

February 2026

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EKTG for eTechnology



Dear Colleague,

EKTG 39th Early Spring Newsletter - February 2026 -

Introduction

Somen Bannerjee and other Members of the Main EKTG Board are well aware that many of you will feel it is time to relax and review what you, your family and colleagues are doing after the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Holiday Season.

Nowadays the huge marketing of that starts straight after the fireworks of Bonfire Night in November and for some has hardly finished even now with so many Christmas decorations still hanging around.

The glitter and glamour of the sparkling lights seems to daze some people and confuse others.

Some workers we know are considering leaving their jobs because they just find the old strings and shiny lights both boring and very distracting. They would far prefer a new bunch of cheerful flowers. One famous store in London now has a much smaller queues and the customers do not stay sitting eating food for nearly so long. There is a real delusion by the owners that the continued decorations are a real attraction to their serious Customers. In some of the larger stores they are selling off cheap containers with those old decorations for a quarter the original price.

Other Stores already have Easter Eggs and Easter Bunnies adorning their main shelves. That is where the Customers are now attracted to. It is called changing opinions in the trade.

By chance that is the main topic chosen by the Excellent Group of EKTG International Ambassadors for their next series of short Meetings on Zoom.

They have made a short list of their main topics for this and that list is included in that section of this EKTG Newsletter.

They will discuss this list further and promulgate their final list of topics and dates when these will be discussed and you can participate in changing opinions.

- Pollution and the relation to respiratory and eye problems
- Carers issues
- The potential of portable devices for shifting care closer to home (case: NeoKidney)
- What can we learn from global 'blue zones' to improving care for workers
- Traveling in the community systems
- Pollution in the sea, problems of bad quality fish farms, Injuries to staff in these poor fish farms

You might want to suggest additional Items to this list. If so please email, our webmaster -

Please do send us any other articles for the next EKTG Spring Newsletter to our webmaster. He will be doing this in a couple of months time.

The EKTG Main Board will be holding their own meeting before that time so will also be discussing these topics when we do. We will also be discussing possible future EKTG real events.

You will find more details about the International Ambassadors plans within that section listed on our website.

Best of wishes,
Somen Banerjee
Chairman EKTG Main Board

Feature

We are delighted to include examples of the technology of photography in this EKTG newsletter. We are looking forward to an early date when we expect Peter to become an EKTG Trustee. This process does take quite a time, but we certainly look forward to that occasion.

My Art History

Finding booking in funerals in Dorset a dead end job, I went off to art school to follow my dreams. (My lovely wife has promised to provide for me in my old age!)

Born in the year of the film, 'Rock Around the Clock' – my life is written in rock 'n' roll. I studied Fine Art at Bournemouth and Winchester. As a student, I was a prize-winner in the Stowells Trophy, the etching was exhibited at the Royal Academy, was sold and went to Holland.

After college I took up photography. Initially, I borrowed a friend's Zenith B - but he had to come with me as I couldn't load the film!

I blagged my way in to some well-known venues where I took photos for music magazines, becoming the first-choice photographer for Guitarist. I never dreamt I would one day be doing this.

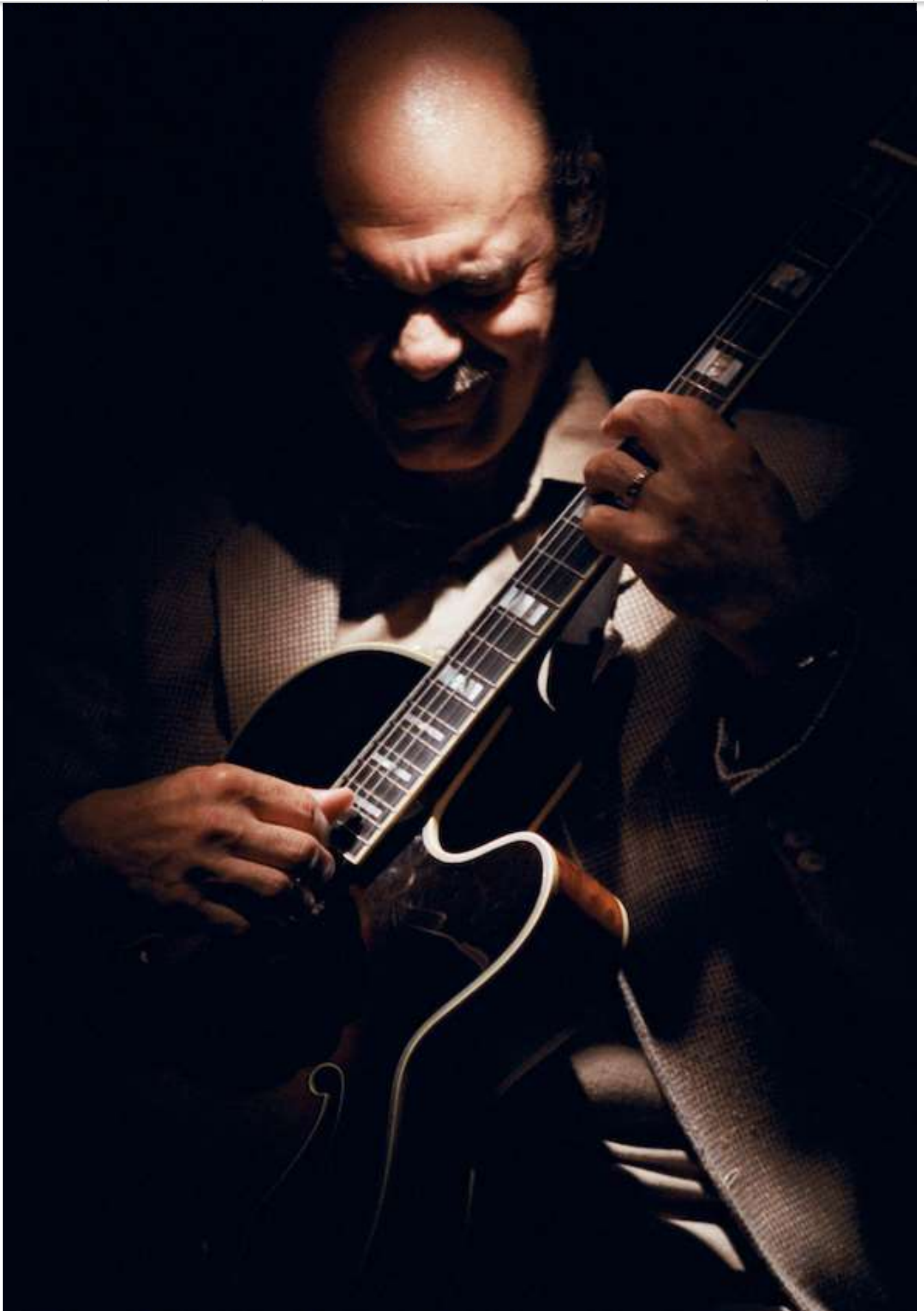
My work has appeared on Channel 4, the BBC, and in national press, record covers, Ilford Awards, The Association Gallery, The National Museum of Film and Photography and The Mall Galleries. Last year I was selected for the Marshwood Awards and exhibited with the judges which included photographer Sir Don McCullin.

I thank God for ordering my steps, and my wife and family for their support.

Peter Mant













All the photos were taken around 1985.
From top, we have:

- Miles Davis at the Royal Festival Hall
- Jazz guitarist Martin Taylor - this was taken at during rehearsal at The Purcell Hall, Southbank Centre. As you can see I laid down on the stage to get this one.
- Jazz guitarist Joe Pass at Ronnie Scott's. He was Ella Fitzgerald's guitarist. I had the best seat in the house for this, but knew I had to keep buying drinks I didn't want in order to keep my seat!
- Wilko Johnson at The Fridge, Brixton. I was sent to photograph the bass player but couldn't resist trying to capture on of Wilko's leaps.
- Yngwie Malsteen - Swedish heavy metal guitarist - at The Marquee, Soho.
- Luciano Pavorotti - he was signing his latest CD at Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus.

You can see more of Peter's work on Instagram - [Pete_Mant56](#)

News

EU Headlines

Cypriot Presidency | Cybersecurity | Digital Networks

This week, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will gather in Strasbourg for plenary debates and votes on several issues, including on the programme of activities of the Cypriot Presidency and a stronger and more sovereign Europe amid rising geopolitical tensions and continuous threats to the rules-based order. On Tuesday EU Commissioners will gather in Strasbourg to unveil three initiatives: the Digital Networks Act, the Cybersecurity Act, and the Anti-racism strategy. On the same day, ministers in the Economic and Financial Affairs will receive a presentation of the work programme for the first semester of the year by the Cypriot Presidency and will exchange views on the state of play of the economic and financial impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

European Parliament

On Tuesday, MEPs will receive a presentation on the programme of activities of the Cypriot Presidency. On Wednesday, they will have a joint debate on a stronger and more sovereign Europe amid rising geopolitical tensions and continuous threats to the rules-based order. On Thursday, MEPs will discuss drones and new systems of warfare – the EU's need to adapt to be fit for today's security challenges. On the same day, they will vote on a motion of censure on the Commission.

[Read more](#)

European Commission

On Monday, Commissioner Maria Luís Albuquerque will attend the Eurogroup meeting. On Tuesday, President Ursula von der Leyen will deliver a Special Address at the World Economic Forum, in Davos. On Wednesday, Commissioner Jessika Roswall will meet with Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, in Davos. On Thursday, Commissioner Glenn Micallef will meet with Séamus Boland, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, in Brussels.

[Read more](#)

Council of the European Union

On Tuesday, ministers in the Economic and Financial Affairs will receive a presentation of the work programme for the first semester of the year by Cypriot Presidency and will exchange views on the state of play of the economic and financial impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. From Wednesday to Friday the Cypriot Presidency is hosting an informal meeting of ministers for Justice and Home Affairs Ministers to discuss issues related to returns, the Schengen area, asset recovery, the cross-border return of illegally removed cultural objects and the treatment of adolescents and young adults within the criminal justice system, in Lefkosia.

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Housing Crisis | Western Balkans | Cyprus Presidency

This week, multiple European Parliament's committee meetings will take place in Brussels to debate and vote on several issues. On Thursday and Friday, the College of Commissioners will visit the Cyprus Presidency of the of the Council of the EU.

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European Parliament

On Monday, the Special committee on the Housing Crisis in the European Union (HOUS) will have an exchange of views with Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing on the Affordable Housing Plan of the European Commission. On Thursday, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Committee on Budgets (BUDG) will discuss the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans. On the same day, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) will have a topical debate on biotech innovations to secure European competitiveness.

[Read more](#)

On Monday, Commissioner Andrius Kubilius will meet with Pål Jonson, Minister for Defence of Sweden, in Salen. On Tuesday, Commissioner Hadja Lahbib will meet with Eleonore Caroit, French Minister of International Partnership. On the same day, High Representative Vice-President Kaja Kallas will meet Boris Pistorius, Federal Minister of Defence, in Berlin.

[Read more](#)

Council of the European Union

On Thursday and Friday, the Cypriot Presidency will receive the College of Commissioners with the aim of strengthening and further enhancing cooperation between the two institutions.

[Read more](#)

Digital Health News

How and When could AI be Used in Emergency Medicine?

While artificial intelligence (AI) technology is increasingly being used - formally and informally - to support medical diagnoses, its utility in emergency medical settings remains an open question. Can AI support doctors in situations where split-second decision making can mean the difference between life and death? Researchers at Drexel University broached the question with clinicians at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., to better understand how and when the technology could help them save lives.

[Read more](#)

AI-Assisted Interviews Increase Accuracy in Diagnosing Mental Illness

A new study shows that an AI assistant can conduct assessment conversations with patients with higher accuracy than the rating scales used in healthcare today. In the study, 303 participants were interviewed by the AI assistant Alba, who then suggested possible psychiatric diagnoses. In addition to being interviewed by an AI assistant, the participants also had to fill out standardized rating scales for the nine most common psychiatric diagnoses.

[Read more](#)

Studies Suggest Ambient AI Saves Time, Reduces Burnout and Fosters Patient Connection

When physicians don't have to type detailed clinical notes while simultaneously talking to their patients, the visit feels different. Eye contact lasts longer, follow-up questions become sharper, and - crucially - clinicians go home less drained.

That's the promise of ambient clinical documentation, an artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology that records healthcare conversations and transforms them into clear, accurate clinical note drafts that are reviewed and approved before being added to a patient's electronic health record (EHR).

[Read more](#)

AI Tool Spots Blood Cell Abnormalities Missed by Doctors

An AI tool that can analyse abnormalities in the shape and form of blood cells, and with greater accuracy and reliability than human experts, could change the way conditions such as leukaemia are diagnosed.

Researchers have created a system called CytoDiffusion that uses generative AI - the same type

[Read more](#)

AI Tool can Analyse Complex Cancer Images Rapidly

Complex digital images of tissue samples that can take an experienced pathologist up to 20 minutes to annotate could be analysed in just one minute using a new AI tool developed by researchers at the University of Cambridge.

SMMILe, a machine learning algorithm, is able not only to correctly detect the presence of cancer cells on slides taken from biopsies and surgical sections.

[Read more](#)

A New Heart Monitoring System Combining 3D Printing and AI

A new heart monitoring system combining 3D printing and artificial intelligence (AI) could transform the way doctors measure and diagnose patients' heart health.

Developed at SFU's School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, the system features reusable dry 3D-printed electrodes embedded in a soft chest belt - the folding origami-shaped design uses gentle suction to stick to the skin.

[Read more](#)

AI may Help Save Lives in ICUs

A study published in the Journal of Critical Care, conducted with the participation of the D'Or Institute for Research and Education (IDOR), investigated how to measure efficiency in the use of resources for patients with severe community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), an illness contracted outside hospital settings and most common among older adults.

[Read more](#)

AI can Improve Psychiatric Diagnosis

Large language models can help improve questionnaires used to diagnose mental illness by optimizing symptom generalizability and reducing redundancy. They can even contribute to new conceptualizations of mental disorders. That is the result of an international study led by Professor Dr Joseph Kambeitz and Professor Dr Kai Vogeley from the University of Cologne's Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Cologne.

[Read more](#)

Visionary Healthcare Ideas Wanted: Applications Now Open for the DMEA Sparks Award 2026

21 - 23 April 2026, Berlin, Germany.

Students and graduates in the field of digital health can now apply for the DMEA sparks Award 2026. Each year, the award recognises the best theses that contribute to the digitalisation of healthcare with innovative ideas and research results.

The competition is aimed at young talents from the fields of IT, medicine, health economics and related disciplines who focus on new technologies, concepts or applications in their bachelor's and master's theses.

[Read more](#)

Driven by the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, computational pathology is emerging as a critical engine in the era of precision oncology. Traditional computational pathology primarily relies on task-specific models, which require the development of independent models for each distinct task.

[Read more](#)

National Networks' trends: 2023 vs 2024

Based on the data from the latest Common Network Statistics (CNS) report, we look at how the activities organised by the National Networks have evolved between 2023 and 2024. Read a short overview capturing key trends.

[Read more](#)

Report - EU CAP Network seminar 'On-farm demonstrations for peer-to-peer learning & innovation'

The report for the EU CAP Network seminar 'On-farm demonstrations for peer-to-peer learning and innovation' is now available. The seminar gathered 179 participants to explore how well-organised, visible and adequately supported demonstrations can boost knowledge exchange and innovation uptake.

[Read more](#)

2nd Thematic Group meeting on Improving Water Resilience in Rural Areas through the CAP

This was the second and last meeting of this Thematic Group (TG), which examined how to best utilise the CAP's potential for improving water resilience in rural areas. TG members discussed and identified the factors that need to be put in place to scale up action to improve water resilience in rural areas in a sustainable way.

[Read more](#)

EU CAP Network's Steering Group - 5th Meeting

The report of the 5th meeting of the EU CAP Network's Steering Group is now available and captures key outcomes of the discussion. The topics in focus include progress on the data collection for the Strategic Framework of the EU CAP Network and potential topics for the work of the Network in 2026-2027.

[Read more](#)

Subgroup on CAP Strategic Plans - 6th meeting

Highlights of the meeting include updates on recent EU-level policy developments and clarifications about the new National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs) and the role of the CAP. Other key topics include the European Commission's proposal for the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Multiannual Financial Framework.

[Read more](#)

water

EIP-AGRI Operational Group 'IRRISMA' developed a smart water management system in an area in Greece where water sources are under significant pressure. The system combines precision irrigation technology with tailored advice. It has helped farmers to improve yield by five per cent and reduce water use by up to ten per cent.

[Read more](#)

Competitiveness | Water Resilience | Climate Adaptation

Group and committee meetings will take place in the European Parliament this week. On Wednesday, EU Commissioners will gather in Brussels for a college seminar on competitiveness ahead of the 12 February Leaders retreat. On Thursday and Friday, the Cypriot Presidency will host an informal meeting of Environment and Climate Ministers (ENVI) to discuss the effective implementation of the European Water Resilience Strategy, and the development of the new European Climate Adaptation Plan.

[Read more](#)

European Parliament

On Thursday, the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) will have an exchange on the discharge 2024: General budget of the EU – Commission, and the interim report on the proposal for the multiannual financial framework for 2028-2034.

[Read more](#)

European Commission

On Monday, High Representative Vice-President Kaja Kallas will attend the Oslo Security Conference 2026, in Oslo. On Wednesday, the college of commissioner will come together for a college seminar on competitiveness ahead of the 12 February Leaders retreat, in Brussels. On the same day, President Ursula von der Leyen will meet Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, in Leuven.

[Read more](#)

Council of the European Union

On Monday and Tuesday, the Cypriot presidency will hold an informal meeting of Competitiveness (COMPET) ministers. Ministers will discuss how to strengthen the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, address persistent structural challenges, such as insufficient scale, and underlining the need for closer integration of defence and industrial policies within a coherent strategic framework. They will also review the Competitiveness Compass one year after its launch. On Thursday and Friday, the Cypriot presidency will hold an informal meeting of Environment and Climate Ministers (ENVI) to discuss the effective implementation of the European Water Resilience Strategy, and the development of the new European Climate Adaptation Plan.

[Read more](#)

Equipment Examples



Designed to support users with reduced hand function, or the use of just one hand, the Food Preparation Board is a stylish and practical solution to prepping meals. It features -

- spiked area to hold food still
- integrated grater and slicer
- collection bowl that can be lifted away

[More information](#)

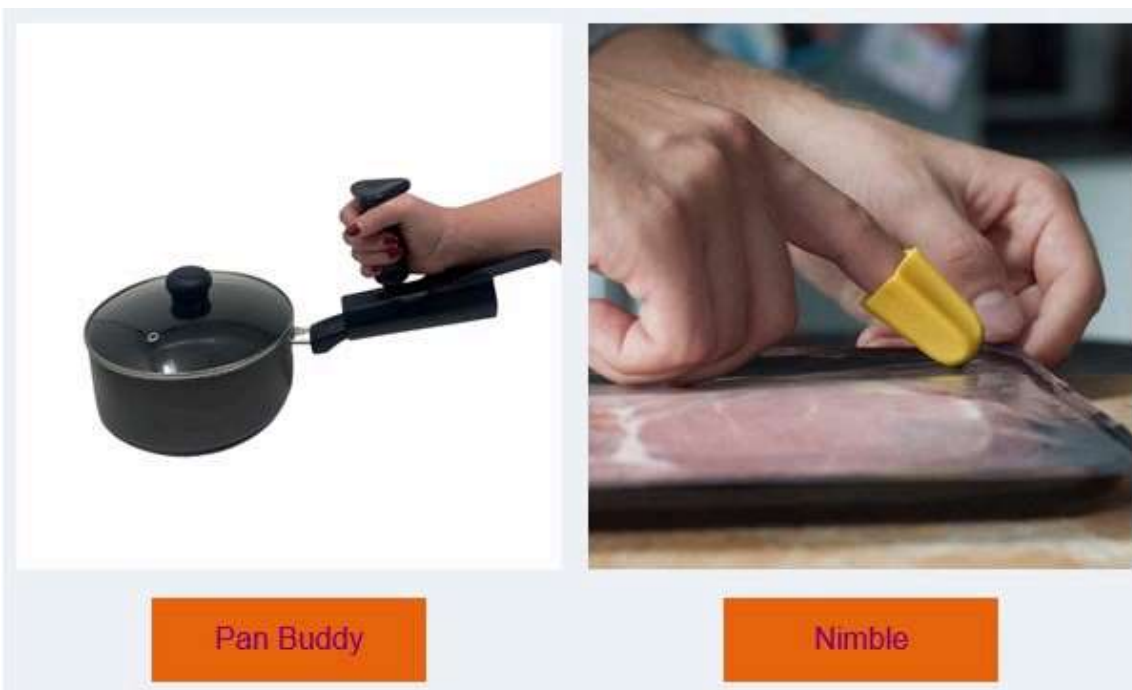
Egg Cracker



Eggs are a quick, high-protein, healthy meal at any time of day. This Egg Cracker will release the contents of the egg, while holding on to the shell. Simply squeeze the two handles together, with one hand or two. It even comes with a yolk separator.

[More information](#)

Other kitchen products from Active Hands Company



Pan Buddy

Nimble



5-in-1 Opener



Easi-grip Knives

[More information](#)

Dear Reader,

We hope that you have found the **EKTG Early Spring Newsletter** interesting to you. We are welcoming new items and would be glad to have a contribution from you for the next newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions you have to us, and we can make sure they are included in our **Spring Newsletter**.

If you have suggestions for any New International Ambassador, especially from any nation where we do not have an International Ambassador at present, that would be really excellent.

Send any of these points to the EKTG Webmaster (ektgwebmaster@gmail.com) and Maggie Ellis, EKTG Main Board Member (westsqas@mac.com).

About EKTG

To find out more about us, please download a document that outlines [the background and history of EKTG](#).

If you have any questions about EKTG activities please send these to: Margaret Ellis, EKTG Main Board Member, westsqas@mac.com

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