

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 90

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## NATURE NOTES 70

Brian Davis



Driving home from Bedford on the night of 10<sup>th</sup> February my car recorded -13 degrees. Driving home this afternoon, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, it recorded +16 degrees! The former has frosted several shrubs in our garden, while the latter has brought out the first (seen) honeybees 'fumbling' our snow-drops, and Stephanie Silcock reported a Red Admiral butterfly. The songs of spring were also all around me this afternoon – robin, song thrush, mistle thrush, blackbird, great tit, dunnock and chaffinch. As I have probably said before, our village is a veritable oasis of wild life, thanks to the combination of gardens, grassland and trees with the important undisturbed and 'untidy' corner like the Weir providing a valuable degree of cover. I have been watching Sarah Raven's TV programmes *Bees, Butterflies and Blooms* on how to encourage bumblebees and other pollinating insects by planting nectar-bearing flowers in place of the more gaudy

double flowers that don't attract insects. Could we perhaps convert our village green into a flowery meadow instead of unused grass? Of course, flowers are only one side of the equation: insects, as well as birds, need the right breeding habitats. Are we sometimes too concerned to keep the brook-side verges tightly mown when meadow cranesbill is still in flower? And our hedgerows flailed back to the tree trunks when we know that bramble patches are the preferred nesting habitat for yellow hammers and whitethroat?

## 49 CLUB

Winners of the draws for December and January were Gwen Spedding (December) and Richard Burton (January).

## CHURCH NEWS

As many people will already know, Fr. Jonathan had been ill in hospital since the end of January but the good news is that he came home on 20<sup>th</sup> February. However, he is to have complete bed rest until Easter, except for attending various hospital clinic appointments with different consultants from time to time. He is so grateful for all the lovely messages and also for no-one visiting and he hopes that people will allow him to continue to recuperate quietly without visitors for the moment.

Services in Easton during March will be:



4 <sup>th</sup> March	-	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship (Nearest Eucharist 9.30 Ellington/11.00 Barham)
11 <sup>th</sup> March	-	6.00 p.m. Evensong (Nearest Eucharist 9.30 Spaldwick/11 a.m. Ellington)
18 <sup>th</sup> March	-	11.00 a.m. <b>Mothering Sunday</b> (Nearest Eucharist 11 a.m. Grafham)
26 <sup>th</sup> March	-	No service in Easton – nearest Eucharist 9.30 a.m. in Ellington or Spaldwick.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The next **Big Breakfast** will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

There will be a special **Mothering Sunday service** for the village on 18<sup>th</sup> March at 11 o'clock, with flowers for all the ladies and refreshments afterwards.

The **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** and Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Church on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 8.00 p.m. Anyone resident in the parish may attend and vote at the first meeting, whether or not they are on the church electoral roll, but only the lay people who are on the electoral roll (together with any clergy beneficed in or licensed to the parish or any other parish in the area of the benefice) may vote at the second.

**Easter Sunday:** David, Bishop of Huntingdon, has agreed to take the Easter Sunday service on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 a.m. at Ellington Church for our whole group of five parishes. Details will follow. There will be no service in Easton on Easter Day.

## CHIMNEY SWEEPING



Spring must surely not be far away because the chimney sweep will be visiting the village on **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April** and **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April** this year. The standard cost will be £28 per chimney (unless there are unforeseen problems such as birds' nests to deal with!). If you would like the sweep to call, please let Jenny Hyde know your preferred date (891454) **no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March.**

## UPDATE ON THE EASTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

During the last financial year the Community Project Account has received income of £3,188.82. This splendid sum is a result of the highly-successful "Big Breakfasts" (£1,037.02) as well as a concert (£320), the summer Cream Teas (£340) and the wine-tasting event (£338). Donations to the Community Project Account totalled £1,092.75 and the sale of Beth Davis's book *Easton Bells* raised a further £60. Bank interest generated the princely sum of £1.05! Expenditure during the year amounted to Fund-raising costs of £87.03. Early in the year we paid over the final Retention monies on the project which had been accrued in the previous year and the second instalment of £2,500 was paid to Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust to reduce our interest-free loan. This means that after taking account of the balance brought forward, our outstanding debts on the Community Project Account stand at £4,050.36, which includes the "non-preferential loan" from our guarantors that we received in order to pay the first year's instalment on the loan.

## FUND-RAISING

In spite of a forecast of snow for the evening, nearly 70 people turned out to support the Quiz Night in February. Before leaving Spaldwick School at the end of an enjoyable evening to find 3 inches of snow had fallen, they had succeeded in raising a net sum of £377.50 for the Church Fabric Fund. Very many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this very satisfactory total. In addition, the Fabric Fund benefited by a little over £96 as a result of the Christmas card delivery service round the village last December and we are very grateful for that, also.

## THE WOOLLEY HILL WIND FARM INQUIRY

The three-week long inquiry ended on the 27<sup>th</sup> January during which David Rose the National Planning Inspector heard the appeal by RES UK Ltd against the Huntingdonshire District Council's refusal for planning permission to build a wind farm just 1 kilometre from Easton village, and in close proximity to Ellington. English Heritage objected to the application and supported Huntingdon District Council in their decision. WHAG, the Woolley Hill Action Group, was represented by the barrister Peter Jennings who, with three special witnesses and ten lay and independent witnesses, presented the case for our villages. We await the outcome, which is expected on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If approved, the four wind turbines are to be the tallest in the country!

## OH NO HE ISN'T! OH YES HE IS!



This year's pantomime is *Aladdin* and it is being performed at the Mandeville Hall from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Wednesday is a Gala Night and on Saturday there will be two performances, one at 2.30 p.m. and again at 7.30 p.m. As usual, our own John Hill will be taking part but, to avoid being "type-cast", this year he is playing the villain, so if you want to show John what you really think (!) this is your opportunity to boo and hiss at him to your heart's content! Tickets are available from John (tel: 896444) or they are available from Dave Watson's shop in Kimbolton, price £7 and £4 for concessions.

## LOST AND FOUND

Not a glass slipper on this occasion, but if anyone has lost a brown tweed "Ryedale" check classic cloth cap, one has been found in Chapel Lane. Presumably it must have fallen out of someone's pocket. If you think this might be yours, please telephone Clive on 890593.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

All are welcome to the British Legion Supper evening with entertainment in Kimbolton on 9<sup>th</sup> March on the theme of "Support our Troops", especially at this time. Further details and tickets are available from John Hill (896444) or from the paper shop in Kimbolton.