog with cropped ears or a docked tail, please contact SDC on 01453 766321/environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk, or contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.

Keep it Local!

Butterfly Skys provides hand sewn crafts, all made locally at Bisley.

Items including eco friendly facial wipes, deluxe hair scrunchies, tea towels, peg bags, gifts sets and more are individually designed, hand cut and sewn by Kirsty Harris to a high standard.

See them at **Chalford Market on 19th September at Chalford Sports and Social Club** or visit www.facebook.com/Butterfly-Skys-Kirstys-Crafts-106866941089495.

You can also contact Kirsty on butterflyskys2020@gmail.com



Eastcombe Village Group

Thank you to everyone who supported our Wine Walk in August—it was a great success. Thanks also to Eastcombe Stores who helped us to sell 90 tickets.

In September we plan to hold a face to face meeting on **Monday 27 September at 8pm in the village hall annex**. All welcome, particularly newcomers. We will discuss ideas for future events, including a quiz night, the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the green and a party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee early in June 2022.

We are still looking for someone to take notes at our meetings and capture the ideas. Please contact me if you might like to help.

Peter Scott: peterhscott@btinternet.com

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

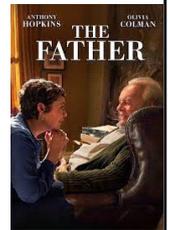
The cinema returns with an award winning film—come & have a good night out with friends old & new.

The Father 2020 – Drama

Director: Florian Zeller

Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Coleman, Olivia Williams

Oscar winning Anthony Hopkins plays the eponymous role of a mischievous and highly independent man, who, as he ages, refuses all assistance from his daughter. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and eventually the fabric of his reality.



Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall
Date: Saturday 18th September
Time: Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm
Admission: £3.50 per person
Selection of Ice Creams £1.50 each

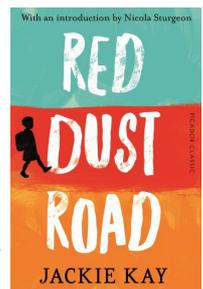
Book Review: Red Dust Road by Jackie Kay

For my birthday this year, a friend gave me Jackie Kay's memoir, *Red Dust Road*. It's a great read and uplifting on many levels.

An adopted child growing up in Glasgow to socialist parents and her adopted brother, Jackie Kay's life story reveals her resistance to racism and her generosity of spirit and humour. She recounts a writer's life lived to the full, with strength gained from family bonds, including her adoptive parents, with whom she stayed close. She comes across as a curious, open and witty individual with a real talent for engaging the reader.

Born to a Nigerian father and a Scottish mother, she attempted to connect with her birth mother after the birth of her own child, recounting these experiences with empathy and realism. She also has some wonderful stories to tell about people, many of them relatives met in later life. The chronology of events jumps around but her memories really drew me in and I read the whole book (nearly 300 pages) in a short space of time, unable to put it down for long.

Jackie Kay has gained recognition for her writing and she was the national poet laureate of Scotland until recently.



Gill Calvert

Introducing a new regular feature...

CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER!

Each month, Carol Lambert will share a mouth watering recipe for readers to try at home.

Carol's recipe for September is...

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

Easy to make and to convert to choc chip, apricot, cherry or cranberry cookies. Be creative!

INGREDIENTS (Makes 12 cookies):

100g salted peanuts, broken into smaller pieces.
100g caster sugar
100g softened butter
125g self raising flour

For **chocolate cookies** - take out one tablespoon of self raising flour and substitute with one tablespoon of Cocoa. Add 100g chopped chocolate.

For **apricot, cherry or cranberry cookies**: chop apricots, cranberries or glace cherries into small pieces and add to final mixture.

METHOD:

1. Set oven to 160C/GM4. Grease 2 large baking trays.
2. Place the butter, sugar and self raising flour into a food processor or mixer and whizz for a few minutes until it forms a soft ball.
3. Slowly add the peanuts (or chocolate/chopped fruit for alternative flavours).
4. Form mixture into small balls half the size of an egg and space onto baking trays. They will spread while cooking.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes until pale golden brown.
6. Allow to cool, but (important) remove from the tray whilst still warm, or they may stick.

To make a larger batch, just double up the ingredient. The cookies freeze well and retain their crispness.



Who's Who on the Hilltop? We asked Jenny and Roy Exley...

We arrived in Normandie, Fidges Lane in Eastcombe five years ago, after living in East Sussex, near the Ashdown Forest, for thirty years. We were bowled over by the beauty of our cottage, and the views!

We were both teachers initially, with Roy teaching woodwork and stone sculpture at the Steiner school in Forest Row, while I ran a Landscape Architecture practice. Later, I retrained and designed many public spaces. Our family has continued a creative tradition: Iain runs his own architecture practice, and Hannah a business designing and making children's clothes with recycled vintage fabrics. Between them they have six children and all live in East Sussex.



Since retirement, Roy has continued working with stone, selling sculptures through a gallery in Bath and at art fairs. He has a studio in our garden, and is a founding member of The Enigmatics, a local artists group who hold regular exhibitions.

We found this community to be really special and caring, particularly when Roy had pneumonia last winter and was in and out of hospital. Thank you!

As a Councillor in Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council, I am Planning Lead for Eastcombe, which entails consulting on planning applications. I recently wrote a draft 'Landscape and Visual Appraisal for Eastcombe Conservation Area' for the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee, of which I am a member.

Enjoyable spare time includes being one of two programme secretaries for Hilltop Gardening Club and visiting gardens. We were also recently one of the hosts for the Eastcombe Village Group Wine Walk.

We grow organically in our cottage garden, small, old orchard and allotment, with wild flowers amongst the vegetables. Toads and a visiting hedgehog consume the slugs and snails and birds help to control the insects.

Jenny and Roy

SUMMER GOES

by Russell Hoban

Summer goes, summer goes
Like the sand between
my toes
When the waves go out.
That's how summer pulls away,
Leaves me standing here today,
Waiting for the school bus.

Summer brought, summer brought
All the frogs that I have caught,
Frogging at the pond,
Hot dogs, flowers, shells and rocks,
Postcards in my postcard box--
Places far away.

Summer took, summer took
All the lessons in my book,
Blew them far away.
I forgot the things I knew--
Arithmetic and spelling too,
Never thought about them.

Summer's gone, summer's gone--
Autumn, winter coming on,
Frosty in the morning.
Here's the school bus right on time.
I'm not really sad that I'm going
back to school.



Village History: Sketching in the Past...

Working from old photographs, Eastcombe artist Pete Westley has created a series of illustrations of Eastcombe, Bussage and Brownhill, as they once were. Month by month, we will share some of these with you, along with their stories.

This month, we look at **St Mary of the Angels Roman Catholic Chapel** (also known as Templewood Chapel), in Brownhill.

Built between 1930 and 1937, the chapel was designed by WD Caröe, a major figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is described as a "late and very distinctive" example of his work and is a Grade II listed building.

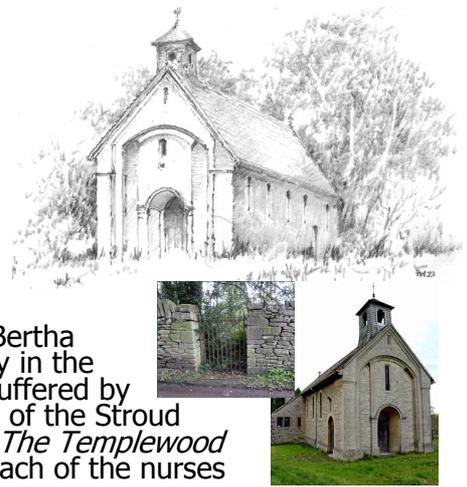
The chapel was built to serve the religious community created in 1927 by Bertha Kessler and Katherine Hudson. Members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in the First World War, the two ladies observed at first hand the mental trauma suffered by servicemen and determined to offer spiritual healing. Settling in the peace of the Stroud valleys, they bought the late Victorian *Tanglewood House* and renamed it '*The Templewood Home of Rest*' (also sometimes known as the *Brownhill Health Colony*). Each of the nurses gave £1,000 towards its construction.

Templewood was destroyed in 1946 when a Lancaster bomber, just taken off from Aston Down, clipped a tree at Frith Wood and crashed in flames, killing the four crew members on board. Until quite recently the stone ruin of the house could still be seen, but it has now been demolished.

Miss Kessler and Miss Hudson died within weeks of each other in 1963 and are buried in the churchyard of the chapel; their graves, and those of others of the community are marked with simple, wooden crosses.

The chapel continued in daily use until 2006, but was finally closed in 2011, when it was purchased by villagers and passed into the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches. It now has occasional use for charitable and music functions, as well as hosting an annual art exhibition.

See more about St Mary of the Angels on [PAGE 4](#).



LONGFIELD
Community Hospice Care

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL YET?
Make September the month you do!

LONGFIELD WRITE A WILL MONTH
Make a basic Will from 1 - 30 September and 100% of all donations will go to Longfield Community Hospice.

£90 donation for a single basic Will
£160 donation for a pair of basic 'mirror' Wills
longfield.org.uk/write-a-will

Longfield Community Hospice Care, Basing Lane, Wickwar, Gloucestershire, GL5 3PQ. 01453 886888. Fundraising@longfield.org.uk longfield.org.uk Registered Charity No. 29627

Hilltop Gardening Club

Autumn Show

Saturday
11th September
at
Eastcombe Village Hall

Opens 2.30pm
General admission £1
Free for exhibitors & children
Presentation of trophies at 3.30pm

Tea & cakes available

Enquiries:

Jane Randall: 01453 885794
or Carolyn Brundell 01453 885363
Or visit www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk

Could you contribute to the next newsletter?

A few suggestions:

- An item of news
- An update about your local group
- A snippet of village history
- Nature notes for October
- Read a good book recently?

Please send contributions

(max 300 words) to

eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com

by noon on 20th September.



What's on in September?

1 Sept: Bisley-with-Lypiatt PC Meeting 7.30pm

2 Sept: Chalford PC full meeting 7pm

4/5 Sept: Autumn Plant Sale at 12, The Chestnuts, Bussage 2-4pm

11 Sept: Hilltop Gardening Club Autumn Show/ ChalCAN at Stroud Retrofit Fair

18-26 Sept: Great Big Green Week

18 Sept: Brownhill Late Summer Party

18 Sept: Screen on the Green: '*The Father*'

18/19 Sept: Bussage Bear Hunt 1-5pm

19 Sept: Chalford market 10am-1pm

20 Sept: Deadline for contributions to October issue

21 Sept: WI Meeting/BisCAN visit to Overtown Farm/Eastcombe Primary School Open Morning

23 Sept: BisCAN meeting

26 Sept: ChalCAN Screening of '*Tomorrow*' 6.30pm

27 Sept: Eastcombe Village Group Meeting 8pm

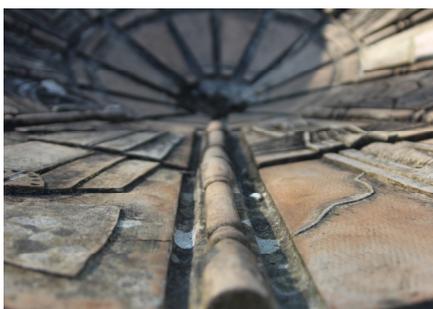
28 Sept: Eastcombe Primary School Open Afternoon

30 Sept: ChalCAN Information Evening 7.30pm

Name that View!

How well do you know our villages?

Did you recognise last month's location? It was tricky! Well done if you identified it as the green door labelled 'Sunnyside' on The Ridge, Bussage.



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 October issue.