

October 2023

Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

Welcome to the October issue of the newsletter. To receive a digital copy FREE every month, contact eastcombebandednews@gmail.com. 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 November issue to eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com by **20th October**.

BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION VISIT



Phew! Biennial visits having been resumed post-Covid, members of our Twinning Association spent an extremely active August Bank Holiday weekend entertaining a coach load of friends from around Plessala, in Brittany. Notice the tricolour on the flagpole in Eastcombe? Many thanks to Gerry Moutrey for that.

Our French friends were fun to host, as always, with outings to Stroud farmers' market and Bisley flower show and fête on Saturday, and Gloucester and other local towns on Sunday. On Saturday evening there was a cracking

party at Chalford's wonderful Sports and Social Club – complete with steel band and local shanty singers - and supper parties on Sunday...

We enjoyed ourselves with our guests. As always I will say 'Please consider joining the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Twinning Association.' Over the 30 years of its existence it has given pleasure to hundreds of people.

The return match in Brittany will happen some time next year.

Muriel Brooks 01452 770346.



OPEN MORNING



THURSDAY OCTOBER 5
9.15 - 10.45 AM
EASTCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

A419 (LONDON ROAD) RESURFACING WORKS...

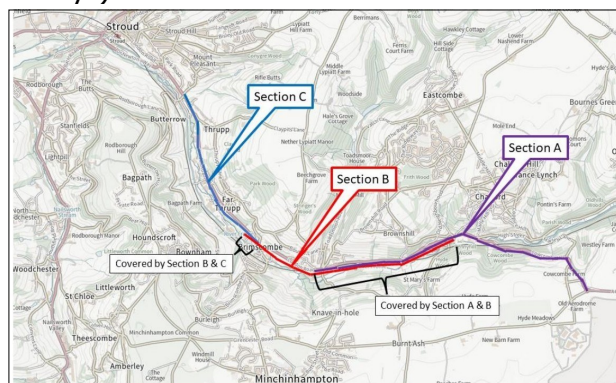
The long-awaited resurfacing of the A419 between Stroud and Chalford is now well underway, and is scheduled to continue until October 17th. The work is taking place nightly between 8pm and 7am, Monday to Friday (the road will remain open from 7am on Saturdays to 8pm on Mondays).

Highways are completing the work in 3 sections, with, ideally, a single section closed at a time, although this is subject to change. Visit [parish council websites](#) and [social media](#) for up to date information.

Emergency and critical care access will be maintained.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/.../county.../> also offers more information (scroll down to 'Stroud' at the bottom of the page).

If you still have unanswered questions, please contact highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk, copying in Chloe Turner, district councillor (chloe.turner@gloucestershire.gov.uk) who will also help in any way she can.



BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: OCTOBER 2023

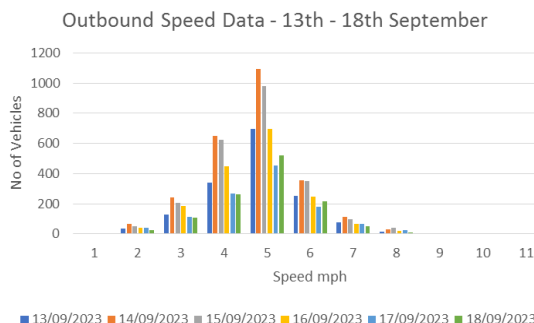
<https://bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/>

Eastcombe Playground Upgrade: The consultation period is coming to an end. The response from the public has been disappointing, with few comments or suggestions received. Do you have a view? Please let us know via the website or contact any of the Eastcombe Councillors. Contact details are on the website.

The Clerk: Our present Clerk, Arlene Deane, is moving on and returning to Cheltenham. We are pleased to welcome Vikki Wood who has accepted the role as Arlene's replacement. There will be a transition period whilst Vikki familiarises herself with the Parish Council procedures and our thanks go to Arlene for all her help during this period, and for all her hard work and efforts over the last 18 months.

Speeding: As you may have noticed, the VAS (vehicle activated speed sign) has been operating on the Bisley Road adjacent to the allotments, monitoring traffic leaving and entering the village.

The chart shows the number of vehicles driving towards Bisley over 5 days. The majority of vehicles comply with the 30mph limit, though it is worth noting that out of a total of 10,500 vehicles nearly 2,200 exceeded the limit. It is also worth noting that the number of vehicles passing during school days is around 2,500 whilst on Saturday this dropped to 1700 and on Sunday 1150.



Speeds will be continued to be monitored on a regular basis and data passed to the authorities so that the police enforcement camera can be deployed as necessary to identify vehicles that exceed the limit.

Next meeting: Bisley Village Hall on **Wednesday October 4th at 7.30pm.** All are welcome to attend.

BisCAN:

Nature Friendly Open Gardens:

BisCAN held its first open gardens on September 17th – in the heaviest rain for months! Despite this, we had visitors at the allotments and several gardens in Bisley and Eastcombe.

The photo shows us in better weather, at Oakridge Show.

If you'd like to be involved next year, email bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com



Reading Group: BisCAN's new book group held its first meeting in August, discussing Jason Hickel's *Less is More*, about the climate and ecological limits to growth. The next book will be George Monbiot's *Regenesi*s. Interested in joining the group? Please email us.

The Cotswold National Landscape (AONB) is committed to **net zero** by 2050 or sooner. It commissioned a report by Small World Consulting on the carbon emissions of the area and a proposed pathway to net zero and found that Cotswold residents' emissions are c. 26% higher than the UK average, primarily from food and drink (22% of total emissions), flying (16%), and vehicle fuel and household energy (both 13%). Compared to UK averages, our food and drink footprint is c.10% higher; electricity and driving are c. 35% and 30% higher, and emissions from flying around 150% higher – 2.5 times the average. To find out more, visit [Small World Consulting](https://smallworldconsulting.co.uk/).

For more information about BisCAN, visit www.biscan.info/

RAGGED & OLD MORRIS: Your Local Cotswold Morris Dance Side!

Ragged & Old Morris have been busy over the summer, celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III, dancing at festivals and adding colour and tradition to fetes and fairs. We have also spent evenings dancing at favourite pubs with other local Morris dancers, making the most of the long evenings and sunshine.

Now it's time to get back into the hall to learn new dances and perfect old ones for next season. It's a great time to come along and see what it's all about.

We meet on **Wednesday evenings, 8-9.30pm at Bussage Village Hall.** Come along and have a go! No experience necessary and expert tuition is given. We need your help to keep this English tradition alive and kicking!

For more information, visit our website: raggedandold.com



GO GREENER! COMPOST AUTUMN LEAVES & CUTTINGS

Join [Bisley Composting Scheme](#) or [state your interest](#) in the proposed **Chalford Composting Scheme.**

[Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network](#)



NEWS FROM ChalCAN



Veg/Fruit Collections: Got a glut of vegetables? John Seex is collecting spare produce to contribute to local food hubs. Please contact John at plot 37X on Middle Hill or email johnseex43@gmail.com.

Access Monthly Bike Ride: The next ride takes place on Saturday 7th October. Meet at the Long Table (Brimscombe Mill) at 10.30am for a chat and a drink, before leaving at 10.30am to ride along the A419 into Stroud, finishing at the Electric Bike Shop at about 11am.

Stroud Valleys Project Events:

October Mini-Beasties: Friday 6 October, 10-11.30am. A look at the wonderful world of seeds, with craft activities and stories. A monthly group, this is open to children aged 2-4 years, with an adult. £3 per family. www.stroudvalleysproject.org/events/october-mini-beasties

Archaeology of Minchinhampton Common: Saturday 21 October, 2:30-4:30pm: Join renowned pre-historian and former Minchinhampton resident Professor Tim Darvill for a delve into the common's past. www.stroudvalleysproject.org/events/archaeology-of-minchinhampton-common-1

For more information about ChalCAN, visit: chalcan.org.uk/

CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: SEPTEMBER 2023

Chalford Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's Way, Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8FJ;
01453 887204; info@chalford-glos.gov.uk www.chalford-glos.gov.uk



Are you without a landline? Unfortunately, Chalford has once again been subject to the **theft of copper cables**. The Parish Centre, along with many residents, are also without phone lines. OpenReach are working to reinstate phone lines, but we don't yet have a completion date. Your provider should be able to temporarily divert calls from your landline to a mobile. If you need to get in touch with us at the Parish Office, please email. We are also sourcing a mobile phone.

A419 resurfacing – the eagerly anticipated resurfacing of the A419 started on 12th September and is estimated to finish on 17th October. The work is being carried out overnight between 20:00 to 07:00. For the latest information please visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/resurfacing.

Boots Bussage – Boots recently announced plans to close 300 stores across the UK. In response to this, we wrote to the CEO of Boots to express concerns and to stress how vital the Tanglewood Way Boots is to the community. Reassuringly, Boots have confirmed currently there are **no plans** to close our local branch!

Would you like to help reduce speeding within the parish? We would love to hear from you as we need more people to join our newly re-formed **Community Speed Watch Group**. You don't have to commit a huge amount of time and training is given on using a speed gun! If you are interested or would like to find out more, please get in touch.

A new app—the Police are trialling an app for reporting poor behaviour by drivers of commercial vehicles, including speeding, dangerous driving, inconsiderate parking, fly tipping etc. To try this app in its pilot phase visit www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk

Boho Bakery - a warm welcome to **Boho**! Boho opened on 1st September, and we are sure it will be a very popular addition to Chalford! Based in what was Scrumptious Café on Midway, Chalford Hill, we wish Pennie and her team every success.

The Chalford Parish Footpath Volunteers - have some interesting tasks lined up for autumn, including joint activities with ChalCAN, and Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council footpath group. With ChalCAN (who have acquired the funding) and France Lynch Church, we are installing a bike rack at the Church Rooms. Working with ChalCAN and Frith Youth Centre we are arranging for the installation of a bike rack at the Youth Centre, and we are collaborating with our footpath counterparts in Bisley on a major task to replace, add steps and a handrail on the so-called Death Slide path, below The Lamb Inn and leading to Bismore.

Silver Street Car Park – the Parish Council recently took on the ownership of this car park from Stroud District Council. We want to engage with residents who use, or may be affected by, its ongoing management. The Council will be holding a **consultation event on Thursday 19th October** at the France Lynch Church Rooms. For details, please look out for notices close to the car park and on our Facebook page.

We hope you enjoyed the lovely warm weather during September. Autumn is really now upon us - **don't forget that the clocks go back on 29th October**.

Please contact us using the contact details above if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

BUSSAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have the first of 3 Open Days on **Monday 16th October at 9.30am**. We would love to show you around our school. If you can't make it, we have **Open Days on 15th November and 5th December**. Alternatively, please call to arrange a tour at a time that suits you. Please call 01453 883205 to book your place on a tour.

Our autumn term started at full speed with Year 5 and 6's WW2 trip, when they visited the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire railway for an evacuation experience. They were transported by train and experienced what it would have been like in an air raid shelter. The children and staff dressed in appropriate attire and carried gas mask boxes.

Our themes for this term are: Y5 and 6 - Evacuate! Evacuate! (a WW2 historical based theme), Y3 and 4 - H2O (a geographical theme based on water) and for Y1 and 2 - All About Me (a science-based theme). Our Rainbows class (reception) theme is Into The Woods (all about exploring the local environment).

This autumn we will also begin work on developing our Tranquillity Garden, to reinforce spirituality in our school and provide a calm, peaceful zone for children to work, learn, play or pray in.



EASTCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was a busy first week back at school—the start of a new term and the beginning of a new school year!

The school's Celebration Assembly brought an uplifting end to a positive first week. Mrs Jones, Head Teacher, welcomed the new Reception children and their families and there was a special welcome for Miss Froggatt, who joins the school as a teacher in Squirrel Class.

With an exciting year ahead, Mrs Jones highlighted the many things to look forward to, including the usual events and trips and an exciting range of new, free after school clubs including multi-sports, drawing, recorder club, craft activities and performing arts.

The school also launched a new lunchtime initiative designed to address children's movement, wellbeing and social skills. Any child can join in with the daily activities and have fun. The Year 6 ambassadors play a vital role in setting up and facilitating the activities each day, demonstrating a terrific example of how a small village school can work together as a family.



Looking for a primary school place for your child in September 2024? Eastcombe currently has spaces in all year groups. Why not pop along to the **open day on Thursday 5th October, 09.15-10.45am? No appointment needed—just turn up for a warm welcome, a chat and a look around the school.**

For more information, call 01452 770227, visit www.eastcombe.gloucs.sch.uk/ or email admin@eastcombe.gloucs.sch.uk

Come along & join us at

EASTCOMBE TODDLERS

EVERY TUESDAY 10.00 - 11.30AM AT EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL.

WE ARE A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING GROUP, WITH A SEPARATE WELL-EQUIPPED BABY ZONE, LOTS OF DIFFERENT TOYS TO PLAY WITH, AN AREA FOR RIDE-ON EQUIPMENT, NUTRITIOUS SNACKS, & SINGING!

£1.50 PER FAMILY
to include snacks and drinks!
First session free!

HILLTOP CAFE CHURCH

Christian Worship for those of all faiths and none.

Sunday 15th October

2.30PM

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM THE PARISH OF BUSSAGE & EASTCOMBE

St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors are always welcome. Our services this month are:

- **October 8th: Holy Communion, 9.30am**
- **October 15th: Morning Prayer, 9.30am**
- **October 15th: Hilltop Cafe Church, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm (see poster)**
- **October 29th: Holy Communion, 10am (Bible Sunday)**

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

Eastcombe Baptist Church

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

NEWSFLASH!

It has been announced that the children of **Eastcombe Primary School** have been tasked with designing a flag for Eastcombe. The whole school community is very excited and the children are already working hard on their designs.

The winning design will be judged by a panel of local residents and made into a flag to be flown on the flagpole on the village green in a special ceremony. Mrs Jones, Head Teacher, told us that the children are thrilled and proud to have been given this opportunity!

EASTCOMBE WI:

The weather meant a somewhat depleted attendance at the September meeting. Pauline welcomed the members and 2 visitors. Business included details for our Bubbles and Cake Afternoon Tea on 30th September: a trip to Wells in November and a County Walk at Avening. Clare reported on the Village Hall meeting, and Pauline told us about our Christmas event.

Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend, so into the breach came our friend Peter Bryant. He talked of Gardens Here and There in England. Through his wonderful photography and witty commentary we travelled to Yorkshire, Somerset and Cornwall. All the gardens were a delight. He was thanked by Glenys.

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



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTES

Asian Hornets have been reported in the area. They are an invasive species harmful to bees. For help to identify and report them see the Council [website](http://www.stroud.gov.uk).

Jobs: SDC is advertising for a **Climate Change and Sustainability Manager**; a **Recreation Officer/Swimming Teacher** and other jobs. See www.stroud.gov.uk.

The Local Plan Review has been paused due to Government concerns about M5 junction capacity for new developments – houses to meet government-set targets. The Local Plan, together with the National Planning Policy Framework, sets out the policies which determine planning decisions in the district. The current plan remains in effect until the revision is passed, so we won't be without planning rules.

Meanwhile the Parish Council continues to work on a **Neighbourhood Development Plan** which when approved by local referendum will become a supplementary planning document that planners have to consult. If you'd like to be involved with this, please contact the Parish Clerk: 01452 771089

As always, please contact me with any District Council issues:

Martin Brown, Green Party, 01452 770878
clr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP

Our next meeting is on **Monday 9 October at 7.30pm in the Eastcombe village hall annex**. We will be discussing plans for future events. Please come along and share any ideas that you have.

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Village Quiz & Ploughman's: Supper**, Eastcombe Village Hall, Saturday 25 November.
- **Christmas tree:** Watch this space for details of this year's lighting event.
- Plans are afoot for a traditional **Burns Night Celebration Dinner** in January 2024 at The Lamb Inn. Details to follow...

Peter Scott:
peterhscott@btinternet.com



BISLEY-with-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

If you live anywhere in this district this means you! The visit from our Breton friends over the August Bank Holiday weekend proved yet again that in its 30th year our Twinning is alive and well. Up-to-date information can always be found on the Bisley Parish Council website under 'Community', or on www.BisleyTwining.org.uk.

The next event? A **Curry and Quiz Night in Oakridge Village Hall, on Saturday 11 November**. Please put it in your diary, alert your friends, and watch this space...



WHAT'S IN A SCHOOL?

With the academic year now well underway, many parents of Year 5 and 6 children will be starting to look ahead to secondary school. October is when choices are made, with the local education authority form due at the end of the month. However, the choosing process starts long before this, with open days, research and, for some, deciding whether to go for the grammar school entrance test. All parents want to ensure the best education for their children—but how do you decide which secondary school is right for your child?

Basically, in the UK the choices are:

- **state run 'comprehensive' schools** - free, but places may be allocated depending on where you live.
- **grammar schools** - **selective** state-run non fee-paying school. To qualify for a place, students must pass an exam (commonly called the 11+) in September of Year 6. Gloucestershire has 7 grammar schools: Marling (boys) and Stroud High School (girls) in Stroud, Sir Thomas Rich's, Ribston, Denmark Road and The Crypt in Gloucester, and Pate's in Cheltenham. Many 11+ candidates are privately tutored in Year 5, although this isn't compulsory - in fact, grammar schools discourage it. However, most children do at least some extra practice, so, if your child wants to take the test, it's a good idea for them to practise, either independently or with a tutor. Many tutors get booked up well in advance, so think about booking a place in Year 4—ask locally for recommendations. The 11+ exam is free and all Y6 children can sit it, but you must register in advance, usually in the June of that year. See the individual school websites for more details.
- **independent fee-paying 'private' or 'public' schools:** there are many of these, all very different. Prices vary, but scholarships may be available. If you're considering this route, do your research.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL:

1. The distance between house and school: Spending hours travelling can make the day a long one. Is there school transport? Do you have to pay for it? Can your child walk? Will you have to drive them there and back? All these are factors to consider when choosing a school.

2. How good is the school? Exams aren't everything, although a school with a record of good grades is usually a good bet academically. But other things are important, too. What is the school's pastoral care like? Do pupils feel pressured or supported? Is there a good range of extra curricular activities?

The bottom line: In the end, it's very much a personal decision and the school that suits your child may simply be the one that they like best. No school offers a guarantee of success, and education is what children (and their families) make of it. If your child is happy, they are likely to work hard and find school fun. Your child is an individual and it's an individual choice.

To find a list of secondary schools in your area, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/find-a-school/ or websites such as www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/school-search/. Check out Ofsted reports, exam results, catchment maps, reviews etc. To get a feel for a particular school, visit its website and **look out for the dates of open days, which often take place in October. GOOD LUCK!**



SCREEN ON THE GREEN

presents

EMPIRE OF LIGHT

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Olivia Coleman, Colin Firth, Toby Jones

Set in an 1980s English seaside town, a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema. A lovely, personal film.



Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall

Date: Saturday 21st October

**Time: Doors open 7pm,
Film starts 7.30pm**

Admission: £4 per person

Ice Creams £2 each

All welcome!

CAN-AL YOU HELP OUT? YES YOU CAN!

Canals are a staple of the Stroud valleys, connecting Saul Junction to Brimscombe, Sapperton and beyond. The Cotswold Canals Trust is working towards opening the entire canal for public use—a huge task which has been split into 3 phases:

Phase 1: the western length from Gloucester & Sharpness Canal to Brimscombe Port, via Stroud.

Phase 2: the eastern section from the Cotswold Water Park to the River Thames.

Phase 3: the central section linking these 2 sections, including the derelict Sapperton Tunnel.

Phase 1A was completed in 2018, with an official opening by King Charles III. Our next priority is Phase 1B, the stretch connecting Stonehouse to Saul Junction, where it will join the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and the wider canal network. This is being tackled by a partnership of Cotswold Canals Trust and Stroud District Council: *Cotswold Canals Connected*. While this phase is highly complex, it will be hugely beneficial to the Stroud area, connecting us to the wider canal network, enhancing the environment through community-led conservation and giving a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our local industrial heritage and make it accessible to everyone. In 2020, we were grateful to secure full funding for this project.

None of this would be possible without our incredible group of volunteers, our life-force, contributing to all aspects of the Trust. From helping to engineer solutions and carry out canal repairs, to supporting fundraising in our bookshops and visitor centres, **every individual helps to make a difference**. Visitor centres offer guidance about the local area, alongside selling books, map, cards and gifts, while our bookshops, which are some of the largest in the area, offer a wide range of books, vinyl, board games and DVDs.

So, if you have time and energy to spare, we would love to have you on board. **We particularly need volunteers in our bookshops and visitor centres.** There are no specific requirements, just enthusiasm. If you have any questions, please contact mike.richter@cotswoldcanals.org.

It's an exciting time for the Cotswold Canals Trust and we would love you to be part of it. For more information, contact mail@cotswoldcanals.org or visit <https://cotswoldcanals.org/volunteer/>.





BUBBA HO-TEP

Wednesday 25th October
Chalford Hill Primary School

Doors 7.15pm, Film starts 8pm

Tickets £4 on arrival

Enjoy social time with wine, beer, ice cream, popcorn, cosy blankets, candlelight and a Halloween screening of this award winning comedy/horror.

Imagine (if you can) that Elvis (Bruce Campbell) switches places with an Elvis impersonator and now lives a sad, lost life in a run-down nursing home in East Texas. Here he befriends Jack (Ossie Davis), an African-American senior who claims to be President John F. Kennedy. When residents of their quiet retirement community start dying of dubiously unnatural causes, Elvis and Jack discover that the perpetrator is Bubba Ho-Tep (Bob Ivy), a re-animated Egyptian mummy who is feeding on the souls of the residents of the home. Despite age-related issues, Elvis and Jack create an elaborate plan to destroy the mummy.

Proceeds to Chalford Hill Primary School PTA

Visit us on [Facebook](#) or see posters.

THE PEOPLE'S PATCH – ALL WELCOME!



Our community allotment at Brownhill, 'The People's Patch', which began during lockdown, has continued to develop over the past year. Our aim is to provide a welcoming garden space where people can meet and chat while growing fruit and veg, with or without previous gardening experience.



This year our band of helpers has grown, and we now have ten people regularly helping on the allotment. We have grown a wide range of vegetables, ranging from radishes and onions to beetroot and squashes, as well as old favourites like runner beans and potatoes, many grown

from donated seeds or plants.

We have worked hard on the structure of our plot, reclaiming a large area of nettles to create two raised beds. We have strengthened a netted area for growing things that the local deer also have a taste for! The plot now has solid wooden edges to enable us to better manage it and we were delighted to be offered a garden shed, which a team dismantled, then rebuilt on the plot. It is now painted, reroofed and fitted out for use, complementing the box shed we use to store tools etc. We have also moved our compost bins. Altogether the plot is taking shape.

We are hugely grateful to the many people who have donated everything from seeds and plants, to the shed, a wheelbarrow and slabs. All are much appreciated and put to good use.



We currently meet for an hour or two on a Monday morning, but are open to meeting at other times. **We welcome local people to join us for some gardening, with the**

chance to meet others and build relationships within the community. If you are interested in meeting up for an hour or two to potter and chat over a cuppa, get in touch. There is absolutely no requirement to have gardening experience.

Scott Sissons: sissonsscott@gmail.com

HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB HAPPENINGS...

www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk

On 5th September, Alun and Jill Whitehead spoke on 'An Autumnal Romp- a Seasonal Look at Gardens and Art.' Alun's images represented Autumn: spider webs and flocks of goldfinches, whilst Jill, with a designer's eye, homed in on specific plants - their colours, form, textures and combinations. The images opened our eyes to really observing the beauty around us. The couple's land has been opened to the public for many years for the NGS and Alun spoke warmly of tractors, fields raising winter crops, cider apples and large skies around their Leominster farm. Their travels in Britain took us to major flower shows, as well as the lesser known gardens of Herefordshire, Quenington Sculpture Trail, Great Dixter and Bridgewater.

They chose autumnal plants: Michaelmas daisies, dahlias, rudbeckias, coreopsis, late heleniums and helianthus. Jill alluded to artists, such as Monet, who valued single species as a subject. The strident hues of autumn leaves were also included, along with fruits and seeds. The photographic display drew to a close with images of the onset of winter: mists, the sheen on an outdoor seat from moisture, and frosts.

EASTCOMBE AUTUMN SHOW: Considering the few entrants, we had a remarkable number of entries and the hall was glorious, lit up by the colour of flowers and vegetables, a wide number of marmalades, chutneys, jams, a few scones (and one loaf!) as well as a large number of photographs. An impressive display. It was great to see many people enjoying chatting over a cup of tea and cake - made generously by Ann Gardiner.

Mike Eccott, Janet Hendy and Kathy Eccott organised prize winners' cards, while stewards supported the judges, who had come kindly from a distance - Ruth Fraser's twin sister, Janet Gaskell, Liz Flint and Chas Pearce. Thanks to the organisers and those who took a lot of trouble making the entries. Pam Perry excelled with her exhibit 'Coronation' with an attractive display of red, white and blue flowers, carrying off the £30 token for David Austin Roses given generously by Mark Abbott in memory of his mother who enjoyed our club.

NEXT MEETING: EASTCOMBE SCOUT HUT, 3rd October, 1.30pm for 1.45pm start.

Please note the changed venue and time for the winter months.

Our speaker is Jonathan King, a Landscape Architect who spent 15 years in China, 'a Journey of Learning and Landscape.' Members free. Non members are welcome, £3 admission.

Jenny Exley One of the Programme Secretaries.

www.CirenScience.org.uk



Lecture Programme September 2023 – June 2024

October 11th 2023

Dr Hannah Wakeford: Senior Lecturer in Astrophysics, Bristol

Topic: Diving Through Exoplanet Atmospheres

Lectures are open to all. Annual subscription £15, or £3 per lecture. Students free. Unless otherwise stated, lectures take place at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Sir Emrys Jones Lecture Theatre at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at 7pm and there is ample free parking.

Visit www.cirensience.org.uk for more details.

CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER: RATATOUILLE

A classic French mix of vegetables for a lighter lunch. Healthy & easy to make, great with garlic bread or as a topping for jacket potatoes. Use a 2L casserole pot. Preheat oven to 200°C/180° fan/gas mark 6.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 courgettes, sliced
- 2 aubergines, sliced and cut in half
- 3 large onions, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 6 large ripe tomatoes sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped coriander
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 fresh peppers, sliced
- 150g goat's cheese, cubed
- salt & freshly ground black pepper

Serves 4.



METHOD:

1. In a large frying pan, heat 1 tablespoon of oil and fry the courgettes and aubergines, turning frequently until starting to colour. Place in the cooking pot.
2. Fry the onions until they are soft. Stir in the garlic and coriander (save a little coriander) and cook for 2 minutes. Add to the pot.
3. Fry peppers and 4 of the sliced tomatoes with the balsamic vinegar until the tomatoes have broken down. Add to the pot. Season and decorate with the remaining tomatoes and goat's cheese.
4. Cook in the oven for 30 minutes until golden and bubbling.
5. Sprinkle with the remaining coriander before serving.

OCTOBER FACTS...



The Saxons called October **Wyn Monath**, because it was the season of wine making.

On **St Francis Day** (4th October) swallows were thought to fly to the bottom of ponds and hibernate for the winter. In days before migration was understood, this seemed a reasonable explanation for their disappearance in autumn. The way swallows skim the surface of ponds for insects may be at the root of this idea.



Around 18th October, St Luke's Day, we often have a spell of fine weather known as **'St Luke's Little Summer'**.



Traditionally, on finding your first **conkers** of the season, you should say: *'Oddly oddly onker, my first conker.'* This ensures good fortune and few tangles when playing. The game of conkers is sometimes known as *'Kingers'*, while the word *'conker'* may come from the French word *cogner*, meaning to 'hit' or 'biff'.



HOW TO HELP A HEDGEHOG HOUSE...

Many people have a hedgehog house in the garden – but how do you look after it — and its occupants?

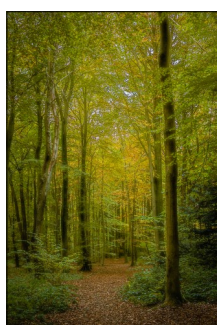
Ideally, once in situ a house shouldn't be disturbed, but if you must move, repair or clean it, the best times are March or October – between breeding and hibernation seasons! Make completely sure the box is not in use before you disturb it - a small stick placed in the entrance for a few nights will tell you, as hogs will push it aside to enter or exit. If you do accidentally uncover a nesting hog, replace all bedding materials & leave it alone.

If the house is definitely not being used, clean it (if needed) with plain hot water & a scrubbing brush, and provide clean nesting materials. But don't worry about doing this on a regular basis - hedgehogs often reuse nests and will add new bedding themselves— you can help by leaving leaf piles in dry, quiet corners of your garden.

For more information, please visit the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](http://BritishHedgehogPreservationSociety.org).



WHO'S WHO on the HILLTOP? We asked Dave Swinburne...



I am a self-taught artist with no formal training in the arts or photography and I am not a member of any professional photographic guild or society. HOWEVER, I am (better late than never!) currently doing an MA in photography.

Ever since childhood, I have been active with a passionate love of the outdoors. Family holidays often included trips to the Lake District. In all the time spent 'street wandering' around Bowness, Ambleside and Keswick my eyes were constantly being lifted to the high fells that surround these pockets of civilisation. The attraction for me was always the high ground that waits above the 'honey pots'.

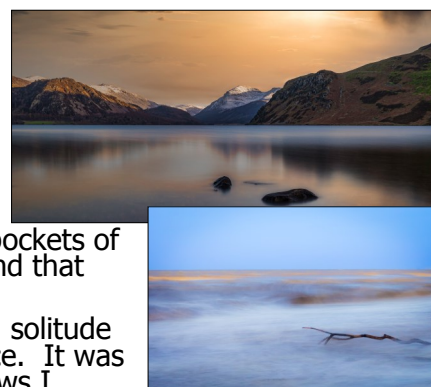
Solo walking and backpacking trips followed. I found peace, solitude and silence in the high and wild fell country that the Lakes offer in abundance. It was during these trips that I first started visually recording with a camera the views I experienced to soothe the pain of separation when I was 'exiled' from the Lakes and back at work!

At this time the intention was to capture the factual reality of a scene for posterity. I gave little thought to artistic creativity.

Today I use the camera in an artistically creative way to express the feelings and emotions I experience when I release the shutter. The images express three key ingredients: my inspiration, creativity and vision. These have developed over years of 'wandering' and have created the photographic style that you see in my fine art images today. My aim is to capture what the human eye cannot see and ask the viewer to consider an alternative interpretation of the natural world.

The images here are (clockwise from top left) Frith Wood Magic, Fading Light (Ennerdale Water, Lake District) and Dream Tide (Burnham-on-Sea). I hope you like my art. I can be contacted on dns102@icloud.com

Dave Swinburne



VILLAGE HISTORIES... THE LOST WORLD OF EASTCOMBE AND SURROUNDS



Paul Beer has lived in Eastcombe and Bussage for many years, and his memories evoke the hilltop of the 1960s to the 1980s. Paul says, *'I love looking back to my childhood and youth and sharing my memories with others. With failing sight, I decided to set everything down while I can in the hope that children and grandchildren will learn about the lost world of my generation.'*

This month, Paul's recalls his memories of AUTUMN IN THE VILLAGE.



The autumn Church Harvest Festival was an annual celebration of the end of the growing season, when food from crops was donated – also canned items – at the church service conducted by Revd. Tom Gainey (Vicar of Eastcombe 1965–68), helped by Leslie Roberts and his wife.

We would go blackberry picking with our mother and some of our friends and their mothers (including the Townsends and the Shaylor's), across to Commercial Lane, filling all our containers. Many Eastcombe families did this and we knew what we would be eating for the next few weeks—probably blackberry pie. We would also go down to Bismore and Hawkley, picking rosehips from the bushes in the hedgerows. They were used to make rosehip syrup.



Peter Townsend and I would go to favourite places to collect conkers, some we knew were privately owned. There was a good conker tree at St Elizabeth's by the coach house, and another place popular with most of us was a large tree on the boundary of Dr Crouch's garden (at The Triangle, Eastcombe). We kids would climb the wall and take the conkers easily – I'm sure the doc knew but he did not mind.

On one occasion Peter suggested we went to Bussage to a tree he had seen, so we walked over the Manor Farm fields, then the shortest way. The tree was in the fields above The Ram Inn and there was a path at the side of The Ram. We were doing really well with our picking, had bags full and were feeling really pleased with ourselves, when up came a large gang of older kids. A fight was looking likely – but what they wanted was our bags of conkers. There were too many of them for us to fight so we passed our pickings over and returned to Eastcombe empty-handed. I never forgot those boys and years later played football against some of them. Needless to say I gave them a hard time!

With thanks to Paul Beer & Muriel Brooks. Read more on www.eastcombearchive.org.uk/

Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownhill Newsletter

NEWSLETTER MORNING

Join us for tea, coffee & cake & find out more about your community newsletter.

A chance to meet others, give feedback & share ideas.

All welcome!

10.30am-12pm

Saturday 14th October

The Yews, The Street, Eastcombe

RSVP www.eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com

—or just turn up!

CHALFORD MARKET

CRAFTY & DELICIOUS @ CHALFORD

Sunday 1st October

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.

COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

- An upcoming event?
- An update about your local group?

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

WHAT'S ON in OCTOBER?

- 1 Oct:** Chalford Market, CSSC, 10am-1pm
- 3 Oct:** Hilltop Gardening Club, 1.30pm, Eastcombe Scout Hut
- 4 Oct:** B-w-L Parish Council Meeting, Bisley Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 5 Oct:** Eastcombe Primary School Open Day, 9.15-10.45am
- 9 Oct:** Eastcombe Village Group, 7.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
- 11 Oct:** Cirencester Science & Technology Lecture, 7.30pm, RAU
- 14 Oct:** Newsletter morning, 10.30am, The Yews, Eastcombe/ Fallen Idols at CSSC, 7pm
- 15 Oct:** Hilltop Café Church, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 16 Oct:** Bussage Primary School Open Day, 9.30am
- 20 OCTOBER: DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**
- 21 Oct:** Eastcombe Screen on the Green, 7.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
- 25 Oct:** Chalfilm, Chalford Hill Primary School, 7.15pm (8pm)
- 29 Oct:** Clocks go back one hour

NAME THAT VIEW!



How well do you know our villages?

September's photo was taken in The Ridge, Bussage, between The Ram Inn and the junction with Cowswell Lane. October's photo is once again taken in or around the 3 villages.

Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the November issue.