

# Easton Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

**Our Role** on the Parish Council is to look after the interests of the village as a whole, to maintain certain services for the benefit of the community as well as representing the village to outside agencies.

**The Parish Councillors.** The Parish Council election took place two years ago. The Councillors are now Richard Burton, Steve Thomason, Phil Trussell, Clive Wood and myself. We are elected for a period of four years and complete our second year now.

**The Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** To celebrate this special event the Parish Council distributed commemorative coins to all young people under the age of 21 in the village.

**The Roads and Road Safety.** We continue to press the County Council to repair pot holes in the roads. They are more cash limited than ever before but we do draw matters to their attention and repairs do get done even if it takes time. In an attempt to make for safer roads in the village, we arranged for the County Council to put in new signs with 30mph clearly marked. The roads have been marked with 30mph signs and repeater signs are put in at intervals. The new 'gateways' at both ends of the village make motorists aware that they are entering a settlement and I hope will encourage them to keep to the limit as they travel through our village. I am grateful to Phil Trussell for all the work he has put into this matter.

**Footpaths.** The wet summer last year meant that many local footpaths are in poor order and in particular Hartham Street (the by-way between our village and Grafham) is almost unwalkable, having been badly rutted by motorcyclists and four wheel drive vehicles. The County Council has increased the length of closure orders to protect them in wet weather. There have been a number of access issues to certain footpaths but we hope that thanks to help from the District and County Council they have been resolved.

**Flood Prevention.** The brook was cleaned out in the autumn by the Alconbury and Ellington drainage board to allow quick flow during times of heavy rainfall.

**Grass cutting.** We are grateful to Anthony Abbs for his maintenance of village verges and to Derek Jolly who has cut the grass on the Playing Field.

**The Playing Field.** The climbing ladder has been repaired and is now safe. The broken rope bridge has been taken down. We have ordered a fresh supply of bark to provide a safe base for the equipment. We had a professional firm to assess the trees in the playing field for safety. We intend to follow their recommendations and much of the necessary work will be down 'in-house'. I am grateful to Steve Thomason who made a plan of all the trees on a very wet and cold Sunday on November!

**Planning Matters.** We continue to be consulted by the District Council on planning matters and we do our best to look carefully at all planning applications and to represent the views of people in the village as best we can. We only have the power to comment and do not have a 'final say' on planning matters – that power is reserved to the District Council.

**Residents.** Once again I would like to thank all those who either individually or in groups make a contribution to the appearance and to the social life of the village.

The Easton Fund and Social Committee have again organised a number of well attended and enjoyable social events. The organisation of these takes time and commitment from many people but they certainly provide great entertainment and promote great community spirit.

The Reputation of the Easton 'Big Breakfast' has certainly put this village on the map and has attracted large numbers every second month on a Saturday morning. These are great community events and bring people together, both from inside and outside the village. They are greatly enjoyed but do involve much work – thanks to all who work so hard to make them possible.

The Church Council continues to maintain our beautiful Church and to look after the Churchyard as well as organising events such as the quiz evening in January.

The Trustees of the Easton United Charities work hard to look after the assets of the Charities and distribute money within the village.

Anthea Beer is a very able Parish Clerk dealing most efficiently with correspondence, communications and the organisation of our council meetings. Brian Davis is the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and again keeps us well informed about crime and policing concerns in the area. Jenny Hyde types and maintains the excellent monthly newsletter, which is delivered by the Brand family.

My particular thanks go to many individuals who help to make the village look attractive by picking up litter dropped by passing motorists.

So to all the organisations and individuals who are involved in the village I say "Thank you" and I know that the whole village community appreciates all the work you do. The efforts you make continue to make Easton a very attractive village in which to live!

Mike Baker

March 2017



# EASTON FUND AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Easton Social Committee held 3 events in 2016 and in conjunction with the PCC prepared 6 Big Breakfasts.

**A Safari Supper** was held on **21<sup>st</sup> May**. It was a great success with 55 tickets sold. Wonderful starters were prepared and served in Grange Court, the main course was split between Brook House, the Grange, Glebe Cottage and Belmont and we ended the evening with desserts and coffee served in the Church. Alison Gould organised the raffle. As we used outside caterers profit was limited at £56.03 but the primary aim of the evening was not to fund raise but to provide a fun evening for the village and that was achieved.

**On 17<sup>th</sup> July we had an afternoon tea party at Belmont** where we served sandwiches, scones and cakes which were all home made. We made a profit of £163.38. Over 50 guests attended. The profit was unexpected as we had anticipated just breaking even.

**On 3<sup>rd</sup> September** we funded a village skip on the playing field which filled up very quickly and was a useful aid to villagers having a clear out without having to make a journey to the tip. We will probably repeat this exercise at some point in the future as many villagers told us that they found it helpful.

Our final event of the year took place on **11th December; Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**. For many years this was a well-attended social event. However in recent years attendance had been declining and we experimented during the last two Decembers by changing the date from the first Sunday in the month to the second and numbers have risen as a result so we will now leave it at the second Sunday in December. We also made another change this year by selling tickets on the door rather than beforehand and this worked well with no diminution in numbers as a result. The profit made was £242.00. Many thanks to Peter Gould for making the Mulled Wine.

2016 also included 6 **Big Breakfasts**. The profit from the Breakfasts helps towards paying the insurance bill for the Church and Community facilities which costs over £2,000.00 per year. The profit from the Big Breakfasts in 2016 was approximately £1,200.00 so this is a valuable contribution towards the insurance bill. We do not have the choice not to insure the building, as a condition of the grants was that the building be kept fully insured.

We plan an additional Big Breakfast on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** with all profits going to Christian Aid for the famine in Africa. We anticipate 2 breakfast sittings, say one at 9.00 a.m. and one at 10.30 a.m. and anticipate selling tickets in advance so we are not swamped. Arrangements are still under discussion. If we do 2 sittings we could manage to serve 100 breakfasts. Further details will be circulated in due course.

This year we have a number of events planned and an events Calendar will shortly be circulated throughout the village. There will be a Treasure Hunt/BBQ/Family Fun Day on the field on **24<sup>th</sup> June**. We plan a Murder Mystery Dinner on **25<sup>th</sup> November** and our usual mulled wine event will take place on the second Sunday being **10<sup>th</sup> December**.

I should like to thank all Committee Members for their huge efforts during the past year but especially our Treasurer, Karen Nesbit-Farren for her accurate recording of our finances and our very efficient secretary Ed Sloper. Both of them do a fantastic job and I am very grateful for their help and support. I would also like to thank the village generally for supporting our events.

The Social Committee stands at 13 but we are always delighted to welcome new Members. So if anyone would like to join us or offer occasional help then please contact me or any other Committee member.

Our AGM will take place in the Church on **9<sup>th</sup> May 2017** at 8.00 pm and we would welcome any guests. Refreshments will be served.

**Kathy Yates Chairman**

**23rd March 2017**



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, EASTON  
Report for March 2016- March 2017

Until last weekend, I was able to say that I had received no report of crimes in Easton this past 12 months. Unfortunately, I heard on Sunday from Alasdair Graham that the Defibrillator that hung on the garage wall at The House, The Lane, for public use has recently been stolen. It is very sad to think that there are people roaming our villages that could do such a thing. This theft was communicated to me on Monday through the e-cops service (Hunts Neighbourhood Watch), together with a notice of the theft of diesel from a vehicle parked in a driveway on Stonely Road on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Both of these incidents were clearly reported to the police and only reached me a week later.

Although the regular statistics of burglaries and other crimes Huntingdonshire seem to have ceased in December 2016, I nevertheless do receive notice of incidents in the Ellington valley. During the past three months, these have involved house break-ins or thefts from cars, sheds etc in Brington, Bythorn, Catworth, Ellington, Keyston, Spaldwick, and Stow Longa. Apparently, nowhere and nothing is safe if not screwed down!

Other types of crime and policing which feature in circulars include Action Fraud, Nuisance phone calls, Spoof e-mails, Counselling, and Cybercrime. I received a notice about a conference on Cybercrime in January this year. There has also been advertising about Special Constabulary recruitment very recently.

I attended the AGM for Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch at Police HQ, Hinchingsbrooke Park, last October, and circulated a brief summary around Easton. As with all local services, the Police have suffered severe financial cutbacks.

Brian Davis

20.03 2017



## **EASTON PLAYING FIELD REPORT 2016/17**

I would like to thank Mike Baker for initiating a Tree Survey of the playing field and for Steve Thomason in being instrumental in getting the survey completed by producing a tree plan for GTS Ltd to undertake the survey. The completed survey will be assessed and any work that we can do ourselves will be carried out, as well as any major work, as required. The hawthorn hedging that was planted in 2015 is becoming established around the road frontage of the playing field. The grass has also grown through the plastic safety matting around the new toddler swings that were installed in 2016. The climbing frame was repaired and the small rope bridge was removed, as the wooden support posts were rotten.

Later this year the wooden edging around the play area will be replaced, as required and new play bark will be added to the play area.