

Easton Royal - Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal 2023

These are the results of the 2023 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

House to house collection:

| Area | Tin No. | Amount | £ |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| Easton Royal Academy | 422490 | | 92.10 |
| ER East | 422491 | | 222.14 |
| Harris Lane | 422492 | | 61.08 |
| ER West | 422493 | | 141.86 |
| UTC | 422494 | | 34.78 |
| Top Road | | | 78.10 |
| | Total | | 630.06 |

The work of the door to door collectors is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Church collection: Total: £451.20 - £225.60 to church; £112.80 Army Benevolent Fund; £112.80 RBL

Special thanks go to Hilary Hollinsworth in making the arrangements on behalf of the Church and Rev. James Dickie for conducting the service.

Curry Lunch: £470 +bar £50 = £520

Special thanks to Karen Nimmo-Scott for organising the curry lunch and to all the people who prepared and donated food to make it a success.

Church and curry lunch total to RBL: £632.80; Total to RBL £1262.86

Overall total raised: £630.06 +£451.20 +£520 = £1601.26

I took over the task of organising the RBL Poppy Appeal in Easton Royal from Bob Walters in 2012. I am very pleased to announce that I will be succeeded this year by Commander Megan Ashton who has a wealth of experience of her own, having been the organiser in MOD of the arrangements for D-Day 70.

In signing off, my sincere thanks to everybody who has helped me; too many to mention by name. A total of £1600 last year and similar sums over many years is testament to the generosity of spirit of the people of this village.

Yours ever,

Bill Nimmo-Scott

Report for Easton Royal Annual meeting 16th April 2024

The service pattern of two services per month, a lay-led on the second Sunday and a communion service on the fourth.

During the year there have been three baptisms and two memorial services. The school have continued to hold their end of term services in church. Open the Book story-telling has continued in school.

Festival services have been generally well supported.

Rev Rhona Floate has settled in well as Rector and the post of Team vicar has been filled with a date for licensing to be decided. It will be a part-time post based in Woodborough with an emphasis on outreach work.

The work on the external areas of the church have been completed and the lighting has been renewed making a huge difference inside. There is still work to be done on the ceiling where small areas of plaster have fallen. The total cost of these works was over £16,000.

The 100 club continues to provide extra funds for the church and thanks to Carole and Ivan Gale for running it.

We were grateful for a bequest from the estate of David Goodship which enabled a small plaque amending the WW1 memorial and towards the cost of the lighting.

We are grateful to the Parish council for their continued support in upkeep of the churchyard and cemetery. We have appointed a new contractor this year and hope a better standard will be achieved.

Thanks to all who provide the flowers, especially the Easter cross with lilies, and help in cleaning of the church.

The current position of the finances of the church are that our income does not meet the running costs. The main expenses are the 'Share' paid to the diocese (covering clergy stipends etc), to the Team for local expenses, insurance, utilities and maintenance. There are some reserves but will not continue to support the church in the longer term. Regular giving is very important as it attracts gift aid support. Fundraising through the village Christmas card and lilies for remembrance are very helpful but other fundraising events will be needed to boost the funds and any suggestions are welcomed.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council has fallen and any willing support would be welcomed. Currently the members of the committee are Judith McLain, Fiona de Pass and myself with our Vicar Rev Mark Windsor. We currently other members to keep going and any support would be warmly welcomed. The annual church meeting will take place, probably in May – a date to be decided.

Any questions?

The Orchard Team

Easton Royal Village Orchard was first planted in November 2012. It was planted and is maintained by members of the community. The orchard was planted with 54 trees in the upper field, being mostly apples with some pear, plum and damson trees. The orchard was funded by villagers sponsoring a tree and by a grant from Wiltshire Council.

One or two trees have died, but since it is felt that the trees were originally planted quite close together there are no plans to replace them. The trees at the top of the field have been pruned again this winter by Ivan and Ian. Due to the strong winds, which the orchard is subject to, it was decided that it is best to keep the tree supports in place.

There are no restrictions on who picks the fruit. There are guidelines on the information board next to the orchard to identify when each tree ripens. We do ask that children are supervised in the orchard so that they do not mistakenly pick fruit before it is ripe. As a general rule, you can tell if an apple is ripe by cupping it in your hand and giving it a slight twist. If it comes off easily it is ripe. The seeds inside will be brown if it is ripe. The information board indicates which apples are suited to cider making.

Pears are better if they are not left to ripen for too long on the tree as they have a tendency to go mushy. Watch for a slight change in colour and pick before they are fully ripened. Store at home until ripe. The Black Worcester pears remained on the tree last year and pulled the tree over at an angle. It is a very hard pear and is best stored until January. It is a very ancient variety only suited to cooking and has appeared in cook books as early as 1450. We can recommend its addition to casseroles.

Plums and damsons usually ripen in late summer. They will soften when ripe and should be picked before the birds and insects eat them! Damsons are usually too sour to eat straight from the tree but they make delicious preserves and pies or for the truly adventurous try making damson gin.

We have one quince tree and one crab apple in the lower field. In the last couple of years the quince has started to produce fruit which are ready to harvest in October or November. They are noted for being very aromatic and make delicious jelly. The most common use for crab apples is to make crab apple jelly.

Any fruit that falls to the ground is not wasted; our local wildlife will make good use of it.

The Woodland

The woodland group is no longer active. The area is regularly used by the school and children enjoy making dens in this wild area. The wild daffodils and bluebells continue to thrive.

Drop In Coffee Mornings

**A great way to while away
a morning chatting to friends
over coffee & cake.**

Coffee Mornings in the village have been running for 18 years. Originally started for the retired folk in 2006 where it would be hosted in different houses in the village. We have had some lovely summer ones sat in our hosts gardens surrounded by roses and flowers. Then some winter ones in a cosy sitting room, always served with lovely coffee and cake. We started off with coffee and biscuits, but you know Easton Royal a cake was introduced, followed by more cake and cheese scones and sausage rolls... A Feast!!

Now don't let this put you off from becoming a host, there is always someone to help and to make a cake. The more people willing to make a cake the better.

Since Covid we have been holding the monthly coffee mornings in the Village Hall enabling us to open the invitation up to all, held usually around the middle of the month, either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 10 - 12 noon.

We change the day to hopefully make it accessible to most people. Look out for the notice on Mail Chimp and WhatsApp.

We have become very successful fund-raisers. All the money collected, £4.00 per head (less payment for hire of hall) goes towards our chosen charities. Over the years we have donated to many charities such as Cancer Research, Alzheimer's, Macmillan, Pewsey Link, Dogs' Trust, Ukraine Fund, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and also Plants for Village Flower Troughs and Village Coronation Fund. Last year (2023) we raised £1,050.00 which we gave £500 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance, £300 to Prospect and £250. to Julia's House Children's Hospice

If you and a few friends would like to host a morning, please let me know.

Carole Choules choulescarole@gmail.com 810481

Craft Afternoon

At the moment we are a small group who meet once a month in a home in the village. If more were to join our group we would meet in the Village Hall.

We knit, we sew, we do tapestry and patchwork, we felt or make Dorset buttons we also chat and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake. We charge £3 which goes to charity at the end of the year.

Occasionally Marion (Miss Lemon who had the shop in Pewsey) comes to our group with some lovely craft ideas.

The group meets on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon in the middle of the month, look out for a notice on Mail Chimp and WhatsApp for details.

Carole Choules. choulescarole@gmail.com

EASTON ROYAL HERITAGE GROUP

Chairman's Report April 2024

Last year's AGM was well attended with 32 members, plus a few visitors.

The Committee members had agreed to stand for another year and with the absence of any additional applications, they were all re-elected. The Treasurer, Carole Choules, explained that costs for both hiring the hall and for speakers had risen considerably resulting in an increase in membership to £10 per annum.

The AGM concluded and the evening continued with Richard Osgood MBE, manager of archaeology on MOD land, who gave us a moving talk looking at the phenomenon of using archaeology to assist military veterans and the discoveries they have made.

On a hot night in June, we welcomed Nigel Kerton as our speaker. Nigel spent over 50 years as journalist for the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald covering the Marlborough and Pewsey areas. He entertained us with stories of events attended and people he met during that time.

In August the weather was kind for Beating the Bounds with a total of 20 walkers and refreshments at the Bruces Arms.

Local photographer Bob Holman was our speaker in October with a talk entitled 'Marlborough Unseen' and we soon realised the significance of the title. Bob showed us his photographs of cellars and tunnels in High Street buildings. Sounds quite dull, but in actual fact it made for a fascinating evening of history and architecture with Bob's sense of fun and story telling bringing it all together.

On a cold night in December, our more hardy members turned out to welcome Morton Burdick whose talk 'The Noisy Neighbours on your Doorstep' gave some insight into the 125 year transition of Salisbury Plain into one of the UK's most important military training areas. Sadly, for the first time ever the hall projector failed us but Morton bravely

continued his talk without visual images, fuelled by mulled wine and mince pies.

In February, resplendent in uniform of the period, Harry Wrightson returned with his talk 'Menage a Trois' – the story of Lord Nelson and his relationship with Emma Hamilton. Harry has a great love of this era of history and had thoroughly researched the details of this rather touching and little known relationship.

The first weekend in April saw our third archive display in the village hall. The collection continues to grow and we think it is important to give it an airing every now and again. We were very pleased with the number of visitors and received many compliments on the display and the quality of the refreshments! Particularly pleasing was the return of 95 year old Nicholas Wragg, grandson of Sir Henry Bashford, who used to spend his school holidays here in the White House and has many happy memories of those days.

Also members of the Hornbogen clan, two of whom had travelled from Kent to be here. The group included 92 year old Phyllis (nee Holborrow), whose husband Kurt had been a German prisoner of war, working on Easton farms. Also their two daughters, Carla and Tina and son, Paul, who were all born and brought up here. Quite a family reunion.

We were saddened to have lost two of our members during this year. Ann Dancer who has moved to a care home in Aldbourne and Pete Martin who sadly died last October. We remember them with fondness and miss them a great deal.

A big thank you as always to the Committee – Carole, Ray, Maggie and Paul – for their hard work through the year.

And finally, of course, our grateful thanks to all of you for continuing to support us – as I always say, it would be pointless without you.

Many thanks.