

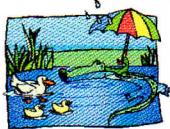
Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 17

March 2006

NATURE IN EASTON 11

Brian Davis



Much needed rain today, Thursday 23rd February, but such sleet and drizzle does little for recharging ground water; the little well in my orchard remains dry for the second winter when it used to hold two feet of water in January, the Cedar's pond next door is quite dry and so is the Tomlins' in Chapel Lane. Luckily for would-be spawning toads and newts, the ponds in the central field and at the top of Chapel Lane still hold water. A Muntjac deer has severely barked

three big apple trees and a pear tree in my garden, and Melissa tells me she has recently seen a mother with fawn. Bad news about Horse Chestnuts: all the trees in the churchyard are infected by Bleeding Canker. Three are dangerous and will have to be felled. This disease was first reported in the UK in 1970 but is now spreading rapidly in England and parts of northern Europe. The tree nearest the mower shed also has the bracket fungi Oyster Mushroom and Velvet Shank growing near the base and 15 feet up a dying trunk. On sunny days I now hear Robins and Dunnocks singing, Great Tits pee-chew, pee-chew-ing, whilst Mistle Thrushes have been stridently proclaiming their territories for six weeks. *If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?* Rising to my last month's challenge, Geoff Prigmore has counted 13 goldfinches on a thistle-seed feeder. Any advances? – excluding House Sparrows.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

As many people will know, Kath Goodwin very kindly organises a visit from the chimney sweep each year. This year, he will be cleaning the village chimneys on Friday 28th April. If you are not on Kath's "regular" list and would like the sweep to call, please let her know by the end of March and, if necessary, he will make it a two-day visit to Easton. Kath's phone number is 890372.



EASTON HISTORY BOOKLETS

So far, the grand total of £85 has been raised from the sale of the Easton Booklet and has been passed on to the Church as a contribution towards the proposed building work. Angie Smith says they are delighted that so many booklets have been sold and she was surprised that a number of them were bought for people who used to live in the village. Many thanks go to all those who have purchased the booklets. For those who didn't get round to buying a copy but would still like to purchase one, do not despair! There are still copies available.

CHURCH NEWS

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on 1st March. The East Leightonstone Group of Parishes (Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick, Barham-with-Woolley plus Alconbury Weston and Buckworth) will mark this period with a series of Bible study/discussion groups. These will meet on:

Mondays (6th March-5th April) at 11.15 a.m. in Alconbury Methodist chapel followed by a frugal lunch; on Wednesday evenings (8th March-5th April) at 8.00 p.m. at 10 Old Glebe, Alconbury; on Thursday evenings (2nd-30th March) at 8.00 p.m. at 2 Woolley Road, Barham and on Friday evenings (10th March-7th April) at 7.30 p.m. at Ivy House, Spaldwick.

There will also be lunchtime celebrations of the Eucharist followed by a frugal lunch at 12 noon on Fridays at the following churches:

10th March - Ellington; 17th March - Grafham; 24th March - Spaldwick;
31st March - Easton; 7th April - Buckworth.

Special Evensong services will be taking place at 6.00 p.m. around some of the churches of the old Leightonstone Deanery as follows:

5th March - Catworth; 12th March - Easton; 19th March - Kimbolton;
26th March - Great Gidding; 2nd April - Buckworth; 9th April - Ellington.

For any further information, please contact either Father Jonathan Young on 891695 or Father John Hare on 45372.



Services in Easton during March are slightly different because there will be a special Mothering Sunday service at 9.30 a.m. on 26th March. As usual, all the ladies will receive a posy from the children and refreshments will be served after the service. It would be lovely to have a full church to support the younger members of the congregation on this special occasion so do please come with your families and friends if you can. There is a Pram Service at 2.15 p.m. on Friday 17th March and other services will be: 5th March - 9.30 a.m. Eucharist; 12th March - 6 p.m. Evensong; 19th March - 9.30 a.m. Eucharist.

The Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings take place on Thursday, 30th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Church. These strangely-named meetings are open to anyone who lives in the village and they elect the Churchwardens at the Easter Vestry. At the APCM, everyone on the Church electoral roll has a vote and may elect a new Parochial Church Council, hear reports on the past year and ask questions of the PCC members.