

EASTERTON ECHOES

EASTERTON, EASTCOTT AND EASTERTON SANDS

INTERIM ISSUE 49 DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Although it was an interesting start with a the flood in the High Street on 4th January 2024!! (see photo) May we say a big thank you to Ben Myerscough and many others for a their prompt action to help those properties and resident who looked like they were going to be flooded. Jonathon Turner's prompt action which helped release some of the backed up water at the screen by the Manor.

The High Street was closed temporarily in order to stop people driving through but also to stop those that tried driving too fast creating a bow wave that would flood houses both sides of the street.

The rainwater was coming down Kings Road and Samuel Moore's Lane in torrents entering into the stream unabated bring a lot of sediment, mud and sand with it straight into the stream.

The Royal Oak pub had thankfully erected their flood protection across the doors and still remained open with people using the back door. Thank you Nikki and Dave great support too.



The Flood Group will be writing a report to see what happened, why and how to mitigate any further problems in the future.

With this in mind the Flood Group do need new wardens to train up as sadly the existing group are in the more senior category. This is possibly not a one off event in the future and will need monitoring and in the event of flooding the Wardens will play an essential role in warning high street residents in time to take action or help others in the community.

There is a telemetry system on this stream which will AUTOMATICALLY issue warnings to everyone on high street who might be impacted by excess water. This is a direct telephone call. But if you are not registered and/or are new arrivals in the village, please contact the Flood Group and they will help you register so you are prepared.

Please if you are able and wish to help the community as a flood warden

Please contact: The Easterton Parish Council clerk who can redirect you to Ron Crook, Flood Warden

Finally, Bob and Irene Bulson would like to say a really BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to their aid and helped with the sand bags. They only suffered minor flooding into the garage and thankfully nothing in the house thanks to everyone's prompt action.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL
19TH FEBRUARY 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**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN EASTERTON PARISH TO NOTE
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK IT MAY WELL HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOU**

PL/2023/10332. Potterne Park Solar Farm

Plans for a 200 acre Solar farm on North facing agricultural land.

(Equivalent to more than 150 football pitches)

Comments and opinions to Wiltshire Council Planning via online: Deadline 1st Feb 2023.

Please do take some time to read about this planning application that although it is on Potterne Park farm the whole site actually in the Easterton Parish Boundary with a small sliver in Market Lavington Parish boundary. There are a lot of documents to read through and an opinion needs to be by February 1st 2024.

Easterton Parish Council and Potterne Parish Council are writing to object on several hard factual grounds based on the Wiltshire Council Core Strategy and the NPPF (the National Planning Policy Framework).

Just to give you a small potted history and why you should consider the impact on your well being and enjoyment of the beautiful natural landscape. of this unique valley full of wildlife and natural landscape.

The Consultants Lighthouse acting on behalf of the developers Stark Energy want to put a 200 acre solar farm on North facing productive agricultural land which is already farmed in the Higher Stewardship scheme which has direct benefit to nature, wildlife and the landscape. www.potternesolar.co.uk

The original proposal information was only sent out to Easterton and Potterne Parish Council on 24th November telling them that the consultation will be in Potterne Village Hall on 28th November !

The Parish Council have subsequently seen that two applications went in on 24th November and then a second one on 27th November so really this consultation was just lip service!

Easterton Councillors attended the consultation and asked the consultant why was this held in Potterne Village when the proposed site is in Easterton Boundary. The next question to them was when were they going to hold a public consultation in Easterton. To date they have not contacted the Parish Council to arrange a face to face consultation. This does not give residents the time or opportunity learn more.

The consultants hadn't familiarised themselves with the area and didn't even have Easterton on the map!

Just to put in context this is what the substation (still under construction at another site) will look like once they have levelled the ground and topsoil. There will be numerous CCTV cameras all around the site including along the Footpaths and bridleway, numerous large shipping size containers housing the inverters. 2M - 3M high fencing all around each field.

Please read for yourself and please make your opinion known online to Wiltshire planning - it is on the planning portal using the planning number **PL/2023/10332**. Please answer factually and personally. This is an important planning application which will affect more of you in the village as well as the residents overlooking the proposed site from both sides of the valley. The scale of the solar site will



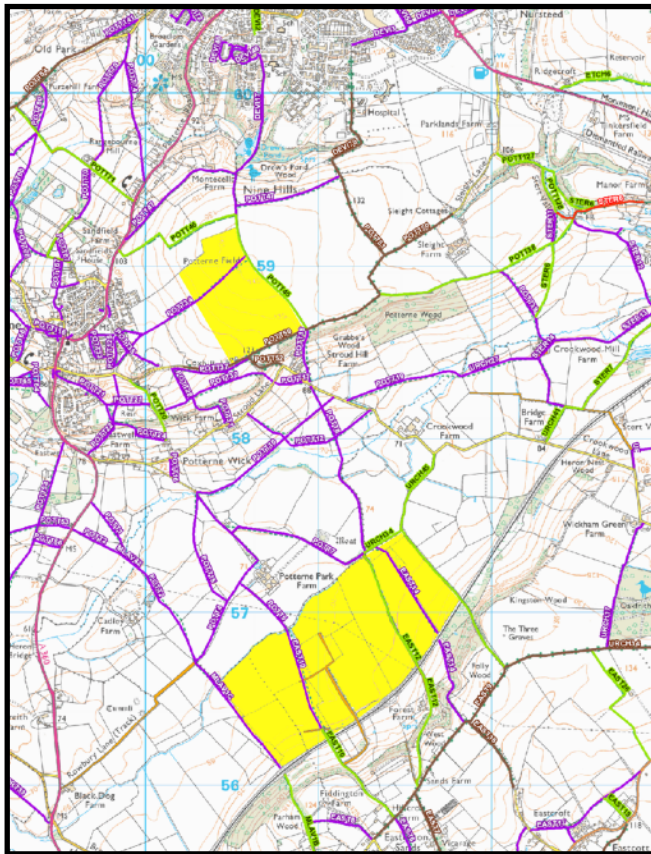
destroy a beautiful natural landscape.

Each solar panel will be 3.2 metres high sloping to 800mm so you will be riding or walking through an industrial park with no views across the natural beautiful valley. It will be gone in front of your eyes to become an industrial site for the next 50 years.

This is the wrong thing in the wrong place - this Solar farm is larger than Potterne village and probably equates to 150 plus football pitches.

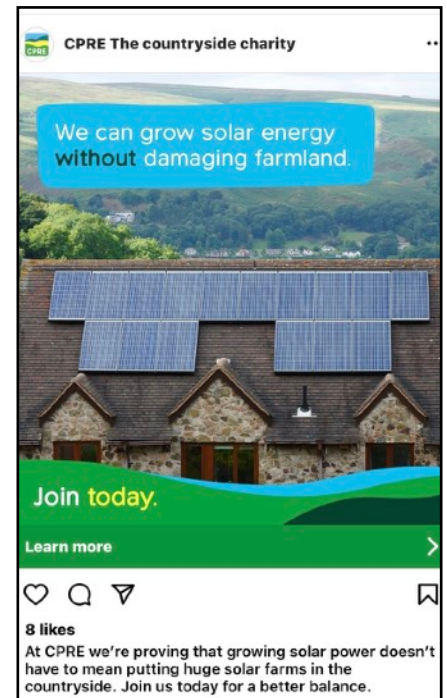
The photo montage below was taken from Forest Farm (along the bridleway 12) looking across the area towards Potterne Wick. - The red coloured in area is representing the solar panels that you will see from both sides of the valley and when walking the footpaths or bridleways.





The yellow areas on map marks proposed Potterne Park solar farm and One Tree Hill is above Potterne Wick and behind Potterne Village.

The CPRE (Council for Protection of Rural England) are campaigning for more roof space and brownfield sites to be used instead of arable food producing agricultural farm land.



There is a petition online: click on link below and read more about both sites :

[Save One Tree Hill and Potterne Park from solar farm development | 38 Degrees](#)

Please help us put a stop to the industrialisation of our historic and valued countryside. Support Potterne Solar Action Group in our campaign to safeguard 266 acres of productive arable land from solar farming and to obtain a Special Landscape Area designation for the valley between Potterne and Lydeaway.

Two sites within 1,500m of each other are being targeted by solar farm developers: the iconic landmark of One Tree Hill (Blounts Court solar farm) and the valley of Potterne Park (potternesolar.co.uk). These developments go against NPPF guidelines to protect valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity and to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. They disregard WCS on the careful stewardship of our environmental assets so that growth does not erode the very qualities that make Wiltshire so attractive in the first place.

And they ignore the government's commitment to food security which relies on strong domestic production, including 74% of food which we can grow or rear in the UK for all or part of the year.

Wiltshire County has already met its 2030 targets for solar renewable energy with 42 operational solar farms in the county, and a further 12 under construction or going through the planning process. We already have six solar farms within a five-mile radius of Potterne.

CPRE Wiltshire, who support our campaign, have highlighted the lack of an overall plan for the spatial distribution of renewable energy capacity in the county and the combined effect arising from the local concentration of several solar farms, many of which include substations, giving them an industrial appearance totally out of keeping with the local countryside.

written by Leila Searight



Christmas Tree Festival 2023 St Barnabas Church Easterton

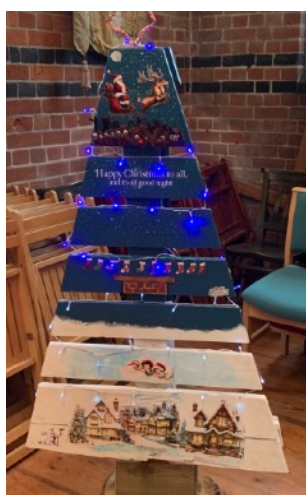
This year's theme was A Children's Story

The judges winning tree (photo left)

The Stickman: made by Karen Oldfield and children

The public vote (photo right):

Twas the Night before Christmas by The Easterton Sewing Bees



ST BARNABAS CHURCH EASTERTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023

I would like to thank you all for your contribution to this year's Christmas Tree Festival, it was a great success and that's down to the support and hard work you all put in, the church looked beautiful and we have had some lovely comments. Your trees were imaginative and you embraced the theme. June Wright

The results for the 2023 Christmas Tree Festival were:-

Judges vote: The Stickman made by Karen Oldfield and children

Public Vote: Twas the Night Before Christmas made by The Easterton Sewing Bees

Thank you to Harold and Carolyn Kiddle for kindly agreeing to be our judges, not an easy task!

The Childrens Books depicted were:-

The Guides:	Harry Potter
Karen Oldfield and children:	The Stickman
St. Barnabas School:	Twas the Night Before Christmas
Nicola Coupe:	The Little Wooden Horse
W. I:	Jolly Christmas Postman
Easterton Village Hall:	Hansel and Gretel
M.L. Library:	The Snowman
Museum:	A Night at the Museum
Trinity Church:	The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
The Easterton Sewing Bees:	Twas the Night Before Christmas
The Hub:	The Very Hungry Caterpillar

And a HUGE thank you to all those who contributed or provided help and support and, of course, to all who visited over the 2 days enabling us to raise nearly £350 for church funds.

Apologies from the editor but she didn't have room to name each photo - actually it is more like she couldn't remember which title was for which tree - black mark for editor !!!

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 14th January 10:30 am	Triple Service with Trinity	The Community Hall, Market Lavington
Sunday 21st January 11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Barnabas , Easterton
Sunday 28th January 9.15 am	Holy Communion	St Barnabas, Easterton

EASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL STILL HAVE ONE EMPTY CHAIR TO FILL

We are needing one person to come and join the team and help balance the discussions and decision making.

Are you looking for an evening out once a month to come and help in decision making on local issues, solve problems , help fellow residents and learn more about the community.

THEN THIS SEAT IS YOURS !

Please contact the Parish Clerk direct to register an interest and learn more about what the Council does - we are all approachable and willing to talk you through responsibilities of being a councillor.

To quote: ' *I have got to know so many more amazing people who live in the village and learning what we as a council can help with for the benefit of everyone. Of course there are difficult decisions to make sometimes, along with responsibilities but we work it out as team and more importantly listen to the community views.* ' Cllr Judy Boyt

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