

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 110

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FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



This time of year I can often be found in the farm workshop doing maintenance to the farm machinery, which has to work hard for me over the year or, on a really cold day, in the farm office doing paperwork (and there is lots of it!) with the heater full blast. I have just had to catch our farm cat (not an easy task) as she has been attacked by ticks. These horrible little arachnids or 8-legged spineless creatures attach themselves on to the skin of mammals and feed on the host blood. Ticks thrive in woodland, tall grass and by water. They are especially a problem in the Spring and Autumn and can cause the pet discomfort. They can transmit a number of diseases, so please keep an eye on your pets and yourself. Last Wednesday we had a small farm shoot which was a successful day. The bag was 56, with 48 pheasants, 2 partridge (of which one was French and the other English), 2 woodcock, 2 pigeons and 2 rabbits (one of which was pink!). The first drive of the day saw flocks of finches fly from the game bird cover crop and several hen pheasants broke out early, left for another day. We also saw a good increase in number of partridges on the farm but very few went anywhere near the guns. Though we had rain, hail and strong winds in the morning, the sun shone in the afternoon to dry us all off, before heading

home.

I often enter farming competitions and never win but a friend suggested I enter the Farmers Weekly 'Britain's Sexiest Farmer' competition - they obviously hadn't seen my knees in the summer!!

As Christmas approaches I would like to wish you all a wonderful time and urge you to buy British wherever possible to give us all a 2014 to look forward to.

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

1 st December	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
8 th December	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
15 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
22 nd December	-	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
25 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Eucharist
29 th December	-	11.00 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist at Ellington



HELP AT CHRISTMAS?

We should be most grateful for extra help with decorating the church ready for the Carol Service on Sunday, 22nd December at 6 p.m. and for Christmas. Any offers of greenery, holly or Christmas arrangements would also be most welcome.

CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE (BROADBAND UPDATE)

Steve Thomason

The *Connecting Cambridgeshire* and *Openreach* teams are busy preparing the broadband roll-out before the end of the year as planned. Communities are starting to see new green street cabinets being placed alongside roads and pathways ready to be linked to the new fibre network. The new cabinets also need to be connected to power and linked up with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) before they can go live. One of the local broadband Champions, Mark Heath, is also keeping a photographic record of installation work around our area on his website so people can see the variety of work going on by the *Openreach* engineers. From the photos uploaded to the site, work is already in progress in Spaldwick and Grafham, and we have started activity in Easton in the last few weeks. The link to the photographs is: <http://www.markheathphotography.com/Galleries/Cambridgeshire-broadband>. Broadband speeds on the existing infrastructure will not automatically increase with the fibre upgrade, so residents and businesses will need to contact their existing or a new provider to discuss options for improved broadband services once it is available. Cambridgeshire is predicted to have one of the highest levels of Superfast broadband coverage for rural counties across the whole country by the end of 2015.

ANNEXE AT 3 BROADWEIR

Now that Pete Digby has moved to a larger property in Spaldwick, our Annexe at 3A Broadweir is now vacant. It consists of a large double bedroom, large lounge, kitchen, bathroom/shower room and conservatory. It is available for rent and would suit an elderly relative or younger single person. It is totally self-contained and can be rented either furnished or unfurnished. If you know of anybody who may be interested please ask them to contact John and Nina on 896444.

I had a visit from an *Openreach* engineer recently and when visiting customer premises they use the following website to check broadband speeds: <http://www.speedtest.bbmax.co.uk/>. There are many different ways of checking your speed but this is one of the simplest sites I've seen. I picked up another helpful tip from the engineer regarding extension cables. I had a telephone extension cable to my router of about 25ft. Re-siting the router close to the phone socket to remove the need for the extension made a difference of about 300Mb to the speed that was received which bearing in mind our current speeds, is a big benefit! So if you use any long extensions, try the speed test website above, with and without the extension in place.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

The Fire Service is currently carrying out a free survey of properties in our area to give advice on fire safety. If your smoke detector is not considered adequate, they will fit a new one with 10-year battery life free of charge. For more information call Huntingdon Fire Station on 01480-445813.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE

We look forward to receiving our monthly emailed Easton newsletter and particularly enjoy everyone's nature and wildlife contributions. We thought you might like to share a picture of some Canadian wildlife (you will need sharp eyes or possibly a magnifying glass!): the first shows three bears which we spotted while on vacation in the Canadian Rockies! It was very hot in the mountains the week we were there (over 30°C) and the bears had come down to the river for an early morning dip to keep cool. We are currently living on the shore of Lake Ontario, west of Toronto, near the Humber Bay Islands - a wildlife conservation area made with the landfill from lakeshore building sites. Locally, we've spotted thousands of Canada geese (!) a family of red-necked grebes, turtles, a groundhog, black squirrels, Monarch butterflies, red cardinals and a stuffed-toy dog chained to a flagpole to deter coyotes!

Rona Graham

At the building site where Alasdair is working, there is a problem with visiting raccoons, which are trapped and then apparently driven north and released into some remote woods.



BROADWEIR BRAINTEASER No.4

Each question below contains the initials of words that will make it correct. Example: 7 = D in a W - Answer - 7 Days in a Week. Find the missing words that apply to the number.

1	26	=	L of the A
2	7	=	W of the A W
3	1001	=	A N
4	12	=	S of the Z
5	54	=	C in a D (with the 2 J)
6	9	=	P in the S S
7	88	=	P K
8	13	=	S on the A F
9	32	=	D F at which W F
10	18	=	H on a G C
11	90	=	D in a R A
12	200	=	P for P G in M
13	76	=	T L the B P
14	3	=	B M (S H T R)
15	4	=	Q in a G
16	24	=	H in a D
17	1	=	W on a U
18	3600	=	S in an H
19	57	=	H V
20	11	=	P in a C T
21	1000	=	W that a P is W
22	29	=	D in F in a L Y
23	64	=	S on a C B
24	40	=	Is XL in R N
25	36	=	N on a R W excluding Z

O come, all ye faithful Recyclers

The countdown to Christmas has started, and Huntingdonshire District Council would like to encourage you all to keep the party going by remembering to recycle over the festive period. We are recycling more at home than ever before, which is great, and we don't want it to be forgotten about during the festivities. Christmas is a time for entertaining, which means we all have more waste to dispose of. In Huntingdonshire, we are fortunate to be able to recycle a wide range of materials within the blue bins or clear sacks, which helps us all to recycle more this Christmas.

Remember to recycle all of your Christmas cards, wrapping paper (paper type only), sweet tins, and the plastic packaging from your gifts within your recycling bin. Don't forget that all food waste, including your turkey carcass, vegetable peelings and any leftovers can be placed in your garden waste bin for composting.

Collections of all waste types will continue throughout the festive period, but your day of collection will change for a few weeks. Collection arrangements are below and you can also download your collection calendar from www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins.

The collection due on:

Will take place on:

Friday 27 Dec

Monday 30 Dec

Friday 3 Jan

Monday 6 Jan