

EASTON VILLAGE NEWS



What a lovely pub we have in the village.
Read a little bit about its history inside.

February 2026

Useful Contact details

Parish Councillors:

Dave Ladbrook T:07730 432542 (Chair & Play Area)

E: chair@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Bob Gibbon T:01728 746866 (Vice Chair & Emergencies)

E: cllr.gibbon@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Fiona Siddall T:01728 746517 (Play Area)

E: cllr.siddall@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Gary Edwards T:01728 747970 (Footpaths)

E: cllr.edwards@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Derek Balcombe T: 01728 768215 (Cemetery & Burials)

E: cllr.balcombe@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Pam Bennett-King T: 01728 747370

E: cllr.bennett-king@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Clerk—Andrew Staples E: clerk@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

Parish Council website <https://eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk/>

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E: Elaine.bryce@suffolk.gov.uk

East Suffolk District Councillors:

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Vince Landon-Morris (Green)

E: vince.langdon-morris@east Suffolk.gov.uk

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Rev. Ann Kember (Priest-in-charge)

T: 07369 240252

Note: Ann is not available Weds/Thurs/Fri

E: annkember58@gmail.com

Jane Woodbury-Eggins (Lay Elder)

T: 01728 746667

Peter Bennett-King (Churchwarden)

T: 01728 747370

Village Hall

Lorna Edwards (Bookings)

E: lornakhedwards@gmail.com

Village Hall website

www.yourhall.co.uk Search Easton

Village Website

<https://eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk/>

Follow link to village information.

Cricket Club enquiries

Tory Hughes E: easton1906@gmail.com

Bowls Club enquiries

Mike Cattermole T: 01473 614845

Village News Editor

Clare Owen

T: 01728 745015

E: clareelizabethowen@gmail.com

If you have anything to put in the Village News, please submit by 14th of the month before.

Editor's Introduction

I like the Latin definition of February. It apparently means 'purification'. It's a quiet month, the shortest in the calendar, and heralds the start of spring in the coming months. It is also St Valentine's Day on 14th (I'm sure I don't have to remind all you romantics out there). Tradition maintains that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman Emperor at the time, and legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution.

This month we have plenty to interest you, I hope. Highlighting a few activities, don't forget to book for Bob's Quiz on 7th (great fun), romantic dinners in the White Horse—talking of which, did you know at one time the pub was one of three ale houses in the village? (Read more inside.) The Gardening Club is back on 9th February (now if that doesn't herald spring, I don't know what does!). We also hear from our MP Patrick Spencer, and the school brings us up to date with what's happening there.

Please also have a look at our advertising pages. There are one or two newbies there which might interest you. Please support them if you can. They are an important source of revenue to fund the production of the magazine, but, please, I still need your subscriptions to keep this going.

LAST CALL! Can I therefore just remind you (if you haven't already paid—thank you those who have) that if you wish to continue receiving the magazine in the New Year, could you please pay £8 into the following bank account. Thank you.

Account No: 60191868

Sort code: 30-99-85

Account Name: C Owen

Please reference the payment with the first line of your address. Or of course you can pay your distributor direct with cash.

Clare

Disclaimer. The Editor of Easton Village News produces this newsletter in good faith from articles submitted by local organisations and individuals. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies contained therein which must be taken up with the relevant organisation or individual.



Village Hall Update

Getting Fit for 2026

The village hall is pleased to support a range of classes - Yoga, Pilates, Keep Fit, Table Tennis. If you feel you would like to get fit for 2026 please think about joining a class.

PV Panels and Battery Installation

The PV panels have been installed and are already making a difference to our energy costs. Along with the new heating system, we are able to keep the hall warmer for our users.

So far since the installation on 12th December the panels have produced 257kWh (worth £64).

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who uses the Village Hall. As always, we are eager to support anyone wishing to use the Hall for community events or personal occasions.

Contact: gerard.newnham@icloud.com

Bookings: lornaed@hotmail.com



What's On in the Village Hall in February



Mondays:

Yoga with Ellie 9 —10.30 am
Pre-booking
E: eleanorpenlo@gmail.com
Strength & Conditioning Class
6—7pm
Call 07748 528048

Gardening Club
Monday 9th February
7.30 pm

Tuesdays:

50+ Keep Fit Class 10-11am
£8 per session (block payment per
term of 6/7 weeks)
Contact Clare Hassler on
01728 621247/07769 716761
for more information

Sunday Café
15th February
10 —11.30 am
Everyone welcome

Wednesdays:

Pilates with Kelly
Advanced 9.15 am
Beginners/Intermediate 10.30 am
Pre-booking
E: pilateswithkelly@hotmail.com
Table Tennis
6:30pm £5 per session
Contact John on 746644

Natter and Nibbles
Tuesday 17th February
2—3.30 pm
Everyone welcome

Thursdays:

Rabble Chorus
8pm
E: Kirsty@rabblechorus.co.uk

Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd February
9.30 am

Fridays:

Yoga with Ellie 9.15—10.30 am
Pre-booking
E: eleanorpenlo@gmail.com





Bob's



2nd Big Quiz

Easton Village Hall

...

7pm Saturday 7th February

£10 per head to include food

Pay bar

...

To book a table (of up to 6) e-mail:

tuggerdavis@gmail.com

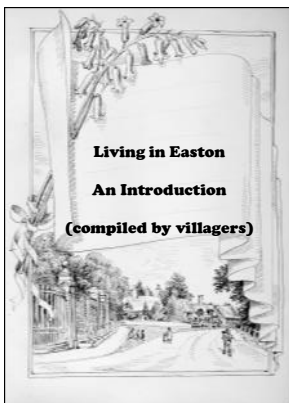
Village Hall Hourly Charges

| | OFF PEAK Hourly Rate | PEAK Hourly Rate | WEEKEND NIGHT Hourly Rate |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Mon – Fri Up to 1730 | Mon – Thurs 1800 - 2300 Weekend up to 1730 | Fri-Sat 1800 - 2300 |
| Individuals | £10.00 | £13.00 | £15.00 |
| Fully Commer- cial | £18.00 | £21.00 | £26.25 |
| Open paid Classes/ Activities | £12.00 | £14.00 | £17.50 |
| Community | Contribution | Contribution | Contribution |



Mobile Library will stop outside The White Horse on Wednesday 4th February between 12.25 and 12.45.

New to Easton Village?



Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who moves into the village. We have always warmly welcomed newcomers and I am now very happily taking on this role. We can also provide the introductory booklet 'Living in Easton' which has lots of helpful information.

Peter Bennett King, 3 Pound Corner
T: 747370 E: thebks@btinternet.com



The Easton White Horse

Monthly Quiz Night: Thursday 5th February
£10 per head, food included
Call to book



Valentines Sharing Supper
Friday 13th/Saturday 14th February
(see separate poster)



Lunar New Year Feasting Menus
February 17th - February 21st

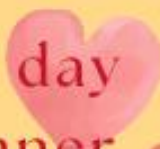
Tel: 746456



EASTON WHITE HORSE



**valentine's day
sharing dinner**



friday 13th/saturday 14th february

£40/HEAD

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book now - 01728 746456



Easton and Letheringham Community Gardening Club



Our first meeting of 2026 will be on Monday February 9th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



Laurence Potter, a member of Suffolk Bird Group and the Woodbridge Swift Group, will kindly be giving us a talk on Swift nest boxes and House Martin nest cups.

We will be renewing our Allotment Society membership. If you would like to join you can enjoy the newsletter and access to approximately 66% discount on Kings Seeds. The cost of membership is £3.59 /year.

We would love to see more people join us at our meetings this year.

We all enjoy learning from each other and would be grateful for any ideas for further meetings and speakers.

For more information on anything Gardening Club related contact

**Sarah Castle ... sjcastle1@hotmail.co.uk
Claire Balcombe ... clairebalcombe@email.com
Gerard Newnham ... gerard.newnham@icloud.com
Steve Parkinson ... stephen.parkinson59@gmail.com**

While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.

Patience Strong



THE WILDLIFE GARDEN

Days are gradually getting longer.

There may be signs towards the end of February of early frogs and toads looking for ponds to start their breeding season.

Birdsong increases as competition starts for the best nesting sites.

Listen out for the Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Some shrubs come into their own this month:-

- Japanese quince and Witch Hazel flower and brighten the winter garden.
- Some species of Witch Hazel have an extraordinary perfume.
- Hazel show off their catkins also known as "lambs tails".

The nectar in these early flowering shrubs provides fuel for any emerging honeybees and buff tailed bumblebees which start coming out of underground hibernation.

GARDENING TIPS

Sow tomato seeds undercover now to get a head start.

Mahonia can be pruned following flowering.

Prune Buddleia hard to encourage strong compact growth.

Sarah Castle
RHS Cert.Hort (Level 2)

A Sense of Place and Time

Happy Yew Year!

(Apologies to Acetosella—this should have appeared in January’s magazine. Ed)

Continuing the winter theme of celebrating evergreens, Yew – *Taxus baccata* is another distinctive evergreen tree that has some good examples along Easton Street. The picture below shows the yew that overhangs the crinkle crinkle wall to the west of the village green and a topiarised yew greets visitors to the Village Hall.

Yew trees are renowned for their longevity, with some trees living well over a thousand years. Yew’s qualities of longevity and regeneration means they are often held as sacred, with a wealth of myths and folklore evolving around them – particularly immortality and resurrection.

Yew trees are dioecious, meaning that male and female trees grow on separate trees. Male flowers are most noticeable in the spring when the yellow globe like structures shed pollen.

It is the female flowers that develop into the fleshy red berries (arils) that resemble ‘stuffed olives’. But **don’t be fooled** the berries, leaves and indeed all parts of yew leaves are poisonous and should **not** be eaten.



As with all evergreens, yew provides many benefits to wildlife, offering all year round shelter and lots of nooks, crannies and crevices to make a home. Birds love the fleshy arils and act as a very effective seed dispersal mechanism.

Though toxic, scientific research has discovered that the alkaloid Taxol found in yew is an effective treatment for some cancers.



Acetosella



Where in Easton
is this?
(Answer page 25)





A Time for Kindness

As we move through the early weeks of the new year, many households are feeling the familiar post Christmas squeeze. Decorations packed away, credit card bills arrive, and the dark days of winter can feel particularly long. For many, the cost of living remains a real strain, and the recent spell of colder weather only adds to those worries.

It is important to acknowledge these pressures honestly. Energy bills, food costs and everyday essentials continue to challenge household budgets, and for some, simply keeping warm can feel like an uphill struggle. Many residents are understandably concerned.

Yet in difficult times, I am continually reminded of the quiet strength and generosity that exists within our parish and wider community. Across our towns and villages, volunteers step forward every day to look out for one another. Lunch clubs provide companionship and a hot meal for those who might otherwise feel isolated. Carers, often unpaid and unseen, give their time, patience and love to family members and neighbours. Litter picking groups take pride in keeping our shared spaces clean, while church teams quietly support food banks, coffee mornings and pastoral care. Youth workers give young people safe places to meet, talk and grow.

These groups are not just nice to have. They are the backbone of community life. If you are able, I would encourage you to think about joining or supporting a local volunteer group. Even a small contribution of time can make a meaningful difference, both to others and to yourself.

These months bring a timely reminder of the power of small gestures. An opportunity to pause and think about how we might brighten someone else's day. A friendly word, a helping hand, a note through the door or a simple thank you can carry more weight than we realise.

As winter continues, let us hold on to the spirit of kindness and community that already shines so strongly across our parish. By looking out for one another, with warmth and compassion, we can ensure that everyone feels valued and supported.

If you want to share your thoughts, request support or keep up with my work, you can contact me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, by telephone on 01728 726612 or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk.

EASTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The end of the autumn term was a busy and joyful one at Easton Primary School, filled with festive celebrations and special moments for the children. A particular highlight was the Christmas Service, which took the form of a radio-style broadcast, allowing pupils from across the school to contribute through songs, poems and musical performances. This creative approach gave the evening a warm, shared feel and was enjoyed by both performers and audience alike.

In the lead-up to the concert, Hazel Class delighted families with their Nativity performance. The youngest children told the Christmas story with confidence, enthusiasm and plenty of festive charm, making it a very special occasion for all who attended. The excitement continued with a much-anticipated visit from Father Christmas, who found time in his busy schedule to stop by the school, bringing smiles, surprises and a real sense of Christmas magic for the children.

As we write this, the children are in the final stages of preparing for our Candlelit Concert, which will take place at the church later this month. Rehearsals are well underway, with pupils polishing choir pieces, whole-school songs and instrumental performances. By the time you read this, the concert will have taken place, and we hope it will have been a calm, reflective and memorable evening of music enjoyed by families and members of the village.

Thank you, as always, for the continued support shown to the school. It makes a real difference to the children and helps create memorable experiences that they will carry with them for years to come.



Mr Mansell

Christmas Cards

A big thank you to the December Sunday Café team from all of Easton Primary School ESA for selling the Christmas cards. The ESA raised over £50 which is wonderful!



All Saints Church

Church Services (See table of services for full details)

Please check the services table for how the new pattern of services across the benefice works out.

In Easton, for the first few months of the year (ie the cold months), we are planning to hold some services in the Village Hall where it is warmer and more comfortable.

On 1st February our benefice communion service will be at Campsea Ashe at 11.00 am.

Easton has a sung Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 15th February **in the church** with the Jubilate Choir. See separate notice.



On Ash Wednesday (18th February) there will be a service of Compline with Holy Communion and ashing at 5pm at Marlesford.

Easton will have a service of Morning Worship at 9.30am on Sunday 22nd February in the Village Hall.

The benefice Holy Communion service on 1st March is at Easton at 11.00am.

Sunday Café

Our Sunday Café is on 15th February. We look forward to all the usual tasty food and good company.

Big Breakfast at Hacheston Village Hall

The next Big Breakfast will be on Saturday 28th February from 9 to 11am. These are free as outreach to the community (but any donations gratefully received from those who can afford it).

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group meets again on 4th February at Bickley, Harriers Walk at 10.30am. Our topic this month is “Fabrics and needlework in the Bible”. We had a fun and lively discussion about all the animals in the Bible last month!

New members are always welcome.

Jane Woodbury-Egins

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

On a dark winter's December night, four villagers gathered on Easton village green to join together in the tradition of carol singing around the village.

Although a disappointing turn out, we laughed, chatted and sang our way around The Street and Skylark Rise and managed to raise £38.50 for The Children's Society.

This year we'd love some more people to join us and are hoping some young people might like to join in the festivities too. We'll be starting at the earlier time of 5pm. Look out in next December's issue for more details.



Church Services for February 2026

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st | Candlemas | 11am | Benefice Holy Communion | Campsea Ashe |
| 8 th | 2 nd Sunday before Lent | 9.30 | Morning Worship | Brandeston |
| | | 11am | Holy Communion | Campsea Ashe |
| | | 4pm | Candlelight Brass Concert | Parham |
| 15 th | Sunday next before Lent | 9.30 | Morning Worship | Marlesford |
| | | 11am | Holy Communion | Kettleburgh |
| | | 6pm | Sung Evensong | Easton |
| 18 th | Ash Wednesday | 5pm | Compline & Holy Communion | Marlesford |
| 22 nd | 1 st Sunday of Lent | 9.30 | Morning Worship | Easton |
| | | 11am | Holy Communion | Parham |
| | | 4pm | Evening Prayer | Kettleburgh |

Compline is said at Marlesford every Wednesday at 5pm

Monday Prayers are at Campsea Ashe at 4pm

1st March – Benefice Service at 11am at Easton

*Orebeck Benefice
welcomes
The Jubilate Choir
to Easton Church on
Sunday 15th February 2026
for Choral Evensong
at 6.00pm*

Jubilate is a choir that has been active in Suffolk since its formation in 2016. The choir is known for its traditional service of Choral Evensong, which includes a selection of well-loved music from the English choral tradition.

Jubilate consists of between 12 and 16 experienced singers and provides its own cantor and organist, making no charge for its services. The choir performs in both rural and town centre churches across Suffolk. Jubilate's commitment to the church and its community is evident in its dedication to preserving the service of Choral Evensong and its inclusion in traditional parish worship.



Sunday Café

CARD PAYMENTS
ACCEPTED

Sunday
15th February
Village Hall
10—11.30 am

TAKEAWAYS
AVAILABLE

EVERYONE WELCOME

Thank you to everyone who attended our January Café and huge thanks to all the volunteers. Thank you all for your patience and support during the transition.



We welcome your thoughts on anything that can be improved or any changes you would like to see; what are your favourite bakes and cakes, what do you enjoy the most about the café, etc.

We serve delicious bacon rolls, croissants, proper coffee, a range of teas and yummy cakes and bakes, all made by our team of volunteers.

There is a covered area outside, should you wish to bring a four-legged friend and activities for children. We are a non-profit, volunteer run group, so only charge what we need to cover costs.

Please feel free to email us your thoughts or contact us via WhatsApp and we look forward to seeing you very soon!

Jules (07506 867373) and Pam (07801 478769)

eastonvillagecafe@gmail.com

There is always someone from the Parish Council at the Sunday Café if anyone wishes to speak to them.

Quiz—The Human Body

The answers all contain names of body parts

1. Sheena Easton sang the title song for this 1981 Bond film
2. Band, lead singer Guy Garvey, whose biggest hit was One Day Like This in 2004
3. Neil Kinnock succeeded him as leader of the Labour Party in 1983
4. Where King Kong lived before his capture
5. Alternative name for the vegetable Okra
6. The traditional measure of the height of horses
7. Children’s TV character whose real name was Hiram J Hackenbacker
8. Shakespeare character who is turned into a donkey
9. Name of the echidna who is one of the best friends of “Sonic the Hedgehog”
10. Leader of “The Electric Mayhem”, the house band on The Muppet Show
11. Oscar winning song from the 1997 film “Titanic”
12. Nickname of Major Margaret Houlihan in film and TV series “MASH”
13. Social network website created in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg
14. 1975 blockbuster that includes the line “We’re going to need a bigger boat”
15. Actor who played the Prime Minister in the sketch show “Little Britain”
16. City that lies at the Eastern end of The Panama Canal
17. Name given to the young of whales and dolphins
18. Released in 2006, the bestselling single by the Colombian singer Shakira
19. Dance troupe who performed on Top of the Pops from 1976 to 1981
20. Hospital department abbreviated to E.N.T.

Did you know ...

The Inns of Easton

It is believed that there was an 'inn' at the site of The White Horse for several centuries, but it was not always called The White Horse. On 1st April 1732 licenses for 'ale houses' were granted by Devereaux Edgar, JP to Easton, as follows:-

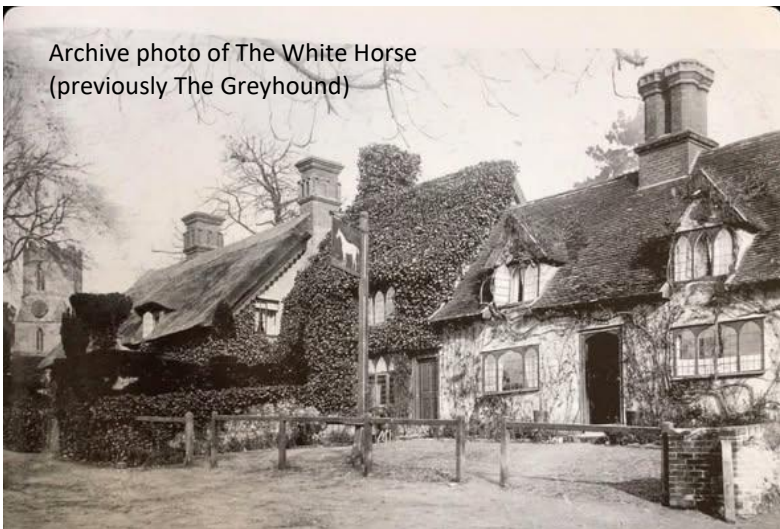
The Greyhound (Samuel Crane)

The Cherry Tree (Samuel Girling)

The Elder Tree (John Call)

These three establishments respectively are believed to have been located on the present sites of The White Horse, The Black and White House (now 1 & 2 Black and White Cottages) and The Terrace - the latter now comprising three cottages—Off Stump, Middle Stump and Meadow View.

There is plenty of evidence about an inn at The Terrace because at Middle Stump there are stairs leading down to a cellar which extends below Meadow View. Repairs to a fireplace at Middle Stump revealed lots of broken clay pipes at the back of the grate, presumably thrown there by the ale house customers whilst consuming their beer.





Above: The Black and White House (formerly the Cherry Tree)

Below: Off Stump, Middle Stump and Meadow View (formerly The Elder Tree)



Courtesy of Wickham Market Archive





Neighbourhood Watch

News for February

Holiday Scams

Action Fraud have issued an article on possible dangers when booking through Airbnb. However, remember this can apply to any booking agency—not just Airbnb.

Common Types of Airbnb Scams

Understanding how Airbnb scams operate helps you spot and avoid them. Each scam type follows specific patterns, with distinct warning signs and risks.

1. Fake Listings

Scammers create non-existent properties, often stealing photos and descriptions from genuine listings.

- Examples: Beautiful city-centre flats, penthouses in popular tourist areas, or entire homes with unbelievable amenities.
- Warning signs: Prices much lower than similar rentals; requests for communication or payment outside the platform; lack of reviews or generic text; hosts who can't meet in person.

2. Cloned Listings

Fraudsters copy real listings, changing only contact details or price.

- Examples: Duplicate listings with changed host profiles or slightly altered titles.
- Warning signs: Multiple entries for the same property; pushy hosts urging off-platform communication.

3. Last-Minute Property Switches

Some hosts claim the booked property isn't available and offer to "upgrade" or move you.

- Examples: Arriving to find your accommodation changed, and the new property is substandard or doesn't exist.
- Warning signs: Excuses given just before check-in; pressured to accept alternatives immediately.

Case Study: Group of 12 Travels to Belgium for non-existent Airbnb Rental

According to the BBC, a group of 12 people paid £845 to stay at an Airbnb rental in Belgium (travelling from Birmingham). However, upon arrival at the property, they were somewhat dismayed to find that the property was occupied by a long-term tenant. Whilst deciding what to do next, another group who'd also been scammed arrived to stay at the property!

To try and resolve the matter, the victim had to call the local police and Airbnb. She reported that it took hours to get anywhere, but finally, Airbnb agreed to a full refund and the cost of a night's stay at a local hotel.

This case study is just one example of how an Airbnb scam can ruin your holiday and, potentially, cause financial losses.

Warning Signs of Airbnb Scams

Recognising the main warning signs of Airbnb scams can help to protect your money. Typical features in fraudulent bookings include:

- Unusually low nightly rates compared to similar properties in the same neighbourhood
- Requests to pay outside of the official Airbnb platform. These types of scams can sometimes lead to sharing of personal information.
- Pushy hosts urging fast decisions or asking to move conversations away from Airbnb.
- Last-minute changes to the booked property, often described as "unexpected maintenance".
- Poor spelling, grammar or generic descriptions in listings, often copied from legitimate hosts

If you're concerned that a rental is not legitimate, you should contact Airbnb in the first instance. However, if you're worried that you may have provided sensitive information to scammers, you should report the fraud to your bank right away. This could help to stop any money being taken in this or future frauds.

What To Do If You're Involved in an Airbnb Scam

If you've become a victim of an Airbnb scam, fast action helps protect your finances. Our specialists guide you step by step:

- **Report the scam** using the platform's official channels first, as this creates a record of your complaint
- **Gather all evidence**, including messages, property photos, payment receipts, and communications with the host
- **Contact your bank or card issuer** to flag any suspicious payments and ask about chargeback or dispute options
- **Avoid further communication** with the scammer, especially if they request additional payments.

To report fraud or seek advice contact Action Fraud (being renamed Report Fraud) on 0300 123 2040.

John Owen



At the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu is the original million-pound James Bond Aston Martin DB4 which can throw an oil slick and massive smokescreen out of the back. Alternatively there's an 1982 Vauxhall Cavalier on eBay that will do that for £125.

Answer to 'Where in Easton is this?'

Black and white cottages gable right hand side looking from road.

Answers to Quiz—The Human Body

1. For Your Eyes Only
2. Elbow
3. Michael Foot
4. Skull Island
5. Ladies Fingers
6. Hands
7. Brains (From Thunderbirds)
8. (Nick) Bottom
9. Knuckles
10. Dr Teeth
11. My Heart Will Go On
12. Hot Lips
13. Facebook
14. Jaws
15. Anthony Head
16. Colon
17. Calves
18. Hips Don't Lie
19. Legs and Co
20. Ear, Nose and Throat

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Suffolk

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Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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