

John Lycett's blog – July 2025

I'm on the Little Ness Road looking at a Winter Wild Bird Mix. I see bees, butterflies, a variety of birds and under some trees at the one end of the field is a picnic bench and the John Deere bar! This is actually my summer retreat!



On the front of this website is one of the latest New Holland combines.

This machine has a 12-metre header and when it's full, the weight monitor in the cab is in the lower teens and when Steve Smith has got the dust flying, this machine is a delight to see!



How times have changed. In 1963, the forerunner of this combine was a Claey's M103 and if you possessed a Fordson Diesel Tractor with a Salop Trailer Company 4-ton cart, you really thought you were in the big time.

On the farm, this month, apart from the grain harvest, there was the cutting, drying and baling of the lucerne. Also, Steven has sprayed the energy beet with a fungicide. They have been spreading solid and liquid digestate and Mark has been doing some stubble work, so it has been a very busy time.

I am not commenting on grain yields at the moment (because I haven't been to the pub) but I do know that there has been some accurate figures showing there have been some very surprisingly good results taking into account the very dry weather.

Usually, this blog is non-political but I did enjoy the Trump/Starmer interview on one of the news channels last week!

At the beginning of the month, I took a trip to Suffolk and Essex, a part of the country I had never visited before. Travelling around, the current Mrs Lycett kept commenting on the size of the fields! I must admit that I would have liked to transport some to Shropshire.



We visited Flatford (Constable country), also Lavenham, a medieval village set in time, which prospered from the wool trade and became one of the wealthiest settlements in England in the 15th century.

One of the many things we learned is that some of the different coloured houses at the time were colour washed with pigs' blood and the pinker your house, the wealthier you were!

I don't think I'll be looking for pigs' blood any time soon!