

Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE NOTES 34



Brian Davis

You may remember the question over Marsh versus Willow Tits visiting Ray and Val's garden last winter. One has been visiting my window bird feeder recently. I managed to photograph it and emailed the photo to Shelley Hinsley at Monks Wood, who forwarded it to the oracle (Rich). In his 'masterclass' reply he says: "You can see in front of the ear covert, on the side of the face, the cheek is white, while behind the ear covertit is grey/brown. ...On the upper mandible, proximal end, there is a clear white mark on the cutting edge. This is a clincher for Marsh [and] if it is anywhere round here, it's a Marsh as Willow are effectively extinct." I

replied saying "Of course, how obvious!" Several people have reported seeing a lovely pair of Barn Owls hunting the field edges along the Stonely road beyond the railway bridge in the early mornings, and I saw them myself recently floating along only a few feet above the ground. Kestrels, too, are well established again along that road. One night recently was said to be the mildest January night on record. A Mistle Thrush started proclaiming the new breeding season on 9th January and Scarlet Elf Cups are 'blooming' again in Shepherds Close. Finally, a challenge from John Hill, who says: "We had 17 Goldfinches in the garden on or around the Niger seed at one time. Anybody beat this?!"

49 CLUB WINNERS

Following the win by his wife in the previous month, Chris Charlton managed to win the December draw! The January draw was won by Roger Silcock.

PANTO TIME...

Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!! It is getting close to Pantomime time once again and this year Melodramatics are presenting *Cinderella* at the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton. Dates are from Wednesday February 27th to Saturday March 1st. (Three performances on the Saturday at 12 noon, 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock). Tickets are £6 each (£4 for concessions and children) and can be bought from Watson's of Kimbolton, or to save you the journey speak to John Hill in Broadweir (tel. 896444). Several people from the village are involved, not only on stage but behind the scenes preparing costumes and scenery etc. and almost all the proceeds are allocated to local charities.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday Services in Easton during February will be:

3rd Feb.	9.30 a.m. Candlemas Eucharist;
10 th Feb.	6.00 p.m. Evensong
17 th Feb.	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship;
24 th Feb.	8.00 a.m. Eucharist



Easter is as early as it can ever be this year, so Lent begins on 6th February. The Ash Wednesday Eucharist will be celebrated at 10.00 a.m. (Alconbury) and at 7.00 p.m. (Ellington). There will be Lent study groups on Wednesdays (from 13th Feb.) at 7.30 p.m. at 3 Van Diemens Way, Graftham, and on Thursdays (from 14th Feb.) at 8.00 p.m. at the Vicarage, Alconbury. The customary 12 noon Eucharist followed by frugal lunch will be on Fridays: 15th February at Barham, 22nd February at Ellington, 29th February at Spaldwick, 7th March at Easton and 14th March at Alconbury.

There will be a **Mothering Sunday** service at Easton on 2nd March at 9.30 a.m. Please make a note of this date in your diary now!

FUND RAISING

Proceeds from the Christmas card delivery service round the village, kindly organised by Caroline Wood to whom many thanks, raised £133.00 for the Church Fabric Fund. Results from the Quiz Evening at the end of January (in aid of the same fund) are not yet available but this event produced a record turn-out and the evening was greatly enjoyed by all.

The raffle held at the Mulled Wine event in December made £181.00, the money going to the Air Ambulance.