

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 31

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NATURE NOTES 25

Brian Davis

In the spring a young falcon's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. And after a barren year for our church in 2006, I am delighted to announce that the spire has this month hosted nuptials for a pair of kestrels. In celebration, the cherry trees and hedgerow blackthorn have been gloriously swathed in bridle wreaths of white blossom this month, now giving way to creamy hawthorn, while the woods are swathed in bluebells. Spring on Portholme Meadow is marked by the graceful heads of wild fritillaries, both purple and white - I counted 150 on 20th April but almost 1200 were recorded in 2005. More locally, have you noticed the pinkish heads of Lady's smock (122 of them)

on the village green, and the specially-uncut patches of Cowslips within the churchyard? The Blackcap has added its gentle warble to the symphony of bird song, and swallows have returned to Grange Croft. But where, oh where are the April showers? Only one millimetre of rain since 29th March, according to our Easton rain oracle (RS). The brook is little more than a shallow linear pond now, and home to croaking frogs outside Crown Cottage. Ash trees are a whole fortnight behind oaks in coming into leaf, and you know the old saying: "Oak before ash we're in for (just) a splash." Cave gardeners and farmers!

49 CLUB

Tom Brand was the lucky winner of the March draw. Far more importantly, Tom is to be congratulated upon completing the London Marathon in just under 4hrs. 28 mins. and raising around £1,700 for the Canon Collins Trust. The Trust provides opportunities for people to develop their potential through improved skills and knowledge to achieve transformation in southern Africa. Very well done – a brilliant effort!

CHURCH NEWS

As usual, the Church looked beautiful for Easter and we would like to thank all the kind people who helped to decorate it and donated flowers or arrangements. As ever, we are so grateful for your help.

MAY SERVICES

Please note that although all the times are as usual, there are one or two changes to the types of service this month:

6 th May	-	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship*
13 th May	-	6.00 p.m. Evensong
20 th May	-	9.30 a.m. Eucharist*
27 th May	-	8.00 a.m. Pentecost Eucharist

**These two services are swapped around this month.*

Please also note that on **24th June** there will be a Group Eucharist at 10.00 a.m. at Alconbury with the Bishop of Huntingdon, including adult Baptism and Confirmation, to which all are welcome. There will be no service in Easton on that day. You may also like to note that on **Sunday 1st July** we shall be celebrating our Church's Patronal Festival with a special service at 3.00 p.m. followed by a strawberry tea, at which we hope to see as many people as possible!

DOING THE EASTON WALK (To Bedford)

Following last year's enterprise, I have been persuaded to repeat the walk from Easton to Bedford, this time for charity. Several people in the village have expressed a willingness to accompany me on the walk and two charities, Great Ormond Street Hospital and British Diabetic Association (Research) have been identified as appropriate since there are beneficiaries of both in the village. It was intended to do the walk in July, but with so many events taking place about this time I now think that a late September/early October date (to be decided) would be more suitable. To make the project worthwhile, a donation of (say) £5.00 per household would be appreciated and perhaps nearer the time such support would be favourably considered and forthcoming. In the meantime, if anybody is interested in doing the walk or making a financial contribution or both, would they please let me know so that details can be worked out and circulated.

Geoff and Gwen, Garden Cottage.