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# East Garston Annual Parish Newsletter 2019

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This information was compiled in March 2019 using information provided by the organisations themselves. This document will not be updated but will be replaced by a new one in the spring of 2020.

For information about the organisations' current activities and events please contact those mentioned at the head of each entry. The email addresses and weblinks in this document are clickable.

Further information about these groups – and other matters of interest to residents – will also be given publicity in Village Views, East Garston News, 4 Legs Radio and Penny Post: please see the relevant entries for how to submit information to or subscribe to these.

# Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

**A**fter a certain amount of internal discussion we have resurrected the annual newsletter, for those of us who feel the printed word can record the history of village events far more effectively than any computer. Thanks to *Penny Post* for pulling this together. For those of you who prefer (or tolerate) the digital medium, this newsletter will also be available online on the East Garston website and *Penny Post* (details below).

Speeding is still a major concern to people in the village. Parish Councillor David Ruse has taken it under his wing and, with help, regularly performs speed checks up on the main road. He has also persuaded the police to take an interest – so you have been warned! Gates have recently been erected at either end of the village to convince drivers that they are entering a built-up area.

Another concern is car parking for Hillside residents. Whilst this has been a problem for some time, the Parish Council has, after talking to several residents, taken steps to understand the potential cost of such a project.

Due to last autumn's clean-up day being so successful, the council assumed that you would like a spring one as well – this duly took place on 30 March.

We now have salt bins in most areas of the village. The salt is for you, the residents. If you see somebody filling their car boot up from the bin, they are probably stealing it and you have every right to tell them it's not theirs.

There are also dog-waste bins in several places. Please use them when walking your dog – it is so much more pleasant to walk where there are no dog faeces.

Some of you will have noticed the outdoor gym equipment in the Jubilee Meadow. Yes – the Parish Council *does* care about your health. We would like to see more people using it. Each machine is fairly self-

explanatory about usage. Although we came by it unintentionally, we have Thames Water to thank for the money to pay for it as a result of the unfortunate sewage leak last year.

2018 saw the biannual music festival, Garstonbury, organised and hosted by Freddie and Sue Tulloch. Although not organised by the Parish Council, it is a great day for the village, particularly with two local groups performing.

The major public event this year is the Village Fete on Sunday 31 August. More details on this will be available nearer the time (see also the East Garston Amenities section below).

Well done to the East Garston Allotment Association for putting on a great event and sale last year – this show is proving to be very popular and enjoyable.

Another piece of good news is the preparation for the old village shop to be re-opened as a café, also serving light meals. Local resident Ruth Jordan has taken this on and we wish her all the very best of luck with this enterprise.

As most of you will already know, Alan Breadmore is retiring from his post as Parish Clerk this year. I hasten to add this is not a well-paid job – it requires somebody, preferably a local resident who would like to offer their time and commitment to running the ‘office’ part of the Parish Council. We are actively seeking somebody interested in this post. If you are interested, please contact a Councillor. If you need more information, Alan is happy to talk to anybody about the amount and nature of the work involved.

I and my fellow Councillors would like to thank Alan most sincerely for the long hours and dedication he has put into this post. He has held us on the straight and narrow for the last eleven years and for this we are most grateful.

I would like to thank the usual suspects who have given labour and time to the village upkeep. They include Dave Knight, David Taylor, Trevor Butcher, Richard Talmage and Chris Tonge.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors, and Alan, who have all given due care and attention to village matters.

For information about the activities of the Parish Council and life in and around the village, East Garston is singularly blessed.

Information about the Council can be found by visiting East Garston's excellent website at [www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk)

In addition, the Parish Council produces on behalf of *Penny Post* an e-newsletter (sent out about every six weeks), *East Garston News*, one of the best of its kind in the area. If you wish to subscribe to this, please email [penny@pennypost.org.uk](mailto:penny@pennypost.org.uk). If you wish to comment on anything in *EGN* or submit anything for publication, please contact [eastgarstonpc@gmail.com](mailto:eastgarstonpc@gmail.com).

*Penny Post* (see also below) publishes a monthly e-newsletter for the Valley of the Racehorse and a weekly e-newsletter for the wider area.

*Village Views* (see also below) publishes a monthly magazine covering Lambourn, Eastbury, Lambourn Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary as well as East Garston.

I would now like to hand over the remainder of this newsletter to the various organisations which help make East Garston such a delightful place to live. Our thanks to them all for their energy and enthusiasm over the last 12 months. The Parish Council wishes them, and any other organisations which may emerge, every success for the future.

### **Jonathan Rabbitts**

Chairman

East Garston Parish Council

01488 648736

## **East Garston Amenities**

Contact: Freddie Tulloch

Email: [freddie@ftulloch.com](mailto:freddie@ftulloch.com)

Tel: 01488 649590

The objectives of EGA are to support the East Garston Parish community and to orchestrate a variety of different events during the year that raise valuable funds to be used on community projects.

The big one for us is the Village Fete, which in recent years has been blessed by the weather (this will be on Saturday, 31 August in 2019). The fete is great at bringing the village together. For some it was a time to relax: looking at the different stands, plenty to eat and drink, the raffle and of course and of course the Garston Gallopers. For others it was all about taking part, whether it was the children's races, fancy dress, dog show, egg catching or in the produce tent. Competition is always fierce but with plenty of prizes on offer most people go home feeling like a winner.

Other highlights include the annual Christmas Fun Run, the Golf and Bridge Championships as well theatre trips to the theatre – this year we are going to *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Watermill on Thursday, 20 June.

We encourage those within the village to come to us with their ideas as EGA is always looking for new projects, outings or events that continue to give something for everyone.

Through the year EGA supports a number of East Garston projects (the over 60s Christmas lunch and Bonfire Night, for example) and helps with the maintenance of the village and its landmarks.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved with the EGA or take part in any of its activities, if you have your own ideas for an event or if you think that there is a worthy cause in the community that requires funds.

## **All Saints Church**

Bob Briant; bobbriant196@gmail.com; 01488 648646

Dawn Tonge; dawnmarytonge@gmail.com; 01488 648370

Karen Sperrey; karen@kado.cloud; 01488 648365

The worship is central Anglican (Church of England) and the parish, together with those of Eastbury and Lambourn, forms the Benefice of the Lambourn Valley, with the Vicar based in Lambourn.

Sung Holy Communion services are currently at 9.00am on the second and fourth Sundays each month. When there is a fifth Sunday, the Holy Communion service rotates around the three churches and the singing is led by the Lambourn church choir. There are occasional Choral Evensong services at 6.30pm, also rotating. Special family services, such as the Mothering Sunday service and Harvest Festival, are normally held at 12 noon.

The church is mostly kept locked but if anyone wishes to have access please ring Bob or Dawn who will be pleased to unlock it. The PCC has endeavoured to ensure that the church is seen to be part of the community and has provided a refreshment marquee at village events such as the village fete, the Garstonbury music festival and the local charity Bluebell Walk. Another successful community activity organised by the church in the summer is a Safari Supper.

The church has traditionally organised the Remembrance commemoration for the village. In 2018, this was coupled with an extremely successful WWI Exhibition in the church organised by East Garston's Local Historical Society.

The church has encouraged young musicians with groups performing at services on Mothering Sunday, at Harvest Festival and Christmas Day.

The church aims to continue to be a place of welcome for worship and for our fellowship to be inclusive with mutual love and acceptance, to nurture existing congregations while providing activities to engage with young people and to be at the heart of village life.

## **Garston Gallopers**

Contact: Jackie Breadmore

Emails: [squire@garstongallopers.co.uk](mailto:squire@garstongallopers.co.uk) (membership)  
[bagman@garstongallopers.co.uk](mailto:bagman@garstongallopers.co.uk) (bookings)

Web: [www.garstongallopers.co.uk](http://www.garstongallopers.co.uk)

Garston Gallopers is your local Morris dancing side, meeting in East Garston Village Hall most Mondays from 8.00 to 9:30pm. For those of you familiar with Morris styles, most of our dances are Cotswold, with a few Border-style dances. We use short sticks, long sticks or hankies and wear the village colours of green and purple.

We always welcome new dancers (male and female) so drop into one of our practices if you would like to have a go. It's good fun and an excellent way of keeping fit. The Social Club bar is open for much-needed refreshment.

Most of our dancing is done outdoors during the summer months, performing at fetes, parties, weddings and at Days of Dance at the invitation of other Morris sides. We have also entertained social groups such as the WI and local schools.

Highlights in 2018 were a wedding at Speen Church, dancing in Victoria Park for Newbury Family Day and supporting the Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge in Kintbury with our own dancing Pudsey Bear.

2019 is the 10th anniversary of our group's formation and we already have a busy season planned. We shall be attending a number of local village fetes (including East Garston's) and we also look forward to meeting up with other Morris sides to dance in the summer evenings at favourite pubs.

In July we shall be travelling to Ilfracombe for 'All Things Morris' and in August we shall again be dancing at the top of White Horse Hill with other sides when Icknield Morris celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Our contact details are above. You can also follow us on Facebook and on Twitter.

## **East Garston Local History Society**

Contact: Karen Sperrey  
Email: karen@kado.cloud  
Tel: 01488 648365

The aims of the Society are to organise talks and events about local history, to arrange visits to places of historical interest; to support local historical initiatives; and to respond to requests for information about local people and places from the past.

The main recent activity was the collating and arranging a wide range of items and documents for an exhibition of WWI memorabilia in commemoration of the centenary of the end of the war.

Since the illness of founding Chairman; the late Jonathan Haw, the Society was fairly quiet until above-mentioned exhibition. This was well supported by the village, has sparked a renewed interest.

The main aims in 2019 are to form a new committee of interested individuals and arrange at least one talk this year.

## **Lambourn Valley Foodbank**

Contact: Trevor Butcher  
Tel: 01488 649582  
Web: [westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://westberks.foodbank.org.uk)

Working in association with West Berks Foodbank and The Trussell Trust, the Lambourn Valley Foodbank was set up in 2012 by the places of worship in Lambourn, Eastbury and East Garston.

Its aim is to help families and individuals in need of short-term support to get them through a difficult period in their lives. We provide food parcels with a minimum of three days' non-perishable tinned and dried food that has been donated by people in our local community. These parcels are provided against vouchers issued by care professionals. The Foodbank can also provide additional support to help people address the underlying cause of their situation

During the last 12 months, the residents of East Garston have kindly donated 570kgs of food which has been taken to the Lambourn distribution centre.

We have two collection points in the village: All Saints Church (all day Saturday or during services, collection box in the porch); and Swanston in Station Road (collection box next to the front door).

### **East Garston Bellringers**

Contact: Mark Brock

Email: [mark@markbrock.uk](mailto:mark@markbrock.uk)

Tel: 01488 648373

The bells at All Saints Church are rung for regular services and occasions such as weddings and funerals. More recently there has been commemorative ringing for the men from the village who lost their lives in WWI.

The current band of ringers was established in 1998 and we have welcomed new members since then as others have left the village. There are six bells, some dating back nearly 400 years, mounted in a wooden frame: the heaviest weighs 17cwt (850kg).

Practices are normally at neighbouring towers to get a good mix of abilities. We welcome any new members, either ringers new to the village or anyone wishing to learn.

### **East Garston Over 60 Coffee Club**

Jackie Breadmore: 01488 648851

Dave Knight: 01488 648472

Val Montgomery: 01488 648506

Bonnie Pounds: 01488 648242

The Club meets at 10:30 am on the last Friday of each month at the Friends' Meeting House. Members will be informed in advance of any deviation from this arrangement.

The committee comprises the four above-named people.

Our aim is a very simple one: to provide the opportunity for villagers in our age group to enjoy each other's company in pleasant surroundings and on a regular basis. Newcomers to the village are welcome in the belief that membership, which is free, smooths integration into village life. Over recent years we have organised the MacMillan Coffee Mornings held in September. Last year a record sum of £1,015 was raised.

Some events on this year's programme have yet to be finalised but those already arranged include lunch at the Queens Arms in May, the customary skittles and tea in June, MacMillans Coffee Morning in September and a trip to the Watermill Theatre in November to see *The Prince and the Pauper*.

### **East Garston Table Tennis Club**

Contact: Peter Baldock

Email: peter@douglas.co.uk

The Club organises weekly table tennis sessions (with two tables) every Thursday from 6.30pm to 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Two of our youngest players have reached league standard. The Club aims to provide exercise, a laugh and encouragement for people of all ages, in particular children.

### **East Garston Quakers**

Contact: Penny Locke

Email: pennylocke64@gmail.com

Tel: 01488 648534

Quaker Meetings are 11.00am to 12.00pm every Sunday in the Friends' Meeting House. There is no programme or leader: anyone who feels called to speak may do so, but often Meetings are largely silent.

After Meeting we have coffee and biscuits and a general chat for half an

hour or so at which all are welcome if you want to meet us informally.

Currently, there are no children in our Meeting but they are very welcome. We have a separate room where children can go under supervision so they don't have to attend the whole Meeting.

During the past year we have supported the Action Through Enterprise Charity that works in the very poor region of Upper West Ghana and Knit for Peace that encourages knitters to make clothes and blankets for people in need around the world. If anyone would like to knit squares that can be sewn into blankets we can provide wool that has been donated to us. The Friendship Group of knitters in Lambourn has been very kind with their donations. We also make twiddlemuffs for dementia patients.

This year we have also started to make eco-bricks, plastic bottles stuffed full of cut-up plastic so that are heavy and strong enough to be used as building bricks. We currently hold eco-brick making sessions 12.30 to 2.00pm on the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

The Meeting House is available for hire and includes a kitchenette with kettle, sink and crockery for making hot drinks, two toilets and a pleasant garden. There is wheelchair access to the Meeting room but no accessible toilet.

## **East Garston Allotment Association**

Contact: Martyn Wright

Email: [martyn-wright@lineone.net](mailto:martyn-wright@lineone.net)

Tel: 07973 953993

EGAA is an association for members who share an interest in horticulture and enjoy growing their own. Established in 2009, it leases land on the outskirts of the village and provides a number of plots for its members to grow a wide variety of crops. The main interest is in vegetables and fruit, but flowers also have a strong following, and there are even two small vineyards.

EGAA hosts an annual Flower and Produce Show, which is open to

all for entries, and which grows in popularity each year. Despite the difficult growing season with a very wet spring followed by prolonged drought, the members managed to grow some impressive crops last year, many of which were on display at the show.

Apart from growing more tasty and beautiful produce, the main objective for this year is to hold another successful Flower and Produce Show for East Garston and surrounding villages. In 2019 the show will celebrate its 10th anniversary and will be held in conjunction with East Garston Village Fete.

Currently, EGAA has a full membership with no vacant plots but please contact us if you want to have your name put on the waiting list.

### **Valley Film Society**

Contact: Penny Locke

Email: [info@valleyfilmsociety.org](mailto:info@valleyfilmsociety.org)

Tel: 01488 648534

Web: [valleyfilmsociety.org](http://valleyfilmsociety.org)

The Valley Film Society is based in East Garston. We show films across a wide range of genres, including foreign subtitled, black-and-white classics as well as British independents. After many successful years, we are now in our fourteenth season.

Films are shown in the Village Hall, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, with doors open from 7pm. Orders are taken for food to be delivered during the interval. We have a wide screen with HDMI, digital 5.1 surround sound, Blu-ray/DVD, raised seating and a convivial atmosphere. There is disabled access.

Membership for Season Fourteen (2018/19), consisting of up to 10 films, costs £32. You can join at any film showing or online via our website. Guests pay £6 per film.

Our mission is to show films that you may not choose for yourself, or which you may never heard of before, but which you will find interesting and be pleased to have watched. To help ensure that this

happens, the film selection process requires that some committee members watch every film in advance, and not just depend on ratings or reviews. In addition, at the end of each film we ask the audience to rate the film anonymously. We also aim to show a children's film each season, usually on a weekend afternoon. Our aim is to continue to show a varied range of films.

## **East Garston Social Club and Village Hall**

### *Village Hall:*

Contact: Ed James

Email: [edjames@sportingagenda.co.uk](mailto:edjames@sportingagenda.co.uk)

Tels: 01488 649770 or 07802 886307

### *Social Club:*

Contact: Raymond Baker

Email: [ray.douglasinstruments@gmail.com](mailto:ray.douglasinstruments@gmail.com)

Tel: 07990 672395

The Social Club is open on Friday and Saturday nights and on occasional evenings through the week when teams are playing at home.

There is a wide selection of drinks available including draught beers, lager and Guinness and wine from our wine merchant Haynes, Hanson & Clark. The club has a wide-screen TV, a darts board, pool table, a full-size snooker table and an outside terrace for the summer months.

The Village Hall is available to rent for all your private and corporate events. The venue has been recently refurbished. Facilities include the bar, the kitchen, a new cooker, cutlery and crockery, tables and chairs, dishwasher, staging and even a skittles alley.

The Village Hall is currently regularly used for yoga and pilates classes, the Table Tennis Club, the Garston Gallopers, the Valley Film Society and local billiards, pool and cribbage leagues.

Over the next 12 months or so various building works will take place, including repairing the roof of the hall and realigning and refurbishing the games room. The old shop next-door is to be turned into a café.

## **Village Views**

Contact: Dawn Tonge

Email: dawnmarytonge@gmail.com

Tel: 01488 648370

*Village Views* is a monthly magazine, distributed to nearly 1,000 households by volunteers. It is also sold in local shops. Issues are shared with friends and families all over the world. Copies cost 40p each, or £4 for an annual subscription. The purpose of *Village Views* is to inform and embrace the church and civic communities of the Lambourn Valley Benefice.

*Village Views* supports local organisations and businesses and publishes a wide range of articles on many topics, written by local contributors. It aims to continue to provide an informative, entertaining and accessible magazine to the Valley's villages – and beyond.

## **Penny Post**

Contacts: Penny Locke; Brian Quinn

Emails: penny@pennypost.org.uk; brian@pennypost.org.uk

Tels: 07768 981658; 01488 648110

Web: pennypost.org.uk

*Penny Post* is run by long-time East Garston resident Penny Locke and her husband Brian Quinn and provides information on almost every aspect of life across West Berkshire and the surrounding areas. This is accomplished through a website; a weekly area-wide e-newsletter; a monthly e-newsletter covering the Valley of the Racehorse; social media; and its weekly programme on 4 Legs Radio. *Penny Post* currently has about 4,000 subscribers overall and about 900 in the Valley.

*Penny Post's* aim has always been to emphasise the positives and to avoid sensationalism. Where there is a problem, it tries to suggest what can be done to improve the situation. In addition to promoting local businesses, *Penny Post* has always been supportive of the many charitable and voluntary groups in the area as well as of campaigns

on subjects including pollution, plastic use, speeding and the effects of council cuts.

*Penny Post's* extensive coverage also includes news, humour, event listings, recruitment adverts, seasonal recipes, courses and classes, items and properties for sale and competitions. Contributions of all kinds are welcomed – see contact details above.

## **4 Legs Community Radio for the Lambourn Valley**

Contact: Chris Capel

Email: [studio@4legsradio.org.uk](mailto:studio@4legsradio.org.uk)

Tel: 07834 893251

Web: [4legsradio.org.uk](http://4legsradio.org.uk)

4 Legs Community Radio, which first broadcast in April 2018, is an internet radio station providing a community-based radio service for people located in the Lambourn Valley. It provides local community news, events information and items of interest; promotion of local businesses and charitable, social, sporting and support groups; interviews with a wide range of guests; stimulating conversations and interviews; and great music.

Over the past year, the average 'Listen Live' listeners per week have been between 50 and 220+. Average 'Listen Again' listeners per week between 80 and 300+. The number of broadcast hours and presenters has increased and regular monthly slots on topics such as IT and pet care have been introduced..

4 Legs has involved children by launching writing and photographic competitions and recorded programmes from primary schools

Plans for the next 12 months or so include e-vamping the website, registering 4 Legs Radio as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or similar, obtaining donations and/or sponsorship for either each individual programme or the entire radio station; finding larger premises; increasing community feedback; and further extending broadcasting hours.

# East Garston

*has an enviable location in wildest West Berkshire.  
It is a long, narrow parish of nearly 4,500  
acres in the far west of the county.*

*It is bordered by the parish of Lambourn to the west;  
by Letcombe Bassett (Vale of White Horse) to the north;  
by Fawley to the north and the northeast;  
by Great Shefford to the east;  
and by Kintbury and Hungerford to the south.*

*The village is located in the centre of the parish, in the  
valley of the river Lambourn. This winterbourne is fed  
from underground chalk aquifers and generally  
flows from the new year to the autumn.*

*The parish has approximately 240 dwellings and a  
population of 550. The village itself sits just to the  
north of the unclassified road that runs from  
Great Shefford along the valley to Lambourn.*

*Although the Parish is mainly a residential area, there are  
several small firms, a number of farms and racehorse  
training stables and an agricultural machinery  
business. Racing is the primary industry  
in the valley which has developed due  
to the ideal training conditions on  
the surrounding chalk downs.*

For more information on East Garston visit [www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk)