

Easton Village Newsletter

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May 2021

Issue 187

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



April is normally the month that we all expect sunshine, showers and some warmth that will start to get the crops growing after their Winter hibernation, a time that is critical to the crop for a good harvest. Well, April 2021 turned out to be anything but normal with only 3.9 mm of rain in East Anglia. This was the driest since records began in 1862 and the frostiest since 1970. I was getting really concerned that the crops were looking very stunted because the Nitrogen that I applied with my fertiliser spreader had not received enough rain to dissolve it and put it down to the roots.

I probably got Geoff P to perform one too many rain dances (in those famous 'budgie smugglers') because when May came and it started raining, it didn't know when to stop!! The fertiliser certainly got washed in and probably out down the drains as well!! But despite still not getting much warm weather, my wheat does look very well! It's lovely dark green in colour with no Blackgrass, did you hear me, NO Blackgrass (that I can see anyway!). The rain has, hopefully, also saved the potential for a crop of hay. I honestly thought that there would be nothing at all but now I am hopeful.

Farming leaders have warned that a new Free Trade agreement with Australia could leave livestock producers struggling with cheap imports of a poorer quality. NFU President Minette Batters said that it could cripple the lamb and beef markets. Hormones are allowed to be used in Australia but are banned in the UK. Pig farmers are struggling with prices down 14p/kg on this time last year and feed cost have gone up and potato growers are struggling with lower

prices so it looks like we all need roast pork and roast potatoes this weekend (can you hear me, Jill??).

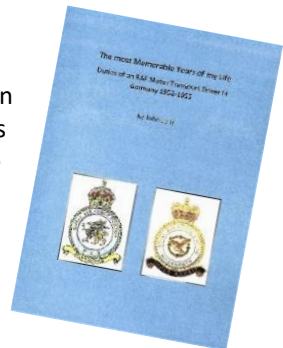
Rural crime is also on the rise as is hare coursing and fly tipping. If you see anything suspicious visit www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk or call 0800-783 0137.

ALERT TO DOG-WALKERS!

Please may we remind everyone with dogs how important it is to keep our local footpaths free of dog mess. There are many people who enjoy the green lanes and footpaths who are not dog-owners and the last thing they want is to walk into something unpleasant. The law requires you to clear up after your dog. You should use a poop scoop and take the waste home – NOT in the litter bins which are not designated for that purpose. In the interest of good hygiene, please always clear up after your dog.

THE MOST MEMORABLE YEARS...

Until quite lately a long-time resident of Easton, John Jolly has written an interesting memoir of his time as an RAF Motor Transport Driver in Germany during the 1950s. He spent some time in the RAF Police and was posted to Wildenrath. The book has recently been published and copies are available directly from John at a cost of £8.50, by telephoning 07713-856296



CAN YOU GUESS....?



When digging the pond at Brook House, we found a fragment of ancient pottery. Can you complete this 500 year old rhyme?! It was dug up last autumn but we don't know how deeply buried it was or when it might have come there. We don't know whether it was part of a jug which had the whole rhyme or not. It first appeared in print in 1755 but is thought to go back much earlier.

Brian Davis

EASTON WILDLIFE 2021

Easton Parish Council

The Parish Council have agreed to offer a prize for the best idea to encourage wildlife either in your own garden or in the public areas around Easton. Entries will be judged at the end of the year by Brian Davis, our resident wildlife expert.

In *Gardener's World* recently it highlighted that 70% of ponds had disappeared in the UK in recent years. Creating even a small pond can be one of the most important wildlife environments you can create in your garden. If space is limited you do not need a pond liner: even a submerged planter, bowl or similar can create an attractive area for wildlife. Finished off with a few aquatic and marginal plants will enhance it and also provide cover for aquatic animals. If you need any help or advice in creating a pond, please let us know as we have several residents who have done this recently. After creating a pond last August, within the first month the photo below was taken of Darter dragonflies that then proceeded to lay many eggs over the next several weeks.



If anyone is inspired to build a pond, please send a photo of it to thomsk@btinternet.com, or post it to the Easton Facebook pages, and you might be in with a chance to win the prize later in the year! All the photos will be added to the new Easton Parish Council website that is currently being built.

The Parish Council are also liaising with farmers and other landowners to identify opportunities for further tree planting around the village later in the year. We have received a number of ideas for tree planting including a suggestion to plant an area in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh. Also, as we did last year, we will be asking that strips of some of our verges will be left unmown to grow wild over the summer months.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

Sunday 6 June

9:30	Covington	Parish Communion
9:30	Spaldwick	Morning Worship
10:45	Kimbolton	Parish Communion
18:00	Stow Longa	Evensong

Sunday 13 June

9:30	Tilbrook	Family Service
9:30	Easton	Parish Communion
10:45	Kimbolton	Family Service

Sunday 20 June

9:30	Covington	Morning Worship
9:30	Spaldwick	Parish Communion
10:45	Kimbolton	Matins
11:00	Barham	Parish Communion
14:00	Stow Longa	Songs of praise

Sunday 27 June

9:30	Easton	Morning Worship
10:45	Kimbolton	Family Communion
16:00	Spaldwick	Family worship
18:00	Kimbolton	Evensong

In addition, Holy Communion is celebrated in Kimbolton at 10.30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Owing to holidays, the Deadline for the July newsletter is 23rd June.

