

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 12

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## NATURE IN EASTON 6



The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us now, with apples bending the moss'd cottage trees, and blackberries full of ripeness to the core along the Spaldwick track. A bevy of Pheasants strut around our lawn and male Tawny owls are already setting up their territories with their calls tuwit-tuwoo. Kestrels seem to have bred on the church spire again this year, despite mobbing by Jackdaws. But what happened to the Little owls that bred on the church last year? And where, I wonder, does the Sparrow-hawk nest? I saw it once as it passed like a fleeting shadow low over the lawn behind Ford Cottage last month, and another time as it darted over a hedge near the old railway bridge; but an occasional heap of feathers on the ground betrays its visits elsewhere. The large grass snake I uncovered on our compost heap last month evidently bred there for I later found three young ones buried deep within the mulch. A wasp nest in a compost heap is much more dangerous, though, as a Tilbrook friend was stung seven times after treading on one. There are two common kinds of wasps that usually nest underground, and the Hornet, which usually nests in hollow trees and rarely poses a nuisance. However, Peter Gould discovered one nesting in the roof space of The Grange last month, and this had to be destroyed.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who kindly helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Harvest Festival and also to all who generously donated flowers and produce for the occasion. We have received a most grateful letter from the Manor Cheshire Home at Brampton to say how much the residents appreciate the produce which we take to them each year. When the produce was taken over to Brampton this year, they were all waiting to greet us and to tell us how much the Home values our continued support, so thank you again!

## CHURCH SERVICES

During October the services will be as normal. There will be Sunday Worship at 9.30 a.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> October and 8.00 a.m. Eucharist on 23<sup>rd</sup> October but no service on 30<sup>th</sup> October which is a "fifth Sunday". It being just prior to the festival of All Saints, there will be special services in the three churches within our benefice that are dedicated to All Saints, as follows:

9.30 a.m. Children's Eucharist in Ellington  
and/or 11.00 a.m. Eucharist (normal) at Buckworth  
and/or 6.30 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer at Grafham.

Looking ahead to November in Easton, on 6<sup>th</sup> November there will be Eucharist at 9.30 a.m. and on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Sunday) there will be a Service of Remembrance at 6.00 p.m.

## GUY FAWKES NIGHT!



We all know how pretty our village is but, unless you happen to live in one of the old cottages, have you ever considered the fire risk of all that thatch? In years gone by, they normally had hooks fastened to an outside wall to pull burning thatch off the roof before the entire cottage was consumed by flames. Nowadays, without the added fire hazard of candles and oil lamps, the risk is less but it is none the less still there and this is probably one of the reasons that we have never had a village firework display. If you are considering a private

firework party, please consider the risk to your neighbours and avoid aerial fireworks that may land on your neighbour's thatch. It would only take a spark.....

## ADVANCE WARNING!

The Annual Churchyard tidy-up is scheduled to take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November (weather permitting). Please make a note of the date now!