

Easton Village Newsletter

October 2025

Issue 240

Farmer Burton's Country Talk



Farming is the type of business which has to plan ahead, sometimes many years in advance. For those of us who took the decision to put some of our land into environmental stewardship, this has become very difficult recently thanks to this government.

For years there have been various forms of stewardship to cut down on 'wall to wall' crops and balance the need of the environment. The present scheme is called the Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI) and it pays farmers to adopt farming practices that benefit the environment, which are known as 'public goods'. These practices include improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity and combatting flooding. SFI has been put on hold at the moment which has left many farmers in limbo, unable to plan their businesses with no knowledge if there is a replacement scheme imminent. The promised announcement about SFI was due to have come over the Summer.

My environmental areas have been in place for 20 years and the wildlife has benefitted so much, including pollinators, invertebrates (bees, hover flies, moths, butterflies and beetles to name a few), wildlife (deer, song birds, small mammals, owls and even foxes). Only this week I was lucky enough to see a covey of 14 English Partridge, which are on the Red List of birds of conservation concern. We also have turtle doves, another bird on the list. If the government doesn't come through with a viable SFI

when our agreement matures then, I'm afraid, the plough will be put to work and this vital habitat will be lost.

Since the last newsletter we finished the Spring Barley which didn't yield too bad. The price on the grain market isn't too good, but if I'm lucky it might make a malting premium.

We have had a little rain since harvest which has allowed us to get the fields cultivated, power harrowed and are now down to a lovely seedbed. Hopefully some weeds will now germinate so that I can spray them off before drilling the wheat in mid-October.

James has been busy hedge trimming and doing a very fine job of it. I don't think he realised quite how many miles of hedge we had on the farm!!

Rural crime is on the increase with farm machinery being targeted, please keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

MAGPAS Fundraising Afternoon Tea July 2025

Kathy Yates

An Afternoon Tea with prosecco was held at Belmont in July and raised £270.00 for MAGPAS, the air ambulance service based at



Alconbury. The weather was not kind to us and it poured with rain all morning which meant we abandoned our plans to eat on the lawn and moved indoors. Despite the rain outside we managed to seat 50 people inside spread out through 4 downstairs rooms, so no one got wet.

Lots of villagers helped on the day setting up all the tables, baking and clearing up afterwards. Hannah made a mountain of sandwiches and cakes. Special thanks to Nina, Ruth, Maureen, Mark and Charlotte for their help in setting up tables, serving and clearing up. Angie, Vicky, Brian and Clive went above and beyond as always. Jayne made the wonderful scones.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and we hope that the inclement weather did not spoil anyone's enjoyment of the afternoon tea. MAGPAS was delighted with the donation.



Christian Aid Collection

Mike Baker

The total raised from the door-to-door Christian Aid collection this year was another record £457. Thanks are due to all the people in the village who gave so generously and to Peter Gould who did the majority of the collections with assistance from Charles Nixon.

Huntingdon Together Charity

Iris Brooker



The **Huntingdon Together Charity Shop** would be very grateful for donations of *good quality* items, including:

- * Clothes and shoes
- * Books
- * Bric-a-brac
- * Small electrical items

Huntingdon Together is a local charity making a difference in the community, while selling items at a low cost to those who need them. It is situated on Princes Street near the library. If you have any donations, they can be left with me at **Berrylands, Chapel Lane.**

Thank you for your support!

Church Services in October

Sunday 12th October

Easton 9.30 am

Parish Communion

For more local services go to the following website

<https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services>

Sunday 26th October

Easton 9.30 am

Morning Worship

AND FINALLY.....



If you got caught up in traffic on the westbound carriage way of the A14 on Thursday 25th September, it was due to a lorry of straw catching fire between Catworth and Keyston. It took around 30 members of the fire

brigade and 20 hours to clear the road with delays of up to 90 minutes. Once again diversions through villages were put in place, but Easton did escape this time.

-Next Coffee Morning is Monday 6th October

-Anyone needing a chimney sweep as winter creeps nearer - Sweeping Tom Ltd comes highly recommended and is local.

Deadline for next Newsletter is October 24th