

EASTERTON ECHOES

EASTERTON, EASTCOTT AND EASTERTON SANDS

ISSUE 33 AUGUST/SEPT 2022

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



Don't Forget to come and enjoy this year's Easterton Country Fête

Bank Holiday Monday 29th August at the Easterton Village Hall 2-5pm

With only a few days to go we invite you all to come along to this year's Country Fête. There will be a Fun Dog Show, BBQ, Pimms and Cider, Childrens Corner with Bouncy Castle, Bottle stall, teas and cakes and plenty more attractions.

The Prize Draw has some fantastic prizes.

Show your baking skills and enter **The Great Easterton Bake Off** recipe is for a Chocolate Fudge Cake and full instructions are below and on the Easterton Fête website: www.eastertonfete.com

Entry £1

Free car parking

*If you have any items for the **bric-a-brac** stall, any **books** for the book stall or a **vintage vehicle** you'd love to show, please contact us before Monday using any of the methods below.*

We are grateful for all the support and any money raised on the day will go towards supporting Easterton Community projects and causes. So join us and have a great day out!

Contact us at any time by email: eastertonfete@gmail.com or on Facebook page or via website

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

Ingredients:

150g Self-raising flour
30g of Cocoa
1 tsp baking powder
175g Muscovado sugar
175g butter, softened
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
50g dark chocolate, melted

Fudge Icing

200g butter, softened
200g icing sugar
200g dark chocolate, melted

METHOD

1. Heat oven to 180c/ fan 170c/ gas4
2. Line and butter 2 x 20cm sandwich tins
3. Put all cake ingredients into the food processor and whisk until smooth. If the mix is a little stiff, add 1-2 tbsp of water and whisk again
4. Divide between tins, level and bake for 20 minutes or until springy. Leave for 5 minutes then cool on rack
5. Clean the food processor. whisk the butter and icing sugar, add the chocolate , whisk again , then sandwich and ice the cake.

Then bring your cake to the Fête to get judged

THE NEXT PARISH MEETING: SEPT 19TH AT 7.30 PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Email: clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com Mobile: **07437 857501**

A MESSAGE FROM CLLR DOMINIC MUNS Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons

Whilst thankfully, fuel prices at the petrol pumps have reduced slightly over the last few weeks, I expect, like me, you have concerns about the cost of living, especially as winter approaches. I am pleased that Wiltshire Council has been getting on with distributing the £150 Government energy rebate on council tax bills for households in bands A-D. 140,000 eligible households in Wiltshire have now received their rebate and the council is now working on a further discretionary fund for people on low incomes who live in properties banded E-H. Anyone who has any queries about these rebates should call the revenues team at Wiltshire Council on Tel: **0300 456 0109**.

Over the next few months many of us should benefit from further assistance with all households receiving £400 off energy bills starting in October. The £400 (non-repayable) discounts from energy suppliers will be paid to consumers over 6 months with payments starting from October 2022. However, more needs to be done. I am not anti-capitalism by any stretch of the imagination but when you have an energy crisis with millions struggling financially it makes me angry to see billion dollar quarterly profits for oil companies or multi-million pound bonuses for energy company bosses. Clearly the balance between adequate taxation and encouraging business to the UK is off.

The background to the global increase in energy costs is complex, and there is a huge task ahead for our next PM, whoever they will be. In the meantime, I would like to promote the Warm and Safe Wiltshire strategy, a commitment from Wiltshire Council and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. The energy advice line can provide support with the installation of draught-proofing measures, smoke alarms to improve fire safety and advice on reducing energy use, switching energy suppliers, reducing condensation and damp problems, and controlling heating. There are also Government schemes to further reduce the cost of work, or to pay for it completely if you are unable to afford the cost yourself. More information is available at www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk or call the energy advice line on Tel: **0800 038 5722**.

Finally, I must express my congratulations to all students who have been working hard for their A-Levels and other qualifications. It has been an incredibly testing time for those in education with this year's cohort experiencing unprecedented upheaval thanks to Covid. Whatever your grades, you deserve a huge amount of respect for keeping your heads in the books and showing such resilience. I wish you all the very best for the future in whatever direction you choose to travel. If you have children who have just received their results please pass on my best wishes.

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on Mob: **07585 394178**.

EASTERTON BROOK

Occupiers of land alongside the brook are reminded of the riparian responsibilities to cut back and remove vegetation likely to cause an obstruction of the flow, especially during periods of heavy rainfall.

It has to be mentioned that the cutting of vegetation ***without removing as much as possible*** from next to the head of the brook in the vicinity of Eastcott Common has resulted in much of this vegetation being washed down the brook to collect against banks and the entrance to culverts further down the system. Please be aware and guard against the consequences of your actions by removing all cuttings to a place of safety.

Control of Summer growth on banks and the use of herbicides in or near water [see Appendix 2 EA guidance]

Great caution has to be employed if herbicides are to be considered - the regulations are considerable, you or your contractor has to have a NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council) certificate, and the Environment Agency says that it should take you less than one hour to fill in the form!

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

DOMINIC MUNS



How long have you lived in West Lavington and what brought you there?

Six years. I grew up in Marlborough, my parents were small school property developers and so they lived all around Wiltshire. My wife and I lived in Malaga and then Ibiza and then decided to move to Wiltshire. My parents were living in Market Lavington, we came to visit them, were slightly early and so stopped for a drink at The Bridge Inn in West Lavington. While we were sitting in its garden with our drinks an email from Rightmove popped up announcing that it was on the market! I always knew that I would move back to Wiltshire.

How would you describe your life in eight words?

Rewarding, exciting, happy, challenging, warm, lucky, secure and satisfying

Where were you born?

Swindon

Education, where did you go to school/college/university?

St John's Marlborough and I then read Advertising and Marketing at Bournemouth

Dominic is the Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons which includes Easterton, Eastcott and Easterton Sands

Family, tell us a bit about your family?

Emily, my wife, and I met 14 years ago and we have two children, Buddy who is 11 and Ruby Rose who is 7. My dad is in Market Lavington, my sense of travel and adventure definitely comes from him, and I have two sisters, one in Woodborough and one in Marlborough.

What is your greatest achievement?

Building a family

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

To be fluent in every language

Who, in history, do you admire the most?

Churchill, someone who could unite the country

What is/was your favourite/most interesting job?

My current job which is a property developer - I am solely interested in renovations, particularly with buildings of character.

What is your favourite occupation/hobby?

Travel, particularly to Spain. My dad is half Spanish and he has extended family in Spain who were divided by the Spanish Civil War.

Who/what is your favourite author/book?

Ernest Hemingway who was from Ohio and a journalist who ended up travelling.

Do you have a favourite composer or music artist?

The Libertines, a 1990s band from London

What's your favourite film/TV programme?

The Godfather, a cinematic triumph

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

Passionflower

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

Pork belly followed by cheese

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

At this moment I would like to be on a beach on an island off Thailand called Koh Tao.

How have the last few COVID months been for you?

Lockdown has highlighted why Wiltshire is the greatest place to live. I have great sympathy for anyone living in a high rise block in a city. I am no longer anxious as I was a year or so ago.

as told to Kate Dillnott-Cooper

WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE CLOTHING RECYCLING BANK IS BACK IN EASTERTON BY THE BUS STOP ON THE HIGH STREET

It's an easy way to turn your old clothing, shoes and more into donations for this lifesaving charity. Wiltshire Air Ambulance needs to raise £4million p year to keep operating. they are available up to 19hours a day, 365 days p year and attend on average, three incidents a day. find all the recycling banks here: www.recyclingsolutions.org.uk/clothing-banks/

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

WILTSHIRE A-LEVEL STUDENTS PRAISED

We've praised students for their hard work and dedication as they collected their A Level results across the county.

Students have been graded on exam results for the first time since 2019 after teacher assessed grades were introduced due to COVID restrictions.

For those who don't have the results they wanted or are thinking what to do next, there is a dedicated results page on the [Work Wiltshire website](#) full of advice and what to do next. The site also has a range of information including [apprenticeships advice](#) for those wanting to consider this route.

[Click on this link for more information on academic support](#)

CELEBRATE CATCH THE BUS MONTH

September is Catch the Bus Month, and we're taking part to encourage more people to change their travel habits by taking the bus and celebrate it as a sustainable, inclusive and accessible form of transport. Buses reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide access to life's opportunities. A double-decker bus can take up to 75 cars off the road and switching just one journey in 25 to the bus would save two million tonnes of CO2 emissions.

[find out how you can get involved with Catch the Bus Month](#)

CHARITY BIKE RIDE RETURNS FOR 2022

Following a two-year break due to the pandemic, our charity cycle-ride will take place once again, this September in memory of the late Councillor Jerry Wickham.

Cyclists from Wiltshire Council will be joined by riders from public sector partners and Landmarc to raise funds for two charities close to Jerry's heart.

[click here for more information about the charity bike ride](#)

WE'RE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW TAXI DRIVERS IN WILTSHIRE

Looking for a change of career or want to make some extra cash?

We need reliable drivers to fulfil our growing number of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) school and social care contracts. These contracts offer regular work and hours. They also help and support some of the most vulnerable people in Wiltshire.

We have lots of contracts available which start at around £30 a day for short routes, increasing to £250+ a day for longer routes.

[click here for more information on becoming a taxi driver in wiltshire](#)

ENERGY SCAMS ON THE RISE

Criminals are using the cost-of-living crisis to create new scams to part you from your money.

One strategy that exploits the cost-of-living crisis involves fraudsters sending you an email pretending to be from your energy supplier. You are invited to claim a refund as there has been a "miscalculation" on your bill. But you have to supply your bank details, which the crooks then use to steal your money. **HANG UP and DO NOT GIVE YOUR BANK DETAILS.** Be on your guard and look for errors in emails or text messages. Check if the email address matches the official energy provider contact details.

Another ploy comes as a text message where you are asked to claim or apply for a cost-of-living payment from the government. Ignore these texts. The government's energy grant will be applied automatically as a credit to your energy bill in October. The £150 council-tax rebate is paid automatically to eligible homes paying by direct debit. If you don't pay by direct debit, your council will contact you.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS

After a dry and hot August here are some details about services in September. We are now into what the church describes as Creationtide - the season involving Harvest and all that entails, which seems to me an important season, considering all the challenges we have to the environment.

The services at St Barnabas during September are listed below though of course there are services at the other churches in the Benefice on a shared basis so that there are always services available in the Benefice (St Barnabas, St Mary's, Great Cheverell, Little Cheverell, and West Lavington). See the Parish Magazine for details.

We will collect donations of food at the Harvest Festival and these will be added to donations from St Barnabas school Harvest Service - all will be taken to the food bank in Devizes. If you can't make the service but want to donate, offerings can be left at the back of the church during the week before the service. Last year we were able to make a bumper donation, in the present time it would be lovely to be able to do even better this year!

Finally, for the energetic amongst us, the **10th September sees the return of Ride and Stride**, a challenge to visit as many churches as possible on the day. If you can get sponsored the money raised is divided between the fund for Historic Churches and the parish churches involved. The churches will provide refreshments and the means of recording your visit. Given fair weather it's a lovely way of exploring the area - details can be found on www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk or copies of the sponsor sheets can be found at the back of the church.

Posters can be seen on the Church notice board.

Churchwardens

Sue Allen
Sue Somerville

Tel: **01380 813603** or email: sue.allen331@googlemail.com
Tel: **01380 812538**

Date	Time	Church	Service
8th Sept	10:30am	St Barnabas Church	Benefice Service
11th Sept	11:00am	St Barnabas Church	Combined Congregation led service with St Mary and Trinity Church
18th Sept	11:00am	St Barnabas Church	Harvest Festival
	4:30pm	St Barnabas Church	Reflective Prayer
28th Oct			All Souls Service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE EASTERTON AREA

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	CONTACT DETAILS
29th Aug	The Easterton Country Fête	Easterton Village Hall	www.eastertonfete.com eastertonfete@gmail.com
16th Sept	White Horse Opera L'elisir d'amore	All Saints Church, West Lavington. 7:30pm	www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera
26th, 28th 29th Oct	White Horse Opera L'elisir d'amore	Lavington School 7:30pm	www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

**THE EASTERTON VILLAGE HALL WILL BE OPEN FOR VIEWING ON
SEPTEMBER 17TH 2PM TO 3PM
COME AND SEE THE FACILITIES OFFERED AND TALK TO SOME OF THE TRUSTEES.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.**

WHITE HORSE OPERA are performing
**Gilbert & Sullivan's Ruddigore "The Witches
Curse" at All Saints Church, West Lavington
on Friday 16th September at 7.30pm.**

One of the greatest of all operatic romantic comedies.

Adina and Nemorino seem made for each other, but their love is hampered by her pride and his shyness.

Will his hopes be finally dashed by the arrival of the dashing Captain Belcore, to whose charms Adina appears to be succumbing?

Or can the situation be saved by the confidence trickster Dulcamara, who claims to have a potion to cure all ills?

Find out as you let Donizetti's endless supply of delightful melodies wash over you.

The cast is full of local performers ; Barbara Gompels plays Sweet Rose Maybud, Paula Boyagis plays Mad Margaret and Lewis Cowan plays Old Adam Goodheart.

Great music and a fun plot with many laugh out loud moments.

Tickets cost £10 from Costcutter West Lavington, Devizes Books, Market Lavington Post Office and online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

The RSPB highlighted Our rare and wonderful wildlife

We're lucky to share our landscapes with some rare and wonderful wildlife, like ospreys, puffins, nightingales, and dormice. But to survive and begin to thrive, these creatures need healthy habitats that fit their needs. For almost thirty years, [the Habitats Regulations](#) have been the powerful laws which protect these spaces.

These regulations make sure damaging building work isn't carried out in special habitats, or in exceptional cases, that new habitats are created elsewhere to replace them. These laws give nature a voice in decision making. But now, at a time when nature needs them more than ever, there is a threat that the Habitats Regulations will be weakened or taken away altogether. Let's look at just a few of the places safeguarded by the Habitats Regulations:

Wiltshire Chalk Downland

Wiltshire's chalk downland is the largest remaining area of chalk grassland in western Europe and makes up half the remaining chalk habitat in the whole of the UK. Its rolling fields of corn and colourful flower meadows are the perfect place to spot [skylarks](#), hares, and butterflies. At RSPB Winterbourne Downs, we're working to create more chalk grassland to act as a stepping-stone between Salisbury Plain and Porton Down, so that important species can travel safely.

Protected by the Habitat Regulations, this chalk landscape is one of the few remaining strongholds for the [stone-curlew](#) - supporting a third of the UK breeding populations. Stone-curlews prefer peace and quiet and can be really sensitive to noisy human activities. So recent plans for housing developments could have damaged the already vulnerable stone-curlew populations here. Luckily, the Habitats Regulations meant that developers have followed strategic approaches and reduced disruption. Plus, the RSPB uses these regulations to work with Wiltshire Council to check bird numbers and to support landowners in providing safe nesting spaces for the birds.

New Wild Isles TV series

The RSPB are excited to announce our collaboration on a major BBC series to be presented by Sir David Attenborough. Showcasing wildlife and wild places of the UK, you'll have a front row seat to battling butterflies, hunting sea eagles and killer whales.

For more information go to www.rspb.org.uk

ENERGY

Why solar panels could combat the rising cost of energy bills

Installing solar panels could be the answer to rising energy bills. Do you have a south-facing roof? Shaving some money off rising energy bills by generating your own power is becoming ever more appealing – so much so that solar-panel installation firms are reporting a four-fold increase in orders this year compared with 2021. High installation costs have deterred households in recent years. It costs around £6,500 for the average solar-panel system to be installed on a three-bedroom semi-detached house, according to the Energy Saving Trust. Once your solar panels are up and running you can use your household appliances without it costing you a fortune as long as the sun is shining. The Energy Saving Trust says that the average household could save between £165 and £405 a year with solar panels.

You can also sell back the electricity you don't use to the national grid, but unfortunately you won't be able to charge anything close to what energy firms make you pay. The energy cap put a maximum price on electricity of 28.34p per kilowatt hour (kWh) but the most you can sell your electricity for is 12p per kWh. If you decide to install solar panels, you may want to switch energy provider. The amount they pay you for electricity varies massively, from a miserly 1.5p per kWh from EDF up to 12p per kWh from Octopus Energy.

Invest in a battery and you can store the electricity you generate rather than selling it back to the grid. You'll pay around £2,000 for a 3kWh one, but once you have one it will help you save even more. Eon estimates that solar-panel households with batteries can use 30% more of the power they generate.

Article taken from the Money Market Magazine

BROADBAND TO BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

The Department for Work and Pensions is to run a new service that will allow providers of broadband to verify whether customers are receiving relevant benefits, making them eligible for extra financial support, such as reduced broadband bills.

The verification service will require the customer's permission; however, it would allow them to access 'social tariffs.' The government has called on all broadband providers to offer and promote social tariffs that will help those on Universal Credit and other benefits to access broadband and mobile phone deals.

EASTERTON VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity	Time	Organiser Contact Details
MONDAY	Positive Connections: Dog Scent training	4.00pm - 8.30pm	Jo Thistleton-Dyer Mob: 07737 205884 Email: dyer@hotmail.co.uk
TUESDAY	Marlborough and District Canine Society		Dave Long Tel: 01380 720660
WEDNESDAY	The Easterton Sewing Bees	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Judy Boyt Mob: 07860 242836 Helen Hardman Mob: 07584 060644
THURSDAY	Short Mat Bowls and Social Club	7.00pm	Chris Saunders Tel: 01380 812317
FRIDAY	Yoga with Ginny	10.30pm- 12noon	Ginny Clother Mob: 07973 517029

LINK GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

The Link scheme is looking for more volunteers to help drive people to their appointments.

ANYONE NEEDING A LIFT TO SURGERY, HOSPITAL OR SHOPPING OR JUST A HELPING HAND in the Easterton, Market Lavington & Urchfont area, please contact the Link Coordinator: Tel: **01380 812755**

Keep up to date with improvement works

Contractors working on Wiltshire Council's behalf are carrying out road resurfacing and associated works in a number of towns across Wiltshire. You can see the full list of all roadworks taking place in the county by visiting the [One Network map](#) and typing 'Wiltshire' into the search box.

**YOU REPORT IT,
WE SORT IT**

Simply, quickly
and easily with
MyWilts

my.wiltshire.gov.uk



SHARED LIVES

The Shared Lives Service helps people live as part of a family, within the carers home, where they receive the support or care that they need. The main purpose is to offer care or support to men and women over 18 who require support to live independently alongside other people in a family like setting. For more information contact Wiltshire Council:

<https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/>

COMMUNITY POLICING Community Support Officer

Paula Yarranton 6015
Police Community
Support Officer
Devizes Police Station,
New Park Street,
Devizes. Wiltshire.
SN10 1DZ

Mob: **07471 029670**

Tel: **101** ext. **774
39814**

Tel: **101** if Paula is not
on duty

WILTSHIRE WELLBEING HUB is still operating
if you need help

Tel: **0300 003 4576**

email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

COVID RULES AND GUIDANCE

For more Covid information and updates please go to
the following website:

www.bswccg.nhs.uk/latest-covid-19-updates

Easterton Parish Council Community Support

The Volunteer Programme is here to help anyone who requires help or needs to self-isolate with essential shopping, collecting medicines or errands? Please contact **any of us below for help**

Councillor **Anthony Snook**

07831 116136

anthonysnook@tiscali.co.uk

Councillor **Judy Boyt**

07860 242836

judy@judyboyt.com

Briony Clarke

07976 798196

briony@padesk.com

Victoria Turner

07725 269718

victoria@badgerswood.net

THE ECHOES IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND NEEDS YOU AND YOUR NEWS

Please send your news in so that we can keep the community informed.

Judy Boyt Email: judy@judyboyt.com **Anthony Snook** Email: anthonysnook@tiscali.co.uk

Victoria Turner Email: victoria@badgerswood.net

The Echoes Roving Reporter and proof reader: **Kate Dillnott-Cooper** Email: kate@dilper.co.uk