## **EASTON VILLAGE NEWS**



Look who visited our January Café in the Village Hall! The RNLI's Stormy Stan seen here with our own Sarah Wicks and a colleague from Woodbridge RNLI.

February 2025

#### **Useful Contact details**

#### **Parish Councillors:**

Sue Piggott T: 01728 746622 (Chair & Highways)

Fiona Siddall T: 01728 746517 (Vice Chair & Play Area Officer)

Bob Gibbon T: 01728 746866 (Emergency Officer)

Ian Palfreyman T: 07775 652820 (Footpaths Officer)

Gary Edwards T: 01728 747970 (Cemetery and Burials Officer)

Derek Balcombe T: 01728 768215

Dave Ladbrook T: 07730 432542 (Play Area Officer)

Clerk—Andrew Staples E: parishclerk@eastonpc.org.uk

Parish council website http://easton.suffolk.cloud/

#### **Suffolk County Councillor:**

Elaine Bryce T: 07955 434440 E: Elaine.bryce@suffolk.gov.uk

#### **East Suffolk District Councillors:**

Owen Grey (Lib Dem) E: owen.grey@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Vince Landon-Morris (Green) E: vince.langdon-morris@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

#### **All Saints Church**

Rev. Ann Kember (Priest-in-charge) T: 07369 240252

Note: Ann is not available Weds/Thurs/Fri E: annkember58@gmail.com

Jane Woodbury-Eggins (Churchwarden) T: 01728 746667

#### Village Hall

Gerard Newnham (Bookings) E: gerard.newnham@icloud.com

Village Hall website www.yourhall.co.uk Search Easton

Village Website www.easton.onesuffolk.net

Cricket Club enquiries Tory Hughes E: easton1906@gmail.com

**Bowls Club enquiries** Mike Cattermole T: 01473 614845

#### **Village News Editor**

Clare Owen T: 01728 745015 E: clareelizabethowen@gmail.com

If you have something to put in the Village News, please submit it by 14th of each month.  $$_{\rm 1}$$ 

#### **Editor's Introduction**

There's plenty of interest in this month's magazine. I'm delighted to read in Nikk's gardening feature this month that Spring is in the air. As I write though it feels very cold and that we're still very much in the depths of winter!

There's much to feel glad about though. Our last Sunday Café hosted the RNLI from Woodbridge and I am delighted to say they raised over £150 from donations and sales. The Café proceeds also meant we could donate £250 to the church. Thanks everyone who came along. It was certainly hectic but such good fun.

Can I just remind you please that this year's £7 subscription for the magazine is due. Thank you to everyone who has already paid. I am pleased to report that most of the advertisers have agreed to appear in the magazine for 2025, but I still need subscriptions to meet printing costs.

Payment details are:-

Account No: 60191868
Sort code: 30-99-85
Account Name: C Owen

Please reference the payment with the first line of your address.

Or of course you can pay your distributor direct with cash. If you haven't already done so, please could you make your payment as soon as possible.

Many thanks. Clare

Disclaimer. The Editor of Easton Village News produces this newsletter in good faith from articles submitted by local organisations and individuals. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies contained therein which must be taken up with the relevant organisation or individual.

# Easton Farm Park

The Farm is currently closed to visitors and will re-open for February half-term on Saturday 15th Feb. This is a time for reflection, planning and maintenance as well as managing whatever the weather throws at us! Our first babies are due at the beginning of Feb and we always look forward to this time as the first shoots of spring start to break through and the daylight creeps up a little bit earlier each morning.

Steve and Yvonne Swan (pictured) who work on the farm and have lived in the village for over 30 years - first at the Hunt kennels and now at the Farm Park - oversee the livestock and the activities on the farm. They look after the



animals all year round and are preparing themselves for their midwifery work as the lambs and other babies arrive.

Unfortunately we had a break-in on the farm at the beginning of January. We disturbed the burglars on the evening of Sunday 5th January, and I believe that they also attempted burglaries on other properties in the village and beyond during the night. The police told us that these gangs target a particular area, which seems to be the case in this attack, and also that they often choose a stormy, windy night when there are other noises around to shield noises they may make. If you have any info that could help, please contact Halesworth Police Station on 01473 613500.

Although the Farm Park is closed at this time of year, the farm is also home to Rob Swanscott, our resident blacksmith, who can make the most exquisite items from iron - gates, candlesticks, fire tools and lots more.

Easton Pre-School also operates on the farm. The Pre-School was established in 1976 and is now located in the heart of the farm, offering tiny tots a magical place to begin their educational journey. They have a few spaces still available for this term and beyond. See poster opposite for more information.

3 Fi Siddall



# **Easton Pre-School**

Combining your child's early years education with the magic of Easton Farm Park

## Now open 5 days a week!

**Monday - Friday** 

08:30 - 16:00

- ★ flexible hours ★ qualified and dedicated staff
  - ★ safe and stimulating environment
    - ★ yoga and performing arts sessions
      - ★ daily 'wellie walks'



eastonpreschool@yahoo.co.uk
01728 746935
eastonpreschool.org.uk



# Easton and Letheringham Community Gardening Club



Come along to any or all of our meetings. Everyone is welcome, even if you're not a gardener but would just like tea/coffee and a chat. All the meetings are in the Village Hall.

#### Monday 27th January 6.30-8.30 pm

- The Speaker: Peter Marett from Wild about Campsea has kindly agreed to talk about the community garden in Campsea Ashe. Peter will tell us about the creation of the garden, who benefits and what it has achieved. There will then be a discussion on how Easton and Letheringham can improve community bio-diversity.
- Joining the National Allotment Society. It's £3 if you wish to join and then get access to benefits such as discounted seeds.

Tea or Coffee

- Seed, Cuttings and Plant Swap (please bring anything you may wish to swap).
- Introducing Community Seed Growing. We will provide packets of seeds that members can take and grow for swapping with the group.
- Current top tips of the season.

#### Monday 24th February—6.30 to 8.30 pm

 The Speaker: Prickles Hedgehog Trust on how to protect and encourage hedgehogs in Easton and Letheringham.



 Introduction to Easton Primary School's Triangle of Life project (encouraging children to engage with growing and plants) and how the village can support.

Tea or Coffee

- Seed, Cuttings and Plant Swap (please bring anything you may wish to swap).
- Community Seed Growing. We will provide packets of seeds that members can take and grow for swapping with the group.
- Current top tips of the season.

#### Monday 31st March 6.30 to 8.30 pm

• The Speaker: How to manage dry gardening.

Tea or Coffee

- Seed, Cuttings and Plant Swap (please bring anything you may wish to swap).
- Community Seed growing. We will provide packets of seeds that members can take and grow for swapping with the group.
- Current top tips of the season

#### Monday 28th April 6.30—8.30 pm

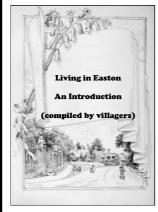
 Question time for Gardeners. A panel will answer questions from the audience. (The BBC are not involved!)

Tea or Coffee

- Seed, Cuttings and Plant Swap. Please bring anything you may wish to swap.
- Community Seed growing. We will provide packets of seeds that members can take and grow for swapping with the group.
- Current top tips of the season.

#### For more information contact:-

Sarah Castle <u>sjcastle1@hotmail.co.uk</u>
Claire Balcombe <u>clairebalcombe@email.com</u>
Gerard Newnham <u>gerard.newnham@icloud.com</u>



#### New to Easton Village?

Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who moves into the village. We have always warmly welcomed newcomers and I am now very happily taking on this role. We can also provide the introductory booklet 'Living in Easton' which has lots of helpful information.

Peter Bennett King, 2 Black and White Cottages T: 747370 E: thebks@btinternet.com

## What's On in February



#### Village Hall

Mondays:

Yoga with Ellie 9.30—11 am Pre-booking E: eleanorpenlo@gmail.com

**Tuesdays:** 

**50+ Keep Fit** Class 10-11am £7 per session (block payment per term of 6/7 weeks)
Contact Clare Hassler on 01728 621247/07769 716761 for more information

Yoga with Ellie 6.30—7.30 pm Pre-booking E: eleanorpenlo@gmail.com

Wednesdays:

Pilates with Kelly Advanced 9.15 am Beginners/Intermediate 10.30 am Pre-booking E: pilateswithkelly@hotmail.com

**Table Tennis** 

6:30pm £5 per session Contact John on 746644

Thursdays: Rabble Chorus

8pm

E: Kirsty@rabblechorus.co.uk

Fridays:

Yoga with Ellie 9.30—11 am Pre-booking E: eleanorpenlo@gmail.com

> Sunday Café 16th 10—11.30 am Village Hall



Fun and Games
Tuesday 18th
2—3.30 pm
Village Hall



Gardening Club Monday 24th 6.30—8.30 pm Village Hall

Mobile Library will stop outside The White Horse on Wednesday 5th February between 12.25 and 12.45.

# Fun and Games! Tuesday 18th February 2—3.30 pm Village Hall



Do you fancy a cuppa, cake and chat with the added option of bringing out your competitive side and having a bash at some old fashioned games?

#### IT'S FREE!

Come and have a giggle.

Please call Clare on 745015 if you'd like any more information. Or email clareelizabethowen@gmail.com.

Where in Easton is this?
(Answer page 29)



# EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL



#### Would you like to more local opportunities to be active?

We are working with Active Suffolk & Fit Villages who arrange new activities to be active in rural communities. Included with this edition is a short survey to let them know what activities you would like to participate in at the village hall. Any activities are welcomed and it's open to all.

If you are interested please complete the short survey and drop it off into the village hall post-box, or you can scan the QR code, or visit their website below to complete this online by **Friday 28**<sup>th</sup> **February.** Thank you! Once responses have been received, we shall report back on the results.

Jenny and the Village Hall Management Committee







#### Do you want more local opportunities to be active?



# Fit Villages are working with Easton and nearby villages to set up and deliver a new physical activity project!

\*There is a focus towards older adults to support healthy ageing, have your say of what you would like to see\*

If you live in Easton or a surrounding village, tell us what kind of activity you would like to participate in by completing our short survey before Friday 28th February 2025, you can use the URL below or simply scan the QR code.

https://www.activesuffolk.org/forms/view/easton1

#### **EASTON WHITE HORSE**

**BAR & RESTAURANT** 



FOOD: 5.30PM - 8.30PM BAR: 5.00 - 10.30

## Wednesday - Thursday

FOOD: 12.00PM - 2.30PM | 5.30PM - 8.30PM BAR: 12.00PM - 3.00PM | 5.00PM - 10.30PM

## Friday - Saturday

FOOD: 12.00PM - 2.30PM | 5.00PM - 8.30PM BAR: 12.00PM - 10.30PM

## Sunday

FOOD: 12.00PM - 5.00PM BAR: 12.00PM - 7.00PM

# Monday CLOSED

@https://www.eastonwhitehorse.co.uk/

# Village People Profile

**How long have you lived in Easton?** Five years

## Why did you move here? To look after the Hamilton Bloodhounds



#### What's your favourite thing about living here?

I actually think the village is quite pretty. We almost take it for granted seeing it every day, but I think we are hugely lucky to have the quirks of the village such as the round houses and the crinkle crankle wall, which makes us unique! The villagers are all very friendly, and last but not least, the pub. How lucky are we to have a pub on the doorstep.

#### What's your least favourite thing about living here?

I must admit the rush hour traffic each end of the day, but sadly not much we can all do about that!

#### What's the most interesting job you've ever had?

This is probably the most interesting job I have had - a lot of variation with the job, interacting with people from all walks of life, and the pack itself is quite an interesting hierarchy to follow.

#### Have you ever lived in another country?

No, I haven't lived in another country, but if I did it would be New Zealand. I have never been there but, a lot of people have said that it is a laid back UK, with a better climate, but not too hot!

#### Your favourite place in the UK (other than Easton!)?

Probably the Peak District - I love the rolling landscape, full of sheep and cows. The 'Northerners' are guite friendly up there too!

#### If you could pass any law?

One to stop building houses on green field sites. Coming from a farming and countryside background, it really saddens me when these large scale housing developments or huge industrial estates are built on perfectly good farmland and countryside. We have a countryside to be proud of, and some of the best soil and farming practices in the world. It should be used for growing food economically, whilst maintaining our fantastic countryside. I feel, if we are not careful, there won't be much of it left for the next generation to enjoy.

#### Your greatest strength?

Trying to please everyone and trying not to let anyone down. If I could manage 15 jobs in a day for people I would! Peter and Pam [who live next door] would say my voice!

#### Your greatest weakness?

I'm not the tidiest person in the world - my wife will back me up on this!

#### Your favourite TV programme?

Peaky Blinders - I love the storylines, the characters, just the whole show really!

#### Your favourite book ever?

To be honest I don't really read a lot. I'd rather listen to a podcast or documentary but I quite like autobiographies because I'm nosey - Jeremy Clarkson's was a good read I thought.

#### The best day of your life?

That's a tough one, between getting married and our daughter, Hettie, coming into the world. I would say one was more stressful than the other but I'll let you guess that one!!



#### February in the Garden

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size."



- Gertrude S. Wister

Spring really is on its way now. As light levels and temperatures gradually increase in February, early colour arrives with snowdrops and crocus, and with them hope for the season to come. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead, whilst outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges. Now's also a really great time to ensure you are stocked up with compost and seed trays ready for the busy days next month.

#### The Ornamental garden

As winter flowering shrubs finish their display, prune them back. Also consider pruning dogwoods, willows and smoke bush to keep them at a manageable size.

Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges.

If you are aching to get growing towards the end of the month, begin to sow hardy annuals either in the greenhouse or on windowsills. Choose from snapdragons, ammi, scabious, marigolds and the cup and saucer vine for extra early flowers.

It's really important to keep on top of any weeds to prevent them from taking hold. In dry weather using a hoe is a great time save, otherwise hand weeding can be very meditative.

Garden birds need your help more than ever now. Keep bird feeders clean and topped up, and ensure their baths are filled with fresh water daily.

Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter and remove the dead grass from evergreen grasses.

Divide spent snowdrops and re-plant whilst in the green to guarantee success.

Harvest hazel by coppicing down to a foot of growth above soil level. Use the prunings to make teepees and arches for sweet peas and beans to climb in the summer.

#### The Vegetable Garden

Force rhubarb for an early crop by covering the crown with a forcer or upturned bucket. Forced stems are especially prized for their sweetness.

Protect the tender blossom of apricot, peach and nectarine trees by covering them with fleece if a dip in temperature is forecast.

Warm the soil with cloches before making early sowings of carrots, salads and parsnips.

When your seed potatoes arrive, lay them to chit in egg boxes to give them a head start once in the ground.

Sow hardy peas and broad beans which germinate at low temperatures.

Keep up with the winter harvests of cabbages, kale, sprouts, sprouting broccoli, leeks, parsnips, cauliflower, chard and spinach.

February's gardening notes from local horticulturist Nikk Slowey FdSc Hort. Who, along with her husband Christian, are Honeysuckle Horticulture. Nikk is also a lecturer in horticulture at Suffolk Rural.





#### **Ghosts of Suffolk**

#### **Potsford Wood**

Potsford Wood [near Wikcham Market] is a creepy, eerie place even on the brightest of summer days.

Almost lost amidst its creeping carpets of nettle and bracken are the decaying remains of the Potsford Gibbet, last used on 14th April 1699 when Jonah Snell was executed for murder.

The secluded wood is a truly frightening place to be on wild, winter nights. The skeletal trees stand gaunt and shadowy, their branches reaching out to grip one another in grim embrace. Locals speak in hushed tones of strange lights that twinkle from the depths of the wood. Strangers talk of a fearsome choking groan that that sounds alongside them.

Some who have paused to gaze upon the rotting remains of the old gibbet, have turned to find a mysterious figure in black standing behind them, and are horrified to see that beneath its dark cloak there is nothing more than a grimacing, hollow-eyed skull staring at them.

#### Woolpit, Suffolk - The Green Children

The sign of this peaceful little village, in the heart of rural Suffolk, commemorates one of the most curious legends to emerge from the mists of medieval history.

The story was chronicled by two 13th century clerics, Ralph, Abbot of Coggeshall and William of Newburgh and tells how one summer, during the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154), farm workers bringing in the harvest from the fields that surround the village were suddenly surprised by the sight of two strange figures emerging out of the pits from which the village takes its name.

They were a boy and girl whose skins were completely green. They wore strange looking clothes, could not understand anything that the villagers said to them, but seemed able to converse with each other in a strange, unintelligible tongue.

The bemused villagers took the children to the home of the local landowner, Sir Richard de Calne. They refused to eat any food until some green beans were offered them and these they consumed hungrily.

The boy soon died, but the girl quickly settled into her new surroundings where, having adapted to a normal diet, her skin gradually lost its green hue and she became like any other woman.

She was soon able to converse in English and answer the questions that her hosts were eager to ask. She said that she and her brother had dwelt previously in a place called St Martin's land, where the sun never shone. Its residents, she said, lived in perpetual twilight, although they could see another "land of light" across a river.

One day, she and her brother had been tending their father's sheep when they heard the beautiful sound of bells and had entered an underground passageway in search of their source. Emerging from the darkness, they had been overcome by a dazzling light and had lain motionless for a time. Startled by those who found them, they had attempted to escape, but were unable to find the entrance to the cavern again and so had been brought to the house where she now resided.

In time, the girl married a man from Kings Lynn, and went on to live a long and happy life, leaving behind her a curious enigma over which people have been arguing and pondering ever since.

Courtesy of Richard Jones, author of Haunted Britain and Ireland

### All Saints Church



#### **Church Services**

The Benefice service for Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February is at Campsea Ashe at 11 am.

The services at Easton church will be Morning Worship on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11 am and Holy Communion on 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February there will be an All Age Service for St Valentine at Hacheston at 11 am.

There will be a Benefice Holy Communion service at Easton on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 11 am. Do join us!

#### **Discussion Group**

Our topic for February is "Do church buildings have an influence on our faith?" Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at Bickley, Harriers Walk at 10.30 am. New members are always welcome.





#### Sunday Café

This month the Sunday Café is on 16<sup>th</sup> February with all the usual lovely food and good company.

#### **PCC** meeting

Our first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm at Bickley.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins



THE MAY
FAIR NEEDS
YOU!



Hurray! This year's May Fair is on Saturday 10th on the Village Green in Easton.

Would you be able to help? We need all sorts of helpers.

- ⇒ Helpers/volunteers setting up
- ⇒ Being on a stall
- ⇒ Putting away afterwards
- ⇒ Baking scones to sell in the tea tent
- ⇒ Gazebos
- ⇒ Home bakes : Cakes, traybakes, sweet or savoury snacks
- ⇒ Bric a Brac and Toys: Clean and saleable, new or second hand
- ⇒ Plants
- ⇒ Jams and Marmalades
- ⇒ Books
- ⇒ Prize Draw items for Grand Draw eg vouchers, treatments, luxury hampers
- ⇒ Alcoholic drinks for the Tombola

Please call Emma 07905 632927 or Nancy 07776 147839



Church Services for February				
<b>2</b> <sup>nd</sup>	Candlemas	11am	Benefice Holy Communion for Candlemas	Campsea Ashe
9th	4th Sunday before Lent	11am	Morning Worship	Easton
			Holy Communion	Parham
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Marlesford
16 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent	11am	All Age Service for St Valentine	Hacheston
23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
		11am		Easton
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Kettleburgh
				Parham

Compline is said at Marlesford every Wednesday at 5pm

The next Benefice Service is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 11am at Easton



#### **Sunday 16th February**

#### **Village Hall**

10.00 —11.30 am

There'll be a very warm welcome even if it is chilly outside. There's lots of home made goodies, sweet and savoury, all made by our lovely volunteers. Or how about a bacon roll made with Revetts bacon in a roll from Harvey & Co? Our specials board might catch your eye too. All food can be bought to take away and at very good prices (we aim just to cover costs and any profit we do make is sent to charities or donated to the church).

Enjoy catching up with friends, making new ones, or reading the Sunday newspapers in our lovely village hall. We've got toys for the children and a covered seating area outside if you'd like to bring your dog along.



#### **EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Sponsored by All Saints Church** 

#### EASTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Oak Class at Easton Primary School have had a busy and exciting month of learning! In literacy, they have been exploring the fascinating world of the Suffragettes, using their courageous efforts, including those of Emmeline Pankhurst and Emily Davison, as inspiration for persuasive writing and newspaper reports. They have also been honing their descriptive writing skills by creating vivid escape scenes inspired by tales such as Aladdin.

Maths lessons have been full of problem-solving challenges, with a focus on mastering fractions and understanding ratios through practical, real-life contexts.

Science has seen pupils investigating the wonders of space, including the movement of planets and the phases of the moon.

Meanwhile, our talented musicians have been preparing to perform at the Candlelit Concert at the church on February 7th, which promises to be a memorable event for the whole community.

Mr Mansell



Easton Church's Christmas Eve Nativity





#### Raising a stink

In the early months of the year, it is difficult to find much colour in the plant world. Bright berries like holly, pyracantha and cotoneaster have been eaten by hungry birds – providing essential survival rations during the cold winter months. Early flowers such as snowdrops and aconites can be slow and yet to emerge when conditions are cold.



But walk along Easton Street and you will see are several clumps of Stinking Iris or Gladdon – *Iris foetidissima* which retain striking orange/scarlet seeds throughout the winter clustered in desiccated pods. The flowers appear May – July and are a subtle yellow in comparison to the vibrant seeds, with each flower only lasting a couple of days before fading.

Stinking iris is one of the two native irises of the UK (the other being flag iris - a familiar sight beside ponds and waterways). It is a perennial of neutral to

chalky soils favouring shady locations like woods and hedge banks. It is a frequent garden escape, thriving in areas close to habitation.

Stinking iris is drought tolerant, thriving at the base of walls in Easton where conditions are very parched. The plant is named stinking iris, because the leaves have rather an unpleasant foetid smell when crushed. Some say it resembles beef and another colloquial name is beefsteak iris.

The seeds, along with the rest of the plant, are very

toxic if eaten by humans, cats and dogs etc, but many species of wildlife, particularly birds, can eat the seed with no ill effect. The seed is a valuable winter food for wildlife when 'provisions' are scarce. The flowers, though short-lived, are an excellent source of pollen and nectar favoured by bumblebees and long-tailed flies.

Acetosella



## Neighbourhood Watch News for February

# A serious and not so serious look at scams

#### **HMRC Tax Scam**

Tax scams can happen at any time but are most common around key deadlines, such as when your tax return is due.

As well as phone calls and voicemail, scammers also send emails, texts and even letters trying to trick people into handing over their money or personal details.

They usually take the form of 'you're owed a tax rebate' or 'you're in trouble with the HMRC'.

HM Revenue and Customs will never ask for your bank account details, personal information or send you notifications by email or text for:

- tax rebates
- refunds
- personal or payment information

If you receive an email or text purporting to be from HMRC or an email promising a tax rebate, don't respond, don't click on any website links within the email and don't disclose any personal or payment information. Instead, contact HMRC directly to check whether the email is genuine.

#### The Strangest Scams of 2024

#### Royal membership cards

Royal scam: A bizarre Facebook post offered meals with the monarch. Facebook users have reported seeing a bewildering social media post from King Charles. It advertises a 'Royal membership card' granting the bearer three annual visits with the monarch himself.

And the perks don't end there. Those splashing out are also promised free flight tickets, two iPhones, a cap and a T-shirt.

For those wanting a truly luxurious experience, upgrading to the 'VIP' version of the card secures you an outlandish array of benefits including a 'minimum wage from the royal house of England', 'health insurance' and being 'recognised as a fan' of the royal family.

Those expressing interest in the 'offer' reportedly receive bogus application forms requesting copious personal data and are quoted 'fees' in the thousands.



#### Loan for dead uncle

In a jaw-dropping fraud attempt that made headlines across the world, a woman in Brazil was arrested in April after reportedly wheeling a recently deceased uncle into a bank branch to sign off a loan.

The suspect was observed repeatedly trying to place a pen in the hand of her uncle, who is estimated to have been dead for at least two hours. She was later charged with a fraud offence, which she denies.

The appalling incident in Rio de Janeiro came to light after concerned bank staff called for medical help, as reported by the Guardian.

#### Jeff Rothschild giveaway

No annual round-up of strange scams is complete without a fake email from a famous billionaire, offering riches to a random stranger.

This year the offer claimed to come from US billionaire and Facebook founding engineer, Jeff Rothschild, who urges the recipient to look at his Forbes profile in case they're unsure who he is.

'I'm offering you a gift,' he explains, 'not just in material form, but as a gesture of appreciation for who you are' – despite not knowing who you are.

Anyone interested in receiving the gift is urged to respond with their full name and address so he can 'guide you through the next steps'.

In reality, this is a form of advanced fee fraud in which you'll be tricked into making a payment yourself to 'release' your windfall.

John Owen







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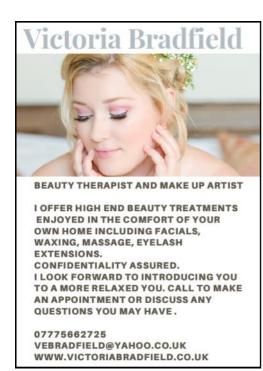


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# Answer to 'Where in Easton is this? Top of The White Horse pub illuminated sign.









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