

EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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NATURE NOTES 22

Brian Davis

After saying last month that Fieldfares hadn't arrived, I saw a flock the next day at the top of the hill behind Stocking Barn. Mid-December and the two or three Song thrushes are still singing daily, but they have been joined by a Mistle thrush calling like a muezzin from its distant tree-top minaret. And Val Ellis has beaten my November Red admiral record with one on 17th December, surely determined to last the winter. She also saw a bumblebee, which I need to pollinate my broad bean flower, please! Own up everyone who is still cutting their lawn in December. I can see some stripes from my window. Have you ever noticed a leaf sticking vertically out of your lawn? If you leave it you may see it gradually disappear into the burrow of *Lumbricus terrestris*, the largest of our 28 native earthworms. In mild damp nights this worm comes out and sweeps a circle around its burrow anchored by its diamond-shaped tail and, seizing a leaf or twig by the narrowest end in its lips, drags it back into the burrow where bacteria and fungi help to make it digestible. Charles Darwin described this in detail. The other half dozen kinds of earthworms in your garden don't make permanent burrows. If you want to name them bring them to me. December 20th: fog and a real hoar frost. Now that's more like winter! My broad bean flower will have to wait.

RARE SIGHTING IN EASTON – THE SEQUEL!

The Mystery of the Blue Fluffy Slippers was solved early in December: they belonged to Twinkle!! For further enlightenment, you will have to go and see *Beauty and the Beast* in the Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton where it is running from 28th February until 3rd March. Several people from the village are involved and John Hill has tickets (tel: 896444).

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTIONS

The Royal British Legion would like to thank the residents of Easton for their generous donations which totalled £60.15 during the remembrance week collection in November.

The Christian Aid collection in 2006 was also most generously supported and raised almost £200, for which the charity is most grateful. Thanks are also due to those who gave up their time to make the collections on each of these occasions.

49 CLUB WINNER

The November draw was won by Richard Burton.

QUIZ NIGHT

The Annual Quiz Night will take place at Spaldwick School on Saturday, 27 January. More details will be available soon but do make a note of this date in your new diary NOW!

FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Five Parish Advent Fair held in Grafham Village Hall on 2nd December - from the wonderful hunky blokes who put up the marquee and then took it down at the end, to all the stall-holders, everyone who made items, contributed such wonderful goodies to sell, gave raffle prizes, provided the ploughman's lunches and teas, and everyone who helped clear up at the end, not forgetting the treasurer who counted the money! The sum of £1,361.00 was raised which will benefit all five churches - Barham, Easton, Ellington, Spaldwick and Grafham. This was a greater amount than was raised in the three previous years when the Fair was held at Ellington Village Hall, but it is not just the money that is important: everyone is saying that they had a good time! Many thanks.

MULLED WINE & MINCE PIE EVENT

Thanks are due to the organisers of this event for giving us all such an enjoyable time, and for the £292.50 raised for the Easton Community Project fund. In addition to this, the raffle produced a further £168.00 which has been donated to the Cambridge Air Ambulance service.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Four hundred cards passed through the Easton Christmas Card delivery service this year, raising £81.50 for the Church Fabric Fund. Special thanks are due to Caroline Wood for masterminding this, and to those who used the system for contributing to a very worthwhile total.

THANK YOU

The PCC would like to thank all those who helped to decorate the Church for Christmas and who helped in any way with the preparations for the Christmas season, especially those who provided refreshments after the Carol Service. We couldn't do it all without you and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

SERVICES IN JANUARY

7 January – 9.30 a.m. Eucharist;
21 January – 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship;

14 January – 4.00 p.m. Christingle;
28 January - 8 a.m. Eucharist.

