

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 114

April, 2014

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



What a treat it is to see some sunshine. I even managed to cut my grass which is sure to make it snow next week! The recent dry spell has allowed me to do some land work. I have been catching up with spraying the wheat with fungicide when calm and managed to apply, or 'top dress', some nitrogen fertilizer to the wheat crop. This is slightly earlier than normal because it needs rain to dissolve it (so that it is available to the roots) and I am concerned that it may be a dry spring. This is because we tend to get the same annual rainfall each year even if we have a wet winter so, because it tends to even itself out over the year, the likelihood of being drier later is higher.

Today I did some busting on fallow land where I hope lapwing (Peewits to some people) will come and nest. This way of loosening the soil leaves it semi-cultivated and ideal to help camouflage the eggs and chicks from predators, as these are a great favourite of magpies and carrion crows.

I spend a lot of time keeping up with rules and regulations on farming which seem to change (mostly from Europe!) just for something to do. One new rule is that arable farms of more than 30 Ha (75 acres) must grow at least 3 crops, even if you only have one barn to store it in! This will affect this autumn's sowing as the rule starts on January 1st 2015 and will change how the countryside looks. Many farmers are worried that they will have to change from growing their best crops to less profitable ones, which could really hit family farms. Please support British farmers where you can. Hovis has committed to 100% British wheat and will show the Union flag on its products. Rural crime is on the increase with many farms being targeted for fuel and expensive equipment, with tractors being stolen from the Eastern Counties. I know Easton is a brilliant village for neighbours keeping an eye on anything unusual, which is all really appreciated.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHIMNEY-SWEEPING!

If you are thinking about spring-cleaning, don't forget to have your chimney swept. The sweep will be in the village on **Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th May** this year. If you would like him to call, please let Jenny Hyde know (tel: 891454 – email: j.hyde2@btinternet.com) by **Tuesday, 22nd April** at the latest. The cost this year will be £35.



CHURCH SERVICES DURING APRIL

<p>Sunday April 6th - Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)</p> <p>08.00 KIM Holy Communion (BCP)</p> <p>09.30 COV Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>09.30 SPA Morning Worship</p> <p>09.30 EAS Morning Worship</p> <p>10.45 KIM Family Service</p> <p>11.00 BAR Eucharist (CW1)</p>	<p>Sunday April 13th - Palm Sunday</p> <p>08.00 KIM Holy Communion (BCP)</p> <p>09.30 TIL Family Service</p> <p>09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>10.45 KIM Palm Sunday Service (starts on Castle Green)</p> <p>10.45 EAS Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>15.00 STO Evensong (BCP)</p>
<p>Wednesday April 16th - Wednesday in Holy Week</p> <p>10.30 KIM Holy Communion (BCP)</p> <p>19.30 TIL Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>Friday April 18th - Good Friday</p> <p>10.00 TIL Ecumenical service</p> <p>10.00 KIM Children's workshop</p> <p>12.00 KIM Act of Witness (Castle Green & church)</p> <p>19.30 EAS Proclamation of the Cross</p>
<p>Thursday April 17th - Maundy Thursday</p> <p>19.30 KIM Maundy Eucharist and Watch</p>	<p>Saturday April 19th - Holy Saturday</p> <p>23.30 STO Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter</p>
<p>Sunday April 20th - EASTER DAY</p> <p>09.30 COV Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>09.30 TIL Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>10.45 KIM Family Communion (CW1)</p> <p>11.00 BAR Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>18.00 EAS Eucharist (CW1)</p>	<p>Sunday April 27th - Easter 2</p> <p>09.30 TIL Parish Communion (CW1)</p> <p>09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)</p> <p>10.45 KIM Parish Communion (CW1)</p> <p>15.00 STO Holy Communion (BCP)</p> <p>15.00 KIM Evensong (BCP)</p>

Note: KIM = Kimbolton; COV = Covington; EAS = Easton; SPA = Spaldwick; STO = Stow Longa; TIL = Tilbrook.

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting is due to be held on Thursday, 3rd April 2014 at 8.00pm in St Peter's Church, Easton. This is the open meeting for the village. PCSO Anna Holder has agreed to attend this meeting and reports of the various village committees will be presented.

EASTON PLAYING FIELD



After a very long period in the planning, there has finally been activity in the Easton playing field following agreement to purchase new equipment, and helped by a decent break in the weather we'd been having until recently. The new equipment was able to be purchased following several successful grant submissions last year.

The 14th March saw the old slide (that had broken a long time ago) finally lifted out and removed to make room for a new larger slide and a seesaw, both purchased from Fenland Leisure. Following this, a larger area was dug out by Grafham builder, Jim Foster (who did not charge for his time) which took account of the current safety legislation required for the additional items. Fenland Leisure

installed the slide and seesaw, and on the 23rd March the Parish Council (ably assisted by several other helpful souls, who answered the call to arms) finished the work and spread several pallet loads of bark over the larger area of the playground.

The Parish Council have managed a lot of the work themselves (with the assistance of Richard's and Michael Picton's machinery!), which has enabled the work to be completed at a significantly lower cost than would otherwise have been the case. All that is left is to re-site the small swing in the nearby grass, and to spread a little more bark when a couple more pallets are delivered shortly. A big thank you to all the others in the village who assisted with this work over the last couple of weeks.



SNOW WHITE MEETS THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Pantomime, according to the dictionary, is a theatrical entertainment, mainly for children, which involves music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy and is based on a fairy tale or nursery story. *Melodramatics'* performance of "Snow White" fulfilled all these criteria admirably, giving a slick performance with remarkably professional singing and dancing, and in which the performers admirably conveyed to the audience their own enthusiasm. All the music was well-chosen with a wide appeal: one of the highlights was undoubtedly the duet "Anything you can do, I can do better" performed by "Dame" Nanny Oakley and Silly Billy the Kid, where Silly Billy easily sang higher than Nanny – unsurprising given the nature of the roles but enhanced by Nanny pointing out the singular unfairness of it! It would be invidious to try to single out anyone for particular commendation, although congratulations are especially due to the producer, whilst the experience of Richard Binks, Lesley Bowring and Wolfie Hammerbacker did shine through. An excellent evening's entertainment.

The Church as Your Venue

Did you know that the church and meeting room can be hired for private occasions by residents of Easton?

The cost is very reasonable and the chairs and folding tables can be hired separately.

Contact Malcolm Halliday to make your booking at Ford Cottage, Chapel Lane, Easton.

Tel: 890125 or e-mail

malcolm.halliday@virgin.net

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please could all contributors note that owing to holidays, the May newsletter will have a copy deadline of **Monday 21st April 2014**. Anything after that date will have to be held over until the June edition.