

We look forward  
to seeing you at the  
East Garston Annual Parish  
Meeting: 7pm for 7.30pm,  
Thursday 20 April in the  
Village Hall.

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# East Garston Annual Parish Newsletter 2023

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This information was compiled in March 2023 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 – will be publicised in Village Views, East Garston News, 4 LEGS Radio and Penny Post: please see the relevant entries for how to submit information to, join or subscribe to these.

# Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

It's hard to believe twelve months have gone by since my last report. I'm so pleased that it has been largely Covid-free and life has resumed some normality.

The Parish Council team has largely remained constant and intact over the last year, though I'm sad to report that Sonia, our brilliant and able clerk, has had a change in her main job which doesn't allow the time she needs to continue here. She will be much missed and we hope she won't be a stranger to the village.

In addition, Alan Breadmore has decided it's time to take a well-earned rest from his role as Editor of *East Garston News* and the East Garston Parish Council website. He has done a brilliant job over many years and is leaving very large shoes to fill.

Consequently, we are currently looking for replacements for both positions. If you're interested, please get in touch with me on [sue@stulloch.com](mailto:sue@stulloch.com). Details of the Editor role can be found on our website at [eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://eastgarston-pc.gov.uk).

The Parish Council elections are due to be held this May. Further information will be available shortly on the noticeboard and elsewhere including how to apply should anyone be interested in putting themselves up for election.

The Parish Council has continued to support local services, including the Wantage Bus route and the Lambourn Library as well as the Village Hall broadband. We also ensure that the defibrillator (on the wall of the Village Hall) is maintained and ready should it be needed.

This year we have also contributed to the new cricket net on the Millennium Field and would like to thank Caroline Bayly and her team for leading this project and raising the funds. I'm sure the players in East Garston are looking forward to a long, hot summer.

We have also been shortlisted for a Tesco's grant to help fund rubber chippings for the playground in Jubilee Meadow. Voting will start at Hungerford Tesco's at the beginning of April so please put your token in the slot for East Garston.

Like all organisations, the Parish Council's costs have gone up more than in previous years. After careful consideration we decided to increase the precept (which hasn't risen since 2009) by £1,000 to £10,000 – this equates to an average increase of £4.28 per household or £2.34 per elector (new average total £42.74

per household or £23.47 per elector). We are conscious of the increase in cost of living so are doing all we can to provide important services at a minimal cost.

Speaking of which, the Parish Council would like to thank its team of volunteers, David Knight, Pat Murphy, Nigel Gay, Galvin Mould and Richard Talmage ably led by Chris Tonge. Also, thanks to everyone who keeps the verges in front of their homes tidy and improves the look of our village. Should anyone be interested in helping out with village chores please contact me or Chris. Much largely unnoticed, but appreciated, work is done in this way, from tidying up public areas to filling grit bins. Having this band of volunteers helps us keep costs down and avoids our having to increase the precept by a larger amount.

A new organisation has started in the village – The East Garston Eco Group. This was set up by Pat Glover and Penny Locke and has 28 members. More information on this and other local groups can be found below.

The Parish Council would like to thank East Garston Amenities for organising an enjoyable and memorable weekend to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The events were well attended and brought the whole village together.

Of course, since then the Queen sadly passed away and, as a consequence, in May the King's coronation will take place. Once again East Garston Amenities is arranging the festivities. There will be live music in the Village Hall on Saturday 6 May followed by a village picnic the next day. I very much hope that the whole village will come together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

I'm sure everyone has noticed the works being carried out by Thames Water, which should be seen as a necessary but temporary evil. Hopefully these will finish as scheduled and we will avoid any more sewage-related disasters.

The Parish Council welcomes any comments or ideas from parishioners on village matters and to this end you can find all our contact details on page 4.

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.

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

*Sue Tulloch,  
Chair, East Garston Parish Council*

## Parish Council Contacts

Below is a list of the Parish Councillors (as of March 2022) and their phone numbers and the email address for the Clerk. 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).

Sue Tulloch (Chair):	07879 421 157
Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair):	01488 648 308
Annabelle Eyre:	01488 648 238
Jonathan Rabbits:	01488 648 736
Chris Tonge:	01488 648 370
Peter Smith:	07796 274 907
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 anything 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 via the internet, currently on Fridays and Saturdays.

## • **East Garston Amenities**

Contact: *Freddie Tulloch*  
Email: *freddie@ftulloch.com*  
Tel: *01488 649 590*

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.

The big one for us is usually the Village Fete which should take place every other year. However, last year the village celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee instead. I like to think we did it in style.

The weekend started with the lighting of our beacon. The following day we hosted a village party. The weather was kind and the village partied hard into the night. Massive thanks to Oliver Kindersley, George Rabbits and their bands. Sunday was the village picnic, with community singing, a Great British bake off and even The Queen herself popping in – three cheers to Beverly Vine (the Queen) and her lady-in-waiting, Vikki Brooks – it capped a fantastic weekend.

Other highlights include the Christmas Fun Run, the over-60s Christmas lunch and theatre trips to Oxford. We also hosted a first-aid course that focused on using the defibrillator. 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.

The highlight of 2023 will be the celebrations for the Coronation. More information will follow but please save the dates – an evening party in the Village Hall with live music on Saturday 6 May, followed by a village picnic, with all the usual fun and games, on Sunday 7 May.

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 Social Club and Village Hall**

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

*Contact:* Raymond Baker (Social Club)  
*Email:* [ray.douglasinstruments@gmail.com](mailto: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 Bellringers**

*Contact:* Maureen Velvick  
*Tel:* 01488 648 294 or 07775 731 732  
*Email:* [eastgarston@bellsnearnewbury.org.uk](mailto:eastgarston@bellsnearnewbury.org.uk)

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).

The bells had been silent since May 2022 when they were removed from the tower for restoration. Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign they are now back in All Saints' Church and should ring loud and clear over the village for many decades to come.

We are always looking for new ringers: for more information please contact us or speak to Nigel or Rebecca Gay, George Rabbitts, Hilary Re'em, Colin Smith, Christopher Vaughan or Maureen Velvick.

We hope to hold regular practices on Wednesdays: contact us for details. We often practise together in Lambourn and Great Shefford.

Bellringing is a service to the local community. We ring for regular services and events such as weddings and funerals but also commemorate and celebrate country-wide events. This year we will join with church bells across the nation for the Coronation.

Bellringing is also a sociable hobby. We visit some beautiful towns and villages, ring in historic churches and cathedrals, see areas of the church that are normally closed to the public and meet some very interesting people. Why not join us and find out for yourselves?

## • **Garston Gallopers**

Contact: *Jackie Breadmore*

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 of keeping 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 and local schools.

We are going to be busy this year with a full programme of events. We have been invited to dance at local fetes in Brightwalton and Chieveley and at the Coronation celebrations in East Garston. Finally, our plans include taking part in folk events in Wimborne, Winchester and Swanage and even a trip to Belgium.

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

*Contacts: Jackie Breadmore, 01488 648 851  
Val Montgomery, 01488 648 506  
Bonnie Pounds, 01488 648 242*

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.

The purpose of the club 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 is a small charge for refreshments and a monthly raffle.

In the past few months we have enjoyed some interesting talks on Maundy money and the time capsule at Church Cottage in the village. Our plans this year include lunch at the Queens Arms in April and a trip to the Watercress Line steam railway in Hampshire in June.

## • **East Garston Eco Group**

*Contact: Penny Locke or Pat Glover  
Email: [ecoeastgarston@gmail.com](mailto:ecoeastgarston@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07768 981 658*

The East Garston Eco Group was set up to share practical information about ecologically-aware choices. Two highlights of 2022 were working with West Berkshire Council to get a mini-recycling centre in the car park by the Queens Arms; and planting 200 saplings from The Woodland Trust to establish a wildlife hedge on the Millennium Field.

We would like to thank Power-Aid for the generous donation of solar panels to the village hall and George Dowling, gardener at Manor Farm in Great Shefford, for his training on wild-flower meadows. Thanks also to Maria Carver for setting up two village mini-vegetable beds: this is something we hope to develop further.

We plan to run twice-yearly events to celebrate the range of eco projects in the Lambourn Valley and to further explore how we can



reduce our carbon footprint and protect our biodiversity. These will include repair cafés, talks and demos from local experts and open days at local farms, churches and other sustainable projects.

The first of these is the Green Weekend in the Lambourn Valley from Friday 28 April to Bank Holiday Monday 1 May. For details please visit [facebook.com/lambournvalleyecocommunity](https://facebook.com/lambournvalleyecocommunity) or [pennypost.org.uk](https://pennypost.org.uk) (search for 'Green Weekend'.) Please let us know if you can help in any way.

## • **East Garston Flood Forum**

Contact: *Martyn Wright*

Email: *[martynwright345@btinternet.com](mailto: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 valley. To focus attention on matters that directly affect our village – such as flood warnings, advice and sewage – the EGFF was established as an email communication group.

It is more than simply a list of people to be advised of flood warnings. By making it open to everyone to contribute discussion and suggestions about these problems, real value can be gained by all.

Of particular recent concern to residents have been high groundwater levels and the impact of these on our inadequate sewerage systems. We have experienced sewage flooding and untreated sewage discharges directly into the SSSI-protected River Lambourn.

We have been vigorously campaigning against these discharges and pressure has been applied to Thames Water and the EA. We have, for instance, managed to establish some facts about untreated discharges, the purpose of the permits issued by the EA and the lack of any punitive action, all of which were previously unclear.

Groundwater levels in 2022 and so far in 2023 have been low and so haven't provided a stern test for the various remedial works that

Thames Water has performed over the last couple of years. We, and others, continue to monitor the situation and to do all we can to protect our fragile waterways and their wildlife.

More information can be found on [www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgarston-pc.gov.uk) or [pennypost.org.uk](http://pennypost.org.uk) (search for “flood forum”).

## • **Lambourn Valley Foodbank**

*Contact:* Trevor Butcher  
*Tel:* 01488 649 582  
*Email:* [trevorandjanetbutcher@gmail.com](mailto:trevorandjanetbutcher@gmail.com)  
*Web:* [westberks.foodbank.org.uk](http://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 Trussle 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 1,415kgs 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).

## • **All Saints’ Church**

*Warden:* Paul Tame, [churchwarden.eastgarston@gmail.com](mailto:churchwarden.eastgarston@gmail.com), 01488 649 895  
*Secretary:* Lise Cox, [lisecox@gmail.com](mailto:lisecox@gmail.com), 01488 648 853  
*Rev Julie Mintern,* [revjulie.mintern@lambournvalley.org](mailto: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).

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 4pm (3pm in winter). If anyone wishes to visit at other times, please ring Paul or Lise who may be available to arrange access.

The PCC has endeavoured to ensure that the Church is seen to be part of the community and provides a refreshment marquee at village events and organises the safari supper and the Remembrance commemoration for the village.

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

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.

## • **East Garston Local History Society**

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

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.

Spurred on by collating a wide range of items and documents in 2018 for an exhibition marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, further events were planned for 2020 but had to be put hold due to the pandemic. The main aim in 2023 is to form a new committee of interested individuals and arrange a talk during the year.

## • **East Garston Quakers**

*Contact:* Penny Locke; Chris Whichelo  
*Email:* pennylocke64@gmail.com; cw0640@cwhichelo.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 if you want to meet us informally.

We have an upright piano and if anyone would like to use it to perform to a small audience please contact us. We are also making our garden wildlife-friendly with wild flowers and a brushwood habitat.

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.

## • **East Garston Allotment Association**

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

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. The date for the 2023 Show has not been decided yet but the details will be given wide

local publicity. With another dry winter, we wait with fingers crossed to see what weather the rest of the year brings.

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.

## • **L.O.FITT**

*Contact:* Lisa O'Neill  
*Email:* [lisaoneill7@outlook.com](mailto:lisaoneill7@outlook.com)  
*Tel:* 07789 361 924

Circuit class using body weight or equipment with lots of options to adapt exercises. Please bring mat and fluids.

Classes are generally on Thursday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 in the Village Hall in winter and the Jubilee Meadow when it's light enough. Cost £7.

## • **Valley Film Society**

*Contact:* Penny Locke  
*Email:* [info@valleyfilmsociety.org](mailto:info@valleyfilmsociety.org)  
*Tel:* 07768 981 658  
*Web:* [valleyfilmsociety.org](http://valleyfilmsociety.org)

The VFS shows films across a wide range of genres. We also aim to show a children's film each season, usually on a weekend afternoon. After many successful years, we are now in our seventeenth season and our aim is to continue to show a varied range of films.

Films are shown in East Garston Village Hall (which has disabled access), usually on the first Tuesday of the month, from October to June. This season we have introduced a matinee screening at 2.30pm (which has proved popular) as well as the evening film at 7.30pm. We have a four-metre-wide screen with digital 5.1 surround-sound, Blu-ray/DVD, tiered seating and a convivial atmosphere.

Membership costs £32pa. You can join at any film showing or online via our website. Guests pay £6 per film.

## • **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 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.

## • **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 sixth 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, wildlife, cooking and great music from local presenters including ex-Radio One DJ Pete Brady and ex-GWR DJ Andy Westgate

4LEGS has continued to support local charities and has again launched its Random Act of Kindness awards to recognise individuals or groups that have helped someone in their time of need during 2022. We also support 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.

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.

## • 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 is sold in local shops, pubs and cafés. Copies cost 50p each: you can also take out an annual subscription with your copy being delivered each month by one of our team of volunteers.

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 648110  
Web: [pennypost.org.uk](http://pennypost.org.uk)

*Penny Post* is run by long-time East Garston resident Penny Locke and her husband Brian Quinn. It provides information on almost every aspect 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 its weekly slots on 4LEGS and Kennet Radio. *Penny Post* has over 4,750 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, job adverts, recipes, courses and classes, items and properties for sale and competitions. 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.*

*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 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, 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)