

Easton Village Newsletter



October 2012

Issue 97

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



The last time I wrote we were desperate for some sunshine to start harvest and when we finally got started about 2 weeks late, I only managed to go 3 times round the rape field before it poured with rain!! It left us with nearly a week before I could start again. Our rape harvest was OK but the strange weather this year - too much rain and lack of sun - led to a poor bushel weight in the wheat. The bushel weight is the density of the wheat seed: if it has a high bushel, then it has large plump grains whereas if it is low, it has lots of small, shrivelled grains that wouldn't weigh much. This caused a 25% drop in yield but I was pleased when we finally got it in the shed without having to dry it much. My son James was again the 'main man' on the combine and did a sterling job!

The weather affects all types of farming, not just arable. Apple growers have had the worst yields in 15 years. A cold wet summer has caused a lack of bees flying at crucial periods and has left

orchards bare. We are now working hard to prepare the soil to make a good seedbed so I can start drilling (sowing) the wheat seed in the next few weeks, so Sunday's rain was very welcome as the soil had dried out like concrete. The rain will also help my rape which I drilled a few weeks ago.

Many of you may have seen lorry-loads of straw coming through Easton recently. These are from local farms for a company called Anglia Straw which takes wheat straw to Ely power station, the largest straw burning power station in the World, generating over 270GWH each year. Wheat straw is burnt because it has the lowest nutritional value for animal feed and is hard for cattle to digest. Years ago we would have burnt the straw in the fields but this was messy and not popular with the public, so was outlawed. I chop our wheat straw when combining and incorporate it into the soil with a plough as this helps to lighten our heavy clay soil with fibre and also decomposes down to phosphate and potash for our following crops. Barley straw is always baled as a high value animal feed.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who so kindly brought flowers and produce for Harvest Festival and to those who helped to decorate the Church for the occasion. The Manor Cheshire Home was most grateful for the produce and would like to pass on their thanks.

SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

- 7th October - 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 14th October - 6.00 p.m. Evensong
- 21st October - 9.30 a.m. Eucharist
- 28th October - No service in Easton.

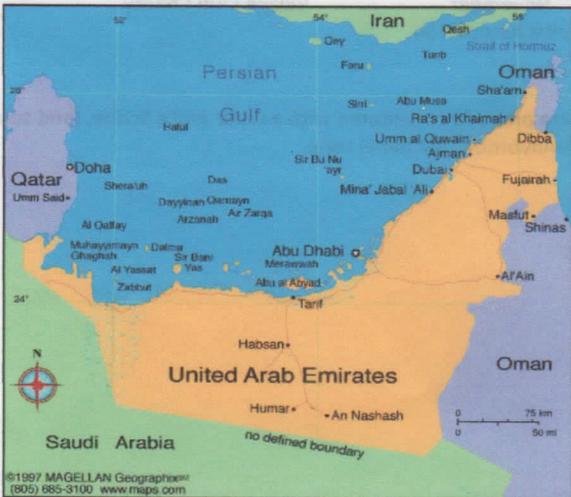
Advance Notice:



11th November – 6.00 p.m. Remembrance

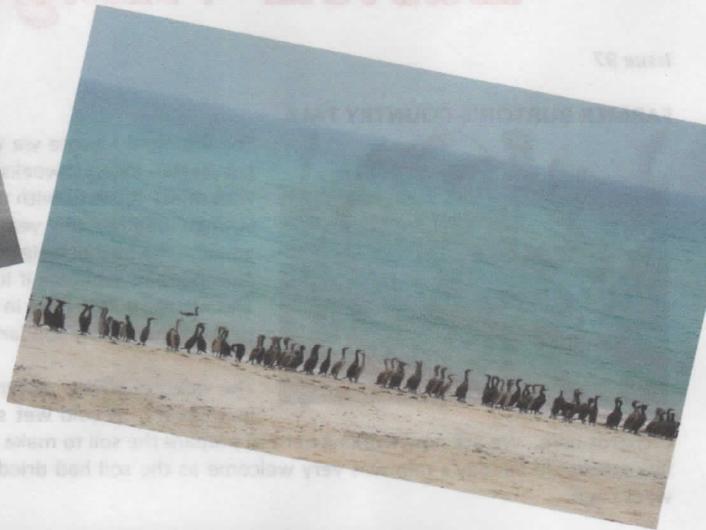
Sunday service

GREETINGS FROM DUBAI!



Rona Graham

It was good to see Easton looking so verdant when we visited the village at the end of August – testimony to the wet summer you've all experienced... In direct contrast is the almost lunar landscape of the Musandam Peninsula, about a three-hour drive from our apartment in Dubai Marina, through the Emirate of Ras al Khaimah. As you can see from the map, the peninsula belongs to Oman and its rugged, fissured coastline, where the mountains rise straight from the sea, has fjords running inland between the Hajjar mountains, which sizzle with a white-heat in summer. It is known as The Norway of the Middle East. We visited Khasab, the capital of the peninsula, which juts out into the Strait of Hormuz. Our hotel was perched on the edge of a cliff and we could clearly see turtles swimming about in the sea. Apparently, the basking sharks which had been sunbathing in the adjacent bay, had moved on, but we did see a string of cormorants waiting to see what the tide would bring in. The road looked new and was in good condition so Alasdair was overtaken by a 'Top Gear' urge to put the hire car through its paces, in Clarkson-like fashion... Luckily, this purple villa stopped us in our tracks (see photos overleaf); the striking colour in the middle of such a barren landscape made it worthy of a photo!



DO YOU PLAY WHIST?

If so come and join us at Ellington Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays. **Contact Ted Stephens: 890987.** Entrance £2-50. We are a friendly crowd and all proceeds raised go to various Clubs and Charities:

19 th September	-	Ellington Church	31 st October	-	Spring of Hope
3 rd October	-	Village Hall	14 th November	-	British Heart Foundation
17 th October	-	Bowls Club	28 th November	-	Village Club Charity
		12 th December	-	Arthritis Association	

NEW VENTURE

Jessica Seabrook and friends have formed the Children's Council of Easton. They are properly constituted with a Chair and a Scribe, (and some adult supervision/mentoring). For more information please speak to Jessica at "Donnybrook" in Chapel Lane.

