

# ECKINGTON

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2023**  
Recreation Ground

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**& Entertainment**  
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**July 2023**

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0600 to 1300 Sunday

**John, Sue and Mark**  
**Tel 01386 750266**

# Eckington Stores

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- Evri Parcel shop

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**John, Sue and Mark**  
**Tel 01386 750266**

★ Saturday 15th July 2023 ★

12:00pm – 10:00pm at the Eckington Recreation Ground

**LIVE MUSIC**

★ Take A Chance On Three + Dave! ★  
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3B ★ The Debbie Parry Band ★ Second Crossing  
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Check out Facebook  
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★ Saturday 15th July 2023 ★

12:00pm – 10:00pm at the Eckington Recreation Ground

**Please don't forget  
we are cashless**

Admission £7.50  
Kids FREE!

*"Sorry, I can only come if I'm a guide dog. WOOF!"*

Check out Facebook  
and [www.eckstock.com](http://www.eckstock.com) for the latest!

# Welcome to the July 2023 Newsletter



Today marks the end of an era - Elizabeth Crumpton took on the role of editor some 20 years ago and has consistently and creatively delivered the newsletter to Eckington residents during this tenure.

Liz has been keeping us all up to date with events, activities and news both within the church parish and the village community.

During the last 20+ years the newsletter has seen many technology changes (as has much in the world). As the editor, Liz embraced changes and made the newsletter available in print and online.

Liz has now decided this is the time to retire from her volunteer role and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for an amazing job and warmly wish her well for future adventures.

From July 2023 we will have a new editor, Jenny Sheppard, who is looking forward to hearing from regular and new contributors and also the readers as she takes on the mantle of editor. We wonder how much will change in the next 20 years!

As a strong and diverse village community we aim to continue to offer information on mediums of print & on-line available at [eckington.info](http://eckington.info) and whatever the future may bring.



Please take the time to update yourselves with information contained in the newsletter and keep it up to date by sending us your changes and news to [eckingtonmag@btinternet.com](mailto:eckingtonmag@btinternet.com).



You can buy a copy of the Eckington newsletter at Eckington Stores or if you would like a regular, monthly hard copy please email : Carolyn on [2529crg@gmail.com](mailto:2529crg@gmail.com).

# Calendar for July 2023

1st Sunday	Quiz @ The Bell
2nd Tuesday	Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
2nd Thursday	Mobile Library 09:45 to 10::00—Upper End, Eckington 10:05 to 10:20—Glenmoor, Eckington
Every Thursday	Everyone Welcome 10am-12pm Coffee Morning @ Eckington Church
2nd	Parish Games - Rounders
15th	Parish Games - 5 aside Football
15th	<b>Eckstock, Recreation Ground, Eckington</b>

# Provisional Calendar for August 2023

1st Sunday	Quiz @ The Bell
2nd Tuesday	Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
2nd Thursday	Mobile Library 09:45 to 10::00—Upper End, Eckington 10:05 to 10:20—Glenmoor, Eckington
Every Thursday	Everyone Welcome 10am-12pm Coffee Morning @ Eckington Church
26th	Aunty Jen Productions performance of 'Wind in the Willows at the Village Hall



3pm—4pm ish

- 23 July, Elmley Castle, Picnic and stories
- 27 August, Eckington, Picnic and stories
- 24 September, Elmley Castle, Harvest
- 22 October, Eckington, Halloween: Light Party
- 26 November, Elmley Castle, Advent Waiting
- December, Crib Services, Elmley Parish and Eckington

Exploring the Christian faith together with all ages through fun activities outside and inside. Everyone welcome.







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**FRIDAY NIGHT**

**ECKSTRA**

Don't forget the warm up to the main event.  
**Bar + Live Music**

This year starring:  
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**Friday 14th July 2023**  
7:00 – 10:00 at the Gettem Inn Tent  
Eckington Recreation Ground

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[emma@emmaattwood.co.uk](mailto:emma@emmaattwood.co.uk)

## Headlines

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Hairdressing

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Contact Charles to discuss: [ecktechservices@gmail.com](mailto:ecktechservices@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01386 750261 Mob: 07901 948809



## Village Fund Raising



£178 raised for **SmileTrain** - making it possible for children born with clefts all over the world to receive free cleft surgery and comprehensive care. Smile Train celebrated its 500,000th cleft surgery in India this year - that is 500,000 smiles and new lives changed forever.

£178 raised for **Toybox** - Changing the world for street children. Thanks to this donation, Toybox's partner in Bolivia is able to support families through the process of registering for birth certificates. With this life-changing piece of paper the children can be enrolled into school and parents can get jobs.



*Thank you everyone who supported these fundraisers.*



## Christian Aid Week May 2023

### THANK YOU EVERYONE!

What an excellent response in times which are difficult for so many people!

We held a fantastic coffee morning at church where we enjoyed beautiful home-made cakes donated by many generous folk. Then our intrepid volunteers delivered over 500 red envelopes to every house in the village and Eckington Village Stores kindly agreed to accept your envelopes.

**The combined result was a brilliant £1038.71 sent off for Christian Aid projects.**

**Thank you so much.**

This year's appeal focused on Malawi where harvests have failed due to the climate crisis disproportionately affecting poorer countries. They have developed a miracle crop of pigeon peas which are very hardy and provide a range of nutritious meals. The money goes to educate and support people adapting to changing conditions, growing these new sustainable crops to help. This economic wellbeing gives people priceless opportunities like continuing their children's education. Our money goes a long way and makes a lasting impact.

Visit [Christianaid.org](http://Christianaid.org) to find out more and watch this space for our Autumn fundraiser.

*Thank you again for being such a kind village from your Eckington Christian Aid team.*

Our services include:

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www.bowbrookgardens.co.uk

## Pershore Plum Festival

*August Bank Holiday*  
*Weekend Extravaganza*  
27-28 AUGUST 2023

**SUNDAY 27 AUGUST**

*Family Fun Day*

in Abbey Park

- Plum Plodders 10K race
- Plum Pooches in the Park Dog Show
- Plum Praise Service

**MONDAY 28 AUGUST**

*Plum Fayre Day*

in Abbey Park

- Classic cars
- Teddy Bear Parachute Drop
- Teddy Bear Zip Wire

*Sunday & Monday*

- Art Trail in the Abbey
- Plum Fun Zone
- Entertainment
- Food Village
- Trade Stands
- South Worcestershire Lifeguards



## Team Open Gardens & Flower Festival

would like to take the  
opportunity to thank:

The Garden Hosts & Flower Arrangers  
The Classic Cars

Programme Sponsors

The venues providing refreshments  
Cake, Plant and Tombola donations

The Art Studios/Tombola/School Maypole

Musicians/Choirs/Individual Artists

All the volunteer helpers



# Wychavon Games - Parish Games 2023

Offering all residents of Wychavon District the opportunity to participate in active sports and games

<https://wychavongames>

The Wychavon Parish Games started in 1978, and the aim of the Games remains the same today: To offer all residents of the Wychavon District the opportunity to participate in active sports and pub games. The competitive spirit is strongly combined with community spirit; be that through developing relationships within the teams created in a Parish or the local derby atmosphere between teams from near or neighbouring Parishes. The term Parish includes the Wards within the three Towns of Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore. There is a strict rule about participants having to reside within the Parish that they represent as it is the Parish or Town Council that pays the fees to enter the various games.



There are two types of competition:

**One Day Events:** Angling; Bell Boating; Bowls; Cross Country; Men's 5-a-Side Football; Pétanque; Rounders; Junior and Senior Table Tennis

**Knock-Out Events:** Crib; Ladies' Darts; Men's Darts; Dominoes; Pool; Skittles. The Knock-Out Events start in August and continue to a final, which is held in October or early November. Typically 15 Events are organised over a six-month period from June through to November. In previous years 35 Parishes have entered and over 1000 participants competed.

## **Outstanding Performance for Eckington in the Bell Boating Saturday 17th June to take 3rd Place**

Won both heats by a country mile-achieving the fastest time ever for this course in the Parish Games. In the Final, one of the paddles broke just as they set off so 5/6 rowers were rowing with an overall joint 3rd place! Just shows anything can happen! Well done to all who took part, what a performance and great points to add to the pot.

### **Next Competition Dates**

2nd July	Rounders	17th July	Cross Country
15th July	5 aside Football	23rd July	Pétanque



# Parish Councillors

## Please note new contacts following elections

Clerk: Lynne Yapp (01386 552233) [clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk)  
Chairman: Tim Knight (07810 572223) [eckingtonpctimknight@gmail.com](mailto:eckingtonpctimknight@gmail.com)

### Councillor's

Matthew Coles [cllrcoles.eckingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrcoles.eckingtonpc@gmail.com)  
Seb Collins [cllr.collins@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.collins@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk)  
Sally Mearns  
Geoff Ransted [cllr.ransted@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.ransted@gmail.com)  
Phil Rice [cllr.rice@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.rice@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk)  
Mike Wood [cllr.wood@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wood@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk)



[HOME](#) [VILLAGE](#) [WHAT'S ON](#) [DIRECTORY](#) [GALLERY](#) [SEARCH](#) [ABOUT](#)

For up to date and more detailed village information take a look at the village website: [www.eckington.info](http://www.eckington.info)



### Eckington Village Noticeboard

[facebook](#)

**NEWS UPDATES**

[Discussion](#) [Featured](#) [Your items](#) [Members](#) [Events](#)

### Magazine Deadline

Please make sure everything is with Jenny Sheppard by

**20th**

Berretts, Hacketts Lane, Eckington WR10 3DG

Email: [eckingtonmag@btinternet.com](mailto:eckingtonmag@btinternet.com)

(all emails will be acknowledged so please re-send any that you do not receive a reply to in 2-3 days)



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<b>Date</b>	<b>Match Info</b>	<b>Result</b>
Sun May 21 <sup>st</sup> Away	(40 overs) Eckington 185-6 (G Bunn 92no, C Fincher 30) Tewkesbury 138 (James Thomas 4-11)	Won by 47 runs
Wed May 24 <sup>th</sup> Home	Alderton 107 (Andrew Thorner 4-1) Eckington 108-3 (J Green 27rtd, H Jones 27rtd, J McCracken 25rtd)	Won by 7 wickets
Sun May 27 <sup>th</sup> Away	Overbury 157 (30 overs) (J Thomas 3-17) Eckington 161-7 (C Fincher 33, L Flowers 30, H Sagar 28)	Won by 3 wickets
Sun June 4 <sup>th</sup> Home	Eckington 182-9 (40 overs) (J McCracken 68, A Thorner 40, C Fincher 28) Old Georgians 176-7 (40 overs)	Won by 6 runs
Sun June 11 <sup>th</sup> Home	Peopleton 198-7 (40 overs) (L Rendall-Baker 3-33) Eckington 200-2 (C Icke 83no, J McCracken 80)	Won by 8 wickets
Wed June 14 <sup>th</sup> Away	Childswickham 160-5 (20 overs) Eckington 151-6 (20 overs) (G Bunn 26rtd, C Fincher 25rtd)	Lost by 9 runs
Sun June 18 <sup>th</sup> Away	Eckington 159 (J Flowers 58, C Icke 36) Harvington 57 (Tom Kilmister 3-12)	Won by 102 runs

**Future Fixtures are:-**

Weds	June 28 <sup>th</sup>	- Peopleton (A) 6pm
Sun	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	- Gotherington (H) 1:30pm
Sun	July 9 <sup>th</sup>	- Asian Sports (H) 2pm
Sun	July 16 <sup>th</sup>	- Kingsholm (A) 2pm
Weds	July 19 <sup>th</sup>	- Ashton (A) 6:15pm
Sun	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	- Peopleton (A) 1pm
Sun	July 30 <sup>th</sup>	- Overbury (H) 2pm
Sun	Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	- Harvington (H) 1:30pm

**Follow us on -**

eckingtonworcs.play-cricket.com  
 Facebook: Eckington Cricket Club  
 Twitter: Eckington\_CC  
 Instagram: eckingtoncricketclub

Anybody interested in getting involved in any compacity  
 please contact Ian Fincher (07778144422)

## Church Service Rota for July 2023

Date	Time	Place and Service	Presiding
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	09.00am	Besford - Holy Communion	Reverend Allison
	09.00am	Little Comberton - Holy Communion	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Bredon - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Alstone – Patronal Service	Rev Katryn
	6.00pm	Ashton Under Hill - Taize	Rev Katryn
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	09.00am	Bredon's Norton - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	9.00am	Bricklehampton - Holy Communion	Rev Andy Green
	10.45am	Eckington - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Overbury - Holy Communion	Rev Andy Green
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	9.00am	Eckington - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Bredon - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Elmley Castle	Rev Alma Organ
	6.00pm	Beckford - Evensong	Rev Catherine Lack
	6.00pm	Bredon's Norton Evensong	Lay Led
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	10.45am	Great Comberton - Holy Communion	Canon Roger Spiller
	10.45am	Defford - Holy Communion	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Village Worship Bredon	Lay Led
	10.45am	Ashton Under Hill Holy Communion And Baptism	Rev Catherine Lack
	3.00pm	Making Church Fun – Elmley Castle	Helen Laird and team
30 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	10.45am	Group Service – Holy Communion Eckington	Rev Allison

As Katryn will be on leave there will be no Midweek Communion during July

## Church Service Rota for August 2023

Date	Time	Place	Presiding
6 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	09.00am	Little Comberton	Reverend Caroline Green
	09.00am	Besford	Rev Allison
	10.45am	Bredon	Rev Allison
13 <sup>th</sup> August 23	09.00am	Overbury	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Eckington	Rev Katryn
	10.45	Little Comberton Café Church	Peter Hayes
20 <sup>th</sup> August 23	9.00am	Bredon's Norton	Reverend Catherine Lack
	10.45am	Elmley	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Ashton Under Hill	Lay Led
	10.45am	Bredon Village Worship	Lay Led
27 <sup>th</sup> August 23	9.00am	Defford	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Beckford	Rev Katryn
	6.00pm	Great Comberton Evening Worship	Rev Katryn and Lay Led

Allison & Katryn will on annual leave; there will be no Midweek Communion during August



This July is Plastic Free July, a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

### **What changes could you make at home, at the office or at church?**

- Food
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toilet Roll
- Deodorant
- Nappies & Baby Wipes
- Teabags & Coffee
- Water Bottle & Coffee Cup
- Cleaning Sprays
- Cleaning Brush
- Clothes & Washing Bags
- Food Wraps
- “Olio”

You don't need to do all this at once either, it may all seem a bit overwhelming, but every little change is going to make a difference.

If you're making some of these changes at church, make sure you've signed up to become an Eco Church. There are three levels of award – gold, silver and bronze – you might find you're achieving the first one already! More information at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> and if you need any help or support email [environment@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:environment@cofe-worcester.org.uk) to make contact with the Diocesan Climate Crisis

## Space for Prayer

I am writing this article in early June to meet publication deadlines and it seems a distance away from when you may be reading this; But in this summer article as we look forward with hope to some summer sunshine and time away with friends or family, I wish to reflect on the need for prayer, whenever and wherever we are.

Part of the reason for this is that today I have been reminded of the feelings many of us felt when we could not go into our churches to pray and worship. It was a huge spiritual loss and a disorientating feeling for many of us; And if I am honest, I now question whether or not closing churches during Lockdowns was the right decision by the Church of England, because at times of extreme anxiety and uncertainty, who and where do we look to, but to God and the Church. Such closure of our church buildings meant we were required to seek other sources of worship and prayer outlets, and during this time I often found myself praying as I did my statutory walk around the village. These meditative prayer walks were special times of connection with God, but they could not replace the feeling you get when praying in a holy space and where faithful Christians have worshipped for hundreds of years.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams in a book titled "Candles in the Dark" reflects on an experience of visiting a cathedral in Linköping in Sweden, where they have translated a simple form of meditation with prayer beads, called the "Pearls of Life" devised by Bishop Martin Lonnebo,, into a guided walk around the building, set by small semi-precious stones positioned into the floor at intervals where you can stop and reflect.



The walk starts with the "Pearl of God", recognising God is infinite, intimate and also brings light; Other pearls represent baptism, silence, desert, love, mystery, night, dawn and resurrection. *The cross is a sign of the deepest love in the universe.*

At the "Love Pearl", also known as "God's Heart", there is a text which reads:-

*The four winds of heaven meet here.*

*This is where the Tree of Life is replanted;  
It provides blessed fruit.*

*The cross follows us from birth, to death, into eternity.*

*Through baptism we are marked with the sign of Life.*

*The breaking of the bread shows us how life should be.*

How lovely it is that we can now reconnect our church buildings with our own personal rhythms of prayer; And so now as we are able to use our buildings freely again, maybe it is time to make our buildings more significant to ourselves by taking the opportunity to meditatively walking around them, praying and reproducing a sacred journey of reflection.

We can of course do this in our gardens, when out walking in the countryside, when out ambling through our villages or even when at home doing the most ordinary and everyday things. For as Dr. Williams says, "*In meditative walking we trace over the world's surface the path to God; we affirm that whatever steps we take can be part of our journey home to the source of all things, in Jesus who is "the Way"*". Our churches are indeed beautiful buildings, and so perhaps now as we are able, let these spaces, and all our actions of prayerful journeying, wherever they may be, help us this summer to be open to a new discovery of God – helping us to see all space as a centre for God's loving presence. In this may we be encouraged to find new spaces and ways in which to pray and seek God. And so, wherever you are this summer, at home or away, may it be a time of refreshment, enjoyment and reflection, and in God, may all things be well.

Every blessing,  
**Rev. Allison.**





## Eckington's Church

The Open Gardens and Flower Festival in May was a great success raising a staggering £10,000! We are often get asked where all the money goes and the answer is that it goes towards keeping our beautiful church open. Eckington Church is not just there for the congregation but for the entire village as well as for visitors. This is reflected in the way that Open Gardens sees the whole community pulling together. Clearly, this year, we were blessed with perfect weather and the gardens were looking beautiful. The flower displays which filled the church were on the theme of 'a good read' and ranged from children's literature to adult fiction from all around the globe. Putting aside the wonderful amount of money raised, the weekend really is a marvellous example of what a close-knit, caring and talented village Eckington is.

So, whether you opened your garden or visited one, sold a ticket or bought one or baked a cake or eat one, we thank you all for making it such a fantastic success!

Coffee mornings are still well supported by the community, who pop in to catch up with fellow villagers and enjoy the home-made cakes and drinks; a very jovial couple of hours.



Coffee Morning

ALL WELCOME

Every Thursday from  
10 to noon in  
**Holy Trinity Church**  
Karen Sager  
07593260432

To everybody who helped make this event such a success. Collectively, with all our visitors, over £10,000k has been raised. Your hard work and support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you from Eckington Parochial Church Council, Holy Trinity Church.

## Open Church for Private Prayer

The Church is open for private prayer and quiet reflection:

Every Wednesday 10am—2pm

Sundays 10am-12pm when there is no service

## The importance of a long-term view - An article from the Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson

Up and down the country there are great houses set in beautiful parkland, some of them designed by Capability Brown and others of his time. Here and there you will see avenues of oaks, planted by people who knew they would never live to see them grow to their full stature.

Our cathedrals and great churches are the same: begun by people who knew they would never live to see them finished. Saint Wulfstan began the beginning of the present cathedral at Worcester in 1084, and the final dedication took place 134 years later, on 7 June 1218. Theirs was a patient age, content to think that the future, because it was in God's hands, was quite out of their own reach.

We live in a less patient, less faithful, less hopeful age. Short-termism is the bane of so much political and economic activity. There is always an eye on the next election or the next renewal of contract. This does not help society address the longer-term issues that face us all.

One of the tasks of the Church (which is a very long-term project indeed) is to remind society of the need to believe in the future, to believe that it is worth our while building a better world, not for ourselves, but for those who come after us.



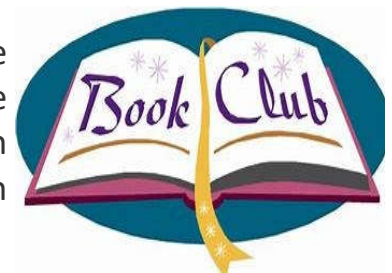
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## Eckington Book Club

We read Tracy Chevalier's *The Lady and The Unicorn* for the June meeting. We all felt that, although the author had clearly done her research on the making of tapestries in the late 15th century, the characters were not as believable or as well drawn as in some of her other novels.



For the July 21st meeting we have chosen: *A Perfect Explanation* by Eleanor Anstruther



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## Parish Walks 2023

These are led walks in our beautiful countryside; all are welcome so do come and enjoy it with us. Sorry, no dogs. **Walks start at 7 pm and we allow 2 hours to walk about 4 miles**, talking to old friends and making new ones.

Here are the walks for July and August. *You may like to make a voluntary donation of 50p per head at the start of each walk which goes to charity.*

### **3rd July - Roger - Elmley Castle to Little Comberton and return.**

Meet at the Queen Elizabeth pub on the main street. A level walk of 4 miles.

### **10th July - Marian and Lorraine - Meet at The 3 Kings Inn Hanley Castle.**

Park by the school, WR8 0BL, OS ref 838420. 5 stiles, varied but flat with 1 gentle slope. 4 miles on fields and lanes with rare traffic.

### **17th July - Rose (the other one) - Langley Hill circular.**

Meet at the Royal Oak, Gretton. Route crosses fields and rough tracks. Moderate climb up Langley Hill, round hill and down the other side to return along a roadside footpath. Views, 3 stiles, distance about 4 miles. Refreshments at end if required!

### **24th July Justin - Alstone, Beckford & Washbourne**

Meet at Hobnails Inn -A medium to easy walk of about 4.5 miles around Alstone, Beckford and Washbourne. Approx. 8 stiles. Might be muddy if it rains. The Hobnails Inn is on the B4077 road to Stow a few miles from Teddington Hands roundabout on the left. Postcode GL20 8NQ

### **31st July - Pat and Maggie - St Kenelm's Well**

From the opposite direction to the recent winter walk, and shortened. Meet at the gatehouse to Sudley Castle, 024279. Park in the nearby lane. Walk through the castle grounds, then uphill to St Kenelm's Well for a break. Continue uphill to join the Winchcombe Way going steeply downhill back to Winchcombe. No stiles. 4 miles.

### **7th August - Gill and Roger - Elmley Castle**

Our August walk starts at the picnic and parking area opposite the cricket club at Elmley Castle. 4miles, two hours, mainly flat, some road walking, a few stiles,.....quite easy.

### **14th August - Ray - Bredon/Kemerton/Overbury**

The last walk of 2023 followed perhaps by a drink to mark the occasion. Meet at Eckington Road playing field car park, Bredon. We walk to the south of Kemerton Rd, cross at Kemerton or Overbury, and return to the north of Kemerton Road. A flat walk on pavements and footpaths.



## Jack to Play for England

It is with great pleasure and a lot of pride that Bredon Bowling Club announces that Jack Pullin has been picked to play for England in the World Bowls Championship Finals on Australia's Gold Coast between 29 August and 10 September. Jack received his first England Cap last year in the Home Internationals, and all members at Bredon Bowling Club wish him every success.

In addition to this, SportsAid (a national charity dedicated to helping talented athletes to achieve their ambitions) have awarded Jack and another Young England player, Nicole Rogers, £1000 to help support them with the cost of competing and training for the World Championships. Former recipients of SportsAid include Sir Chris Hoy, Dame Laura Kenny, David Weir CBE, Sir Mo Farah and Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill.



Finally – during a recent downpour at the club, it appears that Jacko can actually walk on water!

Other news – coaching continues on Monday evenings from 6.00 until 8.00 pm, and on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00 until 4.00 pm. Do come along if you're interested in joining a friendly local club where all ages and abilities are welcome. Just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes as everything else is provided. Our coaches will be delighted to see you. For any further information, please look at our website, [www.bredonbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.bredonbowlingclub.co.uk), or contact our Secretary, Ian Day, on 07587 168789.

Ann Bruckshaw

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Our June meeting was a members only meeting as it was our Annual Meeting. To make a change from having a written report read out to our members, Barbara had prepared a PowerPoint slide show recording many of our meetings and extra-curricular activities. This method of giving a report not only was very enjoyable but also clearly showed what an active WI we are.

The June coffee morning was held at the Anchor. We started off sitting outside but as it was so hot we went indoors in the cool to enjoy our drinks and cake and a catch up on each others news.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June many of our members met for a delicious lunch at Revills Farm Shop. We then visited Showborough House Sculpture Trail at Twynning. This is a beautiful private garden that the owners open to the public about five weeks each year displaying dozens of various types of sculptures created by many different artists. We ended our day sitting in the shade in the garden having drinks and cake and of course a good natter about the wonderful garden and amazing sculptures we had just seen.



The title of our July meeting is 'Fakes and Fortunes' where we will be told stories by Chris O'Grady of amazing finds of money made and of money lost. This will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**, visitors welcome - £4 admission includes refreshments.

Our next coffee morning is on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 11am at the Bell**, any ladies are welcome to join us for a coffee and a natter.

If you would like more information about any of the above or generally about WI, please email us at [eckingtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:eckingtonwi@gmail.com). You can also check us out on Facebook or visit our website: [eckingtonwi.weebly.com](http://eckingtonwi.weebly.com)



**Rotary**  
Club of Pershore



What a delight it was to see the streets and shops of Pershore displaying a variety of red, white and blue banners, balloons, flags, photos and much more to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. As sponsors of the shop window display competition, we want to congratulate all those who took part. Many businesses around the town produced amazing displays and the judges had some very difficult decisions to make. However, Lynne and her team at the Sugar Plum Tearooms in Broad Street were declared winners, with the 'One and Every' gift shop 2<sup>nd</sup> and Fladbury Flowers 3rd. Highly commended awards were given to the Acorns Hospice; Browns Home Hardware; K&J Mason & Daughters; Thai Legend Restaurant; Thomson & Banks, Solicitors and St Richard's Hospice. Our thanks go to everyone who took part and to our judges for giving up their time.



Pershore Rotary has supported St Richard's Hospice for many years and an opportunity arose recently for a visit and to see for ourselves the wide range of facilities now available. The hospice has a beautiful open space area called the Green Room, where patients, friends and the general public can meet for a coffee or lunch and support the hospice in the process. Well worth a visit.

Whether you support your own community or overseas, Pershore Rotary is here to help. If you can help us and want to know more, follow us on Facebook or check out our website at [www.pershorerotary.club](http://www.pershorerotary.club).

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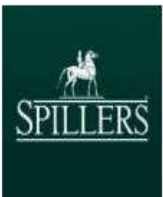
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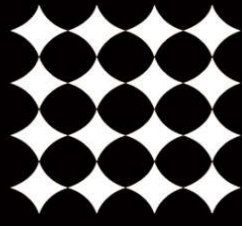
Emma, from Emerald Paper Design, will be hosting a beginner's guide to brush lettering.

During the session, key lettering basics will be covered – from how to use the kit to how to create letters before moving on to whole words. Emma will be giving demonstrations and individual guidance every step of the way.

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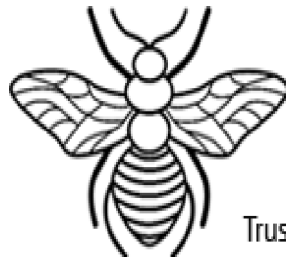
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## **Eckington Community Fields Consultation Full Update available at:**

[www.eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-Fields-](http://www.eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-Fields-)

**Q. What brief was given to the consultants who drew up the Community Fields proposals that were approved by the village? What was the brief based on? How many consultants were approached to tender and why were One Creative chosen?**

**A.** The brief for prospective consultants was put together by the Eckington Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group (ENPIG). Details/Decisions re Appointment of Consultants can be found on the EPC Website (Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - January 18th 2022 - Minute No. 22/07).

**Q. These are huge sums of money and I thought that much of the Spitfire money was being spent on the groundworks that is currently going on. Where is the money coming from?**

**A.** The initial costs quoted for all aspects of the community fields projects were prepared by a QS working for the parish council based on some very loose initial concepts/thoughts/ideas/sketches.

To put things in perspective the estimated costs for the work that's just in the process of being completed... landscaping and footpaths... were initially guesstimated to cost circa £500k. When the Contract Spec for the works was prepared that also resulted in a similar QS's estimate. In reality, contract bids received ranged from £160,000 up to £490,000. Following a standard contractor selection process EPC selected HFN to complete the works at just over £200k. The parish council has also been able to attract significant grant funding from Natural Networks of £85k, so in reality, the net cost of the current works is £115k (plus professional fees). Hence, the parish council is in the fortunate position of having more funds left over than originally anticipated, or even dreamt about. Due to the legal terms of the monies gifted to EPC as a result of planning being granted for the Spitfire Homes' site, the unused funds must still be used on Community Fields' projects included in the overall plan approved by the village. So we now know funds available, excluding all the other stuff we are doing, such as Solar Speed Signs, etc, that we will be able to commit somewhere in the order of £120k to get more work done. Even more could be available should we be able to match fund this with grants from elsewhere. So that leads on to some of the other questions raised, regarding the large sums projected to be spent on the other options. Only time will tell, but we're hoping that in reality, which ever option you select, the actual costs will be much lower than the original QS's estimated costs quoted in this consultation. We had thought about omitting the cost estimates, but hoped that by including them in the consultation they'd indicate a 'relative perspective' between the options...so please don't assume these will be the actual cost of doing those projects...actual costs will flow if/when the project(s) selected are tendered out for completion.

**Q. Do the costs include costs for getting planning permission, etc?**

**A.** Yes, Planning fees are included as separate Planning Applications will have to be submitted for each element of the plan. The costs also include Professional fees (e.g. QS, Architects, Legal, etc).

Some significant costs could be saved if there are any qualified persons in the village that could offer to volunteer to help deliver any of the selected projects in the future. Please let our Clerk know if you're able to help in this regard, at; [clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk)

**Q. Wasn't the idea of moving the play area so that children could access a play area without having to walk along the narrow bit of footpath on the main road?**

**A.** That was precisely the reason the PC included Play Equipment in the overall Community Fields plans that were subsequently approved by the village...safer access for Children via the New Road entrance.

**Q. Has the school been asked if they need/will need anything in future?**

**A.** Not as part of this project. However, the School will hopefully be getting a new Playing Field shortly, plus a new 12-space Staff Car Park, in accordance with the Eckington Neighbourhood Plan.

**Q. Why are we being asked if we want to allow dogs. In the original requests I believe a large number of villagers requested an area where dogs are allowed. I believed this was part of the original plan?**

**A.** In the original survey there were marginally more people against allowing dogs in to the site than there were supporters for dogs being allowed. The PC did consider including a closed-off area set-aside for dogs - this was costed out at £38k

## **Eckington Community Fields Consultation Contd..**

**Q. A dog field was originally included on the proposed scheme so why was it removed?**

**A.** At that time the PC was concerned about the monies required to complete the main Landscaping/ Footpaths referred to previously, so decided not to include the Dog-run at that point for cost reasons: The PC observed that there are lots of dog walks and public footpaths around the village anyway, so it was an easy choice to omit this part of the plan, preferring to spend the money for the benefit specifically of people. The Dog Run has not been ruled out completely, but based on experiences in other areas of the country the ongoing costs of cleaning up the area will need to be assessed very carefully to identify the likely impact on the annual Parish Precept. As it turned out, we did/do have enough money. The original consultation didn't offer up an option of 'Dogs on leads', albeit that a number of people in the original survey did suggest it. Hence us asking the question again.

**Q. Could we have a breakdown of what the costs are for the Garden of Reflection?**

**A.** As stated previously, it was a QS's estimate based on a Concept, so there is no breakdown unfortunately. If this transpires to be villagers' preferred next project, then proper detailed drawings/costings will have to be drawn up. However, the pleasing thing to note here, is that much of the ground works required for this part of the overall project have been put in while the landscaping works were being completed (i.e., Footpath, Seating, Circle of trees), so the costs of this option, we believe, are likely to be significantly less than the original 'concept' estimate.

**Q. Is it possible to get more information on what you mean by a Viewing Mound? We do have a massive one of those with Bredon Hill but I realise this isn't accessible to everyone. What sort of height and view? And, Will it be a large enough flat raised area for picnicking etc, for a number of people?**

**And, Is the mound supposed to be a type of amphitheatre to sit around to watch performances, like Eckstock? And, Why do we need a mound when it may cause privacy issues with people's gardens and what are people looking at?**

**A.** This has been included in the consultation as a 'Mound', as it was approved by the village as part of the overall plan consultation (it was referred to as 'Eckington View 'The Eckington View will be a striking landform that is positioned to provide views to both Malvern and Bredon Hill respectively. A pathway with an accessible gradient would allow for visitors to walk to the summit, which would allow an overview of the site. Stone retaining walls were proposed within the southern face of the mound, which could then make it usable as an amphitheatre, enabling the large open space south of the mound to be used for events or performances, overlooked by the mound and seating steps.

**Q. Surely the MUGA cannot be completed until the play area is relocated, and why do we need to do that when the play area is perfectly adequate?**

**A.** The Play Area is primarily for younger children. A MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is for all age groups.

**Q. Wouldn't the MUGA be best situated on the Rec, as this would keep all the village sports and children's play facilities in the same place which is a dog free area?**

**A.** The PC agrees (has always agreed) that a MUGA should be situated on the Recreation ground.. as a principle, EPC is looking to keep formal sports on the Rec; and informal sporting activities on the new Community Fields. We acknowledge that including it in the options for the Community Fields is a little misleading (apologies for that), but if the consultation shows this to be villagers' preferred choice in this consultation, then it will be put in the Rec.

**Q. I do believe sometimes you are not allowed to remove earth from a site as this would infringe bye laws and such (but I could be wrong!)?**

**A.** No earth has been removed from the site, although some of the soil dug out to create the pathways has been re-distributed to level some other areas on the site.

## **Eckington Community Fields Consultation Contd..**

**Q. I'm surprised the car park (i.e. Phase 2 of the original plan) isn't listed as a separate item. Might it be useful to support the rec, cemetery, church etc?**

**A.** The original car park was directly linked to the provision of the community building that is included in the overall approved plan. As the community building is unfundable at this point, the car park does not form part of EPC's current plans. Unfortunately a large car park might look attractive to 'large groups of people' looking for a spot to settle down in for a few weeks in the Summer!

**Q. Does the Brick Building have/could it have power and water? What size is it? Is it in a condition that it could be used for a commercial venture (e.g. Community cafe, Community workshop space)? Does it have outside space that could also be utilised?**

**A.** Yes, the PC would ensure there is separate metered power and water supplied to the building. There are two parts to the building. The front section looks like it was used for animal storage at some point. The walls are breeze block, so would probably need to be rendered (to make it aesthetically presentable); and almost certainly it needs a more substantial new roof (the current one is corrugated tin). The size of this section is approximately 8Mx3M. The rear section is a traditionally built red brick building with a more substantial roof. The size of this section is approximately 8Mx2M.

They are effectively two individual buildings sharing a party wall. Both need new doors and windows. Depending on the proposed use EPC would much rather consider spending money on the necessary renovations to make it usable, than demolish it! However, if there is no use for the building then from a safety perspective it may well make sense to demolish it. There is enough outside space immediately adjacent to the building that could easily be used by anyone using the building.

**Q. Shouldn't these questions be asked of all Eckington parish residents, and not just those that use Facebook, could the parish council please provide assurance that the consultation will be distributed via alternative methods? There will be many new residents who have moved into Eckington since the "Master plan", (presumably the "village plan") was created. Their opinions should also be heard?**

**A.** Comments/Suggestions/Ideas posted on FB will not be used to determine priorities. Anyone wishing to express their views/preferences needs to complete and return a completed form. These can be collected from, and returned to, the Village Shop where Sue and John have very kindly allowed EPC to place a locked box for collecting responses. Alternatively you can print off a copy from the EPC website, complete it and return it to shop, or scan your answers and return it to the Clerk by email. Only named/addressed comments will be considered (to ensure only Eckington voices are heard). All individuals in a household are encouraged to complete a form...This facility is going to be there for years to come, so it's vitally important that the young people in the village have as much say in shaping our future as the adults

**Q. Why not wait for 12 -24 months before committing these large amounts of money: And get the community grounds planted with paths, and then next year poll the village again?**

**A.** Unfortunately things don't happen overnight. The current project started three years ago, commencing with a consultation, and all the preparations, the legals, the contract letting, the delivery. The next phase will be no different, hence starting with this consultation. For clarity, all of the pathways have been installed as part of this first phase, so will be accessible once the Fields open in August.

### **THANK YOU.**

Thanks for all your questions, particularly the ones seeking clarity over the options.

Many thanks for your help and support.  
Tim Knight EPC Chair

# Eckington Directory

## Church

Vicar	Rev Allison Davies	01386 750203	eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com
Church Warden	Derek Potter	01386 750628	
Administrative Coordinator Bredon Hill Team	Alison Khan	07984 748059	acbhteam@gmail.com
Vicar in the Bredon Hill Group	Rev'd Katryn Lee	01386 710394	

## Council

Parish Council Chairman	Tim Knight	07810 572223	eckingtonpctimknight@gmail.com
Parish Council Clerk	Lynne Yapp	01386 552233	clerk@eckington-worcs-pc.gov.uk
District Council	Ron Davies	01386 750627	
County Council	Adrian Hardman	01684 773172	
<b>Eckington C.O.E. School</b>		01386 750666	eckingtonfirstschool.co.uk

Headteacher Sarah Roberts

Secretaries Jenny Smiles  
Lorna Gower

Caretaker Liz Crumpton 07794336696

Chair of Governors Ruth Kessell

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## Eckington Under-Fives

Chair Jo Stracey 07582 452024

Manager Donna Wilson 07582 452024

Babes & Toddlers Jo Stracey 07582 452024

Eckington Newsletter	Jenny Sheppard	07960975552	eckingtonmag@btinternet.com
Eckington Website	Neil Sheppard	07973820469	eckington.info
Village Hall Bookings	Cynthia Norton	01386 750860	
Rec Centre Bookings	Sarah Fincher	07954613959	

## Clubs

Eckington Cricket Club	Mr Ian Fincher	07778144422	
Book Club	Karen Sagar	07593260432	
Bell Ringers	Tony Cox	01386 750654	tony.cocks@anthony-simon.com
RBL Pershore	Phil Sagar	07447 907862	President of Pershore Branch
RBL Pershore	Simon Dudfield	07929234898	Chairman of Pershore Branch

## Organisations

Scouts & Guides	Karen Faizey	07729622345	
W.I.	Jenny Doyle	01386 750887	President
W.I.	Barbara Evans	01386 750005	Secretary

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P&D Country Stores	01684 772912	panddengineering.com
Stuart Huntley Aerial Services	01386 553151	
Three Counties Chimney Sweep	01684 891005	threecountieschimneysweep.co.uk
Tower Scaffolding	01386 750860	
Wills Scrap Metal Recycling	07935478231	willsscrapmetalrecycling.co.uk



## Pre-school

Daily sessions for children aged 2-4 years  
Funded places available

Warm welcoming pre-school, with an emphasis on outdoor learning and natural resources

Encouraging creativity, curiosity and thinking skills

## Baby & Toddler Play & Stay

Tuesday 10:00-11.30am  
£3 per family

Singing, music and movement activities

Sensory play activities

Light refreshments for adults and children

## Forest School

Tuesday morning 9am-12pm for children aged 2-4 years

Tree climbing, cooking on camp fires, den building, ropes and pulleys, natural craft activities, using tools and more!

**INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING THROUGH PLAY**

Please call **07582 452024**

or email [underfives24@outlook.com](mailto:underfives24@outlook.com) for more info

The Recreation Centre, Pershore Road, Eckington, WR10 3AJ

Registered charity number: 700305