



EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 93

June 2012

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

(written in mid-May!)



The last time I wrote we were desperate for rain and facing a hosepipe ban. Since then the heavens have opened and I have recorded over 6 inches of rain. Geoff thinks it's time I stopped my rain dance in the field as it is scaring the horses! The rain is very good for the crops and was a life-saver to them but I do worry for the ground-nesting birds, as many chicks will not survive the cold while being very wet. We have in the last couple of years had lapwings back on the farm, due to some of our fields being left fallow for nesting, as part of our Higher Level Countryside Stewardship. These birds, also known as Green Plovers or Peewits (an imitation of their display call) are on the RSPB red list, a high conservation priority, as a result of their decline of 50% in the last 25 years. I was lucky to see two chicks when field-walking last week, and they are

very difficult to see because of their camouflage. Other ground-nesting birds include the pheasant and the French and English partridge. I was asked the difference between these partridges: the English is our native bird and slightly smaller of the two. It is also known as the Grey Partridge because of its body colour but it has an orange face and chestnut tail. The French was introduced some 200 years ago and is larger and much louder, with red legs and black and white eye stripes, with strongly barred flank. Both birds are ground-lovers and never likely to be found in a pear tree!! When not nesting they can be found in groups called coveys.

At this time of year I have to increase my game-keeping to try and help these birds, as magpies and carrion crows will take their eggs and small chicks. Can I also ask dog owners to be aware that if these nesting birds are put off their nest by dogs they will not return to them, so **PLEASE** keep dogs under control at this time of year.

Let's hope summer is now here as I saw my first swallow today!

SERVICES DURING JUNE

3 rd June	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
10 th June	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
17 th June	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
24 th June	-	No service in Easton.	

✂ MAY MILLS 1933 - 2012

May died earlier this month and her memorial service was held in the church on May 23rd. She had been ill for many months and Ted and Ruth and Catherine had been looking after her at home for most of that time. She had lived in Easton since 1970 and was well known by almost everyone; we will miss her very much. She had three children, including Duncan who was tragically killed in 1977, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren, of whom the eldest - Lauren, aged 10 - read a poem at the memorial service. After the service May's ashes were placed alongside Duncan's. Over 90 people attended the service and were able to share memories of May afterwards over tea and refreshments. Donations in May's memory were given for the Easton Community Project. Our thoughts are with Ted and his family at this time.

EASTON BROADBAND CONNECTION

Andy Burton

You might have already seen in the local press that Cambridgeshire County Council is working with telecom suppliers to roll out faster broadband across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Council is asking householders and business owners to indicate demand by registering their interest in superfast broadband, *without obligation to subscribe*. This can be done very quickly at – <http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>. Better digital connectivity would benefit our



village for the future, so even if you are not directly affected by the poor service now, for the benefit of those who really need it please register your interest and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same.

49 CLUB - TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

PCC members will soon be inviting you to renew your membership for the new session which runs from July 2012 to June 2013. So far 10 of the twelve lucky winners have been called for this session and each month there is a 1 in 49 chance that you could be the winner! More seriously, the profit from the 49 club provides just over £300 each year for the maintenance of the church building.

49 CLUB

Peter Holmes was the lucky winner of the April draw.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE CHILDREN...

It has been great to see so many children out and about in the village recently – as the National Trust is currently stressing, fresh air, exercise and memories that will last a lifetime all await you in the Great Outdoors! However, there are risks when playing in the ford and parents are probably already aware of them. When the ford is flooded, the water is at one depth across the road, but if children stray either side of the barriers they will quickly be in deep water. Also, after flash floods rat runs get flooded and there is then a small risk of contracting Weil's disease: the risk varies according to the size of the local rat population, which unfortunately is very hard to assess. With a little care, we hope to see the children continuing to enjoy getting wet and muddy, which is generally what they do best!

Motorists also need to be mindful of the number of young children who play, walk and cycle round the village and all drivers are asked to watch their speed as they travel round the village. Children also need to be reminded to pay attention to other road users when they are out and about. With the summer holidays approaching, this is likely to be even more important.

EASTON'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Ed Sloper



Well, it is nearly upon us - the Easton Jubilee Celebrations on June 2nd. I hope you all have tickets because we are just about sold out! Kathy's committee has done a tremendous job in organising the event, which starts at 2.30 p.m. with a BBQ and games. The Jubilee Concert starts at 6.00 p.m. and stars sixty-nine people in 26 acts - a remarkable showcase of talent from the village and its neighbours. Those who cannot attend do not have to miss the event, however. There will be a DVD produced with highlights (and lowlights!) of the show. Don't forget to bring a picnic table and chairs and a cushion for the evening performance! Those that wish to party on can stay for dancing to live

music and a Disco. See you all then.

