

Easton Village Newsletter

January 2024

Issue 219

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Charles Nixon

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in the Christian calendar that marks the days between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi. The latter is also known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day and for some people marks the date to take down the Christmas decorations.

The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a cumulative song, meaning that each verse is built on top of the previous verses. There are other similar cumulative songs in France, Scotland and Scandinavia



THE
TWELVE DAYS
OF
CHRISTMAS.
Sung at King Pepin's Ball.



THE first day of Christmas,
My true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.

(pictured stamp) but with different lyrics. You will be familiar with this:

"On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me:

A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree. And so on.

The best-known English version was first printed in *Mirth without Mischief*, a children's book published in London around 1780.

Some of the gifts merit an explanation:

- 4 calling birds – "four colly birds" – colly being a regional English expression for coal-black and therefore blackbirds
- 5 gold rings – it has been suggested this refers to the ringed pheasant or to "five goldspinks", an old name for a goldfinch

Interestingly the gifts associated with the final four days are often reordered. For example, the pipers may be on the ninth day rather than the eleventh. The total number of gifts? Answer: 364 and according to the PNC (Pittsburgh National Corporation Annual Cost of Christmas Song Index) (who knew!) the cost of the Christmas gifts this year would be \$201,972.66! The cost of Turtle doves is up 25%!!

Coffee Cake & Chat

Vikki, Clare, Pam & Caroline



Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the coffee morning held on December 4th - it was great to see you all! We are very grateful for your kind donations which totalled £116.80 which Pam has added to the church fund coffers.

Our next coffee morning will take place on January 8th, this time with a Scottish theme - kilts optional!! There might not be space for a full ceilidh, but we hope as many of you as possible will join us for homemade cakes and biscuits!



Bins

Parish Council

On 31 March 2024 the existing HDC free garden bin service will come to an end and be replaced with a new fortnightly garden waste subscription service. The cost per year is £57.50 for one garden waste bin and £30 per additional bin (up to a maximum of 3 additional bins). Payment may be made by credit/debit card or by Direct Debit. DC is offering an 'early bird' subscription available from now until 31st January 2024 at the reduced price of £50 for the first bin (additional bins remain at £30 each). If paying for the service by Direct Debit the reduced price will be locked in for 3 years. The subscription runs from 1st April to 31st March Sign up to the garden waste service or ask for your bin to be removed Bins may also be shared with neighbours to reduce the cost. More information is available on the Huntingdonshire District Council website 'Bins & Waste'



Churchyard Tidy Up

A group of about 20 volunteers got together to weed, sweep leaves, trim shrubs and generally tidy the church yard. Coffee, tea, bacon sandwiches and chocolate biscuits were kindly provided by Peter and Alison.

Information Distribution

As your sometime **Town Crier**, I am sometimes asked to circulate notices about lost Cats, or forthcoming village events. This is always done by 'blind' emails and if you haven't received a reminder about Big Breakfasts from me, I may not be up to date with my circulation list. If you would like to be added please send me your email, with name and address to bdavisnk@btinternet.com

Brian Davis



Christmas Carols by Candlelight

A lovely atmospheric evening singing Christmas Carols by candlelight was enjoyed by many villagers in the Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Clive Wood gallantly stood in for the Vicar, who was unfortunately unwell and Phil Bell kept us all in tune with his singing and music

59 Club

The November winner of the 59 Club with number 49 was Sue and Andy Burton. Congratulations Sue and Andy. There are only two months left in the current round these being on the 30th December and the 27th January so early in the New year will be on my traverse of the village, collecting for the next round, which will start at the end of February. I do hope you will continue your support. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

John Maith

Church Services in January

Sunday 14th January Easton 9.30 Parish Communion
Sunday 28th January Easton 9.30 Family Service

For further information on Church Services please visit

<https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services/>

Rector: Rev Philip Howson Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

Phone -01480 869081

AND FINALLY.....

-Our new Fibre Broadband provider (County Broadband) had gone very quiet recently so following several emails asking for progress at Easton, they state; 'we are evaluating current build plans based some changes due to contractor capacity, we will be writing to confirm build delivery dates over the forthcoming weeks'. So unfortunately, no clear date for anything yet.

-There is a mobile Post Office every Tuesday between 13.15 -15.45 at Mandeville Hall (opposite Budgens) Kimbolton.

-The Parish Council has recently refurbished the Notice Board next to the village bus stop, which has a new backing board and clear polycarbonate front panel making it a lot easier to read the items posted.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2024