

Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE NOTES 19

Brian Davis



Did no one spot my 'deliberate mistake' last month? Or were you all just too polite to point it out? It was not a Large Tortoiseshell I found but a Red Admiral caterpillar. The Large Tortoiseshell feeds on tall elms and is probably extinct in Britain now. Interestingly, Elm is related to Nettle which is the main food plant for four species in the same butterfly family as the Large Tortoiseshell, namely Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma. Caterpillars of Comma also feed on elm and wild Hop – which is *also* related to nettle.

The parasitic Greater Dodder plant also attaches itself to nettle and hop so they *must* share a similar chemistry. I found Greater Dodder in Easton in 1970 and for several years thereafter beside the track at the bottom of the Silcock's garden, one of only nine sites recorded in Huntingdonshire. Buzzards are burgeoning around West Wood, it seems. Val and Ray saw eight circling together on 4th October. Bad news from Roger Silcock who saw a Mink by his footbridge at the beginning of October, but good news from Lodge Farm where Spotted Flycatchers raised a family this year. And plant record of the month also goes to the Burtons with the appearance of three plants of Thorn-apple at Lodge Farm. This member of the nightshade family is extremely poisonous, though I cannot imagine any adult or child wanting to chew the fruits, whose spiny husks resemble those of Horse chestnut.

HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST CYCLE RIDE

Very many thanks to everyone who sponsored this event and to the cyclists who took part. Easton raised £220. Half comes back to the Fabric Fund for our Church and the rest is put towards the maintenance of other historic churches in Cambridgeshire.

49 CLUB WINNER

Congratulations to Chris Charlton who was the winner of the September draw.

CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME

The Concessionary Bus Fare scheme changed on Sunday October 1, 2006 and has been replaced with one that provides free travel on local bus journeys within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for those aged 60 and over. The scheme will also allow free travel to certain places outside the county: Newmarket; Haverhill; Saffron Walden; Royston; Biggleswade; Stamford; Market Deeping; Kings Lynn; Downham Market. Passes can only be used after 9.30 a.m. Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. There are leaflets available in the church which give further details.

FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

This year the event will be held at Grafham Village Hall from 1.00-4.00pm on Saturday 2 December. There will be stalls, games, raffle, ploughman's lunches etc. If you'd like to help call Sue on 455080 and start looking out for bric-a-brac, toys, gifts, craft items, bottles, raffle prizes etc. Kath Goodwin has kindly offered to put a box in her porch for about 2 weeks before the event in which donations can be left when you collect your newspaper! Gifts of chutneys, pickles, jams etc. should be given to Peter Gould, and cakes on the day! All our 5 churches, Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Barham and Spaldwick benefit from the monies raised and we hope a good time will be had by all!

CHURCH NEWS

Services in Easton during November will be:

5th Nov. 9.30 a.m. Eucharist;

12th Nov. **Remembrance Sunday:** The principal service will be a joint service at Ellington for both Easton and Ellington. There is also a short service of remembrance at Spaldwick War Memorial at 10.45 a.m. including the 2 minutes silence at 11.00 a.m.

19th Nov. 9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship;

26th Nov. 8.00 a.m. Eucharist

Spaldwick and Easton will jointly celebrate the Posada again this year. The figures representing the Holy Family will be at the Children's Eucharist at Easton on Sunday 3rd December at 9.30 a.m. and set out on their journey, arriving at the Crib Service at Spaldwick at 5.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. If you would like to offer hospitality to the Holy Family for a night during their journey, please contact Amba Harbour, telephone 890565.

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

If you saw "Autumn watch" on BBC2 recently, you will need no reminding that hedgehogs and other hibernating wildlife cannot tell the difference between a cosy log-pile and your celebratory bonfire! If you are planning to light one for 5th November, it would be a good idea either to construct it at the last minute or to turn it over in search of hedgehogs before setting light to it. Please also be aware of the danger to thatched roofs in the village: check the wind strength and direction and make sure that any aerial fireworks are aimed well away from vulnerable properties, and your neighbours will be hugely appreciative!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The annual churchyard tidy-up is planned for Sunday, 19th November (weather permitting). The Annual Mulled Wine party will take place in the church on Sunday 3rd December, the Carol Service will take place in Easton on Sunday, 17th December and there will be a Christingle service on 14th January 2007.