

EASTERTON ECHOES

EASTCOTT AND EASTERTON SANDS

ELECTRONIC ISSUE 18

APRIL 27TH 2021

"There are no strangers living here, only friends that you have yet to meet."

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2021

Retirement of Bob Bulson from the Parish Council

The Councillors took the opportunity to wish retiring Parish Councillor Bob Bulson who had stood down at the recent Parish Council nominations for Easterton to thank him for 14 years service as the Easterton Flood Warden and 12 years' service as a Parish Councillor. We commended him for all his endeavours and many hours spent walking up and down the stream, conversing with the Environment Agency and devotion to the Parish Council. By way of a thank you a gift was presented (via the powers of magic from the PC by his wife) to Bob as a sincere token of appreciation.

Because of the strange circumstances that we endured since March 2020 this report must, effectively, cover the two years since the last Parish Meeting in April 2019.

Much has changed in these two years although, conversely, the monthly attention to planning applications, rights of way complications, street scene care by our Parish Steward, ongoing maintenance by our Parish Gardener, and the monitoring of Easterton Brook, remain firm facts of life to keep your Parish Councillors well occupied.

Cllr. Anthony Snook was co-opted in June 2019 and rapidly became industrious under the guidance of Cllr. Victoria Turner in all things Parish Steward, Parish Gardener and later the boomCast system used for disseminating important council information to the village.

The rapid adoption of the boomCast system under the guidance of Cllr. Victoria Turner and her husband Jonathan greatly assisted the roll-out of Covid-19 volunteer support systems, and a stream of important lock-down information collated by Cllrs. Judy Boyt and Anthony Snook, whose continued close involvement with the electronic Echoes is remarkable.

In August 2019 our parish clerk Susan Deegan retired after 30 years service with her place being taken by Gillian Tatum, just in time to undertake the unenviable task of overseeing the adoption of Governance documents including GDPR Compliance.

April 2020 your council met using Zoom for the first time, in place of the planned Annual Parish Meeting, to marshal our village resources to meet the threats posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. This meeting was a sombre occasion where we gathered in silence in memory of our then recently deceased Covid victim Cllr Andy Fuller.

Cllr. Richard Brooks was co-opted in May 2020 quickly getting to grips with Governance procedures and also tackling rights of way issues.

Our new Parish Council website was officially launched on 1st July and has proved highly successful under the control of our Parish Clerk Gillian Tatum.

Cllr. Victoria Turner resigned in August after 5 years industrious attention to many parish council matters and raising the bar on many issues. Victoria was also instrumental in introducing our latest Cllr. –Sarah Bates, who has been monitoring the Children's Play Area and looking after the interests of the fast growing housing development in Strawberry Fields.

The vacancy following the retirement of Bob Bulson after 12 years service as Cllr., 14 as Easterton's Flood Warden, has been filled by the nomination and acceptance of Andy Colley from Eastcott who is investigating the possible development and introduction of Ultrafast Broadband for our community.

I have to mention the Vice-Chairman Cllr. Ben Myerscough who has been keeping a close eye on all matters financial, quite apart from actively engaging with all the other day to day issues in the Council where his input is much appreciated.

Contd.. on page 2

The final word must be to thank our Wiltshire Cllr, and Wiltshire Council Leader, Philip Whitehead who has guided us throughout his tenure as Cllr. For Urchfont and the Cannings Division. Easterton is now set to return to the Lavingtons Division under a new Wiltshire Cllr. to be elected on Election Day, May 6th 2021 so please use your vote. (See Wiltshire Council website and page 2 in this Echoes for further information)

Chris Saunders

The talk by the guest speaker James Miles Hobbs is reported on pages 5 and 6

The next parish meeting will be held on May 17th at 7:30 pm, Easterton Village Hall (subject to Covid-19 compliance).

For any further information or if you would like to attend the meeting please contact the Parish Clerk.

Email: clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com

WARNING: SAFETY MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHEN WALKING WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR DOG ON SALISBURY PLAIN

A new campaign by the Ministry of Defence is continuing to highlight the dangers of trespassing on land, particularly when military training is taking place, after a dog was recently killed by a military vehicle.

The 'Respect the Range' campaign is educating walkers, cyclists and runners who use active military training areas for recreational use. The campaign is focusing on Salisbury Plain and surrounding area.

With more time at home and a reduction in social contact thanks to lockdown, many people brought a new dog into their lives in the last year.

Lots of Wiltshire dog lovers take their pets to Salisbury Plain Training Area for walks, much of which is open to the public. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation's (DIO) Respect the Range campaign is reminding the public to make sure their visit is safe and for dog owners, there are extra considerations.

The DIO said: "It's important to keep your dog on the lead and under control. The dangers are real - very sadly, a dog was recently killed when it was struck by a military vehicle while off the lead.

"Clean up after your pet too; it's no fun for soldiers to have to march or even crawl through what dogs can leave behind."

[READ MORE: Increase in Wiltshire hare coursing](#)

For more information about Respect the Range go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safe-access>, and watch the short safety film on : <https://youtu.be/S0DmZtSgjq4>

ELECTIONS UPDATE - 6TH MAY 2021

More information can be found [Wiltshire Council online](#).

Postal vote packs are currently being sent out to people who have applied to vote by post. Please post these back as soon as possible rather than wait until polling day.

For all other non postal voters: Vote on the Day your polling station is Easterton Village Hall

A list of candidates can be found on our election pages:

- [Unitary elections - Wiltshire Council](#)
- [Town and parish elections - Wiltshire Council](#)

For information on candidates standing in the PCC election:

- [Choose My Police and Crime Commissioner - Information from the UK Government \(choosemypcc.org.uk\)](#)

The Polling Stations will be putting Covid compliant measures in place to keep voters safe but you need to bring your own pen, wear a face mask and keep socially distanced when voting in person at a Polling Station

**Polling stations:
COVID-19 measures
to keep you safe**

-  Bring your own pen to vote
-  Wear a mask inside
-  One way system
-  Hand sanitiser on site
-  Screens at check-in desk
-  Keep socially distanced

#WiltshireElections

Wiltshire Council

RAPID LATERAL FLOW TESTS are AVAILABLE to USE at HOME

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 Anyone can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests without having symptoms.

About one in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. Getting regular tests is the only way to know if you have the virus. If people test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

Find out more about rapid COVID-19 testing including where you can get tested or collect lateral flow test kits to use at home on the Wiltshire Council website:

[Click here Covid-19 Community website](#)

Anyone who is asymptomatic can collect lateral flow tests at the collection sites without booking. This testing is being rolled out because around one in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others.

The at home test kits are intended for use twice weekly, and results can be logged online. If the test result is positive with an at-home lateral flow test, people need to self-isolate immediately and take a PCR test to confirm the result.

PCR tests can be booked through

website: [GOV.UK: Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus.](#)

If someone tests positive, they may also claim for a [Test and trace support payment](#) if they are eligible. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub remains in place for support for practical, social and emotional support, including help for those self-isolating due to a positive test or as a close contact where they don't have friends and family to help.

LITTER AND FLY TIPPING IS HERE AGAIN !

BROKEN GLASS LEFT IN VILLAGE HALL PLAYGROUND - why leave broken glass for someone or the children to injure themselves on, or for someone else to clear up - this is not acceptable.

LITTER AND RUBBISH DUMPED AT STRAWBERRY FIELDS

This has been mainly dumped behind the fence of the car park at Strawberry Fields. The litter included a large amount of beer cans, bottles, rubbish and even a giant fence panel! Which was not there at the beginning of the week.

Most of the Easterton residents take great pride in where they live so to have some thoughtless person(s) dump their unwanted rubbish on others is not acceptable.

The regular refuse collections will take your rubbish from outside the houses you don't even have to get in a car to dump it somewhere else.

Rubbish is a danger not just to the public but to all the wildlife and can cause huge environmental issues.

Report any fly tipping or dumped rubbish on the link below or phone 101 to report this offence.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-wtf>

INCREASE IN FLY TIPPING

Increase in incidents of fly-tipping on public land have increased by 2% across England in 2019/2020,

[Click here for link new figures released by Defra](#)

Just under two thirds (65%) of fly-tipping incidents involved household waste.

Although the maximum fine for anyone caught fly-tipping is £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment. The most common size category for fly-tipping incidents in 2019/20 was equivalent to a 'small van load' (34% of total incidents), followed by the equivalent of a 'car boot or less' (28%). The most common place for fly-tipping to occur was on highways (pavements and roads), which accounted for over two fifths (43%) of total incidents.

Total fly tipping incidents for 2019/20 was 976,000, an increase of 2% and the cost to local authorities of clearing the large fly tipping incidents in one year was £10.9 million.

While councils in England have dealt with just under one million fly-tipping incidents during this period. These figures account for waste illegally dumped on public land reported to these authorities but not the vast majority of fly-tipping incidents on privately-owned land. Mark Bridgeman, President of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

Example of fly tipping on private land where the landowner has to pay to clear it :

One CLA member, who is regularly subjected to fly-tipping, is having to pay £50,000 each year for rubbish, such as tyres, fridges, tents, barbecues and building waste, to be cleared. Local authorities need to start sharing the brunt of these costs, and taking more responsibility for waste dumped on people's land.

Fly tipping based on article in the CLA magazine

STOP PRESS - METHANE POWERING A SPACECRAFT

If Elon Musk is to build a passenger spacecraft to fly to the moon and back powered by Methane. then we on earth can do the same to power our cars and create energy.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR EASTERTON COMMUNITY (ANNUAL PARISH MEETING)

GUEST SPEAKER: JAMES MILES HOBBS

James runs his own company (JMH Farming and Renewables Ltd) based in Wiltshire, providing independent advice on rural diversification and traditional consultancy work with particular expertise in the provision and financing of renewable energy solutions for farms and estates. James knows Easterton well having been a resident in the High Street (up to 1992), hence he introduced his topic looking at the key energy basics for Easterton; renewable energy to provide electricity and heating and how to get renewable energy 'Behind the meter' (generated at your house/community) rather than a 'grid solution' (Company supplying into your home) where you must pay for it.

Transport — there are options for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, biomethane (see previous Echoes) both of which may provide some options for Easterton.

Options to replace traditional electricity supply by Wind, Solar PV, CHP (Combined Heat and Power) Anaerobic digestors (AB) CHP from bio-organic wastes and Hydro. But Hydro can immediately be discounted for Easterton as the brook is not big enough.

Wind Turbines – will produce peak energy in the winter more than the summer, but unfortunately Wiltshire Council maybe not keen from a planning perspective coupled with MOD interest due to proximity of Salisbury plain he suspects that this is not a prospective real option for Easterton.

Solar PV – this system is reliable, their costs are reducing and their efficiency is increasing. Panels can either be sited on ground level or mounted on roofs. One problem is their peak season is the summer when demand is at its lowest, but with the potential of improving battery storage system combined with energy companies such as Good Energy, (based in Chippenham), the energy can be balanced with the National Grid. The council planning perspective for Solar PV is neutral and reasonably favourable to Solar panel systems. Solar returns for roof mounted panels are good; although no subsidies are now available the on-site usage will ensure that the investment will pay off. The cost of panels have generally halved over the years and due to improved design and technology will probably produce double the energy than older versions.

Heating options; biomass – burning wood pellets and chips, CHP, Anaerobic Digesters, ground source heat pumps and air source heat pumps. The latter heat pumps work well especially if new build from the outset (it was confirmed that Strawberry Fields are heated by air source heat pumps).

Ground source heat pumps installations mean digging Boreholes ; James suspected that many residents are on the Greensand (some may be clay) which will make it easier to create ground heat exchangers running horizontally through to compressors and condensers (to replace traditional boiler system). This can be at individual householder level and also at a District scale (Combined resident and company).

Air source systems – a local example is at Hopton Industrial Park, Devizes with dual systems for heating and cooling.

Taking forward a renewable option are restricted by the local Electricity Grid constraints – unfortunately Easterton is in the red constrained area, making a practical planning permission a bit more difficult but working out the correct 'behind the meter solution' and the 'grid solution' (to capture excess energy and create revenue) might be possible.

The potential solution for communities has been large solar PV installations that is community owned then fed through the local Electricity grid and in turn fed back to the participating residents in the system – there are 12 around the UK community owned, supplying local demand and residual to Grid supplying residents participating with electricity – however there are issues such as finding the right electricity partner.

Funding – there is no one funder but many different options are available, however the Rural Community Energy fund will provide 100% for feasibility study into an Energy Project such as Energy/electrical grid connection and help with planning permission costs – The deadlines are quarterly and the next one is June 2021.

For the longer term there are future prospects such as batteries (to store excess energy day to day not yet seasonal storage), these can be retro fitted and green hydrogen.

Questions and Answers to James are on following (page 5)

James Miles Hobbs, Contd. Energy for Easterton Questions and Answers

Q & A. Can efficiencies reduce between winter and summer for air source pumps?

A. Yes there are differences but not a straight forward weather season ratio, more related to efficiency of the heat pump.

Q. Are there examples of community scale activities?

A. James draws on the Corwen Project in North Wales: a hydro project combined with wind power

Q. would you advise a community project for Easterton?

A. Perhaps solar PV the best solution, good potential energy draw off and price efficiencies are now good. As our community is quite spread out it will be difficult to create a complete District system however lots of opportunity for individual householders; air source pumps, solar PV roof and ground systems using batteries for storage.

GREEN HYDROGEN POWER UPDATES

THERE ARE LARGE RENEWABLE PROJECTS GOING ON ELSEWHERE IN UK

ScottishPower has submitted a planning application for the UK's largest electrolyser as part of the Green Hydrogen for Scotland project and a proposal to build a combined solar and battery energy storage system. The 20MW electrolyser will be built close to the country's largest onshore wind farm, Whitelee, Nr Glasgow. It will be capable of producing 8 tonnes of green hydrogen a day.

THE GAS INDUSTRY VERSUS THE HEAT PUMPS AND GOVERNMENT EDICT OF NO GAS INSTALLATIONS IN NEW HOMES

For the gas industry this is an existential threat. The UK gas network is one of the most extensive in the world, with 85 per cent of British homes connected to the grid. Physical assets — millions of miles of pipes and equipment — are worth an estimated £28 billion.

Hydrogen, which can be produced from natural gas and distributed through the current grid, offers the gas industry a lifeline.

Which heating strategy is likely to succeed? How can we decarbonise Britain's homes as smoothly and cheaply as possible?

Crucially, if **hydrogen** makes up no more than 20 per cent of the blend, gas boilers can be used without modification. This would save the equivalent carbon emissions of removing 2.5 million cars and saving an annual 6 million tonnes of CO₂ from the road without any disruption or change for domestic consumers. No other low-carbon heating solution offers this level of saving with no change/disruption for consumers.”

The all-party parliamentary group on hydrogen is funded by Shell, the gas network firms Cadent, SGN and Northern Gas Network, and boiler-makers Baxi and Bosch.

Heat pump manufacturers have their own lobbying group, Pump It Up, which is funded by firms such as Erda Energy and Star Energy. They work like a fridge in reverse, extracting heat from the ground, water or air and using it to warm radiators or underfloor heating systems.

Heat pumps are very efficient — every kilowatt-hour of electricity is turned into up to four kilowatt hours of heat. But they struggle to get to the temperatures of a gas boiler, meaning they work best if a house is well insulated. A further, perhaps more serious, hurdle, however, is that heat pumps require a tank to provide hot water as well as central heating. Up to 70 per cent of gas-heated homes in the UK have removed old water tanks in recent decades and installed combi-boilers. Engineers are working on ways to provide heat pumps without water tanks, but for now the prospect of reinstalling tanks in loft spaces — many of which have been converted to bedrooms and en-suites can pose a problem.

Potential Costs:

Buying and installing a hydrogen boiler is expected to cost roughly the same as a new gas combi-boiler — about £3,000.

An air-source heat pump unit costs £4,000 to £5,000, and installation bills add £8,000 to £12,000.

CHURCH NEWS FROM ST BARNABAS

Is it just me or does life feel more complicated as we come out of lockdown? We have to remember the changing rules regarding what we can or can't do, who we can or can't meet and where we can or can't go. Well, I'm just about to add another layer of complication by updating the activities and rules regarding the church! Slowly the church is opening up but only in small steps.

Open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons 1pm to 4pm and Sunday mornings 9am to 12 noon.

The Zoom services continue at 10.00am and the pass code can be obtained by calling the church office Tel : **01380 816963**

There will now be a communion service in one of the Benefice churches each Sunday on a rota basis. Details will be published in the parish magazine. The next one will be in St Peter's Gt Cheverell on April 25th.

These services will be under COVID-19 restrictions, masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing and booking in advance by phone Tel: **01380 816963**.

Sadly still no singing -unless you are in the choir!

Pat Morrison (church warden)

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST BARNABAS' CHURCH, EASTERTON

The Annual Church Meeting (the APCM) is to be held by Zoom this year on 11th May 2021 at 2.30 p.m., as Covid regulations prevent an open meeting within the church itself. This year members of the congregation on the Electoral Roll of the church and the parishioners of Easterton need to elect a new Churchwarden, as Mrs Pat Morrison is standing down after 3 years of excellent service. The election of a new PCC also takes place, and an annual report on the management and finances of the church is given. If you live within Easterton parish and wish to attend the meeting by the Zoom link, please contact the church secretary:-

Mrs Sue Somerville Tel : **01380 812538**

HELP END CHILD POVERTY

A new campaign called **Full Time Meals** has been launched by Marcus Rashford, Tom Kerridge and the Child Food Poverty Taskforce. (look on Twitter for the short film with Marus and Tom explaining what they are aiming to do. Click here **FullTimeMeals on Twitter**

A key part of this is encouraging families to come together and cook. There will be weekly recipe cards and videos available online, one for each week over the coming year and they will be available on the End Child Food Poverty project website : **endchildfoodpoverty.org** and on Facebook and Instagram.

The campaign will also be raising awareness of the Healthy Start Vouchers Scheme.

WHATS YOUR STORY ?

Easterton resident **Andy Sheppard** lives with Jo in White Street and owns the fantastic Pet care shop Rangebourne in Devizes, the home of the Diggies Range of foods and goodies for your pets, a dog haven really !

Q. How long have you lived in Easterton ?

A. We both have lived in Easterton for 20 years now.

Q. What brought you to Easterton ?

A. We Love of village life and have a love of the area.

Q. How would you describe your life ?

A. We both are busy with work and voluntary work

Q. Where were you born ?

A. Andy was born in Devizes
Jo was born in Durrington

Q. Where did you go to School ?

A. Andy went to Southbroom school ,which later became Devizes school.
Jo first went to Durrington school ,then Devizes school

Q. Family, tell us a bit about your family

A. Andy has three grown up children and four grandchildren.

Q. What is your greatest achievement?

A. Andy feels his greatest achievement is starting his own business
Jo feels hers is running a cat rescue

Q. If you could acquire any talent, what would it be ?

A. Andy would like to master public speaking.
Jo would like to be able to tap dance.

Q. With whom in history do you admire the most?

A. Andy admires Churchill while Jo said Thomas Cromwell

Q. What was your favourite and most interesting job?

A. Andy said Auxiliary Airforce
Jo said working in the library

Q. What is your favourite occupation/hobby?

A. Andy enjoys anything in military aviation whilst Jo likes the cinema

Q. Who/what is your favourite author/book

A. Andy likes Andy McNab and Jo said Jane Austen

Q. Do you have a favourite composer or music artist?

A. Andy said Katherine Jenkins.

Q. What's your favourite film/TV programme ?

A. Jo is a film buff so she has many favourites but Musicals are the top, in particular 'Some like it Hot "

Q. Is there a plant/flower that is a particular favourite ?

A. Andy loves his garden and enjoys encouraging and feeding the wild birds.
Jo never sets foot in the garden !

Q. If you could eat only one thing for the rest of your days, what would it be ?

A. Jo's favourite is oranges
Andy's is Hot cross buns.

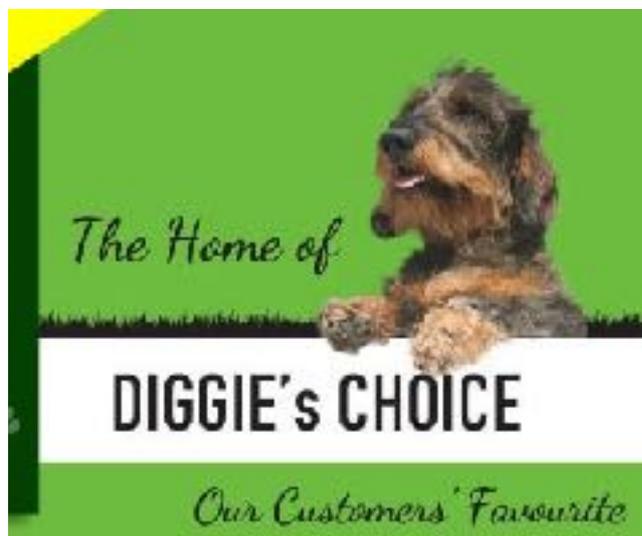
Q. If you could be anywhere else in the world where would it be ?

A. Andy said Tucson , Arizona.
Jo said Iceland. (not the shop).

Q. How have the last few COVID months been for you ?

A. We are one of the lucky ones, we are deemed essential so we have remained open and very busy. But miss seeing our friends and a social life.

www.rangebourne-pets.co.uk



CALENDAR OF VILLAGE AND WILTSHIRE EVENTS

FOR NEW UPDATES PLEASE LOOK ON THE EASTERTON WEBSITE

www.eastertonpc.org.uk

6TH MAY 2021 LOCAL ELECTIONS OPEN FOR ALL ELIGIBLE WILTSHIRE RESIDENTS

The Police and Crime Commissioner election, town and parish council elections, Wiltshire Council unitary elections, and nine local neighbourhood planning referendums will all be taking place, hopefully at the village Hall. If you cannot vote in person on election day, you can vote by post by applying for a postal vote using the link below:

[Government postal vote page, click here](#)

For more information please go to Government website

JUNE 18th - 21st Summer solstice Festival 2021@Stonehenge campsite Berwick St James

JUNE 23RD - 27TH JUNE Chalke Valley History Festival

17TH JULY 2021 VILLAGE HALL OPENING CEREMONY (subject to Government regulations)

To mark the end of the modernisation programme the trustees are planning a grand reopening event on The event will be open to all and our local MP, Danny Kruger, who will officiate for the opening.

EDINGTON ARTS 2021

Three cheers for the vaccination roll-out – but at the point of writing (mid- February) it is too soon to be able to predict with any certainty when life will have assumed enough normality to regard any future event as a done deal. However, Edington Arts has a proposed music season organised, and, providing of course that the church is fully open, and subject to whatever regulations are in place at the time. The calendar for live music in Edington Priory Church is as follows:

Saturday June 12th at 7.30pm : Fine Arts Brass. Baroque to Tango from five international brass players; two trumpets, french horn, trombone and tuba.

Saturday June 26th 10am – 4:30pm : The Edington Arts Choral Workshop, lead by Jeremy Summerly. Brien's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' and Elgar's 'Great is the Lord'. Organist; Richard Pinel.

August 23rd – 30th Edington Music Festival

Detailed Box Office information our website: www.edingtonarts.org

WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

Salisbury theatre and Playhouse offer a fantastic socially-distanced season of theatre, dance, music, comedy and live screenings, running between 8 June and 10 July 2021.

Indoor performances start again from June, with social distancing and the capacity of the main house will be reduced from 512 to 216. Audiences will be sitting in their household bubbles across the auditorium and some rows completely removed. Wiltshire Creative has also been awarded the **Good to Go** and **See it Safely** certificate ensuring your visit is safe.

They have a full programme of events for everyone of all ages to enjoy, so please go to their website for more information and support the Arts in Salisbury and Wiltshire :

Website: www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk