

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 89

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CONGRATULATIONS!



Although by now it is old news, we could not let the New Year pass without adding our warmest congratulations to Mike Baker, who received the award of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year Honours for his services to the Huntingdon community. Mike was also the only Huntingdonshire resident to be recognised in the 2012 New Year Honours! Easton residents will all be well aware of the huge amount of work that Mike does, both for the village and for its residents and on both an individual and collective basis, and we are all truly delighted that this has at last been recognised.

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

As I put pen to paper we have had a lovely afternoon of rain, which is needed because the water table is still very low, and I wonder what sort of year 2012 will be. If only we could forecast the weather it would make my life much easier! Last week we had our final farm shoot and this was our beaters' cock shoot, the shoot being held for the 'beaters' (our friends that have helped us to flush the pheasants out of the wild bird seed cover crops), or come as pickers-up (standing behind the guns with their Gundogs to make sure that no hit pheasants escape) at our shoots. We only shoot the male pheasant, partridge and vermin on this day and leave the hen pheasants for breeding. Only one cock pheasant is needed to every 7 hens (which Geoff P told me sounded about right to him!). If there

are too many cocks left after the shooting season, they will fight each other for their territory and harem of hens and can kill their rivals or get seriously hurt, so it is important to thin the number of cock birds left so we have strong, healthy breeding birds. The game season ends on February 1st but I will continue to feed them throughout the year to keep them strong and nourished through the breeding season ahead and, as a result, many wild songbirds will benefit. On the farm we are just about to increase the number of owl boxes. Over the past few years we have put up several around the farm and to my delight have been successful with many barn owls breeding. I love to see these owls at dusk when they are hunting. The barn owl has a distinctive heart shaped face, buff back and pure white under-body (in some parts it was known as the 'ghost owl'). The farm is an ideal site for these owls, with our grass margins providing a rich source of mice, voles and shrews for their young.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nina and John would like to thank friends and neighbours most sincerely for all their cards and condolences on the passing of Maisie. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who very kindly supported the family in the church and also by their generosity. We have so far collected over £300 for the Neo-natal Unit at King's College Hospital. We are very happy to say that Olivia is progressing well and is now putting on weight. Thank you all once again.

CHURCH NEWS

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on 22nd February and there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in Ellington Church at 7.00 pm. On Fridays during Lent there will be a Eucharist at 12 noon in different churches of our group, followed by frugal lunch. The first one on 24th February will be at Ellington. Services in Easton during February will be:

5 th February	-	Sunday Worship
12 th February	-	6.00 p.m. Evensong
19 th February	-	9.30 a.m. Eucharist
26 th February	-	6.00 p.m. Eucharist

DON'T FORGET!

The Quiz Night will take place on Saturday, 4th February at 7.30 p.m. in Spaldwick School. If you haven't already got your tickets you can try contacting Peter Gould or any member of the PCC. A fish-'n'-chip supper can be purchased on the night (or sausage or chicken) but please bring your own drinks and glasses.

DO YOU USE HP INK CARTRIDGES?

Due to having had to replace a faulty printer, we have two unused ink cartridges looking for a home. These are one each of HP350XL and HP351XL, retailing at around £24.00 each on Amazon. They are unboxed but in their original plastic wrapping and are available to anyone in return for a small donation to the Church funds. Contact Jenny or David on 891454.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in A.D. 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. As well as being the Patron Saint of lovers, he is also the Patron Saint of Bee Keepers (and 10 other causes, as well!)