

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 81

June 2011

## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

Richard Burton

They say that farmers are always complaining about the weather: well I'm complaining now for the lack of rain we have had! I have recorded only 6mm of rain since the end of Feb and normally we would expect over 100mm in this period!! This is affecting every type of farming; it could cut my wheat harvest by 50% or more and on livestock farms the grass is not re-growing as quick as it is being eaten! There will be little hay made and the wheat and barley has not grown to any height, so straw will be very limited for animal feed. If we continue without some good downpours, bread prices in the shops will be affected. Last year I cut my lawn twice in one week in April (I hate grass cutting, so I remember it well!), but this year it has only been cut twice all season.

The areas of land that I intend to set as wild bird seed are as dry as a bone and like concrete so I will wait for a forecast of a storm before I sow anything. The ground is getting some very large cracks in it now so be careful walking in the countryside as ankles can be broken, and with cracks over 3 inches wide, pheasant and partridge chicks can easily fall down with no chance of getting out. This is the worst drought for over 100 years in East Anglia so PLEASE Geoff P, do your special rain dance (you know the one, naked, in the churchyard under a full moon!!) but I will need it to stop before August as us farmers would like it dry for the harvest. I'm sure that even Claire's ducks would like a rain!

## SNAKES AND LADDERS?

Steve Thomason



An unusual visitor to our garage on the May Bank Holiday was a very young Grass Snake. For some reason, my wife did not quite share my excitement at the find! It was about 10 inches long, so will have been born last year - baby grass snakes hatch typically in September and come out of hibernation around March time. The young Grass Snakes are exactly the same as the adults and are best distinguished from the Adder by a black and yellow 'collar' just behind the head. They usually have an olive-coloured body and a yellow/cream underbelly. They will tend to frequent damp habitats - even garden ponds - early in the season, but as frogs and toads move away from the water later in the season, so do the Grass Snakes.

Not everyone will realise that both the Grass Snake and Adder are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. Under this Act it is illegal to intentionally kill, injure or sell Adders or Grass Snakes. We have both Adders and Grass Snakes in this area and so if you see a snake, it is best to leave them alone. A Grass Snake is not dangerous and will not usually bite, and even an Adder will prefer to slither off out of danger rather than be aggressive.

## SERVICES IN JUNE

Most services continue in the normal pattern but please note that we shall be celebrating St. Peter's Day on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June with a special service and celebration tea. We share our Patronal Festival with Alconbury, who will also be celebrating on 26<sup>th</sup> June with a 10 o'clock Eucharist, to which all are welcome.

5 <sup>th</sup> June	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
12 <sup>th</sup> June	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
19 <sup>th</sup> June	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
26 <sup>th</sup> June	-	3.00 p.m.	Patronal Festival Service followed by a Strawberry Tea





## FUND RAISING SUCCESSES

On 30<sup>th</sup> April a concert was held in Easton Church which was much enjoyed by all who attended and which raised £320 for the Community Project Fund. The Big Breakfasts continue at bi-monthly intervals and so far have raised the sum of £429.61 towards paying off our debt. As at 20<sup>th</sup> May, we still have £6062.53 outstanding so we still have quite a long way to go, but we are getting there. However, none of this could have been achieved without the enormous amount of help and enthusiasm shown by a willing band of helpers too numerous to mention individually and to whom we continue to be hugely grateful.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Thank you to those who supported the *Save the Children* collection so generously. Easton raised £142.35 which is a wonderful contribution to the Kimbolton Area collection. The SCF Committee has passed on their gratitude and with our support, the charity can continue to help children both here in the UK and around the world. Thank you again.

## 49 CLUB

The draw at the end of April was won by Melissa Nixon.

## GARDEN FETE



If you are looking for somewhere to take children on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, the St. Neots Cats Protection League is holding a Summer Fete at 108 Cambridge Street, St. Neots, PE19 1PN (look for the bunting!). Stalls will include a Kids Activity Area with a bouncy castle, face painting, dance troops, singers, refreshments, beauty treatments in the Purrfect Pamper Area and many others. Admission is by cat food or a donation!



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2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.30 am.	Sunday Worship
12 <sup>th</sup> June	6.00 am.	Evening
15 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am.	Eucharist
16 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am.	Patronal Festival Service, followed by a Strawberry Tea