EASTON VILLAGE NEWS



What an iconic feature of our village.
The crinkle-crankle or serpentine wall may well be eligible for Grade 1 listed status. Read all about it.

September 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)
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Gary Edwards T: 01728 747970 (Footpaths)
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Derek Balcombe T: 01728 768215 (Highways)
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Pam Bennett-King T: 07801 478769 (Cemetery & Burials)
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Pippa Banham T: 07894 144713 (Planning Oversight)
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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@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-Eggins (Lay Elder) T: 01728 746667
Peter Bennett-King (Churchwarden) T: 01728 747370

Village Hall
Bookings — Andrew Staples E: avstaples@icloud.com T: 07941 900590
Village Hall website — www.yourhall.co.uk Search Easton

Village Website — **https://eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk/** Follow link to village information.

Cricket Club enquiries — T: 01728 745076
Bowls Club enquiries — Mike Cattermole T: 01473 614845

Village News Editor — Clare Owen T: 01728 745015 E: clareelizabethowen@gmail.com

Editor's Introduction

Goodness, I hope by the time you receive the magazine we have had some rain. This unprecedented (it seems to me) spell of hot, dry weather brings climate change all too close to home. Remind me never to say I want to live in a hot dry country again!

Lots of interest this month. Please make sure to read Pippa Banham's excellent feature on the crinkle-crankle wall and the prospect of it acquiring Grade 1 listing. It has implications for all of us.

Chris Neill has written a very interesting and amusing piece on the prevalence of bats in the area. Thank you Chris.

If you can take part or help with the Ride and Stride this year, raising money for Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, please contact Jane. More details on page 22.

The Sunday Café returns this month (hurray!) and Jules and Pam would still like to hear from you if you could help to run it occasionally. We need to give them support if we want to keep this popular monthly event in the village. Please help if you can.

We also have a bit of a 'Framlingham' theme this month. You'll see what I mean as you read on.

Finally, as we gently slide into autumn and the children return to school, let's be thankful to live in such a special place. I'm always blown away by the community spirit in Easton. When you take time to look at what's going on in the rest of the world, we are really very fortunate.

Enjoy. 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.

Our Serpentine Wall – Is It Time for Greater Protection?

Most people in Easton will be familiar with the beautiful serpentine wall that winds its way through parts of the village. It is one of Easton's most distinctive historic features and something that makes our village unique. Indeed, it has recently attracted international attention, as reported in Anne Bolingbroke's article in the April edition of the Village News. While it is currently protected as a Grade II listed structure, there is growing interest in exploring whether it may now merit Grade I listing, reflecting its exceptional historic and architectural significance.

Unlike a conventional straight wall, a serpentine wall follows a gentle wave-like pattern, allowing it to be both elegant and remarkably strong. These walls are relatively rare, and Easton's is an especially important surviving example, widely claimed to be the longest surviving crinkle-crankle (serpentine) wall in England and may be one of the longest in Europe. Its historic association with the Easton estate and its contribution to the character of the village make it an important part of our shared heritage

Why Is This Being Discussed Now?

The recent solar complex planning application has highlighted just how vulnerable parts of the wall may be. During discussions surrounding the application, concerns were raised about the wall's long-term protection, condition and maintenance.

As a result, several residents have contacted the Parish Council to suggest that steps should be taken to better safeguard this important heritage asset for future generations. A number of residents have also suggested that the Parish Council could play a useful role by acting as a conduit for discussions with heritage bodies, supporting any listing application, and providing guidance to residents who have sections of the wall within their ownership.

The intention is not to create additional bureaucracy, but to help bring together information, expertise and potential sources of support for the benefit of everyone affected.

What Does This Mean for Residents?

Many people may not realise that some sections of the wall are located within private gardens. In several cases, homeowners are subject to historic restrictive covenants that prevent them from removing, altering or interfering with the wall. At the same time, they may also be responsible for maintaining and repairing the section within their ownership. This can place property owners in a difficult position. Repairing a historic brick structure often requires specialist materials and techniques, and costs can be significant.

Could Grade I Listing Help?



One of the strongest arguments for exploring a higher listing grade is that it could improve access to heritage funding and conservation grants.

A Grade I listing would recognise the wall as being of exceptional national importance. Such recognition can make heritage organisations and grant providers more willing to support conservation projects. While grants can never be guaranteed, a higher listing status may strengthen applications for funding to assist with repairs and preservation work.

For residents who are responsible for maintaining sections of the wall, this could be particularly valuable. Rather than creating additional obligations, greater recognition could help unlock support that is currently difficult to access.

A Community Asset

Although parts of the wall sit within private ownership, it is ultimately a feature that belongs to the history and identity of the entire village. It forms part of the setting of Easton and has been enjoyed by generations of residents and visitors alike.

The suggestion being put forward is therefore a simple one: if the wall is as important as many believe it to be, should we seek a level of recognition that properly reflects that importance and helps secure its future?

Over the coming months, the Parish Council will consider whether there is sufficient local support and evidence to pursue this further. Should that happen, residents will have opportunities to contribute their knowledge, share historic information and participate in discussions about the best way forward.

The serpentine wall has stood for centuries. With the right protection and support, we can help ensure that it continues to be one of Easton's most remarkable features for centuries to come.

What Happens Next?

Easton Parish Council will discuss this proposal at its next Parish Council meeting on Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.45pm. Residents are warmly invited to attend, ask questions and share their views. Before deciding whether to pursue a listing application, the Parish Council would like to consult with as many residents as possible, particularly those who own or live alongside sections of the wall. As this is a heritage asset that affects the whole village, it is important that local opinions are heard and taken into account at an early stage. Please contact Pippa Banham at cllr.banham@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk or call 07894 144713 if you have any comments, questions or concerns or would like further information.

It is also worth noting that there is no cost to submitting a listing application. Should the Parish Council decide to proceed, it would work closely with Historic England throughout the assessment process, ensuring that any application is supported by appropriate historical and architectural evidence. For those wishing to obtain a faster decision, there is also a fast-track assessment option, currently costing approximately £3,000, although no decision has been made on whether such an approach would be necessary or appropriate.

The Parish Council's aim is simply to explore whether greater recognition and protection for the serpentine wall would be beneficial to the village and its residents. We encourage anyone with an interest in the wall, its history or its future preservation to come along to the meeting and join the discussion. Together, we can consider the best way to safeguard one of Easton's most distinctive and treasured historic features for future generations.

Pippa Banham



SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2026

11:00 -12.30

Following 'Sunday Café' in the Village Hall

Why not fuel yourself first with a delicious bacon roll, pastry or slice of cake at the Sunday Café then if you feel you need to justify it with a virtuous walk and tidy around the village with friends, please come and help!

Help tidy the carpark and wall of weeds, litter and brambles



If you're familiar with a bucket and sponge help clean the village road signs for the winter



If you're feeling fit join one of our councillors to walk and check the village footpaths



For a moment of reflection visit and tidy up our cemetery



To register you and your family's interest and help us with equipment numbers please contact Andrew Staples, Parish Clerk
clerk@eastonsuffolkparish.gov.uk

East Suffolk's AMAZING
Let's keep it that way!

Litter picking equipment will be provided

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.

A Friendly Reminder about Dog Fouling on Village Footpaths

Most people are responsible dog owners and clear up after their dogs on public footpaths.

However, a villager has recently been in touch with some concern. They live alongside one of the public lanes and say they are delighted it is enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike. However, over recent weeks they've noticed a significant increase in dog fouling, with a number of instances where it has simply been left on the path. Sadly, they believe it may be someone local rather than a passing visitor.

It was particularly upsetting for them to see a young toddler recently fall into dog faeces while walking along the lane with their parents. I'm sure you'll agree it's not the impression any of us want visitors or fellow residents to have of our village.

Thanks to the Parish Council over the years, we are very fortunate in the village that there are plenty of dog waste bins around, so there really is no excuse not to use them.

A reminder too that it is a **legal requirement to clean up after your dog in public spaces.** A fine could be imposed for not doing so – this could be anything up to £1000.



Thank you.



Quiz Night at The White Horse

Thursday 3rd September
7.30 pm
£12 per person (inc food at half time)
Teams up to 6
'Dom' is your host

Quiz Subjects: General Knowledge, TV & Film, Suffolk Factoids, Pubs

Prizes:
Bar tab at The White Horse
Bottle of Suffolk Moatwood Gin

To book call 746456

What's On in the Village Hall in September



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

Fridays:

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

Parish Council Meeting
Monday 14th
7.45 pm

Sunday Café
20th
9.30—11.00

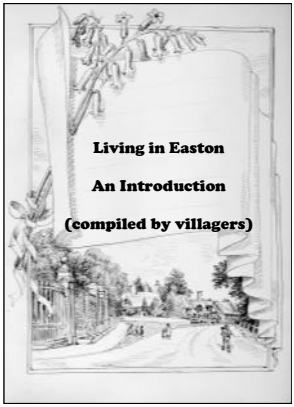
Natter and Nibbles
Tuesday 22nd
2—3.30 pm
Everyone welcome

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 Commercial	£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 16th 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 Bowls Club

By the time you read this, the Bowls season will be drawing to a close. We have had a reasonably successful season so far, although some days it really has been too hot to play!

As I write this (in August), there are just a few more games to play. In the Woodbridge league Easton is mid table with 4 more games to play. Fynn A are top of their section with 3 games to go. Fynn B are in second place and also have a further 4 games to play.

Home games in September:

01 September	Tues	League v Melton	6:30
06 September	Sun	Ransome Trophy Day	10:00

I think everybody has enjoyed their bowls this year. We will be putting the green to bed after our last match. If you can't come and watch our last matches, why not come next season? We would always welcome new members. Or if you don't want to play, just come and support us.



Easton Cricket Club



Home Fixtures—September

Saturday 5th (12 noon)

1st XI v Witham 2nd XI

Sunday 6th (13.00)

Sunday 1st XI v Mildenhall Sunday 2nd XI

Saturday 12th (12.30)

2nd XI v West Mersea 1st XI

Spectators always welcome.

There are junior matches which take place during the week.

For more details and results of matches, visit

Easton.play-cricket.com

Then and Now
A History of 21 Market Hill: The Journey of Framlingham's Panorama Building

Situated in the heart of Framlingham, 21 Market Hill stands out as a unique feature of the town's historic market square. Known today as **Panorama**, an independent gift and homeware shop, this compact, single-storey building has spent generations adapting to the commercial life of East Suffolk.



Origins and Architecture

Unlike the multi-storey merchant houses and tall timber-framed townhouses that frame the rest of Market Hill, 21 Market Hill is a distinct single-storey structure.

- **Market Square Evolution:** The building sits in an area of the central square historically associated with smaller trading posts, close to where Framlingham's ancient building, the Market Cross, once stood.
- **Timber-Framed Construction:** Despite its low profile, the building retains traditional timber framing behind its rendered finish and period joinery.
- **Dedicated Commercial Footprint:** Because it lacks upper floors, the entire footprint has always been devoted entirely to trade and craft rather than residential accommodation, making it a pure retail space for well over a century.

The Bootmaker Era: Henry Coleman's Shop

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the premises became a hub for local craftsmanship as the boot and shoe shop of Henry Coleman.

From this compact single-storey building, Coleman operated a thriving shoe warehouse and bespoke bootmaking business. Despite the modest size of the shop, Coleman built an impressive regional reputation, earning prestigious patronage from the nearby estate of the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton at Easton Park.

Mid-Century Vintage & Retail Evolution

As ready-made footwear replaced hand-crafted town bootmaking, 21 Market Hill evolved into new forms of local retail:

- **Retro 21:** In the late 20th century, the building operated as *Retro 21*, a vintage and antiques shop specialising in mid-century furniture, collectables, glass, and retro goods from the 1950s through the 1970s.
- **Transition to Panorama:** The space later became home to Panorama, transitioning to a curated selection of gifts, greetings cards, homewares, and artisan crafts from local East Anglian creators and international makers.

Small-Screen Fame: *Detectorists* and "Crystal Encounters"

In recent years, the charming single-storey shop front gained wider television fame when it was chosen as a primary filming location for the acclaimed BBC comedy series ***Detectorists***, written by and starring Mackenzie Crook.

The single-storey exterior and cosy retail interior were transformed into "Crystal Encounters", the fictional New Age shop run by Maggie (played by Lucy Benjamin). Today, fans of the show frequently visit Market Hill to spot the recognisable shop front.



Boots and shoes were mainly hand made until after the First World War, when factory-produced items took over.

Pictures are copyright Framlingham History Society. These and other pictures and articles can be found on the society's website at https://framlinghamhistory.uk/

Written by our resident robot (AI) and proofread and factually checked by humans.

A Sense of Place and Time

Hanging about with Easton Bats

Eight months ago my knowledge of bats amounted to: they fly at night, eat a lot of insects and are inaudible unless you are a dog or child under 12. But due to circumstances and the help of two friends, Andrew Walker of Countrycare and my neighbour Dr Chris Castle, I am very much more informed and would like to share this knowledge with you, and then you will have yet another reason to so enjoy living in Easton.


Barbastelle Bat

There are 18 species of bat in the UK, 13 of which call Suffolk their home and 10 of these choose to live in the Easton and Letheringham area. It gets better - 2 of those species are the rarest bats in the UK, Barbastelle and Leisler's bat - the former has some of the highest legal protection afforded to wildlife. We also have the Nathusius Pipistrelle listed in Suffolk as a Conservation Priority.


Leisler's Bat

The Barbastelle is unique when it comes to looks, having a 'frosted' coat a squashed face and ears that meet over the eyes. But they are shy bats and reside in old woodland, spending most of their hunting time around the edge in the shadows, so a difficult one to spot. The Leisler's are also known as the Lesser Noctule and roost in old tree holes. They hunt up high. Having almost no predators, bats can live up to 10 years.

On our evening forays to record bat activity, some days were good, some not so good, but we kept recording large numbers of Pipistrelles immediately indicating a maternity roost, with youngsters starting to be very active. There is evidence that there might also be a Barbastelle roost on the far outskirts of Easton.

If you are tempted to enjoy tracking these lovely little creatures, for the price of dinner for two you can buy a basic bat detector which will enable you to hear the clicks and give you an idea of the species. If you really want to delve deeper into this, there are devices which will give you more exact numbers and name the species (unfortunately these are more the equivalent of two nights at the Ritz).

Other than this, all you need is a warm evening after sunset. What a fascinating way to spend time in the countryside.

Chris Neill

Alternative Definitions

Abatement
Downstairs storage area for man with sinus trouble
Abort
Seafaring vessel from the Midlands
Acne
Borough in East London
Acoustic
A Scottish cattle prod
Aerobic
Chocolate biro
Aficionados
Charity home for orphan fish
Allocate
How you greet the Princess of Wales

Extracts from The Uxbridge English Dictionary (As featured on I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.)



Making the Most of a Suffolk Summer

There is something rather special about summer in Suffolk. Longer evenings, coastal sunsets, church fêtes, farmers' markets and walks through our countryside all remind us why so many people are proud to call our beautiful area home.

After what can often feel like a busy start to the year, summer offers a welcome opportunity for many to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy everything our local communities have to offer. Throughout the summer there are countless local events, many organised by volunteers. From village fetes in Otley, Rendham and Campsea Ashe to the open gardens at Helmingham, music festivals like Latitude, agricultural focussed events such as the Suffolk Show and community events like the Kesgrave fun run. These occasions don't just provide a great day out; they are what keep our communities vibrant and connected.

Wherever possible, I encourage people to support local. Stopping at a village café after a walk, visiting a local farm shop, enjoying a meal at the village pub or browsing an independent retailer helps to sustain the businesses that are such an important part of our local economy.

Summer is also a reminder of how fortunate we are to have such beautiful countryside on our doorstep. Whether you're walking, cycling or enjoying our parks and open spaces, a little consideration goes a long way. Closing gates behind you, keeping dogs under control around livestock, taking litter home and respecting wildlife will help to preserve these places for everyone to enjoy for generations to come.

Of course, warmer weather also brings a few practical reminders. When it is very hot, it's important to stay hydrated and worth taking things a little more slowly, particularly if you're spending time outdoors. Remember to check in on relatives, neighbours or friends. A quick visit or telephone call is a simple gesture that often means more than we realise.

The summer holidays are also a time for children to be out enjoying parks, village greens and residential streets. A little extra care from all of us when sharing public spaces helps ensure everyone can enjoy the outdoors safely.

Perhaps that is what makes Suffolk special. We don't simply live alongside one another; we look out for one another. It is the small everyday acts of courtesy, kindness and community spirit that make our villages and towns such welcoming places.

I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy everything that summer has to offer.

As always, if there is an issue I can help with, a local matter you would like to raise, or if you would simply like to keep up to date with my work in Parliament and across the constituency, please do get in touch. You can email me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, call my office on 01728 726612, or sign up for my regular e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk.





September in the Garden

September brings a calm shift to the garden as the heavy heat of Summer fades and the harvest season begins.

THE WILDLIFE GARDEN

Look out for swallows and house martins as they prepare for their long trip to warmer climes.

Leaving areas of logs, sticks and twigs will provide habitat for wildlife to over-winter.

Clean out any nesting boxes to prepare for next spring.

Any fallen fruit from trees will attract late summer butterflies such as Red Admiral and Painted Lady.

Continue to provide water for wildlife—particularly important in this very dry weather.

Leave seedheads on perennials to provide a food source for birds.

GARDENING TIPS

Continue to deadhead summer flowering plants such as dahlia, penstemon and rudbeckia to prolong the flowering season.

Start planting bulbs for spring but leave planting tulips until the colder months.

Prune summer fruiting raspberries, removing old canes and tying in new canes.

Sow green manures direct to improve soil quality.

Sow winter salads to enjoy during the colder months.

Sow hardy annuals direct.

Clip evergreen hedges.

September is the best month to sow new lawns from seed.

This has been a very challenging year in the garden. Extreme heat and so little rain has made conditions very difficult.

We can take stock over the cooler months to look at what has coped and what hasn't. Many of us will be reconsidering what we grow going forward.

Sarah Castle
RHS Cert.Hort (Level 2)

Where in Easton is this?

(Answer page 28)





All Saints Church

Church Services (See table of services for full details)

Revd Ann will be on Sabbatical leave during September, October and November. During this time priests' duties will be undertaken by Revd Alan Perry (who has permission to officiate in this benefice) and Revd Emma Steadman (Assistant Priest in Framlingham).

The first-of-the-month Benefice service on 6th September will be at Campsea Ashe at 11.00 am. As this is the first service during Revd Ann's sabbatical leave, the service will be led by Revd Alan Perry and Revd Emma Steadman.

Easton will have a service of Holy Communion on 27th September at 11.00 am. This service will be led by Revd Emma Steadman.

The Benefice service on 4th October is at Kettleburgh at 11.00am. The service will be led by Revd Alan Perry.

A date for your diary:
Easton's **Harvest service** will be on 11th October at 3 pm followed by tea and cake in the church.



Sunday Café

Sunday Café is back on 20th September, so we shall be able to meet up and enjoy the lovely food.

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride 2026 (see separate poster opposite)

The date for Ride and Stride this year is 12th September. If you can ride and be sponsored for the church it would be great. I am also looking for "church sitters" for the day. Please let me know if you can cover an hour (or two).

Discussion Group

The group will meet on 2nd September at 10.30 am in Framlingham. Our topic will be Summer Reflections based on personal contributions and thoughts from our summer experiences.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins



Church Services for September

6th	14th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
13th	15th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
		11am	Morning Worship	Campsea Ashe
20th	16th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
		11am		Parham
		11am	Harvest Festival	Marlesford
27th	17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marlesford
		11am	Holy Communion	Easton
		11am	Harvest Festival	Brandeston
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Parham
				Kettleburgh

Monday Prayers in September at 4pm at Campsea Ashe
Compline is said at Marlesford every Wednesday at 5pm

The next Benefice Service is on 4th October
at 11am at Kettleburgh

Sunday Café

We're Back!

CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Sunday
20th September
Village Hall
9.30—11.00 am

TAKEAWAYS AVAILABLE

Come and join us after our summer 'break' for delicious food, drinks and good company. We have activities for children and a covered area outside for you and your four-legged friend. 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. If you enjoy the Café, please consider helping occasionally if you can.

You do not have to commit to every month!

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

In association with All Saints Church

EVERYONE WELCOME



Quiz—Framlingham Has All the Answers!

Every answer can be made using some or all of the letters in the name Framlingham.

1. **The official currency of Afghanistan**
2. **The crazy drummer in the Muppet band**
3. **Third letter of the Greek alphabet**
4. **The capital of the Philippines**
5. **Name of main female character in "Sound of Music" and "West Side Story"?**
6. **Commander of British troops during the Crimean War – and a type of sleeve!**
7. **Shipping forecast area named after the northernmost point on Irish mainland**
8. **According to the Matthew's gospel these wise men visited the baby Jesus**
9. **Liquid material below the earth's crust which forms lava when cooled**
10. **A style of comics or graphic novels originating from Japan**
11. **Chemical symbol for the element Mercury**
12. **Russian space station launched in 1986**
13. **West African country with the capital Bamako**
14. **African dictator - the subject of 2006 film "The Last King of Scotland"**
15. **Surname of acting sisters Rooney and Kate**
16. **Imperial measurement equal to one seven-thousandth of a pound**
17. **Indian city where the Taj Mahal is located**
18. **Norwegian band who sang the theme to the Bond film "The Living Daylights"**
19. **Surname of actor who played Luke Skywalker in the first six "Star Wars" films**
20. **Large saltwater game fish with a long spear-like snout**

Answers on page 29

Neighbourhood Watch News for September

Understanding Ponzi Schemes: The Anatomy of a Financial Illusion

Recently in the news, a Ponzi scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that pays fake returns to earlier investors using capital supplied by newer participants. Operating entirely on the illusion of success, it functions by robbing Peter to pay Paul—until the influx of new money stops and the system collapses.

Step 1 The Hook

The operator lures investors by promising high, steady returns with "little to no risk".

Step 2 The Fabrication

Capital is deposited into a centralised account rather than invested. Operators generate fake account statements showing continuous growth.

Step 3 The Payoff

When early investors request payouts, they are paid directly using money from newer deposits. Delighted by the profits, early investors recruit friends and family, expanding the cash pool.

Step 4 The Collapse

The scheme is mathematically doomed. It falls apart when the pool of new investors dries up or mass withdrawal requests exceed available cash.

History: Who Started It?

The scam is named after Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant who executed the scheme on a massive scale in Boston in 1920. Ponzi claimed to exploit an arbitrage opportunity involving International Reply Coupons (IRCs)—postal coupons redeemable for foreign stamps. He promised investors a 50% profit in 45 days.

While the postal trade was theoretically possible, the physical volume of coupons required made the real business impossible. Ponzi simply used incoming cash to pay earlier investors until the scam folded months later, leaving thousands ruined.

Major Historic Global Scams

Bernie Madoff (USA) – The Largest Fraud in History

- The Scale: $19 billion lost
- The Pitch: Unlike Ponzi, former NASDAQ chairman Bernie Madoff did not promise wild profits; he promised *unwavering consistency*. For decades, his fund reported steady 10–12% annual gains regardless of market volatility.

The Downfall & Sentence: The 2008 financial crisis triggered $7 billion in withdrawal requests that Madoff could not fulfill, exposing the vast scam. He was sentenced to 150 years in prison in 2009.

Allen Stanford (Antigua / USA)

- The Scale: $7 billion lost
- The Pitch: Texas tycoon Allen Stanford sold high-yield certificates of deposit (CDs) through his offshore bank in Antigua, promising safe investments in liquid assets.

The Downfall & Sentence: Stanford funneled the capital into private real estate deals, private jets, and lavish sports sponsorships. Federal authorities shut down the operation in 2009, and Stanford was sentenced to 110 years in prison in 2012.

The Golden Rule of Avoiding Scams:

If an investment promises unusually high or consistent returns with virtually zero risk, or if the manager cannot clearly explain *how* the money is made, walk away. Real market returns always require proportional risk.

John Owen



Answer to 'Where in Easton is this?'

Village Hall window.

Answers to Quiz

1. Afghani
2. Animal
3. Gamma
4. Manila
5. Maria
6. (Lord) Raglan
7. Malin
8. Magi
9. Magma
10. Manga
11. Hg
12. Mir
13. Mali
14. (Idi) Amin
15. Mara
16. Grain
17. Agra
18. Aha
19. (Mark) Hamill
20. Marlin

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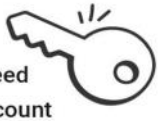
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