

Easton Village Newsletter

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April 2021

Issue 186

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



Since I last wrote at the end of January, the countryside has started to come alive. Crown Cottage has had a wonderful display of snowdrops on the ditch bank that many of you would have seen. I've seen wild primroses on my walks, Old Man's Beard and Hazel Catkins, all showing signs that Spring is here! I also saw some lambs in a field last week which is one of the most wonderful sights of the year.

The land is now starting to dry out, allowing me to get on and apply some Nitrogen fertilizer. I buy this in half ton bags, in the form of round prills, that can be spun onto the fields with the use of a spinning, twin-disc fertilizer spreader. The amount per Hectare when it is applied is crucial to feeding the plant when it needs it during its growth cycle, to use it economically so that it does not get wasted. I applied some a couple of weeks ago to give it a little kickstart and will apply some more next week.

Yesterday I sprayed both my wheat and barley with growth regulator (to help prevent the plant growing too tall, which would make it prone to falling flat later in the year) and also fungicide to prevent any disease. All of the sprays that I apply are recommended by my agronomist. He inspects my crops every few weeks and tells me the sprays and fertiliser that should be applied.

New figures released by the CLA show there were more than 61,000 fly-tipping incidents in East Anglia from April 2019 to March 2020. Landowners are too often the victims of fly tipping with tyres, fridges, building waste and household rubbish dumped in field gateways. If the landowner doesn't clear it up, they can be prosecuted. This is really unfair - one friend of ours was left with a bill of £10,000 to clear up some waste on their farm!

So please keep a look out for anything suspicious and to those from the village that collect the litter left up the Stonely Road, THANK YOU!!

FREE COMPOSTED HORSE MANURE AVAILABLE AGAIN

From the end of March for a couple of months, 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 to be spread back onto the fields and is also left on the driveway for everyone to help themselves. As with other years, the compost will be available from a skip left in the driveway if you wish to bring a wheelbarrow and load your own, or bagged supplies will also be available to take. Can we ask that the plastic bags are returned for reuse please?

Last year was exceptionally busy, partly due to the garden centres being closed for much of the spring time, so we had trouble keeping up with demand. 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!

Steve Thomason

VILLAGE ROADS

Easton Parish Council

At the last Parish Council meeting concern was voiced about the condition of the roads in and around the village and was discussed by several persons commenting on the very many potholes and ruts along broken road edges. All reports should be made to Cambridgeshire County Council via the Cambridgeshire County Council website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) "**Report a highways fault**" where the exact location can be logged with details and a photograph uploaded.



Surprisingly, considering the rural aspect of much of our county, Cambridgeshire currently has one of the smallest areas of land managed for nature in the country, relative to its size.

Natural Cambridgeshire (naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk) want to double that amount and they are asking for help through their *Pledge for Nature* scheme. The aim, by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green space in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, is to become an outstanding environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.

Some of the key reasons for this, from the Natural Cambridgeshire website, are to give nature space and help to reverse declines in habitat and species, and provide more areas for people to enjoy nature and to benefit our health and wellbeing. This major scheme is already in progress and at one level is working with local councils, planning applications, local landowners and farmers, to drive a greener approach to planning projects and restoring wildlife habitats. However, at another level it is looking to local people and

encouraging at least 25% of existing property owners to incorporate wildlife-friendly features in their gardens, buildings and land; also, increasing tree cover and the network of woodlands and hedgerows in and around our towns and cities. Linked with this, the Easton Parish Council is pleased to announce Easton Wildlife 2021, an initiative we can all support and be involved with. Very little could be achieved in just one or two months, so this initiative will run for 12 months covering various activities throughout the year.

We would love to hear from villagers of all ages in Easton either willing to take part and assist with activities, or those who may have more ideas that we could support. Some of the obvious work which will be taking place includes further tree planting and planting hedges, but also creating areas for wildflowers to flourish. It could also be building a small wildlife pond in your garden, putting up more bird boxes, bat boxes, or hedgehog homes. We will keep people up to date with what is planned and what has been completed via the newsletter. We would love to hear about anything you have done in or around your own home, and to see any photos of what has been done. We can potentially print any of the more interesting ones here, which may inspire others. Please also let us know if you find any frogspawn, snakes or hedgehogs

As a starter, a couple of weeks ago, a new Barn Owl nesting box has been put up, which should just be visible from the end of Cherry Orchard Lane. This has been built to the specific dimensions as recommended by the Barn Owl Trust. Having survived the high winds of recent weeks, we will let you know if any Barn Owls find it of interest! Please contact the parish clerk at clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to be involved.



EASTON WILDLIFE 2021 – WILDLIFE SURVEY



An activity that would be very useful at this time of year is to report on sightings of certain animals waking up from the winter. Can you let us know when you saw your first frogs and newts, and when you find frogspawn in your pond and how much there was? Also, early sightings of grass snakes and their approximate

size would be helpful. Later on in the year, if you usually have swallows nesting, are there more or less than last year? Spotted Flycatchers are a less common species that Easton has done well hosting in recent years and their numbers, along with many others, are tracked by the Cambridgeshire Bird Club. Can any reports please be sent to Brian Davis at bdavisnk@btinternet.com.

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

With Spring now under way and following the cold winter when everyone was at home, thoughts should be turning to having our chimneys swept. The Sweep will be in the village on Wednesday and Thursday, 12th and 13th May so if you would like to go on his list, please let Jenny Hyde know as soon as possible either by email (j.hyde2@btinternet.com) or by phone (891454). The cost this year will be £40 for a standard clean; additional charges may apply for clearing birds' nests etc. He will provide a certificate for insurance purposes as a matter of course.

ST. PETER'S PCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will take place on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7.30 pm. In light of Covid restrictions, the meeting will be held "virtually" this year by Zoom, followed by the PCC meeting at 8.00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to tune in to the meeting and we do hope to see some of you during the evening. If you would like to be sent an Agenda and a Zoom link, then please advise Kathy Yates at ivan_kathy@hotmail.com or telephone her on 07810 224545. Anyone on the Church electoral roll is eligible to vote at the Annual Parochial Church

Meeting. A list of those already on the roll is displayed on the notice board inside the Church porch. If you would like your name to be added please would you contact Stephanie Silcock (Tel. 890455) by April 22nd 2021.

ST PETER’S CHURCH EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Easter Sunday will be celebrated with a service at
9.30 a.m. on 4th April 2021.

Please come – all are welcome! There will be Easter Eggs for children and
Simnel Cake for all.

If any child wishes to make an Easter Bonnet, there will be a prize for the
best one and runner up prizes.

Masks to be worn please and social distancing observed.

RESUMPTION OF CHURCH SERVICES

We expect to begin to hold services in person again from Holy Week. As in the summer, we will still need to do this safely, so please continue to observe the guidelines at each church for registering attendance, wearing masks, social distancing, one-way circulation etc. Currently also there is no singing.

The complete schedule for the South Leightonstone Benefice is shown below and overleaf:

HOLY WEEK			
Maundy Thursday 1 st April	SPA	7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion & stripping the altar
Good Friday 2nd April	KIM/STO/TIL		Hour at the foot of the Cross
Saturday 3 rd April	YouTube		Watch Night Service

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April	TIL	6.00 a.m.	Sunrise Service
	EAS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	SPA	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	KIM	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion
	KIM	4.00 p.m.	Easter Garden & Easter egg service
Sunday 11 th April	TIL	9.30 a.m.	Family Service
	COV	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
	KIM	10.45 a.m.	Family Communion [<i>& APCM</i>]
	SPA	4.00 p.m.	Family Worship
Sunday 18 th April	COV	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
	STO	3.00 p.m.	Holy Communion (outside, weather permitting)
	SPA	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
	KIM	10.45 a.m.	Matins
	BAR	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion
Sunday 25 th April	TIL	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
	EAS	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
	KIM	10.45 a.m.	Family Service
	SPA	4.00 p.m.	Family Worship
	KIM	6.00 p.m.	Evensong



Deadline for the May newsletter is 24th April