



Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE NOTES 30



Brian Davis

"Field of Dreams. Is arable farming incompatible with wildlife?" This is the subject of a one day conference this month in Suffolk, when speakers will talk about birds and bees, hedgerows, hares and arable plants (not weeds). *"The Turtle dove has disappeared from many parts of England, including the north and south-west, and has also become increasingly hard to find in its arable stronghold of East Anglia. Numbers have plummeted by 61% in just 12 years"*, says my latest issue of British Wildlife. However, as

I have remarked before, Easton is doing its bit with at least one pair every year at the end of my garden and this year it must have had a second brood as I heard one cooing on several days in early August. The House Sparrow also continues to decline nationally, but there are, I think, three distinct small colonies in Easton: one in the north-east corner around Broadweir and No.1 The Lane, one in the south-west around Ford Cottage and Walnut Tree Cottage, and one around Mulleins and Avens in the south-west. Would any of you like to give me your best estimate for each of these? The more estimates the better! I have had four reports of grass snakes in September, so these appear to be thriving in Easton, you will doubtless be glad to hear, though preferably not to have them come indoors!

49 CLUB WINNER: Tony Ellis was the lucky winner of the August draw – second time this year!

CHURCH NEWS

Services in Easton for the next month are:

29th September (**Saturday**) – **Michaelmas Day 9.00 a.m. Eucharist.**

(There is no service in Easton on Sunday 30th September and the nearest services will be in Spaldwick at 9.30 a.m. & Ellington at 6.00 p.m.)

7 th October	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
14 th October	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
21 st October	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
28 th October	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist

Thank you to everyone who so kindly helped to decorate the Church for Harvest Festival and to all who generously donated flowers and produce. The produce was taken to the Manor Cheshire Home at Brampton – as usual they were extremely grateful for our support.

Stonework repairs

As you will have noticed, K. G. Wright Builders have been repairing the stonework to the church and the churchyard wall. This work is nearly finished and we now have the south facing clerestory wall re-pointed, various other areas re-pointed and made good, and - most visible of all - the north east corner of the churchyard wall rebuilt with new coping to match the original.

This work has been partly paid for by the PCC from the Fabric Fund, which is supported each year by the '49 club', the Quiz and the CHCT Bike Ride, and we are also very grateful to have received grants from both Huntingdon District Council (over £3,000), and from the landfill tax credit scheme (£2,000) which is administered by the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust for 'WREN' (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd). Their operating company, Waste Recycling Group plc, provides grants to churches located near their landfill sites for urgent fabric repairs. Every time waste is tipped at a landfill site, a tax is paid by the disposer to the operator; this is called landfill tax. The churches scheme is one of several operated by WREN to benefit communities in the locality of their operating company, using this money.

Supporters of the annual sponsored bike ride in aid of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust will be pleased to note that it is through them that this grant has been made available to our church.

WINE TASTING - FRIDAY OCTOBER 19th.

Tickets for the Wine Tasting are now on sale at £12.50 per person which includes the hot meal with wine, as well as the wine you consume during the tasting. Phone 891043 for details - numbers limited.