Welcome to Eastleach



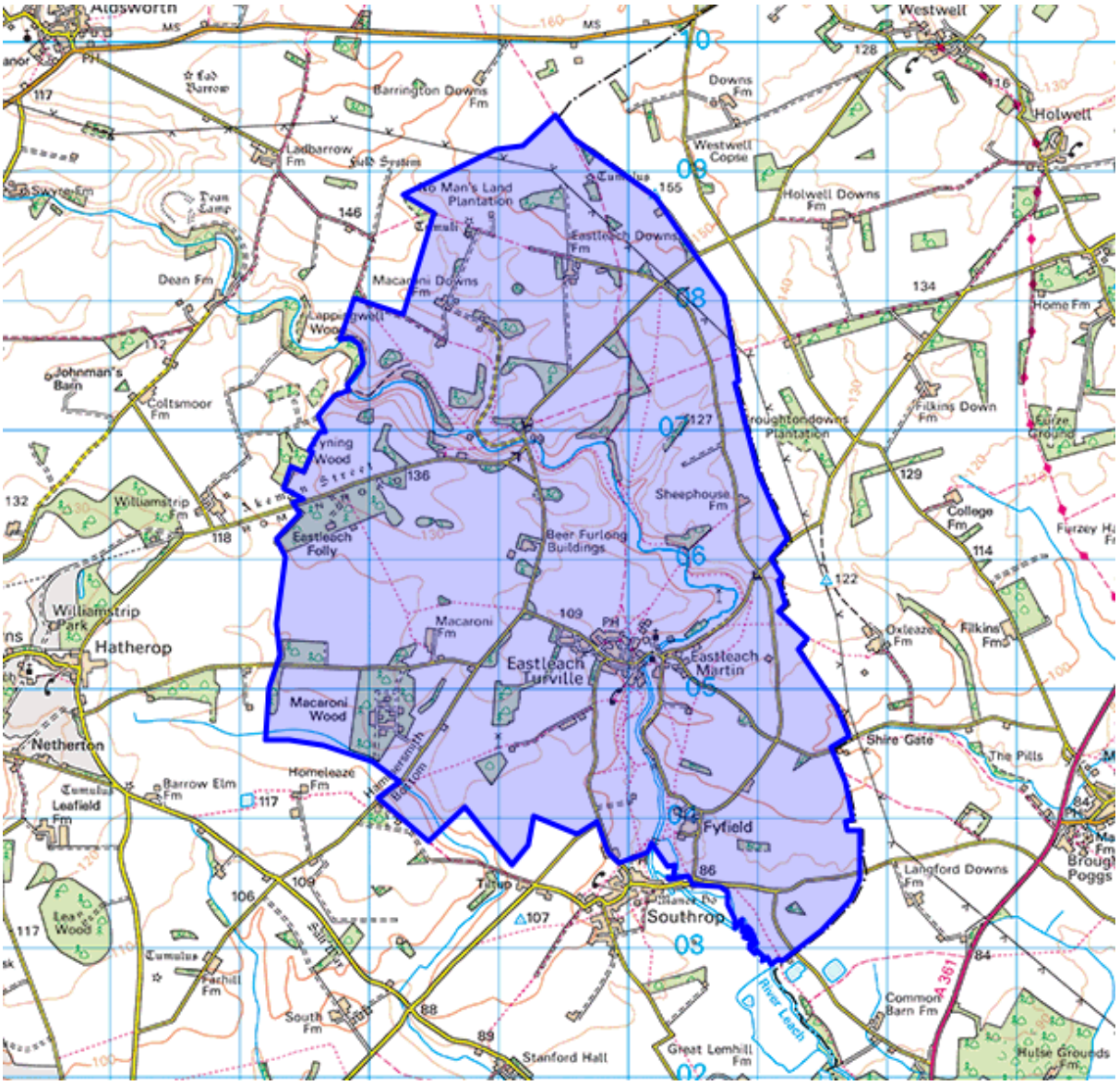
The Eastleach Parish Guide

Created by Eastleach Parish Council

WELCOME TO EASTLEACH!

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH OF EASTLEACH

The parish of Eastleach covers an area of 1823 hectares, and includes Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin, Fyfield, Cote Mill, Macaroni Wood, Macaroni Downs Farm and Eastleach Downs Farm.



The parish was formed in 1935 when the two separate parishes of Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin were merged into a single parish, but origins of the settlement reach back into Roman and pre-Roman times.

The Churches of the Parish

Eastleach Martin, historically also known as Bouthrop, is the smaller village on the east bank of the River Leach. Its most notable structure is the church of St. Michael & St. Martin a Grade I listed building of early Norman origin. Founded by Richard Fitz Pons, the church was given to Great Malvern Priory in 1120 and later passed to Gloucester Abbey. The current structure is largely 13th century, featuring a Perpendicular font and decorated Gothic windows with carved heads. The church is no longer used for regular worship and is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust.



Photo of St Michael and St Martin

Eastleach Turville is the larger village today, hosting the parish church of St. Andrew, the village hall, and the Victoria Inn. St. Andrew's Church, also Grade I listed, is mostly Norman with a distinctive saddleback tower. The church features an octagonal font and Norman carvings above the south door. The village has historically been agricultural,

.



Picture of St Andrews Church

The hamlet of Fyfield is located closer to Southrop than to Eastleach Martin, and consists of a small number of dwellings including several 17th-century structures.

The Look and Feel of the Local Community

Set in the Cotswolds national landscape, the parish of Eastleach is a rural mix of organic and traditional farming with a focus on arable and animal production. But across the whole community you can find residents rearing chickens, keeping bees and a large number of people with horses and dogs all enjoying the great Cotswold outdoors. The rolling hills of the area are covered with fields divided by iconic stone walls. Woodland is interspersed among the fields and stone villages nestle in the valleys. It truly is a landscape which beckons people to walk along its paths and bridleways and enjoy the Cotswold views. It is a very precious landscape, enjoyed by permanent residents and those who visit at weekends as well as visiting walkers and tourists generally.



It's not always sunny in Eastleach!

The History of the Parish - The Bazley Family

Sir Thomas Bazley became owner of the Eastleach estate in 1867 and provided improvements for the villagers including a water-supply pumped up from the River Leach to standpipes, streetlamps put up in 1897 (there is no street lighting now!), a Reading Room, a row of cottages around the turning to Southrop, which incorporates a small clock-tower, and the row of five alms-houses amongst other cottages.

The village of Eastleach continued to be owned by the Bazley family but after the death of the last Sir Thomas Bazley in 1997 the Bazley family sold the estate to the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT). The sale was made in the hope and belief that the Trust would help preserve the heritage and character of the village for the longer term, while continuing to provide rental opportunities for local residents at reasonable rates. In more recent years, ECT has sold a number of village properties as part of the development of its estate and to support its core mission of countryside education and appreciation. The village is now a mixture of privately owned properties, ECT-owned property, social housing managed by Bromford, and privately rented homes.

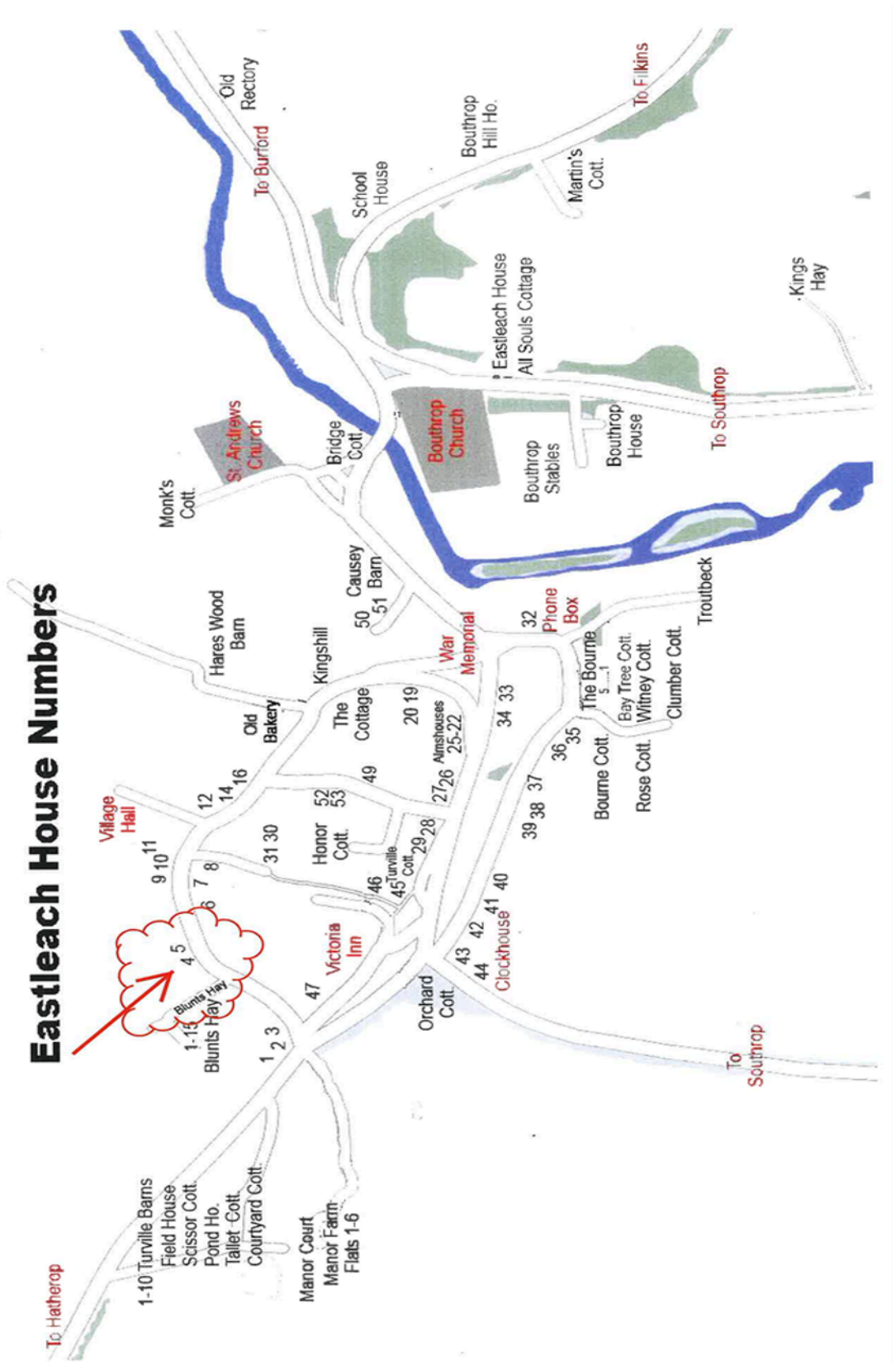
Navigating your way around Eastleach

Eastleach Turville has a number of minor roads and lanes passing through it and also can be navigated on foot through the twittens, the little alleyways which thread their way through the village and contribute to its unique character.



A twitten in the village

The numbering of houses in the village of Eastleach can be difficult to fathom and a not-to-scale map is given below to aid your orientation. This map includes road names as they are generally known in the village as well as cottage/house names where numbering is not available.



Map of numbered houses – Thanks to Tim Lawson for this image

Other points of interest in the parish

There are a number of sites in the parish which have particular historical and contemporary interest. This list is not fully inclusive as there are many points of interest in the village!

- Well down by the river – water continued to be drawn from the well until the late 1990s by several local residents for their livestock, but water is only now drawn from the river when Thames Water fail to provide a supply.



- Old cross – listed monument down on the village green below the war memorial

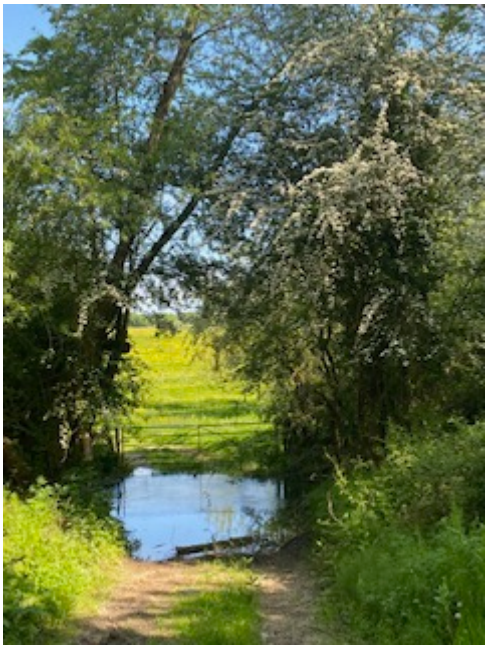


- War memorial – commemorating those people from the village who lost their lives in the first world war, just at the bottom of the hill on the main road through the village



- Willow tree - commemorating the silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II planted in 1975 is situated on the village green adjacent to Bridge Cottage. It receives regular maintenance by the Parish Council to ensure it is kept in good health for the future.

- Springs feeding the River Leach – the river in Eastleach has a seasonal flow and often in the summer dries up from the bottom of Locombe Hill upstream. Typically, in the winter or longer periods of heavy rainfall it starts to flow beyond Northleach down through the valley, but in summer months its source starts within the parish.



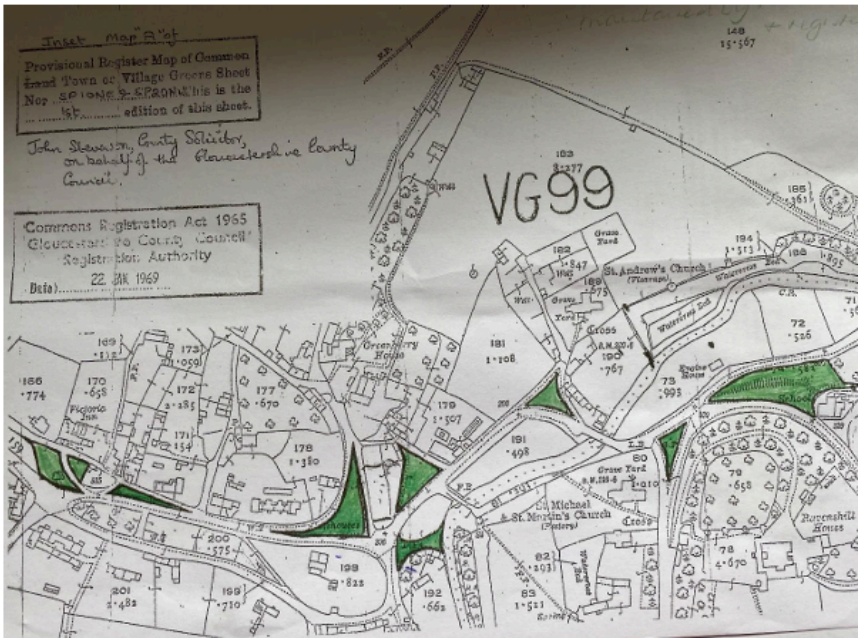
- Keble Bridge - a charming traditional stone footbridge crossing the River Leach, linking the two villages of Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin. Built from large limestone slabs supported by stone piers, it is a fine example of a clapper bridge and forms a much-loved feature of the village landscape.



- Macaroni Woods – Noah's Ark Children's Venture – this is a local children's charity which offers the opportunity to experience residential learning and development opportunities in a woodland setting. The charity is accessed by a very wide range of organisations from the voluntary and statutory sector including youth clubs, schools, colleges and community groups. Volunteers are welcomed to help deliver the service and maintain the setting. The website gives much more information about the services offered – www.macaroniwood.org.uk. Events and fundraising activities are organised throughout the year which everyone is welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY AMENITIES AND SERVICES

- **Village greens and common land** – there are a number of small (but beautifully formed) village greens and common land in the parish. These are looked after by the parish council for the benefit of the whole community. There are a number of restrictions on use, including:
    - no parking on the greens at all
    - no planting of trees or other plants without the express written permission from the parish council
    - no enclosure of the green or common land
    - no lighting of fires or BBQs



Map of the greens

- **Victoria Inn** – our local hostelry on the hill was established in 1856. A traditional Arkell's pub, it enjoys a lovely position overlooking the main road towards Southrop and is open Wednesday to Monday. It offers a splendid setting to enjoy good food and drink while taking in the view.



- **Churches –** services are held every Sunday morning at St Andrews. The board placed on the village green outside the church advertises upcoming services.



Service Sandwich Board

- **Village hall** – the hall is managed by a committee who are actively fundraising to improve the facilities on offer. Full information on facilities, charges and an online booking system can be found on www.eastleachvillagehall.co.uk



- **Playground** – the playground sits behind the village hall overlooking the fields at the back of the village. It provides an opportunity for younger children to experience physical challenges that they might not otherwise experience in their everyday lives.
- **Playing field** – the field sits to the back of the village hall and is equipped with a set of goalposts.
- **Bus service** – along with the school bus to Fairford in term time, there is a very infrequent bus service serving the village taking passengers

through Fairford into Cirencester. Details of the bus times can be found on the Stagecoach website https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables

- **Footpaths and Bridlepaths** – the parish is situated in a beautiful area of the Cotswolds with a large number of footpaths and bridlepaths offering walks of varying distances and difficulties. The Cotswolds OS map is a good place to start but there are also a number of books and apps which can guide walkers through the most interesting and beautiful scenery in the area. A selection of walking guides can be found in the Coln Gallery in Fairford amongst other vendors. Gloucestershire Walks is a helpful app to view. Other sources of information are available!

  For dog walkers, you are asked to pick up your dog mess, wherever it is, and place it bagged into one of the bins around the parish. These bins are regularly emptied by the district council and help to keep this parish a pleasant place to walk.

- **Milkman**

  Milk and grocery delivery service is provided by MilkandMore. Deliveries to the village are made on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and can be organised through their website.

- **Newspapers**

  Daily newspaper and basic grocery delivery can be organised through Pickwick Papers (based in Cirencester) who can be contacted on info@pickwicknewspapers.com . A small delivery charge applies.

TRADITIONAL VILLAGE EVENTS

The Frolics – is an annual event involving various games of football, children's traditional games and races, a tug of war down the river and more recently a regatta for boats made from recycled material. Over the years, the more dangerous games have been replaced with less risky ones, so you will no longer see a wheelbarrow race involving drinking beer at various intervals on the course, but you do still see Slap, the Treacle Snap and the Coin Dash. The event takes place on the second bank holiday Monday in May and is organised by a team of volunteers who fundraise so they can organise the games the following year. Great fun for all adults and children!

Eastleach Fete – this always takes place on the Saturday of the August bank holiday. Featuring traditional fete activities, afternoon teas, the best White Elephant Stall you will see for miles around, children's games, and numerous other stalls, the fete takes place on the playing field and in the village hall.

Funds raised are split between the Church and the village hall.



Apple Day – this day is organised, typically in early autumn, for anyone who has apples in their garden or likes apples to come along and bring their apple bounty for pressing. The pressing is organised by a volunteer from the village who brings their apple press for everyone to use. You can take away your apple juice, either for fermenting or for drinking fresh!

Candlelit Carol Service – this service takes place in Bouthrop church generally on the second Saturday of December in the early evening when the light has gone. The church does not have electricity, so attendees hold candles to light their carol sheets, and singing is accompanied by the old harmonium. A true flash back to how life used to be, it is both moving and seasonal. Afterwards there is an opportunity for refreshments in the Tithe barn next door.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Primary Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) services

GCC provides Highways, Mental Health Social Work Service, Education and learning, recycling, Fire Services, and Transport amongst its portfolio of services.

- Highways - of particular interest to residents is the Fix My Street area of the website where a large number of problems and issues can be reported to GCC. For example, potholes, fallen trees, fly tipping etc can be reported here: https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/
- Library services – the nearest public library is in Fairford. There is also a community library in Lechlade.

Primary Cotswold District Council (CDC) services for Eastleach

- Waste collection and bins – the full waste collection happens fortnightly on a Thursday. Bins must be put out on the pavement by 07.30 hrs.
- Planning – planning applications are managed via the online portal.
- Fly-tipping - if you spot any fly-tipping in the parish this can be reported via the CDC website.

Eastleach Parish Council

Full details about the work of the parish council, including newsletters, meeting minutes, policy documents etc can be found on www.eastleachparishcouncil.org. Meetings occur every two months and are open to the public. There is the opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of particular concern at the meeting, subject to a time limit for discussion.

Residents of the parish are welcome to join the parish council, either through the normal election process or through co-option into vacant positions outside of the election time. If you are interested in getting involved, any questions on the work of the parish council can be addressed to the parish clerk via the email address clerk@eastleachparishcouncil.org.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

The local neighbourhood policing team is based in Cirencester. They cover a wide area but are very approachable and helpful on a wide range of neighbourhood misdemeanours. The Crime Prevention Officer for Gloucestershire is equally very happy to come out and look at your property to give advice on property protection.
www.gloucestershire.police.uk

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

GP Surgeries

There is a GP practice in both Fairford and Lechlade.

- Hilary Cottage Surgery in Fairford can be contacted via their website www.fairfordsurgery.co.uk
- Lechlade Medical Centre can be contacted via the website www.inspire-healthcare.co.uk/upper-thames-medical

Dentists

There are private dental practices in both Fairford and Lechlade.

- White Cottage Dental Practice in Fairford
- Lechlade Dental Practice in Lechlade
- Dent Art Work in Lechlade

Opticians

There is an optician in Fairford Market Place, Fairford Opticians. Hedley House Opticians recently opened in Lechlade.

Hospital services

- Emergency Departments are situated in:
    - Gloucester Royal Hospital (24 hrs) (www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk)
    - Cheltenham General Hospital (8am-8pm) – 8pm-8am it is a MIIU (www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk)
    - Great Western Hospital in Swindon (24 hrs) (www.gwh.nhs.uk)

- Minor Injuries and Illness Unit is situated in Cirencester Hospital (8 am – 7.30 pm last walk in)

COMMUNICATION ROUTES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Newsletter - The Parish Council operates a quarterly newsletter containing articles of interest from its work and interactions. You can subscribe to this newsletter by registering on the parish council website.

Facebook has a number of pages providing information on events in the area:

- Eastleach Parish Council
- Eastleach Village Life
- Memories of Eastleach, Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin
- Lechlade on Thames
- Fairford – Our Page, Our Town, Our Community
- Quenington and Surrounding Hamlets
- Noah's Ark Children's Venture

Other pages are available!

CHEQS magazine – a local free monthly newsletter covering the Coln, Hathrop, Eastleach, Quenington and Southrop villages delivered to your door and also available online at https://cheqs.weebly.com . This is a very valuable source of information about any activity of matter of interest in the wider CHEQS area.

Parish council contact – if you want to ask the Parish Council about any aspect of parish business, please contact the clerk on clerk@eastleachparishcouncil.org .

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISH

Eastleach is a very distinctive place to live – a piece of old England trying to adapt without any obvious signs of the 21st century, but it works hard to create a community where everyone can enjoy living and feel part of a greater entity.

But we urge you to be good citizens and help us keep the look and feel of the parish for us all to enjoy into the future. You can do this in a number of ways, some of which are listed below:

- Take time to get to know your neighbours and the wider community – our parish is made up of a wide range of people and backgrounds, some of whom are longstanding members of the parish, others of whom are more recent residents.
- Volunteer! There are so many groups in the village who will welcome you with open arms if you have some spare time to devote to them. The Church, the Village Hall, Noah's Ark Children's Venture and the Parish Council have an ongoing need for help, whereas events such as the Fete and the Frolics appreciate help in the run up to the events and on the day. There are also mini projects from time to time in the village which will benefit from your involvement, such as the annual village litter pick and other village social events.
- So many people have dogs in the villages, and we want everyone to enjoy them in the countryside. We urge you to keep control of them when out on walks and that you keep them on leads in livestock fields and on the roads, that you clear up dog poo and deposit it in the dog bins or in your own dustbin.
- The farming community would really appreciate that you adhere to the countryside code by ensuring gates are kept shut after you have passed through, that you do not trample on crops and that you keep to marked rights of way. The fields and livestock are farmers' livelihoods, and we want them to thrive in the very difficult farming circumstances at present. If you are not sure of anything related to the countryside, just ask.

Enjoy being part of our community while helping us build a sustainable future for everyone.