

We look forward  
to seeing you at the  
East Garston Annual  
Parish Meeting:  
6.30pm for 7pm on  
Thursday 10 April in  
the Village Hall.

# East Garston Annual Parish Newsletter 2025

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This information was compiled in March 2025 using information provided by the organisations.

For information about the organisations' current activities and events, please see the contact details at the head of each entry.

Further information about these groups - and other matters of interest to residents - is publicised in *Village Views*, *East Garston News*, 4 LEGS Radio and *Penny Post*: see the relevant entries for how to submit information to or subscribe to these.

# Parish Council Chair's Annual Report

THE PARISH COUNCIL team has changed slightly over the last year. Councillor Peter Smith has moved out of the village and the Clerk, Gillian Woodward, has retired. Huge thanks to them both for their dedication and hard work over the last few years.

We are delighted to welcome a new councillor, Stephen Reschwamm, and new Clerk, Liz James. They are both already proving to be a great asset to the team.

Thanks also to Lee Michigan, who continues in his role as editor of *East Garston News*; and Henry Wilson who manages the East Garston website. If you have any content for either of these please contact Lee or Henry directly on [eastgarstonnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastgarstonnews@gmail.com) or [news@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:news@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk) respectively. It's great to have a photographic record of events in the village so please do send any photos to Henry to include.

The Parish Council has continued to support local services such as the Lambourn Library and the Village Hall's broadband.

We have had to replace the defibrillator (on the wall of the Village Hall) and we would like to thank Alan Breadmore for ensuring that this is maintained and ready should it ever be needed.

We also funded repairs to the base of the War Memorial. We have added some more rubber chippings to the children's play area in Jubilee Meadow. There is also a fundraising effort to replace the toddlers equipment which the Parish Council has contributed to.

Thames Water still has some work to do restoring the Millennium Field which should be completed in the spring.

Last summer, the village hosted a Band Night and Fete. Both events proved extremely popular and raised funds for the Village Hall and East Garston Amenities. Thanks to everyone involved for organising such popular and fun community events.

Thankfully we haven't experienced any major sewage or flooding issues this winter and thus far it seems as if the work carried out by Thames Water last summer seems to have helped. A full report from Martyn Wright regarding the work of SAGLUV and Thames Water can be found

later in this newsletter. The Parish Council wants to thank Martyn and his team for their time and commitment which should help prevent future problems.

The Parish Council's costs have once again risen slightly over the last year: however, we have decided not to increase the precept. We are conscious of the increase in cost of living and are doing everything we can to provide the services which are important at minimal cost.

The Parish Council is lucky to have such an enthusiastic team of volunteers who help around the village and this enables us to keep the costs down as much as we can. Much work – ranging from tidying up public areas to filling grit bins – is done by volunteers and councillors. This largely goes unnoticed but is hugely appreciated.

In particular, thanks to Chris Tonge, Trevor Butcher, Richard Talmage and Dave Knight. Thanks also to Karen Hack and her team of volunteers who look after the churchyard.

Should anyone be interested in helping out with the various village chores, please contact us.

Finally, thanks to everyone who keeps the verges in front of their homes tidy which so much improves the look of our village.

East Garston Parish Council welcomes any comments or ideas from parishioners on any village matters and to this end you can find all our contact details below.

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 go to them for all their energy and enthusiasm. The Parish Council wishes them and any other organisations which may emerge every success for the future.

Finally, thanks to *Penny Post* for producing this newsletter and for once again keeping the price the same as last year – much appreciated!

**Deana Carpenter**  
**Chair**  
**East Garston Parish Council**

## Parish Council Contacts

Below is a list of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk and their contact details (as of March 2025). Any changes will be reflected on the Parish Council's website at [eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://eastgarston-pc.gov.uk).

You will also be able to find information there about the Parish Council's various activities, including the agendas and minutes of its meetings (which all residents are welcome to attend).

Deana Carpenter (Chair)	01488 648 308
Annabelle Eyre	01488 648 238
Jonathan Rabbitts	01488 648 736
Liam Robson	01488 648 434
Stephen Reschwamm	07579 796 010
Sue Tulloch	07879 421 157
Liz James (Clerk)	<a href="mailto:eastgarstonpc@gmail.com">eastgarstonpc@gmail.com</a>

## Local information

- Information about the Parish Council can be found by visiting East Garston's excellent website at [www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk).
- About once a month, the Parish Council publishes on behalf of *Penny Post* an e-newsletter, *East Garston News*. To subscribe, email [penny@pennypost.org.uk](mailto:penny@pennypost.org.uk). If you wish to comment on anything in EGN or submit material for publication, contact [eastgarstonpc@gmail.com](mailto:eastgarstonpc@gmail.com).
- *Penny Post* (see also below) publishes a monthly e-newsletter for the upper Lambourn Valley and a weekly e-newsletter for the wider area.
- *Village Views* (see also below) publishes a monthly magazine covering East Garston, Eastbury, Lambourn and Woodlands.
- *4 LEGS Radio* (see also below) broadcasts shows covering the Lambourn Valley, currently on Fridays and Saturdays.

## • **East Garston Amenities**

Contact: *Freddie Tulloch*  
Email: *freddie@ftulloch.com*  
Tel: *07770 605 879*

The objective of EGA is to support the East Garston parish community, to organise a variety of different events during the year and to raise valuable funds to be used on community projects.

Events this year include a VE day celebration with bell-ringing and the lighting of our beacon (Thursday 8 May), followed by a car boot sale on Monday 26 May. There is a trip to see *Bodyguard* at the Oxford Theatre later in the year.

There is no fete in 2025 but hopefully the parish will gather at Garstonbury (Saturday 12 July).

Other highlights include the Christmas fun run and the over-60s Christmas Lunch. The EGA also continues to help with the maintenance of the village and its landmarks.

Anyone in the village is encouraged 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.

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

## • **East Garston Allotment Association**

Contact: *Maria Carver*  
Email: *maria.carver@btinternet.com*  
Tel: *07771 684 817*

The East Garston Allotment Association is a group for members who share an interest in horticulture and growing their own. Established in 2009, it leases land in a beautiful spot 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 – there are even two small vineyards – but flowers also have a strong following.

EGAA hosts an annual Flower and Produce Show, which is open to all for entries and which grows in popularity each year. This year the Show will be held on Sunday 10 August so start sowing and planting now! This year there will be a new children's entry which will encourage children to sow and design a container garden. More details will be available soon.

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 as potentially we may have a plot available by January 2026.

## • **East Garston Bellringers**

Contact: *Maureen Velvick*

Tel: *01488 648 294 or 07775 731 732*

Email: *maureen.velvick@outlook.com*

There is a ring of six bells in All Saints' Church, East Garston, some dating back nearly 400 years. The heaviest weighs 13cwt (646.4kg).

Our recently restored bells are proving very popular, not only locally but by bellringers from across the district and beyond. We are happily accepting visiting bands and you may hear them ring out across the village. Bellringing is a sociable hobby as well as a service to the local community and we ring for regular services and events such as weddings and funerals but also commemorate and celebrate country-wide events.

We hold regular practices on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm and are always looking for new ringers to join our band. So whether you are a lapsed ringer who wants to come out of retirement, or have never rung before but fancy learning, why not give it a go? You will be very welcome.

For more information, please contact Maureen Velvick (details above) or speak to Nigel or Rebecca Gay, Sarah Montgomery, George Rabbitts, Hilary Re'em or Christopher Vaughan.

## • **Lambourn Valley Foodbank**

Contact: *Trevor Butcher*  
Tel: 01488 649 582  
Email: *trevorandjanetbutcher@gmail.com*  
Web: *westberks.foodbank.org.uk*

The Lambourn Valley Foodbank was set up in 2012 by the places of worship in Lambourn, Eastbury and East Garston, in association with The Trussell Trust. Now under the heading of West Berks Foodbank, it continues to support the people in our valley.

It aims to help those in need of short-term support, providing food parcels with a minimum of seven days' non-perishable food donated by local people. These 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, residents of East Garston have donated 942kgs of food. We have three village collection points: All Saints (collection box in the porch during services); Swanston in Station Road (box next to front door); and outside Priscilla's Kitchen (when open).

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

Contact: *Ed James (Village Hall)*  
Email: *edjames@sportingagenda.co.uk*  
Tel: 01488 649 770 or 07802 886 307

Contact: *Raymond Baker (Social Club)*  
Email: *ray.douglasinstruments@gmail.com*  
Tel: 07990 672 395

The Social Club is open on Friday and Saturday nights and on some evenings during the week when teams are playing at home. There is a wide selection of refreshments available including draught beers, wine, lager, Guinness and soft drinks. The club has a wide-screen TV, a darts board, a pool table, a full-size snooker table and an outside terrace.

The Hall is available to rent for events. Facilities include the bar, the kitchen, a cooker, cutlery and crockery, tables and chairs, dishwasher, staging and a skittles alley. It is currently used for yoga and pilates classes, the Table Tennis Club, the Garston Gallopers, the Valley Film Society and local billiards, pool, darts and cribbage leagues.

## • **East Garston Over-60s Coffee Club**

*Contacts: Jackie Breadmore, 01488 648 851*

*Val Montgomery, 01488 648 506*

*Bonnie Pounds, 01488 648 242*

*Email: Jackie@breadmore.me.uk*

This meets from 10.30am to noon on the last Friday of the month in the Village Hall. The committee comprises the three above-named people.

Our purpose is to enable people of our age-group to meet for regular social interaction. Newcomers are welcome, often finding it helpful in integrating into village life. There's a small charge for refreshments and a monthly raffle.

We have a full programme of events planned for this year including a trip on the narrowboat Jubilee from Newbury Wharf, including buffet lunch and some interesting health-related talks.

## • **Garston Gallopers**

*Contact: Jackie Breadmore*

*Tel: 07867 583 383*

*Email: squire@garstongallopers.co.uk (membership)*

*bagman@garstongallopers.co.uk (bookings)*

*Web: www.garstongallopers.co.uk*

Garston Gallopers is your local Morris-dancing side, meeting in East Garston Village Hall on Mondays from 8.00 to 9.30pm. 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 welcome new dancers, male and female, so drop in to one of our practices if you would like to have a go (it's also a good way to keep fit). We'd

also love to hear from musicians interested in playing for us.

Most dancing is done outdoors during the summer months, performing outside pubs or at fetes, parties, weddings and folk festivals. We have also entertained social groups such as the WI, care homes and local schools.

We have another busy summer of dancing planned including participation in folk events in Oxford, Bradford on Avon and Wantage. We will be meeting up with other Morris sides to dance at local pubs and are excited to have been invited to dance at Jane Austen's Country Fair in Steventon.

## • **East Garston History Society**

Contact: Karen Sperrey  
Email: karen@pryer.cloud  
Tel: 07860 693 309

There are no regular meetings but talks are arranged when speakers can be found. Anyone with ideas for talks is encouraged to make contact.

## • **East Garston Flood & Pollution Forum**

Contact: Martyn Wright  
Email: martynwright345@btinternet.com  
Tel: 07973 953 993

The Lambourn Valley Flood Forum – with representatives from WBC, Thames Water, the EA and village flood wardens – addresses flood-related issues in the whole valley. However, to focus attention on matters that directly affect our village such as flood warnings, advice and sewage. The EGFPF was established as an email communication group.

As well as contributing to flood risk, high groundwater levels can also impact on Thames Water's sewerage network by infiltrating the old sewer pipes and flooding the system. Over the winter of 2023/24 we experienced untreated sewage discharges onto our streets and into the SSSI and SAC-protected River Lambourn. A number of properties suffered with some residents not being able to use ground floor loos and showers. This is clearly unacceptable.

To try to put an end to this, the Sewage Action Group for the Lambourn Upper Valley, (SAGLUV) was established in March 2024 with representatives for Eastbury, East Garston and Great Shefford, villages that all share the same sewer network. The group's objective is "Clear Sewers and a Clean River".

SAGLUV is not a protest group, but rather a pressure group that aims to develop an effective working relationship with TW through constructive dialogue to achieve focussed corrective action. TW has responded positively, and regular meetings have been held at TW director and regional operations levels.

A major programme of sewer re-lining and repair work was carried out in 2024 which has significantly alleviated network flooding. However, it has not completely solved the problem: recently more leaks have been found. SAGLUV will be pressurising TW to ensure the necessary remedial work is completed as soon as possible.

More information can be found on [www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk) (look under "The River & Environment") or [pennypost.org.uk](http://pennypost.org.uk).

## • **East Garston Eco Group**

Contact: Penny Locke or Pat Glover

Email: [ecoeastgarston@gmail.com](mailto:ecoeastgarston@gmail.com)

Tel: 07768 981 658

East Garston Eco Group was set up in 2022 to share practical information about reducing our impact on nature and climate. Since then we have:

- helped bring the mini-recycling centre to East Garston;
- planted a wildlife hedge on the Millennium Field;
- bought a thermal camera and home improvement books to lend out;
- supported East Garston Village Hall's energy-efficiency project, which includes solar panels, a hot-water diverter, and air-to-air heat pumps;
- held two very successful Green Weekends in the Lambourn Valley;
- set up a 40-strong WhatsApp group, and the Lambourn Valley Eco Community Facebook Group.

We recently became a member of West Berkshire Green Exchange to network with other local environmental groups, and are currently helping with GreenFest West Berkshire 2025. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved in any way.

## • **All Saints' Church**

*Churchwarden: Paul Tame; churchwarden.eastgarston@gmail.com; 01488 649 895*

*PCC Secretary: Lise Cox; lisecox@gmail.com; 01488 648 853*

*Rev Julie Mintern; revjulie.mintern@lambournvalley.org; 01488 208 467*

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

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Sung Holy Communion services are at 9am on the second and fourth Sundays. When there is a fifth Sunday, Holy Communion rotates around the three churches. There are also special family services such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Benefice Services.

The church is unlocked for private prayer on Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm. If anyone wishes to visit at other times, please ring Paul or Lise who may be available to arrange access.

The PCC endeavours to ensure the Church is seen as part of the community and provides a refreshment marquee at local events and organises the village's Remembrance commemoration. Karen Pryer organises the hugely popular Safari Supper.

Our Grade II\* Listed Church remains a "heritage at risk" due to the state of the tower. If you can help with fundraising, please contact Paul.

If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly *Pews News*, please email Julie to be added to the distribution list.

The Church aims to continue to be a place of welcome for worship and 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. We're always on the lookout for volunteers.

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

Contact: Daniel O'Neill  
Tel: 07391 137 146  
Email: [danieloneill403@gmail.com](mailto:danieloneill403@gmail.com)

The Club organises weekly table tennis sessions (with two tables) every Wednesday and Thursday from 6.30pm to 8.00pm in the Village Hall. It aims to provide exercise, a laugh and encouragement for people of all ages.

The first two sessions are free for newcomers, whereafter there's a charge of £1 per week. There's no charge for under-18s or the unwaged.

## • **East Garston Quakers**

Contact: Penny Locke; Chris Whichelo  
Email: [pennylocke64@gmail.com](mailto:pennylocke64@gmail.com); [cw0640@cwwhichelo.plus.com](mailto:cw0640@cwwhichelo.plus.com)  
Tel: 07768 981 658; 07792 499 974

Quaker Meetings are from 11am to noon every Sunday in the Friends' Meeting House. There is no programme or leader: anyone who feels called to speak may do so. After Meeting we have coffee and biscuits and a chat at which all are welcome you want to meet us informally.

We have an upright piano: if anyone would like to use it to perform to a small audience please contact us. We have a peaceful wildlife-friendly garden and grass labyrinth which residents are welcome to visit. We hold events including World Labyrinth Day on the first Saturday in May. If anyone would like to get involved in any of our activities, contact Penny or Chris.

Individual members contribute their time to various causes as part of their witness to Quaker ideals, ranging from environmental projects to volunteering at community events. We also collect food donations for Lambourn Junction and knitted squares to be made into blankets.

The Meeting House is available for hire and includes a kitchenette, crockery, toilets and a pleasant garden.

## • **L.O.FITT**

Contact: *Lisa O'Neill*  
Email: *lisaoneill7@outlook.com*  
Tel: *07789 361 924*

Circuit class (in the Village Hall in winter and the Jubilee Meadow when it's light enough) using body weight or equipment with lots of options to adapt exercises. Contact Lisa for details.

## • **Valley Film Society**

Contact: *James Pryer*  
Email: *info@valleyfilmsociety.org*  
Tel: *07791 991 658*  
Web: *valleyfilmsociety.org*

After many successful years, we are now in our nineteenth season of a varied range of films being shown in East Garston Village Hall, with a sociable atmosphere provided by the Social Club bar and a hot meal in the interval.

Films are usually on the first Tuesday of the month from October to June. You can pay £6 on the door or get a discount with Membership costing just £35 per season of nine films. You can join at any film showing or online via our website.

Each month we hold a matinee screening as well as the evening film. The matinee is at 2.30pm with doors opening at 2pm and tea and cake are available to buy before the film. The evening screening is at 7.30pm with the hall and bar open from 7pm. Meal orders are taken at the door to be delivered during the interval.

We also screen occasional children's films, usually at a weekend. We have a four-metre-wide screen, digital 5.1 surround-sound and disabled access.

## • **4LEGS Community Radio**

Contact: Chris Capel  
Email: [studio@4legsradio.org.uk](mailto:studio@4legsradio.org.uk)  
Tel: 07834 893 251  
Web: [4legsradio.org.uk](http://4legsradio.org.uk)

Now in its seventh year, 4 LEGS Community Radio continues to provide a valuable service to the Lambourn Valley community.

We broadcast on Fridays and Saturdays, covering a wide range of local topics and news, gardening tips, racing news, sport, interviews, home and professional advice, wildlife and cooking as well as great music from local presenters including ex-Radio One and Radio London DJ Pete Brady and ex-GWR DJ Andy Westgate.

4LEGS has continued to support local charities and promote local businesses and organisations by providing them with their own slots in the schedule. In return, many are providing much-needed funds to help with operational costs.

During the spring of 2025 we'll offer work experience to media students from Newbury College. This will be the fourth year we've done this and our hands-on approach has proved very successful and enjoyable for the students.

We would like to thank everyone who has made a donation on our Good Exchange application "Funding support for West Berkshire Community Radio Station". We're very pleased to report that as a result we have reached our target amount of £10,500.

4LEGS would love to hear from anyone interested in being part of the team either as a presenter, a researcher or to help with social media. You can listen live or listen again at any time via [4legsradio.org.uk](http://4legsradio.org.uk) and listen live via Alexa, Sonos and the Radio Garden app.

We will also be launching our very own app in the coming weeks which will give our listeners another option to listen to 4LEGS Radio via their mobile device.

## • Village Views

Contact: Joanne Rabbitts  
Email: [lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: 01488 648 736

*Village Views* is a monthly printed magazine, distributed to nearly 1,000 households throughout the Lambourn Valley and shared with friends and families all over the world. It's sold in local shops, pubs and cafés. Copies cost 60p each: you can also take out an annual subscription with your copy being delivered each month by one of our team of volunteers. Advertising in *Village Views* costs £60 per year.

Embracing the church and civic communities of the Lambourn Valley Benefice, it aims to provide an informative, entertaining and accessible guide to the Valley's villages and beyond. *Village Views* supports local groups, organisations and businesses and regularly publishes a wide range of articles written by local contributors.

## • Penny Post

Contacts: Penny Locke; Brian Quinn  
Emails: [penny@pennypost.org.uk](mailto:penny@pennypost.org.uk); [brian@pennypost.org.uk](mailto:brian@pennypost.org.uk)  
Tels: 07768 981 658; 01488 648 110  
Web: [pennypost.org.uk](http://pennypost.org.uk)

*Penny Post* is run by long-time East Garston residents Penny Locke and her husband Brian Quinn. It provides information on most aspects of life across West Berkshire and the surrounding areas through a website, a weekly e-newsletter, a monthly e-newsletter for the Valley, social media and weekly slots on 4LEGS and Kennet Radio. *Penny Post* has about 5,000 subscribers, about 1,200 of whom are in the Valley.

*Penny Post* has always aimed to be constructive, informative, entertaining and topical. As well as promoting local businesses, it is also supportive of many charitable, voluntary and campaigning groups.

*Penny Post's* extensive coverage also includes news, humour, fiction, events, competitions, job adverts, recipes, courses and classes and items and properties for sale. Contributions of all kinds are welcomed.

# 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.*

*East Garston 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 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 about 240 dwellings and a population of  
about 525. The village itself sits just to the north of the  
unclassified road that runs along the Lambourn  
valley between Lambourn and Great Shefford.*

*Although the parish is mainly a residential area, it has 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)