

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 71

September 2010

NATURE NOTES 61

Brian Davis

Walking past the Burton's garden opposite me two weeks ago I noticed a bright mauve patch on their lawn about 2 metres across which I had never seen before. On close inspection with a hand lens and two Floras I made this out to be a little mint called Pennyroyal, with a very strong scent. Ray Ellis said he had seen this species before but as it was said to be 'very rare and decreasing in England and Wales' I sent a plant to the County Recorder for confirmation. He replied that it was indeed *Mentha pulegium* and that it was a new record for Huntingdonshire but in fact was turning up more and more in England through being accidentally introduced with grass seed. Gill said that they had sown their lawn about 12 years ago and had been trying unsuccessfully to get rid of this 'weed' ever since! Most years the flowers were suppressed by mowing but the roots survived and this year it had taken advantage of the dry summer when there was no grass to mow. *And neither stone nor steel can foil / That silver strategy of flowers.*



49 CLUB

Iris Brooker was the lucky winner of the first draw of the new 49 Club year.

CHURCH NEWS

Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 12th September and as a rural parish we hope to have a full Church on this special occasion, so please do come and support it. The church will be decorated on the afternoon of Saturday 11th and help with this would be greatly appreciated, from 2 o'clock onwards. We donate all produce to the Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton so if you can contribute anything from your garden (or even from Tesco!), you can be assured this will be put to good use and gratefully received. Produce can also be brought to the Church on the Saturday afternoon or, if you prefer, brought to the service on Sunday evening.

During September, services in Easton will be:



5 th September	-	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship
12 th September	-	6.00 p.m. Harvest Festival
19 th September	-	9.30 a.m. Eucharist
26 th September	-	6.00 p.m. Eucharist. (Please note this is NOT a mistake but an experiment.)

C.H.C.T. "RIDE + STRIDE"

Just a reminder that this will take place on Saturday 11th September. If you have not already signed up to take part then please do so now and get your sponsors lined up. It is generally a very enjoyable day. Roger Silcock has sponsor forms and further information (890455).

INVITATION FROM SPALDWICK

Spaldwick Social Group is presenting a Hawaiian Ho-Down at Alconbury Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th September from 7.00pm to 11.00pm. There will be a Live Band, Hog Roast with Salad and a Bar with Hawaiian Cocktails. Tickets are available at £15 each from John Blatch (Tel. 890853).

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE

During the last few days, a number of incidents have been rung into the Police from St Ives and the surrounding villages in relation to some individuals who are reported to have been door-knocking and claiming to be working for Talk Talk or BT. Some reports suggest one male, some suggest 2 males and another 1 female, but in all of the incidents the individuals have claimed that there were problems with the phone/phone lines in the area and that they needed to check the fault inside the resident's homes. Fortunately, none of the homeowners allowed the callers into their properties.

The police have contacted Talk Talk and BT to try and establish whether they had genuine employees/contractors in the area at the time of the reports and both have confirmed that they are not aware of any problems in those areas and no employees/contractors were working in those areas. Both have said that they would hardly ever, if at all, ask employees/contractors to door-knock but in the event of a genuine problem, they would always make attempts to contact homeowners first by means of letter/e-mail or telephone call (if possible). If you have had anyone knock at your door recently claiming to be working for a telecommunications company please contact the police on 0345 456 4564 and provide as many details as you can with regard to the circumstances, descriptions of individuals etc.

If you do receive a visit from these or any other individuals claiming to be working for a Telecommunications or Utility company, please consider the following:

- Never allow them into your property without first clarifying the information with the company that they claim to work for. Genuine callers will not mind waiting whilst you clarify the facts.
- Never take ID cards or badges at face value as there are many 'fakes' available. Instead close your door and telephone the company to establish the facts...but never just use the number shown on a card or badge, as this may also be a fake.

If you have any suspicions about callers at your door, please telephone Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 999 (emergencies) or 0345 456 4564 (non emergencies) to report the circumstances.