

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 144

October 2016

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



We have just had every farmer's favourite time of the year, harvest! When you have spent nearly a year growing a crop it is a lovely feeling when the combining starts, seeing the wheat being cut by the combine knife, guessing how well it is yielding and then, finally, getting it safely in the barn. Not many people wait so long to their paycheque! The wet, cold Winter and Spring affected the crops, reducing the

yields on both the Rape and the Wheat, but the dry weather over harvest meant next-to-no drying costs and grain prices have firmed, mainly on currency changes.

James is my combine driver, which he is really good at. He especially loves it when we are busy and Jill brings our food down to the field and we have our very own hot 'meals on wheels'. This Autumn, many farmers have decided not to grow Rape for the time being because the banning of the Neonicotinoid seed treatment has allowed the cabbage stem flea beetle to decimate the establishing crop last year and is doing it again this year. Crop rotation is very important and I have been planning what to grow this coming year and also applying to enter the new Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship, which would last for 5 years. I have been taking into account what I can grow to combat Blackgrass as part of this Stewardship, which would include putting some arable fields down to grass and legumes (clover etc.). The fields near the bridge have now been power-harrowed again to get a nice fine fallow where, hopefully, lots of BG will chit and I can spray off prior to drilling Winter Wheat in early November. All this could completely change if it comes wet and I can't get on the fields!!

Every year we have projects on the farm and many may have noticed the ditching that we have carried out at the top of the 'Common' (on the Stonely Road) and also in our bottom fields, on the footpath route from Stocking Barn Farm to Spaldwick.



I was asked to explain the basics of farm produce and how to recognise them in the fields. This year, Mr. Picton was growing Spring Barley along the Stonely Road. Barley grain has long barbed whiskers and the best quality is known as 'malting barley' which is used in the brewery trade for making beer and whisky. The rest goes for livestock feed and is often crushed to fatten cattle. The straw is much more palatable than Wheat straw and thus has a much greater value. Winter Barley can yield over 8 ton/ha but Spring Barley can be as low as 5 ton/ha in a poor season. In the fields it will appear much more golden and will sway in a breeze, much more than Wheat.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

<p>Sunday 2nd (Trinity 19) 09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev N Bland) 10.45 KIM Harvest Festival Family Service (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 SPA Harvest Festival (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 STO Harvest Evensong (Mrs. L Bowring)</p>	<p>Sunday 9th (Trinity 20) 09.30 TIL [No Service – Harvest Festival yesterday!] 09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 16.30 SPA Messy Church (team)</p>
<p>Sunday 16th (Trinity 21) 09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Matins (Rev N Bland) 10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson) 11.00 BAR Harvest Festival (Rev S Bowring) 11.00 COV Harvest Festival (Mrs. L Bowring) 18.00 EAS Evensong (Rev N Bland)</p>	<p>Sunday 23rd (Bible Sunday) 09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr. Mike Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster) 10.45 SPA Morning Worship (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev S Bowring)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 30th (All Saints' Sunday) 10.45 KIM Group Eucharist for All Saints/Souls (Rev S Bowring)</p>	

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who so kindly gave such beautiful flowers, fruit, vegetables and honey for the occasion. As usual, these were taken to the Manor Cheshire Home at Brampton where they are always very appreciative of our support. They cater for around 20 residents plus all the carers and staff. Special thanks, also, to Henry, Bea and Maddy for their lovely readings during the service, and for their help with packing the boxes afterwards.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST 2016



Three people from Easton took part in this annual event on Saturday, 10th September. The weather conditions were appalling, with torrential rain for most of the day. In spite of this, we managed to visit 11 churches.

The sponsorship raised in Cambridgeshire last year (2015) came to just over £20,000. This money is a vital help towards the payment of maintenance costs of churches in the county, many of which are in very small villages.

Many thanks to those of you who sponsored us in 2016. The amount raised in Easton has not yet been finalised but we will publish the figure in due course. Sponsors can nominate the church that will receive 50% of the amount given; the rest goes to a general maintenance fund.

DON'T MISS...

More local talent! Easton resident Mark Payne has had a 33-year career as a full-time artist and illustrator, producing work for numerous national and international publishers and advertising agencies. There are things that strike you straight away about his paintings: the meticulous nature of the work and the way the change in scale from book size to painting alters your perception of the cover. Other things creep up on you more slowly. The care taken in choosing the subject matter and the sense of depth from the use of shadow and many layers of paint. Eventually you realise these are not just paintings of a book and its cover. These are loving portraits of a particular book and its history and as a result they are surprisingly intimate and thought-provoking. An exhibition of Mark's work is being shown at The Framery, 1 Park Lane, Stonely, from Thursday 29th September until Saturday, 8th October.

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Copy deadline for the next newsletter will be Monday, 24th October 2016.