

Easton Village Newsletter

July 2022

Issue 201

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



Ukraine plays a crucial role in the global food chain, exporting wheat, sunflowers and other grains all across the World. This is why Russia's blockade of the Black Sea ports is so damaging to world food supplies. On Monday the EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell called it a real war crime, saying that the blockade kept millions of tonnes of wheat in Ukraine while, in

the rest of the World, people were suffering hunger. Ukraine has vast grain stores still full of last year's harvest and with this year's crop about to be combined there is no-where to put the grain and farmers will have to put it into large bags in the fields. All this has made the grain and fertiliser market like a yo-yo, not to mention the cost of fuel on top of this.

When I last wrote I was desperate for rain, which was forecast for the following weekend, but we missed it all and had to wait another week before it fell in Easton over the Jubilee Weekend. This was just in time to save my Spring Beans which were looking in a very sorry state and desperate for a drink. I have Field Beans just over the railway bridge on the left. They look like Broad Beans but are harvested dry and they are small and hard. We sell them for animal feed and some go to Egypt for human consumption. These are a great break crop and help fix Nitrogen and improve soils, providing a helpful entry for the following crop. I walked this field the other day and it was buzzing with bees, busy pollinating the crop. It was lovely to see.

Hay is in short supply this year because of the lack of rain this Spring. I have just done hay making and it yielded only half what I'd normally expect but I may get to cut some more later in the year.

We are not far from harvest now, which is always an exciting time to see if a years' worth of work has paid off. I'm not looking forward to filling up my

combine with diesel though, it will take £350 to fill the tank and it will only last a day!! That should make you feel better when filling your car!!

I'm lucky that James is my main combine driver and he's really good at it. Many farmers are struggling to get staff this harvest for corn carting, cultivating etc and there is a major lack of people for all land work, fruit picking, working with livestock and a general shortage through all the sectors. One Norfolk farmer has lost £50K of asparagus left in the field because it couldn't be picked.

I was lucky last week to have a cuckoo fly directly over my head while it was calling, this was only the second time I have seen a cuckoo and it was a very special moment.

Like all farmers I would like a dry harvest and no thunderstorms to flatten my barley -fingers crossed!

COMPETITION WINNER!!

Thank you very much for all your entries for the Photo Competition for the 200th Edition of the Easton Newsletter. Angie Smith has been selected as the winner of the M&S voucher for £25. Congratulations to Angie for her winning caption – Waiting for God!

Second Prize of a bottle of wine went to Brian Davies for his caption – The Longest Day!

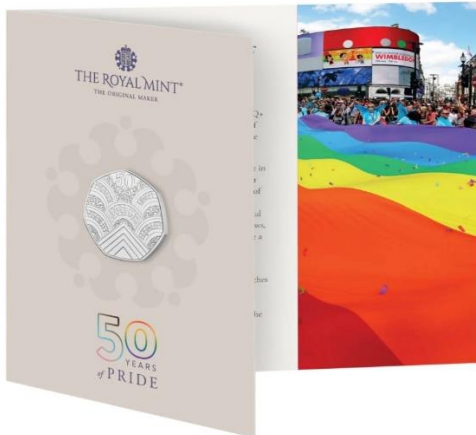
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Easton Parish Council Annual Governance & Accountability Return together with all supporting accounts for the year ending 31/03/2022 is now published on the website, (www.eastonpc.co.uk) and notice board. The Notice of Public Rights is also displayed on the notice board giving full details with the public inspection running until 22nd July 2022.

Please email the Parish Council clerk: clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk if anyone is interested in inspecting or taking copies of anything.

ROADWORKS – Monday 20th June – Monday 1st August

The A1 between Buckden roundabout and Brampton Hut Interchange will be resurfaced with road stud replacement and line marking works. This will take about four weeks total working between 8pm and 6am and 24/7 working across three weekends.



JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Following hot on the heels from the Queen’s Green Canopy offer of a free tree for every home owner in Easton, the Parish Council have also decided that they will give a 50p Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Coin to every child in Easton under the age of 18 as part of the Jubilee celebrations this year.

We have identified all the children in Easton and have already started

to circulate the coins. However, due to the popularity of these, some supplies have been delayed and will be with us sometime in July.

EASTON FAUNA – The Grey Squirrel - *Sciurus carolinensis*

Charles Nixon

A common sight in the village for most of the year. Though where they go to in



summer is any one’s guess!

There are over 200 species of squirrel around the world but only three live in the UK. The native Red Squirrel has been here for about

10,000 years but is now under threat and confined to small areas of England and Scotland. There are only about 140,000 red squirrels left. The Black

Squirrel, which is believed to be a cross between the grey and red is very rare, and then there is the Grey Squirrel.

The Grey Squirrel was first introduced to Great Britain as a fashionable addition to country estates and parks such as Woburn in Bedfordshire in the nineteenth century. After many releases and escapes, the grey population began to increase dramatically at the beginning of the last century and today the Grey Squirrel is one of Britain's most well-known and frequently seen mammals, with an estimated population of 2.5 million in the UK.

Grey squirrels make a roughly spherical nest 30-60 cm in diameter – slightly larger than a football. Called a 'drey', it is made out of twigs, leaves and strips of bark often built in the fork of a branch, high up in the tree canopy. Females may have two litters of three to four young a year.

They eat a range of foods such as tree bark, seeds, acorns, nuts and some types of fungi. They will also raid any bird nests that they discover, taking the eggs, and are opportunistic feeders. So, if you provide food for birds in your garden, you may also see these supplies diminished by squirrels taking advantage of an easy meal.

Their life span is up to 9 years and they are diurnal, active from before sunrise to after sunset. The peak of activity is in the autumn when they are busy collecting and storing food in the ground for winter as they do not hibernate. Their range covers an amazing 2-10 hectares.

Squirrels retrieve the food they have buried mainly by a sense of smell, but also have a sort of mental map of locations. However, many of the nuts and seeds buried are not rediscovered which helps the growth of new plants – or in our garden the growth of new chestnut trees all over the lawn!

Church Services in July

For services this month, please go to the following website as the times and dates were unavailable at the time of printing.

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

Deadline for August's Newsletter is July 26th