

EASTON PLAYING FIELD REPORT 2025-2026

The tie wraps that were fixed above the swings in 2025, to deter the birds from using the cross bar supports to perch on and defecate on the swings have proved to be successful in securing greater use of the swings.

The area was topped up with play bark last year. My thanks to Richard Burton for ordering the play bark and to Steve Thomason and a group of helpers for spreading the bark around the play area. My thanks also to Richard Burton for ensuring that the perimeter of the hedging was cut back. The natural hawthorn hedgerow that was planted in 2014 by Mike Baker and Steve Thomason is now well established and provides a natural frontage for the playing field along the village road opposite Grange Croft. The additional hawthorn saplings planted in 2021 at the corner of the playing field opposite Crown Cottage survived the hot Summer in 2025 and have started to become more established as a hedgerow. The fruit trees that were planted behind the hawthorns on the road frontage are now well established and a few apples, pears and plums appeared last year.

The cutting back of the internal perimeter hedging last year by Brian Arbutnott, Mike Baker and Henry Meyer, especially along the wire fence behind one of the football goals has ensured that the recovery of footballs has reduced the risk of being spiked by any thorns or stung by stinging nettles.

You are all reminded that dogs are not permitted on the playing field and that the bin on the playing field is not for 'dog poo' bags.

The playing field also provides a venue for village outdoor events, as well as a parking facility for major events in St Peter's Church. I am pleased to report that there will be a village celebration on 4th July to mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America's Independence.