

April 2026

60p

FREE Digitally!

FOLLOW US on
FACEBOOK

Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownshill Newsletter

SDC GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION NOW OPEN TO ALL!

The Stroud District Council fortnightly garden waste collection service runs from February to the end of November, costing £58.50.

This year, subscriptions are also available to residents in narrow-access areas, who can subscribe to a garden waste bag collection service between 30th March and the end of November.



The cost of the garden waste bag collection service for 2026 is £48, reduced for 2026 (only) to reflect the later start. Subscribers must pre-book a slot for their garden waste bag(s) to be collected.

[Click here to subscribe to 2026 garden waste collections](#) or visit the Garden Waste Collection page of www.stroud.gov.uk/.

Please note: Actual collection dates vary slightly by location. Visit [My House](#) to check dates.

**FREE
FIRST AID
TRAINING!**
SEE PAGE 3



Eastcombe & Bismore
Local History Group:
**PEOPLE & PLACES
REVISITED!**
See PAGE 8

MIGHTY HIKERS – MIKE & SARAH

After the heroic efforts of the Eastcombe Stores team during the recent Tesco refurbishment, Mike Dorey is in such good shape that he is doing a Mighty Hike along the Jurassic coast to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. He and Sarah will hike a full marathon over this beautiful but challenging coastline.



As well as supporting such a terrific cause, this gives the local community the opportunity to show our appreciation for the way Eastcombe Stores support us.

For further details and to donate please visit <https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/mikes-fundraising-page1255>

Weekly Coffee Morning at The Lamb Inn

Join us every Wednesday from 11am for our weekly Coffee Morning at the Lamb!

A perfect chance to catch up with friends, meet new faces and enjoy a great cup of coffee in a relaxed atmosphere.

Every Wednesday

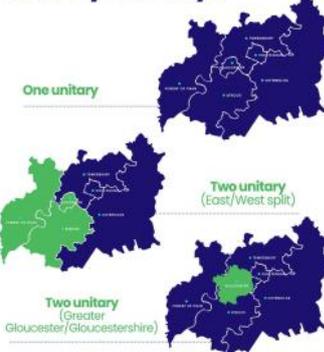
From 11am

The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe



Future—
Gloucestershire

Have your say.



GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION:

WHAT WOULD
ST GEORGE DO?

Unimpressed with the government reorganisation proposals (see left) for Gloucestershire?

Well, now there is a 4th option!

When England's green and pleasant land is threatened, ask yourselves: *What would St George do?* The answer could lie below!

Happy
St George's Day!!

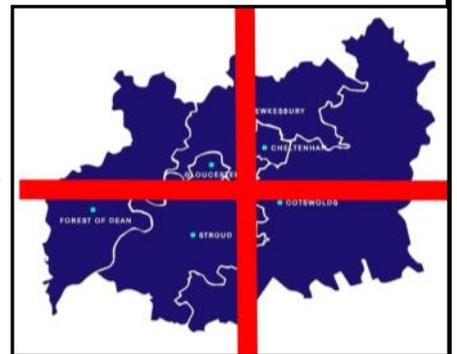


To vote for the St George Option (right), email

stgeorgeknowsbest@gmail.com

To vote on the other options (above), please visit

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-



To receive a FREE digital copy of the newsletter every month, please contact eastcombebandednews@gmail.com. Printed copies, 60p each, are available from Eastcombe Stores, Frith Community Café & Chalford Parish Centre.

Please send items for the May newsletter to eastcombenewsletter@btinternet.com by NOON on 17th April.

BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: EASTCOMBE WARD

www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/ Contact the Clerk: admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Lack of mobile signal: Atlas Towers have undertaken to provide a detailed CGI image of what the mast might look like in a potential location. We are waiting for them to fly a drone and confirm the signal coverage for Eastcombe. Our questionnaire, together with a short outline of the background for a mobile mast is ready, awaiting the drone data from Atlas. We will issue the questionnaire as soon as we can.

Condition of road network: We attended the joint meeting with Chalford Parish Council and Highways together with our County Councillor on February 16th. The common concern is potholes and drainage of our roads along with reduction in road speeds. Potholes on Middle Hill is a priority for Highways. At the time of writing no obvious repairs had been conducted—we will maintain a close observation of road repairs locally.

Blocked drains: There are 10 road surface drains blocked with debris from potholes and old leaves. Detailed locations via What3Words were provided to Highways to expedite their clearance. At the time of writing 4 remain uncleared - Highways have been requested to advise timing for clearance of these drains.

If you feel there is a significant issue with the road surface in the parish, please visit www.fixmystreet.com and raise the concern. **This is key to bringing about a change to the road condition in the Parish.**

If you would like to **become a Parish Councillor** to support our community, please contact Heather, our Clerk, or any of the Parish Councillors to find out more.

PC meetings take place 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Bisley Village Hall. **Public representations are usually heard within the first half hour of the meetings and you do not have to stay for the whole meeting.** All are welcome.

Colin Clifton, Chair, Eastcombe Ward: colin.clifton@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Village Hall now has an internet link, after numerous false starts. This means we have wi-fi available within the Hall for users. To connect to the wi-fi, please contact Teresa on teresadrover@hotmail.co.uk for the password, which is also available to clients, groups and attendees. The router is being connected to our audio/visual system to provide access to the internet, which will hopefully allow live streaming, including National Theatre Live NTL.

As previously mentioned, we have a new 35-year lease. We undertook a full risk assessment and review of the hall facilities recently. Regular Maintenance actions have been undertaken with the usual actions fully programmed for the remainder of the year. There are several updates and improvements to the hall which include:

- **New notice board within the hall lobby**
- **Revised location for coat hangers**
- **New fire-retardant doors into the main hall**
- **Door closures fitted to outer toilet doors**
- **New heating thermostats**
- **Updated signage within the hall**
- **New dirt capture mats in the lobby**
- **New notice board in the car park**

Now we have an internet link, we are offering the annexe for use for meetings presentations etc. If you are interested in utilising the annexe, please contact Teresa.

Colin Clifton - Chair Eastcombe Village Hall

EASTCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a fantastic day we had celebrating World Book Day! World Book Day 2026 on March 5th featured the theme "Go All In" which was promoted alongside the UK's National Year of Reading 2026. The aim was to celebrate and encourage a love of books by connecting books with children's existing interests, and for them to explore their interests through reading for pleasure, in a fun, accessible, and inclusive way.

Our day began with a whole school catwalk, where the children proudly showed off their wonderful costumes, which really showed the variety of interests! Throughout the day we enjoyed lots of activities to celebrate our love of reading, including a teacher swap, where teachers visited different classes to share a story, a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) session, and a whole school "share a book" time with a partner. We then followed up with the launch of our 'sponsored read' - encouraging everyone to 'keep reading'!

With Easter almost here Eastcombe Primary School would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter break!



INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

Join the **Eastcombe & Bismore Local History Group** on Facebook.



THE HILLTOP HEDGEHOGS ARE WAKING UP FROM THEIR WINTER HIBERNATION...

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!



CHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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



We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the team – Karen Long. Karen joins us with a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, energy and positivity, and we are very pleased to have her on board.

Allotment season is almost upon us and we currently have some allotment plots available at the Middle Hill site. If you have been thinking about growing your own fruit or vegetables, now is a great time to get started. If you are interested in taking on a plot, or would like more information, please get in touch with Karen who will be happy to help: assistantclerk@chalford-glos.gov.uk.

One of the most frequent questions we receive relates to potholes and poor road conditions, and we completely share residents' frustrations. Responsibility for highways lies with Gloucestershire County Council; however, we do all we can to keep the pressure up to ensure that our parish is not forgotten.

We recently met with our Local Highways Manager, our County Councillors, and Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council to raise residents' concerns about the poor condition of our roads and the risks this poses to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The condition of many roads has worsened following the heavy rainfall in January and February, and we will continue to press for improvements to ensure our roads are safer for everyone. To help keep residents informed, we are creating a Highways page on our website, which will be updated regularly with information about what is happening behind the scenes. A link has also been added to the front page of the website that will take you directly to this page. If you wish to report problems with roads or street lighting, please visit www.fixmystreet.com

February half term was packed with excitement thanks to our World Jungle Extravaganza, which brought lots of fun and activity for local children and families. We hope everyone who attended had a fantastic time.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Council Budget 2026-27: Council approved a budget of £22.5 million for the next financial year. District Council Tax will increase by 2.99%, an increase for Band D properties of 14p a week to £250.35 a year. (The majority of your bill is for County Council and the police.) Council Tax Support up to 100% continues for those who cannot afford to pay. Council Housing rents will increase by 4.8%. The budget also includes £100k for walking and cycling schemes around the district, and £100k for planning for climate change adaptation – increasingly important as the direct effects of this global problem are being experienced locally, not least in the increased rainfall and consequent flooding we've all seen.

Grant Schemes: The budget includes an additional £50k for Stroud Funding, through which local groups and organisations crowd-fund for projects that benefit local people and the environment. The new Culture Grants scheme is for grants up to £2000, with a focus on young artists. The Climate and Nature Small Grants scheme offers up to £2000 to community groups, parish and town councils, and not-for-profit organisations, to help local communities adapt to climate change and support nature recovery and biodiversity. To apply for any of these, see the council's website or contact me.

Garden Waste Service Expands: Every household in Stroud District can now use the council's garden waste collection service, and you can book now: www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/garden-waste-collection-service/ See the front page for more details.

Please contact me about any council-related issues:
Martin Brown 01452 770878 cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

Frithwood Surgery
Patient Participation Group

Essential First Aid Training

Wednesday 29th April 7-9pm
at Frithwood Surgery

Could you help a relative, friend or neighbour if they needed first aid?

Would you like to improve your first aid skills?

Would you know what to do in an emergency first aid situation?

Come along to a friendly training session to learn or refresh your skills and gain confidence.

Book your FREE place now by emailing frithwoodppg@gmail.com

NATIONAL Open GARDEN SCHEME

Eastcombe & Bussage

NGS OPEN GARDENS

Sun 3rd May & Mon 4th May Time: 1:00 - 5:30
Entry £10.00 per adult - children free
Tickets and maps from Eastcombe Village Hall
Redwood, Bussage GL68AZ, Hawkley Cottage, Bismore
Homemade refreshments at Eastcombe Village Hall

Beginners welcome

Crib Social

Tuesdays @7.30pm
Contact John
CSSCCrib@gmail.com

CSSC
Chalford Sports & Social Club

The Stuart Singers
together with
The Wyndham Singers
Male Voice Choir from Devon

present an afternoon concert of
Songs for Spring

Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton
Saturday 25th April at 4:00pm
In aid of Gloucester and District Samaritans

Tea/coffee and cakes will be served in the interval

Tickets £12.50 / Friends of Stuart Singers £10
(under 16s free with an accompanying adult)

From www.stuartsingers.com (go to Upcoming Events on Home Page)
or from Market Stores Minchinhampton

making music www.stuartsingers.com
www.facebook.com/stuartsingers



Eastcombe WI Meeting
Tuesday 21 April 2026
From 7.15pm—9.00pm
Eastcombe Village Hall



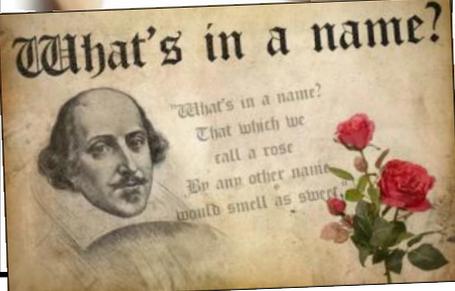
Speaker: Mike Kelly
and his guide dog
Sharing their life
together

Visitors always welcome

For further information contact
Jean Buxton 07817 441363 email jeanbuxton@hotmail.com
or
Jackie Harris 07840 244803 email jaquieboyd@hotmail.com

ALL CHANGE! 

Watch out for a few differences in next month's newsletter!


Why can April jump so high?
It's spring!

WATCH OUT, WATCH OUT - LAMBS ABOUT!

Many of us love the sight of lambs. However, spring can be a dangerous time for livestock, with ewes and young stock particularly vulnerable to dog attacks.



Dog owners are reminded to keep dogs on a lead in fields where livestock is at pasture.

Dogs should always be under 'close control' close to animals.

Never assume that your dog *'wouldn't do a thing like that.'* Attacks can happen very fast—don't take the risk and always keep your dog on a lead when in a field with livestock.

Thank you — and enjoy the countryside!

THOMAS KEBLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Thomas Keble PTA exists for an effective relationship between staff and parents, and to engage in activities or provide equipment that support the school. Most importantly, our purpose is to advance the education of all pupils by ensuring they have the resources and environment they need to thrive.

Over the last three years, we have funded a range of projects, including £500 for Animal Club and £21,825 for smart boards. We fund resources across departments, including £4,000 towards a router table, orbital sander and sublimation printer for the DT department and a range of equipment for the Cooking department, including mixers and microwaves, plus modular staging for the Drama/Performing Arts department. The PTA has been saving carefully to support the additional needs of the new build, and thanks to your generosity, we have been able to invest in a wide range of resources that benefit students across the school.

A massive thank you to you all - you are all amazing!

We are now fundraising for additional benches so all students can sit comfortably at lunchtime. Each bench costs £400, and funds from the Winter Showcase refreshments, 2nd hand uniform sale and 100 Club entries mean we have almost funded three already.

Support us by attending TKSA events, and by joining our 100 club—see poster (right) for more details.

WIN £100 WITH THE 100 CLUB 

Email Tkpta@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

| | |
|--|---|
|  £60 Gets you 20 chances to win in a year |  £48 Gets you 16 chances to win in a year |
|  £36 Gets you 12 chances to win in a year |  £24 Gets you 8 chances to win in a year |
|  £12 Gets you 4 chances to win in a year | |



Eastcombe Baptist Chapel

A service is held at 10.30am on Sundays at the chapel in Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe.

EASTCOMBE VILLAGE GROUP (EVG)

The Village Quiz was a great success. Nine teams competed and we needed a tie breaker question to find the winning team. Thank you to Scott and Chris Sissons for organising the quiz, and to Helen and her team of helpers for providing the ploughman's supper and the cake. The quiz added £150 to EVG funds.

Wine Walk: The 2026 Eastcombe Wine Walk will take place on Sunday 26 July, 4pm to 8pm, offering a variety of wines from 5 different wine regions.

Eastcombe Village Event: We have decided that we will plan this for the summer of 2027. We already have some exciting ideas to provide entertainment for families and people of all ages in Eastcombe. If you would like to help or contribute please let me know.

Next Meeting: Monday 13 April at 7.30pm in the annex of Eastcombe Village Hall. We will discuss ideas for the Village Event next year and for the Wine Walk.

Peter Scott: peterhscott@btinternet.com

To join the EVG mailing list, contact csissons52@gmail.com

Follow [Eastcombe Village Group](#) on Facebook.

THANKS, TESCO!

In February, Friends of Frith Wood gave a thank you card to the staff at Tesco, in Bussage, as the shop re-opened.

Many of us appreciate how hard the staff work and how kind they are to people with any special needs. It is a really great facility for us. Manager Ian Wheeler was very pleased to receive the card. He explained that Tesco is trying to get the owners of the car park to tidy it up.

Pictured are Sophie Carabine from Friends of Frith Wood, with Ian and staff member Donna Turner.



St Michael's & All Angels, Bussage

Services this month are:

- **Friday 3rd: GOOD FRIDAY, Stations of the Cross, 12 noon**
- **Sunday 5th: EASTER SUNDAY, Holy Communion, 9.30am**
- **Sunday 19th: Morning Prayer, 9.30am**
- **Sunday 19th: Cafe Church, Eastcombe Village Hall at 2.30pm (poster on Page 8)**

On other Sundays are services in different parts of the Benefice. For full details please visit facebook.com/BisleyBeneficeandFriends/ or join our mailing list by contacting pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com.

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

COOKERY CORNER

Helen Watkinson shares her recipe for
AVOCADO WRAPS

Serves 4 (or 2 if you're hungry!)

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 tortilla wraps
- 1 large, ripe avocado, peeled and sliced
- 4 tablespoons chopped tomatoes
- 4/5 slices preserved Jalapeños, chopped
- Chilli sauce to taste
- 4 oz (115g) Cheddar cheese, grated



METHOD:

1. Spread each tortilla wrap with 1 tablespoon chopped tomato, slices of avocado, chopped Jalapeños and chilli sauce to taste.
2. Sprinkle over grated cheese, roll up and heat in the microwave for 1.5 minutes (high power setting) per tortilla or until hot.
3. Serve on their own or with a salad for a light supper or lunch.

EASTCOMBE WI

Our president, Jackie, welcomed members and visitors. Our speaker was Rachel Golding Barrett from The Tetbury Flower Co. Based in Sopworth, she is a flower farmer, growing flowers in a walled garden on a farm. The company cuts 65,000 stems a year and sells to events and wholesale. They do cut your own, farm tours and workshops.

Rachel has become a Dahlia specialist, breeder and an RHS exhibitor. She told how the Dutch flooded the UK markets, but after the Dutch government stopped subsidies, Brexit and legislation this changed. The Trade Association now has 1,000 members and did the flowers for the Coronation. Her Dahlia mania started with a packet of seeds from eBay and now she has 1500 plants and cuts 1200 stems a week.

Rachel took us through her year of growing and the elements involved in providing flowers for all kinds of events. She grows in a small area: 3 beds, 3 metres by 1 metre divided into 12 cells. She has moved from local shows to exhibiting at The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show. Tiring work but irresistible. She was thanked by Jean B.

Business included news of various events, Lunch Club, Craft and Scrabble Club and trips to The Missing Link and Chavenage House. Our Charity, Allsorts, will be supported by an event on Sunday 12th July.

Our next meeting is on 21st April, 7.15pm at Eastcombe Village Hall. Poster on Page 4.



COTSWOLDS CANALS TRUST: SPRING UPDATE

We've been delighted to welcome the warmer spring weather here at the **Cotswold Canals Trust** and it's been a busy and exciting start to the season!



One of our highlights has been reopening our much-loved **Bonds Mill Visitor Centre** in Stonehouse. The centre had been closed during the lift bridge replacement works, but we're thrilled to have it open again, refreshed and ready to welcome visitors. It's a small space with a big impact - a place to share the story of our charity, chat with volunteers, and offer walkers a well-earned ice cream or snack as they explore our restored Cotswold Canals. We're open every Sunday from 1:30-4pm, so do pop in and see us.

We were also excited to welcome Martha Kearney and the team from **Radio 4's Open Country** for a special recording. The visit included a boat trip at Ebley, a look at restoration progress in Eastington, and time at Fromebridge Nature Reserve exploring our collaborative work with **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**. The episode aired on 19th March.



Finally - **boat trips are back!** From Saturday 4th April, our popular Wallbridge trips return, running every 45 minutes from 10am to 3:45pm. It's a wonderful way to experience the canal from the water. Planning a celebration? Private charters are also available at Wallbridge and Saul Junction from £80 per hour. Find out more and book online at www.cotswoldcanals.org - we look forward to welcoming you on the water soon!

THE LITTLE FREE ART GALLERY, BUSSAGE

**Share a Little Art,
Spread a Lot of Joy!**



The Little Free Art Gallery Bussage has had a wonderfully busy start to the year, with beautiful pieces left by generous locals quickly finding new homes.

With the warmer weather bringing more visitors, our shelves are starting to look a little bare – so we'd love your help! If you enjoy creating, please consider leaving a small piece to share. Drawings, paintings, textile pieces, painted rocks, crochet, photography, poetry... anything creative is welcome!

For the first time we've found lovely notes from visitors who've taken art to mark a special anniversary or to brighten the day of someone in hospital. It's a simple idea, but it brings a lot of joy.

Keep an eye out for a creative Easter display in April – and if inspiration strikes, we'd love to see your creations in the gallery! Take a piece if it speaks to you or leave one to brighten someone else's day!

**You'll find the #littlefreeartgallerybussage on
The Avenue, Bussage, off Cowswell Lane, GL6 8AT.
What3words: ///dates.barn.hawks**



Social Darts

Thursday Evenings 8pm

No experience Req

No Charge

Everyone Welcome



CSSC
Chalford Sports
& Social Club

What to do if you find a baby bird...



Hilltop Film Club 2026: Off to a good start!



Over 40 people enjoyed watching *Conclave* at Eastcombe Village Hall on Saturday 21st February. The film club is proving a popular community activity and we now have over 45 members. As well as covering the cost involved in running the club, the annual fee of £30 enables a very useful contribution to be made to the upkeep of Eastcombe Village Hall. It would be great to see more members – let's break 50 in the near future. Members choose the films that are shown.

We also have 2 special honorary members, Alex and Carol Lambert. Alex is facing some challenging health issues but is being well looked after by Carol. Over the years they have both been very active supporters of Eastcombe Village Hall, including running the Rural Cinema which laid a solid foundation for the Hilltop Film Club.

HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB www.hilltopgardeningclub.org.uk



On 3rd March, Robert Bryant spoke about *The Natural World of Gloucestershire*. A familiar figure at HGC, Robert Bryant's talks are punctuated by riveting images and macroscopic detail through the lens of a digital camera of the complexity of Gloucestershire's diverse landscape. Too detailed to adequately summarise, it was good to see Gloucestershire's natural richness beyond Cotswold's hare-bells, Siccaridge Wood's lily of the valley, Daneway's butterflies to the limestone of Selsley Common and Rough Banks 'insects galore'. Habitat friendly sites were pictured in the acidic soil of the Forest of Dean's ancient woodlands and iron-ore industrial legacies. The iconic clump of trees on May Hill is rich with bird-life and counterintuitively bluebells and so on to the silt of the Severn Estuary and Purton Hulks. Each person present will have their own highlight but the photographs of Bewick and Mute swans at Slimbridge Wetland Centre and large blue butterflies at Daneway warrant a mention. The latter a reminder of conservation success and the former the necessity of maintaining wetlands for winter visitors. After a whistle-stop tour of glorious Gloucestershire there was just enough time to shoehorn in fascinating fungi and mistletoe. This talk was indeed 'full of sex': fecundity and breeding success stories from Oystercatcher's courtship to Cranes and to insect-worlds in wood-piles.

Delivered with wry humour while not anthropomorphising wildlife, Robert made playful comparison with human behaviour and a gentle nudge towards the ecological gardener's mantra 'leave litter'. A reminder in a fractious world that time spent looking at our local habitats, even on our own doorsteps, can provide respite. Take some slow moments with a fast shutter to shut out the noise for a while and 'stop and look'.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th April: 'A Friendly Greeting - Pots by Your Door' by Harriet Rycroft.

PLEASE NOTE: the meeting will take place at Eastcombe Village Hall, 7.30pm- 9pm.

Pam Meecham

EASTCOMBE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Most locals find living in our village is a positive experience. We are a proactive and friendly community. We all have a part to play in sustaining that community spirit. It depends on people being willing to get directly involved.

There are a couple of small tasks where an additional volunteer would be much appreciated.

The first is to act as the **Eastcombe Flag monitor** and ensure that the appropriate flags are aloft at the Green during the year. We have a stock of national and special occasion flags.

The second task is to **monitor the readiness of the defibrillator** on the wall of Eastcombe Stores, linking into the Community Heartbeat Trust and the local ambulance service as needed. The defibrillator is tested on a monthly basis and there is an online reporting system.

If you are able to help or want more details, please contact me on 07979 652143.

Gerry Moutrey@Hilltop



HELP the HEDGEHOGS! (and other wildlife, too)

Tidying the garden ready for spring? Help wildlife with these creature friendly gardening tips:

- Check for hedgehogs and slow worms before turning compost heaps or mowing long grass.
- Don't be too quick to tidy your spring borders—wildlife loves a bit of cover, especially if there's a late cold snap.
- Link your garden to your neighbours with a hedgehog highway—and let the hogs eat your slugs!



Find more hedgehog-friendly gardening tips at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/gardening-with-hedgehogs/.



HILLTOP FILM CLUB

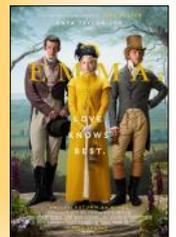
EMMA

Saturday 18th April

7.30pm at

Eastcombe Village Hall

Starring Anya Taylor-Joy as Miss Emma Woodhouse, a wealthy young woman who amuses herself by meddling in the lives of her friends. Co-starring Johnny Flynn, Miranda Hart & Bill Nighy.



GUESTS: £5

MEMBERS: COMPLIMENTARY

ICES: £3

ALL WELCOME!

Chalford Hill Wine Walk

3rd May 2026

Limited tickets available. From: Pudney Pie Cafe from 25th March 2026

Visiting 5 Venues - 5 Countries

Walk from: 3pm - 7pm

All funds raised will be donated to local charities

This event will take place whatever the weather. You just need to drink quicker!!

Tickets cost £20 per person and will cover 5 glasses of quality wine from around the world.

Ticket holders may purchase extra vouchers on the day for £5 per glass (125ml measures)

More Information:
Wines Supplied by Vinotopia Wine Merchants
Over 18yrs Only

Please note our village has many narrow and uneven lanes, so please be aware of traffic and use pavements where possible



VILLAGE HISTORIES: LOW SUNDAY EGG SERVICES...

Low Sunday is the traditional name for the Second Sunday of Easter (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), marking the end of the Easter Octave. The word 'low' may have been used to contrast with the 'high' festival of Easter the preceding Sunday, with lower church attendance and a quiet day of reflection compared to the high drama of Easter week. Low Sunday is also known by other names, including Divine Mercy Sunday, the Octave Day of Easter, White Sunday (not to be confused with Whitsun), Quasimodo Sunday and Bright Sunday. In early Roman Rite, Easter Week used to be known as 'White Week', because of the white robes worn by those baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Egg services used to be common around Easter, with children bringing eggs for charity or for decorating, and such was the tradition in the parish of Bisley, which until 1965 included Eastcombe. In 1937, the annual 'egg service' took place on April 11th at 3pm, when 4000 eggs were collected and the address was given by Dr Coode.



Gently does it! The Rev. A. B. Allen, left (Vicar of Bisley) and the Rev. T. Gainey (Priest in charge of St. Augustine's Church, Eastcombe) stack some of the 800 eggs which were taken to Stroud Hospital after the annual egg service at Bisley Church.

The tradition continued into the 1960s. The newspaper clipping below? From the Gloucester Citizen on 14 May 1963 shows Rev AB Allen of Bisley and Rev Tom Gainey, priest in charge of St Augustine, Eastcombe, stacking some of the 800 eggs collected for the service. These would afterwards be donated to Stroud Hospital. The other clipping? Explains how the same year, at 'Chalford Church', 438 eggs were collected, which were again donated to Stroud Hospital.

Low Sunday was a specific liturgical occasion, but supporting your local hospital was also a longstanding secular tradition, founded in the 19th century to raise money for medical equipment, and care. 'Hospital Sunday', traditionally in June, saw collections in many churches in aid of local voluntary hospitals, and, before the National Health Service in 1948, this was a crucial source of income for hospitals. Today, Low Sunday and Hospital Sunday are no longer marked, but the immediate post-Easter period often sees leftover chocolate eggs distributed to vulnerable children and food banks.

For more local history, visit www.eastcombearchive.org.uk or join the [Eastcombe & Bismore Local History Group](#) on Facebook.

CHALFORD EGG SERVICE FOR HOSPITAL

It is the custom at Chalford Church to appeal for eggs for Stroud Hospital on Low Sunday, and this year 438 eggs were presented.

Evensong, conducted by the vicar (Rev. H. C. V. Beck) was attended by the matron (Miss Maley) and some members of her staff.

The lessons were read by Dr. H. A. Crouch, of Eastcombe, and Dr. D. Gue, a member of the hospital staff, and the address was given by the Rev. H. G. Goddard, vicar of Bussage.

HILLTOP CAFE CHURCH
Christian worship for those of all faiths and none.
Sunday 19th April
2.30pm
EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL
BROUGHT TO YOU FROM
THE PARISH OF BUSSAGE & EASTCOMBE

Eastcombe & Bismore Local History Group
A drop in event...
People & Places REVISITED!
Tracing the history of people & their homes...
Saturday 11th April
2 - 4.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
Refreshments
Free admission
ALL WELCOME!

HAPPY
EASTER!



NAME THAT VIEW!

How well do YOU know our area?

Well done if you spotted that March's photo was of The Old Builders Arms, in Chalford Hill.

Can you identify the location of April's photo?

The answer will be revealed in the May issue.

WHAT'S ON in April?

- 7 April:** Hilltop Gardening Club meeting, Eastcombe Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 April:** Eastcombe & Bismore History Group, 2-4.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
- 13 April:** EVG meeting, 7.30pm, Eastcombe Village Hall annex
- 17th APRIL: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- 18 April:** Hilltop Film Club, Eastcombe Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 April:** Hilltop Café Church, Eastcombe Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 21 April:** Eastcombe WI Meeting, 7.15pm, Eastcombe Village Hall
- 29 April:** Frithwood Surgery First Aid Training, 7-9pm, Frithwood Surgery