

Drop In Coffee Mornings

**A great way to while away
a morning chatting to friends
over coffee & cake.**

Coffee Mornings in the village have been running for 19 years. Originally started for the retired folk in 2006 where it would be hosted in different houses in the village.

We have had some lovely summer ones sat in our hosts gardens surrounded by roses and flowers. Then some winter ones in a cosy sitting room, always served with lovely coffee and cake. We started off with coffee and biscuits, but you know Easton Royal a cake was introduced, followed by more cake and cheese scones and sausage rolls.... A Feast!!

Now don't let this put you off from becoming a host, there is always someone to help and to make a cake. The more people willing to make a cake the better.

Since Covid we have been holding the monthly coffee mornings in the Village Hall enabling us to open the invitation up to all, held usually around the middle of the month, either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 10 - 12 noon.

We change the day to hopefully make it accessible to most people. Look out for the notice on Mail Chimp and WhatsApp.

We have become very successful fund-raisers. All the money collected, £4.00 per head (less payment for hire of hall) goes towards our chosen charities. Over the years we have donated to many charities such as Cancer Research, Alzheimer's, Macmillan, Pewsey Link, Dogs' Trust, Ukraine Fund, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and also Plants for Village Flower Troughs and Village Coronation Fund. Last year (2023) we raised £1,050.00 which we gave £500 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance, £300 to Prospect and £250. to Julia's House Children's Hospice

If you and a few friends would like to host a morning, please let me know.

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Holy TRINITY CHURCH

Report for Annual village meeting 22nd April 2025

Attendance at services has remained steady but reflect the generally lower levels nationally. Special and festival services – Plough Sunday, Easter, Living churchyard, harvest, Remembrance, Darkness to Light and Christmas were well supported.

End of term services for Easton Royal Academy were held in church.

Work on the Living Churchyard project is progressing with planting of wildflower beds and reduced mowing in the western area of the churchyard. Links have been established with the school ecoproject.

Sarah Crookes offered to take on the role of treasurer and the mandate has finally been amended to enable access to the account.

The appointment of a new Team vicar, Rev Hazel Davis and curate, Rev Matthew Haynes, to the Team were welcomed in June.

The Triennial Inspection took place in May and there were no outstanding major issues.

The quinquennial Inspection was due in September 2024 but I was unable to make an arrangement. It will take place this month.

Work took place on the organ to make it playable for the wedding in August. Further work is required.

Planned fundraising events sadly did not take place but the Lilies for Remembrance and village Christmas card were successful. Events this year are the Plant sale in May and a progressive supper in the autumn.

My thanks to PCC members for their support, especially Judith and also all those who provide flowers, read lessons and clean the church.

Finally Rev Mark for his continued support.

The Orchard Team

This year the orchard team, comprised of Nickie and Ian, Ivan and Carole, decided it would be fun to hold a wassailing event. The original intention was to combine this with pruning the orchard on the same day. The Wassail took place on February 15th when the weather turned out to be inclement so the pruning was postponed to the following day. The wassail event included Carole and Ray Choules conducting ceremonies as king and queen of the orchard. Ian, Ivan and Nickie sang a few wassailing songs which we all sang along with. Apple cake, cider and apple juice were served as refreshments, after which the ceremony of making a loud noise to scare away bugs and hanging cider-dipped toast on one of the trees was performed. After the tree was ceremonially offered cider a wassail song was sung and we then returned to the village hall for a couple more songs.

This year we asked villagers to join us to help with the pruning so a notice was sent out advertising the change of day. A few hardy souls turned up for which we were very grateful. Nickie gave a short demonstration of how to prune and we got stuck in. We managed to prune most of the orchard and Ian and Ivan returned a few more times to finish the pruning, drive in a few stakes and remove some stakes from the trees that no longer require them.

As always, there are no restrictions on who picks the fruit. There are guidelines on the information board next to the orchard to identify when each tree ripens. We do ask that children are supervised in the orchard so that they do not mistakenly pick fruit before it is ripe. As a general rule, you can tell if an apple is ripe by cupping it in your hand and giving it a slight twist - if it comes off easily it is ripe. The seeds inside will be brown if it is ripe. Fruit that is not picked will be enjoyed by wildlife. Don't be afraid to pick the damsons if you would like to make damson jelly, likewise the quince and the crab apples.

The information board indicates which apples are suited to cider making. If you fancy having a go at making a village cider please get in touch!

EASTON HERITAGE GROUP Chairman's Report April 2025

Last year's AGM was well attended with 32 members plus a few visitors. Paul Narrizano resigned from the Committee and was thanked for his seven years' of service. After the meeting Judith McLain volunteered to replace him and was warmly welcomed.

The AGM concluded and the evening continued with an excellent talk by Sarah Finch-Crisp on the history of Lydiard Park in Swindon. The house and grounds have a colourful past and are well worth a visit.

In June we welcomed a familiar local speaker, Nick Baxter, whose informative talk took us through some of the most interesting of a wonderful variety of churches in Wiltshire.

Our next event was in October when Grace Awdry presented a talk, researched by Wendy Lawrence, which was set during the Stuart Dynasty and featured the life of local man Richard Harding, a devotee of the Stuart Crown.

Our talk in December was postponed until March when we welcomed our own villager Simon Frodsham whose great-great-great uncle Charles Frodsham was a member of one of the most renown clockmaking dynasties in 19th century. Simon's talk gave us an informative insight into how devices for measuring time developed over the ages and introduced us to some of his antique clock collection.

In February, historian Graham Bathe entertained us with the history of Tottenham House and the amazing changes that are currently being carried out to bring the house and grounds back to their past splendour. I am delighted to tell you that we have received permission from the owner to take a group of our members to view the current refurbishments. More details to be announced.

Our last speaker for this season in June will be Tim Craven with a talk entitled 'Castles through Artists' Eyes'. Some of you will remember his previous evening with us on the life of cartoonist and artist Norman Thelwell.

We hope our members continue to enjoy the programme of events that we organise. We have also been very happy to welcome a number of visitors during the year.

We have talked before about increasing cost for speakers and hall hire. So for next season there will be a slight change. Membership fee will remain at £10, but we shall be reducing our number of speaker meetings from five to four. Our proposal is to organise optional pay as you go trips out during June which will involve limited numbers on a first come, first served basis. We should welcome any suggestions for places you may like to visit, or for speakers appropriate for our Group.

A big thank you to the committee – Carole, Ray, Maggie and Judith for their hard work during the year. And finally, our grateful thanks to all of you for your continued support. As I always say, it would be pointless without you.