

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 66

April 2011

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

It's that time of year when I need to get the crops growing after a long and very cold winter, so I've been busy over the last few days applying nitrogen to our wheat to give it a growth burst (Geoff P even saw me on my tractor... working !!). I sell my wheat from last year's harvest on the open market, which is very volatile at the moment due to world events. Sometimes disasters like the tsunami in Japan will put prices up and at other times prices will fall as investors look for other places to invest their money. With the Libyan crisis, the wheat price dropped £10 in only one day last week!!



I have been trying to trap rabbits over the last few months; if not controlled they can strip a field of wheat. 'Breeding like rabbits' is a common expression: in one year a female rabbit (a doe) can produce over 20 offspring and many of these will breed themselves when only 4 months old! We are lucky to have the plovers back on the farm with work we have done with our Higher Level conservation scheme. I saw the first ones this week on our fields that are left as fallow (no crop this year, just a cultivated field), so I must start to trap the carrion crows and magpies as these birds are scavengers and will take the plovers' eggs and chicks as well as those from partridges and songbirds. I often use a live decoy bird that is fed and watered each day with traps adjacent to it.

The pheasants, partridges and plovers will be nesting by the end of March. These birds have a hard time with predators like foxes, magpies, carrion crows and family dogs which can put them off their nest. Once they have left their nest they may not return to their eggs. So please keep your dogs under control at this time of year (I know how difficult this can be with Whiz and Dash and the smell of pheasants!!)

The weather this coming week is set fair but we farmers are never satisfied as we could really do with a good rain to get that nitrogen working!

49 CLUB

The winner of the February draw was Ronnie Sinclair and the March winner was Jeanette Charlton.

AN APPEAL FOR "MANY HANDS"

Many hands make light work, so it is said, and this is a plea for more help with decorating the Church for Easter on **Saturday 23rd April from 2.30 p.m. onwards**. Gentlemen and young people are just as welcome as ladies so if you have any leanings toward flower-arranging (or even if you are only a "stick them in a jam jar" type!), do please consider whether you could spare half an hour or so to assist in this very pleasant task. We all know that Easter is a busy time, with family and friends visiting, but more people would shorten the work considerably. Gifts of spring flowers would also be extremely welcome, please.

CHURCH NEWS

On **3rd April** there will be a **Mothering Sunday Service** at 11.00 a.m. to which all are invited – we have all had mothers, even if they are no longer with us. Friday lunchtime Eucharists continue for the remainder of Lent at 12 noon, followed by a frugal lunch as follows:

1st April - Ellington; 8th April - Spaldwick; 15th April - Barham.

Services during April will be:

3 rd April - Mothering Sunday	-	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
10 th April - Passion Sunday	-	6.00 a.m.	Evensong
17 th April - Palm Sunday	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
24 th April - Easter Day	-	9.30 a.m.	Easter Eucharist



EASTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

Brian Davis

It is just a year since we gave you the last update on the work in Easton church. The Joiner has been back to ease the new oak doors in the screens, which were binding, and so the Contractor and the Architect have now been fully paid off. The decorating in the meeting room, toilet and corridor is now complete, and twenty years of cobwebs swept from the west window, thanks to all the many helpers. A set of high quality chairs has been bought through the Social Fund for the meeting room. By calling in loans from the Guarantors, we have also repaid £2,500 as the first year's tranche of the £10,000 loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. There have been two further generous donations which bring the total sum outstanding now (21 March 2011) to £6,593.48. We are most grateful for these, but we have another £2,500 to repay by the end of this year so we must continue to keep our shoulder to the wheel – and knives and forks to the Big Breakfasts.

The Easton Community Project
warmly invites you to St. Peter's Church to enjoy

"Music for a Spring Evening"
with the

Jackdaw Ensemble
On
Saturday 30th April at 7.30 p.m.

Music by Bach, Handel, Telemann, Vivaldi and Fauré

Tickets: Adults £10.00 Children £5.00
available from Brian (890625) or Kathy (891656)
to include champagne and cake to celebrate
the Royal Wedding

ROYAL WEDDING GARDEN PARTY

In Aid of St James Church

3 o'clock at 43, High St. Spaldwick on 30th April

Welcoming Pimm's, Tea and Sandwiches

Toast to William and Katherine with Sparkling Wine

Undercover seating with chairs and tables.

Hats and Suits Please

Tickets: Adults £10, Children £2

Available from Jenny Hyde (891454) or John Blatch (890853)

