

# EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 87

December 2011

## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



At this time of year it is normal to smell Christmas cakes cooking, not the smell of freshly mowed grass!! The mild weather and lack of rain is a real concern (yes, Geoff, us farmers are always complaining about the weather!). October is normally a wettish month but this year we hardly recorded any rain. This has affected wheat seed germination with fields looking 'patchy'. The rape was drilled (sowed) in mid August and got a soaking; it now looks well but I need to keep a close eye on all crops as this unseasonal mild weather can lead to disease and there are still aphids about which can cause problems later on.

We had our first shoot last week which went well. The bag (items that were shot) included pheasant, French partridge, rabbit, pigeon, and one fox. It was lovely to see an increase in both English and French partridge on the farm, which is due to our Higher Level Countryside Stewardship and our time spent controlling vermin (carrion crows, magpies etc). We also saw flocks of small birds such as the finches feeding in the wild bird covers.

Last week our neighbour saw 8 foxes cross the road together up the Stonely Road when driving late one night. It is very likely that these would have been dumped after being caught up in a town and then released into the countryside but many do not survive as they lack the necessary hunting skills. (I hope they stay away from Lodge Farm!!). December is a time when I catch up with the jobs put off all year, such as paperwork and farm machinery maintenance and with the ODD day out shooting, there is always something to be done on the farm.

## WINE TASTING

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Wine Tasting Event a success in October. The proceeds amounted to £338 including £70 from the raffle and this will go to reduce our debt on the Community Project.

## 49 CLUB

Congratulations to Terry Allum who was the lucky winner of the October draw, and to Barbara Wallis who was the November winner.

## EASTON MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES: Sunday 4 December, 12.00 - 2.00 pm in St Peter's Church

Don't forget this popular annual event! Tickets are now on sale and cost £5. This includes sausage rolls, mince pies and a glass of mulled wine or soft drink. Children half price - under 5s free. Donations for raffle prizes would be very welcome; please give them to any EFSC Member. The proceeds from the raffle will be for Papworth Hospital.

## POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

After a gap last year, the PCC will once again be running a Christmas card delivery service round the village. All you have to do is deliver all the Christmas cards for your friends within the village to "Avondale" in Chapel Lane, together with a minimum donation of 10p per card, by **16<sup>th</sup> December** at the latest. The members of the PCC will then deliver your cards to the individual houses over the following day or two. Proceeds of the delivery service will go to the Church Fabric Fund.

## THE CAROL SERVICE and CHRISTMAS

We should be most grateful for extra help with decorating the Church for the Carol Service and Christmas on the afternoon of **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 2 p.m.** Contributions of greenery, white flowers or Christmas arrangements would also be most gratefully received.

## CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

4 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship
11 <sup>th</sup> December	-	6.00 p.m. Evensong
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	-	<b>6.00 p.m. Carol Service by Candlelight</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9.30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist

Nearest Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve - Ellington at 11.30 p.m.  
There will be no service in Easton on New Year's Day.



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't forget that you will be able to chase away those winter blues with the Annual Quiz Night on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (details to follow). Make sure it goes in that new diary now!