

EASTON FUND AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

25th MARCH 2026

The Easton Fund and Social Committee consists of 12 committee members, and we welcome additional new members at any time. During 2025 the Social Committee, together with the PCC, organised 3 major village events at various times in the year as well as running the Big Breakfast in the Church every 2 months.

Afternoon Tea at Belmont took place on Saturday **19th July**. We sold 50 tickets and raised £170.00 for MAGPAS. The event was very successful despite inclement weather which meant transforming the house into a tea shop for the afternoon. We had 50 place settings spread across 4 rooms which seemed to work well, although it was disappointing not to be able to sit in the garden.

Cocktails, Concert and Canapes. This event took place on **20th September** and was very successful. We had a wonderful singer called Eleanor Oldfield who was accompanied on the keyboard by the talented Bethany. Eleanor sang a range of songs from popular musicals and the atmosphere in the Church was amazing. The cocktails and canapes also went down very well. The event raised £154.70 profit. We do hope that Eleanor and Bethany will come and perform for us again in the future.

The Ghosts of Easton, a play written by local author and playwright Simon Malivoire was performed by the Easton Players on **6th and 7th December**. The play chronicled the murder of our village carpenter Thomas Fletcher and the wrongful conviction of his lover Elspeth Blackwood for the crime. Elspeth returned from the grave to wreak havoc and vengeance on all those who had wronged her. Both nights were sold out and the performance was very well received by the audience. The play was complemented by canapes and drinks served before and after. Expenses were high as there were costs of AI and

other technical equipment but we still made a profit of £153.55 to add to our balance.

We were particularly grateful for the grants totalling £7,500 from the Woolley Hill Windfarm Community Fund which went towards the cost of sound and lighting equipment.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. The usually popular Mulled Wine and mince pies social event held in the second week in December produced a profit of £257.00. The weather was kinder to us than the year before when rain and wind kept everyone at home. Many thanks to Peter Gould who makes very good mulled wine.

We have several events planned for the rest of this year including a free of charge village afternoon tea in the Church on **Easter Sunday 5th April** at 3.00 p.m. The tea will be provided after the service. As well as a full afternoon tea there will be Easter Eggs for all the children. We hope for a good attendance from the village.

On **4th July** there will be a family fun day on the playing field with a USA theme to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of US Independence. There will be a BBQ with a bouncy castle, games for the children and a singer, Ed Cox, to entertain us all. We hope for fine weather and a good turnout.

We are organising a Wine Tasting evening on **19th September**. We still do not have anyone to run it but, if we cannot find anyone, we are confident that we can run it ourselves as long as we have plenty of quality wines for people to drink and comment on and notes describing everything offered. Supper will be provided in the form of grazing boards for each table.

We are experimenting with a later time for the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies social on Sunday **13th December**. Apparently we have had some complaints that running it between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. spoils people's Sunday lunches so we are going to move it to 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. and carefully compare

numbers and tickets sold to previous years. If numbers are consistent with previous occasions then we will probably leave it at the later time. However if numbers are down we will probably revert to the original times.

Big Breakfasts take place on the second Saturday every 2 months. In the last year, despite steeply rising costs of food items and our efforts to keep prices down for villagers, we still managed to raise £1,049.10 towards the Church insurance bill, which is a significant sum. The next Big Breakfast takes place on 9th May.

At our last meeting we had a balance in our account of £2,275.78.

A calendar of events planned for the year was circulated around the village at the end of February.

I would like to thank all my committee for their hard work throughout the last year, especially our Treasurer, Karen Nesbit-Farren and Secretary Vicky Arbuthnott. Everyone's efforts have been very much appreciated. I would also like to thank villagers for attending and supporting our events.

Kathy Yates
EFSC Chairman

25th March 2026