

Eastington Community News

December 2020

Dear Great Oldbury,

ECN's purpose is to share news and information with those who may be less internet-connected than others, and to record and celebrate events and achievements in our community.

We have been going for a very long time (over a century if you count the very beginnings!) certainly around thirty years in the present incarnation – from well before there even was an internet.

We are entirely run by volunteers, supported by advertising which just pays for the paper and print. Currently our volunteers deliver copies, every two months, free to every home in 'old' Eastington (some 780 homes).

- and the arrival of what will be 1500 new homes within the parish of Eastington is a huge turning point for us – and quite honestly we really don't know what is the best way forward.

We have not extended our normal paper deliveries into Great Oldbury simply because our current advertising income could not support the additional printing costs. We do print a few spare copies, though, which are available from the Co-op and (in normal times!) from the pubs and the church.

If you know of anyone near you who is not 'connected' and who might benefit from a paper copy, you are welcome to collect one for them – please get in touch. However, everything that we print – and more – is always available on-line via the Eastington Hub <https://eastington.website>.

You are, of course, very welcome to browse there – and to contribute items if you wish.

The chances are that, in the future, Great Oldbury could become a Parish in its own right, or, if it remains as 'part' of Eastington it will eventually become the major part. In either case it is likely that there will always be two distinct (but very neighbourly) 'communities' once your new school, shop and leisure centre get going.

So – does ECN somehow find a way to triple its income and create a magazine to cover and deliver to both our communities? Does it continue just to concentrate on the old village and hamlets – perhaps with some more input from Great Oldbury – perhaps with Great Oldbury having a more localised 'sister' magazine? In the age of Facebook et al how many still value a paper magazine? – or even a proper magazine website?

Whatever happens, In order to survive in any shape or form, ECN or its equivalent is going to need some more volunteers!

At present there is only really me - ably assisted by Mary, with Tom looking after and organising the physical printing and the wonderful delivery team. David, our treasurer, holds the bank account. Tom and I are both over 70 and don't really feel best placed to undertake significant changes to ECN on our own - and there is no current 'succession plan', which is starting to be a concern! I feel that I am getting a bit tired and fuddy-duddy - very willing and still technically able but a bit lacking in energy and any fresh ideas!

So, if you have a little time and energy to spare, and think that a printed magazine (or even just an on-line one) is a 'good thing' and would be good for Great Oldbury too – please get in touch!

Best Wishes

Jan Low

Eastington Community News

Email: jan@eastington.website