

Easton Village Newsletter

March 2022

Issue 197

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



We are at a very challenging time in British agriculture. The Government wants climate friendly farming and there are changes to the British Agricultural Policy, there's a post Brexit shift from EU subsidies, shortage of labour (which is affecting many areas such as horticulture and abattoirs), fertiliser and spray cost doubling and trade deals being done that open the door to our markets but provide little or no reciprocal deal for UK farmers. And I haven't even mentioned the

weather!

We have so many changes that even the National Farmers Union can't manage to work out all the new rules and what is happening! What I do know is that in 1984 the UK was 78% self-sufficient in food but in 2021 it was down to 60%. We have the highest standard of food safety and quality; these standards must not be allowed to slip. To become a more climate friendly farmer the government want us to plough less and direct drill into stubbles, plant more trees and cover our land in solar panels. This will work on some farms but many farmers feel that it is a car crash waiting to happen. We need to protect the planet but we still need to still put food on the table and also make a living. Back on the farm I have been busy trimming hedges and cutting up fallen trees. It is still too wet and cold at the moment but when it warms up a bit, I will apply some fertiliser to the Wheat and Barley to get it growing quickly in the Spring. I have some Spring Beans to drill and I'll do this in late March when the seedbed should be much drier and warmer. I have applied to put my farm into Countryside Stewardship again, for the next 5 years, if I am accepted. This will involve drilling several fields of clover/wild flower mixes, Winter bird food and pollen and nectar plots (providing food for pollinators, such as bees and

hoverflies, and invertebrate chick food for farmland birds), planting hills and with grass (to prevent fertiliser run off into the waterways and erosion) and grass/flower field margins (to protect the hedgerows and ditches). I've been in Stewardship for 15 years now, putting around half my acreage down to some form environmental benefit and I love doing it. We now have more brown hares, English Partridge and barn owls than I have ever seen on the farm. Long may it continue that I can carry on doing this, growing crops and making a living!

Chimney Sweep

It's that time of year again, when our thoughts turn to Spring and cleaning our chimneys. Jenny has always organised this in the past via the Newsletter and I am happy to continue. I have booked the chimney sweep to come to Easton on Monday 9th May, Tuesday 10th May and Wednesday 11th May. A visit takes approx. 45 minutes and costs £45 (a bit more if you have a nest). He starts work at 7.45 am and hopes to fit in about 6 visits a day. If you are interested, please email me by the **31st March** (janet-thomason@hotmail.co.uk) and let me know if you have a preference which day and whether you would prefer an early or late morning slot.



Blocked Drains

Malcolm & Margaret Halliday

Twice in January the drains were blocked in Chapel Lane due to wet wipes being flushed down the lavatories, and twice Anglian Water had to come and clear the blockage. Ford Cottage was twice without showers and toilet facilities for two days. You can imagine that this was most inconvenient for Malcolm and Margaret. We therefore ask everyone ALWAYS to put used wet wipes in the bin and NEVER down the loo. Thank you for your co-operation.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Easton Parish Council is to be held at 7.30pm on 24th March 2022 in St Peter's Church, Easton. This is the meeting open to

everyone when anyone is welcome to speak or raise any village concern. The various village committees will make their annual reports.

Easton A14 Junction Update.

Easton Parish Council

The Parish Council had a meeting in January on site with Alan Trille Route Manager for National Highways and Ian Gardener our District Councillor, to observe first-hand the traffic at our A14 junction.

Alan highlighted that one scheme already identified covered improvements to the central reservation. The surface was to be improved to prevent standing water, and the road markings were to be added in the central reservation so cars turning into Easton from the eastbound A14 would pull up earlier on the central reservation to give way to any cars turning onto the east bound lane from Easton. An option to use special surfacing which reduces the risk of skidding is also being considered. He expected this work to be completed this year, currently targeted for between April and June.

To support longer term improvements, Alan was waiting for a decision on funding for a full survey of the junction to include traffic manoeuvres. This would then give clear traffic volumes for vehicles coming in to and out of the village and direction of travel, eastbound or westbound on the A14. Once this information was gathered Highways could then base future decisions on clear facts rather than perception.

The possible longer term major improvements of either acceleration/deceleration lanes, or a local access road via Ellington or Spaldwick were discussed. The benefits and issues associated with each option were considered and Alan will come up with some concept ideas in the next few months and share these with us.

Alan confirmed that he had received 26 submissions from Easton regarding the recent A14 strategy Review. Initial findings from the review were due to be discussed with Highways Route managers by March this year. Following this, the work going forward would be documented and agreed in 2023/2024. Any agreed actions would then be scheduled for implementation between 2025/2030. However, funding for concept planning may be required in the 2025/2030 period, and if so then any actual works would be scheduled in 2030/2035.

In summary, Highways will be working with the Parish Council to develop concepts for a desired potential layout of the Easton (and Woolley) junction

areas, which will then be included for consideration in the major project plans for Highways England.

59 Club

John Maith

Well, another year of the 59 Club came to an end in January with the winner being Alison and Peter Gould. Congratulations to Peter and Alison. In chronological order the 2021/22 winners were Michael & Claire Lawson; Marjorie Ellis; Jill & Richard Burton; Mac & Jayne Baker; Ruth Brooks; Iris Brooker; Maureen O'Brien; Marie Dunne; Margaret Halliday; Rona Graham; Oscar & Joshua Williams; Peter & Alison Gould. Congratulations to all the winners. I would like to thank all participants for continuing to support the 59 Club and would like to welcome several new residents who have joined for the 2022/3 round. If anyone else wishes to join, please get in touch, by phone 891547 or e-mail maiths60@hotmail.com, or at Grange Farm, Church Road. It costs £12 for the year and each month someone wins £25, the surplus going to help with the maintenance of the Church. On the last Saturday of each month, the bonus ball from the National Lottery Lotto draw is used to find our winner. Good luck to all in the new round which commences on Saturday 26th February.

Church Services

Sunday 9th March

Spaldwick 9.30 am
Morning Worship

Sunday 13th March

Easton 9.30 am
Parish Communion

Sunday 20th March

Spaldwick 9.30 am
Parish Communion

Mothering Sunday

There will be a special Mothering Sunday Service on **Sunday 27th March** at 10.30 am in St Peters Church, to which you are warmly invited. There will be flowers from the children for all the ladies in the congregation and refreshments will be served afterwards. Please bring your families and friends to join us on this special occasion.

For more local services go to the following website:

<https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services>

Deadline for April's Newsletter is March 25th