



Easton Village Newsletter

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BROCK THE BADGER

Rona Graham



I found this badger on 29th September lying dead in the middle of Sam's field and brought him up to the house in the barrow because it is so rare to see a badger (albeit dead) in one piece. They are usually to be glimpsed in semi-recognisable heaps on the edge of the A14. He looks very comfortable in the wheelbarrow. The sight of him provoked different reactions in people: a few neighbours felt sad, some were curious, and a friend from Spaldwick had her eye on him for potential manufacture of badger-bristle paintbrushes! Ernest Dudley, a reasonably obscure author, radio host and journalist who died in 2006 after a chequered working life spanning 80 years, had this to say about badgers: "What is important about the badger is that it has survived. It is still here. It has not, like so many of our wild

animals - the wolf, the wild boar, as well as the bear - been hunted into extinction. Man might have done his best to wipe it out but he has failed.' Indeed, it was man's torment of badgers which gave rise to the phrase 'to badger someone', which means to repetitively annoy or irritate. It comes from the hopefully now defunct activity of badger-baiting, when a badger was put in an upturned barrel and dogs were set onto it to drag it out. When the animals emerged the badger was separated from the hounds and put back in the barrel and the process repeated, until the badger's inevitable demise. Nowadays, the debate continues as to whether they are the cute creatures depicted in children's books and on programmes such as "Springwatch" or the dairy farmer's enemy as spreaders of TB among cattle. Incidentally, "Brock" is old English for Badger and appears in a number of place names, such as Brockhampton and Brockenhurst.



CHURCH NEWS

Services in November will be:

1st November	-	9.30 a.m.	All Saints Day – Festival Eucharist
8th November	-	9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist and Baptism
	-	6.00 p.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service at Ellington
15th November	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist & First Holy Communion
22nd November	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
29th November	-	10.00 a.m.	Group Eucharist at Ellington



Kathy Yates is to be baptised at Easton on **Sunday 8th November**, during the 9.30 a.m. Family Eucharist. The baptism of an adult is a great occasion, so everyone is encouraged to come and join in this celebration including refreshments afterwards. The service will include some appropriate prayers for Remembrance Sunday, but the main Service of Remembrance will be at 6.00 p.m. at Ellington, where the Roll of Honour of Easton and Ellington will be read. Kathy will be confirmed at Ely Cathedral on Friday 13th November at 7.30 p.m. and will receive her first Holy Communion at Easton on Sunday 15th at 9.30 a.m. Everyone will be welcome at all those services.

CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP

This annual event will take place on Sunday 22nd November from about 10 o'clock onwards. Please bring your own garden tools. Everybody is welcome and the more hands we have, the quicker the job will be done! We also need three or four extra stalwarts for one of the rarer, periodic labours of clearing the Belfry floor. This may seem like the fifth labour of Hercules in clearing the Augean Stables, but it is your chance to see the bells themselves. Come suitably clad!

FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

The annual Advent Fair supports the five parishes in our group: Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick and Barham & Woolley. This year the Fair will be held in Ellington Church on Saturday, 28 November from 1.00pm, with the raffle draw at about 4.00pm. Light refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. Can you start making pickles and jams, putting cakes in the freezer, preparing craft items, looking out prizes for the raffle, bottle stall and children's tombola, collecting gifts and presents, good white elephant treasures, toys or offer to provide food for the refreshments or red wine for mulling? Could you organize an extra stall, game or competition to add to the list below or could you offer to help one of the stall holders listed below? Please phone Sue on 453350 with any offers of help beforehand or on the day and please do come and help make it a jolly occasion. Ellington Rectory in Parsons Drive can be a collection point from now on, or contact the stallholders below:

Raffle	Marion	890561
Cake Stall	Romi	890287
Honey, pickles, chutneys, jams	Peter	891043
Gifts and presents	Sarah	891496
Craft stall	Jill	810157
Christmas stall	Wendy	891987
Children's tombola	Muriel and Sylvie	891964
Bottle stall	Jonathan	891695
Treasures and white elephant	Ann	891372
Mulled wine	Gilly	891100

49 CLUB WINNER

Marjorie Ellis was the lucky winner of the September draw.

"PUMA" SIGHTINGS

Following on from recently-reported sightings of a large cat-like animal around the village, it was interesting to see from a review of previous Newsletters that similar sightings were reported by Dot Fairey in September 2007, and by Richard Burton exactly a year before that. It seems possible that some large cat-like animal is taking up residence here during the autumn!

CLOSURE OF HARTHAM STREET

The route between Stocking Lane, Easton and Grafham Water which is known as Hartham Street is badly rutted and needs to be repaired. The intention is to level the surface for the whole length and to carry out some light cutting back of the adjoining hedgerows. It is also intended to improve the surface of the byway for a 300m section to link the adjoining bridleways and install wooden posts and plant a hedge at two locations along the edge of the byway to stop motor vehicles from straying onto adjoining land. In order for these works to be completed safely it will be necessary to close the byway for the duration of the works which it is hoped will take no more than two weeks. The starting date was expected to be some time in October.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – Kimbolton Branch



RBL Kimbolton are holding their annual dinner dance at the Mandeville Hall on Saturday November 14th, from 7 till midnight. It's a 40's theme and 40's dress is optional. The evening includes a live band playing music of the era and a 5-course meal and bar. Tickets are £20 available from John Hill at 3 Broadweir. Non British Legion members are more than welcome. This is a good opportunity to remind everybody of the parade on Armistice Sunday (Nov 8th) at Kimbolton starting at 10.30 am in the High Street and the ceremony at the cenotaph at 11.00 am, followed by a march past where a senior serving officer will take the salute.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST CYCLE RIDE

Very many thanks to everyone who joined in this annual event. It took place in glorious weather on 12th September. Particular thanks to those who gave very generous sponsorship that enabled the Easton participants to raise yet another record total of £405. Half of this sum comes back to the Fabric Fund of our Church and the rest is put towards the maintenance of other historic church buildings in Cambridgeshire.

SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

As many residents are aware, a number of drivers take their vehicles along the Spaldwick track during the prohibited months of October to May causing substantial damage to the byway and making it difficult for walking. The Cambridgeshire County Council has recently prosecuted Stephen Hughes and Michael York for this offence and each was fined a total of £215. This was due to the assistance of three PCSO's who caught the offenders. It is hoped that this will prosecution and its attendant publicity will help to deter others.

LADIES' NIGHT

The Hinchingsbrooke School Association (HSA) are organising a Ladies' Night at Hinchingsbrooke School on Wed 11th November at 7.30pm. Stands include a wine merchant, holistic therapies, jewellery, make-up, shoes and candles. If you would like to come along and support the fundraising effort for the school, tickets are £5 each (to include a complimentary drink) from Richard Burton. Please phone on 01480 891848.

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

Finally, a reminder that we have a number of thatched roofs in the village so if you are planning a firework display to celebrate the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot, please make very sure that any aerial fireworks are aimed well away from any of these properties, making due allowance for weather conditions, wind strength and direction. If you have a bonfire it's also worth checking that there are no hibernating animals such as hedgehogs making their home there before you set light to it!

