

Easton Village Newsletter

Easton Village Newsletter

February 2021

Issue 184

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

In between writing my last article and it going to press, we had quite spectacular news on Christmas Eve with the announcement of a Free Trade Agreement being reached - a deal that saw many farmers breathe a sigh of relief, both in the UK and the EU. The EU sells £30 billion of agricultural products to the UK each year, which is almost £20 billion more than we sell to them! Lots of details on how the new rules will affect farmers and rural businesses are still coming out. On top of this, the government is starting to end the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) this month and will move towards a system called Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) but this will not be fully available for 4 years. By the time the ELM scheme is fully running, farmer face losing 50% of the financial support they previously received.



Many of you may have read that farmers have been given an emergency authorisation to use Neonicotinoids in sugar beet this year. Europe had banned their use because of fears towards harming bees. Sugar beet is a non-flowering crop, so of no interest to bees, but it is still banned on UK oilseed rape.

Much has been made about the UK already turning over an EU rule but 13 countries in the EU have also been granted emergency authorisation. Without this the 2021 crop would be decimated. If this happened, our market would be flooded with imports from EU countries that can use Neonics or from other parts of the World with products of poor standard. The emergency rules won't let farmers grow oilseed

rape on the same fields for 32 months. If you buy Silver Spoon sugar you are supporting British Farmers!

The weather has been very challenging in the last few weeks, I am so pleased that I have already got my Winter crops drilled and that I am not going to try and establish any Spring crops. All my crops look pretty well, although a few headlands are getting chewed off by rabbits. My wild bird covers look the best they have ever looked but because of Covid I have been unable to hold my farm shoots or go on any (I lie, I went on one and it poured down all day and I got drenched!). As a result, there are a lot of cock pheasants about that will fight each other if I don't get a few for the pot!

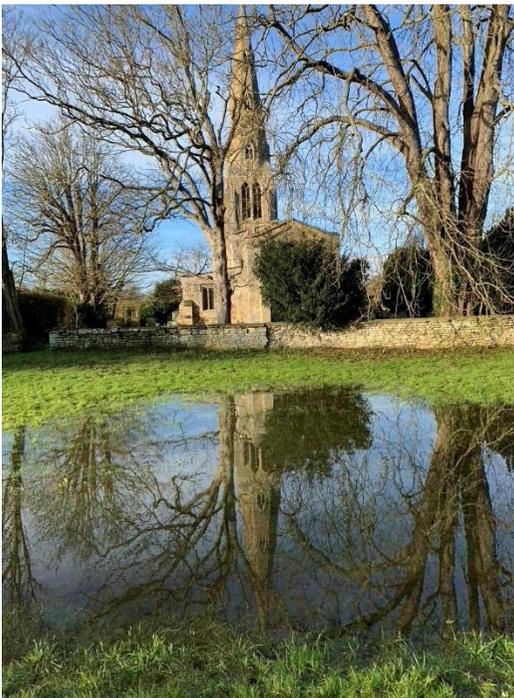


https://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting_210506/Abra

A HUGE THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all the wonderful people who helped us out in the recent floods. We are so very grateful and cannot thank you enough for coming to our rescue – we don't know what we would have done without you all. What a lovely, kind village this is.

Roger & Steph



We are indebted to Charles Nixon for this beautiful image of St. Peter's Church reflected in recent flood water.

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

At the time of going to print, there is considerable uncertainty about what will be possible in the foreseeable future and all churches are currently closed. For further details please ask a Churchwarden or see www.kymchurch.org.uk.

59 CLUB

John Maith

Happy New year and I hope everyone is keeping safe and recovering from the dreadful floods on Christmas Eve. The December winner of the 59 Club was Rona Graham, so congratulations, Rona! The next draw, and last of the current round, will be on Saturday 30th January. I would like to thank those who have dropped in their 2021 money and if anyone else wishes to do so, it would be much appreciated. Nevertheless, I will do the rounds anyway for those who do not wish to venture out and collect their money - socially distant!. Cheques can be made payable to Easton PCC and the fee will remain at £12 per number. If you do drop the money round, please don't forget to put your name on the envelope. For those who don't know, my address is Grange Farm, between Peter & Alison Gould's house and Michael & Claire Lawson's house. If there is anyone who does not currently have a number but wishes to do so, please let me know and I will arrange this. Your support is very much appreciated. Good luck to all,

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Easton Parish Council has scheduled a Parish Council meeting via 'Zoom' for 8.00pm on 25th February 2021. If you are not already on the Parish Council mailing list and would like the link to join the meeting please email: clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk.

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS - SPALDWICK PFPS 209/12 AND 209/13

Cambridgeshire County Council, together with the Parish Councils, have arranged for the re-instatement of the two public footpaths PFP 209/12 and PFP 209/13, part of a route between Easton and Spaldwick. These are now walkable and join paths starting along the 3 Shires Way (by Townsend Farm) and Chapel Lane in Easton and end almost opposite Spaldwick Services.

INVESTIGATING AND REGULATING FLOODING: WHO MANAGES WHAT?

Cambridge County Council have produced a flow chart indicating responsibility in connection with flooding. It is a full-page document and does not lend itself to publishing in the newsletter but it is being made available on the village website (<http://www.eastonpc.co.uk>).

EASTON CHURCH FUNDS APPEAL

Malcolm Halliday

The PCC was delighted with the response to the appeal made in July 2020 and very grateful to those making generous donations. We can further increase this generosity by claiming gift aid on donations, since the PCC is a charity registered with HMRC. In previous years we have received about £1,000 annually back from the

taxman. I have a list of donors and if anyone has not completed a Gift Aid form in favour of the Church but would like to do so, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

“FANTASTIC” WEBSITE FOR WALKERS

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Cambridgeshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cambridge <http://www.walkinginglos.co.uk/> is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free of charge, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. *Walking in Cambridgeshire* (part of the “Walking in England” suite of websites, www.walkinginengland.co.uk – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Deadline for the March newsletter is 22nd February