

Easton Village Newsletter

April 2022

Issue 198

Nature Notes

Beekeeping

Peter Gould



To quote The Bee Master of Wardlow, writing in 1907, the beekeeping year ends on Dec. 31st and starts on January 1st; well, I have to say that for me and I think for most beekeepers the winter is a time off, and our beekeeping starts around February early March with a first inspection of the hives to check they have come through the winter and still have enough stores to keep them going until the honey flow starts from April on. I checked some of my hives last week and they were all OK, I gave two of them some candy to make sure but now the main thing is to give them enough space to prevent swarming, and if necessary, removing queen cells that are going to provide the new queen when the old queen flies off with the prime swarm - it is the natural instinct of bees to swarm as that is how they make more bee colonies, but when that happens the colony is weakened and less honey is collected. April through to July are the months when swarming happens. Last year there were three swarms in Easton that I knew about: one in Janet and Steve's field, I captured it in a box but when I went back later it had flown off- some you win some you lose! Later there was one in the church yard (see picture above) from the wild colony in the church roof - it would choose the very day there was a parish council meeting in the church to settle on the tree by the gate; I was more successful with that and it was safely hived; later I united it with a small colony which had made a home in one of Robin Purser's

trailers, I took them over to Alconbury and so far, they are doing well. There were several swarms in the surrounding villages, quite often they are from wild colonies; I was able to get one in Linton which was exciting as it was at the top of a grain silo, and one in Great Gidding which was low down but took a lot of encouragement to eventually go into the box. No doubt this year will also bring its share of swarms, but hopefully also a good crop of honey to be harvested in June and July, beginning with the hawthorn and horse chestnut, then the fruit blossom followed by the clover and bramble and finishing with the lime, plus all the field crops of rape, field beans and borage - weather permitting!

The Queen's Green Canopy



The Parish Council

On Saturday the 12th of March a small band of village volunteers assisted the Parish Council to reinstate a lost hedge on the boundary of one of the Easton Charity fields near

the Ellington footpath. A single line of 312 mixed species hedging plants was planted following a suggestion by Brian Davis the village wildlife expert.

Chimney Sweep Reminder

There are still a few slots available for the Chimney sweep In May on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th May. Please email by 5th April if you want a slot using the email address at the bottom of the Newsletter, so I can sort out the final schedule for Mr Burrows. Thank you.

Club 59

John Maith

The new round for 2022/23 is up and running and the first winner for February was Claire and Michael Lawson with number 20. Congratulations to Claire and Michael. Thanks to all for your continued support and those joining who recently moved to the village. The next draw will be on Saturday 26th March, so good luck to all,

Springtime- composted horse manure for the garden



Compared with last year, spring seems to have arrived earlier this year. As we want to get started tending vegetable beds and flower beds, we have started digging out the

composted manure already this year.

For those new to the village (and there are a few), each year we offer free horse manure from Springfield, in Chapel Lane (opposite the village pump). The manure is left for at least 18 months to fully compost, and is then dug out and transported by the narrow-gauge railway for spreading back onto the fields and is also left on the driveway for neighbours to help themselves.

It will be available from now, until the start of May. You can bring your own wheelbarrow and take as much as you wish from a wagon left in the driveway each weekend, or alternatively just bring your car and load up with the bags of compost which will be left next to the drive.

Church services in April

Sunday 10th April

Easton 9.30 am

Parish Communion

Sunday 17th April

Easton 15.30 am

Holy Communion +

Children's games in

The Churchyard

Sunday 24th April

Easton 9.30 am

Morning Worship

For more local services go to the following website:

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

Neighbourhood Watch

After 10 years of coordinating the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and keeping us all informed and safe, Brian Davis has decided it is time to hand over the responsibility, which will now go to Clare and Dave Hindmarsh, who have very kindly offered to take over. A big thank you to Brian for all the work he has done on behalf of the village over the years.

Upcoming Easton Social Events in April

Saturday 9th – Prize Bingo Fundraiser for Ukraine at St Peters Church 7.30 pm

Places limited – please book early. For tickets email Angie Smith at

angiecsmith@hotmail.com



Deadline for May's Newsletter is April 25th