



# Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

**Welcome to the December issue of the newsletter.** Please send items for the January issue to [eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com) **BY NOON ON 13TH DECEMBER.**

Read the newsletter online at [www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/](http://www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/) and [www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/](http://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/). To receive it FREE by email, contact [eastcombebandednews@gmail.com](mailto:eastcombebandednews@gmail.com).

Printed copies are available, 60p per copy (towards printing costs), from **Eastcombe Stores, Eastcombe Post Office, Frith Community Café and Chalford Parish Centre.** Customers can also read it at local businesses **Head First** and **The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe.**



## CHANGES to the STROUD ELECTORAL BOUNDARY...



**The consultation is drawing to a close, with the deadline for comments fast approaching...**

**See PAGE 4 for more information about what is being proposed and how to have your say...**



## AN AUTUMN SUPPER...

22nd October saw more than 50 villagers gather at

The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, for a community meal, organised by the Eastcombe Village Group.

The evening was a great success, with a tasty two course supper, the chance to chat to friends and neighbours and a picture quiz to test your local knowledge.

**See PAGE 4 FOR details of more village events!**



## FAMILIES WELCOME AT EASTCOMBE'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT UP EVENT!

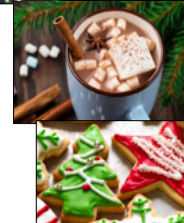
The Eastcombe Village Group are delighted to announce that there will be a Christmas tree on Eastcombe Green once again this year.

**Join them on Monday 5th December from 5.30pm onwards for the turning on of the Christmas lights,** with festive treats such as mulled wine and roasted chestnuts, and hot chocolate and Christmas cookies for the children. There will be Christmas music, courtesy of the Hilltop Band and the chance to join in with a few carols.

Wooden tree decorations will be available beforehand and on the night - why not get one in advance from Eastcombe Stores or The Lamb Inn and bring it along decorated and ready to hang?

**See more about the decorations on PAGE 2.**

**SEE YOU ON 5TH DECEMBER!**



## LOCAL AUTHORS RAISE MONEY FOR POPPY APPEAL

Sales of the local history book, *Return to War, Bisley and Chalford Civil Parishes 1939-1945*, has raised over a thousand pounds towards the 2022 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Researched and written over a three year period by four local authors and historians: Camilla Boon, Roger Carnt, Heather Collins and Peter Drover, the 420 page book profiles those who lost their lives during WW2 and is a companion volume to their 2016 publication, *A Parish at War 1914-1919*. The book includes detailed biographies of the 35 servicemen who lost their lives, as well as chapters covering the defence of the Home Front, the experiences of local children and evacuees, women in uniform, the Land Army, POWs, rationing, everyday home life and the stories of some of those who served and returned home.

A cheque for £1,350 was presented to Ramesh Mootoo (Poppy Appeal Organiser) and Andrew Phillips (Bisley and District Royal British Legion).

The book is still available to buy from Chalford Parish Office in Gerald's Way, and R & R Books in Nelson Street, Stroud.



"I heard a bird sing  
in the dark of December.  
A magical thing.  
And sweet to remember.  
We are nearer to Spring  
than we were in September.  
I heard a bird sing  
in the dark of December."

Oliver Herford





## DECORATING EASTCOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE – & HELPING OTHERS



As in previous years, anyone wishing to hang a decoration on the Eastcombe Christmas tree—perhaps to celebrate an event or in memory of someone or something special to them—is welcome to do so.

This year, wooden tree decorations will also be available for you to decorate, or on which you can write your own personal message. Look out for them in early December from Eastcombe Stores, courtesy of Mike and Debbie, and from the Lamb Inn, thanks to Sarah, for the price of a donation towards the Long Table, who provide such a valuable community service.

For those unfamiliar with the work of The Long Table (as I was until recently) they offer 'pay-as-you-can' lunches and evening meals, open to the entire community. Visit [www.thelongtableonline.com](http://www.thelongtableonline.com) for more information on this wonderful initiative.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas tree light up event on 5th December, and to your wonderful and varied tree decorations.

Happy Christmas!

Faye Scott

## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE & RAISE MONEY FOR LONGFIELD

**What do you do with your Christmas tree once the festivities are over? Longfield have the answer!**

In partnership with Just Helping (<https://just-helping.org.uk/>), this year Longfield are once again offering to collect and recycle your tree after Christmas, with your donations helping patients, their families and carers when a devastating diagnosis changes everything. Your tree will be chipped and the chippings used locally, an environmentally friendly scheme that also supports our free hospice care.



Longfield's incredible team of volunteers will be collecting real Christmas trees for recycling between 8th and 10th January 2023 from many postcodes in Gloucestershire, including GL6.

**Registration closes on Tuesday 3 January at 10am, so don't delay... book your spot now!** It will mean no hassle or waste - and no needles in your car! Visit: [www.longfield.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-recycling-2023/](http://www.longfield.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-recycling-2023/)

Thank you – your donation will make a real difference.

**Volunteering:** We rely on an army of volunteers to help make this scheme a success. If you could help, our Fundraising Team would love to hear from you at [fundraising@longfield.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@longfield.org.uk).



**Thank you to the brilliant supporters of this year's Christmas Tree Recycling campaign:**

Rococo Garden, Howard Tenens, Willow and Oak, Stroud Brewery, Eurolink, Terrascapes, Bottle Green, Lloyds Bank, Highfield Garden World, Stroud District Council, Gloucester City Council, Tetbury Lions Club and Dursley Lions Club.

## ECO FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



**Pull plastic free this Christmas!**

Crackers are a tradition in many households at Christmas, but they

often contain plastics, which ultimately end up in landfill. However, help is at hand!

Several organisations now sell eco friendly Christmas crackers, including the RSPB (<https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/christmas-shop/christmas-crackers/christmas-chorus-robin-christmas-crackers-pin-badges-box-of-six.html>).

You can also help Christmas go with a bang AND donate to charity by choosing charitable eco friendly crackers, like these from Shelter: <https://shop.shelter.org.uk/collections/christmas-crackers/products/shelter-christmas-crackers-2021>.

**Have a cracking plastic-free Christmas!**



### 'WARM WELCOME'

at The Lamb Inn

Join us to share warmth, company and free refreshments

**Every Tuesday & Thursday 2-5pm**

(starting Tuesday 1st November)

**ALL WELCOME!**

Don't forget: you are also welcome to join us at the Community Coffee Morning, 11am every Wednesday at The Lamb Inn – coffee, tea and drinks on sale.

Before you buy a bunch of "stuff" for family and friends this holiday season, try asking them what they really NEED.

- Maybe they need help with a utility bill, or a car payment, or the rent.
- Maybe they need a kid-free night, and could use a free babysitter.
- Maybe they need a night off of cooking, and could use a homemade meal.
- Maybe they need help with petrol for their car
- Maybe they need a night out with friends.
- Maybe they need a cup of coffee, and someone to just listen.
- Maybe they need help making the holidays bright for their children.
- Maybe they need help in some other way, but they either don't know how to ask for help, or are embarrassed to ask.

Maybe YOU could be the one to give them what they really need this season, rather than just more "stuff".


### Going **GREENER!**

**To make the last month of 2022 that *bit* greener:**

### CUT CHRISTMAS WASTE!

It's not easy—everything at Christmas seems to be about more, more, more, but there are ways to cut down on waste—and packaging...

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



## CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL: December 2022

01453 887204; [info@chalford-glos.gov.uk](mailto:info@chalford-glos.gov.uk) [www.chalford-glos.gov.uk](http://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk).

Follow us on Facebook.

**Grant Applications:** If you are a local organisation in need of funds, you may be eligible for a small grant from the Parish Council. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2023, with application forms and rules available from the Parish Centre or website.

We have an amazing group of volunteers running a **Warm Room** at Frith Youth Centre every Friday from 12 noon to 2pm. Join them for coffee or tea and a bowl of soup. A big thank you to those providing this much needed service during difficult times.

Our mini **Food Bank** is growing daily thanks to the generosity of residents and a large donation from Chalford Hill School. If you are feeling the pinch, please come to the Parish Centre and help yourself. In addition, '**Barry**', our **Freezer of Love**, is stocked with nutritious meals by the Long Table.

If the above is not enough, Thomas Keble students are working with us again to provide small Christmas gifts to residents for a little treat at Christmas.

**Trees:** safety work will be carried out by our Arboriculturist in Frith Wood in early January. This will entail the removal of dead wood overhanging or close to footpaths, broken branches and the cleaning up of multiple broken limbs and branch stubs damaged during contractor felling. There is also an ongoing problem with squirrel damage that leads to the regular dropping of branches. No trees will be felled.

**Chalford Band Track:** we are liaising with the band about the track leading to the band hut, and joining forces to make improvements. Congratulations to the band for taking trophies as the highest placed 1<sup>st</sup> Section Band and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in the recent Southwest Brass Band Association Competition.

**A reminder to Dog owners:** please pick up after pets and put poo bags in a bin. Thank you.

We have given permission for **ChalCAN Biodiversity** to plant three rowan trees and sow wildflower seed on land at the rear of Tesco loading bay. We look forward to seeing a beautiful display next year.

If you've walked the path from Coppice Hill to Dimmel's Dale you will have seen the dry stone walling work of the **Footpath Volunteers**. We have learned from our mistakes and are becoming increasingly confident in our skills thanks to expert dry stone waller Janet Gaskell's advice.

**The John Taylor's Foundation** - The John Taylor's Foundation is a local charity which gives small grants to students going on to Higher Education (excluding A Levels) or undertaking apprenticeships, to assist with the cost of books, tools or equipment. If you are aged under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Bisley (the civil parish of Bisley with Lypiatt, most of Bussage and part of Chalford), please apply in writing to The Trustees at [john Taylors foundation@gmail.com](mailto:john Taylors foundation@gmail.com) stating your full name, age, address, university/college course or employer. The Trustees of the John Taylor's Foundation meet twice a year in March and September when applications will be considered.

**Why Not Come Along to a Meeting?** Our next Full Council Meeting is on **Thursday 1 December at 7pm**. Please contact the Clerk beforehand to find out where the meeting will be held, and if you would like to attend, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time on the agenda.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2023.**

## BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL: December Update:

**Neighbourhood Warden:** We were pleased to welcome our new Neighbourhood Warden, Mark Dodd, to our meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mark, who is also warden for other local parishes, including Chalford, gave a short introductory talk on his role and responsibilities, which range from supporting vulnerable people to dealing with anti-social behaviour, abandoned vehicles, hate crime and bullying, as well as dog fouling and fly tipping. Full details of Mark's work can be found on the SDC website: [www.stroud.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-safety-and-neighbourhood-wardens/neighbourhood-wardens](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-safety-and-neighbourhood-wardens/neighbourhood-wardens). Contact Mark at [mark.dodd@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:mark.dodd@stroud.gov.uk) or on 07876 405833.

**Woodland at Fourways Junction:** As reported last month, the Parish Council was actively seeking to put in a bid for this land. At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the council reviewed its financial position and debated the issue: if the parish council owned the land, it might be beneficial in deciding its future use and preventing unwanted development. However, it was also recognised that we did not have sufficient funds readily available in order to submit a realistic bid. The financial rules state that we must keep a certain amount of money in reserve and this fact, together with the current uncertain financial situation, was causing concern to several council members. After a lengthy debate, a motion was proposed '**Not to submit a bid**' and this was carried by a majority. We were later advised by Chalford PC that they had also decided that they could not support any joint bid from the two councils.

However, the PC have decided to request that a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) be applied to this area and the appropriate paperwork has now been submitted. We await a decision from SDC.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Bisley Village Hall**. The Agenda will be posted on the Parish Notice Boards and website a few days in advance.

FRITH COMMUNITY CAFÉ

CHRISTMAS



PARTY



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

10.15am-12pm

at Frith Youth Centre

Enjoy mince pies and coffee

Sing a few Christmas carols

Join in the Christmas Quiz

Join us for lots of seasonal cheer.

Merry



Christmas

Organised by Connect, an informal group of local Christians.



**HILLTOP CAFÉ CHURCH**

with carol service

Christian worship for those of all faiths and none.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

2.30PM

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL





## Eastcombe Baptist Church

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

### A Message from Rev. Sue Murray:

Contrary to a rumour that seems to be flying around, I would like to confirm that St Michaels and All Angels' Church, Bussage is very much alive and kicking. There are no plans to close it and it is available for regular Sunday worship, funerals, baptisms and weddings.

Rev Sue Murray, Vicar

## EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP

The **Autumn Supper** at The Lamb Inn in October was very successful. Thanks to Sarah and her team for making the event so enjoyable, to Louise for organising the table plan and making the table decorations, and to Michelle for an entertaining and challenging picture quiz. We received thanks from Stroud Food Bank for our donation of £95, raised by auctioning off the floral decorations.

The **Eastcombe Christmas tree** is being delivered on Saturday 3 December by Gardiners, with the **Light Up Event at 5.30 pm on Monday 5 December**. We are especially keen to encourage children and families to join the fun, which includes refreshments and a light show. We also hope that people will help to decorate the tree—see **Page 2 for more details**.



The **Village Quiz** is being planned by Scott Sissons for **Saturday 11 February** in the Village Hall. A ploughman's supper will be served. We hope to see you there.

We expect to organise a village celebration for the **Coronation on Saturday 6 May**. If you would like to help or be involved in some way, please get in touch. Planning will start in 2023 when we have more details of the national celebrations.

We have a provisional date of **Sunday 30 July** for the **2023 Wine Walk**. As in previous years, we are looking for five hosts - if you can help or host do let me know.

At our meeting on 8 November we agreed it would be good to involve the **younger families** within the village, possibly organising events especially for them. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please get in touch.

We are very pleased that the **Warm Welcome** at The Lamb Inn on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 2-5pm is already proving successful - thank you to Sarah at The Lamb. Please go along and enjoy the warmth and the friendship, including free refreshments.

**Our next meeting will be on Monday 23 January, at 8pm** in the Village Hall annex. All welcome.

Wishing everyone a very happy and joyful Christmas.

Peter Scott  
[peterhscott@btinternet.com](mailto:peterhscott@btinternet.com)

## St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors are always welcome at our services:

- **Dec 11th: Holy Communion, 9.30am**
- **Dec 11th: Hilltop Cafe Church, 2.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall (including Carol Concert).**
- **Dec 18th: Morning Prayer, 9.30am**
- **Dec 24th: Holy Communion, 10pm**

\*Morning Prayer is a simpler and shorter service

On the other Sundays and Christmas Day there are services in different parts of the Benefice.

For full details visit [www.bisleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk) or sign up to our mailing list: [pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com](mailto:pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com)

For weddings, funerals & baptisms, contact Rev. Sue Murray: [vicar@bisleybenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@bisleybenefice.org.uk)

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO STROUD ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY:

### What is being proposed?

Important Information

Initially, it was proposed that, to bring the existing Stroud constituency's electorate of 84,573 within the permitted electorate range (71,031-78,507), the four Stroud district wards of Hardwicke, Painswick and Upton, Bisley-with-Lypiatt and Chalford be placed in The Cotswolds constituency. However, this would mean Stroud constituency falling *below* the permitted electorate range, so it was also proposed that the wards of Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge, currently in The Cotswolds constituency, move to the Stroud constituency.

A high level of opposition from Chalford residents led to the revised proposal that Chalford remain in the Stroud constituency, but, currently, **it is still proposed that Bisley-with-Lypiatt will move to The Cotswolds constituency**, joining Cirencester, Andoversford, Bourton on the Water, Chipping Campden, Fairford, Lechlade, Moreton-in-Marsh, Northleach, Stow on the Wold and Tetbury.

Due to electorate numbers, it is likely that some Stroud district wards will have to move from the Stroud constituency, but, **for a limited time, the proposals are still open to comments.**

To read the full report, visit <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/south-west/revised-proposals-for-new-parliamentary-constituency-boundaries-in-the-south-west-region/page/5/#lg-gloucestershire>.

**To comment, visit:**  
<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6489?postcode=GL67DW>

**BEFORE 5TH DECEMBER 2022**

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY

## BUSSAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL: DECEMBER UPDATE:

Please join us for **Community Carols** on **Monday December 5th, at 6pm** in the school hall. All are welcome - not just those involved with the school, so please do come along.

**What has been happening in November?** On 1st November, BBC Points West ran a two and a half-minute piece on us, focusing on Josie's success in getting a petition started and funds raised to install the solar panels on the school roof. It is an excellent piece, and you can watch the video on the front page of our website at [www.bussageprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bussageprimaryschool.co.uk).

The Year 5s are currently being visited weekly by members of staff from Stroud High School, who are running workshops prior to Bussage visiting SHS on 30<sup>th</sup> November for a multi-school workshop day.

Also, just missing last month's newsletter deadline, we had an OFSTED inspection in October, our first since 2017. We are still awaiting the inspector's findings and we will update you in a future newsletter.



## EASTCOMBE WI: December Update

November's meeting was the AGM, for members only. President Pauline Wright welcomed everyone, followed by reports from the Secretary and Treasurer, among others. Pauline thanked the current committee, who had all agreed to remain in office, for their help and support. Once business was completed refreshments were served.



Beryl Freebury opened the auction of surprise, gift-wrapped presents and introduced each by feeling and shaking them to try and guess what was inside, thus encouraging pledges. Proceeds of the auction will go towards the 90th birthday celebrations of Eastcombe WI in May 2023.

### Forthcoming Events:

**2-11 December: Christmas Tree festival,** St Lawrence Church. Stroud

**13 December: Christmas meal, members only**

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 welcome from January 2023, once more.

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

## District Council Notes for December:

**Warm Welcome:** The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, is very kindly hosting social afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-5pm, with home-made soup, coffee, tea, warmth and good company – all at no charge. Everyone is welcome. It's lovely! Huge thanks to landlady Sarah!

**Recycling:** In the last issue, I mentioned the need to keep plastic bags out of the recycling bins, as they cause problems at the recycling centre. There is also a problem with kitchen scraps and food waste being put into recycling bins. Please separate food waste and put it in the food waste caddy or compost it yourself – or better yet, try to use food up and not waste it. Save money and help reduce climate chaos. Some 8% of global carbon emissions are from food waste.

**Remember the 4 Rs:**

**Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

**Constituency Change:** The Boundary Commission is proposing changes which would remove Eastcombe, and Oakridge and Bisley from Stroud Constituency and put them in a new North Cotswold Constituency. This will make no difference to Parish or District Councils – we will still be in Stroud District for local services including waste and recycling. Chalford and Bussage will remain in Stroud Constituency. The Boundary Commission has opened another round of consultation on the proposed changes. I and the Parish Council have resubmitted our objections on the grounds that our area is historically, geographically, culturally and economically closely connected to Stroud, not Stow on the Wold or Chipping Campden. To submit your view, go to the Boundary Commission website: [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). The deadline is December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Job Vacancies:** Current openings include Housing Advice Officers, Homelessness Officer, and Apprenticeships. See our website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

**Cost of Living Crisis:** Advice on financial concerns and on home energy-saving is available on the Council website, [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk). This includes council tax support, pension credit, childcare help, carer's allowance, free school meals, energy efficiency and links to other organisations such as Citizens Advice.

As always, please contact me if I can help in any way:

Martin Brown, District Councillor, 01452 770878  
[cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk)

## FRITH WOOD: Winter Wonderland!

Frith Wood had a felling operation recently, undertaken by Robert Hitchins in its part of the wood. The works understandably caused interest and some concern and Friends of Frith Wood has been trying to support the community with information. Now it's over, phew!

On the shortest day of the year, 21st December, we will celebrate all that the wood means to us by decorating a little tree, eating a mince pie, having a drink and sharing lights of various kinds. Join us for winter woodland wonder at 5.30pm at the entrance nearest Tesco, off Tanglewood Way. Bring a night light in a jam jar with a string handle if you can, and a pair of scissors... All will be revealed!

Sophie Carabine  
07973 529603



## CHALCAN UPDATE: **ChalCAN**

**In 2023, ChalCAN are launching a monthly programme of small group 'How to' workshops on a Saturday, once a month.**

Workshops will include a beginners guide to making compost, how to create a pond for wildlife and how to plant for bees and butterflies. In spring, there will also be the chance to join a dawn chorus walk with a local bird-lover to learn how to identify our glorious songbirds and, in autumn, for children to learn how to build mini-beast homes to help insects and small mammals survive the winter.

In the first workshop, **1.30-3.30pm on Saturday 3rd December**, Sam Osborne will show how to make Biochar. Biochar is an intense organic fertiliser/soil improver that holds carbon in the ground. It is made by burning wood and organic material in a pit in the ground. Please note that the session is outdoors and will involve fire and probably mud, so warm/waterproof clothes and stout footwear are recommended! There is no charge, but places are limited to 12. To reserve a place, please email Penny at [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk). We welcome children aged 12+ if accompanied by an adult. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided. Unfortunately the site is not easily accessible—the wood is on a hillside and reached via a stile and a path going uphill. There is nowhere to park on the site.

**Are you struggling with energy bills, or know someone who is? ChalCAN can help!**

Working with Retrofit insulation experts, **we have secured funding to offer free surveys to homes in the Chalford Parish** to advise about home improvements such as loft insulation. A survey will take approximately 45 minutes.

In addition, if you are finding home improvements too expensive, we may be able to help with the cost of materials, or with advice about what might help the most. To find out more contact: [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk), with 'insulation' in the title.

**Please note:** we have limited funding and work on a strict first-come first-served basis. Visit [www.chalcan.org.uk](http://www.chalcan.org.uk) for more information.



## HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB HAPPENINGS...

On 1st November, Jim Bocock, highly respected resident of Chalford and former Chalford Hill Primary School headteacher, came to speak to us about Chalford Biodiversity Trail. He kindly stepped in as Grace O' Donovan was working away on a re-wilding project, identifying habitats.

With gusto, Jim illustrated the talk with animation and descriptions, providing plans of the trail to members and without a PowerPoint presentation!

The 10km biodiversity trail is the outcome of grants and member action. It takes you up and down steep hills amid various habitats, including those with very rare species, and along a length of the canal. It is a necklace of existing sites for wildlife with flora and new spaces identified and enhanced by changes in mowing regimes, while changes in light density in woodland open up the canopy for flowers: bee orchids, Broomrape, Rock Rose and other limestone species and grasses now grace the land. Time to get out your wild flower/mosses and lichens/grasses identification books! There is so much to relish away from noisy roads, even in winter, with accessible paths for you to join the trail at different points.

In 2019 ChalCAN, in collaboration with Chalford Parish Council, declared they would be carbon neutral by 2030. This enterprising group is aiming to halt climate change by local action, and they have different groups you may wish to join: Transport, Food and Waste, and Energy. Biodiversity is a sub-group who have been busy adopting sites for habitat enhancement throughout the parish. If you would like to know more, please contact [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk) or, if you wish to join BisCAN (the climate action network for the parish of Bisley-with Lypiatt), contact them at [bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com).

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6 December at Eastcombe Scout Hut** (where we are based for the winter period) when Dr Mike Jones will tell us about '*Mistletoe: Fact, Myth and Legend*'. Doors opens at 1.15pm for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat, with the talk starting at 1.30pm.

**A New Year meal** will be held at The Ram, Old Bussage, on Thursday 5 January, at 12.30pm.

Do contact me if you require more information: Jenny Exley 07515 409990 or visit [www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk](http://www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk)

## FRITH COMMUNITY CAFÉ



**On 14th December, the Cafe will hold their popular CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Connect, a local Christian Group, led by Alisdair Longwill.

Join us from 10.15am for Christmas Carols, live music and a Christmas Quiz.

Wear a funny Christmas hat (there will be a prize for the funniest) and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas while enjoying a hot drink and mince pies. All welcome.

Carol and team

## BUSSAGE SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAROLS

**6pm-6.30pm,  
Monday 5th December, at  
Bussage Primary School**

You are warmly invited to join neighbours, pupils and staff at Bussage Primary School for our annual informal carol event, where the school orchestra and singers will help us celebrate Christmas with this popular **indoor event with an outdoor feel**.

Mulled wine, squash and mince pies will be served following the carol singing.

For more information contact the school on 01453 883205 or Alisdair Longwill on 07837 364003.



## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS, PAST & PRESENT: ADVENT...

Advent begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas, and is actually the start of a new liturgical (church) calendar year. In 2022, the start of Advent was 27th November, so, by the time you read this, it is probably already underway!

The date when Advent was first observed is uncertain, although Bishop Perpetuus of Tours (461-490) established a fast before Christmas which began on November 11 (St. Martin's Day). During the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, when Christians spent 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting. Originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas, but by the 6th century, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. However, it was not until the Middle Ages that Advent was explicitly linked to Christmas.

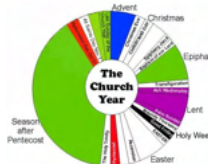
The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. The origins of Advent calendars lie in Germany in the 19th Century, when each day of Advent was marked by burning a candle or marking walls or doors with a line of chalk. In the early 1850s, the first handmade wooden advent calendar was created, then some 50 years later came the first printed calendars.

Like Lent, Advent is traditionally a penitential season, with fasting in anticipation of the feasting to come. However, this is at odds with the nature of many Advent calendars today, which have evolved from having little doors concealing a picture or a bible verse to feeding us chocolate, cheese or even alcohol throughout December! In fact, for many people in 2022, the reflective nature of Advent has been completely shunted aside amid the hustle-bustle of shopping, baking, wrapping and partying that precedes Christmas.

In the Western Church, Advent is separated into two stages: December 3rd-16th and 17th-24th, to balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation. The first two Sundays look forward to Christ's second coming, while the last two Sundays recall the events of Christ's first coming, at the first Christmas.



During Advent, flowers are taken out of many churches, replaced by the 'hanging of the greens' when churches are decorated with evergreen foliage like holly and ivy, symbolizing life in the midst of winter and death. The circular shape of the advent wreath is symbolic of no beginning and no end, while Advent candles represent hope, peace, joy and love, with the centre and fifth advent candle representing the birth of Jesus as the light of the world.



## CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER:

### HOME-MADE CRANBERRY SAUCE

A quick and easy recipe. You can double the recipe quantities and make early Christmas presents for friends, with Christmassy labels and a circular 'hat' of Christmassy paper to dress it up.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 x 340g pack of fresh cranberries
- 200g caster sugar
- 45ml cherry brandy, port or sherry
- 75ml water



#### METHOD:

1. Put all the ingredients into a saucepan, heat and let it bubble for about 10 minutes until the berries start to pop, stirring now and then with a wooden spoon. Be careful of spitting cranberries.
  2. When all the berries are popped, give a final quick stir to crush all the berries. Allow to cool a little.
  3. While still warm, put into sterilised jam jars and cover each with a circle of grease proof paper and a Christmassy label. I got my labels from Lakeland. Screw the lid on. It will set well as it is rich in pectin.
- Enjoy on the day, or with cold turkey or ham on Boxing Day. The sauce will keep for 6 months in a cool place.
- To sterilise the jam jars - wash and dry well then place on a baking tray and pop in a 180 degree oven for 5 minutes. Allow to cool.



## THE STUART SINGERS

The Stuart Singers have a full programme of winter concerts coming up, all in aid of charity, including Guide Dogs UK, Stroud Food Bank and Shelter Box.



As always the choir present a varied programme of music from across the genres: an eclectic mix of plainsong, Elgar, Harold Arlen, Stephen Swartz, Snow Patrol and many others!

### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:

**Friday 9th December & Saturday 10th December, 7.30pm, at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton.**

Buy tickets here:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-stuart-singers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-stuart-singers).

The Stuart Singers will also be supporting **Longfield Hospice** at their annual 'Light up a Life' service, which takes place at **7pm on 12th December, at Holy Trinity church, Minchinhampton.**

Finally, the year finishes with an evening concert on **19th December at Gloucester Cathedral**, where the choir will be part of the cathedral's 'Christmas Experience at Night'. The concert starts at **6.30pm** and tickets can be purchased from the cathedral:

<https://gloucestercathedral.artsyp.co/1ae844?collection=fb99f2&invite=00a5e7>



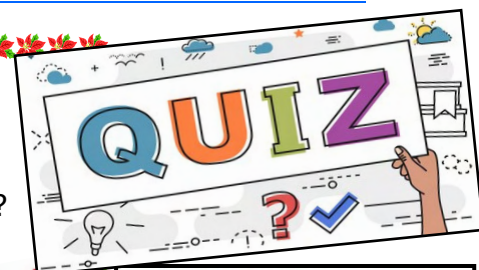
## AFTER A LITTLE FESTIVE FUN?

### TRY OUR CHRISTMAS QUIZ!



1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a tree at Christmas?
2. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called 'milk punch'?
3. How many ghosts appear in *A Christmas Carol*?
4. What colour are mistletoe berries?
5. Which fairytale inspired the first gingerbread house?
6. Where does the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings come from?
7. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish?
8. What was the coldest ever temperature recorded during a UK winter?
9. For how many years do Christmas trees grow for before they are sold?
10. Where does the word 'winter' come from?
11. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his red nose?
12. On which real US store is the movie *Miracle on 34th Street* based?
13. What colour Christmas is Elvis going to have?
14. In *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened each time a bell rang?
15. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
16. Before turkey, what was the traditional Christmas Day meal in England?
17. Who has had the most Christmas number 1 singles?
18. Who invented electric Christmas tree lights?
19. Where is the oldest Christmas market in the world?
20. How many gifts were given in total in *'The Twelve Days of Christmas'*?
21. What is the most popular Christmas plant in the UK?
22. What is the record height for the tallest ever snowman?
23. On average, how many Christmas puddings are sold in the UK?
24. Which country donates the Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square, London?
25. Who invented the Christmas cracker?
26. Where does the name 'Boxing Day' come from?
27. When was Christmas first celebrated in the UK?
28. According to tradition, when should Christmas decorations come down?
29. Who started the tradition of exchanging gifts at Christmas?
30. Who started the tradition of hanging gifts on the Christmas tree?
31. Which fruit is traditionally placed in Christmas stockings?
32. What was the first type of Christmas tree decoration ever used?
33. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
34. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
35. How many real Christmas trees are sold each year in the UK?

\*Answers in the January issue...





## VILLAGE HISTORIES: The Greenwood Family of Eastcombe...

Born in 1897, Robert William Greenwood married Frances Ethel Thomas (born 1899) in 1922 in her home town of Monmouth. From 1936-7, Robert, known as William or Bill, and Frances, known as Ethel, kept the Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, with Bill also serving as a local councillor.

Village residents remember the letters above the Lamb's bar: 'YCWYOPFTBTY', which stood for: *'Your curiosity will cost you one penny for the blind, thank you.'* 'Pound' was sometimes substituted for penny to allow for inflation and 'bottle' for blind; villagers also remember a large whisky bottle for collecting coins.

William and Ethel had two sons: David born in 1926 and Maurice in 1934. David attended the Central School in Stroud (formerly known as The Stroud and District Craft School) but, sadly, his younger brother, Maurice died of TB in his early teens.

David married Joy in the 1940s, and, after unsuccessfully applying to manage the pub in Thrupp, the couple emigrated to Canada in 1951. It was several years before they came home for a visit, by which time they were living in Buffalo, USA, and David had been ordained to the Episcopal ministry. Their visits became more frequent and The Lamb was always the meeting place for family and friends.

After retiring in 1958, handing The Lamb's reins to new landlord Solly Saunders, the Greenwoods moved to 15 Bracelands, taking residence soon after its building in 1959. Bill died in 1967 and Ethel died in 1978. Following Ethel's death, David and Joy commissioned a stained glass window at St Augustine's Church, Eastcombe, dedicated to David's parents, which also remembered Maurice.

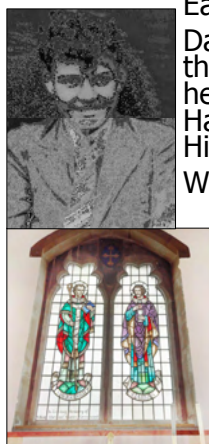
David Greenwood died on February 12th, 1989, aged 64. In later years he was priest in charge of the Ephaphatha Mission for the Deaf in Buffalo, having developed an interest in working with hearing-impaired people as a lay assistant. In 1981, he became executive assistant to Bishop Harold B. Robinson, and was made an honorary Canon in 1982. He was also a trustee of Canisius High School, a Catholic, private school for young men in Buffalo, run by the Society of Jesus.

When David died, Joy had a silver birch tree planted on Eastcombe Green in his memory and also donated a ciborium (a receptacle shaped like a cup, used to hold the Eucharist) to the Church of St Augustine, now passed to St Michael and All Angels, Bussage. After Joy's death, her sister, Pat Hearne, asked permission from the Parish Council to scatter her ashes around the tree planted for David on Eastcombe Green.

With grateful thanks to Pat Hearne.

**Top right:** Bill & Ethel Greenwood behind the bar of The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe.  
**2nd from top right:** A Lamb Inn outing to Villa Park, Arsenal, 1943, Bill Greenwood 2nd left.

**Top left:** Maurice Greenwood  
**Bottom left:** The Greenwood memorial window at St Augustine of Canterbury.



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Stuart Singers  
Christmas Concert  
Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton

Friday 9th December &  
Saturday 10th December 2022  
at 7.30pm

Beneficiaries  
Guide Dogs  
Stroud District Foodbank  
Shelter Box - add to  
the homeless in  
Christmas zones

A programme of seasonal music to  
celebrate the start of Christmas - from  
Elgar's 'The Snow' to 'Run' by Snow Patrol!

Musical Director: Helen Sims      Accompanist: Matthew Sharp

Tickets £12 / Friends of Stuart Singers £10  
(under 16s FREE with an accompanying adult on Saturday)

Tickets available online at [www.stuartsingers.com](http://www.stuartsingers.com)  
from Lynn Bevis 01453 882440 and M&B Stores, Minchinhampton  
[www.stuartsingers.com](http://www.stuartsingers.com)      [www.facebook.com/stuartsingers](http://www.facebook.com/stuartsingers)

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### COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

- An update on your group?
- An article on local history?
- Anything else local!

Please send contributions to:  
[eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com)  
**by noon on \*13th December.**

\*Note early deadline, due to Christmas

### WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

- 1 Dec:** Chalford PC Meeting, 7pm
- 3 Dec:** ChalCAN Biochar Workshop
- 5 Dec:** Eastcombe Christmas Tree Light Up, 5.30pm/Bussage School Community Carols, 6pm/Deadline for comments on Stroud constituency boundary change.
- Until 6 Dec:** John Bailey Open Studio, Oakridge Lynch, 11am-4pm daily
- 6 Dec:** Hilltop Gardening Club talk: 'Mistletoe: Fact, Myth & Legend' Eastcombe Scout Hut, 1.15/1.30pm
- 7 Dec:** Bisley-with-Lypiatt PC meeting, 7.30pm, Bisley Village Hall
- 9/10 Dec:** The Stuart Singers in concert, Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, 7.30pm
- 11 Dec:** Café Church, 2.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
- 13 Dec:** **Deadline for contributions to January newsletter**
- 14 Dec:** Frith Café Christmas Party 10.15am-12 noon
- 19 Dec:** The Stuart Singers in concert, Gloucester Cathedral, 6.30pm

### NAME THAT VIEW!



### How well do you know our villages?

November's photo showed the gate to the footpath in Manor Lane, between Eastcombe and Bussage.

December's photo is once again taken in or around the 3 villages.

**Can you identify its location?**

The answer will be revealed in the January issue.