

Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE IN EASTON 4

by Brian Davis



The green lane between Easton and Grafham, known as Hartham Street, is a very pleasant walk at this time of year. During the 1960s it was also a veritable treasure chest of wild flowers. During 1965 and 1966 I recorded 148 species of flowers there including several uncommon ones, like Greater Butterfly-orchid, Broad-leaved Helleborine, Lesser Spearwort, Eyebright, Ragged Robin, Grass Vetchling, Spurge Laurel and Elecampane. Almost all of these disappeared during the 70s and 80s

when the county council ceased to mow the lane and blackthorn thickets grew almost right across. However, Elecampane has survived just at the corner where the track turns up hill, and you can see it now with its large yellow flowers, often attracting Red Admiral, Peacock and Painted Lady butterflies. It has been known there since 1940 and it probably derives from much earlier times when it was cultivated for its medicinal properties, for Beth has discovered that there was a field called Elecampane in the Ellington Enclosure Award of 1776. Look out for day-flying Humming-bird hawk moths in your garden – Roger Silcock has already seen one. Let me know of any others please.

CHCT BIKE RIDE 10th September 2005

It is that time of year again when enthusiastic - and less enthusiastic! - cyclists set off around the Cambridgeshire churches to raise funds for the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. This is one of the few occasions during the year when nearly all the churches will be open and it is a great opportunity to visit some of the delightful and lesser-known villages in the area. The Trust makes grants and interest-free loans to assist with the upkeep of the many lovely old churches in the county; all funds raised are shared equally between the Trust and a church nominated by the cyclist. If you are NOT a cyclist then don't be put off! There is no reason why you should not be sponsored for visiting different churches on foot, on horseback or even by car. For more details and sponsorship forms, please see Roger Silcock or Peter Gould.

BARN DANCE

The PCC have organised a Barn Dance at Spaldwick School Hall on Saturday 17th September from 7.00 p.m. – 10.30 p.m. The evening will be a lot of fun with dancing to the St. Neots' Folk club band with their Caller, a 2-course supper, cash bar and a raffle. Tickets will be £10 for adults and £5 for children. A member of the PCC will call on you in the near future to see how many tickets you would like.

CHURCH NEWS

On 31st July there will be a Group Eucharist at Barham. During August, the services in Easton will be:

7 August - 9.30am Eucharist;	14 August - 6.00pm Evensong;
21 August - 9.30am Sunday Worship;	28 August 8.00am Eucharist

Looking ahead to September, on 4th September there will be 9.30 am Eucharist. Harvest Festival will be celebrated on 11th September with Harvest Songs of Praise, followed by light refreshments.

On Sunday 4th September. Grafham are having a fund-raising day in aid of the Church at the Village Hall from 12.00 noon. There will be a flower festival in the Church and Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m. Another 5 Parishes fund raising fair is planned for Saturday, 3rd December at Ellington Village Hall – more details later!

On Saturday 16th July about 20 people embarked on a pilgrimage to the Chapel of St. Peter on the Wall at Bradwell. On arrival at Bradwell Marina, we enjoyed hospitality from Fr. John and Mary Hare on board their yacht before setting off, led by Bishop John Inge, for the 5-mile walk along the sea wall. On arrival at the peaceful chapel, we participated in a sung Eucharist, which was totally unaccompanied, before enjoying an excellent shared picnic overlooking the Blackwater estuary – special thanks go to the provider of the sparkling wine and raspberries! Fr. John then organised games for the children, in which the adults soon began to join in, and as the afternoon ended, the Choir of Chelmsford Cathedral arrived to sing Evensong (also unaccompanied). Thank you to all those involved in the organisation, from all the participants.