



# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 37

November 2007

## NATURE NOTES 31



Another report of the "Easton Puma" just failed to reach me before last month's Newsletter. At the beginning of September, Dorothy Fairey saw what she describes as a large, dark brown animal with a long tail and a cat-like head, in broad daylight crossing the road around midday while she was walking from her house by the village sign towards the A14. This is close to where Richard Burton saw it a year ago. She says it disappeared behind a hedge without looking at her. I have tried to contact the mammal recorder for Huntingdonshire to see if there are any other local sightings of a "puma" but have not succeeded so far.

**Brian Davis**

On a more seasonal note, flocks of Fieldfares have made their appearance in the village, scrumping for apples, and for the third year running the giant fungus fairy ring has appeared in the spinney beside "Baker's track" off Hartham Street. I am sorry, incidentally, that this ancient name has been replaced by the upstart "Three Shires Way" on the signboard on the Easton-Stonely road: there is room for both. On a similar historical note, some people may have wondered at the "Gated Road" sign at Bigram's corner. The road was gated between Shepherds Close and the parish boundary at the top of the hill until about 1950 to allow free range sheep grazing across the road. Strangely, the Highways Department did retain this echo of the past when they came to replace all the local road signs with new ones in the 1970s!



## CHARITY WALK

The Charity Walk to Bedford took place as planned on 30<sup>th</sup> September in glorious weather and was rated a great success by all who took part. Gratitude is due to all the walkers, the back-up crew, and the friends and families who not only gave support during the walk and joined the walkers in the pub for lunch but, importantly, provided transport back to Easton. In recording the event, it is paramount to remember that the walk was undertaken to raise money for the two nominated charities. In this respect the generosity shown by so many in the village was exceptional with a truly magnificent total sum of £555 being donated. Thank you all very much indeed.

*Geoff and Gwen*

## FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

The Five Parishes of Easton, Spaldwick, Ellington, Grafham and Barham & Woolley are again holding their Advent Fair in Grafham Village Hall on 8th December from 1.00-4.00pm. Please think about what you can do to help. Can you make items for the craft stall, or provide materials so that someone else can? Can you look out bottles for the bottle stall, large or small, or raffle prizes? Can you make pickles, chutneys or jams or freeze items for the cake stall in advance? Can you look out gifts and presents, toys and white elephant treasures? Could you organize a game or competition? We would welcome new ideas and more offers of help to Sue on 455080. Main collection point between now and the Fair can be The Rectory, 1 Parson's Drive, Ellington, or contact the individual stallholders below:

Ploughman's Lunches and mulled wine	Pat and Alan	Tel: 81116
Teas	Romi	890287
Cake stall	Val	812390
Honey, pickles, chutneys and jams	Peter	891043
Gifts and Presents	Sarah	891496
Craft stall	Jill	810157
Treasures and white elephant	Doreen	891452
Toys	Amba	890565
Bottle stall	Jonathan	891695
Raffle	Marian	890561

## CHURCH NEWS

Services in Easton for the next month will be:

4 <sup>th</sup> November -	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
<b>11<sup>th</sup> November -</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Service for Remembrance Sunday</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> November -	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> November -	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist



#### **49 CLUB WINNER**

The winner of the September draw was Angie Smith, and the winner of the October draw is Clive Wood.

#### **CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP**

This annual event will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November from about 10 o'clock onwards. Now that the wall is looking so good, this should be an especially rewarding task and it generally becomes a good social event as well. Everybody is welcome!

#### **THEFTS FROM CHURCHES**

We have just had to pay out £1,346 to insure our church, and with the renewal notice has come some urgent anti-theft advice to help protect the building from metal thieves. Insurers say that nearly every day they receive claims for theft of external metals from churches from a few hundred pounds to tens of thousands. Theft of lead, copper and other metals – from roofs, guttering and lightning conductors – is prompted by the rising price of these materials. In these circumstances, it would help enormously if we all took some responsibility for keeping our church safe. No further work to the church (apart from installation of security lighting as detailed below) is anticipated in the coming months, and when anything else is planned we will let you know. If, therefore, you should see anything suspicious going on with ladders etc., please call the police. (Do not attempt to deal with the situation yourself). Security lights and an alarm to cover the roof area are being installed during the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October so if these should ever be activated, again the advice is to dial 999.

#### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST CYCLE RIDE**

Very many thanks to everyone who sponsored this event and to those who took part. The sum of £200 was raised in Easton. Half comes back to the Fabric Fund for our Church and the rest is put towards the maintenance of other historic churches in Cambridgeshire.

#### **WINE TASTING**

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a great success, particularly Linda and Jayne who did all the washing up(!) and also to Beth and Caroline who gave the puddings. We raised £254.00 for the Easton Community Project.....and a good time was had by all.

#### **EASTON COMMUNITY PROJECT**

A public notice about the proposed internal changes to the Church is now displayed, as required, on the notice board in the churchyard. This gives details of the works, together with the method for raising any objections to the work or proposals. The closing date for written comment is 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

#### **CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY**

As the festive season draws nearer, please note that the PCC will again be organising the delivery of cards around the village in return for a donation to the Fabric Fund. More details in the December newsletter.

#### **GUY FAWKES NIGHT**

Finally, a reminder that we have a number of thatched roofs in the village so if you are planning a firework display to celebrate the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot, please make very sure that any aerial fireworks are aimed well away from any of these properties, making due allowance for weather conditions, wind strength and direction. If you have a bonfire it's also worth checking that there are no hibernating animals such as hedgehogs making their home there before you set light to it!

