

FOLLOW US
ON
FACEBOOK

60p
FREE Digitally!

July 2023

Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

Welcome to the July issue of the newsletter. To receive a digital copy FREE every month, contact eastcombebambnews@gmail.com to join the circulation list. You can also read the newsletter online at www.chalford-glos.gov.uk/Newsletters 34865.aspx & www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/eastcombe/.

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

Please send items for the August issue to eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com by **NOON on 20th JULY**.

WIN A GNOME FOR YOUR HOME!

8th & 9th July, 1-4pm

There'll be fun for all the family at Eastcombe's favourite event of the year! Buy a map and wander through some of the village's prettiest winding lanes hunting for gnomes.

The trail starts at Eastcombe Primary School and will go ahead rain or shine.

Thank you to [Sawyers Estate Agents](#) and our other [sponsors](#).

All proceeds go to Eastcombe Primary School and this year, the hunt is raising funds for **new reading books for all classes** and **outdoor learning equipment**.

Maps are £3 each for one child (£2 for each additional child in the party) which includes a prize gnome at the end. Skip the queue and reserve your maps [here](#).

Enjoy an ice cream stop along the way, then tea and home-made cakes at the village hall, plus tombola, raffle, stalls, face painting, toddler activities, lucky dip, carnival games and more. You might even see a couple of life-sized gnomes wandering about the village! You can also win big in our cash prize draw: order your tickets in advance [here](#).

SEE YOU ON 8TH JULY!

ST SWITHUN'S DAY: 15th July

Anglo Saxon St. Swithun was the bishop of Winchester from 852 to 862. After he died, at his request, Swithun was buried in the churchyard, where "the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave."

On July 15th 971, it was decided that it was unseemly that so holy a man should rest in a common grave and his body was moved inside the cathedral. According to legend, a great storm then ensued, which continued for 40 days.

Ever since, according to folklore, July 15th has been the day when, if it rains, it will carry on raining for 40 days, but if it is fair, 40 days of fair weather will follow:

**St Swithun's Day, if it does rain
Full forty days, it will remain
St Swithun's Day, if it be fair
For forty days, t'will rain no more**



ALL CHANGE AT THE FRITH COMMUNITY CAFE

At the end of May, after 12 happy years running the Frith Community Cafe, Carol and Alex Lambert handed over the reins to Cheryl and Dave Shears.



Cheryl and Dave live locally and have lots of experience of working in the community, so the good work will continue.

Carol thanked the Cafe volunteers, who provide their time, delicious cakes and flowers on a weekly basis, and the customers who support the Cafe, which will continue to thrive in the community, donating profits to support the work of Frith Centre's Youth Team.



Hazel Brook offers this tribute to Carol and Alex, from all at the Café:

*For ten long years you have run the cafe
Serving coffee cakes and tea.
You have arranged the rotas
And taken lots of photos
To keep in our memory.
We've had Christmas Fayres
And parties galore.
Friendships have blossomed
And much, much more.
It's now time for you to take a rest
And we all wish you the very best.*

**All welcome at the Frith Café every
Wednesday morning
between 10.15am-12 noon,
for cake, a hot drink
and a chat.**



INSIDE INCINERATOR KNOWLEDGE...

On 23rd May, 11 of us visited the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility (otherwise known as the Javelin Park Incinerator) kindly organised by Gerry Moutrey on behalf of the Eastcombe Village Group.

We had a short talk on the incinerator's history (who knew that it was built on the site of a former RAF base?) followed by a guided tour – the scale of it all was completely overwhelming! Rubbish is deposited by lorries into a cavernous hall, then dropped into the incinerator at 800 degrees Celsius (to break down any nasties and facilitate their removal). Great efforts are taken to recycle the remaining waste products. The facility deals with 90% of Gloucestershire's waste and all but eliminates the need for any further landfill. It also generates enough electricity to power 25,000 homes.

The visit was incredibly enlightening and informative and is highly recommended for supporters and objectors alike!

If there is sufficient interest, another visit can be arranged for Tuesday 31st October. Please register your interest at incineratorvisit@btinternet.com by **Monday 31st July**.

Jane Gandy



ChalCAN UPDATE: JULY **ChalCAN**

Moth Breakfast: Sunday 9th July at Grove End:

Enjoy a communal breakfast and wonder at a collection of beautiful moths with moth expert, Bob Smith. Attendees should bring their own breakfast, with croissants, tea and coffee also provided. As parking is difficult, please meet at the Brantwood end of the Chalford Hill Pleasure Ground at 9.20am and we will walk down to Grove End together.

Great Big Green Week 10-18th June: The Chalford Family Bike Route (a 6.5km route around the top of the hill) was launched during the Great Big Green Week. Prepared by ChalCAN volunteers and funded by a grant from the GCC Build Back Better Fund, the route is waymarked and suitable for young families and those new to solo road biking. Much is on quiet roads or tracks, although there are some busier sections where care should be taken. It is mostly level or gently sloping, except for two points. Map of the route at chalcan.org.uk/news-and-blog. We would like feedback from participants: email us at info@chalcan.org.uk

ChalCAN also ran a variety of other events, including a composting workshop, community walk and a biodiversity stand on the Green promoting the Biodiversity Trail, along with tips to make your garden more wildlife friendly. Mark from Frome Valley Cycle Repairs was also on hand offering bike checks.

More details on chalcan.org.uk/news-and-blog.

A Community Compost Scheme for Chalford:

A group of Chalford residents are hoping to establish a community compost scheme, taking garden waste and producing peat free compost. The benefits would be less CO₂ produced by trips to the dump, no need for bonfires, less money spent on bought compost (so fewer plastic bags) plus a positive, pro-active contribution towards the parish's Net Zero objectives.

To understand the level of demand within the parish, please complete our survey at <https://tinyurl.com/3cfafdp2> (or pick up a hard copy from the Parish Centre). If you fancy getting involved, email Karen Phiminster at kjpmail66@gmail.com.

Repair Cafes: The date of the next Stroud repair café (at the Trinity Rooms) is 29 July. Book at <https://tinyurl.com/ycx8fyyp>

To contact us or get involved with ChalCAN please email info@chalcan.org.uk.

More info at www.chalcan.org.uk and on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/chalcan) page.

NEW RELEASE FOR BROWNSHILL AUTHOR

Best-selling Brownshill author Sarah Edghill has just published her third novel, *The Bad Wife*. An early version of this domestic drama won the Katie Fforde Contemporary Fiction Award at the Stroud Book Festival and, several later, it is finally seeing the light of day.

'This book was always close to my heart, but I've reworked it and changed it quite extensively over the last few years,' says Sarah. *'I was writing other books at the same time and, although they were published first, I'm thrilled to see this one out in the world.'*

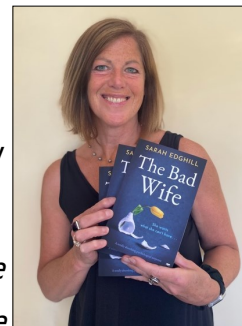
The Bad Wife tells the story of Katie, who meets and becomes obsessed by a stranger. Driven by an unhealthy desire for a man she hardly knows, the mother of two begins to worm her way into Joe's life, knowing it's reckless, but unable to control herself. As her obsession intensifies, Katie's world becomes increasingly stressful and she's forced to cover her tracks by lying to everyone around her. While she can't live without him, Joe barely knows she exists... yet. The consequences will be devastating for both of them.

Sarah came up with the idea for *The Bad Wife* after seeing an article in the Stroud News & Journal. *'It featured a head and shoulders photo of a man, his arms folded, smiling at the camera,'* she says. *'I began to wonder what would happen if a normal wife and mother became obsessed with a stranger, as a result of a chance encounter or simply seeing his photo in a paper.'*

Having worked as a journalist for many years, Sarah has interviewed hundreds of people with fascinating stories to tell. *'Truth really is stranger than fiction,'* she says. *'We are all only human, being pulled in different directions and juggling too many balls, which means that, like my protagonist in The Bad Wife, we sometimes behave badly and make the wrong decisions – decisions which will have consequences.'*

***The Bad Wife* is published by Bloodhound books and can be ordered through local bookshops or Amazon as an e-book or paperback.**

Find out more about Sarah and her work at www.sarahedghill.com



CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL: JULY 2023

01453 887204; info@chalford-glos.gov.uk www.chalford-glos.gov.uk. [Facebook](#).



Welcome – There has been a lot of change at the Parish Council recently, and in June we welcomed Assistant Clerk Lucy McInroy to the team. Lucy lives in Chalford and will support the Clerks Monday to Thursday in looking after the administration of our allotment sites, charity land and befriending service!

Allotments – Would you like to grow your own fruit and vegetables? Our waiting lists are almost clear, so it's a great time to register your interest! A cost effective way of meeting your "5 a day" and a very social hobby! Please contact Lucy for more details: lucy@chalford-glos.gov.uk

Community Composting – ChalCAN's Food and Waste Group are exploring this initiative for Chalford and your thoughts are needed! Hard copies of the survey available in the Parish Office.

Food – Our 'Freezer of Love' is regularly replenished with tasty meals from The Long Table, available to all. To try them, please call in at the office. In addition, we have a 'mini food bank' of dried goods and household items. We rely on residents' generous donations to keep this running—thank you for all the donations.

Chalfest – It is nearly time to party on the hill! Friday night is exclusively for Chalford residents while Saturday it is open to all ticket holders. Enjoy a fantastic range of food, entertainment, local organisations and bars. Our thanks to the organisers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to put on a brilliant event.

Footpaths & Walling – The wall between Middle Hill allotments and the path beside it is very dilapidated – in some places it is hard to tell there's a wall at all. The cost of stone (£200 a tonne, and a tonne doesn't go far) makes repairing the wall beyond the means of the Parish Council, even with free labour. Your Footpath Volunteers are recovering usable stone from the wall and repairing other Parish walls with it, starting with a wall by France Lynch allotments. The Middle Hill allotment wall will be replaced by a wildlife friendly hedge, with ChalCAN Biodiversity advising what is best to plant.

Community Speed Watch Group – Would you like to help reduce speeding in the Parish? We want to get our Community Speed Watch Group up and running again but we need volunteers to help us succeed. This will involve setting up our vehicle activated sign around the parish and collating the data, using a speed gun (training provided). If this is something that you would like to get involved with, please get in touch.

Overgrown Hedges/Foliage – Everything is growing rapidly! Please can we remind residents to maintain trees/shrubs in gardens to ensure they don't overhang and encroach onto footpaths or roads. Foliage at head height can really impact on partially sighted people; many thanks for your support.

Grass Cutting – At this time of year our groundsman is extremely busy grass cutting. This is always a hot topic of conversation and striking the balance between encouraging biodiversity and maintaining areas to residents' satisfaction can be a tricky task. We would like to assure residents that we work closely with ChalCAN's Biodiversity Group and consider our cutting regime very carefully, reviewing it on an ongoing basis. Grounds staff work under the instruction of The Council and we politely request that they are allowed to carry out their work without interruption. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Poor Road Conditions – We are working with our District and County Cllr Chloe Turner for improvements to road conditions, submitting questions to the next County Council meeting. Updates to follow...

Accounts 2022-2023 – the public inspection of our accounts runs from 30 June to 10 August 2023. If you would like a copy, please get in touch.

Please contact us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

BUSSAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE:

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Summer Fayre on Saturday 1st July. See poster for details.

Year 6 enjoyed their residential in South Devon at a PGL facility. The sun shone brightly and despite the heat, the children got stuck into the adventurous activities with energy and enthusiasm, including a range of challenges such as abseiling, vertical challenge, archery, buggy building and zip wire. It was lovely to see the camaraderie throughout their time away, and their support of each other if their nerve faltered whilst attempting something new. What a fabulous way to spend time together before their journey at Bussage C of E Primary School comes to an end.

Finally, our new school year starts in September and we can accommodate children in several year groups. So, if you are looking for a place, or know of anyone who might be moving to the area, we would be delighted to show you around our school. Please contact us on 01453 883 205.



EASTCOMBE WI:

Pauline welcomed a good number of members and some visitors. Business was brisk. All members agreed that our 90th party was a success, and a thank you note from France Lynch was read out.

A fundraising event is planned for September in support of Sue Ryder charity, in Leckhampton.

Business concluded, we welcomed our speakers, Diana and Fred, who entertained us with the history of Shadows from China. The art of shadow puppetry was brought to the west along the Silk Road by Marco Polo. It was adapted for western audiences, France adding the cutting of silhouettes. The main venue was Le Chat Noir theatre in Montmartre. In England, the art was taken up by Mr Astley of the famous Georgian Astley's Circus. Later, it was taken over by street entertainers as a form of Punch and Judy, known as Galanty Shows. Diana and Fred were thanked by Sue.

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.

Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm at Eastcombe Village Hall, and usually include some form of entertainment. For more information please contact the Secretary, Glenys Sharpe, on 01453 886298



Eastcombe Baptist Church

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



EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP

Wine Walk 2023: Sunday 30 July: 4pm-8pm: Tickets for the Wine Walk are now on sale at Eastcombe Stores, until Monday 17 July, £16 each - **CASH ONLY PLEASE.**

The format of the evening is similar to previous years: your £16 will provide a map of the village showing the 5 venues, some information about the event and 5 'wine-vouchers', which allow you to enjoy 5 glasses of wine (additional wine vouchers can be bought by ticket holders for £4 per glass at each venue – cash only).

Each venue will be serving wine from a different country and we expect that each will offer a choice of 2 red, 2 white and a rose wine. The countries represented include France, Spain, Italy, South Africa and the Americas (Argentina, Chile and California). The 5 venues are all within a short walk of Eastcombe Green. We hope for a fine sunny evening, and, as in previous years, an enjoyable opportunity to discover new wines, to meet neighbours and make new friends.



Next meeting: Our next meeting is Monday 3 July at 7.45pm in Eastcombe Village Hall annex. We will discuss ideas for events and plans for the rest of the year. Please do come along - you will be most welcome.

If you would like to keep up to date with our activities, please contact Chris Sissons csissons52@gmail.com.

Peter Scott
peterhscott@btinternet.com

The John Taylor Foundation

The John Taylor Foundation is a local charity that issues small grants to students moving on to Higher Education (excluding A Levels), or those 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 (this includes all of the civil parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt, including Eastcombe and Oakridge, most of Bussage and part of Chalford) please apply in writing to Mrs J Taylor, St. Hilary's Cottage, Bussage, Stroud GL6 8BB quoting your name, age, home address and the date of entry to your university, college, course or job. You can also apply by email: jennytaylor1944@outlook.com.

The Trustees of The John Taylor Foundation meet twice a year, in March and September, when applications will be considered.



St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors are always welcome. Our services this month are:

July 9th: Holy Communion at 9.30am

July 16th: Morning Prayer at 9.30am

July 16th: Hilltop Café Church, Eastcombe Village Hall at 2.30pm (see poster)

July 23rd: Holy Communion at 9.30am

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

LONGFIELD NEED FURNITURE!



We are in desperate need of quality furniture for our furniture shop at our new warehouse in Thrupp.

We need quality tables, chairs, armchairs, sofas, wardrobes etc.

Unfortunately, we cannot take beds, upholstery without fire safety labels, or faulty electrical items.

If you are having a clear out or need a house clearance, please think of us at Longfield. Donations are our life blood, enabling us to deliver our care services in people's homes, and in the community.

Our [furniture warehouse](http://www.furniturewarehouse.co.uk) is now open and accepting donations 10am – 4pm, Monday to Saturday, at Unit D1, Kingfisher Business Park, London Road, Thrupp, GL5 2BY.

To donate furniture, or to arrange free collection, please get in touch on 01453 836715 or logistics@longfield.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

HOLIDAY HELP...

citizens advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts

Booked a holiday?

Hopefully you'll have a lovely time, but if something does go wrong, the Citizens Advice website has lots of information about what to do and what compensation you may be eligible for.

For example, if you paid for a deluxe room but only got a standard one, you can claim back the difference in value, or if things you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, you can claim for 'loss of enjoyment'.

Call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline **0800 223 1133** or talk to an adviser online through the website. More advice on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/

JOIN A FRIENDLY TEAM HELPING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers from all backgrounds who can give 8-10 hours per week.

No prior experience is necessary as full training will be given. To find out more, please contact our Learning and Development Officer at training@ca-scd.org.uk.

You will find more information on our website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk.

Eastcombe Screen on the Green Community Raffle

The draw of the community raffle in support of Chalford Band was made at the film night in Eastcombe on 17th June.

The lucky winner of a £50 voucher for The Lamb Inn was Janet Taylor, of Bussage, with £141 raised for Chalford Band. Thank you to The Lamb Inn for the prize. Enjoy your meal, Janet!

The village hall chairs have now been replaced with some that are much more comfortable. Thanks to Alex Lambert and Christine Prince for facilitating this improvement.

Why not come along to Eastcombe's Screen on the Green, enjoy a film, meet friends and support our great local community?

WATERING HELP NEEDED!



You may have noticed that more plants have been inserted into the holders at Eastcombe Bus Shelter Book Swap. Due to the heat, these have needed daily watering, but, despite our best efforts, some plants are wilting.



If you are passing and could check for wilting plants and give them a drink (perhaps you could carry a bottle of tap water with you?) both the plants and the waterers would be very grateful! Due to the tree overhang, even heavy rainfall sometimes doesn't get through to the plants...



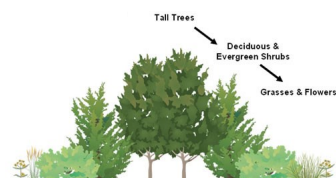
Thanks so much!

Bus Shelter Watering Team

HEALTHY HEDGEROWS HELP WILDLIFE!

Did you know that hedgerows provide food and shelter for many species of birds and mammals? They are also essential 'green' corridors along which wildlife can travel.

Hedgerows support 80% of our woodland birds, 50% of our mammals and 30% of our butterflies. The ditches and banks associated with hedgerows also provide habitats for frogs, toads, newts and reptiles. In areas with few woods, many species of birds depend on hedgerows for their very survival. At least 30 species nest in hedgerows: many of these, such as bullfinches and turtle doves, prefer hedgerows more than 4m tall, whereas whitethroats, linnets and yellowhammers favour shorter hedgerows (2-3m). In winter, hedgerows also provide feeding and roosting sites for resident birds and winter visitors such as fieldfares and redwings.



Song thrushes, blackbirds, chaffinches and greenfinches nest well above ground level, but wrens, robins, dunnocks and whitethroats usually nest low down, and grey partridges nest in grass at the hedge bottom. This means that it is important to maintain a grassy verge at the base of the hedge. Grassy hedge bottoms and field margins provide

nesting material and insect larvae for chicks to feed on, while wild flowers and grasses growing up into a hedge help to conceal nests from predators.

Which hedgerows are best for wildlife? Thick hedges with wide bases that provide plenty of cover are best, but hedgerows can be a variety of shapes and sizes. In addition, trees, particularly oaks, support a rich variety of insects and make good perching posts. Old trees have holes where blue tits, owls and kestrels, as well as bats, can nest. Different species flower at different times, providing nectar over a longer period, supporting more insects, as well as supplying a variety of berries over a long period. So, the greater the variety of shrubs and trees, the better.

Dead timber is a rich source of insect food and provides minibeast habitats, so please leave it in the hedge whenever possible.



SCREEN ON THE GREEN

presents

A MAN CALLED OTTO

Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Tom Hanks, Mariana Trevino



When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets Marisol, a quick-witted, pregnant woman, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down

Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall

Date: Saturday 29th July

Time: Doors open 7pm, Film starts 7.30pm

Admission: £4 per person

Ice Creams £2 each

All welcome!

ROADS SURVEY...

HAVE YOUR SAY! Take this survey & give your views about our local roads:

haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagement/hq.com/local-roads-feedback-survey/survey_tools/local-roads-survey



The survey closes at noon on 1st August 2023 & all views are appreciated.

The Thames Head Singers

Will Todd MASS IN BLUE

... and a colourful selection of songs for a summer's evening

Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton
Saturday 8th July 2023 at 7.30pm
Directed by Andrew Hopwood

Soprano: Megan Strachan
Saxophone: Matthew Morris
Piano: Julian Ellway
Drums: Pam Smith
Double Bass: Dave Ayre



Tickets £15 (under 16s free)
Book online: bit.ly/ThamesHeadSummer23
Box Office: 0333 666 3366
www.thamesheadsingers.org.uk



INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

Join the

Eastcombe & Bismore Local History Group

on Facebook.



Eastcombe Post Office c.1910-18, Eastcombe Green

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE



Wednesday 26 July
Chalford Hill Primary School

Doors open 19:15,
film starts 20:00

America's most dysfunctional family must bond together and endure an epic road trip in their broken VW Camper to help their daughter achieve her goal.



For news about Chalfilm, visit us on [Facebook](#) or look out for posters.

A Plea from an Eastcombe Resident:

Dear Dog Owners,

I don't own a dog but every day for the past 6 years I have to clear dog mess off my lawn. It makes no difference if I close my gate, the dog mess still appears. Please can you be considerate when walking your dogs and prevent them from running into other people's gardens.

If you let your dog go out by themselves, please think about what that means for other people having to clear up your dog's mess.

Thank you.

POOP MATTERS...

Most of us dislike mess - especially dog mess. Even dog owners aren't keen. Uncleared dog mess on or near paths and roads is unpleasant, and it can be dangerous. Toxocariasis can result in blindness, while parasites transmitted to livestock through infected poop can cause cows to miscarry their calves, or result in them being born with neurological problems.



Most dog owners are conscientious in clearing up after their pet, but many of us are baffled as to why some people pick up mess - then leave the poo bag. Even in this age of 'compostable' bags, it's littering. And how compostable are these bags, really?

You may have heard the term 'greenwashing', used to describe companies' techniques to convince us we are making green choices when, in fact, we're not. It doesn't help that the words 'bio-degradable' and 'compostable' are used almost interchangeably, although the two terms are very different. 'Bio-degradable' products will break down over time, but this could be as long as 1000 years, because they are really just plastic bags with degradable additives added. Not only that, but they leave behind fragments of microplastics, which contaminate soil and waterways.



* Compostable means that a product is made of natural plant-based materials such as corn, flax, or bamboo, which will degrade completely, usually in 3-6 months in the right conditions, without leaving behind unnatural elements. So, how can you make sure that you buy the right bags? Truly compostable bags should meet European EN 13432 standard, so look for labels on the packaging, including the seedling logo, indicating that the bag complies with the European standard.

Still not convinced? Well, the green poop bag pictured above right was left by a gate from the Eastcombe fields in January 2023. Rather than pick up the bag and take it to a bin (again), this particular bag was left in situ to see just how long it took to rot down. 6 months later, the bag looks just the same. It was litter to start with and it is still litter.

The message is clear: please pick up after your dog - & PLEASE TAKE THE BAG TO A BIN. And THANK YOU to all the diligent dog owners who always do just that!



HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB HAPPENINGS...

Early in June we welcomed Duncan Coombs, Horticulturalist, to give an illustrated talk on **Serre de la Madone, Menton, in the South of France**. It was an engaging event with historical references, light hearted humour and excellent photos.

Serre de la Madone was designed by Major Lawrence Johnston, who also owned the garden at Hidcote Manor. Duncan's illustrations showed a somewhat wild garden on a hillside, with distant views and steps zigzagging up to a terrace with a water garden, and some magnificent specimens. The garden is now managed by the town of Menton.

Major Johnston was born in Paris in 1871 into a rich American family. After growing up in America, Lawrence took an Arts degree at Cambridge University, then enlisted in 1900, fighting in the Boer, 1st and 2nd World Wars. Following the Boer War, he set about creating his dream - gardens filled with rare plants. The site at Menton provided the base for subtropical species, and Hidcote Manor, which he had bought in 1907, for plants from temperate climates. There was friction with his mother as he spent vast sums of money both at Hidcote, and at Menton, where he extended his residence and created terracing and water gardens. Duncan showed an early contour map with plots and buildings, bought from 1924 until 1940 on a south facing slope a few miles from the coast - a subtropical paradise.

Major Johnston was passionate about plants, sponsoring expeditions to bring back rare species from Switzerland and the Andes, including the expeditions of George Forrest, plant hunter. The Major also joined expeditions, although he had lost a lung in the war. In 1948, 10 years before he died, Major Johnston gave Hidcote to the National Trust.

The presentation gave insight into a sponsor who had done so much for the wide variety of species brought into this country!

OTHER NEWS: 4 July: Visit to Bourton House Gardens (and, briefly, Batsford Arboretum) by minibus.

Jenny Exley, Shared Programme Secretary.

See our website for details: www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk



If you reach a road & there is no bin,

Don't leave your poo bag (that would be a sin)

Poo bags are litter & not to be seen,

Put the bags in a bin—keep our hilltop clean!

#badversebutgoodpoint



GO GREENER!

Make July a bit greener...

PLEASE CLEAR DOG POOP - & TAKE ALL POO BAGS TO A BIN!

THANK YOU!

Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network



CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER: GREEK SALAD

Easy to make and delicious for lunch or on a summer evening. Serves 4

INGREDIENTS:

350g mixed heritage tomatoes
1/2 cucumber
10 spring onions, sliced
Medium sized bunch of chopped mint
130g soft or hard feta cheese
5 tablespoons black olive *tapenade or 16
stoned black olives
Salt, freshly ground black pepper

FOR THE DRESSING

6 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons red wine, cider or malt vinegar
1 teaspoon sugar

Mix in a bottle and shake together before use.

METHOD:

1. Slice tomatoes into 4 (baby tomatoes in half). Put in a large bowl.
2. Cut cucumber in half lengthways, then slice thinly on the diagonal. Add to bowl.
3. Scatter over sliced onions and mint. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Shake dressing, add to bowl and toss to combine. Cut feta cheese into small, crumbly pieces. Scatter on top.
5. Divide into 4 bowls.
6. Shape tapenade (using two spoons) into small ovals (called quenelles) and place on top of each serving. If using black olives, scatter on top.
7. Serve with garlic bread or crunchy bread.

Best served within 1 hour, but will keep in a fridge for 3 hours.

A taste of summer!

*Tapenade is a mixture of crushed black olives, garlic, capers, anchovies, lemon juice and olive oil. Find recipes online or buy at a supermarket.



HELP A HEDGEHOG!

Help a hilltop hedgehog by buying tickets for **Help a Hedgehog Hospital's Summer raffle**, and be in with a chance of winning loads of great prizes, including a 2 night stay in a Cotswold cabin, a 3 course lunch at Calcot Manor and Spa and afternoon tea at The Snooty Fox Tetbury.

To buy, visit one of the Help a Hedgehog stalls at Stroud Show on July 15th, Gatcombe Park on 4th August or Frampton Country Fair on 10th September, or buy tickets by messaging the Help a Hedgehog [Facebook](#) page or by emailing them on enquiries@helpahedgehog.org.

Tickets are £1 each and the draw will take place on Thursday 19th October at Stroud Brewery.

Find out more about the Help a Hedgehog Hospital by visiting their website www.helpahedgehog.org

Help wildlife by putting out clean water for them to drink!



A DAY N THE LIFE: Daniel Joseph tells us ALL ABOUT ABERLINK...



Marcus Eales,
owner/director of
Aberlink

Readers of this newsletter will be aware of the Aberlink factory on Vatch Lane but, as I drove past it following a lorry at more-or-less walking pace and read their company sign proclaiming 'Innovative Metrology,' I realised that I had no idea what they did. So, with great interest, and not a little caution as I crept down the roadside to the site, I met the boss, Marcus Eales, who generously gave time to explain what his business is all about.

Founded 30 years ago (Aberlink recently celebrated its birthday with a party for the staff), by Marcus Eales and Gavin Bailey, the company has been on its present site since 2008, after outgrowing a previous site in Avening.

They produce a range of machines whose purpose is to measure, with high accuracy (in microns – thousandths of a millimetre!) complex components in 3 dimensions. The components might be highly complex and safety critical, like aircraft parts, or might need their manufacture to be closely tracked, like medical equipment. They might simply require total regularity for aesthetic reasons, such as the bevelled edge of an iPhone.

Aberlink produces the machines totally on site, importing only the aluminium and granite. Granite is used as the measuring surface in some machines and would be the envy of any high-end kitchen, although the cost of the machines – up to £80000 - would probably put off an interior design company! They also produce the computer hardware and software to operate the machines. When you add in the administration, sales, packaging, and research

and development, the building is quickly filled.

Aberlink's machines are competing in a market dominated by large companies in Germany, Japan and the US. However, Aberlink has a growing market in the US and sells many machines in the Far East. Increased transportation costs have made the market tough for all exporters, but Marcus believes the computer hardware and software makes Aberlink's machines relatively simple to operate and gives them a competitive edge.

Marcus, a keen and competitive cyclist who has recently taken to racing Caterham cars, lives in Oakridge. He doesn't see anything odd about an industrial unit operating in the Cotswold AONB but instead sees the continuities between Aberlink and the many 18th and 19th Century industrial mills throughout this area. Many might remember this site as a sawmill and Marcus thinks the very fact that it is close to the community provides benefits. For example, 10% of the employees live within walking distance and, thanks to car sharing, the local workforce is a model of efficiency.

Marcus hopes that Aberlink will be around for another 30 years; they have bought the timber yard adjacent with an aim of developing a unit with potential for storage. I asked about apprenticeships at Aberlink and was told that they 'would be interested to talk to someone who is interested and enthusiastic.'

Considering their global reach, Aberlink seem unobtrusive neighbours who are making the most of our local environment to provide local jobs and world class products.

Daniel Joseph

VILLAGE HISTORIES: CARNIVAL TIME!



For several decades over the latter half of the 20th century, Eastcombe Carnival was an annual event. Each village organisation would enter a float into the parade, which processed around the village, led by the Chalford Silver Band, finishing with a fête on the playing field.

Each year, a Carnival Queen would be crowned (bottom centre and top left) - in 1965, it was Sharon Martin. A fancy dress parade of c.1968 (right) featured Elizabeth Hodges as Andy Pandy, alongside her twin brother, Andrew.



Until 1969, the floats gathered on a field near the village hall, once used for the village bonfire and now part of Bracelands.

The carnival often had a theme. A float of around 1979 is based on the Jungle Book (4th down, right), while another of around 1969 (2nd down, left) appears to mark decimalisation, with signs saying 'Poor Old Pound.' In 1971, the parade featured a float themed on 'The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe,' (right) made by Pete Westley, Roger Yendall and Clifford Webb.



The 1970s saw the advent of colour photos. One 1978 entry (left, 4th down), possibly the Eastcombe Cubs float, features footballers—it was a World Cup year. Bottom 2nd left is a float of 1981, while bottom left is a float of 1984 on an Olympic theme.



The carnival ran until the early 1990s. In 2002, the tradition was revived for Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. (bottom right).



Eastcombe Village Group

WINE WALK

Sunday July 30th 4pm - 8pm

5 different venues in Eastcombe
Wines from at least 6 countries
Tickets to be purchased in advance
£16 which includes vouchers
for 5 glasses of wine ...

Ticket holders can buy extra
vouchers on the day for £4

Tickets available until July 17th
from Eastcombe Stores ...

CHALFORD MARKET

CSSC
Chalford Sports & Social Club

CRAFTY & DELICIOUS @ CHALFORD

Sunday 2nd July
10am - 1pm

FOOD, DRINK, PLANTS, GIFTS & CRAFTS

Chalford Sports and Social Club
Highfield Way, France Lynch

We encourage you to walk, however if you are driving please
park in the Club carpark.

July's market is the last before the summer break—it returns 1st October.
Any queries, contact Josie 0752 7947615.

COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

- An upcoming event?
- An article on local history?

Please send contributions to:
eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com
by **NOON on 20th JULY.**

NAME THAT VIEW!



How well do you know our villages?

June's photo showed the path near the Bussage turn, once part of the road that linked Old Bussage to Eastcombe.

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

Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the August issue.

WHAT'S ON in JULY?

- 1 July:** Bussage Primary School Summer Fayre, 1-4pm
- 2 July:** Chalford Market, 10am-1pm, CSSC
- 3 July:** EVG meeting, 7.45pm, Eastcombe Village Hall annex.
- 4 July:** Hilltop Gardening Club visit to Bourton House Gardens
- 8 & 9 July:** Eastcombe Gnome Hunt 1-4pm
- 8 July:** *Mass In Blue*, Thameshead Singers, Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, 7.30pm/Chalford Hill School Summer Fayre, 11am-3pm
- 9 July:** ChalCAN Moth Breakfast, 9.20am
- 16 July:** Hilltop Café Church, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 20 JULY: DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER**
- 22 July:** Chalfest
- 26 July:** Chalfilm, Chalford Hill Primary School, 7.15pm/ Ragged & Old Morris, The Lamb Inn, 7.30pm
- 29 July:** Eastcombe Screen on the Green, 7pm (7.30pm), Eastcombe Village Hall
- 30 July:** Eastcombe Wine Walk, 4-8pm