

Easton Village Newsletter

April 2020

Issue 174

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



Where do I begin?

With most of the country in lockdown, I'm pleased to say that the countryside is open and working really hard to produce the food we need. The Sun is now shining, looks like it will for the next week and Spring is in the air, lambs are being born, daffodils are in full flower and the skylarks are singing as I walked my dogs. To make the morning even better, the smell of Jill cooking a full English breakfast greets me on my return - can you imagine anything better?

The UK produces 11 billion eggs a year; we have 5 million pigs, 35 million sheep and lambs, 10 million cattle, the milk in my tea is from the UK dairy herd which produces 60 million pints a day (that's a lot!), 5 million tons of potatoes (that's enough to fill 27.5 BILLION bags of crisps!), East Anglia produces enough barley to make 2.5 million pints of beer. It's a bit early for one but I will be supporting the barley farmers later! An average person buys 43 loaves of bread a year from 7.8 million tons of wheat. On top of all this food, farmers planted an area of 10,000 football pitches of habitat for wildlife.

I'm not sure who came up with all these facts but I think they may have been in self isolation for too long! We may not have some of the produce you enjoy - avocado (from Mexico), pomegranate (from India), chickpeas (from India) and soya (from East Asia) but I can say that everything in my breakfast was locally produced, which, to me, tastes even better, supports local farmers and keeps Greta Thunberg off my back! On that subject, try visiting your local farm shop as well as your butcher. The one I went to yesterday had way more vegetables than Waitrose or Sainsbury, at a fraction of the price.

On the farm, next week I will be spraying off the weeds that have grown over the Winter, give it a few days to work and then power harrow the fields to create a tilth. Into this I'll be drilling Spring Wheat, Spring Barley and Spring Beans. If they go into a good seedbed that is warming up and have some rain (not too much!), they should get off to a great start.

I have no idea who wrote this, but it is wonderful:



It was March 2020 ...

The streets were empty, the shops closed, people couldn't get out. But spring did not know, and the flowers began to bloom, the sun shone, the birds sang, the swallows would soon arrive, the sky was blue, the morning arrived early.

It was March 2020 ...

Young people had to study online, and find occupations at home, people could no longer go shopping, or go to the hairdresser. Soon there would be no more room in hospitals, and people continued to get sick.

But spring did not know, the time to go to the garden arrived, the grass greened.

It was March 2020 ...

People have been put in lockdown, to protect grandparents, families and children. No more meetings or meals, family celebrations. The fear became real and the days were therefore similar.

But spring did not know, apples, cherry trees and others bloomed, the leaves grew.

People started reading, playing with their families, learning a language, singing on the balcony inviting neighbours to do the same, being supportive and focusing on other values.

People realized the importance of health, of suffering, of this world that had stopped, of the economy that has plummeted.

But spring didn't know. the flowers gave way to the fruit, the birds made their nest, the swallows had arrived.

Then the day of liberation came, people found out on TV, the virus had lost, people took to the streets, sang, cried, kissed their neighbours, without masks or gloves.



And that's when summer came, because spring didn't know. He continued to be there despite everything, despite the virus, fear and death. Because spring didn't know, he taught people the power of life.

Have you noticed that I haven't mentioned Brexit? After coronavirus, Brexit should be a walk in the park!!

EASTON T's and C's

Due to public health restrictions, this event on the first Tuesday of every month has regrettably been cancelled until further notice.



EASTON "BIG BREAKFASTS"

As most people will already know, the Big Breakfasts have been suspended until further notice.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting would normally be taking place during April. Unfortunately, this has now been postponed indefinitely. When it does eventually take place, all those on the Church Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote at the meeting. A list of those already on the roll will be displayed on the noticeboard inside the church porch - if you would like your name to be added please contact Stephanie Silcock (Tel. 01480 890455).

CHURCH SERVICES

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued unprecedented advice that all Church services must be suspended until further notice. Part of their letter states:

"Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters wherever possible are kept open. There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable, so do continue to play your part in those.

During these extraordinary times, do keep up to date via our Church's website: www.kymchurch.org.uk where you will find further information and updates as the days progress, as well as daily prayer and a regular Sunday service (all online).

SPRINGTIME COMPOSTED HORSE MANURE FOR THE GARDEN

Steve Thomason



From the end of March, free composted horse manure will be available as usual from Springfield, in Chapel Lane (opposite the village water 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 villagers to help themselves. It provides excellent compost for a range of flowers and vegetables, so from the end of March to the end of April, for about 5-6 weekends, you can bring your own wheelbarrow and take as much as you wish from a wagon left in the driveway each weekend; alternatively, just bring your car and load up with the bags of compost which will be left in the driveway. For those who wish to have the bags delivered (within Easton) at the rate of £1 per bag (minimum delivery 5 bags), just ring Steve or Jan on

01480 891516 or email. thomsk@btinternet.com. Happy gardening.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Jenny Hyde

This is the time of year at which I generally arrange for the sweep to come to the village. However, with the current uncertainties and not being sure who is in "Social isolation", I have not taken any action on this yet. Should you decide to make your own arrangements, bookings are made through Mr. Barrows on 01767-680482. In the hope that circumstances will improve later in the year, I will endeavour to make block booking arrangements at a later date, in the autumn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Maureen Sloper

I would like to thank you all for the cards, flowers and kindness shown to me recently. Your support is greatly appreciated. I am so thankful we were able to say a proper farewell to Ed before restrictions were put on church services and social gatherings. In these challenging times it is comforting to know we live in the very caring village of Easton.

Deadline for the April Newsletter is 24th April