

Eastcombe Village Flagpole

Suum cuique (may all have their due)

Many villagers and people in the surrounding locality have expressed an interest in the history of the old flagpole, erected in 1983 on Eastcombe Village Green, which sadly blew down on a stormy and snowy night on 27th December 2017.

The wish was to have a flagpole to enable residents to 'fly the flag' on various days of national importance (and various days of 'yokel' importance). Collection boxes for this patriotic gesture were situated at the most important locations in the vicinity: surgery, pub and shop by kind permission of Dr Hubert Crouch, Mr Ronald Saunders and Mr Pilsbury. Other donations were accepted by Messrs Rex Clack, Cliff Pulley, Pete Westley, Dick Thompson, Barry Beattie and Charlie Hunt who were the flagpole committee members (say no more). A grand total of £48.93 was raised (quite a good amount in those days). In the event no monies were spent as all the work was voluntary and all the materials were donated.

Cliff Pulley remembers cutting down the tree which was donated by Len and Jenny Taylor from their wood. Cliff and Keith McWilliam took the tree (rather precariously) on the back of Cliff's truck to Bob Bingle's timberyard, and Bob had Alan Willie top and tail it, he being the main sawyer at the yard. It was then brought back to Cliff's driveway where it was planed and prepared into a flagpole by Cliff and Keith and then fixed on the Village Green. The ground steel stanching, which held the pole, was made by Dick Thompson and Mr and Mrs R Garrett kindly donated two flags.



With much pomp and ceremony the actual flag-raising was officiated with a blessing by Reverend John Stevens, together with Bob Smith, Chairman of Stroud District Council, and Charlie Hunt, he being the oldest resident of Eastcombe at that time. The primary school children also attended with Terry Shill, Acting Head. The ceremony was televised and made the local press. Since then and over the years several villagers including Cliff Pulley, Colonel Frowd, Alan Heywood and Mike Dorey have taken on the task of raising the flag on special occasions.

The monies from the original fundraising dance and collections, amounting to £ 268.75 after deduction of maintenance costs over the years (repainting, new halyards, etc), have now been handed to the Parish Council towards the cost of a replacement flagpole.

We now look forward to a new flagpole and a new chapter.

The Flagpole Committee *iam nusquam est* (no longer exists)

A new flagpole was erected by Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council in January 2019



Flying the flag for Her Majesty the Queen's 95th birthday



Flying the flag for St George's day 23rd April 2021