

# Easton Village Newsletter

September 2025

Issue 239

## Fifty Years in Easton

**Mike Baker**



On the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1975 I arrived in Easton. I had some very good friends living in Spaldwick who had introduced me to the countryside which I found very attractive. At the time there were two houses for sale in the village-one at Maggie Crossing which needed a lot of work doing to it and one in the village, which I bought.

The advice for teachers is 'don't live in the catchment area', advice which I had already ignored by

living in Huntingdon and then in Godmanchester, but I had asked Mark de Roper, a pupil at the school, what life was like living in Easton. He lived with his parents and siblings at Grange Farm. He promptly replied it's fine as we have just had mains drainage installed. I was a bit shocked as I had assumed that all civilised conurbations had mains drainage!

The village was very different then. There were about 30 houses compared with 65 today - 6 council houses now only 1. There was very little traffic. You could put a deck chair on the road and sit on it undisturbed for hour, not the case now! My nearest neighbours were Philip and Marilyn Ivory who owned a farm. It was mainly arable but they did keep pigs and chickens AND they invited me to help with the harvest during my summer holidays, by driving tractors! I have to say it wasn't easy as it was hot, very dusty, and aggravated my hay fever such that I was sneezing continuously. No air-conditioned tractors then! However, I had diversified my skills set- a farmer as well as a teacher! I don't know whether my involvement with his farm precipitated Philip's decision to

pack up farming but that led to the redevelopment of the site and 9 new homes for me to look at.

I enjoyed my spell on Eastern United Charities although it came increasingly difficult to find examples of hardship and distress in the village who were the people for whom the Charity was set up. I also enjoyed my time on the Parish Council even though we have thus far been unable to solve the major problem of accessing and leaving the A14 with ease and safety. We did finally establish a parking area outside the Church although it took many years.

The Church building was subject to internal changes and although it was controversial it has become a great community asset with improved heating, a meeting room, toilet and kitchenette as well as an area where people can meet – a great boon to the village.

And the next 50 years? Hopefully, the amazing community care which was so clearly evident during the floods of December 2020 will continue to characterise the village.

## **Easton Railway Star of the Show**

**Steve Thomason**



The narrow-gauge railway at Easton was at centre stage again on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, when it hosted a visit from another national railway society. The 2ft gauge railway assists in the transport of horse manure and horse feed plus general maintenance around the fields. The composted horse manure is dug out and offered free every year in summer from a skip wagon and bags from the driveway at Springfield. The Allotments at Spaldwick also appear to be rather partial to the compost with significant quantities being taken in the last few years. Anticipating the poor forecast for the visit, plenty of undercover space was set up including a refreshments area and a shop. Although it hardly

stopped raining for the whole visit, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and most of the locomotives were able to be demonstrated, including one unique to the UK.

As a result of the visit a donation of £100 was able to be made to the church fund and everyone from the society went home wet but happy!

### **A pleasant surprise from a budding poet Peter Gould**

#### **Dining in the kitchen**

*We like to think we've dined  
In some place that's refined  
It makes things taste much nicer we have found  
And there's nothing more bewitching  
Than dining in the kitchen  
With pots and pans and basins all around  
But in the class to which were born  
A distinction must be drawn  
To maintain the higher standards, we assume  
We wish to make it clear,  
There's no slumming it round here  
We do the cooking in the dining room.*

### **Easton Weir**



### **Easton Parish Council**

Members of the parish council recently braved the nettles and summer undergrowth to see what condition the Easton Weir was in. Over recent years unfortunately a lot of garden waste had been dumped

along Weir Lane leading up to the Weir which has prevented any access to the

Weir itself for many years. A working party of 2 (!) started to clear a path through to the Weir which has now been successful following a second visit. However, on the Ordinance Survey Map the weir looks to be a significant body of water to the north of the village but after months of drought conditions, instead of a large pond, the area is mostly just boggy ground with a couple of small areas where very shallow muddy water still lies. The drainage stream leading out to the north east is completely dry. From where the clearance ends at the start of the Weir, the whole area is still covered in impenetrable undergrowth and dead and fallen trees.

The area must be unique in Easton in terms of wildlife habitat. Potentially more analysis could be done to assess the species of plant and animal life that exists there. There are several very large specimen Oak and Willow trees.

## 59 Club

**John Maith**

The July winner of the 59 Club was Joshua Williams (grandson of Chris and Jeanette Charlton) with number 18. Congratulations Joshua. The next draw will be on Saturday 30th August, so good luck to all.

## Church Services

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9.30-10.30 Parish Communion or Morning worship –(no more information available at time of printing)

For further information please see the website [www.kymchurch.org.uk](http://www.kymchurch.org.uk)

Rector: Rev Philip Howson Email: [revphiliphowson@icloud.com](mailto:revphiliphowson@icloud.com)

Phone -01480 86908

## And finally-----

-Huntingdonshire District Council are planning on rolling out free weekly food waste collections for all Huntingdonshire residents.

From April 2026 households will get:

- \* A 7-litre grey caddy and an external 23 litre grey food waste bin

- \*Weekly collections

- \*All food waste accepted (even bones, dairy& tea bags). For further information go to the website <https://orlo.uk/v0wk1>

-Coffee Mornings are back!! Starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> in St. Peters Church

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**