

Easton Village Newsletter

February 2024

Issue 220

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



The farming calendar is what farmers in the UK have worked by for hundreds of years, there was always a time to sow and a time to harvest. This is what we have always believed but our weather patterns are changing and so is farming! Autumn is traditionally when ploughing and cultivations are carried out, followed by the drilling of

winter crops, but over the last few years we keep getting some of the wettest on record and this doesn't allow farmers to get on the land to drill their crops. Some farmer's fields have become flood plains with no hope of the crops surviving even if it had been sown. We are now frowned upon if we plough the land as this adds to global warming by exposing carbon (in the soil) to oxygen (in the air) and creating CO₂, but ploughing aerates the soil, allowing water to drain through it and helps prevent flooding.

I was lucky enough to sow some wheat in a short dry spell in late October and another in late November and only have another 3 fields to drill. What is drilled is not looking too bad and it will start growing when it warms up in the next month or so. The frosts were very welcome as it allowed me to get on the land to cultivate some fields and I also did some hedge trimming. Maintenance of the farm machinery is underway and part of our grain store has been blown down in the recent storms which will need sorting out.

Poultry farmers have had a better year but are still worried about Avian Flu. The latest worry in the East is Bluetongue which only affects ruminants (sheep, cattle, goats and deer) and can be devastating to the animals themselves and the livelihood of the farmers. Cases have been found in Norfolk and Kent so

movement restrictions have been put in place and infected animals culled. The disease is carried by midges blown here from the Continent.

One supermarket has introduced a buy British button on its app which enables people to source food from this country. Well done, Morrisons, let's hope other supermarkets will follow soon!

Big Winter Roam 2024

Sharon Saunders

I have taken on the challenge to wear a bright purple beanie, and walk 100 miles during the month of February, to raise much needed funds for Cats Protection. This is the UK's largest cat welfare charity. They do a fantastic job and help around 157,000 cats and kittens every year through a network of volunteer-run centres and branches. Our nearest branch is St Neots. In 2021 we adopted two kittens who had been abandoned when they were just a few days old. They were fortunate to be found and taken to a rescue centre to be cared for. Callie and Akira are now 2 years old. They are a bundle



of fun and are loving life in Easton!

Unfortunately, the number of abandoned cats and kittens has increased as has the cost of caring for them. If you would like to support my challenge and help the kitties in need to get back on their paws and find their forever homes, you can donate at www.justgiving.com/page/sharon-saunders-bigroam4cats1706261501896 Or pop it in the letterbox at The Cedars, Chapel Lane. Any contributions would be very much appreciated. Thank you so much and do give me a wave if you see me!!

Wasps in the Loft

Steve Thomason



Lofts provide the perfect environment for wasps to build their nests and reports of such nests seem to be on the increase. The nest is initiated by a solitary queen wasp in the spring as she comes out of hibernation. It ultimately has the potential to grow to several feet or more in diameter. However, unlike bees, wasps do not store up food to last over winter and typically die off by late autumn so the nest is usually only in use for one season.



Last month looking in one of the recesses of the loft it was surprising to see a huge structure far larger than a football. By this time the worker wasps are typically dead or dying, with the new queens having left the nest to hibernate. As there were no obvious buzzing sounds from

the nest, a wallpaper scraper was used to gently remove it from the roof joists. The nest is deceptively light (it is just built from chewed up wood and feels like paper) so was easily taken down and carried outside. DIY removal like this is only recommended out of season. If you cannot wait until the end of autumn, then it is best to seek professional help.

Once the nest was taken outside, it was fascinating to cut it open to see the structure inside. There were approximately 10 layers of cells (see photo) with passageways in between and each layer contained approx. 1000 perfectly built hexagonal cells.

Coffee Cake & Chat

Vikki, Clare, Pam & Caroline

We would like to thank everyone who joined us last month for our Scottish themed coffee morning - we raised a fantastic £146! This brings our contribution to the church fund to just over £400 which is an incredible total - we are so very grateful to you all for this, and for your support in coming along for a chat and a cuppa.

Our next Valentine's themed coffee morning will take place on February 5th, from 10.30 - 12.00. We really hope to see everyone again 😊🌷❤

CHURCH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 11th February Easton 9,30 Parish Communion

Sunday 25th February Easton 9.30 Family Service

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.....

-Remember your eggs flour and lemon for Shrove Tuesday which is 13th February

- Any ladies thinking of marriage 2024 is a Leap Year!!!

-Nothing to read? There are a number of books in the Church for a £! donation.

--As we went to press, we had an update from Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm they aim to install the post for our interactive speed sign around the 4th March. 2024..

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2024