

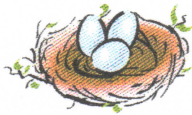
Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 8

May 2005

NATURE IN EASTON 2

by Brian Davis



For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the sound of the turtle [dove] is heard in our land. (Song of Solomon, 2, 11). Well, I heard the first Turtle Dove on 6th of May, but I hope that we will get some more good rain as the well in my garden has been dry all winter and the brook has almost ceased to run. *Oak before ash, we're in for a splash.* Have you noticed that leaf-burst in ash trees is a good two weeks later than in oaks this year? Have a walk some time round Shepherds Close Nature Reserve on the Stonely road. This was given to the Naturalists Trust in 1966 as a poplar plantation and when they were felled in 1984 I planted it up with oak, ash, field-maple and other trees on a 5-metre grid. There has been a lot of clearance work here last winter by Andy and Janet Curtis from Alconbury, and I have marked all the planted trees that have survived. Bluebells have started to spread and one Spotted orchid has appeared. Please let me know if a Spotted Flycatcher nests in your garden this year. Although it is a typical 'brown job' it is easily recognised by its aerial flights from a perch. I know of three gardens in Easton where it has nested in the past but it is declining nationally.

CAUTION – SUMMER!

Now that gardeners are out cutting verges and hedges, and children are likely to be out in gardens or on bicycles, would everyone please take special care when driving around our narrow lanes. It is worth remembering that a person operating a lawnmower or hedge trimmer is unlikely to hear an approaching vehicle and that it is not impossible that a child will fall off a bike or run after a ball without thinking.

EASTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

After taking a break last year, the Playing Field improvements have now been completed. Thanks to some extra donations from new families in the village, we have bought a sit-on motor-bike to go alongside the tractor (for the small children of the village, not the very big ones!!!). The Norwich and Peterborough Building Society kindly donated the children's picnic table, which goes with the adult one purchased by the Eaton Playing Field Fund.

A **BIG** thank you to all those who donated money towards the project, and also to those people who gave up their time to dig, shovel, build etc., without whom the new area would never have been completed.

CHURCH NEWS



Services for the next few weeks will be as follows:

22 May - 8 a.m. Eucharist;

29 May (5th Sunday) 11.00 a.m. Group

Eucharist at Barham;

5 June - 9.30 a.m. Eucharist;

12 June - 6.00 p.m. Evensong;

19 June 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship.

St. Peter's Day comes at the end of June and we share this festival with Alconbury Church. On Sunday 26 June at 11.00 a.m. we are invited to Alconbury for a Patronal Festival service led by Bishop John Flack (formerly of Huntingdon and now the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal representative in Rome). This service will also celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of our curate, Dr. John Hare, and his wife Mary. The following Sunday, 3 July, we shall celebrate the Patronal Festival at Easton with an informal service at 11.00 a.m. followed by a bring-and-share picnic lunch (in church if wet).



Save the Children

The house-to-house collection round the village raised the wonderful sum of £97 this year and grateful thanks are due to everyone who supported this so generously.