

Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

Welcome to the March issue of the newsletter. To receive a monthly digital newsletter **FREE** on email, please contact eastcombebandednews@gmail.com. You can also read the latest newsletter online at www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/Newsletters_34865.aspx.

Printed copies are available, 60p each, from **Eastcombe Stores, Eastcombe Post Office, Frith Community Café & Chalford Parish Centre**, and to customers of **Head First** and **The Lamb Inn**.

Please send items for the April issue to eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com **BY NOON on 20 MARCH.**

FUN & COMPETITION at the EASTCOMBE VILLAGE QUIZ!

Saturday 11th February saw hilltop residents gather at Eastcombe Village Hall for the annual fun Village Quiz.

12 teams of 4-6 people laughed, chatted and pitted their wits against each other over 10 rounds covering pictures, music, geography, and food and drink, as well as enjoying a ploughman's supper.



Scott Sissons, Quiz Master

The result of the quiz proved very close, with a tie breaker needed to separate the teams vying for first place. More importantly, it was a fun evening and a great chance for hilltop dwellers to get together!

Thank you to Scott and Chris Sissons for setting the questions and running the event, and to Helen Watkinson and her team for the tasty ploughman's supper.

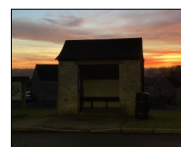
Monies raised will go towards the village celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles in May. Watch this space for details.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for the next Eastcombe Village Group event!



A Message from STROUD NEEDS BUSES

'Imagine a world where buses run regularly and reliably from every village from dawn until midnight. Traffic jams are a thing of the past, towns are buzzing and the air is clean. This world exists. Not just in Holland, Scandinavia or New Zealand, but here in the UK. In Calderdale, Yorkshire, even car owners find the bus convenient; they are able to enjoy night life in the town and still catch a bus home to an isolated hamlet at the end of the evening. The best of both worlds – rural and urban – is achievable, and it could be realised here in the Stroud area.



However, this world does not yet exist, and [recent cuts](#) to Stagecoach's 67 service will seriously affect the hilltop, particularly those who cannot drive or do not have their own car. A public meeting at Stroud Brewery in January heard how a learning support worker's journey to Ruskin Mill could take up to 4 hours under the new timetable. At a time of critical shortages in the education and care sectors (to name but a few) the short-sightedness of this move is clear. Our most vulnerable neighbours could be forced to wait in the cold at bus stops or rely on expensive cab rides or the generosity of neighbours to access medical services and pick up shopping. Teenagers' independence will be curtailed and parents forced back into the school run (adding further congestion to our roads).

So, what can be done? In the first instance, the Stroud Needs Buses campaign is asking Stagecoach to reconsider the cuts. They may also lobby for alternative provision - perhaps even a network of community-owned not-for-profit electric buses, running every 20 minutes.

To support the campaign, please sign the petition [here](#) and follow the **Stroud Needs Buses** [Facebook](#) Page.

MINNIE'S WILDLIFE RESCUE & HEDGEHOG HOSPITAL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Did you know that we have a wildlife rescue centre here in Bussage?

Last year, with the support of volunteer drivers (who pick up emergency casualties) and helpers to clean out cages, Debby successfully hand reared, rehabilitated and released 285 assorted wild British birds & mammals.

Referrals come from vets, other rescues and the general public. Casualties and orphans increased threefold 2021-2022, so donations of supplies are desperately needed and always much appreciated.

Donations can be left with Alan at 50, Bracelands, Eastcombe, GL6 7DS, or in the storage box by the front door of 2 Lark Rise, Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8FF.



THANK YOU!

THE RESCUE NEEDS:

- Tins of dog, cat, puppy & kitten food
- Baby bird hand rearing food (e.g. *Kaytee Exact*)
- Tinned fish - all types (not in brine)
- Wild bird food - all types
- Rabbit food pellets
- Chick crumbs
- Swan & duck corn
- Calci worms (dried)
- Fresh fruit & veg
- Rabbit hay & dried forage
- Kitchen roll
- Disinfectant
- Sherpa & polar fleece
- Vetbed



EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL—AT THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Eastcombe Village Hall provides a focal point for many local activities. It is run by a small group of volunteers, ably lead by Alex Lambert (Chair), Christine Prince (Treasurer) and Felicity Waggett (Secretary and Booking Coordinator), and various village groups are also represented on the Committee.



At a recent committee meeting the Chair reported that:

- Despite current challenges, the financial position remains stable.
- We are working to maintain attractive floral decoration outside the hall.
- Screen on the Green is proving increasingly popular, post Covid.
- We hope to have Broadband available in the Hall in 2024.
- It has been necessary to make a small increase in hire charges to address rising costs.
- The Hall is being cleaned and maintained to a high standard.
- A new lease agreement is in process with the Diocese following the sale of the Church of St Augustine.
- We are investigating possible improvements to hall insulation.
- We are looking to replace some of the chairs with more comfortable seating - a progressive change due to the cost. **Offers of funding or donations towards this will be gratefully received.**

You can play your part in sustaining this excellent facility by making use of the Hall and Annexe. **TO BOOK:**

Please contact 01452 770426

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS!

New to the area and would like to know what's going on, meet people or get involved with local events? To receive a FREE monthly copy of this newsletter contact eastcombebandednews@btinternet.com to join the circulation list.

To get information about Eastcombe events (only 1-2 emails a month at the most), contact csissons52@gmail.com

Finally, to receive information about 'Screen on the Green' - the monthly film night at Eastcombe Village Hall - contact eastcombescreenotgreen@gmail.com

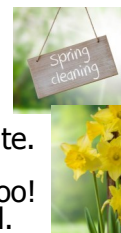


SPRING CLEANING? HOW TO GO GREEN with your CLEANING ROUTINE!

There are so many different cleaning products on offer, many filled with toxic chemicals and wrapped in plastic packaging. Switch to 'green' or DIY cleaners to reduce plastic, lessen pollution and save you money!

SOME ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING INGREDIENTS:

- **BICARBONATE OF SODA:** Great for deodorising and cleaning a variety of surfaces.
 - **WHITE VINEGAR:** Antifungal, kills germs, and great for getting rid of gummy build up, rust, and hard water stains. The smell quickly dissipates—or counteract by adding scented essential oils.
 - **LEMON JUICE:** Another strong acid, helping to fight bacteria, remove stains and keep whites white.
 - **OLIVE OIL:** Perfect for polishing furniture and loosening stains on all sorts of surfaces.
 - **ESSENTIAL OILS:** Naturally anti-bacterial, these sanitise your house and keep it smelling great too!
 - **SOAP NUTS:** A natural soap, foams up with water to remove grime. Anti-fungal and anti-bacterial.
1. **Re-use and Refill:** Choose cleaners in reusable containers and save money—refills are typically less expensive. If making your own mixtures, label containers clearly.
 2. **Use reusable cloths:** Single-use cleaning wipes cause waste and are often non biodegradable.
 3. **Re-purpose old toothbrushes:** Great for cleaning hard-to-reach spots such as the grout between tiles and around taps. Make sure cleaning brushes are labelled and stored away from your regular toothbrush!



SOME HOME-MADE ECO CLEANER RECIPES: Freshly-made cleaners work best. Mixtures keep up to 8 weeks, but if it starts to look/smell bad, make a fresh batch.

- **KITCHEN/BATHROOM CLEANING SPRAY:** Add 20 drops of tea tree oil and 20 drops of lavender oil to 250ml cooled boiled water and 250ml white vinegar. Pour into a spray bottle, shake and use. For tough grime or dried in food, leave to soak before wiping, or sprinkle with bicarbonate of soda, then rub (patch test in an inconspicuous area first and avoid use on marble, stone or granite surfaces). Spray shower heads with 1 part distilled white vinegar and 1 part water to dissolve lime scale build up and restore shine.
- **TOILET CLEANER:** For a sparkling loo, plug in white vinegar, a shake of bicarbonate of soda and 10 drops of your favourite essential oil. Leave a few minutes, then scrub with the toilet brush, fizzing up the mixture. (Don't keep a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar - they neutralise each other over time).
- **DISHWASHER RINSE AID:** Vinegar makes a fantastic rinse aid, leaving glasses and cutlery sparkling!
- **WINDOWS AND MIRRORS:** Add 1 part white vinegar to 4 parts water, perhaps with essential oils for a fresh scent. Or try rubbing windows with newspaper for a smudge-free result.
- **LAUNDRY DETERGENT:** For a more sustainable cycle, try a pouch of soap nuts in your washing machine. Reuse for 4-5 washes or until nuts turn grey, then compost them in your garden!
- **MOULD CLEANER** Spray white vinegar and tea tree oil. Leave 30 minutes, then rinse with warm water.
- **OVEN CLEANER:** Mix 1/4 cup bicarbonate of soda with 1 teaspoon salt, adding water to make a paste. Cover the oven in the mixture and leave overnight.
- **CHOPPING BOARD CLEANER:** Chop a lemon in half and rub over the board, then rinse or wipe clean.
- **DRAIN CLEANER:** Pour bicarbonate of soda, then white vinegar, into the drain - they react together to break up clogged dirt and grease. Leave 15 minutes, then pour boiling water or turn on the hot water tap.

Find more recipes at <https://moralfibres.co.uk/make-your-own-chemical-free-cleaning-products/>

'GO GREENER'!

USE ECO CLEANING PRODUCTS!

Try planet-friendly options for your spring cleaning—buy wisely or make your own!

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



CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL: MARCH 2023

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



You may know that **Stagecoach** has reduced the 67 service for economic reasons. From 19th February, the last bus from Stroud to Bussage is 18.45 Monday to Friday and 17.40 on a Saturday. The last bus from Bussage to Stroud is 18.03 Monday to Saturday and there will be no service on a Sunday. A gathering outside the Sub Rooms in January and a well attended public meeting at the beginning of February discussed what could be done. Sign up to the Stroud needs Buses petition: www.change.org/p/stroud-needs-buses. Although we cannot prevent the changes of 19th February, we are working with County Cllr Chloe Turner and District Cllr Tricia Watson to see what can be done to improve the service in the future.

Stroud District Council's Cotswold Canals Connected is holding 'The Lock Challenge' on Saturday, 13th May, encouraging people to walk, run, cycle or kayak along the route of the planned canal restoration works from Stonehouse to Saul. Find more information here: www.cotswoldcanalsconnected.org

Gloucestershire County Council wants your views on how **transport can be decarbonised**. GCC adopted a Climate Change strategy in 2019 with the following targets:

- The County Council's own operational emissions to be net zero by 2030.
- Emissions from all sources across the county to be net zero by 2050.
- The county to work with partners to deliver an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030, relative to 2005.

In 2020, the county council committed to reaching net zero emissions from all sources by 2045. Visit <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagement/hq.com/journey-to-net-zero> to give your views.

Silver Street Car Park is now the responsibility of the Parish Council. Residents living nearby have been invited to apply for 1 of 8 lockable residents' parking bays. In addition, there are 7 unreserved spaces.

Footpaths and flapjacks - Are you stuck in a flapjack rut? Join the Footpath Volunteers (call the Parish Office, 01453 887204) and experience the excitement of FJ tasting in sessions; we've had curried versions, Lebanese themed versions, and very unhealthy sweet sticky versions. What's not to like?

Nature sanctuaries in Frith Wood - 2 nature sanctuaries have been created in Frith Wood to help bird life and a new generation of trees and woodland plants, plus bird and bat boxes put up in the part owned by the Parish Council. You will find an attractive chestnut fence around the main conservation area, while an old oak tree by the entrance is now protected. Humans have benefitted too! It's now easier for those with buggies or electric scooters to get in. Thanks to Friends of Frith Wood, Cotswold AONB and the Parish Council for their support. **Bluebells are on their way - please stay on paths as they damage easily.**

Come Along to a Meeting? - Our next Full Council Meeting is on **Thursday, 2 March 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.

BUSSAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL: MARCH UPDATE

We took 43 children to Birmingham Resort Arena on Thursday 26th January to participate in a Young Voices concert, part of 5,960 children in the choir that day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform alongside professional musicians, singers and dancers, as well as to witness amazing performances. The highlight of the concert was singing 'Proud' with Heather Small from M People. Other favourite songs included a medley of Nile Rogers disco tracks and a beautiful song called *Message*. Despite it being a very long day and a very late night for the Bussage singers, they were enthusiastic throughout, full of energy and impeccably behaved. Many parents also made the drive to Birmingham that evening to watch their children perform, which gave the singers a huge boost.

February 6th - 10th was Children's Mental Health Week and the whole school marked it - well-being and mental health are of great importance to the school. The children took part in a variety of activities to support their



understanding of this vital area, including yoga, how to do peer massage or positive touch, mindfulness practices and breathing, to name but a few. The children were encouraged to choose some of their favourite techniques in the hope that they will take this learning on

throughout their lives to support their well-being.

Finally, we are having new and extra bike racks installed in the school grounds to encourage our Eco thread at school, hoping that more and more children will ride bikes or scoot to school rather than arrive in a car.



Visit us! If you have a child who will be starting school soon, we would love to show you around. Please contact us for more details on 01453 883 205.

SAFETY FIRST:

PLEASE:

- **MODERATE** your speed when driving on village roads & lanes.
- **PAY** special attention on bends & blind corners.
- **KEEP** pets on leads at all times when walking on roads & lanes.
- **WEAR** highly visible clothing if walking or running at night.
- **Be SAFE not SORRY**

A recent accident has shown the vital importance of taking care.

THANK YOU

Eastcombe Baptist Church

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

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP

On Sunday 7th May, Eastcombe will join in the nationwide celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles and the Queen Consort. Please save the date and come and join us!



Enjoy Sunday lunch or barbecue food at The Lamb Inn, or, if you prefer, bring your own picnic. Tables and chairs will be set out on Dr Crouch's Road by the Green and along towards the school and ice creams will be on sale.

The celebrations will be especially family friendly, with activities for the different age groups at the Village Hall. Later, there will be a Coronation themed procession to the Green, where a full programme of entertainment will run throughout the afternoon: the Ragged and Old Morris Dancers, Chalford band and the Hilltop Band have all agreed to perform.

Eastcombe Primary School are involved and we welcome other local groups who would like to join in the celebrations. All villagers are also invited to come along and offers of help are most welcome. We look forward to a memorable day!

February's Village Quiz was a great success. Congratulations to Scott and Chris Sissons for putting on a fun and lively evening and to Helen Watkinson and her team for the ploughman's supper.

The 2023 Wine Walk takes place on Sunday 30th July, with 5 venues hosting a wine producing country for the evening.

We need someone to take the minutes of EVG meetings – if you can help, please let me know.

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd April in the Village Hall annex at 7.45pm – please note the slightly earlier start time.

Peter Scott

peterhscott@btinternet.com

St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors are always welcome at our services. Services for this month are:

- March 12th - Holy Communion at 9.30am
- March 19th - Morning Prayer at 9.30am
- March 19th - Hilltop Café Church at 2.30pm (at Eastcombe Village Hall) - see separate poster
- March 26th - Holy Communion at 9.30am

*Morning Prayer is a simpler and shorter service

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

For weddings, funerals & baptisms, contact Revd Sue Murray: vicar@bisleybenefice.org.uk

NOTICE OF REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll will be revised by the Parochial Church Council from **Sunday the 2nd day of April 2023 to Sunday the 16th day of April 2023**. After Revision, a copy of the Roll will be exhibited for not less than 14 days on, or near to, the principal door of the Parish Church for inspection.



STOP PRESS!

Curious about faith? Try the **Alpha Course**, starting 1st March, at 7.30pm.

More details on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jillmail) page or via jill@jillmail.me.uk

CHALCAN UPDATE: MARCH 2023

Upcoming Events:

Our next **community walk** is **Saturday March 18**. Meet at Chalford Sports and Social Club at 10am. All welcome, including children and dogs (dogs must be on a lead). Walks last about an hour and a half and are not too strenuous. The route is decided just prior to the walk: check our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/chalcan) page for details.

Also on **Saturday March 18**, ChalCAN Biodiversity in association with Stroud Valleys Project's will hold a **Workshop: Creating a Garden Pond, 2.30pm** at **Eastcombe Village Hall**. No matter how little space you have, you can attract birds, beneficial insects and wildlife. Free, donations for tea and cake welcome.

The regular local **Repair Cafes** for textiles, electrical and mechanical repairs take place:

Stroud: Saturday 25 March. Trinity Rooms, Field Road, Stroud.

Nailsworth: Sunday 26 March, Nailsworth Community Workshop, Sub Rooms, Bath Road, Nailsworth. Booking for both can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7x23v9>.

Access Bike project **monthly Bike Ride into Stroud from Brimscombe** takes place on **Saturday March 4** from The Long Table at Brimscombe Mill. Meet at 10am for a chat, before leaving at 10.30am to ride into Stroud. A group ride to have fun and to push for a better cycle infrastructure along this route.

Dry Stone Walling Taster Weekend: Sat, 25 March 10am - Sun, 26 March 3pm. Participants will learn how to create a dry-stone wall. The 2-day session takes place on Rodborough Common. All materials included. Book on Stroud Valley Project website: www.stroudvalleysproject.org/

ChalCAN Food & Waste Group: We are hoping to re-start this group - if you are you concerned about food waste, interested in community composting, an experienced veg grower, could share healthy eating recipes or would like to promote repairing, upcycling, recycling, please get in touch with Kate: info@chalcan.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE: The Great Big Green Week runs again this year between **10th and 18th June**.

We'll be planning a programme of activities – if you have suggestions, let us know!

For up-to-date info or to join our mailing list, contact Kate: info@chalcan.org.uk, or visit our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/chalcan) page.

ChalCAN

EASTCOMBE WI



The February meeting saw our President, Pauline, welcome a large audience of members. She and our Secretary, Glenys, dealt with business, outings, meetings and events at county and local level.

After refreshments, we were entertained by a favourite speaker, Mr Robert Bryant ARPS. The letters indicate an expert photographer, as was shown during his talk about the Villa Gardens of the Italian Lakes. We saw the beauty of Maggiore, Garda and Como. Gardens filled with a riot of rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas, tree ferns and citrus trees were a joy to see, and the villas and statuary were delightful. Robert was thanked by Glenys and there was warm applause from the members.

As a group we regularly enjoy outings and luncheon club, and participate in craft, book club and scrabble meetings. New members are always very welcome.

Meetings, most of which most are open to non-members for a small fee, take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm at Eastcombe Village Hall, and usually include some form of entertainment. We look forward to warmly welcoming you.

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

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

presents

THE LOST KING

Director: Stephen Frears

Starring: Sally Hawkins, Steve Coogan and Harry Lloyd

The life-affirming true story of Philippa Langley, who takes on the country's most eminent historians in the search for the remains of King Richard III.



Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall

Date: Saturday 18th March

Time: Doors open 7pm,
Film starts 7.30pm

Admission: £4 per person

Selection of Ice Creams £2 each

All welcome!

NEARLY TIME FOR SUMMER!

British Summer Time (BST), also called Daylight Saving Time (DST), begins at 2am on 26th March 2023, when the clocks go forward 1 hour.

This will last until the last Sunday in October, when the clocks go back 1 hour to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). *'Spring forward, fall back'* is one way to remember which way to set the clock.

Why have Daylight Saving Time? Simply put, DST exists to make good use of daylight - an hour of daylight is borrowed from the morning and added to the end of the day, meaning longer evenings. This is because it gets light very early in the height of summer - when most of us are still asleep. Studies suggest that BST means fewer road accidents because it is lighter when more people use the road, and that it can reduce the amount of energy needed during the evening hours.

Although around 70 countries (of 195) worldwide use Daylight Saving Time (mostly in the northern hemisphere) some don't, including Japan, India and China. The difference in light is most noticeable in countries away from Earth's equator; countries close to the Equator do not generally use DST.

When did it start? US inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin first proposed DST in 1784, followed in 1895 by George Vernon Hudson, an entomologist from New Zealand, while Canada became the first country to implement DST in 1908. In Britain, builder William Willett, a keen golfer and horse rider, proposed that the clocks go forward in increments throughout the summer, but, sadly, he didn't live to see his idea adopted, dying before BST was established by the Summer Time Act of 1916 to alleviate energy usage during the war. The US followed, introducing Daylight Saving Time in 1918.

Throughout history, there have been several variations in the amount of adjustment made. The summers of 1941 to 1945, during the 2nd World War, saw Britain operate on British Double Summer Time (BDST), two hours ahead of GMT, achieved by not putting the clocks back at the end of summer 1940 (BST had also started early, on 25 February 1940) then advancing them by another hour in spring. On 15 July 1945, the clocks were put back by an hour, returning the UK to BST, then by another hour on 7 October 1945, bringing Britain back to GMT for the winter of 1945.

Hours of argument... Not everyone agrees with Daylight Saving Time. On March 26, 2019, the European Parliament voted in favour of stopping it in the EU, although this has not yet been implemented. A UK consultation in the winter of 1959-60 revealed a slight preference for changing to all-year GMT+1 (BST), but, instead, the length of summer time was extended as a trial. A further inquiry in 1966-1967 led the government of Harold Wilson to introduce the British Standard Time Experiment, with Britain remaining on GMT+1 all year between 27 October 1968 and 31 October 1971. Analysis of accident data showed an increase in casualties in the mornings, but a greater decrease in the evenings, with around 2,700 fewer people killed or seriously injured during the first two winters of the experiment, although this coincided with the introduction of drink/drive legislation, which may have affected the figures. Nevertheless, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and environmental campaigners 10:10 recommend that BST remains throughout the winter months, with a "double summertime" (2 hours ahead) in the summer, aligning the UK with European countries such as France. 10:10's *Lighter Later* campaign argues that adopting GMT+1 could save almost 500,000 tonnes of CO2 each year, 'equivalent to taking 185,000 cars off the road'. However, this is opposed by some farmers and by residents of Scotland and Northern Ireland, where the winter sunrise would be delayed to 10am or even later, with darker mornings affecting those travelling to work or school.

Is it bad for us? This is an age old argument; while many welcome the lighter evenings, others see the change as a nuisance, or even as adversely affecting health. It is true that changing the clocks can cause jet-lag-type symptoms and increases the chances of a cardiovascular event - losing just one hour of sleep can result in a 24% increase in heart attacks the next day. However, most welcome the clocks going forward, looking forward to the long, light evenings of summer.



SMARTPHONE
LEAVE IT ALONE.
IT DOES IT BY MAGIC.



SUN DIAL
MOVE ONE HOUR
TO THE RIGHT.



COOKER
YOU'LL NEED A MASTERS
IN ENGINEERING.
OR A HAMMER.



CAR CLOCK
NOT WORTH IT.
WAIT SIX MONTHS.



LAST CHANCE FOR A TRIM!




A reminder that bushes & trees overhanging paths or pavements should be trimmed back **BEFORE** birds start nesting in March.



Being responsible for your vegetation makes it easier for walkers to navigate paths, especially the partially sighted, wheelchair users and those with pushchairs.

Support nature & your community — get those secateurs out ASAP!



Don't **SPRING** into garden clean-up too soon ...
Wait until temperatures are consistently above 10°C (50°F)
 Many butterflies, bees & other pollinators are currently wintering in dead leaves & hollowed out stems of last years plants
LET THEM BEE 

HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB HAPPENINGS

Our A.G.M. was held on 7 February, when Jane Randall, our Chairperson, revisited the year, including talks, visits and events that we had enjoyed.

Special memories included our visit to Old Court Nursery and Picton Garden, with a guided walk around their Michaelmas Daisy collection, and the garden of Perrycroft, the Voisey designed house of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Malvern Hills, where we enjoyed cake and delicious tea from china teapots in the coach house before wandering through meadows and vegetable garden in the sunshine. Another special afternoon was spent at the walled garden of the Museum in the Park, Stroud, where we enjoyed scones, jam and cream, giving members a chance to get together after the lonely Covid times.

Our Finance Secretary, Margaret Wood, whose position is now joined with the Membership Secretary, gave a full run down of our accounts. In order to make it fair for members, visitors will now pay £3 to join a talk and members will be given first option on coach trips.

One of the Programme Secretaries, Jenny Exley, gave an insight into the new programme for the coming year, with a range of talks on historic and far flung gardens and parks abroad, coach trips, gardening tips and a spring plant and pre-loved tool sale at The Lamb Inn.

The A.G.M. wound up with the changes to the Committee. Most members remain in place, but Ruth Fraser, who has been Chairperson and Vice Chairman for over 20 years, stood down. Pam Meecham, a recent committee member, will take on the role, although it will be difficult to replace Ruth's knowledgeable guidance on how to run our club! We all joined in clapping her to show our thanks. Jane also expressed thanks to several members for their help and invited more members to join the committee - please do, we need you!

Gill Hazell then gave a PowerPoint quiz on fruit and vegetables, with some quite challenging questions - but members rose to it.

NEXT MEETING: 7th March: Our speaker will be Julie Richie, from Hoo House Nursery, talking about 'Colour Combinations,' hopefully with plants to sell. **Annual membership of £15 will be due at this meeting.**

Spring, summer and autumn events will be held at Eastcombe Village Hall from 7.15pm (coffee), with talks starting at 7.45pm.



ENJOY BEING OUTSIDE IN THE GARDEN?

During lockdown a small group of us, living locally, started a community allotment in Brownhill, named 'People's Patch', to create a welcoming garden space where people could meet and chat while growing fruit and veg.



We continued to develop our little plot through last year, adding raised beds and growing a wider variety of produce. We were also pleased to welcome some new people to our 'Patch'.

As spring approaches, we would welcome anyone who would like to join us for some gardening. We aim to offer the chance to meet others with a shared interest in growing fruit and vegetables, and to build relationships within the community. We want to be as inclusive as possible and hope in the future to create spaces with access for everyone, with or without any green fingered expertise!

We are also looking for anyone who could help by donating any of the following: garden chairs, a bench or table, paving slabs or even a small shed!

If you like to be outdoors, growing things or meeting new people over a cuppa (or know someone else who does) please contact sissonsscott@gmail.com.



We want to work together to create something special for one another in our community. We currently meet on a Monday morning from around 10am, until noon.

Thank you,
 Scott Sissons



Could you give a Ukrainian family a safe home?

Despite the war in Ukraine lasting almost a year, many families are still in desperate need of a place of safety. Could you offer a couple of rooms, an annexe or do you have a second property you could rent out at a reduced rate?

Many Stroud families have already opened their doors and have found the hosting experience an overwhelmingly positive one.

There are several organisations set up to help host families, including SURCS, a local network of volunteers helping Ukrainian guests and their hosts, so you won't feel alone!

Refugee guests are able to live and work in the UK for up to three years. Six to twelve months is the initial expected stay.

Host families receive £450-550/ month to help towards costs.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact stroudurcs@gmail.com for more information.

Published by SURCS (Stroud Ukrainian Refugee Community Support)

CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER: CARROT CAKE

Easy to make & the icing makes it special—great as a birthday cake! Serves 12.

INGREDIENTS:

3 eggs
175ml sunflower oil
3 tablespoons plain yogurt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
175g dark muscovado sugar
175g soft light brown sugar
300g plain flour
2 teaspoons mixed spice
Half a teaspoon ground all spice
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
Quarter teaspoon sea salt
350g carrots, coarsely grated
100g pistachios or hazel nuts, chopped

METHOD:

1. Pre-heat oven to 160 degrees/gas mark 4.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat together eggs, oil, yogurt & vanilla extract.
3. Stir in both sugars until smooth.
4. Fold in flour, spices, bicarbonate of soda & salt until combined.
5. Stir in grated carrots and nuts, then pour into the cake tin & level the top.
6. Bake for 1 hour and 25 minutes until firm on top. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Slice in half horizontally.



ICING INGREDIENTS:

125g softened butter
200g icing sugar
130g soft cheese (Philadelphia)
100g white chocolate

METHOD:

1. [Melt](#) the chocolate.
2. In a large bowl, beat together butter & icing sugar until fluffy.
3. Beat in the soft cheese, then the melted chocolate.
4. Put a generous portion of the icing on the centre of the cake & smooth over evenly.
5. Replace the top of the cake, then ice the top and sides evenly.
6. Decorate by drawing a fork gently over the surface for texture.

Save the Date!
Lamb Inn, Eastcombe

SATURDAY 8th April
Easter Egg Hunt with a Chocolate Prize - 2pm-4pm
All children must be accompanied by an adult

SUNDAY 9th April
Roast Lunch 12-6pm
Live Music with El Diablo from 8pm

CHALFORD MARKET
CRAFTY & DELICIOUS @ CHALFORD

Sunday 5th March
10am – 1pm

FOOD, DRINK, PLANTS, GIFTS & CRAFTS

Vector created by phloppster - www.freepik.com

‘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.

JOIN US FOR THE SIX NATIONS
YOUR HOME OF LIVE SPORT

SCRUM DOWN 4TH FEB – 18TH MAR

CHALFORD MARKET

Join us on Sunday 5th March for an inside market, with 20+ local vendors and great range of gifts ideal for Mothers Day. Refreshments will be available, including bacon rolls.

Future dates:

Sunday 2nd April
Sunday 14th May
Sunday 4th June

Any queries, please contact Josie: 07527 947615



EASTCOMBE SCREEN ON THE GREEN COMMUNITY RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported February's Screen on the Green raffle in aid of Frith Youth Centre, including The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, France Lynch Cinema and all those who bought a ticket.

The prize was a wine tasting visit to Woodchester Wines and the lucky winner was Phil Jenkins from Eastcombe. Congratulations - à votre santé! £146 was raised for the Frith Youth Centre.

Many thanks to Woodchester Wines for donating such a splendid prize.



MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday, or Mothers' Day, falls on Sunday 19th March, the 4th Sunday in Lent, halfway between Shrove Tuesday and Easter. In the US, it is marked on the 2nd Sunday in May, while some countries use March 8th, International Women's Day.



Mothering Sunday was traditionally the day you returned to your 'Mother Church' (where you were baptised) meaning mothers were often reunited with their children for the day. Later, it was the one day a year servants were allowed to visit their families.

Mothering Sunday is sometimes known as *Simmnel Sunday* or *Refreshment Sunday*, because Simmel cakes were baked to celebrate the family reunion amid the austerity of Lent. Today, Simmel cakes are more usually associated with Easter.

One day in March
When the mud oozes,
rugs appear on windowsills,
lolling like dusty tongues;
carts sell daffodils -
and the wind, like a paintbrush,
smacks my cheek freshly.

I take off my coat
and shoes, play
in the sun, sweat.
But in the shivery shade
it's not Spring yet.



VILLAGE HISTORIES: ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL EASTCOMBE...

Ancient Eastcombe: In the 1940s, two bowl barrows were discovered near Eastcombe by workers digging trenches close to the reservoir, west of Nash End Farm (OS grid ref: SO895046). Here, medieval opaque rainbow tinted glass (from ornaments) and large flat stones were found; the latter may have come from Bronze Age burials and could have then been re-purposed as stone stiles in Fidges Lane and the fields leading to Nash End. The barrows are aligned NE-SW, the southern barrow lying on the crest of the hill, the other just below. The southern barrow measures 15m in diameter and is about 0.4m in height, while the barrow to the NE has a mound measuring 12m in diameter and 0.5m high. Surrounding each barrow mound is a ditch from which material was excavated for their construction. These ditches are no longer visible at ground level, but have survived as buried features about 2m wide.

The barrows were first scheduled as ancient monuments on 4th February 1949, and, while the remains of the stone field wall which originally ran NW to SE across the NE barrow are excluded from the scheduling, the ground beneath is included.

Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the late Neolithic period to the late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials and occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries, often forming focus for burials in later periods. Differing widely in size, they exhibit regional variations. There are over 10,000 surviving bowl barrows recorded nationally (many more have been destroyed). Often occupying prominent locations, they are a major historic element in the modern landscape and their considerable variation of form provide important information on the diversity of beliefs amongst early prehistoric communities.

The Eastcombe bowl barrows are noted to have survived reasonably well in an area of considerable prehistoric activity, with another barrow to the east and the site of a barrow to the south. As well as containing evidence of prehistoric funerary practices, the mounds will also hold environmental information about the landscape at the time of the barrows' construction, and the surrounding ditches may hold evidence in the form of organic remains, relating to the barrows and the wider landscape. **PLEASE NOTE: Any form of unauthorised investigation is prohibited and the bowl barrows lie on private land.**

MEDIEVAL EASTCOMBE: There is also evidence of a medieval settlement in Eastcombe, in the field adjacent to lower Fidges Lane: the remains of a medieval village, a curvilinear medieval strip lynchet and a cultivation terrace. These features are visible to the naked eye, appear on historic aerial photographs, and were mapped as part of the 2016 Severn Vale NMP Project.



Bowl Barrow



Ridges mark the site of a medieval village in the Eastcombe fields

Chalford Hill School PTA

CAR BOOT SALE

SUNDAY 12TH MARCH
10-1pm £10 per car

Further information & Tickets to be purchased via
pta-events.co.uk/chalfordhill-schoolpta

Chalford Hill School Field, Franch Lynch, Chalford, GL6

Spring Cornucopia

STUART SINGERS St George's Church, Nailsworth
Saturday 4th March 2023 at 7.30pm

An evening of song by the Stuart Singers

Proceeds of the concert will go to St George's Church Re-ordering Project to make a better space for the Church and local community

Musical Director: Helen Sims
Accompanist: Matthew Sharp

Tickets £12

Tickets available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsworth-benefice
from the Church & from Nailsworth Town Information Centre
www.stuartsingers.com www.facebook.com/stuartsingers

With thanks to our sponsors:
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COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

- An upcoming event?
- An article on local history?
- Anything else local!

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

WHAT'S ON in MARCH?

- 2 March:** Chalford PC meeting, 7pm
4 March: Access Bike Project Bike Ride, 10am, The Long Table, Brimscombe Mill/
Stuart Singers concert in aid of St George's Church, Nailsworth, 7.30pm
5 March: Chalford Market, 10am-1pm, Chalford Sports & Social Club
7 March: Hilltop Gardening Club meeting, 7.15pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
12 March: Chalford Hill School PTA Car Boot Sale, 10am-10m
18 March: Screen on the Green, 7pm (7.30pm) Eastcombe Village Hall/ChalCAN Community Walk, 10am, CSSC/ChalCAN workshop: Creating a Garden Pond, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm
19 March: Hilltop Café Church, 2.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
20 March: DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER (12 noon)
25/26 March: Dry Stone Walling Taster Weekend, 10am-3pm



NAME THAT VIEW! How well do you know our villages?

February's photo showed the snowy corner of Bracelands (by Eastcombe Village Hall) looking down towards the Bussage turn. March's photo is once again taken in or around the 3 villages.

Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the April issue.