

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 57

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NATURE NOTES

Peter Gould

This has been a year for swarms - beekeepers shouldn't complain because this is how bee colonies reproduce themselves, with the old queen going off with the prime swarm to start a new colony leaving a new young queen to carry on in the hive.....only we would prefer other people's bees to swarm, not ours as less bees means less honey. In spite of my efforts to remove queen cells and to divide the strongest colony into two, my bees have swarmed twice: the first one visited the Hindmarsh's and were sent packing by Dave with his vacuum cleaner; the remnant ended up in an empty hive on the church roof, minus their queen. The other called in on the Saunders', nipped over the fence to Angie's for a brief stay and then found their favourite spot inside the church roof, just two weeks before Lisa Maith's wedding: I fixed a bee escape over the entrance, which allows bees out but not in, and mounted a spare hive on the water chute and eventually they clustered in the hive and left the church. Unfortunately the queen didn't survive this, so now I have two small queenless colonies on the roof which I will have to unite with a queenright stock. However, I was able to win a good stray swarm from Ellington and my main colonies, at the top of the Thomason's field, came through the winter in good shape and have done very well. So far this year I have extracted over 100 lbs, so there is Easton honey still for tea.

TADPOLES!



Following on from the interesting news last month about tadpoles in the brook, Brian Davis has supplied this rather spectacular photograph of some of them!

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Thank you to all who supported the Save the Children collection so generously. Easton raised £147.33 – a record, and a wonderful contribution to the total of £3,841.77 which was collected from the Kimbolton area. The SCF Committee has passed on its grateful thanks and, with your support, changes can be made to improve the lives of millions of children still denied proper healthcare, food, education and protection. Thank you again.

WALKING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Following the production of the excellent village walks leaflets, villagers may be interested to know that there is a website for *Walking in Cambridgeshire* designed to help people get out

and walking in this beautiful county. Just log on to www.walkingincambridgeshire.co.uk and perhaps find some new and interesting areas for an afternoon's exercise.

DOGS



My dog died about three months ago. I used to "share" my dog with an elderly lady in a nearby village who used to "dog-sit" during most weekdays and would occasionally keep the dog overnight if I was away. Sadly, this lady has now gone into care and cannot "dog-mind" any longer. If there is anyone in Easton who would like to discuss a possible dog-share arrangement, please ring me on 07885-585950.

Mike Baker

ALERT!

Our "friendly neighbourhood cop" (Dave Hindmarsh) informs us that Travellers have moved into a field just north of Spaldwick. There have already been a number of thefts in the area including oil. The suggestion is that you lock it or nail it down; if you can't do either then you may well lose it.

CHURCH NEWS

Services during July will be:

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|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 5 th July | - | 9.30 a.m. Eucharist; | 12 th July | - | 6.00 p.m. Evensong |
| 19 th July | - | 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship; | 26 th July | - | 8.00 a.m. Eucharist |