

Easton Village Newsletter

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 152

June 2017

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

Weather patterns are important to UK farming: frost in December/ January and April showers! But this year we had no showers. Crops just started growing after a long Winter and really needed a valuable drink, but even more importantly for my recently-drilled Spring barley, which was starting to look very sorry for itself. We normally record 50/60mm in April but only had 6mm in 10 weeks, until finally the skies opened just in time on the 10th of May (with 36mm). What effect this will have on yields at harvest, we will have to wait and see.



Wheat with Blackgrass

So much has changed on our farm in the last year, such as growing Spring Barley, for the first time in 40 years, to combat the dreaded Blackgrass. Many of you can see this weed growing in fields around the countryside and it is the biggest threat to cereal crops for many years. Here are 2 photos with and without Blackgrass. The lack of rain has stopped not only crops growing but also grass which would go for hay to feed cattle and horses. Normally, we would have done one cut by now and be



Wheat without Blackgrass

waiting for the second but we have only made one poor-yielding cut so far this year. If this is not enough for my fields to contend with, rabbits are another problem, eating their way through my profit! I will make some time, in the early evenings, to reduce the number of these over the coming few weeks. Being herbivores, they graze on grass and love my crops! The female rabbit (called a doe) can have up to 12 in a litter and by day 30 the young will be weaned and the doe could be expecting again.

Over the last couple of months, I have been doing a lot of paperwork making my application to join the new Countryside Stewardship. It was successful and I will have half the farm down to nectar and flower mixes (to boost essential food sources for beneficial pollinators), buffer strips to prevent fertiliser runoff into ditches) and 24Ha of Two-year sown legume fallow (food for farmland wildlife, invertebrate chick food for birds). The only downside is that it will mean lots of record-keeping over the next 5 years to keep Natural England happy!!

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Thank you to those who so generously supported the Save the Children collection in Easton, which raised £117 – a valuable contribution to the annual amount raised in the Kimbolton area. SCF works in over 120 countries in the poorest and most dangerous places around the world, while helping children in poverty in the UK too. Your help is so much appreciated – thank you again.

59 CLUB

The winner of the March draw was Linda Maith, but in April there was no winner and so the May winner will receive £50. Good luck!

John Maith

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 4th (Pentecost) 09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Family Communion for Pentecost (Rev. S Bowring) 10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 18.00 STO Evensong (Rev N Bland)	Sunday 11th (Trinity Sunday) 09.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs L Bowring) 09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 16.30 SPA Messy Church (team)
Sunday 18th (Trinity I) 09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson) 09.30 COV Morning Worship (Rev N Bland) 10.45 KIM Matins (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson) 10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 11.00 BAR Family Service (Ms. J Dighton) 18.00 EAS Evensong (Rev N Bland)	Sunday 25th (Trinity II) 09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr M Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster) 17.00 SPA Prayer & Praise (Rev N Bland) 18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev R Lancaster)
Sunday 2nd JULY (Trinity III) 10.45 KIM United Parish Communion (and lunch) (Rev N Bland)	

EASTON FUND AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EFSC)

The Annual General Meeting of the committee was held on the 9 May 2017. A copy of the chairman's report was presented. The closing balance of funds was £2,840.60. Those present agreed to serve as committee members for a further year. Copies of the chairman's report and accounts are available on request from the secretary.

A range of social events are planned for 2017. Of particular note is a Family Fun Day, BBQ and Treasure Hunt on Saturday 24 June 2017, a Murder Mystery Evening written by Simon Malivoire on Saturday 25 November 2017 and Beth and Brian's Open Garden Event on Sunday 11 June 2017 between 3.00 and 6.00pm with delicious cakes. There is a list for those with a thirst for Murder because numbers are strictly limited to 50 people for this event.

A bid is being prepared to fund an Audio-Visual System to allow talks and films. If successful, part funding will be provided by the Wind Turbine Fund.

The next Big Breakfast will be held on Saturday 8 July from 9.30 to 11.00am with proceeds going exclusively to the East Africa Famine Relief Appeal of Christian Aid. The Big Breakfast goes from strength to strength and pays for the insurance necessary to run social events in the Church. Let's have a big Easton turnout for the best breakfast in town.

Ed Sloper – Secretary e.sloper334@btinternet.com

A WORD OF CAUTION

A number of vehicles in the village have recently been found to have damaged front suspension or broken front springs. All the vehicles regularly use the Easton to Stonely road. If you are also a regular user of this road, it is suggested that it would be advisable to check the suspension of your vehicle.

FOUND – MOBILE PHONE

When the playing field grass was cut on 6th May, a mobile phone was found. If you think this may be yours or know to whom it might belong, please contact Jenny Hyde (891454 or email j.hyde2@btinternet.com).

Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter will be Friday 26th May