

# Easton Village Newsletter

January 2023

Issue 207

## Farmer Burton's Country Talk

When I last wrote I was holding off drilling my Winter wheat. I was waiting for all the weeds to grow after it started raining in the last week of October. I said that I had to hold my nerve and I very nearly thought that I had dropped a clanger! It rained and rained until the second week in November when it started drying enough to contemplate getting the seed drill prepped and ready for action. I then managed to get the weeds sprayed off, drilled, some of it rolled and then all of it sprayed with a chemical that would help kill anymore blackgrass that germinated, all within 5 days, it's a good job I haven't got many acres! I got all but one field drilled but I might be able to get that one sorted in the frosts.

I hope the grain market will be more stable in the New Year, but with the war in Ukraine and falling demand for grain from the poultry industry, due to half the free-range turkeys and many chickens laying flocks, in the UK, being culled because of bird flu it is not looking too promising. Poultry farmers are struggling to keep their flocks indoors for 24 hours a day. These birds are normally free

range and find adjusting to a new routine difficult, prone to disease and can affect their egg laying ability. Not to mention the cut in profits from not being able to be sold as free range and supermarkets being accused of



not paying a fair price as costs soar.

Rearing turkeys for Christmas was very important for farmers, particularly in Norfolk, where the famous 'turkey walk' in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries would see drovers walking their turkeys to Smithfield Market in London, that's over 100 miles! The turkeys would have had their feet tarred to protect them, not sure if I'd fancy one of those drumsticks! (See picture on front page)

In the New Year I also hope that DEFRA will have news for farmers regarding ELM, the new Environmental Land Management scheme. The Government have taken 6 years to come up with an alternative support for farmers since leaving the EU but this seems to be in shreds with many farmers facing financial difficulties.

I end this newsletter with the very sad news that while typing it up today, on Christmas Eve, we said goodbye to my father Philip, who passed away unexpectedly. He was a wonderful man who will be missed by so many and was never happier than when with friends and family, feeding pheasants in his beloved off-road buggy, working the land or putting the World to rights.



## **Easton Bus Service**

The Ting Bus has been replaced by Vectare ( <https://vectare.co.uk> )

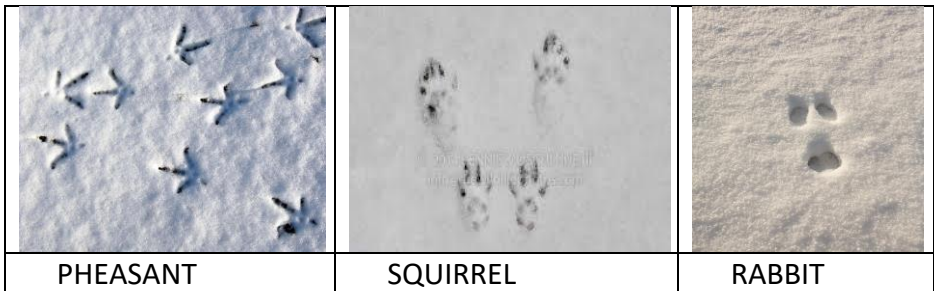
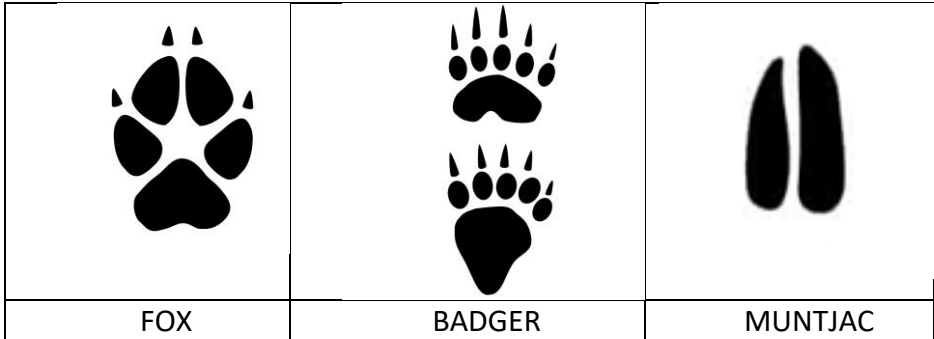
They cover the same area and can be booked by their app - Vectare DRT - or by calling 0115 777 3187. You can book from seven days in advance right up to the day of travel. Though at present you can only book one journey at a time. Cost is £2 each journey and takes c 20 minutes to Huntingdon.

The Dews scheduled bus services still comes to the village each day at 07.40, 10.58 and 14.18. Each service going via the villages to Huntingdon Bus station Journey time c45 minutes.

## Easton Fauna - Footprints in the snow

Charles Nixon

On waking and going out into the snow first thing in the morning it is intriguing to see how many tracks have already been made by birds and animals. Quite often there are mysterious marks and odd tracks so I thought it would be useful to identify some of the tracks you may find.



## Church Services

**Sunday 8 January** 09:30 Easton. Parish Communion.

**Sunday 15 January** 09:30 Spaldwick. Parish Communion.

**Sunday 22 January** 09:30 Easton. Morning Worship.

**Sunday 29 January** 10:45 Easton. Parish Communion.

## 59 Club

**John Maith**

The winners of the 59 Club in October and November were Maureen O'Brien and Chris Charlton respectively. Sorry Chris, expect the begging letters. Congratulations to both winners. The next draw will be Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December so good luck to you all. This year's round will end with the January draw and a new round will commence with the February draw, so I will be doing the rounds in late January/early February and hope you will continue to support the 59 Club, with funds used for the upkeep of the church. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Best Wishes for the New Year 2023*

**Deadline for February's Newsletter is January 26<sup>th</sup>**