

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 30

April 2007

NATURE NOTES 24

Brian Davis



With our ponds well topped up again now, here's hop(p)ing for a productive future! Thank you, Val. Lest anyone should think Richard Burton had been imbibing unduly when he saw his puma last December, my British Wild Life journal for December mentions an Oxfordshire wood where pumas are known to be breeding. Evidence is solid – sightings, scratch marks, a plaster cast of a paw print and "a dead Muntjac 23 feet up a tree!" On the other hand, I'm afraid I must unpeel the Orange Peel fungus I reported from Shepherds Close as they are apparently just an unusual form of the

Scarlet Elfcup – identified by its spores under a microscope by Sheila Wells. March has continued some early records with our first migrant warbler, a Chiff-chaff, heard on 9th March (24th March in 2005), my first Brimstone butterfly seen on 11th March (14th April in 2006) and first hovering Bee-fly on the 27th (April 17th in 2006). A colony of Buff-tailed bumblebees was busy on the 13th collecting pollen from willow catkins in my orchard while honey-bees were at the cherry-plum blossom. *Bombus terrestris* is one of the largest and most common species of bumble bee. Its nests are underground and may have more than 300 workers. Look out now for *lapidarius*, which is all black except for a red tail.

QUIZ NIGHT

Owing to lack of space, it was not possible last month to give the final results of the Annual Quiz Night held in January but we can give these now. The winning table was headed by John Hill with Mike Baker's team as runners up, and the total amount raised for the Church Fabric Fund amounted to a splendid £394.47. The organisers are to be congratulated on another great evening's entertainment, with thanks also due to those who supported the evening so generously.

EASTER

The Church will be decorated for Easter on the afternoon of Saturday 7th April from 2.30 p.m. We would be very grateful for any gifts of flowers, and especially for help with arranging them. If you could spare half an hour or so you would be sure of a warm welcome.

APRIL SERVICES (*all in Easton unless otherwise stated*)

1st April

-

9.30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Eucharist