

Easton Village Newsletter

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Issue 102

April, 2013

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



Once again weather dominates this article. Since I last wrote, I have managed to get onto the land before the heavens opened again! In early February I sprayed the rape for disease and weeds after waiting all winter for the opportunity to do this and I applied phosphate to the rape and wheat to feed the roots and also spread on nitrogen (in granular form) to stimulate the leaves to hurry up and start growing after many months of inactivity. I have seen the odd field that farmers have sowed with spring crops (wheat, barley or rape) after their first chance to get back on the land since October or to re-sow a crop that has failed.

The Met Office has stated that unsettled weather is to continue for some time, with no sign of a spring in sight. March is set to be one of the coldest on record; this is a stark contrast to last March when much of the country was officially in a drought and it was 21 degrees! I have spent the day cutting wood for our wood burner, a job that I didn't think would still need to be done in March. All the crops look cold and very wet and, like many of us, could do with some warmth and sunshine.

Spare a thought for the sheep farmers who are well into lambing: lambs can survive cold weather but not cold **and** very wet. Dairy farmers are struggling with lack of money for their product and the very worrying increase in cases of TB. More than 38,000 cows have been compulsorily slaughtered because of TB. In 2012, these startling figures, released by DEFRA, show a 10% increase on 2011. Peter Kendall, National Farmers Union President, said that TB is a big threat to beef and dairy farmers. TB eradication plans demand very tight cattle control and bio-security but these alone do not look enough to help these farmers.

In Wales they have started a vaccination programme for badgers, but this has proved a massive failure. The badgers are trapped with food but it's difficult to tell if the caught animal has TB and it seems that they keep catching the same badgers as they become used to easy lunch! The Government has announced that it will run 2 trial culls this Summer, in Somerset and Gloucester, two 'hotspots' for TB, and will review other areas after this. A vaccine for cattle is still a decade away, so they must do something for the farmers and at this time, a cull seems the only answer.

Since starting this article, we have had 3-4 inches of snow! I am now off to see if Brian's 500 pigeons have returned to my rape field and brought their friends!

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND APRIL

Reminder of Holy Week services:

28 th March	-	7.00 p.m.	Maunder Thursday Eucharist at Spaldwick
29 th March	-	8.00 a.m.	Good Friday service
31 st March	-	9.30 a.m.	Easter Eucharist. (N.B. Clocks go forward)
7 th April	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
14 th April	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
21 st April	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Eucharist



The Church will be open as usual on Saturday 30th March and any gifts of flowers or arrangements to decorate the church for Easter will be very welcome.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th April at 8.00 p.m. in the Church. This is an open meeting when all are welcome. Those on the new church electoral roll are eligible to vote in elections to the parochial church council (P.C.C.) and they may also raise any questions of general church interest.

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EASTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Easton Parish Council will take place in the Church on Thursday, 18th April 2013 at 8.00 p.m. This is an open meeting when residents may raise any questions for discussion with their Councillors and at which they may address the meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday, 22nd May 2013.

EKC (EASTON KIDS' COUNCIL)



Those of you who went to the Halloween Bonfire in Easton last year may remember that the EKC were selling home-made cakes and they succeeded in raising over £60. They are planning on spending some of this on Easter eggs for a village Easter egg hunt, open to children between the ages of 4 and 16. As this newsletter "goes to press" the date of this has not yet been finalised and is very much subject to the weather, but it is hoped that it may take place during the afternoon of Easter Saturday. The EKC are intending to leaflet homes with children giving exact details nearer the time. At present the members of the EKC are aged from 5 years to 11 years. They are also the only village organisation with a website (ekc-easton.simplesite.com), so if the Church or Parish Council want some help, the EKC is obviously the place to ask!

FREE HORSE MANURE



As this is written, we are well into the second half of March and sadly we've still barely had a day without rain recently. However, Easter will soon be here and it is often the trigger for people to start thinking of all the jobs we need to do in the garden. At this time each year we offer free well-composted horse manure from Springfield in Chapel Lane, so weather permitting, we will be able to offer any amount of manure from the drive of Springfield during each Saturday and Sunday in April starting from Easter weekend. Please bring a wheelbarrow and fill up. We will gladly offer to help load if needed. Alternatively, if you have plastic bags you would like to use, we can fill them for you, and you can pick them up later. You know your roses will love you for it!



Monday Thursday Eucharist at Spaldwick
N.A. (Clocks go forward)



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20 th March	8.00
22 nd March	8.30
7 th April	8.30
14 th April	8.00
21 st April	9.30

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