

Easton Village Newsletter

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Issue 196

Easton Fauna

Charles Nixon

The Pheasant – Phasianus Colchicus



The Pheasant is the symbol of our village and adorns the village sign. They are often seen in the fields around the village and sometimes in gardens within the village and its clacking sound is familiar to walkers who startle one into the air as they approach. But did you know.....

- There are 50 different varieties of pheasant around the world – the one we know

best is of course the Common Pheasant, though there are colonies of the Golden Pheasant in East Anglia

- In August 2021 there were estimated to be 31.5 million pheasants in Britain but this was before the start of the pheasant shooting season which runs from 1 October to 1 February

- Pheasants are good short distance fliers and can reach a flight speed of 56 mph if alarmed The Pheasant was introduced to England in the Middle Ages as a game bird from Eastern Asia (though some sources say that it was introduced in Roman times from Caucasia). A record exists from 1089 of 16 Pheasants given to the monks of Rochester by Bishop Randulfus, and Thomas Becket famously dined on pheasant the night before his death in 1170.

The bird we most often see is the Common Pheasant. The adult male is a very handsome bird with a white collar and dark head, glossed green and black with red waffles on its side.

The body is barred brown and has an unmistakable long brown tail. The white collar is from the far eastern bird whereas those from Caucasia lack the collar. Birds have been imported over the centuries from a number of countries including China, Mongolia, Afghanistan and the USA. All have been interbred to produce the modern bird.

The bird breeds in corpses with dense undergrowth and scrubby thickets, and roosts in trees. Its nests, often on the field sides of hedges, consist of a flat structure of dead leaves and grass on the ground. The hen bird sits on the eggs and its plain brown colouring provides good camouflage.

Finally, you may like to know that The Pheasant at Keyston has re-opened and currently has a very good pheasant dish on its menu.



Pheasants adorn the roof of the Manor House

David and Jenny Hyde

The Hydes are leaving the village after living here for 36 years. They moved in with their two children Adrian and Pippa in 1985. David was Churchwarden for a few years, but Jenny was originally Church Secretary and then Treasurer for over 25 years. If that wasn't enough, she has produced the Village Newsletter since its inception 16 years ago- all 193 editions!

We will miss them but wish them both well in their new life in Wareham in Dorset, where they will be nearer to their son and his family.

Mike Baker

Easton Wildlife 2021 – Tree planting has finally started.

As shown in the photograph on the next page, the first trees have now been planted in celebration of the Queens Green Canopy and the Easton Wildlife initiative

These first few trees have been planted alongside the brook in Church Road. Some more Hawthorn hedging has also been planted along the edge of the playing field.



To contribute to the impetus and importance of increasing our nation's tree coverage, the **Parish Council have decided to offer a tree to every home owner in Easton.** To manage this offer we need to offer a choice of just a few specific trees, and the ones that should continue to be available

over the next few months are; Hornbeam (large), Mountain Ash (medium), or Crab Apple (small). If you have room in your garden and are willing to support the on-going initiative to plant and maintain such a tree then please send an email to the Parish Clerk (clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk) or to Steve Thomason (thomsk@btinternet.com), or call 01480 891516, stating your name, address and which tree you would prefer. You will need to provide your own stake and tie for the young tree. Please let us know your choice before mid-February (the 14th Feb), and we will aim to provide your tree before the start of spring.

Easton Parish Council

59 Club

A belated Happy New Year to all and hope you are all keeping well. The recent winners of the 59 Club were Rona Graham in November and Oscar/Joshua Williams (grandchildren of Chris and Jeanette Charlton) in December - Congratulations. Regarding Rona, God rest her soul, her daughters have requested that the money go to the Church fund, so many thanks for this. The next round will be drawn on Saturday 29th January and will be the last round of the 2021 year. Consequently, I will be doing my rounds and hope you will continue your support of the village church in this manner. If you feel like dropping your entry money (£12/ number for the year) through my letterbox it will be greatly appreciated. For those new to the village, the 59 Club raises money to support the maintenance of the village church. Each month, on the last Saturday of the month we take the bonus ball number from the National Lottery draw that day and whoever has that number wins £25. There are

numbers available if you wish to join. The first draw of the new round will be at the end of February. Good luck to all for the 29th!

John Maith

Church Services

Sunday 13th February 9:30..... Easton Parish Communion

Sunday 27th February 9,30 Easton Morning Worship

For further information, please see the Benefice website: www.kymchurch.org.uk

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Wednesday 23rd March at 7:30pm in St Peter's Church, Easton

All are welcome at this meeting and your support would be very much appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

Church wardens and PCC members will be elected and reports given on the activities in the church and its finances. All those on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote at the meeting: a list of those already on the Roll will be displayed on the noticeboard inside the church porch prior to the meeting. If you would like your name to be added please contact Julia Cox on 896652 or j.cox397@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS - A14 UPDATE

Thank you to all the 26 villagers who put in their concerns about the junction onto the A14. The Parish Council met with Alan Trille from National Highways on Tuesday 18th January at the junction, where he observed and experienced first-hand the dangers and difficulties for motorists. Details of the meeting will be included in the next Newsletter.

Deadline for the March Newsletter will be Friday 25th February