

# EASTON VILLAGE NEWS



Pilgrim Cross is an Easter pilgrimage for all ages that walks every year to Walsingham – an ancient site of pilgrimage in Norfolk. They live and walk in community before spending an amazing weekend celebrating Easter in the ruins of Walsingham Abbey. We are very fortunate that they visit our church every year.

(Thanks to Pam Bennett-King for the photo.)

**May 2025**

## Useful Contact details

### Parish Councillors:

Sue Piggott T: 01728 746622 (Chair & Highways)  
Fiona Siddall T: 01728 746517 (Vice Chair & Play Area Officer)  
Bob Gibbon T: 01728 746866 (Emergency Officer)  
Ian Palfreyman T: 07775 652820 (Footpaths Officer)  
Gary Edwards T: 01728 747970 (Cemetery and Burials Officer)  
Derek Balcombe T: 01728 768215  
Dave Ladbrook T: 07730 432542 (Play Area Officer)  
Clerk—Andrew Staples E: parishclerk@eastonpc.org.uk  
Parish council website <http://easton.suffolk.cloud/>

### Suffolk County Councillor:

Elaine Bryce T: 07955 434440 E: Elaine.bryce@suffolk.gov.uk

### East Suffolk District Councillors:

Owen Grey (Lib Dem) E: owen.grey@eastsuffolk.gov.uk  
Vince Landon-Morris (Green) E: vince.langdon-morris@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

### All Saints Church

Rev. Ann Kember (Priest-in-charge) T: 07369 240252  
Note: Ann is not available Weds/Thurs/Fri E: annkember58@gmail.com  
Jane Woodbury-Eggs (Lay Elder) T: 01728 746667

### Village Hall

Lorna Edwards (Bookings) E: lornakhedwards@gmail.com  
Village Hall website [www.yourhall.co.uk](http://www.yourhall.co.uk) Search Easton  
[www.easton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.easton.onesuffolk.net)

### Village Website

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 something to put in the Village News, please submit it by 14th of each month.**

## Editor's Introduction

Spring is definitely my favourite time of the year. Watching trees and shrubs producing leaves that are such a very fresh green colour, watching and listening to birds as they call for a mate and look for the right nesting site, and endless sunshine, but not the intense humid heat that so often accompanies much of the summer. I even like the cool wind from the north!

As I am sure you will know, there is much change afoot in the village. Sadly, Nikk Slowey and her husband Christian have had to leave for pastures new. They have asked me to pass on to you all that they have loved living here and are very sad to be moving on. We wish them both all the best for the future. Nikk was our gardening feature writer. We are very fortunate that Sarah Castle has kindly agreed to take on the role.

April saw our very own Jane Woodbury-Eggs stand down from her role as churchwarden. Having diligently fulfilled the role for many years, she really does deserve a rest! We are very pleased that she will continue her strong involvement in the church as our Lay Elder. See the photo of her presentation page 18.

There's lots happening this month—VE Day Beacon Lighting celebration, the May Fair, Bingo Night ... Read all about them in the magazine and more besides.

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.

# **EASTON PARISH COUNCIL**



# **80**

**Year VE Day  
Anniversary Celebration**

## **Easton Beacon Lighting Event**

**Easton Parish Council**

**Invites**

**EVERYONE**

**to**

**a Complimentary BBQ**

**THURSDAY MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

**VILLAGE HALL AND VILLAGE GREEN**

**7pm Pay Bar opens for 7.30pm BBQ - Village Hall**

**Lighting of the Beacon with complimentary 'bubbly'**

**9.30pm – Village Green**

**To R.S.V.P. with numbers (including friends and family) joining  
the event please contact Chair-[sue.e.piggott@btinternet](mailto:sue.e.piggott@btinternet) or  
tel: 01728 746622**

**We Look Forward to seeing you**

# What's On in May



## Village Hall

### **Mondays:**

**Yoga** with Ellie 9.30—11 am

Pre-booking

E: [eleanorpenlo@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorpenlo@gmail.com)

### **Tuesdays:**

**50+ Keep Fit Class** 10-11 am  
£8 per session (block payment per term of 6/7 weeks)

Contact Clare Hassler on  
01728 621247/07769 716761  
for more information

### **Wednesdays:**

**Pilates** with Kelly

Advanced 9.15 am

Beginners/Intermediate 10.30 am

Pre-booking

E: [pilateswithkelly@hotmail.com](mailto:pilateswithkelly@hotmail.com)

### **Table Tennis**

6:30pm £5 per session

Contact John on 746644

### **Thursdays:**

**Rabble Chorus**

8pm

E: [Kirsty@rabblechorus.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@rabblechorus.co.uk)

**Gardening Club**

**Tuesday 6th**

**6.30—8.30 pm**

**Village Hall**

**80 Year VE Day Celebration**

**Thursday 8th from 7 pm**

**Beacon lighting and BBQ**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Friday 9th**

**7pm Village Hall**

**Sunday Café**

**18th**

**9.30—11.00 am**

**Village Hall**

**Fun and Games**

**Tuesday 20th**

**2—3.30 pm**

**Village Hall**

**EPC AGM**

**Tuesday 20th**

**7.45 pm**

**Village Hall**

**Bingo Night**

**Saturday 24th**

**7.30 pm**

**Village Hall**

**Mobile Library will stop outside  
The White Horse on Wednesday  
28th between 12.25 and 12.45.**

# MAY FAIR



**Saturday 10th May  
2 till 4 pm  
Village Green**

It's only a few days away! Let the sun shine brightly on the day.

There's lots to pack into 2 hours!

**Crowning of the May Queen with Attendants 2.15pm**

**Ipswich Community Wind Band**

**Rabble Chorus    Tea Tent**

**Meet the Hamilton Bloodhounds**



**Lots of Stalls: Books, Home Bakes, Plants, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Bric a Brac, Punch and Judy, Tombola, Human Fruit Machine, Grand Draw, Coconut Shy, Hook a Duck, Splat the Rat, Easton Pre - School, Easton Primary School Association**

Please bring all your kindly donated **bakes, marmalades, jams and chutneys** on the day to the Home Bake stall.

**Plants, Books and Bric-a-Brac** can be donated from Friday 9th May to the church porch or brought on the day to the relevant stall.

**All bottles for the Tombola** please deliver to Colin Haysom or bring on the day. Please remember to check sell by dates .

**Please remember it's a CASH event with limited card use**  
(suggest plenty of £1's and 50p's!)

**We look forward to seeing everyone for this wonderful village event.**

**EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL**



**SATURDAY 24TH MAY**

**7.30 pm**

**Tickets are £5 per person**

**Join us for a night of light-hearted  
fun.**

**Cash prize of £25  
Also Prosecco/Nosecco**

**Price includes entry to the games on the  
night and bar snacks.**

**Pay bar (no bring your own).**

**Book now to avoid disappointment.**

**Contact Bev on 07500 978469  
or  
email [bevps27@gmail.com](mailto:bevps27@gmail.com)**

# Easton Bowls Club

We opened the Bowls Club on Sunday on 20 April. The first Woodbridge League game being on the 22 April at home to Tunstall.

## Home matches during May

1 May	Thursday	League v Bredfield	6:30
5 May	Monday	Monday Pairs	10:00
6 May	Tuesday	League v Dennington	7:00
8 May	Thursday	League v Alderton	6:45
15 May	Thursday	League v Leiston	6:45
19 May	Monday	Monday Pairs	10:00
22 May	Thursday	League v Melton	6:45
29 May	Thursday	League v Wickham Market	6:45

As you can see we have several home games during May. Why not come and give us a look? Easton Bowls Club is a lovely setting and we are a friendly group. You would all be welcome.



# Easton Cricket Club



## Home Fixtures—May

Saturday 3rd, 12 noon

1st XI v Wivenhoe Town 1st XI

Sunday 4th, 13.00

1st XI v Horringer 1st XI

Saturday 10th, 13.00

2nd XI v Dunmow 2nd XI

Saturday 17th, 12 noon

1st XI v Mildenhall 2nd XI

Saturday 24th, 13.00

2d XI v Stowmarket 1st XI

Saturday 31st, 12 noon

1st XI v Coggeshall Town 1st XI

Spectators always welcome.

There are junior matches which take place during the week.

For more details visit [Easton.play-cricket.com](http://Easton.play-cricket.com)

# Easton and Letheringham Community Gardening Club

Our **meeting on March 31st** was very enjoyable and well attended. We were joined by Mr James Mansell, a teacher from Easton Primary School, and two pupils who gave us a very informative talk about their Triangle of Life project.

The school have transformed an outdoor space for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers whilst encouraging wildlife by providing suitable habitats. This area is enjoyed by pupils from all year groups and helps to encourage environmental awareness and nurture a love of plants and growing.



We are planning on offering our support with this brilliant project in the following ways

- Donating plants for the garden
- Providing volunteers to assist with tasks on a weekly basis.
- Offering a fun and interactive birdbox making workshop in the autumn.

Anyone who would enjoy volunteering in the school garden please let us know and we will contact the school with numbers. We will volunteer in pairs or small groups .

We also need volunteers for the birdbox making workshop which will take place on a date to be confirmed in the autumn.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

Our next meeting will be on

**Tuesday May 6th at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Plant Sale and Garden Chat**

Please bring along any plants, shrubs, divisions, seedlings from the community seed growing for people to take away for a small donation.

Any unwanted garden books welcome .

There will be an opportunity for people to ask questions and share knowledge.

We would welcome any ideas/suggestions for further Gardening Club meetings.

Tea and coffee

Come along to any or all of our meetings. Everyone is welcome, even if you're not a gardener but would just like tea/coffee and a chat. All the meetings are in the Village Hall.

For more information contact: -

Sarah Castle [sjcastle1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjcastle1@hotmail.co.uk)

Claire Balcombe [clairebalcombe@email.com](mailto:clairebalcombe@email.com)

Gerard Newnham [gerard.newnham@icloud.com](mailto:gerard.newnham@icloud.com)

Steve Parkinson [stephen.parkinson59@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.parkinson59@gmail.com)



# MAY IN THE GARDEN

*With the sad departure from the village of Nikk and Christian to pastures new, we are grateful to Sarah Castle who has kindly agreed to provide monthly tips for all the keen gardeners amongst you. Thank you Sarah.* Ed.

May is the best of months as our gardens look wonderfully lush and green before the heat and dryness of the warmer season arrives.

## THE WILDLIFE GARDEN



Look out for dragonflies, especially around water.

Bats are active now and moving to maternity roosts, so a good time to mount a bat box high on a south facing wall or building.

Keep an area of unmown grass to encourage ground nesting insects.

Avoid disturbing nesting birds in shrubs, hedges and bird boxes.

Plant annuals and perennials with single flowers to encourage pollinators.

Continue to feed birds and provide fresh water.



Make a "bee drinker" using a plant saucer filled with pebbles and water.

Put out hedgehog food and provide fresh water.

Migrant birds start arriving ... look out for swallows and swifts.

Enjoy the wonderful Dawn Chorus as birds compete for territories and mates.

## GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

Be aware of late frosts. Wait until the end of May before planting out half hardy annuals.

Provide stakes for tall perennials before they start flopping.

Continue sowing seeds, pricking out, potting on and hardening off seedlings.

Plant out squash

Plant out dahlias when all risk of frost has passed.

Earth up potatoes.

Tie in sweet peas and feed.

Give late flowering perennials the 'Chelsea Chop' to encourage bushier sturdier plants.

Most importantly, enjoy your garden.

Sarah Castle  
RHS Cert.Hort (Level 2)



Where in Easton is  
this?  
(Answer page 29)

# A Sense of Place and Time

## Golden Trumpets – heralds of spring

The true wild daffodil – *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* is a native of well-drained, neutral to acid soils and is confined to ancient woodlands and pastures. In Suffolk, genuine wild populations are very restricted to small numbers and just a few sites such as Butley Woods.

The real extent of truly wild daffodils is now difficult to define. The picture has been confused by ‘wild-type’ daffodils which have been introduced, often in churchyards and orchards, which have naturalised out into the wider countryside.



Such is the charm of daffodils as such bright harbingers of spring, over the centuries horticulturalists have carefully selected to favour and enhance characteristics such as ‘trumpet’ colour, petal colour and number, that there is now a myriad of daffodil varieties and cultivars to choose from.

Daffodils are in the Lily family (hence the colloquial name Lent Lily). There is much debate as whether the ‘trumpet’ or Corona is a floral structure in its own right, or whether it is a ring of fused petals, but whichever its origin, it is a very effective adaptation to guide insects into the flower to ensure pollination.

*Acetosella*



# The Easton White Horse

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May:

Live music in the bar by Cosmo Henry from 4pm

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May:

Asian fusion brunch 11am—3pm

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May:

May Fair BBQ 12-4pm outside front of pub

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May:

First street food event of the summer.

Music by DJ Colin Reid in the garden.

Variety of street food available from 3pm.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May:

Asian fusion brunch 11am—3pm

Tel: 746456

# Patrick Spencer MP

Member of Parliament for  
Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

**DELIVERING FOR EASTON**



As the days grow longer and summer evenings stretch before us, there's no better way to unwind than by diving into a good book.

I'm passionate about reading – especially when it comes to inspiring young people to read for enjoyment, not simply as something tied to schoolwork.

A recent report from Harper Collins reveals that only one in three children genuinely enjoys reading for pleasure. That's a concerning figure and reflects a slow decline in the love of reading among our younger residents.

The advantages of recreational reading go far beyond improving literacy. Reading has a profound impact on mental health, helping to reduce stress and anxiety. It fuels creativity, ignites the imagination and builds language skills in a way that structured learning alone often cannot achieve.

As a parent to two young children, I know how special reading can be. Reading with them offers more than just educational benefit – it gives us moments to connect as a family, creating memories that stay with us. A bedtime story is a chance to relax, unwind and share something magical together.

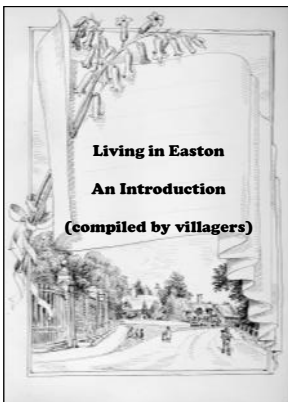
Importantly, reading for pleasure isn't just about the precious hardback books of old. Comics, magazines and audiobooks are just as valuable – they grab children's attention and help foster a love for storytelling in all its forms. Libraries play a crucial role in this. Whether it's a classic fairytale or an anime graphic novel, there's something for everyone. And of course, a book or comic slips easily into a pocket or bag, ready to be enjoyed almost anywhere.

In light of the disruption that will be caused by the decision to bring Suffolk Libraries under Suffolk County Council control, we must not forget the

enduring importance of our local libraries. Open, accessible and free at the point of use, libraries give young people, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, in fact everyone, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the joy of reading. Their role in supporting reading for pleasure cannot be overstated.

This May, I am launching a survey to better understand reading habits across our communities, and I'm keen to hear what more can be done, both locally and in Westminster, to help children develop a lifelong love of reading. You can take part here: [www.patrickspencer.co.uk/mysurvey](http://www.patrickspencer.co.uk/mysurvey)

Yours sincerely,  
Patrick Spencer MP



## 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, 2 Black and White Cottages  
T: 747370 E: [thebks@btinternet.com](mailto:thebks@btinternet.com)

# All Saints Church



## May Fair

We are looking forward to all the excitement and fun of the May Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> May on the Green! See elsewhere in the magazine.

## Church Services

The benefice service on 4<sup>th</sup> May will include the recommissioning of the benefice Lay Elders and the commissioning of our new Lay Elder, John Adams from Parham. The service will take place at Hacheston at 11 am followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the Village Hall.

Easton has a Morning Worship service on 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11 am.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May it is Rogation Sunday when we remember the work of farmers and all who provide our food from the land. This year there will be a tea and prayers at Marlesford Community Hall at 3 pm followed by a walk to Parham for Evening Prayer at 6 pm. The walk is optional! Transport back to Marlesford will be available.

The benefice service on 1<sup>st</sup> June is at Brandeston.

The benefice service on 6<sup>th</sup> July will include the licensing of Revd Ann as Rector.

## Discussion Group

We shall be meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Little Barn, Monewden at 10.30 am. Our topic is "Communion". New members are always welcome. If you would like to come but need a lift, we can oblige.

## Sunday Café

The Sunday Café is on 18<sup>th</sup> May. More lovely food and a chance to meet up with friends and neighbours!

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our annual meeting was on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The PCC, which runs the church with Revd Ann, now comprises: Pam Bennett-King, Peter Bennett-King, Emma Gibbon, Malcolm Plews and Jane Woodbury-Eggins. The annual report and accounts were adopted, as well as the new electoral roll. It is hoped to appoint a new churchwarden soon and Guy Pugh has indicated that he is willing to take over as treasurer from Malcolm if/when he moves.

## Bell ringers

There will be a bellringing competition taking place at Easton church on 3<sup>rd</sup> May in the afternoon.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins



## A BIG THANK YOU

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Rev Ann made a presentation of flowers and a gardening gift voucher to Jane Woodbury-Eggins on behalf of the church and our community to thank her for all the years she has served as churchwarden to All Saints Church, Easton. Jane will still be very much involved with the church as she is a benefice Lay Elder, but on behalf of the village, we thank her for her care of this special place.

Ed

## Church Services for May

4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am	Benefice Holy Communion with Recommissioning of Elders <i>followed by Bring and Share Lunch in Hacheston Village Hall</i>	Hacheston
11 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
		11am	Morning Worship	Easton
			Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Parham
11 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	6pm	Evening Prayer	Marlesford
		10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
18 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
25 <sup>th</sup>	Rogatio n Sunday	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
		3pm	Prayers and Afternoon Tea	Marlesford
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Parham

**Monday Prayers on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm at Hacheston  
Compline is said at Marlesford every Wednesday at 5pm**

**The next Benefice Service is on 1<sup>st</sup> June  
at 11am at Brandeston**

# Sunday Café

Sunday 18th May

Village Hall

9.30—11.00 am

Come and join us for delicious home made goodies, sweet and savoury, all made by our lovely volunteers. Our bacon rolls (made with Revetts bacon and rolls from Harvey & Co) are also not to be missed. Our specials board might catch your eye. All food can be bought to take away at very good prices. We aim just to cover costs and any profit we do make is sent to charities (for instance £170 to the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal last month) or donated to the church.

Enjoy catching up with friends, making new ones, or reading the Sunday newspapers in our lovely village hall. We've got toys for the children and a covered seating area outside if you'd like to bring your dog along.

**CASH ONLY PLEASE.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Sponsored by All Saints Church

Thanks to Jules Croucher for the photo.



# *Sunday Café*

## A plea ...

The Sunday Café has now been running since April 2013. Originally the concept of Colin Haysom and Carol Rook, it quickly became a popular event in the village.

I very happily helped from the start and have enjoyed 'running' the Café once Carol moved away in June 2019. We have gone from strength to strength and this is in no small part due to our brilliant band of volunteers who bake, wait tables, set up, run the kitchen, cook bacon, make drinks, wash up etc etc.

I now feel it is time to find someone else to take over. Could you be that person, or how about teaming up with a friend in the village to run this popular event?

I would be happy to work alongside my successor/s until the New Year, but feel very strongly it is time for someone with new ideas and enthusiasm (and youth!) to take up this important role in the life of our village. I will just say it is a lot of fun (as anyone who has been to the Café can testify) as well as being quite a big commitment, but is such a worthwhile thing to do.

Please contact me if you'd like more information. I'd love to hear from you.

Clare

T: 745015



# Neighbourhood Watch

## News for April

### Phone scams

Commonly known as 'vishing' scams, these involve fraudsters trying to trick you over the phone. Stay one step ahead with our tips

#### What is a phone scam?

Phone scams involve fraudsters attempting to obtain your personal or financial information over the phone.

These scams are often referred to as 'vishing' scams - a combination of 'voice' and 'phishing'.

It's not always easy to spot a phone scam. For example, fraudsters can spoof phone numbers so it appears that you're genuinely being called by your bank or a government department. Additionally, they may already have some of your information from a previous data breach, which might make you think the call is genuine.

Read on to learn more about the most common types of phone scams and how to avoid them.

#### Common types of phone scam

**Impersonation scams:** Someone calls you out of the blue claiming to be from your bank's fraud department. They inform you that your account has been compromised and encourage you to transfer your money into a 'safe' account, before disappearing with your cash. Scammers have also been known to impersonate the police, utility providers and government departments.

**Remote access scams:** Similar to the above, the fraudster claims your account has been compromised and informs you that you'll need to download software onto your device so that they can access the account. The software is from a legitimate company but is used by the scammer to steal your money. If you're encouraged to download software, end the call, disconnect from your wi-fi and delete anything you've downloaded.

**Tech support scams:** These scams also involve remote access software. The fraudster impersonates a tech company such as Microsoft and informs you that your device has been infected with malware. To fix the issue, they will either ask you to download remote access software to give them control over your device or trick you into installing malware.

**HMRC scams:** A scammer calls you claiming to be from HMRC, telling you that you have underpaid your tax. Some scammers leave automated voicemails which state that you're being taken to court and ask you to press a number that then puts you through to a fraudster. Other HMRC scams begin with an email or text message asking you to call a dodgy number to secure your account or claim a tax refund. You can report scam calls to HMRC online (you'll be asked to sign in using your Government Gateway user ID or your email address).

**Investment and financial scams:** A scammer calls you out of the blue about a phony investment opportunity, promising huge returns. Pension cold calls are banned, and the government is consulting on extending this to all financial products. If the changes come into force, you'll know that any unsolicited financial call trying to sell you a product is a scam.

**Prize draw scams:** A fraudster calls you claiming you've won a prize or the lottery. They'll invent a story to make up for the fact that you don't remember entering a competition. You'll usually be asked for your personal or financial information to receive the prize or money.

## **Watch out for number spoofing**

This is when a scammer has been able to disguise their true caller identity by masking it with a company's legitimate phone number to appear genuine.

If you receive an unexpected call from a company, it's always best to hang up and call them back yourself using an official customer number listed on their website.

## **Premium-rate number scams**

Fraudsters also look to trick victims via premium-rate number scams.

We've previously reported on 'call connecting' companies buying up ads on search engines that appear when you search for a government department or utility provider.

These 'click to dial' ads allow you to click on the phone number and be put straight through to the company. You will be sent through to the company's genuine phone line, but via a premium-rate number, meaning a call that should be free could cost you upwards of £100.

Premium numbers to look out for typically start with 084, 087, 090, 091 or 098. To avoid these scams, don't click on sponsored results when looking up companies or government departments. Instead, ensure you're navigating to their official website.

If you've been unexpectedly charged a premium rate for a call and believe this wasn't made clear, you can report this to Ofcom by filling out a form on its website or by calling it on 0300 123 3333 or 020 7981 3040.

Finally, it's also worth being on your guard against 'missed call' scams. This is when a scammer calls you from a premium number but ends the call before you can answer it, in the hope you'll phone back and run up a big bill.

## How to stay safe from phone scams

Follow these tips to stay safe from scammers who target you over the phone:

- Never disclose your financial information over the phone. If you're at all suspicious about the caller, end the call immediately.
- Register with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This will stop legitimate companies from making unsolicited sales and marketing calls to your phone number, so when you receive a call, you'll know a scammer is on the other end of the line.
- Consider installing a call blocker for nuisance calls.
- Be aware that scammers may be able to keep your phone line open even after you've hung up, so if you hang up on a dodgy call, use a different phone to call the company back on a trusted number or wait for at least 10 to 15 minutes.
- Call 159 if you receive a call claiming to be from your bank. When you call, you'll be put through to your bank's genuine customer service line. The banks involved in the scheme include Barclays, Bank of Scotland, Co-operative, First Direct, Halifax, HSBC, Lloyds, Metro Bank, Nationwide, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland, Santander, Starling Bank, Tide, TSB, Monzo and Ulster Bank. You can use this service if your phone contract is with BT (including EE and Plusnet), Gamma, O2 (including giffgaff), Sky, Three, Vodafone, TalkTalk or Virgin Media.

## How to verify numbers

If you receive a call from a number you don't recognise, you can try to verify it by:

- Using a website to search for a phone number, such as Who Called Me.
- Typing in the number to a search engine and seeing what comes up. Others may have reported receiving scam calls from the same number.
- Searching the number on social media to see if others have received suspicious calls from it.
- Be wary of international calling codes as it's unlikely that legitimate businesses will be calling you from an international number.

## How to report phone scams

If you receive a spam call on an iPhone, you can report it to your provider by texting the word 'call' followed by the phone number to 7726.

If you have an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726. You'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number.

For scam calls received on WhatsApp, open the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tap 'block.' You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact' and 'block'.

You can also report scam calls to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

*Courtesy of Consumer Association*

John Owen

Did you hear Julie Andrews will no longer endorse cheap lipstick? It crumbles easily and makes her breath smell. She explained, "The super colour fragile lipstick gives me halitosis."



Fun and Games!  
Tuesday 20th May  
2—3.30 pm  
Village Hall



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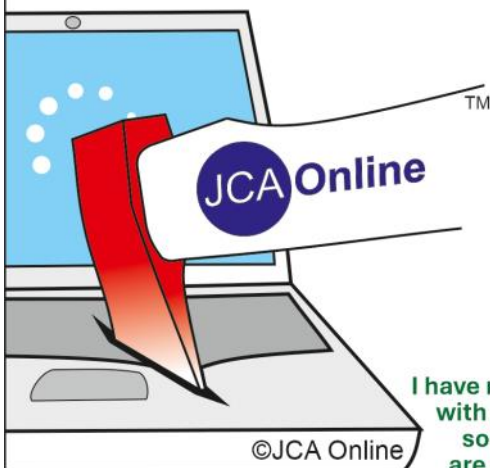
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