

Easton Village Newsletter

November 2022

Issue 205

Farmer Burton's Country Talk

As I write this newsletter, we have had a couple of days of heavy rain, which is really



welcome. I have been holding off setting my wheat seed into the ground because I really want as many weeds and blackgrass to germinate beforehand so that I can spray them off before my wheat is also in the ground. The lack of rain recently has meant very slow growth and emergence of weeds which is why I have been trying to hold my nerve and wait until the end of October before I start drilling wheat. But

this is a bit like Russian roulette because if it does come wet and continues through the Autumn, it won't dry enough to get sprayed off and get my wheat drilled. It is always a fine balancing act when dealing with the weather!

Many of you will have seen the low level of Grafham Water at present (shown in picture above), which could take all Winter to get back to normal. Grafham has many species of wild birds which is a worry with Avian Influenza on the spread. If you see any dead birds when walking in the countryside please do not touch and keep dogs away but there is only a very small risk to humans. Poultry farmers in East Anglia are very worried about the threat, with those in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex having been ordered to keep their hens indoors. These farmers will lose their 'free range' status and are questioning if they still have a viable business. But this is better than having your entire flock culled. Across the UK, 190 cases have been confirmed since October 2021, with over 30 in the last month. Strict levels of biosecurity have been called for the rest of the country but it's only a matter of time before all birds will be ordered inside.

Like all businesses, costs have gone mad in the last year, with an estimated rise of 34%. Animal feed, medicine, fuel and fertilizer has seen the greatest increases, not to mention the rumours that DEFRA may be about to change many of the payment schemes that help farmers. We all need to buy as much British food as possible,

especially for pig farmers who are in a desperate state. 'Bacon for breakfast please Jill and a side order of sausages!!

Tawny Owl Nest box



seen in these trees previously, and they are heard regularly over-night around the village. They establish their nesting sites from late autumn onwards and then defend them from other birds such as Jackdaws that can often take over owl boxes. The first eggs can be laid as early as February, but more typically in March.

The box will be monitored for signs of use, and if you see any owl activity at the box when you are out walking, whether owls or jackdaws, please let us know via the editor or via the website.

An owl box put up at the start of this year near one of the footpaths to Spaldwick was unfortunately taken over by Jackdaws last spring, so this has been cleared out ready for next season.

Parish Council

In the Annual Parish Meeting earlier in the year, a suggestion was made to consider siting an owl box in the village. The Parish Council took this on board and purchased a Tawny Owl nest box from the RSPB. This has now been installed near to the footpath out of the village towards Ellington.

Referring to the map, as you take the first 90 degree turn with a small copse of trees on your left, the box can be seen if you look back into the trees behind you.

Tawny owls and their young have been



FIREWORKS

Please could we ask villagers for their kind consideration for those who live in thatched



cottages in the village? On Bonfire Night rockets can often be blown off-course, even in the slightest wind, resulting in sparks raining down on nearby thatched roofs. If it is possible to avoid these areas it would be very much appreciated. Also, dogs, cats, horses and other animals don't understand what fireworks are – all they know is that there are loud, frightening explosions, and their instincts kick in, telling them they need to run and hide for safety. These blasts can leave animals confused, disorientated, lost, in a state of severe shock, or even injured. At one time pet owners used to be

able to prepare for Bonfire Night, but nowadays the celebrations can be anytime over a two-week period or more.

If any villagers are planning on having fireworks, a message on Facebook would also be greatly appreciated by many pet owners. There are two local organised displays at [Huntingdon Racecourse Friday 28th October](#) and at [Kimbolton School Friday 4th November](#). Thank you

59 Club

John Maith

Please find below the recent winners of the 59 Club -

July - Rachael Mawson and Dave Palmer

August - Ruth Brooks

September - Helen Mayer

Congratulations to our winners. The next draw will be on Saturday 29th October so good luck to everyone!

THE ANNUAL CHURCHYARD TIDY

Peter Gould

This year the annual churchyard tidy will be on Sunday November 20th starting at 10.30 a.m. there will be bacon sandwiches and coffee for all who participate so please come along and help with raking up the leaves clearing the weeds etc. etc. all help is much appreciated. If it is pouring with rain on that day, we will postpone it till Sunday 4th December.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Our Remembrance Day service will be held on Sunday November 13th at 6.00p.m.
Please come along to this very special service.

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 13th November

Easton 6.00 pm

Remembrance Service

Sunday 27th November

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 the next Newsletter is November 25th