

Easton Village Newsletter

April 2024

Issue 222

Farmer Burton's Country Talk

When I last wrote at the end of January, I hoped for a dry spell and we got a very small one that allowed me to drill another couple of fields in early Feb with Skyscraper Winter Wheat. Little did I know that February would end up being the wettest on record with 106.4mm of rain, the average is 43mm! The Met Office stated that it had been the wettest October to February period with 439mm! Feb was also the warmest on record with Santon Downham in Norfolk reaching 18C and we had our 5th lowest record of air frosts.



What a testing Autumn it has been!

I was told by my agronomist that I needed to apply half the Nitrogen to my wheats before the end of the March or they would lose a lot of their potential yield for harvest. Luckily the soils dried out a little last week which allowed James to spread fertiliser on the land without making too much mess, but we had walked the fields in the morning and had decided where we had to avoid in the fields to prevent us getting stuck! I also have a field that I had planned to drill with some Spring Barley seed that I had bought but this has wet patches all over the field that I can't see drying out for months yet and leaving it too late to drill. Never mind though, I will cultivate the soil, when it is dry, to kill the emerging blackgrass and treat it as an old-fashioned fallow and I can use my seed in the Spring of 2025

There are thousands of acres across the UK with no crop in the field or that has a crop, such as potatoes, that are unharvested from last year and rotten in the soil. I have never known a year like this one. Potatoes will be in short supply so by a sack or two if you can!

Many of you may have seen in the news that the Welsh farmers are protesting. They are objecting to a major overhaul of farm subsidies in Wales known as the Sustainable Farming Scheme(SFS) which has proposals to make farmers commit 10% of their agricultural land to be planted trees and another 10% for wildlife habitat. A report states that a 100% take up would result in a 10.8% reduction of Welsh livestock and an 11% cut in labour, which could be 5500 jobs lost. There are also many protests in Europe with farmers not happy about rules and regulations on how to farm, with many more rules to come All poultry keepers will now be required to log their flock with a national register this Autumn, even if you own just a couple of birds in a back yard flock. Currently it has only been needed if you had more than 50 birds, so this change is for tighter disease control in the wake of Avian Flu.

Art Exhibition

Iris Brooker

Back in November an Open Studio was held at Berrylands where members of a local art group, the Pod Painters exhibited their paintings, giving visitors the opportunity to view their work and to buy any which took their fancy. I would like to say a belated thank you to those in the village who came along to support our group and an even bigger thank you to the people who bought paintings and cards! I am delighted to say that £150 was raised for Great Ormond Street Hospital from the sale of the paintings

Composted horse manure for the garden

Steve Thomason



Each year we offer free horse manure from Springfield, in Chapel Lane (opposite the village pump). The manure is left for at least 18 months to fully

compost, and is then dug out and transported by the narrow-gauge railway for spreading back onto the fields and is also left on the driveway for

neighbours to help themselves. It provides an excellent compost for a range of flowers and vegetables.

It will be available from the last weekend in March, throughout April. You can bring your own wheelbarrow and take as much as you wish from a wagon left in the driveway each weekend, or alternatively just bring your car and load up with the bags of compost which will be left next to the drive. We would appreciate any bags being returned for reuse if possible.

Big Winter Roam 2024 Challenge Completed!

Sharon Saunders



In February I sported a bright purple beanie and braved the wind, the rain and the mud and walked 100 miles, to raise much needed funds for Cats Protection, the UK's largest cat welfare charity. Quite frankly It could have been a swimming challenge it was so wet! Each walk was recorded on Strava. I received lots of encouragement from family and friends - special mentions to Chris for his boot cleaning and post walk tea making and Angie and Janet who joined me on some of my walks.

My fundraising total currently stands at a pawsome £565! A BIG thank you to everyone who has kindly donated. If you would like to support my challenge



and help the kitties in need to get back on their paws you can still do so online www.justgiving.com/page/sharon-saunders-bigroam4cats1706261501896 or pop cash in an envelope through the letterbox at The Cedars, Chapel Lane. Any contributions would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

59 Club

John Maith.

The 2024/25 round is up and running with the first round completed at the end of February. The winner was Linda Maith with number 28 (fix I hear you say), well we have to pay for our holidays somehow!!

The next draw will be on Saturday 30th March and, as usual, the winning number will be the bonus ball from the National Lotto draw. Good luck all.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners Wednesday 8th May at 7:00pm in St Peter's Church, Easton

All are welcome at this meeting and your support would be very much appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

Church wardens and PCC members will be elected and reports given on the activities in the church and its finances. All those on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote at the meeting: a list of those already on the Roll will be displayed on the noticeboard inside the church porch prior to the meeting. If you would like your name to be added to the roll, please contact Julia Cox on 896652 or j.cox397@btinternet.com

Church Services in April

Sunday 14 th April	Easton	9.30	Parish Communion	Philip Howson
Sunday 28 th April	Easton	9,30	Family Service	Michael O'Callaghan

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.....

-A Reminder. from Charles Nixon. There will be an election in May to elect your Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and all voters will need photo identification. Information can be found at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

- A big thankyou to all those who attended the annual parish council meeting in the Church. There was a great turn out with plenty to eat and drink provided by the Easton Fund and Social Committee including a lovely cake for the Birthday Boy Brian Davis who presented a very interesting history of 60 years of local conservation around the village

Happy Easter!!!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS THURSDAY APRIL 25th 2024