

EASTERTON ECHOES
EASTERTON, EASTCOTT AND EASTERTON SANDS
ISSUE 48 DECEMBER 2023

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

**A NEW MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN CO OPTED
ONTO THE COUNCIL**

CLLR PHILIP BULLOCK

**BUT WE STILL HAVE A VACANCY FOR ANOTHER COMMUNITY MINDED
PARISH COUNCILLOR TO COMPLETE OUR COUNCIL NUMBER OF 7.**

It is a great way to get to know your village, how it functions and to offer your expertise to maintain, make a difference or improve your local community assets.

Are you passionate about your local area or environment?

Please contact and register your interest with the Parish Clerk and/or come along to the next meeting see how it all works. Email: clerk@eastertonpc.org.uk

The next Echoes to be issued will be in mid January but please do keep sending in any stories or information. In the meantime may I wish everyone a merry and happy festive season and I am going to have a rest.

Best wishes Judy

FIRST AID FOR EVERYONE UPDATE: REGISTER NOW FOR A PLACE

The Parish Council is looking to instigate First Aid Training for everyone aged 14 or over. We are waiting for availability of the First Aid Instructor but we hope to finalise a date in January 2024. There will be a fee per person to pay but the parish council are looking to part subsidise the fees by 50%. Places are limited to 10 people (4 places have been registered already)

To register your interest please contact the Parish Clerk Sarah-Jane Bullock email: clerk@eastertonpc.org.uk

For more up to date news and village information please look on the village website regularly.
www.eastertonpc.org.uk

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL
20TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM**

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

Email: clerk@eastertonpc.org.uk Mobile: **07437 857501**

A MESSAGE FROM CLLR DOMINIC MUNS

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons

By the time you read this there is a good chance you will have your Christmas tree up! If you haven't, there is still time, although you will be WAY behind Shaun and Kelly at The Churchill Arms who got theirs up at the beginning of November! I once decided to put a tree up on October 1st (partly to win a bet) and by the time Christmas arrived we were all sick of it! That said, the Churchill's beautiful tree and lights (and The Royal Oak's too!) was a lovely sight as I made my way back through West Lavington on a dark and drizzly evening. The weather has been so depressing recently I am looking forward to Christmas and spending time with friends and family.

Now that the early evenings are at their darkest and the weather is so poor, it is important to be extra careful on the roads. Speeds which might have been fine in the dry are now not appropriate as cold rubber struggles to grip to the wet, leaf-covered tarmac. Cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians are also more difficult to spot and so more care is needed when driving. If you are on your horse, bike, or on foot, please make sure you can be seen, ideally wearing high-vis and carrying lights. In the pouring rain I drove towards Potterne one evening last week and encountered a cyclist on the tight bends heading to Devizes. The cyclist had no lights, was wearing dark clothes, and was without a helmet. I remember my driving instructor warning me to drive as though every person you encounter on the road is stupid... on this occasion he was right.

On the subject of the weather, I have been helping residents by drawing Wiltshire Council's attention to flood problem areas. I have seen the drainage teams responding very quickly to blocked drains across the area, but I am conscious that in many cases they are playing catch-up after years of not periodically flushing out pipework. The local parish councils have taken steps to help identify issues, including drain mapping and flood prevention work. If you are interested in volunteering as a flood warden, I am sure they would appreciate your help.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey I recently started distributing. Common priorities so far include road safety, speeding and support of local businesses. I will use your feedback to direct my efforts throughout 2024. As you know on the road safety front, I continue to push the Black Dog project forwards. Last week I asked Highways to use powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act to urgently close the slip road north of the crossroads. Two accidents in as many months there and, in my opinion, there is no good reason for its existence.

Thank you also to everyone who has raised concerns over the Hayfield Rise development and the habitation of homes on the site before the Puffin crossing is completed. This delay goes against a condition of the planning approval and is unnecessary. I am in discussion with enforcement officers on this matter.

Lastly, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a fantastic start to the new year. Please have a happy and restful break and take care of yourselves and each other.

[Adominicmuns.co.uk/black-dog-crossroads-accident-survey](https://adominicmuns.co.uk/black-dog-crossroads-accident-survey)

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on **07585 394 178**

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE NEWS

Your Parish Council thought it prudent to let you know about a potential solar farm that will have an affect on land in Easterton Parish.

At the time of writing a Public meeting:to understand what is proposed for both Potterne Solar Farm and the site at Single Tree Hill, Blounts Court, Potterne

Meeting 28th Nov 2023 16.00-19.00 at Potterne Village Hall.

Please follow this link for more information - [Potterne Solar Farm](#)

Any questions please let us know...by contacting the Parish Clerk Sarah Jane Bullock

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

RICHARD BROOKS



How long have you lived in Easterton?

I have lived here for 18 years, my wife moved here 13 years ago and we were married in Easterton church ten years ago.

What brought you to Easterton?

My job - I am involved in the environmental management and stewardship of the MoD estate. I needed to be in Wiltshire and close to Andover, but I actually work out of Tilshead.

How would you describe your life?

Madly busy, my wife and I both have very demanding jobs and we enjoy lots of getting out and about. I have been greatly influenced by both my maternal grandfather, a Devon farmer, who was one of the kindest people I have ever met and my father who came from a mining family.

Where were you born?

I was born in Bristol, but not necessarily by design as my parents were living in Devon at the time.

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

I was at The Park School in Barnstaple and then Seale-Hayne Agricultural College

Family, tell us a bit about your family

I am married to Sally and we have no kids. My mother is still in North Devon having lost my father two years ago and Sally's family is in Bridgnorth in Shropshire.

What is your greatest achievement?

I am most proud of the fact that I have the opportunity to oversee Operation Nightingale, an MoD initiative to assist the recovery of wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans by getting them involved in archaeological investigations. This initiative has helped about 500 people and has produced ten or twelve archaeologists.

Richard is a member of the Easterton Parish Council

What is/was your favourite/most interesting job?

I have had many: after my A levels I was an apprentice to a Savile Row tailor and then worked in the lingerie industry, both of which I hated. I then went to agricultural college and, during that time, became a zookeeper at Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park which was definitely my funniest job. Things escaped, people got bitten, I accidentally swam with sealions, it was run on a shoestring budget and was completely mad and bonkers and I loved it. I was then a national park ranger on Exmoor and Dartmoor before joining the MoD 19 years ago.

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

I would love to be able to do woodwork, carpentry and clever woodwork.

What is your favourite occupation/hobby?

I am a rugby fanatic, Bath Rugby, and we walk a lot.

Who/what is your favourite author/book?

The most influential books which inspired me to do what I do and which I keep rereading are Gavin Maxwell's Ring of Bright Water trilogy. I am currently reading the history of the Roman Empire in Britain which is fascinating.

Do you have a favourite composer or music artist?

I love music and have an eclectic taste - punk, folk, opera and everything inbetween - what I listen to is dependent on the mood.

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

A wild daffodil - my father was Welsh, born on St David's Day and called David. We all know about woods covered with bluebells but there is something particularly special about woods covered with wild daffodils.

Do you have a favourite animal, domestic or otherwise?

I met my wife through horses as Sally came to Easterton to work with James Roberts so they are very important, also dogs although we don't have one due to our busy working lives. I also love otters.

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

It would have to be something from an Italian restaurant menu, as long as it had both food and wine!

Is there a place in the world that you would like to visit?

Through my work I have been lucky enough to travel to Belize and spend time in the jungle there. I would love to be able to take Sally there to see it, and also Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands.

Has the pandemic changed or impacted you over the last few years?

It didn't change my work, I was still going in and out of the office although there were far fewer people in the office. However, it taught me the importance of friends and community and making sure that one didn't lose the connection with people and being able to enjoy the moment.

as told to Kate Dillnott-Cooper

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

The draft Wiltshire Design Guide has been structured around the '10 characteristics of good design', as described in the National Design Guide, and if adopted will be used as a supplementary planning document.

[Local Plan webpage click on this link](#)

or click on link below

Local Plan 2020-2038/storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/interactivemapof the plan and its policies

COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT CONTINUES TO BE AVAILABLE

As the nights draw in and with colder weather arriving, we are continuing to provide support to people during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

We have a range of support available to help make things a little easier and to provide support and advice to those who need it most.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SHOPPING TIME THIS FESTIVE SEASON - PARKING AVAILABLE AT SALISBURY'S PARK & RIDE SITES

With a busy Christmas shopping period anticipated in the city, we're encouraging people visiting Salisbury to use all available car parks and the Park and Ride services.

There are five conveniently located [Park and Ride sites](#) on the main routes into the city, providing a regular and convenient bus service.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS BY GETTING VACCINATED

Eligible people who've not yet come forward for the flu and COVID-19 vaccines are being urged to 'get winter strong' and join the millions of others in taking up the offer ahead of the festive and new year season when flu and COVID-19 are expected to peak.

You're eligible if you're pregnant, aged 65 or over, a carer, if you have certain health conditions including a learning disability, if you have a weakened immune system, if you live in a care home and if you're a frontline health or social care worker.

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is offered every year to protect children against flu. It is for children aged 2 or 3 on 31 August 2023, all primary school children and some secondary school aged children.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Despite the gloomy weather, the church and churchyard at St Barnabas were looking at their best for the Village's Remembrance Sunday service on 12 November. Our thanks go to all those who took part and to Rev Caroline Spindlow who officiated. Some 70 villagers attended both at St Barnabas and at our Memorial Stone where crosses were placed by representatives of the three Services and by individuals in remembrance of loved ones lost.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY LUNCH

A huge thank you to all involved in the annual Remembrance Sunday Curry Lunch – the ladies and gentlemen who cooked, the servers, the bar keepers, the raffle organiser and ticket sellers and the "muscle" who helped us set and clear away the hall. And, of course, to all of you who were able to attend and make it a very special occasion. Seventy six entrance tickets were sold and the raffle raised an outstanding £318. Together with the bar sales, and with the amazing generosity of the many cooks (and other helpers) we were able to donate £580.45p each to the Royal British Legion and the Village Hall Improvement Fund.

ST BARNABAS CHRISTMAS 2023

Always a busy and joyful season. Here are the services taking place in Easterton over the Christmas Season. May we wish all people in the village peace and joy this Christmas to you and all those you love.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all those who donated toys for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. We worried that because of the earlier date for collection making our traditional 'Toy Sunday' service too late to collect for this very important charity we may not have such a good response this year. We really should have had more faith in you all - Sue and Mike Allen were able to deliver a car full of toys to Trowbridge earlier in the week. Sue tells me that the toys were lovely and included everything from giant teddies, through beautifully dressed dolls and included some lovely gifts for older teenagers too. Thank you so much, these gifts will make such a difference to the Christmas of those receiving them.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IS COMING TO THE CHURCH.

Everyone is welcome to come and see the differently beautifully and imaginatively decorated trees. Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December. it was spectacular last year and promises to be even more wonderful. See page 6 for more details

Date	Service	Church	Time
3rd December	Benefice Service From Darkness to Light a service for advent	St Barnabas Church Easterton	6.00pm followed by mulled wine and nibbles
10th December	Joint service with St Mary's and Trinity Reform Church	St Barnabas Church Easterton	10.30am
17th December	Carol Service Nine lessons and carols	St Barnabas Church Easterton	6.00pm
24th December	Christingle Service	St Barnabas Church Easterton	4.00pm
	Night Mass	St Barnabas Church Easterton	10.00pm
25th December	Christmas Communion	Great Cheverell	10.00am
	Christmas Celebration	Little Cheverell	11.30am
31st December	Benefice Communion	Great Cheverell	10.30am

LINK GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

ANYONE NEEDING A LIFT TO SURGERY, HOSPITAL, SHOPPING OR JUST A HELPING HAND

Please contact the Link Coordinator: Tel: 01380 812755

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS/HELPERS NEEDED

Please if you have time and can volunteer contact: www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/link/

**Christmas Tree Festival 2023
St Barnabas Church Easterton**

This year's theme is A Children's Story

Will you be able to guess which ones?

Come and join us on

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December

10.00-16.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

Free Admission

Craft Activities for Children

Children's story telling at 11.00 and 15.00 each day.

Competition

Raffle

Refreshments

Contact June Wright for more details

junwri@outlook.com

EASTERTON COMMUNITY HUB

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN VILLAGE HALL
ANYTIME BETWEEN 10.00am -12.00noon

**ALL WELCOME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE,
TEA, CAKE AND MEET NEW FRIENDS**

- Are you new to the village, or have you lived here all your life?
- Need a break from “working from home”?
- Do you want to get out, for 10 minutes or a couple of hours?
- Fancy meeting new friends or just enjoying a coffee (or tea) and cake?
- A small group of Easterton residents
- Just turn up between those times and see what it is all about.
- For more information contact:
EastertonCH@gmail.com

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE NEW EASTERTON COMMUNITY HUB

This has now been running for three weeks.

There is no charge for entry, and only a nominal £1 for drinks and cakes!

The Hub is for you, please come and let us know what would you like to get out of it?

Have you ever wondered how to play Mahjong, the Chinese tile game? Come along to the Community Hub and find out.

Wednesday 10-12 in the village hall.

Hot drinks available. Play tennis or table football or just read the paper or chat.

Mahjong and other board games are coming ..

THE OAK THREE AUTUMN ART EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL OAK PUB, EASTERTON

KAREN DAVIES, JUDY BOYT AND DEBS HANDFORTH

would like to thank everyone who came to the opening event and during the 2 weeks of the exhibition. The first night was standing room only and the bar staff worked very hard to make it a success. This has made the pub really buzz with people and discussions thereafter. People visited from outside the area too. Just about every night had full dining rooms and bar with all the staff working really efficiently, they never seemed to stop. A very BG thank you to both Dave and Nikki and all their staff at The Royal Oak who supported us at the pub even when we slightly reorganised the second dining to a new location at the other end of the bar!

The little room is now going to be used as a nice welcoming snug room to sit on sofas and lounge comfortably surrounded by lovely art.

Watch this space for more news on the arts in the village and pub.

Easterton Parish Council Community Support

The Volunteer Programme is here to help anyone.

Please contact either of us below for help

Cllr Anthony Snook **07831 116136**
Victoria Turner **07725 269718**

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**

IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT ANY ONE OF THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

PLEASE MAKE CONTACT DIRECT TO OUR PARISH CLERK : clerk@eastertonpc.org.uk

WHO WILL KINDLY FORWARD EMAILS ON TO THE APPROPRIATE COUNCILLOR

THE EASTERTON SEWING BEES

Members of the Easterton Sewing Bees met on Saturday 25th November at the Village Hall and spent a happy day crafting, chatting and eating the lovely cake and snacks brought along. Dresses were altered, bags created, Christmas decorations made, and the new overlocker was tried out. It was lovely to have more time together than our usual 2 hours on a Wednesday evening.

We took all our sewing machines and kit into the Garden Room where there were more plug points and better light - so we have decided that we will be in the Garden Room to work from now on. Enter either through the main hall doors or via the sliding door at the rear of the hall but be careful on the rather slippery surface to the sliding door.



We meet every week on Wednesdays at the village hall

If you would like more details about the group please contact
Helen : [07584 060644](tel:07584060644)
Judy : [07860 242836](tel:07860242836)



THE ECHOES IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND NEEDS YOU AND YOUR NEWS

Judy Boyt (editor): judy@judyboyt.com

Anthony Snook: [07831 116136](tel:07831116136)

Victoria Turner: victoria@badgerswood.net **Kate Dillnott-Cooper:** kate@dilper.co.uk