

We look forward
to seeing you at the
East Garston Annual
Parish Meeting:
7pm for 7.30pm on
Thursday 16 April in
the Village Hall.

East Garston Annual Parish Newsletter 2026

This information was compiled in February 2026
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

We are currently looking for a new member to join us on the Parish Council, following the resignation of Liam Robson. All the team would like to thank him for all his hard work, time and dedication.

The Parish Council has continued to support local services such as the Wantage bus service and the Lambourn Library, as well as the Village Hall's broadband. Costs will rise slightly this year for the first time in a couple of years, but still at below the rate of inflation.

We are conscious of the increase in cost of living and are doing everything we can to provide the services which are important. The Parish Council is lucky to have such an enthusiastic team of volunteers who help around the village, which enables us to keep the costs down as much as we can.

We are currently in the process of giving the telephone box which hosts the book exchange on Humphreys Lane a little re-vamp. The broken panes of glass have been replaced and phone-box red paint has been purchased.

We have also cut back overhanging trees and bushes in the Millennium Field. This work was carried out with the help of the West Berkshire Countryside Society to whom we are very grateful. You will also see hundreds of new bulbs popping up around the village this spring. Our thanks for this project go to Pat Glover and the East Garston Eco Group (see also below).

Unfortunately, we have had to carry out repairs and replace the signage in the children's play area in Jubilee Meadow due to some unwarranted damage.

Finally, we have carried out a couple of clean-up mornings in the village during the year and thank everyone who gave up their time to help. We collected a surprising amount in such a short time. Litter and fly tipping seem to be on the rise. We know that it's very unlikely to be villagers but ask everyone to do their bit to keep on top of it.

Along with updates on any works that have been carried out in the village. The annual newsletter gives the Parish Council the opportunity to thank all the following individuals and groups for all their hard work and support: this sometimes goes unnoticed but is hugely appreciated.

- Trevor Butcher, Richard Talmage and Dave Knight for their work on maintaining and the tidying up of public areas;
- Karen Hack and all the volunteers who look after the churchyard;
- Alan Breadmore who maintains the village defibrillator at the Village Hall;
- Martyn Wright who monitors the groundwater levels and his on-going work with Thames water to manage the sewage and flooding issues (see also below).
- Lee Michigan and Henry Wilson: Lee for his role as editor of *East Garston News* (see also below) and Henry who manages and has recently improved the East Garston website. If you have any content for either of these please contact Lee or Henry directly on, respectively, EGN@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk or news@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk. It's great to have a photographic record of events that take place in the village, so please do send any photos to Henry to include.

The Parish Council always welcomes ideas and any comments from parishioners on village matters.

We would also like to compile a list of contact details for anyone who would like to lend a hand on an ad-hoc basis, as we appreciate that lives are busy and not everyone can commit to a regular activity.

Should anyone be interested in helping occasionally with the village chores. Please let me know via our Clerk, Liz James, who can be reached at Clerk@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk.

Steve Reschwamm
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 2026. Any changes will be reflected on the Parish Council's website at 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).

Stephen Reschwamm (Chair)	07579 796 010
Deana Carpenter	07768 922 904
Annabelle Eyre	01488 648 238
Jonathan Rabbitts	01488 648 736
Sue Tulloch	07879 421 157
Vacancy (as of March 2026)	

Liz James (Clerk)	clerk@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk 07540 295 557
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Local information

- Information about the Parish Council can be found by visiting East Garston's excellent website at 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. If you wish to comment on anything in EGN or submit material for publication, contact EGN@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk.
- 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 started with a trip to see *Madame Butterfly* at the Oxford Theatre on 4 March whilst later in the year we will host the Christmas fun run and the over-60s Christmas Lunch.

However, the real feature of the year is the East Garston fete which in 2026 is on Sunday 16 August. Taking place at this time of the year should ensure a bumper harvest for the produce show and, as always, the day will feature the always popular dog show, egg throwing, the Garston Gallopers, a live brass band, bouncy castles, running races, plenty of village stalls, a BBQ and a well-stocked bar.

There are also plans for a village picnic on Sunday 3 May with the chance for friends, families and dogs to walk amongst stunning bluebells, beautiful ancient wells and view a display of artefacts found locally. If you have found something special and are happy to display your quarry (fossils, musket balls, historic objects or any interesting object), please contact Freddie Tulloch.

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 offer 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 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 (TW), 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 impact on TW's sewerage network by infiltrating the sewer pipes and flooding the system. Over the winter of 2023/24 we experienced untreated sewage discharges onto our streets and homes, and into the SSSI- and SAC-protected River Lambourn.

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 from Eastbury, East Garston and Great Shefford, villages that 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 and 2025 has helped alleviate network flooding. However, it has not completely solved the problem and recently more leaks have been found. TW has committed to carrying out further remediation work and SAGLUV will try to ensure this happens.

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

• **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@douglas.co.uk
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.

• **All Saints' Church**

Churchwarden: Paul Tame; churchwarden.eastgarston@gmail.com; 07748 104 840
PCC Secretary: Lise Cox; lisecox@gmail.com; 01488 648 853
Rev Julie Mintern; revjulie.mintern@lambournvalley.org; 01488 208 467

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 would like to help with fundraising or make a regular donation towards the repair and maintenance costs, please contact Paul.

If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly Church Newsletter, 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 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).

We hold regular practices on Wednesdays from 7.30 to 9pm and are always looking for new ringers. 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 to come and have an evening with us, see how we ring and maybe try your hand.

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 community: we ring for regular services and events such as weddings and funerals but also commemorate and celebrate country-wide events.

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

• **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.

This year's Flower and Produce Show will be part of the East Garston Village Fete on Sunday 16 August. There will be many interesting classes including flower arrangements and baking: entries are open to all.

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.

• **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*

We meet from 10.30am to midday on the last Friday of the month, usually in East Garston Village Hall. We go for a pub lunch in the spring, a summer outing in June and don't meet in December.

There is an opportunity to chat over a hot drink and a biscuit with a different activity each month. These range from interesting talks, either by invited guests or fellow members, quizzes and most popular, afternoon tea with an optional game of skittles.

There is no fee to come along but a small charge for refreshments and a monthly raffle. Everyone in the age group is welcome, from East Garston and from the surrounding villages.

• **East Garston Eco Group**

Contact: Penny Locke or Pat Glover

Email: ecoeastgarston@gmail.com

Tel: 07768 981 658

East Garston Eco Group supports practical actions to reduce our impact on nature and climate, including better recycling facilities in the village, a new wildlife hedge on the Millennium Field (with kind support from West Berkshire Countryside Society), a thermal camera loans, a more energy-efficient Village Hall, and more.

Our big achievement of the past year is that Pat has helped forty local people become certified as Carbon Literate®, using a course developed over the last five years. This was based on not only her own experience of halving her carbon footprint while also reducing her bills, keeping her home warmer and her family healthier, but also from conversations with hundreds of people at local events and meetings.

Thanks to support from the National Lottery, Newbury Town Council and Veolia, the course is currently free.

• **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. 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 meet on Monday evenings from 8 to 9.30pm at Hungerford Youth and Community Centre, RG17 0AL.

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, Evesham and Wantage and meeting other Morris sides to dance at local pubs. See us at East Garston Fete on 16 August.

• **L.O.FITT**

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

HITT/circuit workouts – body-weight or bring your own equipment (limited availability) to suit all abilities. Outside all year (in the Millennium Field when dry/light enough). Contact Lisa for details.

• **East Garston History Society**

Contact: Karen Pryer
Email: karen@pryer.com
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.

• **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 890kgs 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 Table Tennis Club**

Contact: Daniel O'Neill
Email: danieloneill403@gmail.com
Tel: 07391 137 146

The Club organises weekly table tennis sessions (with two tables) every Wednesday and every other 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; 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: 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, please 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.

• **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 twentieth 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.

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. The Village Hall has disabled access.

• **4LEGS Community Radio**

Contact: Chris Capel
Email: studio@4legsradio.org.uk
Tel: 07834 893 251
Web: 4legsradio.org.uk

Now in its ninth 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 2026 we'll offer work experience to media students from Newbury College. This will be the fifth 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 and listen live via Alexa, Sonos and the Radio Garden app. We also launched our own app in 2025 which provides listeners with another option to listen via their mobile device. In 2026 there will be enhancements to the app including the listen-again feature.

• Village Views

Contact: Joanne Rabbitts
Email: 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 for only £5 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; brian@pennypost.org.uk
Tels: 07768 981 658; 01488 648 110
Web: 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 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