

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 118

August, 2014

## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK



As I sit in my office writing this, I wonder if I have any crops left. We are in the middle of a thunderstorm with rain so heavy it's like stair-rods coming down. This is not what I need just a few days before harvest. The ear of wheat is at its heaviest now, full of grain inside an ear. It would only take some hail to knock this out or heavy rain to flatten the straw to ground level (like a steam roller has been let loose on the field!). When you have spent nearly a year growing this crop you don't want it flat on the ground as you lose quality and it is very difficult to lift it up enough to combine.

The farmer's big enemy this year is Black Grass which we get on heavy, clay soil and it has been a problem since farmers stopped straw burning in 1993. For those youngsters in the village, this was when farmers could cultivate around the outside of their fields after harvest and set fire to the straw/stubble to leave just a field of black ash (after quite a lot of smoke!). This ash was a supply of fertiliser for the following crop and the burn killed all of the black grass seed that was lying on top of the ground

and thus we did not have to use expensive chemicals (that now rarely work!).

Black grass was first found in 1982 and now 16,000 farms in 24 countries have a problem. It has become herbicide resistant and can be seen in wheat fields easily as a fine grass whose head is above the crop. It will grow up to 80cm tall and often in tufts. It is a major weed in cereal crops as it produces a large amount of seed which is shed before the crop is harvested. It will seriously reduce the crop yield and is so difficult to control and kill. There are research and trials going on throughout the country looking at how using stale seedbeds (preparing the land for sowing a crop and then spraying it off when it has greened up with grass and other weeds) and drilling Spring crops (such as Spring Barley, Rape and Beans) that use different chemicals can all help.

PS. I have just counted about 30 swallows flying in our garden and Jill tells me we have 5 spotted flycatchers: is this good, Brian?

### \*STOP PRESS FROM FARMER BURTON\*



While James and I were cleaning out the grain store ready for harvest yesterday (22 July) I heard a single scratching sound. We waited and heard it again from behind the grain walling, so we got a ladder, climbed up and looked down behind the 10ft high walling to see a young barn owl stuck at the bottom, gazing up at us. An emergency plan sprung into action!! I got my big angle grinder to cut a hole in the metal walling and James got a damp cloth to drop on the owl so that the sparks did not burn our patient's feathers. Five minutes later and our owl was lifted out and flew off (after biting on my fingers several times!). Today we are blanking off the top of the walling so it cannot happen again.



### CHURCH SERVICES DURING AUGUST

<p><b>Sunday August 3rd - Trinity 7</b>            08.00 KIM Holy Communion (BCP)            09.30 COV Eucharist (CW1)            09.30 SPA Morning Worship            09.30 EAS Morning Worship            10.45 KIM Family Service            11.00 BAR Family Service</p>	<p><b>Sunday August 10th - Trinity 8</b>            08.00 KIM Holy Communion (BCP)            09.30 TIL Family Service            09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)            10.45 KIM Matins (BCP)            10.45 EAS Eucharist (CW1)            18.00 STO Evensong (BCP)</p>
<p><b>Sunday August 17th - Trinity 9</b>            09.30 COV Matins (BCP)            09.30 SPA Family Service            10.45 KIM Family Communion (CW1)            18.00 EAS Evensong (BCP)</p>	<p><b>Sunday August 24th - Trinity 10</b>            09.30 TIL Eucharist (CW1)            09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)            10.45 KIM Parish Communion (CW1)            18.00 STO Communion (BCP)            18.00 KIM Evensong (BCP)</p>
<p><b>Friday August 29th</b>            20.00 COV Compline</p>	<p><b>Sunday August 31st - Trinity 11</b>            09.30 SPA Eucharist (CW1)            10.45 KIM Eucharist (CW1)</p>

**CHURCH CLEANING**

We are very fortunate to have lots of support from within the village to keep the churchyard looking tidy and the grass mown, with providing altar flowers on a regular basis and for lots of other jobs (painting, small DIY). We would very much appreciate volunteers to join the three people who between them keep the church cleaned the whole year through. Just doing it once or twice a year would very much help to spread the load. Please let a PCC member know if you can help.

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 6.00 p.m. All welcome.

**ANTHONY NOLAN TRUST**

As most people will know by now, Alan Johnson is planning to ride in The Prudential Ride London-Surrey event - a 100-mile cycle ride starting at the London Olympic site before following a loop through Surrey countryside and finishing on the Mall 100 miles later. The ride is not until 10<sup>th</sup> August so there is still time to help him reach his target of £1,600, either direct to Alan or via [www.virginmoneygiving.com/alanjohnson8](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/alanjohnson8). The Anthony Nolan Trust was set up in 1974 and was the world's first register to match donors with people in desperate need. Every day, they match incredible individuals willing to donate their blood stem cells or bone marrow to people with blood cancer and blood disorders who desperately need lifesaving transplants. They also conduct world-class research into stem cell matching and transplants, so they can make sure every person in need gets the best possible treatment. This event follows on from National Transplant Week, which took place in mid-July and is organised by NHS Blood & Transplant, and with at least 3 transplant recipients in our village, everyone is urged to consider signing up to the organ donor register. *Do something amazing today - Give Blood. Organ donation. The gift of life.*

**FAREWELL TO THE LEACH FAMILY**

It is not often that a family arrives in the village on a short lease and contributes quite so much to the community, but the Leach family are just such a one. After 3 years living in Easton, their departure back to their home in Texas was a huge wrench both for them and for us. During their stay in the village they made so many friends, with representatives of most of the village turning out to wave them off when they left on 3rd July. Their departure was not without incident as shortly after this photograph was taken, the taxi driver announced that he could not fit everything into his vehicle! Needless to say, our local representative of the "wonderful British Bobby" turned up trumps and the excess cases were soon loaded into Clare's car to follow them to Heathrow. The drama did not end there, however, as Randy ended up saving a man's life when a passenger fell unconscious on the flight and was seriously ill. Randy monitored him, gave him oxygen and got him through the last two hours of the journey until they landed. Courtney says they were truly meant to be on that flight as they

had originally been booked for the 2nd July. They had then tried to change it to the 4th, but that flight was fully booked. The Leach family have now spent two weeks visiting family and this weekend (18<sup>th</sup> July) they got the keys to their new home in Waxahachie, Texas. We wish them lots of luck with the renovations and their new life in Texas.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THIS YEAR'S CARERS AWAY DAY**

**Do you care for someone?** A carer is a person of any age – adult or child – who provides unpaid support to a partner, child, relative or friend, who could not manage to live independently, or whose health and wellbeing would deteriorate without this help. Those receiving this care may need help due to frailty, disability or a serious health condition, mental ill health or substance misuse.

Cambridgeshire's *Carers Away Day 2014* is being held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 10am to 4pm at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon. This free annual event provides carers with the opportunity to take part in informal discussion groups with expert speakers, relax, get creative and have fun by taking part in a range of afternoon activities, and to visit the marketplace of information and advice stands. Lunch and refreshments are provided. This is an opportunity to meet other carers and share your stories and experiences. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. To book your place at the *Carers Away Day 2014* contact the Carers Support Team on 01480 377616 or by emailing: [CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). For more information about the day visit [www.cambridgeshire.net](http://www.cambridgeshire.net). \*\*There may be support for carers to attend the event so please ask for any assistance you might need to enable you to come.

**"THE LAST DAY OF PEACE" FAMILY EVENT**

Cambridgeshire County Council is part of 'The Great War - Between the lines' project and they are holding a free commemorative event on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014, from 1-5pm in Hinchingbrooke House, Huntingdon. The event aims to raise awareness of this hugely important milestone in world history. "The Last Day of Peace" will include activities of interest to all ages. The event will be attended by the deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and will include re-enactors in costume to help bring alive the spirit of the Great War, as well as The Music Hall Society who will perform music of the period. Somersham Brass Band will also be playing music from the war years. The Combat Veteran Players will perform short extracts from Hamlet and selected Rupert Brooke readings. There will also be: Six exhibitions including photographs, documents and letters from Cambridgeshire, Belgium and France; Vignettes and reading of letters to and from the front; displays from St Neots Museum; Expert advice on family history from Cambridgeshire Archives. There will also be Vintage Cycles, a display of Shire Horses in the grounds and a veteran car. And of course light refreshments will be on sale.

**Copy deadline for the August newsletter is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August.**