

Easton Village Newsletter

December 2023

Issue 218

Farmer Burton's Country Talk

As I write this we really could do with a prolonged dry spell of weather (I know I'm always complaining when it's been too dry but that's farmers for you!) so I can get on with some drilling (more of that later) but we have been very lucky in this part of the country compared with others. Some farmers have had such bad flooding that they have lost crops that they had sown. A farmer in the Vale of Belvoir, Leicestershire, drilled nearly all of his planned Winter Wheat and then had 120mm of rain over 10 days, rivers burst their banks and at one point he had 100 acres underwater and several hundred acres more in sodden ground, which has rotted in the soil! So, we were really lucky getting only about 80mm. As a result, potato farmers are struggling to lift their crops out of the ground so you might be seeing the price of chips rising, you have been warned! Also, sugar beet growers are in the same boat (literally!!;) and are in a bitter dispute with British Sugar over next year's contracts and the Government has been asked to intervene.



Jill was asked this week if we can grow rice and the answer is, unfortunately, no. Rice needs to be grown with high temperatures at night for at least 3 months of the year but a new crop being tested in the UK is baked beans, in fact, a Lincolnshire farmer has made history with the first ever harvest of British baked beans. Traditionally haricot beans have been imported to produce the classic side dish sourced from abroad because of the specific climate and soil conditions needed to grow them, but new technology has helped develop a new variety which is being grown in the UK on Andrew Ward's farm. A few years ago, Warwick University started to really get to grips with these beans and bred an alternative seed called the Capulet bean.

The UK consumes 2 million tins of beans every day which have to be flown in from Canada, America and China. So, if successful, the project (which has taken 12 years to develop) could bring big benefits to farming and the environment. Every tin of those beans is imported and we need to grow more homegrown food. This has to be a winner because the mileage involved in getting those beans into this country is huge.

Farmers are asking that we all try and buy local or UK food, only this week a survey showed that in the period between 2021 and August 2023, low welfare Polish imported eggs rose by 2000%! These eggs are from caged birds and would not pass the high standards of UK producers.

I earlier mentioned about my Autumn drilling, well this is very slow! I delayed sowing my wheat until I felt most of the Blackgrass had started growing, so that I could spray it off and then sow my wheat into a clean seedbed. Unfortunately, I didn't get any of this done before the rain as it was too dry and cloddy, since then I have only drilled 10 acres, which is growing and not looking too bad, but I still have a lot more to do. I'm confident it will get dry enough though, even if I have to wait until March to get it drilled.

We had our first shoot on 10th November and had a lovely day. We only got 35 pheasants but the birds flew well, the weather was good (as was Jill's food!) and the banter between the guns and beaters was as noisy as ever!

More Hedge Planting

Steve Thomason



Last year it was reported in the newsletter that a hedge was laid along the boundary of one of the Easton United Charity fields, next to the footpath to Ellington. Sadly, due to the dry and hot weather conditions after planting, up to half the plants failed to survive.

A further batch of free hedge saplings had been ordered from the Woodland Trust for this autumn. These were to replace the failed plants and thicken up the hedge line. These have been received, and thanks to the combined efforts of the Easton United Charities, the Parish Council, and other volunteers, on the 12th of November 2023 a further approx. 250 saplings were planted, along with 8 trees. We are now hoping for slightly better weather conditions at the start of next year to give them a decent chance of survival.

We have a small number of small saplings left over (a mix of Silver Birch, Oak, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Rowan) from the planting, so if anyone can make use of these please contact John Maith via email at maiths60@hotmail.com

John Hill 1937-2023

Mike Baker

After 25 years in the Royal Corps of Signals, John was a lecturer in electronics for several years before becoming a quality consultant for ISO 9000. He moved to Easton with Nina in 1999.

He soon immersed himself in local activities-the Welcome Club, Kimbolton Pantomime group, the local branch of the Royal British Legion and he was central in so many village events. He was an organiser-issuing instructions to all and sundry and always had his own sleeves rolled up. All his activities were punctuated with his jokes, which were often met with a groan.

I have never before seen so many people before attending a funeral in the Church in Easton and it reflects how much he was known and liked in this area. He will be missed.

Coffee Cake & Chat

Vikki, Clare & Pam

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our first coffee and cake morning! We were really pleased to see so many of you and thank you also for your very kind donations of flapjacks and brownies! 😊 We were absolutely delighted to have raised £140 for the church fund - we really are very grateful to you all. Our next coffee morning will take place on December 4th, from 10.30 - 12 again, this time with a festive theme so please come and join us again for sausage rolls, mince pies and other delicious homemade treats! 🍪 🥧 🎄 ☕

On the Buses:

Charles Nixon

A Dews 400 Service bus now calls each day at 7.40, 10.58, and 14.18. All go to the Huntingdon bus station (via Spaldwick, Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Perry, Grafham and Ellington) taking about 45 minutes. The return buses leave Huntingdon Bus Station at 10.40 and 14.00 taking about 15 minutes to come to the village.

The On-Demand TING Bus service can be requested by calling 0115 777 3187 or download the Vectare DRT app

59 Club

John Maith

The October winner was Claire Lawrence so many congratulations Claire. The next draw will be on Saturday 25th November and the winner notified shortly after this. Good luck everyone.

CHANGES TO BIN COLLECTIONS DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD

Scheduled Day of Collection	Revised Day of Collection
Tuesday 12 December	Monday 11 December
Thursday 14 December	Wednesday 13 December
Tuesday 19 December	Saturday 16 December
Thursday 21 December	Tuesday 19 December
Tuesday 26 December	Friday 22 December
Thursday 28 December	Thursday 28 December
Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January
Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January

CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2023

Sunday December 10th Easton 9.30 Parish Communion
Sunday December 17th Easton 18.00 Carols
Monday December 25th Easton 9.30 Christmas Communion

For further information on Church Services please visit

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

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

Phone -01480 869081

AND FINALLY.....

-Last week the long-standing requirement to improve the parking outside the church took a step nearer with the news that the Parish Council has had the funding request approved by the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund. This will cover approx. 70%-80% of the required cost of the parking area with the remainder being met by the Parish Council. We will keep you informed of progress.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER 2023