

EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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NATURE NOTES 32

Brian Davis

Best bird record last month was a Short-eared Owl, which I saw flying across a grass field near Little Catworth one fine afternoon. And Fieldfares are now here in huge flocks in the hedgerows. Cutting back a bramble bush in my orchard two weeks ago (10th November) I discovered a hibernating Hedgehog. It was half buried in the ground and twitched when I touched its prickles. It is probably the same one that I caught, twice in one week, last summer when I baited a cage trap for rabbits with carrots – in two different areas of the garden. I have now covered it with a heap of long cut grass for shelter; it is available for viewing by appointment! Interestingly, I saw a small one on the road at night on the 21st by the telephone box still out foraging. They mainly eat worms, beetles and slugs but, introduced to one of the small Scottish islands some years ago, they have increased hugely by feeding on seabirds' eggs. This has threatened the birds' populations but attempts to 'cull' them have created a furore among bird and 'tiggy-winkle' conservationists. Someone introduced the American grey squirrel to Italy about 10 years ago and scientific attempts to remove them were held up by 'animal lovers' for a year, allowing their numbers to expand beyond control. They only have to cross the Alps now to spread throughout Europe, threatening the native Red Squirrel there as in England.



FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

The Five Parishes of Easton, Spaldwick, Ellington, Grafham and Barham & Woolley are again holding their Advent Fair in Grafham Village Hall on 8th December from 1.00 p.m.- 4.00pm. You can enjoy lunch with mulled wine, or tea as well as doing some Christmas shopping from the many stalls that have been provided. There will be a craft stall, bottle stall, and cake stall as well as local honey, pickles, chutneys and jams, and many others. Do please come and support this event!

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is warmly invited to two special services during December: the first is a [Christingle Service on Sunday, 9th December at 4.00 p.m.](#) and the second is the [Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December at 6.00 p.m.](#) We do hope you will be able to come, and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

As we will still be in the period of Advent, we shall be decorating the Church with greenery, candles and the Christmas tree on Saturday 8th December, from 2.30 p.m. onwards for the Christingle Service. Any offers of assistance will be very welcome! Nearer to Christmas we should also be most grateful for offers of white flowers or Christmas arrangements for the Carol Service. These may be brought to the Church on Saturday 22nd December from 2.00 p.m. (or earlier by arrangement!).

Services in Easton for the next month are:



2 nd December	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
9 th December	-	4.00 p.m.	Christingle Service
16 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
23 rd December	-	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
25 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Eucharist
30 th December	-	11.00 a.m.	Group Eucharist at Barham



(There will be no service in Easton on this Sunday.)

Churchyard Working Party: Fourteen people from the village came to help with the annual churchyard clearance on a lovely Autumn Sunday morning. The PCC thanks everyone who helped. Particular thanks go to Peter who provided much-appreciated bacon sandwiches and coffee.

NEW CHASUBLE AND STOLE

We are extremely grateful to Sue Young for so kindly making a beautiful new red chasuble and stole for Easton Church. These are worn by the priest during the Eucharist service on Saints Days, Palm Sunday, Whit Sunday and other special occasions. Sadly, the old ones were so worn-out that they could no longer be used. It has been suggested that we might ask if there is anyone in the parish who might consider donating the cost of the materials (about £35.00) - perhaps in memory of someone. If anybody feels they would like to help in this way, please contact Stephanie Silcock – 890455.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

The PCC will again be organising the delivery of cards around the village in return for a donation to the Fabric Fund. Please deliver your cards and donation to "Avondale" in Chapel Lane no later than Wednesday 19th December and members of the PCC will deliver them to the individual houses around the village. A few villagers, rather than sending cards, have expressed a wish to donate the cost of both cards and delivery directly to the Fabric Fund. If other people are interested, please contact Caroline for details (890593).

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual Quiz Night with fish and chip supper will take place on 26th January 2008 in Spaldwick School Hall. Tickets will cost £5.00 per head (with the supper payable on the night) and they will be on sale during January. More details next month.