

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 65

March 2010

NATURE NOTES 56

Brian Davis



We made our (almost) annual visit to the Welney Wildfowl Trust reserve on the Ouse Washes on 15th February to see the swans and ducks gathered there outside the (beautifully warm) bird hide, waiting for the 12 o'clock feed when the water would be churned to froth by a *wild white welter of winnowing wings*. The sun shone on a huge vista of flooded land between the New and Old Bedford Rivers, cut during the 18th century between Earith and Downham Market. There was the usual mass of male Pochard by the hide, but only 2-3 females, the rest having sensibly decided to spend the winter socialising in the Mediterranean! A count the previous weekend over the whole Ouse Washes gave totals of 3,151 Pochard, 2,977 Coot, 1,140 Tufted duck and

24,175 Wigeon. There were also a few dozen Whooper Swans from tundra Finland by the hide, though most were out feeding on the adjoining fields like the smaller Bewick Swans from northern Siberia. Back in Easton, Jim and Wendy report seeing an overwintering Blackcap. When it starts to sing in early May perhaps we should have a 'dawn chorus' walk to see what else is around. Now is also a good time for seeing the Scarlet Elfcup fungus at Shepherds Close and the ring of Giant Funnel in Picton's Spinney near Hartham Street.

THE RECTOR WRITES:

It is exciting to see the steady progress with the installation of the WC and meeting room in the church. Because we are able to undertake all three phases of the project (instead of just the first two as we originally expected), the work will take a little longer than we predicted. Also, the freezing weather has delayed quarrying of the Ancaster stone for the floor and this has affected work to the whole of the back part of the Church. To allow the builders 'sole occupation' of the building, we have been holding some of our services in parishioners' homes and on some occasions going to join in services at Spaldwick or Ellington. Some services in March may be held in the church (or in parishioners' homes), but the following will help you to find a service somewhere:

- 7th March - Nearest services are at Ellington and Spaldwick 9.30 am;
14th March (**Mothers' Sunday**) - 6.30 pm Evensong (see notice board for location);
Nearest Mothers' Sunday services are at Ellington 9.30 am and Grafham 11.00 am;
21st March - 9.30 am Holy Communion at Ellington
(or see notice board for location in Easton);
28th March - 9.30 am Palm Sunday services at Ellington and Spaldwick;
(If there is a service at 8.00 am in Easton it will be publicised on the notice board)
4th April - We definitely intend to have the Easter morning Eucharist in the church at 9.30am.
More in the April newsletter.

The Bishop of Huntingdon has agreed to come to dedicate the new facilities at the church on Sunday 20th June. The exact format of this event has yet to be decided, but it will probably begin with a tea party in the churchyard and end with a short service in church. We are grateful to Bishop David for finding time to come to Easton, while he is fully occupied in looking after the diocese single-handed until the new Bishop of Ely is appointed.

QUIZ NIGHT

This event received record support this year with 88 tickets being sold! Consequently, the splendid sum of £477.50 was raised for the Fabric Fund. The PCC are extremely grateful to everyone who supported this event in any way, whether by attending, supporting the raffle or by helping with the organisation.

49 CLUB

The lucky winner of the January draw was Geoff Prigmore.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The annual public meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 24th March at 8 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome to attend and ask questions at this meeting.

HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL General Knowledge and Pop Quiz

Richard Burton

Hinchingsbrooke School Fundraising Committee is holding a General Knowledge and Pop Quiz on Friday March 19th at the school. Tickets are £5 each and available from me on 01480 891848 or rburton@tiscali.co.uk. There will be prizes and teams can be of up to 10 people. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Let's get up a village team or two?? The May Ball will be on Friday 14th May, live band, 3 course meal etc for approx £30 each. I'll keep you all informed..