

# EASTON VILLAGE NEWS



Just some of the beautiful Easter bonnets made by Easton Primary School children. See more inside.

**May 2026**

## Useful Contact details

### Parish Councillors:

Dave Ladbrook T: 07730 432542 (Chair & Funding Lead)  
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 (Highways)  
E: cllr.balcombe@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk  
Pam Bennett-King T: 07801 478769 (Cemetery & Burials)  
E: cllr.bennett-king@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk  
Pippa Banham T: 07894 144713 (Planning Oversight)  
E: cllr.banham@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk  
Clerk—Andrew Staples E: clerk@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk  
Parish Council website <https://eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk/>

### 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@east Suffolk.gov.uk  
Vince Landon-Morris (Green) E: vince.langdon-morris@east Suffolk.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-Eggins (Lay Elder) T: 01728 746667  
Peter Bennett-King (Churchwarden) T: 01728 747370

### Village Hall

Bookings Andrew Staples E: avstaples@icloud.com  
Village Hall website [www.yourhall.co.uk](http://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

## Editor's Introduction

There's lots happening in the village this month and I hope I've included everything.

Firstly, I just couldn't resist putting the photo montage of the primary school children on the front cover of this issue in their fabulous Easter 'bonnets'. Apparently they were quite resplendent (and very well behaved of course) in the church for last month's Easter Service.

On a more serious note, Stop Deben Solar are asking for everyone's help this month. I make no apology for making their article the lead item this month. Please help if you can and want to.

On a lighter note, we have the wonderful May Fair on Saturday 9th to look forward to, thanks to the very hard work of Emma and Nancy. Let's hope the weather is as good as it usually is! Please come and join in the fun and support this brilliant community event. (Coincidentally, this month our MP has written a very apposite article on 'community'—it's worth a read.)

Finally, it is with much sadness that I have to report the recent death of Michael Coney. He and Paul have lived in the village for many years. We send our love and deep-felt sympathy to Paul and Michael's family. (At the time of publication, there is no date for the funeral.)

Make every moment count in this topsy turvy world we live in.

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.



## **We Need Your Help Now**

The proposed solar farm and battery storage development in Easton and Letheringham represents a **fundamental change to our landscape**—one that would industrialise a large part of the Deben Valley and potentially open the door to further development in the future.

Over the past months, the strength of local feeling has been clear. Residents, businesses and visitors alike have come together to defend what makes this area special. That collective effort has already made a difference—but **we are now entering a critical stage**.

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### **Your Voice Still Matters**

The developer's revised application was submitted on **26 March**, and the deadline for public comments has been extended to **22 May 2026**.

If you objected previously, it is important to **submit again**. Simply repeating your earlier comments may not be counted, so please:

- ◆ Reconfirm your objection using new points
- ◆ Highlight any concerns that remain unresolved
- ◆ Focus on new or updated issues

Numbers matter. A strong response from the community continues to carry weight.

## Key Issues Still Not Properly Addressed

Despite revisions, significant concerns remain, including:

- **Uncertain grid connection and cable routing**
  - **Traffic impacts on narrow rural roads**
  - **Incomplete ecology and archaeology assessments**
  - **Loss of agricultural land, including potential BMV land**
  - **Noise and environmental standards not clearly met**
  - **Glint and glare impacts**
  - **Construction impacts on public rights of way and safety**
- 

## Battery Storage – A Serious Concern

The proposal includes **20 large containerised Battery Energy Storage units (BESS)**.

These would be located:

- ◆ On elevated land
- ◆ Close to ancient woodland
- ◆ Above nearby properties and the River Deben

Important questions remain unanswered, particularly:

- ◆ Fire risk and emergency response
- ◆ Management of toxic fumes
- ◆ Handling of contaminated firefighting water

At present, there are **no solar-specific UK standards governing BESS safety**, making it even more important that these risks are properly scrutinised.

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## Why Funding Matters

To ensure that objections are properly presented, SDSAG is working with **independent expert consultants** across planning, landscape, ecology and engineering.

These professionals are essential in:

- Challenging technical submissions
- Identifying weaknesses in the application
- Presenting evidence that carries weight with the Council

However, this work **cannot continue without funding**.

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## A Community Effort

This is not just about one part—it affects the **entire character of our area**.

Many residents have already contributed generously. If you have not yet done so, we ask you to consider:

- Making a contribution, however modest
- Helping ensure that the community's case is properly represented

If we want our concerns to be taken seriously, we must be prepared to **support the effort collectively**.

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## How to Contribute

### Stop Deben Solar Action Group (SDSAG)

NatWest

Sort Code: 53-61-24

Account Number: 72379162

## Act Now

This may be our **last opportunity** to influence the outcome.

Please:

- Submit your objection before **22 May**
- Encourage others in your household to do the same
- Support the campaign if you are able

Together, we have already made an impact. With your continued support, we can ensure that the case against this development is presented as strongly as possible.

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## Stop Deben Solar

[www,stopdebensolar.co.uk](http://www.stopdebensolar.co.uk)

Facebook: Stop Deben Solar

Email: [stopdebensolar@gmail.com](mailto:stopdebensolar@gmail.com)





# EASTON MAY FAIR

**Saturday 9th May**

**2 till 4 pm**

**Village Green**

**Come and enjoy a fun afternoon!**

**Crowning the May Queen/King (2.30 pm)**

**Tin Can Alley**

**Roll a Coin**

**Splat the Rat**

**Human Fruit Machine**

**Home Bakes**

**Tea Tent**

**Bric-A-Brac**

**Grand Draw**

**Books**

**Wind Band**

**Tombola**

**Rabble Chorus**

**Plants**

**Toys**

**Easton Preschool**

**Easton Primary School**

**Guess the number of balloons**

**Meet the Hamilton Bloodhounds**

**Lots of prizes**

**Mostly cash event**

**(Card machine for Grand Draw)**



Raising funds for All Saints Church and The Hour Community

# Do you have any donations for this year's May Fair please?

Toys (new or pre-loved)



Bottles of alcohol for the Tombola  
(any size—please check expiry dates)



Plants



Homes bakes, jams, marmalade



Bric-A-Brac

(anything you might have lying around at home you no longer use or need)

Books

(all ages, comics, magazines)



Gazebos

(just to borrow for the day)

Bottles to Colin at Lawsons, Fram Road

Books to Clare at 5 Harriers Walk

Anything else can be left in the church porch from  
Friday 8th.

Please contact

Emma: [emmajgibbon123@gmail.com](mailto:emmajgibbon123@gmail.com)  
07905 632927

Nancy: [nmapearson@gmail.com](mailto:nmapearson@gmail.com)  
07776 147839

# EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Although I am writing this in the middle of April, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of Easton who attended our village clean up on April 25th. As with our autumn clean up, I hope we managed to get a significant amount of work done and, as always, it is nice to see the community come together for such a worthwhile event.

The **Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 11th May**. As always, we would like as many members of the community to attend as possible. I know I've said it before, but this is **your** Parish Council. Please also keep your eyes on the Council noticeboard (in the left hand side entrance to the village car park) and/or our website for details of extraordinary Parish Council meetings that will be coming up during May - one to discuss the renewed solar farm planning application in Letheringham and Easton, and another to discuss the Section 19 report into the effects of storm Babet in the village in October 2023.

Finally from me this month, some slightly concerning news. I have heard from a number of people in the village that they have received spurious emails supposedly from me. Some of these messages ask the recipient if they're free to chat, others asking about a meeting. In each case, these emails are fake and are not from me. They originate from various Gmail accounts. I do not have a Gmail account. All correspondence from me will come from my gov.uk email address which is available on the inside cover of this magazine.

Dave Ladbrook



## News

### Bookings

The Village Hall continues to be busy with new Yoga classes which started in April on Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8pm and Thursdays 10.00am – 11.30am. For further information and to join please contact Andrew Beattie

[yogasuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:yogasuffolk@gmail.com)

Classes are £66 for a block of 6 classes and £15 for a 'drop-in'.

### The Committee

We are very pleased to report that we have a new member joining our committee - Andrew Staples—who will taking over the bookings.

As always we are keen for the hall to be used by residents for private parties, classes and community activities.

### AGM

The committee decided to push the AGM back to September as setting a date that didn't clash with one of the many AGM's being held was becoming very difficult.

The date for the Village Hall AGM will be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

As always, if there are any issues or questions please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the committee.

Gerard Newnham

# What's On in the Village Hall in May



## **Mondays:**

### **Strength & Conditioning Class**

6—7pm

Call 07748 528048

## **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.

### **Yoga Class 6.30—8.00 pm**

Contact Andrew Beattie  
yogasuffolk@gmail.com  
Classes are £66 for a block of 6 classes  
£15 for a drop-in class.

## **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

## **Thursdays:**

### **Yoga Class 10-11.30 am**

Contact Andrew Beattie  
yogasuffolk@gmail.com  
Classes are £66 for a block of 6 classes  
and £15 for a drop-in class.

### **Rabble Chorus**

8pm

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

## **Fridays:**

### **Yoga with Ellie 9.15—10.30 am**

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

**Gardening Club**  
**Tuesday 5th May**  
**7.45 pm**

**Parish Council AGM**  
**Monday 11th May**  
**7.45 pm**

**Sunday Café**  
**17th**  
**9.30 —11 am**  
**Everyone welcome**

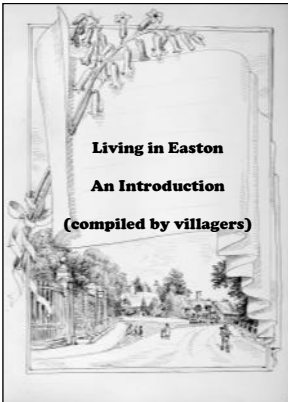
**Natter and Nibbles**  
**Tuesday 19th**  
**2—3.30 pm**

## 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
<b>Individuals</b>	£10.00	£13.00	£15.00
<b>Fully Commercial</b>	£18.00	£21.00	£26.25
<b>Open paid Classes/ Activities</b>	£12.00	£14.00	£17.50
<b>Community</b>	Contribution	Contribution	Contribution



**Mobile Library will stop outside The White Horse on Wednesday 27th 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

# EASTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Easton Primary School enjoyed a lovely end to the spring term with a range of Easter celebrations. Pupils took part in a special Easter service, sharing songs, readings and reflections, and it was wonderful to come together as a school community. Children across the school also showed great creativity with their Easter bonnets, and the Easter egg hunt brought plenty of excitement and smiles for everyone. It was a joyful way to celebrate the season together.





MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT  
**THE EASTON  
WHITE HORSE**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

ROASTS SERVED 12-4

**4PM ONWARDS: MUSIC IN THE GARDEN**

**DJ ISSY B**

CHILLED TUNES UNTIL LATE

**ACCOMPANIED BY  
VERN'S STREET FOOD**

**4PM - 7PM**

**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**VERN'S LAST SOUTH EAST ASIAN BRUNCH  
SERVED 11-3**

**BAR UNTIL LATE**

# Easton Bowls Club

By the time you read this our season will be well underway. We opened the green on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April and the first Woodbridge match of the season was at home to Sutton.

Home matches during May:

5 May	Tuesday	League v Dennington	7:00
7 May	Thursday	League v Wickham Market	6:30
10 May	Sunday	Eric Peck Tournament	10:00
14 May	Thursday	League v Bredfield	6:30
18 May	Monday	Monday Pairs	10:00
21 May	Thursday	League v Saxmundham	6:30
28 May	Thursday	League v Halesworth	6:30

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 2nd (13.00)

2nd XI v St Margarets 1st XI

Saturday 9th (13.00)

1st XI v Elmstead 1st XI

Sunday 10th (13.00)

Women's 1st XI v Copdock & Old Ipswichians T20

Saturday 16th (13.00)

2nd XI v Yoxford 1st XI

Sunday 17th (13.00)

Women's 1st XI v Melton & St Audrey's T20 1st XI

Saturday 23rd (13.00)

1st XI v Abberton & District 1st XI

Sunday 24th (13.30)

Sunday 1st XI v Haverhill Sunday 1st XI

Saturday 30th (13.00)

2nd XI v East Bergholt 2nd 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)



## Community Pride

As we move out of the quieter months and into brighter, warmer days, there is a renewed sense of energy across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. Friends, neighbours and communities are coming together once again, ready to make the most of the season ahead.

There is something special about a village fête, a gathering on a green, or an event in a church hall. These are not grand occasions by national standards, but they are the moments that bring people together and remind us what community truly means.

Across both our rural villages and our town centres, these events are far more than simple dates in the diary. They are a celebration of who we are, where we live, and the people around us. They are where neighbours meet, traditions are passed down, and a shared sense of pride in place is built year after year. Whether it is a cake stall run by volunteers or local musicians performing for a familiar crowd, these moments matter more than we often realise. They remind us of the value of belonging.

They also play an important role in supporting our wellbeing. In a world that can often feel busy and disconnected, taking the time to come together, to talk, to laugh, and to share experiences has real benefits for our mental health. These simple moments of connection lift spirits, reduce isolation, and strengthen the sense that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

In our more rural areas, where life can at times feel more dispersed, these gatherings provide a vital focal point. They bring together farmers, families, small businesses and community groups in a way that strengthens the ties that hold a place together.

In our urban areas, street parties, local festivals and neighbourhood events serve the same purpose. They create spaces where people from different walks of life can come together, share experiences, and build a sense of belonging in places that might otherwise feel fast paced or disconnected.

What unites all of these events is a simple idea, that community is something we build ourselves. It is found in the willingness to volunteer, to organise, to turn up, and to take pride in where we live.

So whether you are helping to run a stall, attending your local fête, or simply stopping for a chat at a community event, you are playing a part in something important. These occasions are the threads that weave our communities together, and they are well worth celebrating.

I look forward to seeing many of you as I am out and about across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich in the weeks ahead.

If you would like to get in touch, share your views, or follow my work, you can contact me by email at [Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk](mailto:Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk) or by telephone on 01728 726612. You can also stay up to date by signing up for my e-newsletter at [www.patrickspencer.co.uk](http://www.patrickspencer.co.uk).

## **Natter and Nibbles**

**Tuesday 19th May**

**2—3.30 pm**

**Village Hall**



**Come and join us for some light refreshments and a chat. Or come and play some table top games if you'd prefer. It's a lovely way to spend an afternoon catching up with others in the village and putting the world to rights (if only!).**

**It's free and good fun.**

# **Easton and Letheringham Community Gardening Club**



**NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY MAY 5TH AT  
7.45PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
(Please note change of time.)**

Heidi from EDIBLE FELIXSTOWE will be giving a talk on the joys of growing fruit, vegetables and herbs in public spaces for the whole community to enjoy. Please do come along and join us.

**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS FOR HEIDI'S TALK TO  
SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANKS.**

**Other Gardening Club News ...**

We have made a start on clearing the border in the village centre. This will be an ongoing project. Anyone is very welcome to join us. The dates and times for further sessions will be advertised here in the village magazine.

Work starts this month with a small team of volunteers assisting in the garden of Easton Primary School.

If you have any excess plants we would appreciate donations for both the school garden and the May Fair please.

Please note we will no longer be holding regular meetings in the village hall as numbers of attendees have been very small. We will instead be focusing on projects in the village and school.

We are hoping to arrange some garden visits , and if we are able to engage an occasional speaker which may interest people it will be advertised here in the village magazine.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE



## EASTON & LETHERINGHAM OPEN GARDENS

SATURDAY JULY 4TH  
11am - 5pm

**CANCELLED**

It is with regret Easton Open Gardens will not be going ahead this year due to circumstances beyond our control. We apologise for any disappointment but look forward to planning for next year.

We hope that anyone who was happy to open their gardens will do so next year.

**For more information on anything Gardening Club related 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

THE MONTH OF MAY IS THE GATEWAY TO SUMMER

JEAN HERSEY

## THE WILDLIFE GARDEN

Look out for emerging dragonflies.

Consider 'No mow May' to allow wildflowers to provide essential nectar for pollinators.

May is peak nesting time with parents actively feeding hungry babies.

As evenings warm up, bat activity increases.

Migrant birds are arriving. Look out for swifts and swallows.

Enjoy the dawn chorus.

## GARDENING TIPS

Give late flowering perennials the Chelsea Chop to encourage strong bushy plants.

Continue sowing seeds, pricking out and hardening off seedlings.

Net any ripening fruit before the birds beat you to it.

Earth up potatoes.

Stake taller plants.

Top up ponds.

Tie in sweetpeas and feed regularly.

Plant out dahlias once all risk of frost has passed.

Enjoy your garden.

Sarah Castle  
RHS Cert.Hort (Level 2)

# All Saints Church



## **Church Services (See table of services for full details)**

The Benefice Holy Communion on 3<sup>rd</sup> May is at 11.00 am at Kettleburgh.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, which is Ascension Day, there will be a Holy Communion service at Marlesford at 10.00 am, followed by coffee at the Community Centre.

**Easton** is hosting the Benefice Holy Communion for **Pentecost** on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 am. We will be in the church for this service.

On Trinity Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> May) there will be a Benefice service of Holy Communion at Hacheston at 11.00 am.

The first-of-the-month Benefice service on 7<sup>th</sup> June will be at Marlesford at 11.00 am.

## **May Fair**

We are looking forward to the May Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> May on the village green from 2 until 4 pm, with most of the usual attractions and some new ones. Emma and Nancy have a hard task putting this event together and organising volunteers and we thank them for their time and effort. Please come and support this very special village event.

We are praying for a dry day! Preferably with sunshine ...

See pages 7/8 for more information.

## **Sunday Café**

Our Sunday Café is on 17<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 to 11.00 am. As usual there will be lovely food and a chance to meet up with friends old and new.

## **Discussion Group**

The Discussion Group meets again on 6<sup>th</sup> May at Bickley, Harriers Walk at 10.30 am. Our topic this month is money and coins in the Bible. New members are always welcome.

## **Big Breakfast at Hacheston Village Hall**

The next Big Breakfast will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 9 to 11 am. These are free as outreach to the community (but any donations gratefully received from those who can afford it). It is an excellent cooked breakfast.

## **Wedding in July**

There will be a big wedding at our church on 4<sup>th</sup> July with possible traffic disruption as it is also the weekend of the Maverick Festival. This is the main reason for the cancellation of the Open Gardens.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins

Where in Easton  
is this?  
(Answer page 28)



## Church Services for May

3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
10 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
		11am	Morning Worship	Campsea Ashe
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Parham
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day	10am	Holy Communion <i>followed by Coffee at Community Centre</i>	Marlesford
17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Morning Worship	Marlesford
		11am	Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
		5pm	Evening Worship	Brandeston
24 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Easton
31 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity Sunday	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Hacheston

**Monday Prayers in May at 4pm at Kettleburgh**  
**Compline is said at Marlesford every Wednesday at 5pm**

**The next Benefice Service is on 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**at 11am at Marlesford**

# Sunday Café

Sunday  
17th May  
Village Hall  
9.30—11.00 am

CARD PAYMENTS  
ACCEPTED

TAKEAWAYS  
AVAILABLE

## EVERYONE WELCOME

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the village Sunday café. 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.

*We are also always happy to welcome 'new recruits' to our merry band of volunteers, either helping on the day or baking. We especially need more volunteers for kitchen roles; including taking orders, cooking bacon and making drinks. If you enjoy the Café, please consider helping occasionally if you can.*

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



Jules (07506 867373) and Pam (07801 478769)

[eastonvillagecafe@gmail.com](mailto:eastonvillagecafe@gmail.com)

# May Quiz

All of the answers include the word “May” in them – either as a word on its own or as part of a longer word.

1. He built a full-size house from millions of Lego bricks for a BBC 2 show in 2009
2. The ship on which “The Pilgrim Fathers” sailed to America in 1620
3. Former Radio 2 DJ who now presents the Drivetime show on Greatest Hits Radio
4. Author of the classic American novel “Little Women” and its sequels
5. TV comedy drama series starring Pam Ferris and David Jason as Ma and Pa Larkin
6. Proverbially, they are brought forth by March winds and April showers
7. US soul singer whose biggest UK hit was the song “Move on Up” in 1971
8. British Prime Minister from July 2016 to July 2019
9. Comedian who played Alan B’Stard in the comedy series “The New Statesman”
10. With Sam Goldwyn, co-founded MGM Pictures in 1924
11. Name given to the ancient civilisations of Central America from around 1000 BCE
12. Boxer, retired undefeated in 2017 having won World Titles at 5 different weights
13. US cosmetics company that shares its name with a 1955 hit for Chuck Berry
14. The day of the year that is designated “Star Wars Day”
15. Debut studio album by Oasis, released in 1994
16. 2020 BAFTA winning drama series written, produced and starring Michaela Cole
17. American author who wrote the autobiography “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”
18. Castlebar is the county town of this Irish county
19. 1990’s “age gap” sit com starring Anton Lesser and Lesley Dunlop
20. 2000 film starring Hugh Laurie & Joely Richardson as a couple trying to start a family

Answers on page 29



# Neighbourhood Watch

## News for May

### Securing Your Gardens Ready for Summer

As the days get longer and we spend more time outdoors, it's easy to forget that our gardens can also become a target for opportunistic thieves. From furniture and tools to bikes and side access points, a few simple steps can make a big difference in keeping your outdoor space secure this summer.

#### Securing your valuables

Start with the basics: securing your valuables. Garden furniture, BBQs, and tools are often left out in the open during warmer months, making them easy targets. **Quick tip:** Lock it away or lock it down. Where possible, store items in a shed or garage, or use anchors and locks for larger items like bikes and equipment.

#### Vulnerable access points?

Side gates and access points are another common vulnerability. An unlocked or weak gate can offer easy entry to your property. **Quick tip:** Shut it, lock it, every time. Upgrading simple latches to more secure locks and getting into the habit of closing gates properly can make a real difference.

#### Clear visibility is key

It's also important to think about visibility. While hedges and bushes can provide privacy, they can also create hiding spots for someone trying to access your property unnoticed. **Quick tip:** Trim, don't conceal. Keeping plants neat around doors, windows, and pathways helps ensure your space stays visible to neighbours and passers-by, as well as to any security cameras you have in place.

## Outdoor lighting

Lighting is another effective deterrent, particularly in darker corners of the garden. **Quick tip:** Light up the unexpected. Motion-activated lights can draw attention to movement and work even more effectively alongside cameras and alerts, helping you stay aware of activity around your home.

## Outbuildings and sheds

Garden buildings and sheds shouldn't be overlooked either. They often store valuable tools but may not be as secure as the main home. **Quick tip:** Treat your shed like your home. Reinforce doors, upgrade locks, and consider placing entry sensors on shed doors so you're alerted if they're opened unexpectedly.

## Going away?

Finally, if you're heading away on holiday, think about how your garden might signal that no one's home. **Quick tip:** Make it look lived in. Asking a neighbour to move bins, park on your drive, or keep an eye on things can help maintain the appearance that someone is around. Professional monitoring can also provide added reassurance, ensuring that if an alarm is triggered while you're away, someone is there to respond.

A secure garden not only protects your belongings but also helps safeguard access to your home. With a few simple steps you can enjoy your outdoor space this summer with greater peace of mind.

*Courtesy of Neighbourhood Watch*

John Owen

**Answer to 'Where in Easton is this?  
Thistle on Old Stables**

## Answers to May Quiz

1. James May
2. The Mayflower
3. Simon Mayo
4. Louisa May Alcott
5. The Darling Buds of May
6. May flowers
7. Curtis Mayfield
8. Theresa May
9. Rik Mayall
10. Louis B Mayer
11. Mayan
12. Floyd Mayweather
13. Maybelline
14. May the Fourth (Be with you!)
15. Definitely Maybe
16. I May Destroy You
17. Maya Angelou
18. County Mayo
19. May to December
20. Maybe Baby

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