

Easton Village Newsletter

May 2024

Issue 223

Easton Fauna: Mice – Love Them or Hate Them?

Charles Nixon



A nest, a horde or a mischief of mice? You decide!

Easton is home to 3 of the 5 five different species of mice in the UK. Four of these are native, the fifth, the edible dormouse, was introduced to Hertfordshire as an escapee in 1902. There are thought to be nearly 40 million mice widely distributed throughout the UK.

The Wood Mouse / Field Mouse (Apodemus

sylvaticus) – is the most common. They thrive in woodland, rough grassland and gardens and are 8 -10 cm long with a 7 - 9 cm tail. Wood mice are mainly active during the dark, probably having evolved this behaviour to avoid predators. While foraging, wood mice pick up and distribute conspicuous objects, such as leaves and twigs, which they then use as landmarks during exploration. If a wood mouse is caught by its tail, it can quickly shed the end of it, which may never regrow.

During the colder months, wood mice do not hibernate. They dislike cold weather because they are so small and can't stand up to extreme temperatures. That's why they always try to move inside during the winter!. When it gets really cold, they sometimes group together to stay warm. Wood mice have up to six litters a year of between four and eight young.

The House Mouse

(*Mus musculus*) – is similar to the field mouse but is more uniformly brown and has a distinctive, musky smell. You will know if they are sharing your house with you!

The Harvest Mouse **(*Micromys minutus*)** –

this is the cute one. It is only 5 - 7 cm long and the tail is almost as long as the body. It has a blunt nose, short, rounded, hairy ears and golden-brown fur. Harvest mice build a spherical nest of tightly woven grass, high-up in the tall grasses, in which the female will give birth to around six young. They live in grassland, hedgerows, farmland and around woodland edges.

Still not sure if you like them or loathe them? Google: Mouse tidies man's shed....



Harvest Mouse and Nest

Michael Lawson's Song for Ukraine Easton's own classical composer

Michael Lawson and the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra have released a composition to mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The title; '*Michael Lawson's Song for Ukraine*' is a lyrical tribute to the courage and dignity of the Ukrainian people. The money raised will go to UNICEF's Ukraine Children's Appeal, and the Ukraine based children's Hospice of Hope. Performed by Philip Martens, violin, and the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by John Walton, the music was recorded in February 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa. *Song for Ukraine* is published by Universal Edition in Vienna (orchestral and recital versions).

Michael Lawson's music has been performed at international venues including the Royal Albert Hall, the Cadogan Hall and the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. His

music includes large scale symphonic works such as The Seasons, Symphonic Movements, Variations for Orchestra, Concerto Antica e Moderna.

To listen to Michael Lawson's Song for Ukraine, you can access it via Youtube, Spotify, Amazon, Apple Itunes, etc.

It would be wonderful if Easton residents would support the project as all the income goes to children in Ukraine. Two ways to do this are to download the track, or even better to request it as a listener's request on Scala Radio or Classic FM.

For Classic FM; text requests to 61812. Or call 0345 749 1812 during the shows. Or email a request using their request email at www.classicfm.com.

For Scala Radio; you can now send in requests by leaving a WhatsApp Voice Note on 07593 139 729 or emailing requests@scalaradio.co.uk.

Defibrillator Training

Pam Bell

Your PCC are organising defibrillator training for the villagers of Easton. We all know that the defibrillator is located on the wall of Helen and Tom Mayer's house on The Lane, but how many of us are confident in using it?

Unfortunately, there will only be a limited number of training spaces available. If you are interested in attending the training event, to register your interest please email Pam Bell on: mumbell@icloud.com.

A date has not yet been confirmed but it will be in the next few months. Places will be reserved on a First come first served!

Coffee Morning

Vicky, Caroline, Claire & Pam

Our next coffee morning will take place on May 13th due to the May Bank holiday. Do come and join us from 10.30am until noon, for tea, coffee, a cake or something savoury. We have gluten free options and hope to see you there!



Easton Parish Council - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Easton Parish Council (as distinct from the Annual Parish Meeting held recently) is to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 9th May 2024 in St Peter's Church Easton.

The accounts for year end 31/03/2024 of the Easton Parish Council are to be presented at the Annual General Meeting and all members of the parish are welcome

59 Club

John Maith

The March winner of the 59 Club was Katie Turner with number 17, congratulations Katie. The next round will be on Saturday 27th April so good luck everyone. If anyone would like a number in the 59 Club, please e-mail me at maiths60@hotmail.com

Church Services in May

Apologies – these were not available when going to print.

For 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.....

- Please be vigilant as we have been made aware of an attempted break-in in the village this month and the police have been advised. Also there has been a theft of a tractor, which was fortunately recovered. Please be aware of any suspicious vehicles in the village and ensure houses and vehicles are kept securely locked
- Due to more recent incidents, we have been asked to remind all dog owners to pick up their dog poo.



- Thank you from Brian Davis to everyone who had sent a birthday card.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY MAY 24th 2024