



## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



We finished harvest on August 30<sup>th</sup>. This was about 3 weeks later than usual because of the cold Spring, but it is all now safely gathered in. What a relief, as it takes 11 months to grow and it only needs a heavy hail storm to ruin a crop. I am quite pleased as yields on both the wheat and rape were good but world prices are down compared to last year (so Jill, you don't need to get too excited!!).

As soon as harvest is over, the work begins to prepare the land for the next crop. One job that we needed to do after last year's very wet weather is to drain the fields and to get rid of any soil compaction on our heavy clay fields. I do this with a mole (not a live one!!) drainer. This is an implement that is pulled behind a tractor and it is made up of a leg (which cuts a slot through the soil to a depth of 2 feet) that has a bullet shaped foot that makes a 4-inch hole in the clay) and then behind the foot is pulled an expander that forces the hole larger by another inch. The clay at this depth is like plasticine and will

retain this mole channel for several years. The rain water will flow down to these mole drains and find its way to the ditch because if a field is water-logged, it will not grow a crop. Large farmers don't like this job as it is time-consuming, needs high horse power and is expensive.

Another job this time of year is hedge-trimming which I have been doing in Easton. I do this every 1-2 years to keep the hedges tidy, safer for pedestrians and drivers, and it helps to keep the hedge thick and livestock proof. When doing some land work last week, my tractor was being attacked by an aggressive cock pheasant which kept going for the front tyres on my 210 horse power, 8 ton tractor. Perhaps it was trying to get its own back before the shooting season gets under way! In the next 2 weeks we will start to drill (sow the wheat seeds) and hope for a nice rain afterwards to get the seed to germinate, but not TOO much this year!

## SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

6 <sup>th</sup> October	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
13 <sup>th</sup> October	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
20 <sup>th</sup> October	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
27 <sup>th</sup> October	-	No service in Easton. Nearest services: 9.30 a.m. Spaldwick/11.00 a.m. Ellington.	

## HARVEST THANKS

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated flowers, fruit and vegetables for the Harvest Festival Service; also to those who kindly helped to decorate the Church. The produce was later taken to the Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton where they are always most grateful for our support. At present they have 21 residents as well as a number of staff, so the kitchen is always busy!

## DOG-FOULING



Complaints have been made about the amount of dog-fouling in and around the village and dog-owners are reminded that they are obliged to clear up after their dogs, not just round the village but also up the footpaths. It takes much of the pleasure away from walking when you have to watch where you put every step and it doesn't take much to pick it up. Apart from anything else, it is the legal responsibility of the dog-owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any fouling left by their dog. If you fail to clean up after your dog you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1,000. It would be a shame if Easton's green lane gets like Spaldwick's track to the village, which is so bad with dog poo that residents don't walk there anymore.

## DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR?

Terry Allum has taken some photographs of a bird of prey (Sparrow hawk, possibly?) which he saw in the field behind his bungalow recently. After it flew away, a wood pigeon landed on an adjacent post and Terry thought he was getting ideas above his station!



# SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND INTER-VILLAGE QUIZ

After a lapse of very many years, Easton is again fielding a team to take part in the 27<sup>th</sup> Inter-Village Quiz in aid of Save the Children Fund, to be held in Kimbolton Castle on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October this year, at 7.30 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available for supporters from Jenny Hyde (891454) at £4 each. Please come and help uphold the honour of the village! It should be fun, and of course it is a very worthwhile cause.

## BROADWEIR BRAINTEASER NO.3

Just put the dates against the event in History and if you Google you are cheating!

YEAR		EVENT
1066	B OF H	Battle of Hastings
1349	BD	Black Death
1541	HVIIIICK	
1605	GP	Great Plague
1666	GFoL	Great Fire of London
1805	BoT	Battle of Trafalgar
1861	ACW	American Civil War
1896	FMOG	First Modern Olympic Games
1901	D of QV	Death Queen Victoria
1912	S of T	Sink Titanic
1918	E of FWW	End of First World War
1923	F WFAF	
1929	WSC	
1934	I of DT in B	
1941	JA on PH	Japan attack Pearl Harbor
1944	D-D	D-Day
1945	ABD on H	
1954	RA the C by BH & the C	
1956	SC	Suez
1959	FM in B	First motorway
1961	FMSF	
1962	D of MM	Death of Marilyn Monroe
1963	GTR	Great Train Robbery
1966	EWWC	
1969	FM on the M	First man on the moon
1972	SJB-PL	Sir John Betjeman Poet Laureate
1975	E of VW	Vietnam War
1977	VWWW at W	Virginia Wade wins women's singles at Wimbledon
1979	MT-PM	Margaret Thatcher
1981	M of PC and LDS	Marjorie P. Clarke - Lady Diana Spencer
1982	FW	
1989	F of BW	Fall of Berlin Wall
1994	TB-LPL	
1995	FGW60	
1997	D of PD	Death P. Dink
1998	GFA for NI	Good Friday agreement
2000	RWFOG	
2004	T in SA	
2005	ER the A	
2007	TBR as PM	
2011	JEAT	

All you have to do is put the major event next to the appropriate year. Answers next month (space permitting!)

Answer to last month's quiz: CHEST (No. 11).