

Easton Village Newsletter

August 2025

Issue 238

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



The UK harvest of 2025 was off to an early start with some areas seeing Winter Barley being combined late June in some areas, due to dying off in the dry Spring and high temperatures. Oilseed Rape yields are reported to be good while Wheat yields are mixed, depending on if it had rain, with grain quality being

high in terms of specific weight and protein content. Specific weight partly depends on grain size along with grain density and high protein is needed for milling, for example. This has been the earliest harvest since 2006.

We started our harvest on Wednesday 16th July, a good couple of weeks earlier than expected. We combined that day and the next day until we were hit by a storm later that afternoon. We recorded 7mm but were very lucky because there were some really bad storms going round us! On Friday it was very hot and humid, so we kept checking the Wheat all day for dryness until it was finally fit to harvest at 6pm. The grain moisture ideally needs to be under 14.5% so that it can be stored in the barn without it going mouldy. We finished that field at Midnight, which is at the top of the hill, on the left, just before the Railway Bridge. Then Saturday brought heavy storms and thunder, along with 27mm, so 'rain stopped play' for a few more days. As I write this, I'm hoping to get the Wheat finished in the next couple of days and then it will be straight into the Spring Barley, that also ready to harvest. Our Wheat hasn't yielded too badly

but the grains are quite small because of the lack of rain, as they haven't 'plumped up', but as long as I get it in the store, dryish, I'll be happy!

It's a lovely feeling when you finally climb into the combine and start to harvest the crop that you have been looking after for the previous 9 months and see if your hard work has paid off!

Our Claas combine has a 17ft cutting knife which is small compared to many. The largest in the UK is 45ft which would be no good for me, as I wouldn't be able to fit it through any of my gateways!

This week a Senior Executive at M&S has criticised planned changes to Farm Inheritance Tax, warning that it will put off young people working in farming. He said that it is very clear that Agriculture should be treated differently by the Government (and this is just not any store!).

A big plea to all drivers in the countryside, over the next few weeks, to take your time and be patient if you get behind a tractor/grain trailer who are only trying to do their job and put food on your table, THANK YOU.

Coffee Morning

We were delighted to welcome so many of you to our July coffee morning! We



The Coffee Crew

had a record turnout and our guests came from far and wide this time - Canada, Italy and even Spaldwick! We'd like to thank everyone who comes along for your continued support and we look

forward to seeing you all again in September. Don't forget, there's no coffee morning in August but we'll be back on Monday 8th September, from 10 30 - 12.

Quizzical?

Kathy Yates

Two Quiz nights in one year? What is going on in Easton? Did someone want a rematch after the last Quiz night in February? The answer to the last question is 'maybe' but not the real reason. For those of us who were at the February Quiz night there were comments about the brain not functioning in sub-zero temperatures – it was a cold night, and so it was decided to run a Summer Quiz night. This was held in St Peter's Church on Saturday 21 June. It certainly wasn't cold! A fantastic way to celebrate the Summer Solstice without having to get up pre-dawn. As a change, girl power stepped in, and Kathy and Pam were the



Quizmasters - setting the questions with a little (10%) help from Clive to ensure the questions were not all about makeup and dress designers! In actual fact it was very refreshing to have a different 'take' on Quiz night, with a couple of rounds never before seen. It was a great night,

with a splendid supper. **Congratulations** to the worthy winners of Dave, Vicky, Brian, Caroline, Wayne and Josh. Over £350 was raised. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the raffle and to Brian and Beth for their scoring. It was a wonderful evening. If tricky questions put you off coming to a Quiz night, come for the raffle, come for the supper or just come and people watch those who are scratching their heads and gazing at the rafters in church for divine inspiration. It's entertaining!!

Parish Council Accounts

Anthea Beer

The accounts for Easton Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2025 have been approved and signed and are now posted on the Parish Council website. (www.eastonpc.co.uk) These include the Certificate of Exemption, the

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) and supporting documents, and the Notice of Public Rights.

59 Club

John Maith

Sorry I missed last month's Newsletter; however, the May winner was Geoff Messenger with number 52 and the June winner was Mike Baker with number 4. Congratulations to Geoff and Mike. The July draw will take place on Saturday 26th July so good luck everyone.

Church Services

Sunday 10th August 9.30-10.30 Parish Communion with Philip Howson

Sunday 24th August 9.30-10.30 Morning worship with Warden

For further information please see the website www.kymchurch.org.uk

Rector: Rev Philip Howson Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

Phone -01480 86908

And finally---

- **Village Photo** -a last call for any hard copies of the VE Day Photo by Friday 7th August 2025 via email to the editor - address shown below

- **Reporting potholes**: – Just a reminder that it is down to all of us to report any potholes you see. Take a quick photo and then go to the Highways Reporting portal; <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>. This link is on our Links page on the village website. Zoom right into the map to add your report. You can also see all the outstanding reports that are already open.

- **More A14 Roadworks** - Please be aware that there will be 3 months of disruption on the A14 near Thrapston. From the end of August (at dates to be confirmed) there will be 3 months of roadworks to the bridge over the River Nene. A 50mph speed restriction will be in place for the duration, with work to be done mostly overnight but with some weekend closures. Diversions will be put in place. Junctions 10 to 13 will be affected.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST