

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 86

October 2011

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



What a summer, or lack of summer, it has been! I can count the number of times I've cut the lawn on one hand and we bought a new BBQ that's still in its box! Last time I wrote, I was just about to start harvest and with the help of Geoff's yellow swimming trunks, the weather held for us to get harvest in. I gained some extra help this year from my son James, who is a mean combine driver, leaving me the job of corn carting!

Harvest was down as expected by about 25% and our milling wheat will not make top grade bread which will mean another loss, but we are lucky compared to farmers on light land. In some parts of Norfolk wheat yields were down 40% and some spring crops so poor they weren't worth combining. For only the second time I am growing Oilseed Rape on the farm; this is a difficult crop to establish as pigeons love it, so James could be busy and with a bit of luck, we might get some pigeon pie!

In the last week I have been busy drilling (sowing) wheat for next year's harvest. It is always difficult to know when to drill; too early and we get no rain to germinate it or too late and it may be too wet to get on the land. Wheat takes ten months from drilling to harvest, which many people do not realise.

I have been very pleased with our wild bird cover, which was put in late because of lack of rain but looks really well and will provide food for flocks of small birds over the winter. In the last year we have seen an increase in wildlife on the farm, with coveys of English and French partridge, lapwings and flocks of small birds, which we put down to our Higher Level land stewardship.

But, as of now, we want rain. The land is very dry and ponds on the farm are parched and one friend who has a duck-shooting pond said that unless we get some rain soon there will be no duck-shooting this winter (that will please Claire!).

PAPWORTH HOSPITAL

The collection at the funeral for Ivan Yates amounted to £905 and this has been donated to the Critical Care Unit at Papworth, which tried so hard to save him. This sum is greatly appreciated by the Yates family and by the Hospital. Thank you.

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

2 nd October	- 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship	9 th October	- 6.00 p.m. Evensong
16 th October	- 9.30 a.m. Eucharist	23 rd October	- 6.00 p.m. Eucharist
30 th October (All Saints)	- Everyone is invited to the Patronal Festival Eucharist at Ellington at 11.00 am		

COMMUNITY ROOM BOOKINGS

Please note that with immediate effect, all bookings for use of the meeting room or community space in the church should be made with Jenny Hyde – telephone number 891454. Anyone may apply to use the facilities, whether an individual or an organisation.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor in Easton. Parish councils have limited powers but do have a vital role to play in representing the views and interests of the local community. It has a statutory right to be consulted by other bodies, notably the County and District Councils, on issues affecting the village. In particular, it is advised of all planning applications that affect the parish. If you would like to be involved or would just like some further information on maintaining or improving any Parish facility, please contact the Chairman, Mike Baker (mike.baker@huntsdc.gov.uk) or the Clerk, Anthea Beer (clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk) before 6th October 2011.

C.H.C.T. RIDE & STRIDE

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way. The event took place on Saturday 10th September when, in spite of strong winds and a heavy shower, three cyclists from Easton cycled round to neighbouring churches. Thanks in particular to all our sponsors who helped them to raise £252. Half of this money comes back to the Fabric Fund of our Church and the rest goes towards the maintenance of other historic churches in Cambridgeshire.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Many thanks to everyone who generously brought produce and flowers, and to those who helped with Harvest Festival this year. We have received a letter of thanks from The Manor Cheshire Home for the gifts of produce which were taken to them the day after the service; they always appreciate our support which helps them with catering for the 21 residents and many staff at the home.