

Easton Village Newsletter

September 2022

Issue 203

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



What a year it has been so far! The period between January and June was the driest in England since 1976 according to the Met Office, followed by the driest July since 1911, not to mention the highest

temperatures on record!

This prolonged hot, dry spell ripened our wheat and barley several weeks ahead of normal schedule. We always like wheat to be dry when we harvest but this year it was too dry and we had to combine early morning and late evening to catch the dew. Some farmers resorted to harvesting through the night for maximum moisture and to prevent fires from overheated combines, this became a big worry for us all. If the wheat is put into the grain store too hot it can lead to mould developing and spoiling the crop, so it needs cooling down to 12C by blowing it with cool air.

Harvest yields were down as expected and there was very little straw because the crops struggled to grow. My grass pastures are still parched and with not much food for the cattle to graze, many farmers are having to feed their Winter supply of hay/silage and have been supplying water because lakes and ponds are running low.

Some areas in East Anglia still haven't had any rain and crops such as onions, maize and sugar beet are only a quarter of their normal size and the BBC has no rain forecast for the next 10 days! The ground is so dry it is too hard to start my Autumn cultivations but I have given the fields a very shallow discing which has inverted the top inch of soil which should get the weeds germinating when moist enough. Farmers who grow Oilseed Rape should be drilling their crops now but are holding off until rain is forecast.

Livestock farmers have had a horrible time with the extreme temperatures, trying to keep their animals and birds cool. Pigs and chickens struggle in the heat, with hens unable to regulate their temperature when it goes over 85 degrees and outdoor pigs needing suntan lotion!!

I have also been trying to help the wildlife on the farm by placing water feeders in several areas where there are no natural sources nearby. These have been helping the deer, badgers, hares, foxes, pheasants and partridges survive the Summer. It's important for farmers to look after the countryside and our wildlife. Fingers crossed for some more rain soon!

Road Safety in Easton



Wendy Carolan

We are really fortunate that as an animal loving village, we are vigilant around the village in case an unexpected cat or dog has ventured onto the road. Our small village also sees lots of horse riders using the country lanes and horses can be very unpredictable. During 2021 the British Horse Society reported 2,943 road traffic accidents

involving horse riders: 66 horses died, and 129 were injured. 126 people suffered personal injury. 13% of riders were victims of road rage.

Horses are prey animals and their usual response to danger is flight. This means even a normally well-trained calm horse can be unpredictable if they perceive something as a threat. Their natural instinct is to escape a threatening situation; while the horse may be unalarmed about a vehicle passing, something rustling in the roadside hedge can see that horse flee unexpectedly into the road. If the vehicle is passing slowly the horse will instinctively adjust to avoid it, its ability to do this reduces the faster the car is passing. A horse's range of hearing is much greater than a human. Horses often react to unexpected or loud noises. Things like trailers, motorbikes, and even a bicycle they hadn't noticed approaching can trigger an unexpected reaction.

This is why it's vital to always pass horses slowly and with plenty of room. The 2022 Highway Code change requires drivers to pass horses with 2 meters gap and at less than 10 mph, while this is challenging on our narrow Easton roads the lack of space makes it even more important. Those of us riding, leading, or driving our horses are extremely grateful for your patience and consideration around our equines.

Most horse riders would prefer not to ride on the roads, they try to ride when the roads are quieter and predominantly use permitted tracks. However, sadly a lack of off-road access means using roads is a necessity for many riders.

How can you help?

If you see a horse on the road;

1. Slow down to a maximum of 10mph

2. Be patient, don't sound your horn or rev the engine
3. Pass the horse wide and slow (at least 2 metres)
4. Drive slowly away

Thank you.

Afternoon Tea at Belmont Kathy Yates

A full Afternoon Tea was served in the garden at Belmont on a warm afternoon at the end of July. 60 people attended and munched their way through a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches and homemade cakes and scones.



Many thanks to all the cooks and helpers but special thanks to Hannah Yates for the many days of baking cakes and cooking/preparing the sandwich fillings. We made a profit for the village fund of £150.00. Thanks to all who attended and made the hard work worthwhile.



Aiming for a Goal

During the school holidays two boys from the village, Jack Rogers and Nicholas Rooney decided to raise money to buy new football posts and nets for the playing field. They helped to bake flapjacks and deliver them to people around the village, raising the grand sum of £180 towards the cost of the posts and nets. Well done to Jack and Nicholas and a big thank you to everybody who supported them in their efforts.

Iris Brooker

Fibre Broadband for Easton

Steve Thomason

The Parish Council were approached by County Broadband, to arrange a local presentation about the rollout of Fibre Broadband. This presentation has been arranged for Tuesday, 6th September at 19:30 in St Peter's Church. A flier should also have been received by everyone with the details.

County Broadband is a communications provider that is focussing on delivering fibre broadband to rural communities in the East of England where a demand for such a service is seen to exist.

If you are interested to learn more, then please attend the meeting on 6th September.

REMINDER

Editor

I have been asked by members of the village to once again ask people to please pick up dog excrement and take it home. Thank you.

Harvest Festival Service

Stephanie Silcox

Sunday 11th September at 3.00p.m.

Please join us for our Harvest Festival Service which we hope will be held outside, weather permitting., children are particularly welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Fresh produce, also packaged or tinned food gifts will be gratefully received and will be donated to The Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton. Gifts may be left in the church porch on Saturday September 10th or brought to the service. If anyone can help to decorate the church on the afternoon of Saturday 10th, we would be most grateful.

Thank you

Church Services in September

Sunday 11th September

Easton 3.00 pm

Harvest Festival

Sunday 25th September

Easton 9.30 am

Morning Worship

For more local services please go to the following website

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

Deadline for October's Newsletter is September 25th