

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 87

November 2011

NATURE NOTES 68



Brian Davis
Till they should think warm days will never cease— 'they' are bees, of course. The season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us again and yesterday (24th) I saw a honey bee, a wasp, two kinds of bumblebees, at least twenty red admiral butterflies and hundreds of hover flies sucking nectar from a long bank of ivy flower in the grounds of Ramsey Abbey. My French Wasp nest, suspended from a branch in a conifer and so beautifully maintained, was abandoned weeks ago as the new queen or queens sought places to hibernate. The workers, deprived of a reason for being, had abandoned it and within a few days the outer papier mâché skin had frayed and, when cut away, it revealed a series of horizontal plates made up of hexagonal cells, just like those in a honeycomb, where the wasp grubs would have been reared.

Various creatures seem to like coming indoors in the autumn. Among the most common in our house are Drone flies which look like fat bees but are just large hoverflies. They cruise around noisily and end up at windows where I simply pick them up and take them outside again. Autumn is also a good time for fungi and Sheila Wells, our fungal expert friend, recently discovered Bonfire Cauliflower *Pepiza proteana* in the north east corner of Easton churchyard. This looks rather like a yellow sponge or cauliflower half buried among leaves. The only other Huntingdonshire record is from a bonfire site at Hinchingsbrooke Park in 1990; do I detect Mike Baker's footprint here?

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

6 th November -	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship
13th November -	6.00 p.m. Remembrance Sunday Service
20 th November -	9.30 a.m. Eucharist
27 th November -	6.00 p.m. Eucharist



AUTUMN FAIR

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make the Five Parish Autumn Fair on 24 September a success - the stall holders, refreshment organizers, everyone who donated or made items to sell or raffle, those who organized games, the wonderful helpers who set up and then cleared away, and of course everyone who came on the day to participate. A total of £705.00 was raised and this has been distributed between the five parishes in our group.

"EASTON'S GOT TALENT"?



As part of the village celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year the Easton Fund and Social Committee is planning to hold an evening of music and words on Saturday 2nd June 2012. The idea is that performers of all ages and abilities will be drawn from the Easton community, together with friends and family from outside the village. "Acts" will span the serious and the comic, ranging from musical solos and groups to short sketches, poetry and monologues. Any ideas would be welcome. We already have offers of participation but need to recruit many more to make the evening viable. If you would like to make a contribution to the entertainment or know someone whose arm can be twisted, please contact Ed Sloper on 01480-891364 or e.sloper334@btinternet.com.