

Easton Village Newsletter

December 2022

Issue 206

EASTON FAUNA

CHARLES NIXON

Foxes - *Vulpes vulpes*



Famed for their cunning and stealth, these colourful animals with their bushy tails can be seen around the village, though more often heard as they are shy and crepuscular, meaning they are most active around dawn and dusk searching for food

If you have heard a sharp cry in the night that sounds like a scream, then you have probably heard a female fox (vixen) letting a male (dog) fox know that she is ready to mate. The mating season takes place in January. Young cubs also make a distinctive “ack-ack-ack” noise when play fighting and you may have also heard this, this summer, as a vixen with 2 part grown cubs has been seen and heard around the village.

The fox has reddish-brown fur, a white chest and a bushy, white-tipped tail, called a brush. They tend to live in family groups of one dog, one vixen and her cubs and a few female helpers from previous litters. The family has several lairs

and one or more breeding dens, or earths, within their territory. Females give birth to four to seven cubs between March and May. They have short lives of between 3-5 years.

A beautiful animal they are also a pest and were famously hunted for years. They are scavengers and eat almost anything they can find, including insects, earthworms, fruit, berries, birds including chickens, small mammals, carrion and scraps left by humans.

They are also known for their cunning.

Reynard, the old country nickname for a fox, comes from medieval Middle English, through the French 'Renart' and the Old German name 'Reginhart.' There are many old wives' tales surrounding wily old Reynard. One of the most persistent is that of a fox ridding itself of fleas and other parasites by taking some wool or fur in its mouth and slowly backing into a pond. The idea is that the fleas would migrate up to its nose and eventually onto the piece of wool which is released when the fox submerges, thus ridding Reynard of the pests.

EASTON UNITED CHARITIES

There is a vacancy for a trustee from early 2023 for a 5-year term.

Any villager is welcome to join (you do need to have lived in the village for a year).

Please could you register your interest in writing to the Chairman John Maith on maiths60@hotmail.com

Also, for any further information regarding the charity, please feel free to contact any of the trustees: John Maith (Grange Farm), Chris Charlton (1 Chapel Lane), Kathy Yates (Belmont) and Helen Mayer (3 The Lane).



CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

On Sunday 20th December, the annual Churchyard Tidy Up took place. Bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee were kindly provided. A record number of 23 villagers turned up to help. A very big thank you to all those who came. The Churchyard looks much improved



The Parish Council have had a very long running goal to improve the parking next to the church. Year after year in the winter months, people needing to park near the church are frequently faced with mud and puddles when getting in and

out of their cars.

The challenge that the Parish Council have had is that the church is in a conservation area and so any significant development is strictly controlled. Also, any road improvements can only be carried out by a registered contractor and also have to be approved by Highways. Over the past 12 months we have met with a number of people on site to address each issue and ensure that our new parking suggestions satisfy the local authorities. We are pleased to report that we are now at the stage of having an agreed solution, a contractor to complete the work, an understanding of the costs involved, plus a plan to obtain a grant for much of the cost involved.

The plan is to construct a parking bay for 3-4 cars further back from the existing unofficial parking area so the parking area will finish nearer the village sign. We were advised we must move any official parking away from the close proximity of the brook on safety grounds. The parking area will be constricted as unobtrusively as possible with Grasscrete pavers laid at road level, on a prepared hardcore base, ensuring that any drainage considerations are fully taken into account.

We should have confirmation just before next spring if our grant application is successful and would expect the work to start at some point after this.

Easton Events

Sunday 11th December 12.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

St. Peter's Church

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies – Tickets £5 on the door

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 18th. DECEMBER AT 6.00 P.M.

Please do come and join us for this special Christmas occasion in the church.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards as usual!

Church Services in December

Sunday 11th December

Easton 9.30 am

Morning Worship

Sunday 25th December

Easton 9.30 am

Christmas communion

For more local services please go to the following website

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

Sunday 18th December

Easton 6.00pm

Lessons and Carols



Merry Christmas

Deadline for the next Newsletter is December 24^h