

Easton Village Newsletter

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Issue 154

August 2018

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

All farmers are feeling the heat in this very dry Summer. My lawn is scorched and has turned brown when it should be luscious green. This also represents bad news for livestock farmers as there is no regrowth in the grazing fields and farmers are already starting to dip into their fodder (hay and haylage) supplies which were saved up for the Winter. East Anglian carrot growers are expecting their lowest yields as the land is so hard and potatoes will be very expensive to buy as they have had to be irrigated.



On a 'brighter' note, we have had a first cut of our Countryside Stewardship 2-year legume option, which was lovely and easy to make. When you cut for hay, you need at least 5 good sunny days to dry out the grass and during this time you turn and 'throw out' the hay until it all has a low enough moisture content. We then round-bale it and it will keep in good condition when stacked in the shed. Originally, this was done by hand: the loose hay would be taken on horse-drawn carts to the farmyard where it was unloaded into large stacks which were then thatched with straw when complete, to keep out the rain. My Dad has recently turned 80 and recalls all this at Lodge Farm; we had 4 shire horses up until the mid 50's and bought our first wheeled tractor in 1942, a John Deere BN, from Ibbetts at Great Paxton. It wasn't until the 50's that the first small-bale balers were being used.

Our Spring barley has not had a drink since early June and we will not know the effects on the yield until our combine get rolling. Farmers who are combining oilseed rape are having to deal with the unusual phenomenon of trying not to combine when the seeds are too dry, as the crushers will reject it when delivered to the mill. In this situation, farmers are having to combine at night to retain a little of the dew and it also helps to stop the pods splitting open and shailing seed on the ground. We are not the only country to be struggling with the weather. Bloomberg reports that the blistering heat wave is ruining this year's European harvest; Germany has had temperatures exceeding 30 degrees in much of May and June; Poland has also been affected badly, while France has been drenched and had no sun to grow the crops! This weather brings the risk of wildfires so please enjoy the countryside but be really careful with BBQs and cigarettes. Sky lanterns are also a real danger over dry land and one of the most stupid fads for farming and livestock that I have ever

encountered! I have been doing a rain dance over the last month (that was probably the reason I've been laid up with a bad back for a few weeks) with no effect, but when I want it dry to combine in a few weeks, it will probably pour down!!

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST

<p>Sunday 5th August – Trinity 10 9.30 COV Parish Communion (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson) 9.30 SPA Morning Worship (Mrs. J. Dighton) 10.45 KIM Family Service – the Ice Cream Service! 15.00 BAR Outdoor Service 18.00 STO Evensong (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson)</p>	<p>Sunday 12th August – Trinity 11 9.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs. P. Swinden) 9.30 EAS Parish Communion (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson) 10.45 KIM Family Communion (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson)</p>
<p>Sunday 19th August – Trinity 12 9.30 COV BCP Communion (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson) 9.30 SPA Parish Communion (Revd. R. Lancaster) 10.45 KIM Matins (Revd. R. Lancaster) 15.00 KIM Mossy Church (Lay Leader)</p>	<p>Sunday 26th August – Trinity 13 9.30 TIL Parish Communion (Revd. R. Lancaster) 9.30 EAS Morning worship (Mr. M. Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Revd. R. Lancaster) 18.00 KIM Evensong (Revd. Dr. J. Rawlinson)</p>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12th August 2018 - Afternoon Tea



Please join us for a home-made full Afternoon Tea in the garden at Belmont between 3.00 and 5.00 p.m. There will be a selection of home-made sandwiches, cakes and scones with clotted cream and jam washed down with tea, coffee and/or soft drinks. Glasses of Prosecco will be available at extra cost. In the event of rain, we will move undercover or indoors. All proceeds from this event will be divided between 3 charitable causes being Addenbrookes Children's Cancer Ward, Lymphoma Research and Myotonic Dystrophy Research. These causes are close to the hearts of several families in our village who have had reason to need their services. If you cannot attend the Afternoon Tea please consider donating the cost of a ticket. Many thanks.

Tickets cost £7.50 each, half price for primary school age children and are available from Kathy Yates, John Hill, Nina Wilson and Angie Smith. To reserve tickets please email Kathy at ivan_kathy@hotmail.com or phone 07810 224545, contact John Hill and Nina Wilson on 01480 896444 or hjohnhill2@btinternet.com or Angie Smith on 01480 890808 or angiesmith@hotmail.com.

Saturday 18th August 2018 - Safari Supper with an Italian theme.



Tickets will be on sale soon and are limited to 50. The evening will commence with starters at Grange Croft followed by a main course at various houses in the village and will finish with desserts and coffee at the Church. Tickets will cost £17.00 each including all food and a glass of wine at each venue. Flyers for both events will be coming round soon.



Welcome to the Hargrave Music Festival

13th-16th September 2018

We are delighted to announce that this year's line-up will include music for – **Harp, Saxophone, Guitar & Cello**, as well as our ever-popular **Cabaret** night and a celebration of the music of legendary Broadway and big screen composer **Richard Rodgers**. Full details can be found at <http://www.hargravemusicfestival.com/> or telephone 01933-622028. Our 2018 *Come and Sing* event will be a performance of **Haydn's Nelson Mass**.

Deadline for the September Village Newsletter will be 24th August