

September 2022

60p
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Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

Welcome to the September issue of the newsletter. 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/ or receive it FREE by email each month: contact eastcombebandbnews@gmail.com to join the circulation list.

Printed copies are available to buy at 60p per copy (to help cover printing costs) from **Eastcombe Stores, Eastcombe Post Office, Frith Community Café** and **Chalford Parish Centre**. The newsletter is also available for customers to read at local businesses, including **Head First** and **The Lamb Inn**, Eastcombe.

We hope you enjoy the September issue.

A LOCAL RECORD?

Gerry Moutrey sent us these great photos of his dogs alongside his giant home-grown sunflower, which stands 2.5 metres high with at least 10 individual flowers.

Do you have a spectacular plant, flower or home-grown vegetable?

If so, please send details (& a photo) to the newsletter:

eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com



Hilltop Gardening Club
Autumn Show
EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL
Sat. 10th September '22
opens 2.30pm
General admission £1
Free for exhibitors & Children
Entry Forms & Schedules available from Eastcombe Stores, The Lamb Inn, Head First Hair & Beauty Salon, Stancombe Beech Farm Shop, Chalford Parish Office, The Ram or download from from HGC website www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk
*** Special Prize for the best Specimen Rose**
Presentation of Trophies at 3.30pm
Tea & Cakes available
Enquiries: Jane Randall 01453 885794 or Jenny Exley 01452 770803

The Meningitis Now Five Valleys Walk

£12.50 Adult (18 and over)
£6.50 Child (under 55 free)
£35 Family (2 Adults, 2 Child)
£40 Group (4 x Adult)

Sunday 25 September 2022
Five valleys ... choose your distance, there's an option for everyone!
Sign up today: Start from Stroud Cricket Club or any of our checkpoints - open from 8.30am.
www.fivevalleyswalk.com, 0345 120 4530, #5VW

FIVE VALLEYS WALK

Meningitis Now hold their annual **Five Valleys Walk** on **Sunday 25th September**.

Suitable for all ages and abilities, walkers can undertake the whole 21-mile challenge, or choose their distance, starting and finishing at any of the eight checkpoints and walking between 1.5 miles & 21 miles, enjoying the beautiful hills and valleys en route, all while supporting a local charity.

For more information and to Register, please visit:

www.meningitisnow.org/support-us/events/fundraising-events/events-by-location/five-valleys-walk/#sign-up

STAYING SAFE...

With recent local incidents highlighting the importance of personal safety, particularly for women and girls, the Neighbourhood Policing Team suggests some ways to help keep yourself safe.



See Page 2 for information on personal safety apps.

Eastcombe Village Quiz – Now Online Every Month

We have always had an annual village quiz in Eastcombe, usually in the depths of winter in the village hall, with a focus on fun questions. It is always a good evening.

Over lockdown, we decided to take the village quiz online and increase its frequency, to provide some entertainment and contact for those of us who were missing face to face meetings.

This quiz has continued after lockdown ended, with a group meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm for a few rounds of questions on a variety of topics, just to keep our 'grey cells' going—couples, individuals and families take part and all are welcome. Different people set the questions each month to add variety and we mark our own answers.

If you are interested in joining us online each month for an hour of gentle quizzing, please contact me and I will send you further details.

Scott Sissons: sissonscott@gmail.com



Meet Eastcombe Scout & Guide Group...

Eastcombe Scout & Guide Group are based at our HQ behind the allotments, near Thomas Keble School, and, whilst we've been around for a while, we would like to reintroduce ourselves.

Our youngest sections are **Squirrels** (girls and boys aged 4-6 years), **Rainbows** (girls aged 4-7 years) and **Beavers** (girls and boys aged 6-8 years). These younger sections have a wonderful time, last term saw them undertaking sponsored walks, going grass sledging and earning all manner of new badges.

Next up, we have **Brownies** (girls aged 7-10 years) and **Cubs** (girls and boys aged 8-10.5 years). Always on the go, this age range went camping last term, had an Easter Egg Hunt with the younger ones and earned their Cyclist badge.

Guides (girls aged 10-14 years) and **Scouts** (girls and boys aged 10-14 years) help to plan and organise a lot of their activity programme – last term they played PacMan around Bussage, learned about how to cook on a fire (including making pizzas), brushed up their First Aid skills and went stand up paddle boarding.

Finally, our oldest sections, **Explorers** (girls and boys aged 14-18 years) and **Rangers** (girls aged 14-18 years), many of whom have been with us since before the lockdowns. Last term they took part in incident hikes, cooked wood-fired pizzas and learned about history of Guiding. Many of them are also Young Leaders or working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award with the younger age groups.

So, if you have a young person who might enjoy our activities, you can register them here:

Scouts (Girls and Boys) <https://bit.ly/3CHm5eA> or email gsl@eastcombe.org.uk

Guides (Girls) <https://bit.ly/3MRQv2A> or email bisley@girlguidingglos.org.uk

We're always pleased to share this adventure with others, including adults that might like to expand their variety of skills and knowledge by volunteering – either with young people or as a supporter – contact us using the email addresses above.

Find out more about us at www.eastcombe.org.uk – including how to book our HQ for events and parties.



RIDGEWAY PLAYGROUP

Another year has ended at Ridgeway Playgroup—a year full of fun and laughter. We had so many experiences and learned about so many things:



We had a visit from our local Community Police Officers to hear about keeping safe. We also had a visit from our local Fire officers - the children listened beautifully as they talked about fire safety - we were so proud. Then they got to explore the fire engine, which was so exciting.

We have used our beautiful garden to the maximum: digging, planting, running, jumping, exploring, splashing and much more. We are proud of our new climbing frame/slide/den, bought with money we raised this last year - the children love it.

We all enjoyed a Pirate Themed Week - the highlight being our Pirate Obstacle Course, which ended in finding Pirate Treasure.

Another favourite was following the life cycle of a butterfly - from tiny caterpillars to beautiful butterflies. We fed them and watched them grow - and all sat together to release them into our garden.

We learned about The Queen and celebrated her Jubilee. We even sent her a card which we all helped to make - and received a very special letter in return which we proudly display in Bussage Village Hall.

Finally we all had an amazing Leavers Party in the park, where we said goodbye to the 22 amazing children moving on to big school - we hired a bouncy castle and also had a visit from Cotswold Ice Cream Co.



STAYING SAFE: Personal Safety Apps

Following recent incidents in the district, the Neighbourhood Policing Team continues to conduct targeted, high visibility patrols in key areas around the Stroud area, prioritising the personal safety of women and girls.

In addition, they suggest smart phone apps specifically aimed at helping to keep you safe.

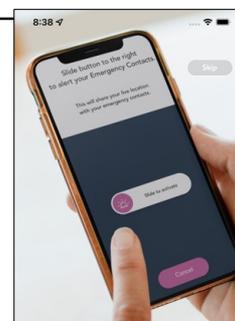
'Flare' App: A simple-to-use smart phone app, With Flare it takes seconds to report a range of offences anonymously via the *Flare report*, including inappropriate behaviour, sexual

harassment, being followed or incidents of drink spiking. Information supplied helps to identify places where attacks may take place and allows data to be shared with the relevant authorities, enabling a range of actions that will make people feel safer. Find out more here:

www.gloucestershire.police.uk/police-forces/gloucestershire-constabulary/areas/gloucestershire/services/flare-app/flare-app/

Hollie Guard: The OPCC continues to work with the **Hollie Gizzard Trust**—their 'Hollie Guard' App helps to reduce the risks to females travelling alone or meeting people for the first time. The app can also act as an effective personal alarm and can trigger an alert to the police. Visit: <https://hollieguard.com/>

To report any concerning, but non urgent, incidents to Police, call 101 or report online to the Gloucestershire Constabulary Website: www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/. You can also report anonymously to Crimestoppers, online or by calling 0800 555 111. Always call 999 in an emergency.



CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – September:

01453 887204; info@chalford-glos.gov.uk www.chalford-glos.gov.uk.

Follow us on Facebook.



At the time of writing, the second **heat wave** of the summer is growing in momentum leaving gardens desperate for rain. Areas of grass, once a luscious green, are now yellow straw and cause for concern. Someone set light to one of our bins in France Lynch Pleasure Ground in August, damaging it beyond repair. This stupidity could have resulted in the fire taking hold of the dry grass and spreading quickly. Be vigilant and if you witness anyone taking such risks, report to the Parish Council and we will deal with it accordingly.

It was great to see so many gathered in the lovely weather to celebrate **Chalfest**. The weather couldn't have been better, the music was great, the food varied, and the drink flowed. Congratulations to the organisers for a brilliant day. The Council has given permission for the event to be held next year and we are sure it will be as good as it was this year, if not better.

Play Rangers will be on The Old Common in Bussage on Thursday, 1 September from 10am to 4pm. There will be a variety of activities and it's free! Under 7's are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or carer. It's a great way to end the summer holidays, so go along and give the children a treat, as well as giving parents a chance to catch up with one another.

A reminder that we have a **variety of dry goods** at the Parish Centre for anyone who needs it: tins of soup, tomatoes and beans, packs of pasta, jars of sauces, tea bags, sugar and even sun tan lotion. **'Barry', our freezer of love** (just inside the front door of the Parish Centre) also has a large selection of meals from The Long Table and it's all free, although you can make a donation if you are able. Please take what you need, there is no need to ask, and please pass this message on to anyone who might find it useful. These are difficult times and if we can help in a small way, all the better.

Our bookshelves are overflowing with a **large variety of books**. Come and browse and take your pick. You can return them once you have read them or pass on to someone else. You may also like to do a **jig-saw puzzle** - currently we have a few and will take in more to share if there is a demand.

The **Frithwood Surgery Health Walks** have restarted, and will take place every two weeks through the autumn on a Wednesday afternoon, starting at 2pm from Frithwood Surgery. Join us on **Wednesday 14 September**—everyone is welcome, just come along and meet outside the surgery. The walk ends with a cup of coffee/tea and a chat at the Parish Centre. Depending on the weather, the walks will stop at the end of October/beginning of November for the winter, as it becomes muddy and slippery underfoot then.

Could you help us improve the Chalford's footpaths and walls? If you've got a couple of hours free from 10am-12pm on a Thursday morning - or even just occasionally - then we'd love to hear from you. Call the Parish Office on 01453 887204 or email oakleypg@gmail.com to find out more.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting? - Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 1 September 2022 at 7pm. Please contact the Clerk beforehand to find out where the meeting will be held and to let her know 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.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK Chalford Big Green Week Trail: CAN YOU HELP?

24th September -2nd October

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. It is especially relevant now more people are aware of the impact of climate change locally through our hot summer. ChalCAN is co-ordinating an event here in our community, and we need your help!

We're setting up a 'green trail' around our villages: Brownhill, Bussage, Chalford, Chalford Hill and France Lynch, where a variety of sustainable initiatives will be on show.

We're inviting anyone who would be willing to demonstrate or talk about what they do. Our aim is to encourage more households to go as green as possible! We will have hubs in different parts of the community with information and the green trail will lead you to households where you can get good ideas and talk to people.

The event is planned for **Saturday 24th September** and will take only a couple of hours of your time.

If you can help: by opening your garden, discussing your solar panels, or talking to people at one of our hubs, **PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**. Email Penny: info@chalcan.org.uk.

It should be a great event.

ChalCAN

CHALFORD BIG GREEN WEEK

TRAIL:

Saturday 24th September, 2-4.30pm

There will be opportunities to talk to people with:

Solar PV panels, air source heat pumps, insulation, electric cars, electric bikes, wildlife friendly gardens, green roofs and more...

We plan to be at a variety of locations around the community, including at *Frith Wood* (also holding a celebration that weekend), *Chalford Village Shop*, *France Lynch* and *Chalford Hill*.

For details please check our website news page (www.chalcan.org.uk/news-and-blog), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/httpschalcan.org.uk) or contact Penny info@chalcan.org.uk

Going **GREENER!**

To make 2022 a bit greener...

USE LED BULBS!

As the days shorten, think about the electric lights in your home—are they LED or are you still using the 'old' bulbs? LED bulbs use less power, saving you money, last longer and are more efficient. **So, go LED!**

**Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge
Climate Action Network**



Eastcombe Baptist Church

A service is held every Sunday morning at 10:30am at the church in Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe.

District Council Notes for September:

Help and advice in the cost of living crisis is available from several organisations in the Stroud area:

Citizens Advice offers support with debt, benefits, housing and employment: 0808 800 0510/0511 (freephone); **GL Communities Advice** gives money advice and support: 01452 306 581 or 01452 505 544; **P3** provides budgeting and debt advice: 0808 168 2443; **Step Change** (UK-wide) offers free debt and money management advice: 0800 138 1111; **Shelter** (UK-wide) – free housing advice: 0808 800 4444; and the **NHS** provides Healthy Start Vouchers to buy food and milk to those on Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit: 0345 607 6823. Websites for all these can be found by a simple online search.

Wildfires have occurred in this area, on farmland and at Woodchester Park. There is still a high risk despite recent rain (not nearly enough!) People have been advised to "stay wildfire aware" by having a picnic instead of a barbecue, taking litter home (especially glass bottles - sun rays can be magnified through glass, which can start a fire), ensuring cigarettes are extinguished and immediately calling 999 if they spot a fire.

Job Vacancies with the Council include electrician; Assistant Biodiversity Officer; Assistant Duty Officer apprenticeship; Food and Safety Officer/Trainee Food Safety Officer (part-time). Details on the SDC website.

As always, I am pleased to hear from you about any matter related to the council, or anything with which I may be able to help you:

Martin Brown, District Councillor, 01452 770878
cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

WILD FIRE AWARE

Please dispose of litter safely.
Items such as discarded glass
can start fires...



Bussage Primary School: September:

Bussage Bear Hunt: On Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September from 1pm to 4pm at Bussage School, please join us for the annual Bussage Bear Hunt. Follow the trail and return your completed map to collect your prize! As well as the Bear Hunt, there will be plenty happening at the school, with a bouncy castle, face painting, hook a bear, a tombola, a raffle, a pocket money stall and refreshments available. We can't wait to see you and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some lovely weather!



Eco Schools Green Flag Award 2022: Congratulations to the Eco Committee whose hard work has earned the renewal of the Green Flag award this year, with a glowing review from the

Eco Schools Green Flag team who said: "We love your democratic and fair approach to appointing Eco-Committee members. It's great to see that other pupils played a part in the process." To read the full review from the Green Flag team, please visit the news page at www.bussageprimaryschool.co.uk.

Visit us! If you are new to the area or have a child starting school soon, we would love to show you around our school, please contact us for more details on 01453 883 205.

St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors are always welcome at our services.

Services for this month are:

September 11th - Holy Communion at 9.30am

September 18th - Morning Prayer* at 9.30am

September 25th - Holy Communion at 9.30am

*Morning Prayer is a simpler, lighter & shorter service

On the other Sundays there are services in different parts of the Benefice. For full details please visit www.bisleybenefice.org.uk or sign up to our mailing list: pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com

For weddings, funerals and baptisms, please contact Rev Sue Murray: vicar@bisleybenefice.org.uk

HILLTOP CAFÉ CHURCH

Christian worship for those of
all faiths and none.

Sunday 25th September
2.30PM
EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

THEME: LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION

Coffee and cakes from 2.15pm

BUSSAGE BEAR HUNT

Sponsored by
Hamptons
THE HOME EXPERTS

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th
September 1pm-4pm
BUSSAGE SCHOOL

Join us for the annual Bussage Bear Hunt - follow the trail and return your completed map to collect your prize!

Featuring... Bouncy Castle Face Painting
Hook a Bear Pocket Money Stall
Tombola & Raffle Refreshments

Cherry No. 112164

EASTCOMBE WI: September Update:

Our August meeting started with the news of the death of a past President, Margaret Lloyd. We heard that she had very happy memories of Eastcombe.

Good news was the £259 raised at the Coffee Morning hosted by Pauline. The proceeds are for this year's charity, Stroud Women's Refuge.

After other business, the members enjoyed a virtual treasure hunt of Gloucestershire attractions, thanks to Ann G. The winners were outstanding navigators.

Our next meeting will be **7.15pm on 20th September**, when our speaker will be from the Stroud Women's Refuge.

Eastcombe WI are a very friendly group of women who enjoy friendships, good speakers and outings. Most meetings are open to visitors for a small fee and new members are always welcome.

For more information please contact the Secretary, Glenys Sharpe, on 01453 886298.



EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP



The **Wine Walk** on Sunday 7th August was a great success. The weather was amazing and the hospitality from our hosts was much enjoyed.

Thank you to all who helped with the event: Jacqui, Clive, Bridget, Hugh, Sally, Tim, June, Lucy, Nick, Lynn, David and Mike. Thanks also to Debbie and Mike for selling the 100 tickets and to Pete for creating the posters.



SAVE THE DATE!

Details of the village **Autumn Supper** at **The Lamb Inn** on the evening of **Saturday 22 October** are being finalised. There will be a set menu, (with choices) for up to 50 people. Tickets will be on sale shortly from the Lamb Inn. We hope to see you there.

Peter Scott
peterhscott@btinternet.com

FOOTPATH NEWS:

Do you know any local footpaths that are difficult to access?

Last year, with the help of a grant from Ramblers Holiday Charitable Trust and Stroud Rotary Club, Eastcombe Footpath Group put in steps and a hand rail at the start of the path leading from the bottom of Fidges Lane up towards Copsegrove Farm, as well as installing a kissing gate to replace the two stiles above, making it easier to cross boggy ground. We have also cut back nettles and brambles from some of our main footpaths.

We still have funding left and would be interested in your views as to which footpaths might be improved.

Do you have a few hours to spare? If so, come and join us and help to look after your local paths.

We usually meet on a weekday morning.

Text Sue 07821 806724 or Scott 07547 485926.



Could YOU open your garden – and support NGS?

The Eastcombe & Bussage Open Gardens will be once again opening with the National Garden Scheme on the early May Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday 2023.



We welcome new gardens in the vicinity to join the group opening. We also would welcome volunteers to assist us with set up and refreshments. Please contact nat.beswetheick@btinternet.com

SEPTEMBER in the GARDEN: BULBS WITH STAYING POWER!

It's that time of year again! If a bulb catalogue hasn't already landed on your doormat, you will probably have noticed boxes of spring bulbs appearing in the shops - they all look so tempting and gorgeous. But bulbs can be a bit of a one hit wonder – looking lovely in their first year and barely appearing the next. Here are some top tips for bulbs which return year after year in our hilltop soil.

Some of the earliest stalwarts are the small **irises**, such as *Iris reticulata*. These often appear in February and varieties such as 'Harmony' are inexpensive and very reliable.

Tulips tend to be perennial if they are planted deeply in a well-drained, sunny spot. This also means you're less likely to disturb them when planting other plants later in the year. If your soil is less well-drained, you can try adding a handful of grit to the bottom of the planting hole. 'Purissima' is a fantastic early flowering tulip, which is cream with a yellow and black centre. It has been coming back for over 20 years in my garden. 'Queen of Night' is also well known for returning year after year. It's tall, almost black in colour and is one of the latest tulips - flowering well into May. If you fancy a double or peony flowered variety, 'Blue Diamond' is very reliable in our soil and the flowers last for ages.



Camassia 'Blue Heaven'

For something a bit more unusual you could try **Camassias**. These come in shades of blue and white and flower in late spring when there is often a lull in the garden. They are very striking – a bit like a large, upright bluebell with star-like flowers. They favour moist soil but I have grown them in quite dry positions with great success.

'Blue Heaven' is a lovely light blue variety of Camassia which grows well for me on a sunny bank and naturalises in grass - you do need to grow it amongst other plants, as the leaves are a bit unsightly as they die down.

Camassia 'Sacajawea' has beautiful, delicate cream flowers and upright variegated leaves, which don't seem as bulky as many of the other varieties when dying down. The bulbs are a bit more pricey, but worth it as they return and bulk up over the years.



Tulipa purissima

The Eastcombe Gardener

CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER - SEPTEMBER: PLUM UPSIDE DOWN PUDDING

This is the season for plums and they are at their best in our hilltop gardens now. This pudding freezes well for later too.

INGREDIENTS:

75g light brown soft sugar
40g of butter
2 limes
6 plums
175g Greek yogurt
160ml sunflower oil
4 eggs
240g golden caster sugar
300g self-raising flour



METHOD:

1. Heat the oven to 180deg. Gas mark 4.
2. Mix together the 75g of light brown soft sugar, 40g of butter and the juice of half a lime to make a paste. Brush or spread the mixture over the base of the tin to cover.
3. Halve and de-stone the plums. Cut each half, in half again, then slice in half once more. Arrange these slices in the base of the tin. Start in the centre and spiral outwards until you have covered the base. Overlap a bit.
4. In a large bowl or mixer combine the yogurt, sunflower oil, eggs and the zest of 1 lime. Stir through 240g of golden caster sugar, flour and the juice of 1 lime and mix until combined. Carefully smooth the mixture on top of the plum slices.
5. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes - 1 hour or until the pudding is cooked through, risen and golden.
6. Cool for 10 minutes, passing a knife round the sides to loosen.
7. Carefully invert the pudding onto a plate. Place another plate on top and gently flip the plates over so the plums are on top.
8. Serve with cream or yogurt.

WHO'S WHO IN HILLTOP HISTORY?

In this feature, we recall a few of those who, although no longer with us in person, are well remembered in our villages. This month, Beryl Freebury tells us about her father, **Leslie Frank Roberts**.



My father bought a pair of semi detached houses, Reform Cottages, in Eastcombe, in 1936. He sold one to his brother, Henry, and retained the other, in which four generations of the Roberts family have lived to date.

My father married my mother, Belinda Fawkes, who was Eastcombe born and bred, in 1939 at Bisley Parish Church. They had two daughters: Beryl and Audrey.

My father served with the RAF during the First World War, training near Cardiff before going to north Africa.



Before the war, he played football for the village team, and also cricket. After the war, he continued to play sport, and also became very involved with St Augustine's Church. During the 1960s and 1970s, he organised fetes, carnivals and flower shows. He also became Sunday School Supervisor, arranging annual prize givings

and outings to Weston-super-Mare.

Later, he became church warden and a member of the parish council, serving until his death in 1975, aged 66.

My father was well known and much respected in Eastcombe and surrounding areas - to this day people tell me stories about him and how he touched their lives.

Beryl Freebury

HILLTOP BREAKFAST

On the 4th Saturday morning of each month, from 9am to 10.30am, we hold a breakfast in the hall at Bussage Primary School.

The aim is to build connections between people of faith from the communities of Bussage, Eastcombe, Brownhill and Chalford, although all are welcome.



We provide a buffet breakfast in a light, airy space with opportunities to make new friends and to engage in prayer for our communities through interactive prayer stations.

If you would like to come along or want to know more, please contact Dave and Cheryl Shears on 01453 731487, 07519 267123 or cherylm.shears@gmail.com



Fancy joining a local choir in time for Christmas?

If you're looking for a friendly local choir, why not try The **Thames Head Singers?**

We're a small chamber choir, rehearsing at Brimscombe School on Tuesday evenings.

Rehearsals restart on 13th September, for Christmas concerts at Gloucester Cathedral and Minchinhampton Church. In February, we will also be singing a weekend of services at Worcester Cathedral.

For more details, visit www.thamesheadsingers.org.uk or email: thamesheadsingers@gmail.com



Home & away: the Freebury family on Old Hill, Bismore c.1949 (above left), &, above right, in Weston, 1952

VILLAGE HISTORIES... The Eastcombe Surgery



In 1927, Dr Hill, who practised in Chalford, moved his practice to The Triangle in Eastcombe, where an outbuilding was converted to a surgery. The practice was taken over by Dr Munden, and, on his death in 1952, Dr Hubert Crouch was appointed.

In 1980, Dr Tim Crouch joined his father, and his mother, Dr Bessie Crouch, who worked part time, at which time the Eastcombe surgery was as it was in 1927. Dr Tim recalls an urgent need for modernisation, with the premises extended and then extended again, adding a reception and a pharmacy, and more staff and nurses taken on. Martin Davis remembers that the work was carried out by local builder Alan Smith, his son Mike, and Martin Davis' late uncle, Tony Davis.

The building of the estate at Bussage brought further Pressure; despite the modernisations, Eastcombe's surgery remained cramped, and Dr Tim recalls that parking was a nightmare. In 1992, a property developer made contact, telling of plans for a supermarket and doctor's surgery on the new Bussage estate. Was the Eastcombe surgery interested? They were very interested and, in 1995, Frithwood Surgery was born. As Dr Tim puts it, *'Things have come a long way since 1927.'*

The Eastcombe surgery is well remembered in our villages. Ali Jones recalls that you didn't have to ring for an appointment - you just wrote your name down and sat on the wooden benches (or stood, if it was busy) in the waiting room; Alan Wheeler also remembers waiting outside in summer, because the waiting room got so hot. One resident recalls playing *I Spy* with her three young boys in the waiting room, other patients joining in, while Christine Whiting Grassmyer remembers that it was a good idea to arrive before the bus stopped outside with more patients on it! Mike Davis recalls that the waiting room was decorated with pictures of ships at sea and had a trolley with magazines on, while the soundproofing left something to be desired, meaning it was sometimes possible to hear what was being said in the consulting room as you waited!

The doctors themselves are also fondly remembered. Amanda Keveren recalls how Dr Hubert Crouch sat in a leather chair with arms, in a room with a partition, behind which he would disappear to get medicines. Dr Crouch wore his spectacles on the end of his nose when talking, and several remember that the room smelt of fresh ground coffee, which stood in a big percolator. Others, including Mike Davis, also recall how, as children, Dr Crouch would often ask them to run errands, including popping along to the shop for cigarettes! The doctors were generous with their house and grounds too, with The Triangle hosting the annual village fete for many years.



Above: The Triangle surgery from Wells Road, in the pre-war period.



Below: Today there is little outward change.

With grateful thanks to Dr Tim Crouch



BAND in the PARK

Chalford Band
Community Concert
Bring your own chairs + picnics

Sunday 4th September 3pm
France Lynch Pleasure Ground




CHALFORD MARKET
CRAFTY & DELICIOUS @ CHALFORD

Chalford Market is back for the Autumn!
Join us at Chalford Sports and Social Club on:
Sunday September 18th
Sunday October 16th
Sunday November 20th

Many stalls inside & out: pottery, stained glass, woodcraft, hand sewn gifts, local pictures, cards, plants, sweet treats, bacon rolls, craft beers and lots more...
Any queries, contact Josie
07527 947615

Could you contribute to the next newsletter?

- An update about your group?
- An article on local history?
- A day in the life of your job?
 - A book review
 - Anything else local!

Please send contributions to:
eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com
by noon on 20th September.

WHAT'S ON in SEPTEMBER?

1 September: Chalford PC meeting, 7pm
4 September: Band in the Park, 3pm, France Lynch Pleasure Ground
10 September: Hilltop Gardening Club Annual Show, 2pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
14 September: Frithwood Surgery Health Walk, 2pm
17 September: Screen on the Green presents *Downton Abbey, a New Era*, 7.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
17/18 September: Bussage Bear Hunt 1-4pm
20 September: Deadline for articles for the October newsletter! WI meeting, 7.15pm
24 September: Chalford Big Green Week Trail, 2-4.30pm
25 September: Five Valleys Walk/Café Church, 2.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall

NAME THAT VIEW!



How well do you know our villages?

August's photo was of Toadsmoor Pond, taken from near the ford.

September's photo is once again taken in or around the 3 villages.
Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the October issue.