

# Easton Village Newsletter

159  
Issue 148

2018  
February 2017

## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

**January 2018:** Will my dreams for 2018 come true? Rain when I sow my Spring crops followed by sunshine, no blackgrass on the farm, a dry harvest and a good price for what I grow! Then I wake up and realise I have to put up with bad weather, weeds, disease, pests and politicians (I'm not sure which is the worse)! We are growing just Spring Barley on the farm this year, giving me a bigger window to control the blackgrass on the farm. This crop will be set in mid to late March if the conditions are OK. It will grow rapidly and will be ready for harvesting by early August.



Poultry farmers are on high alert again as they have been ordered to step up biosecurity following the discovery of more wild birds killed by Avian Flu. DEFRA confirmed 13 dead birds in Warwickshire and 17 dead swans in Dorset. DEFRA's chief vet has said that whether you keep just a few hens or thousands, you have a legal requirement to meet enhanced biosecurity.



Hare-coursing is the pursuit of hares with greyhounds or lurchers, which chase hares by sight and not smell, and it has been illegal in England since 2005. There is an increasing problem in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire of illegal hare coursing by unsavoury characters in large gangs and in November 2017 Lincolnshire Police recorded 300 incidents of coursing in that month alone. They travel many miles, at any time of the day, to bet on whose dog will kill a chased hare first, with large amounts of money changing hands. They have no respect for property and follow the dogs over the

fields in 4x4s. When challenged, they have threatened to use violence, burn down farmer's homes and buildings and often carry firearms! Accidents have happened as they drive at speed on country roads and Cambridge Police have now set up a Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) to deal with rural crime and coursing.

I was looking forward to a day out last Thursday at a farming event at Peterborough Show Ground called LAMMA. This event showcases all the new farming equipment and has farmers travelling from all over the UK, but unfortunately after a night of winds up to 80mph, LAMMA was cancelled when the damage to the marquees made the showground unsafe. I hope to get there next year as it moves to the NEC (which should be slightly warmer than the Showground in January!)

## BUS SERVICE

If you have ever wondered, the Bus service from the village each weekday is excellent. For the last year, I have been semi-retired and have used the bus to go into and return from Huntingdon. The driver, Dave (ex-Grenadier Guards), is a character and brings a personal touch to the whole process, welcoming passengers individually and by name. The journey from Huntingdon takes 18 minutes and is at 2 o'clock every weekday. The outbound journey takes 40 minutes (though timetabled at 50 minutes) and is a very pleasant ride through Spaldwick, Stow Longa, Kimbolton and into Huntingdon via Perry and Ellington. The cost is £2.60 one-way and drops off at Hinchingbooke, and the railway station before terminating at the bus station. The bus leaves Easton at 10:58 each day and you can reliably get the 12 noon London train as I had done on many occasions.

Charles Nixon

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

<b>Sunday 4th February (2 before Lent)</b> 09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 09.30 SPA Morning Worship (Ms J Dighton) 10.45 KIM Candlemas Family Service (Rev S Bowring) 11.00 BAR Family Service (Mrs L Bowring) 15.00 STO Evensong (Rev S Bowring)	<b>Sunday 11th February (Sunday next before Lent)</b> 09.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs L Bowring) 09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 16.30 SPA Messy Church (Rev S Bowring)  <b>*Ash Wednesday (14th February)</b> 10.30 KIM Holy Communion with Ashing (Rev S Bowring) 19.30 TIL Holy Communion with Ashing (Rev S Bowring)
<b>Sunday 18th February (Lent I)</b> 09.30 COV Morning Worship (Mrs L Bowring) 09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson) 09.30 SPA Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Matins (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 EAS Evensong (Rev S Bowring)	<b>Sunday 25th February (Lent II)</b> 09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr M Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster) 15.00 KIM Evensong (Rev S Bowring) 17.00 SPA Prayer & Praise (Rev S Bowring)

## EASTON PCC QUIZ REMINDER

The organisers would be very grateful for any donations of raffle prizes for the Quiz which is being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. These can be brought on the night, or taken beforehand to Stephanie Silcock at Crown Cottage. Very many thanks.

## IT'S BEHIND YOU.....!

Well, it will be if you don't remember to buy your tickets for this year's Melodramatics Panto, which is *Robin Hood*. Bad Prince John, who wants to be king, and his sidekick the Sheriff of Nottingham, hatch a cunning plan to get rid of Robin Hood, arrange the demise of King Richard and fulfil their evil desires. Sadly, this will be your last opportunity to see our Vicar's wife in panto. It will run at the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February until Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. For tickets, go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/melodramaticspanto](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/melodramaticspanto) or phone the Box Office on 07432-714122.



## EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 in St Peter's Church, Easton.

The Parish Council have also been asked by the NHS to make us all aware of how to keep well this winter! They say that winter weather can be seriously bad for our health. Being cold can aggravate existing conditions and raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. However, there are lots of things we can do to stay well this winter. They recommend:

- Get expert advice from your pharmacist
- Make sure you get your free flu jab
- Stock up your medicine cabinet
- Keep warm!



**Deadline for the March Village Newsletter will be 24<sup>th</sup> February**