



# January 2024

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**60p**

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## Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF 2024!** To receive a **FREE** digital copy of the newsletter every month, contact [eastcombebambnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastcombebambnews@gmail.com).

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 February issue to [eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com) **by 17th January**.



### **BisCAN: Bisley Climate Action Network** **LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER:** **EASTCOMBE'S SWIFTS!**

Swifts come to our villages every May to breed, flying over 6,000 miles from Africa and returning to the same nest site each year.

For many years, some of us have been monitoring a small colony of Swifts centred on The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, and, although we regularly observe 'screaming parties', we have noticed a worrying decline in numbers. This reflects a wider pattern; it is estimated that the UK Swift population has reduced by over 50% in the last 25 years, causing them to become red-listed. In part, this may be due to the loss of existing nest sites when roofs are repaired or replaced.

BisCAN is making a grant application to put up Swift nest boxes in and around the existing colony in Eastcombe (initially). If you would like to help by having a nest box, please contact us (unlike House Martins, Swifts make very little mess below the nest site).

We can, with the help of the Stroud Swift Group, advise on types of boxes, the suitability of sites (height, clearance and aspect) and how to attract Swifts. We are also encouraging Thomas Keble School to incorporate Swift nesting bricks in their new building, presently under construction. Attracting Swifts to nest boxes is a long-term commitment, with a slow uptake on new nest sites.

For more information on these amazing birds, or to find out more about nest boxes, please contact us:

[tonyperry770@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyperry770@yahoo.co.uk) or  
[bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com).



### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...**

A reminder that the newsletter deadline is now **17th of each month**.



Come to a  
**Burns Night**  
with haggis, neeps & tatties  
The Lamb Inn on January 26<sup>th</sup>  
6-30 for 7 - £25 per ticket  
Robt Burns



**Rotary** Club of Stroud

### **STROUD ROTARY COMMUNITY AWARDS**

A programme to support organisations within the Stroud area with a grant of up to £500.

If a small grant would make a real difference to your community project, apply for a Stroud Rotary Community Award. Nothing is too small to be considered.

For more details go to : [www.stroudrotary.org.uk](http://www.stroudrotary.org.uk)  
or email :

[community.awards.stroud.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:community.awards.stroud.rotary@gmail.com)

Closing Date for Applications is 6:00 p.m. 31st January 2024



Charity Number 1049604

### **COMMUNITY LAND TRUST** for affordable housing

Would you like to be involved in creating a community-led, affordable, sustainable housing project? This might be a small development of half a dozen houses, on the edge of one of our villages, built to the best environmental standards and genuinely affordable for local people.

Join other local residents to explore the possibility of setting up a Community Land Trust. 'Community land trusts are democratic, non-profit organisations that own and develop land for the benefit of the community. They typically provide affordable homes, community gardens, civic buildings, pubs, shops, shared workspace, energy schemes and conservation landscapes.'

Community Land Trust Network ([www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/))

If you'd like to know more, please contact the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Clerk: [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk) or 01452 771089 or District Councillor Martin Brown [cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk), 01452 770878.



## BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: NOVEMBER 2023

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

**A very Happy New Year to you all from everyone at the Parish Council.**

**Parish Clerk:** We now have a new clerk, Heather Finlay, who is taking over from Arlene Deane, who has returned to Cheltenham. There will be a transitional period for Heather to familiarise herself with the running of the Parish Council and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of January.

The dedicated parish phone line should be re-established within the next few weeks, but, for the immediate future, if you wish to contact the council, please email [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk).

**Winter Weather and Eastcombe Snow Patrol:** With the onset of the colder weather, thoughts turn to dealing with snow and ice. The grit bins around the village have been filled by GCC Highways and should provide enough grit to last the winter—as long as the grit is used responsibly. Only a small amount is required to be effective. Please do not use this grit for your personal use unless it is an emergency, in which case please replenish it. The Parish Council does have a very limited amount of spare grit, but there is no guarantee that GCC will provide any more grit throughout this winter.

The **Eastcombe Snow Patrol** is a group of volunteers who endeavour to clear the roads and paths around the village in the event of a snow fall. More volunteers are needed: if you are willing to join this happy band, please contact our Snow Warden, Louie Wilkes: [ms.louie.wilkes@gmail.com](mailto:ms.louie.wilkes@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting:** Bisley Village Hall on **Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**. All are welcome to attend.

### BUSSAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We had an outstanding turn out at the **Community Carols** on 4th December, always a lovely start to the festive time at school. Thanks to Alisdair Longwill, who ran the evening, his team who provide mince pies and mulled wine, to David Shears who played the piano so beautifully, and to Rev Sue Murray for providing worship. We were delighted to see so many of our children participating as musicians, playing chime bars, glockenspiels, keyboards and violin, and the staff who dusted off their musical instruments. It truly was a heart-warming event.

Almost 50 children are rehearsing hard in preparation for **Young Voices 2023-24** at Birmingham Resort Worlds Arena in late January. They will sing alongside about 6,000 children with professional acts and dancers. This is always a highlight of the school year.

We had a lovely school **pantomime visit** to Snow White and the Seven Dwarves in Stroud Subscription Room at the end of term.



Those lucky enough to attend our **Y3 & 4 recorder and clarinet concert** will agree how spectacularly the children performed. It was super to see their progression since week 1 of their lessons and incredible that in 10 weeks they have become instrumentalists capable of performing an entire concert. We look forward to watching their musical journey during their time at Bussage. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for financing this opportunity for our children.



### VILLAGE MATTERS...

**In a new occasional feature, a chance to flag up something you'd like to say about our villages...**

This month, a plea from a local resident:

*'Posters are a great way to advertise our community events, especially for those who do not use social media.*

***HOWEVER**, if you put up posters on notice boards or telegraph poles, please, please remove them when the event is over (or if they get torn or faded)!*

*Thank you.'*

**Is there something you'd like to say?**

Please [contact the newsletter](#)

### CHALCAN NEWS

**A happy new year to all – let's hope that progress can be made world-wide on reducing carbon emissions.**

- We've taken delivery of a **new bike rack for the Frith Youth Centre**, which should be installed in the New Year.
- **Grants for insulating** local buildings and homes are being processed.
- **3 Amelanchier trees have been planted on the green by the bus stop in Chalford** - they will have glorious white blossom in early spring, followed by berries in late summer.
- **Hedge planting at Bussage School** will now take place at the end of January – we'll need lots of help for this, so let us know if you can lend a hand.
- If you're making **New Year Resolutions**, why not try reducing your intake of meat and/or dairy products? Some people will give [Veganuary](#) a go... others might try oat milk (surprisingly sweet but with no sugars) or a plant-based meal each week. Food accounts for about a quarter of all human greenhouse gas emissions, and of this, livestock constitutes about 56%, while only providing 37% of our protein and 18% of our calories. More info [here](#).

Do **get in touch** if you'd like to know more or get involved – contact [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk)

**ChalCAN**

6 actions  
preventing climate change



Sustainability for all [www.activessustainability.com](http://www.activessustainability.com)

acciona



## CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: JANUARY 2024

Chalford Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's Way, Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8FJ;  
01453 887204; [info@chalford-glos.gov.uk](mailto:info@chalford-glos.gov.uk) [www.chalford-glos.gov.uk](http://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk). Facebook.



We would like to wish you a very happy and healthy 2024, we hope you enjoyed the festive period.

**Grant application deadline!** Don't forget to submit your grant application to us by 31<sup>st</sup> January. If you are a local organisation in need of funding, you may be eligible for a small grant from the Parish Council. The application form and rules are available on our website or, if you would prefer a hard copy, please call into the Parish Centre.

**The Neighbourhood Centre:** We continue to receive concerns from residents about the overgrown foliage and flooding to the car park at Tesco Express. A management company, SEP Properties, is responsible for this area, not Tesco or the Parish Council. Despite our best efforts and those of the Manager at Tesco Express, this area continues to be a concern. Please be assured that we are continuing to pursue it.

**Police Information Point at The Parish Centre on Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am until midday.** Your local PCSO Shelley Richards will be on hand to meet residents; come along to raise any concerns you may have or to receive crime prevention advice.



**A safer way out of Frith Wood car park:** In December your Chalford Footpath Volunteers finished work on a new, safer, and more accessible way in and out of the Frith Wood car park. No longer do you have to take your life in your hands joining The Frith at a difficult gap in the hedge. Instead, there's a wide and user-friendly route onto the 'Tesco' path that runs down the side of the wood. Also, it's easier and safer for mobility scooters, buggies and wheelchairs to get into the



car park from the 'Tesco' path - and we've built splendid stone walls to make sure you don't miss the new path! (The wall on the right in the photograph is now capped with concrete.) Finally, a local Cotswold Warden has cut back the vegetation at the bottom of the 'Tesco' path, so the view to the right where it joins The Frith is no longer restricted. Enjoy yourselves!

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

### Gift it, Fix it or Recycle it, *DON'T BIN IT!*

Black Friday encouraged us to spend, spend, spend, but what about the electrical possessions we already have? According to research by the not-for-profit organisation [Material Focus](https://materialfocus.org), more than half a billion cheap electronic goods were bought in the UK last year at a cost of more than £2.8bn - and 471m of these were thrown away. Small and cheap items (described as 'fast tech' by Material Focus) are the main culprit, with some of the most likely items to be binned being mini speakers, handheld vacuum cleaners and step counters, as well as with 9.8m USB sticks and 4.8m miniature fans. In total, the UK throws away more than 100,000 tonnes of waste electricals every year.

**What can I do?** To save waste, keep using an item until it isn't fit for purpose - don't buy the latest version just because Amazon is offering a 'deal'. Retailers are obliged to take old items back for recycling if you buy a replacement, but most don't publicise this or will ask you to pay postage. However, [Webworks](https://www.webworks.co.uk) in Stroud take items and B & Q in Stroud also have a box by the door for the recycling of small electrical items.

**De-clutter:** And we often don't need to buy at all: 880m electrical items lie unused in UK homes. The average UK household has 4 charging cables, 3 mobile phones, and 2 remote controls gathering dust in cupboards. If you don't want an item, offer it to a charity shop, on Freecycle, or via one of the many Facebook groups (suggestions below). Often, items are picked up within hours - your trash, someone else's treasure!

**If an item isn't working, try fixing it** - repairing is much more environmentally friendly than filling landfill. You can look up many simple repairs online, or try visiting one of the local Repair Cafes in Nailsworth and Stroud (see <https://transitionstroud.org/transition-stroud-action-groups/repair-cafes/> for more information). If you really can't fix an item, why not try and turn it into something else?

If an electrical item is genuinely no use to you or anyone else, **you can ALWAYS recycle it** - did you know that **anything with a plug or a battery can be recycled!** Even small 'disposable' items contain valuable materials salvageable in the recycling process, including copper, lithium and stainless steel, re-used in wind turbines, medical devices and electric vehicles. And there will be somewhere near you where you can do it - visit [www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/electrical-recycling-near-me/](http://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/electrical-recycling-near-me/) for more details.

### SOME HILLTOP RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:

Recycle clothing at the **clothing bank in the car park of The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe.**

**Hilltop Freestuff, FREEeCYCLE STROUD, For Sale Free or Wanted in Bussage, Chalford and Surrounding Areas** & other local for sale, free & wanted Facebook groups are also a great way to pass on items, which are often collected within hours.



### GO GREENER:

**FIX IT OR GIFT IT—  
DON'T BIN IT!**

**Most unwanted items can  
be re-used or recycled. Fix  
it, pass it on or recycle it!**

**[Bisley, Eastcombe &  
Oakridge Climate  
Action Network](https://www.bisleyeastcombe.co.uk)**



## Eastcombe Baptist Church

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

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTES

**AONB Plan:** At the SDC Environment Committee on December 7, we voted to endorse the latest management plan for the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB, now also known as the Cotswold National Landscape). As the District Council's representative on the AONB Board, I was pleased to propose this. The Council had been asked to endorse this plan because it is relevant both to how planning applications are decided and to the way the council delivers its own services. The AONB's Plan considers issues that include how to mitigate and adapt to climate change in our area, how to help nature thrive, and how to ensure everyone has access to the landscape to help improve their health and wellbeing. It includes a commitment to achieve carbon net zero by 2050 (or sooner). These goals can only be achieved by collaboration among the 15 local authorities in the AONB, as well as parish councils, businesses, utilities and many others. The Plan can be seen on the AONB website: <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/>

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** The committee also approved grants totalling £1.2 million, raised from CIL payments made by developers, for 8 projects, including a reed bed filtration system for road run-off into the Stratford Park Lake; a new kitchen and toilets at the Sub Rooms in Stroud; improvements at the Merrywalks bus station; a cycling and walking path from Standish to Stonehouse (part of a longer path from Gloucester to Stroud); a community hub at the Town Library in Berkeley; and improvements at Gastrells Primary School in Rodborough. A portion of CIL money (15% or 25% if there is a Neighbourhood Plan, which Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council is working on) goes to the parish council for use on local infrastructure.

As always, please contact me on District Council issues: Martin Brown, Green Party, 01452 770878 [cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk)

## St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Visitors welcome. Our services this month are:

- **January 14th: Holy Communion at 9.30am**
- **January 21st: Morning Prayer at 9.30am**
- **January 21st: Hilltop Cafe Church, 2.30pm**

On other Sundays there are services in different parts of the Benefice. Visit [www.bisleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk) for more details, or sign up to our mailing list: [pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com](mailto:pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com).

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

### HELLO from the FRITH COMMUNITY CAFÉ

**Hello, we are Dave and Cheryl Shears and we took over running the Frith Community Café in June.**



We have been thoroughly enjoying our new role, getting to know our regular guests and welcoming new ones.

The café is a friendly, welcoming space, open every Wednesday at the Frith Youth Centre from 10am until 12 noon. We serve hot drinks and delicious home-made cakes, with squash available for visiting children and even a jar of dog biscuits for our 4 legged friends. The café is particularly appreciated by those who live alone, providing an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones.

The cafe would not be possible without our wonderful team of volunteers, who help to set up tables and chairs and serve the refreshments, as well as baking yummy cakes. We are always keen to add to our team, so please get in touch if you are interested in helping.

We are planning some special projects for the new year to raise money to improve the acoustics in the hall, which currently cause some difficulties for those guests with hearing impairments. Watch this space...

All are welcome at the café – from centenarians to babies, those with 2 legs or 4. We hope to see you soon!

**Contact details:** 01453 530362 & 07519 267123 & [cherylm.shears@gmail.com](mailto:cherylm.shears@gmail.com)



### EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP

**Christmas Lights Event:** On Friday 1 December we were delighted to combine with Eastcombe Primary School for a memorable community event. We started at the school where the Christmas windows were revealed and the school Christmas tree lit. The children sang Christmas carols, then we processed to the Green, which was lit with lanterns made by the children. It looked magical! Here, Father Christmas helped to light our village Christmas tree. The Hilltop band played festive tunes and our local shanty singers led the singing of some favourite carols. It was a great evening, and we are grateful to everyone who helped and those came along to support the event.

**Burns Supper: Friday 26 January at The Lamb Inn:** Join the fun, with music, poetry, Scottish fare and good company. Starting at 6.30pm, we will sit down for supper at 7pm. Tickets on sale from Monday 8 January at The Lamb Inn, price £25, to include the piping of the haggis, the address and a menu of haggis (meat, gluten free and vegetarian), traditional puddings and coffee or tea. If you have any dietary requirements, please speak to Sarah at The Lamb Inn.

All ticket holders will be entered in a prize draw for an exclusive bottle of malt whisky. Whisky will be on sale with the meal at £2 a dram, and there will be a separate fund raising raffle. Remember to bring cash to buy whisky and raffle tickets. Scottish dress is not obligatory, but do wear some tartan if you have it! Tickets are limited so we suggest you buy yours early.

**Our next meeting is on Monday 8 January at 7.30 pm at Eastcombe Village Hall annex.** We will discuss how to use funds to help local events and activities. Do come along to share your views.

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



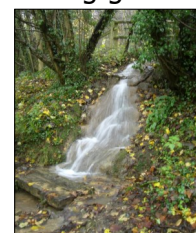
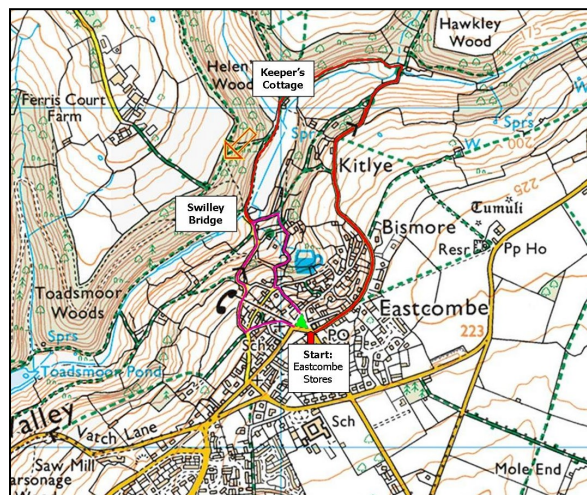


## A NEW YEAR WALK...

**Feeling a bit flat after the Christmas festivities (or a bit fat after too much cheese!)? What better way to start the new year by getting out and about?**

This circular walk explores the lanes of Eastcombe, and the Toadsmoor valley, with a few things to look out for and some snippets of local history along the way.

- **Start & finish:** Eastcombe Stores, in the centre of Eastcombe (What3Words: [///jiggle.obstruct.grow](https://www.what3words.com/#!/jiggle.obstruct.grow))
- **Length & Duration:** 2.3km & about an hour (you might want to allow more time for the uphill bits!)
- **Terrain:** paths (muddy in places), tracks & lanes. Downhill at the start & a steep uphill climb at the end.
- **Refreshments:** The Lamb Inn & Eastcombe Stores
- Take Fidges Lane, to the right of the shop at the top of the green. At Jack Andrew's bench (212m above sea level), a view opens out across the village to The Lamb Inn at almost the same level (208m) on the other side of the combe. To the right, a path leads to the right into the fields, towards Bisley.
- Continue down Fidges Lane between stone walls that date back to the enclosures of 1866 (see page 244 of *Hilltop & Valley: Stories of Chalford Parish & Eastcombe*). Medieval field markings can be seen in the field to the right, before you pass between the cluster of houses that make up Kitlye, along with a kissing gate and a stone stile. Continue on down to Hawkley at the very bottom of the lane.
- Passing Hawkley Cottage on your right, walk slightly uphill and turn left through the slit stile into the woods. At the small waterfall, take a moment to read the words etched into the wooden bridge, reputedly carved by a Polish prisoner of war who worked at Lypiatt Manor:  
*'This water is the source of all knowledge.  
Hazel grows and drops its nuts into the water producing bubbles.'*
- Take the path into the woods, detouring round a tree trunk across the path (this is sinking by the day, so don't get too close!). If you're lucky, you may see deer on the slopes to your left, and, in autumn, the beeches to the right make a colourful display.



The path emerges at Keeper's Cottage, its gardens full of snowdrops in spring (see Chapter 1 of *Hilltop & Valley: Stories of Chalford Parish & Eastcombe*). The house was built in 1862 by Sir John Dorington of Lypiatt Park for his gamekeeper, using 10 beams from the refurbishment of Bisley church. Sir John learned from his mistake of building too close to the stream (the house has suffered flooding over the years) and when he came to build the other Keeper's Cottage (originally Woodman's Cottage) at Toadsmoor Pond, he did so in an elevated position. Outside Keeper's Cottage, a path leads up to the Copsegrove fields, but we continue straight on, onto the stony track.

- Follow the track, looking out for deer in the meadow to your left (once so well-drained that a Bismore cricket team played there!).
- At Swilley Bridge, so called because fleeces were reputedly once washed beneath it), you can extend your walk by continuing down the stream side path to Cutham's Stile (site of the infamous Bismore murder) and Toadsmoor Pond. However, our walk turns towards Eastcombe, crossing the bridge. Take a moment to admire the waterfall below.
- At Fairview cottage, **either:**

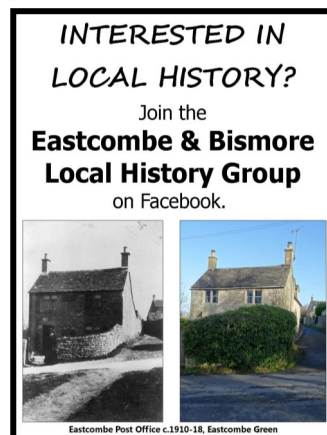
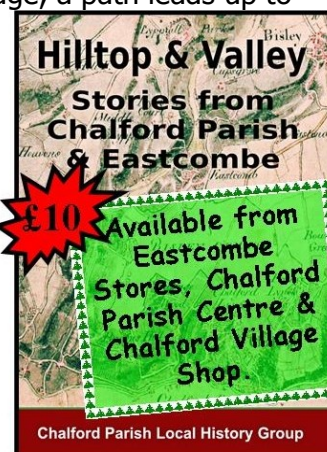
Continue straight on, past the private road/footpath that leads off right to Toadsmoor Hill, and follow the winding and steep Old Hill/Bismore Lane up to where it joins Wells Road in a 4 way junction by the entrance to Rodways Farm. Take the 2nd left into Chancewell to climb up to Eastcombe green.

**or**

Turn left onto the woodland path just before Fairview cottage, passing the site of a lost cottage on your left, crossing a stream bridge and emerging by Little Bismore Cottage. Here you can either turn up and left (then bear right—the left path is access only) through the woods, where a choice of paths will return you to Kitlye and lower Fidges Lane. Alternatively, turn right past Honeyhill cottage, bearing left and uphill after the garages to where a stone stile marks the entrance to a footpath. Follow this path and climb up to Wells Road via the steep 'Death Slide', recently fitted with extra steps and new hand rails by the Eastcombe and Chalford footpath groups. At Wells Road, take the path almost straight ahead, up past The Lamb Inn to return to the green.

- Finally, enjoy some well-deserved refreshments at The Lamb Inn or Eastcombe Stores, or simply take advantage of one of the benches on the green and enjoy the view.

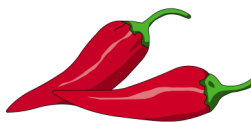
**Click [HERE](#) for a mobile-friendly version of this walk.**





## THINK HOT!

January may be cold, but it's the perfect time to look ahead to summer!



Chillies are not difficult to grow, but they do require a nice long growing season if they are going to ripen. This means that the perfect time to plant seeds is in January and February. Here's how:

1. **Sow seeds** in trays or pots filled with moist seed compost. Cover with a fine sprinkling of compost or vermiculite.
2. **Place in a propagator** at a temperature of 18-25°C, or cover with a plastic bag and place on a warm windowsill or in the airing cupboard. Seeds should germinate in 7-10 days, after which seedlings can be put on a warm, sunny windowsill.
3. **Pot up** the seedlings when they are large enough to handle and grow on in the warm until all risk of frost has passed (around May). Keep compost evenly moist – not too wet.
4. Once the risk of frost has passed, **move** the seedlings to a greenhouse (in 2 litre pots or growbags) or to a sunny, sheltered position outside. They will also fruit on a sunny windowsill, but you must hand pollinate with a brush or open the windows to let pollinators in!
5. Once the first fruits have set, give them a weekly **feed** of tomato fertiliser.
6. **Pick** ripe fruits to encourage new ones to form.

Why not give growing chillies a try? There are loads of unusual types to choose from – mild, hot, large and compact, in a sizzling range of colours and shapes.

*The Eastcombe Gardener*

## HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB HAPPENINGS...

[www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk](http://www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk)



At our festive December meeting, Pat Carpenter demonstrated how to make Christmas wreaths.

Pat arrived with a large bag of greenery, 25 biodegradable wreaths and everything we

needed to make our wreaths: wire, pins to attach the greenery, cinnamon sticks, pine cones, dried orange slices, whole oranges, baubles, ribbons and a wealth of knowledge. She has been very busy wreath making in the Stroud area.

We had a welcome break halfway through, with mulled wine and mince pies. Both members and guests took part and everyone really enjoyed it and had beautiful wreaths to take home.



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- **January 9th:** HGC New Year Meal
- **February 6th:** AGM, followed by Gail Plant speaking about *Winter Scent*.
- **March 5th:** Talk by the Project Manager of the Walled Garden, Museum in the Park, Stroud.

## VOLUNTEER THIS NEW YEAR!

### COULD YOU HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



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

We are recruiting **Administration/Triage Assistants** and **Volunteer Advisers**.

Our next training programme starts 24 January. To find out more about the roles or register your interest, please contact our Learning and Development Officer at [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk).

You can find further information on our website [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

## VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme (GMP) offers free support to 10-25 year olds whose life circumstances mean they're at risk of becoming involved in crime. GMP offers the chance to form a long-lasting relationship with a trusted adult (a trained volunteer mentor), which can be transformational.



The GMP would like to expand its pool of volunteers. To find out more, sign up to our online information event on 10th January, 7-8pm, by visiting the link below:

[www.gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk)

Anyone can become a mentor—you just need to be willing and have about an hour a week to spare.

Follow us @Glosmentoring, contact 01453 756745 or [info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk)

## CHRIST-MATHS CHALLENGE: ANSWERS

1. How many gifts were given altogether by my true love? **78**
2. How many birds were sent by my true love? **23**
3. How many people did my true love send to entertain me? **50**
4. How many wings are in the song? **46**
5. How many legs are in the song? **156**
6. If I had to share all the presents with another person, how many would each of us get? **39**



Lecture Programme September 2023 – June 2024

January 10th 2024

*Dr Nigel Wright: Recently Retired Programme Manager at Thales Alenia Space UK*

*Topic: The engineering challenges faced by the design team of the Rosetta spacecraft.*

Open to all. Annual subscription £15 or £3 per lecture.

Students free. Lectures start 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sir Emrys Jones Lecture Theatre at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Tea, coffee & biscuits served at 7pm. Free parking.

Visit [www.cirensience.org.uk](http://www.cirensience.org.uk) for more details.

## CAROL'S COOKERY CORNER:

### SALMON WITH GARLIC ROASTED TOMATOES

A quick & easy recipe. Serves 2 (double up for extra visitors). Use an oven proof dish (25cm x 20cm was perfect).

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 salmon fillets
- 3 large tomatoes, sliced
- 1 large onion, finely chopped.
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed and finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh or dried oregano/mixed herbs
- Large knob of butter
- Drizzle of balsamic vinegar



#### METHOD:

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°/170° fan/gas mark 4.
2. Melt the butter in a frying pan until runny and hot.
3. Add chopped onions and fry until soft, stirring frequently. Layer in the base of the cooking dish.
4. Fry the tomatoes until soft, but not cooked. Layer on top of the onions.
5. Season with salt and pepper. Add the mixed herbs.
6. Lay the salmon fillets on top.
7. Drizzle gently with balsamic vinegar.
8. Bake for 15/20 minutes or until the salmon is cooked through.
9. Serve with lemon wedges. You could also add a side salad or oven chips.
10. Enjoy!

## THE HERALD REMEMBERED... Sadly, after more than a quarter of a century, The Herald has ceased publication. This article, by The Herald team, featured in the last issue, in December 2023:

' "Well, most of you will know that this is the last edition of The Herald..." So began the editorial of 24 years ago, which was foresighted to say the least. And, as most of you know, short of the cavalry thundering into view over the hill as it did in January 2000, this really is the last edition of The Herald. Life and communications since then have changed at a bewildering rate, and news and messages are spread around the community in ways that could only have been dreamt of when the Millennium was being celebrated.

The magazine was started in March 1983 by Mrs Paddy Jennings, for more than 2 decades St John's churchwarden and the parochial church council secretary, among much else. The first edition had 70 copies, run off on a hand-operated duplicator in parishioner Pam Haynes's kitchen at Orchard Cottage, France Lynch. At its height under Paddy, 600 a month were being printed – all but a dozen of which had a guaranteed sale.

The cavalry to save the magazine in 2000 came in the form of the Vicar, the Revd Peter Keslake, who had no intention of seeing it falling by the wayside and was backed by the PCC in his efforts. Before long he was relieved of his editorial duties by Linda Hudson, who headed the little Herald team for more than a decade until Simon Barker took over in 2012, and then passed the baton to Mike Kent and Gill Ball in 2016. They had also been responsible for the magazine's distribution, with advertising by then in the hands of Mary Richmond, who had taken over from the equally enthusiastic Marie Vivian. Before Mike and Gill moved to the village, Barbara and David Burton and Eleanor and Andy Sharpe were cheerful and dedicated distributors.

By the end of 2000 the look of the magazine had been transformed, professionally printed for the first time by Edward Markall Ltd of Brimscombe. Other ever-co-operative printers followed, Alan Mayo's Vale Press and the Nailsworth-based Leopard Press serving through thick and thin. Coloured covers was another stride forward, and Linda delighted in tracking down arresting images, including striking scenes photographed by Jonathan Leach and others, in sharp contrast with the often simple line drawings of a few years earlier. Mike and Gill upheld the tradition, with Peter Bishop adding professionalism to the magazine's design and layout.

A glance at the advertisers is like a stroll down memory lane. The Fish' In chip shop, Johnny Coppin in cabaret at Thomas Keble School; Paul Dutton the butcher, Chalford Hill Post Office, Sawyers Electrical, Shampers Hair Studio, Mixed Monkey, Graham Mayo dental repairs, Trevor Davis, ever willing to drive you to places at any unearthly hour... Other advertisers have stayed with The Herald over a quarter of a century: Ian Ridler Electrical, The Green Shop at Bisley, Fourways Garage, Moss Motors, Holbrook Garage, S.P. Electrical... Their staying power has been quite something, too!

Sadly, from next month, that can no longer be said of The Herald. But all who have been involved over the years will look back on it with the fondest memories – and from what so many of you have told us in recent weeks, we know that this equally applies to very many of you, our valued readers.'

## SCREEN ON THE GREEN

presents

### THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

**Director: Hettie Macdonald**  
**Starring: Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton**

Based on the book by local author Rachel Joyce, a story about the power of hope, a celebration of everyday joys & the human connection.



**Venue: Eastcombe Village Hall**

**Date: Saturday 20th January**

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

**Admission: £4 per person  
Ice Creams £2 each**

**COMMUNITY RAFFLE  
in aid of The Door**



## FANCY A DANCE?

Fancy trying something new this year?

Ragged & Old Morris dancers are looking for dancers and musicians to keep this traditional custom alive.

Come and see what we do! We meet every Wednesday in Bussage Village Hall, 8-9.30pm.





## VILLAGE HISTORIES... THE SNOW OF 1947, by Phyllis Gaston...

The winter of 1946-47 was by far the worst of my lifetime. Over Christmas and for weeks after we had exceptionally hard frosts with bitter east winds. Toadsmoor Lake froze and we skated on it - until the snow arrived.

I was in the Women's Land Army at the time, working at Nash End farm on the road towards Bisley, a 5 minute cycle ride from my home at Hill Top, Eastcombe. Roads deteriorated fast, deep ruts and frozen lumpy snow making it impossible for delivery vans to get to the hilltop, and the bus had long since ceased to come up. With few vehicles then, road-clearing and gritting were low on the agenda.

One Friday, the conditions eased and the bus came up, so 6 of us decided to go down to the Ball in the Sub Rooms in Stroud. Decked in our finery we set out, having asked Brian Beavis to collect us at midnight. It was good to 'let our hair down' after being isolated for so long. At midnight, we found Brian waiting - along with another fall of snow. Halfway up Vatch Lane we had to push the taxi, which didn't do much for our ankle-length ball gowns! At the top of the hill, we dropped off 4 by the church, rounded the corner by the village green, and shot right into the middle of it! Only 2 of us were left to push now, so we decided to walk the rest!



The stuck Bisley bus. Photo courtesy of 'Stroud Road & Rail in Old Photographs', SJ Gardiner & LC Padin

The following Tuesday, a blizzard hit and didn't let up for 24 hours. On Wednesday, the bus to Bisley got stuck in the drift at Stancombe corner, and by the next morning it had disappeared under the snow! Only 2 people left the village that day, myself and Vera Davis - and she got halfway down the Chalford road and had to give up.

The men got together to try to dig the village out. Snow had found its way into buildings, under slates and through holes you never knew were there; many people had to dig out their lofts to prevent ceilings falling. We spent hours blocking gaps with sacking, newspapers, straw, anything to hand. The cold was intense. One really cold morning, I put the thermometer outside the cowshed and the mercury dropped straight to the bottom, the bulb broke, and it spilled out, staining the snow like a drop of blood.

Shortages of food, fuel and water caused problems. Workman's bakery at Chalford Hill managed to get bread to Bisley with a horse and sledge. With no mains water at the farm, our supply was pumped from the stream at Lower Nash End and stored in a 400-gallon tank in the roof of the barn. The supply pipe had frozen, but the Fire Service managed to fill our tank. Great - apart from one thing - the downpipe had frozen and we couldn't get it out! Nothing was easy in 1947, we were lurching from one crisis to another...

Well into March, when the thaw set in, a bulldozer worked round the clock to clear the roads. Nash End Lane, narrow with high hedges, had snow compacted 17 feet deep and the Council eventually cleared it by carving it like huge blocks of salt, towing it out on a trailer and stacking it on the verges of the Oakridge road. It was the end of May before it all disappeared, and snow was still in the quarry beside the Pike in June.

From *Oil, Lamp & Candle* by Phyllis Gaston With thanks to Muriel Brooks & [www.eastcombearchive.org.uk](http://www.eastcombearchive.org.uk)

### Pilates Classes

2024

Eastcombe Village Hall - Tuesday 2-3pm

Frith Youth Centre - Thursday 9-10am

**Gentle Chair**

Eastcombe Village Hall - Tuesday 1-2pm

**Power Pilates**

Frith Youth Centre - Thursday 10-10.45am

All classes payable in advance-reserve your spot now, limited spaces

Suitable for Beginners-Intermediate

Private 1-2-1 sessions available, Pre and Post Natal qualified

**Online class**

Monday 8-9pm or Thursday 12.10-12.40pm

**Contact me:**

[michelle@pluspilates.net](mailto:michelle@pluspilates.net)

Find me at [www.facebook.com/pluspilates](https://www.facebook.com/pluspilates)  
[www.pluspilates.net](http://www.pluspilates.net)



**HILLTOP CAFE CHURCH**

Christian worship for those of all faiths and none.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**2.30PM**

**EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL**

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM THE PARISH OF BUSSAGE & EASTCOMBE

**COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?**

- An upcoming event?
- An article about your hobby?

Please send contributions to:  
[eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com)

**by NOON on 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

### WHAT'S ON in JANUARY?

**8 Jan:** Eastcombe Village Group meeting, Eastcombe Village Hall annex, 7.30pm

**9 Jan:** Hilltop Gardening Club New Year Meal

**10 Jan:** Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council meeting, Bisley Village Hall, 7.30pm/  
Cirencester Science & Technology Society Talk, 7.30pm, Royal Agricultural University/Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme online information event, 7-8pm,

**20 Jan:** Eastcombe Screen on the Green, Eastcombe Village Hall, 7pm (7.30pm)

**21 Jan:** Hilltop Café Church, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm

**17th JANUARY: DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

**22 Jan:** Police Information Point, Chalford Parish Centre, 10am-12pm

**24 Jan:** Citizens Advice training event

**26 Jan:** Burns Night Supper, The Lamb Inn, 6.30pm (7pm)

**31 Jan:** Deadline for applications for Chalford Parish Council Community Grants, and Rotary Community Awards

### NAME THAT VIEW!



### How well do you know our villages?

Did you recognise a very snowy Eastcombe green in December's photo?!

January's equally frosty photo is once again taken in or around the 3 villages.

### Can you identify its location?

The answer will be revealed in the February issue.