

EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 50

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NATURE NOTES 43

Brian Davis

Mike Baker and his merry lads felled a Leyland Cypress in our garden recently as we thought it was getting a bit too big. Stretched out on the lawn, in fact, it measured just 58 feet or 17.7 metres in height and 22 inches or 55 centimetres across the stump. With 33 clear rings, this gives an average growth of 21 inches (just over half a metre) per year. However, my book on trees says that it can grow up to 40 metres tall with a diameter of 1 metre, so it still had plenty of potential. Whew! Interestingly, this inter-generic hybrid between Nootka cypress and Monterey cypress was produced spontaneously in both Ireland and Wales in the late 19th century when the two parents were grown close together in ornamental collections. Young male cones were already formed on our tree and there were clusters of mature female cones but these rarely bear fertile seeds so trees are always grown by striking cuttings. This is true also of the English elm which is thought to have been introduced into Britain by Neolithic Man, migrating from the Continent about 5000 years ago, and grown as hedges to contain stock. Unlike 'Leylandii', the English elm can spread from root suckers so that an entire hedgerow may really be one individual of indeterminate age and all trees in a clone susceptible to one introduction of Dutch elm disease.

49 CLUB

Jenny Hyde was the lucky winner of the draw at the end of October.

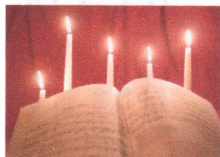
CHRISTMAS EVENT

Just a reminder that the party season starts as usual with the annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pie morning which takes place in the Church on Sunday 7th December, 12.00 - 2.00pm. If you haven't already been offered tickets, then you will be soon!



CHURCH NEWS

As usual, there will be a number of special Christmas services during December and it is hoped that everyone will find something they will want to attend. In particular, your attention is drawn to the Christingle Service at a time which it is hoped will suit young children, as well as the village Carol Service the following week. Refreshments will be served after each of these services.



7 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
14 th December	-	4.00 p.m.	Christingle Service
21 st December	-	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
25 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist for Christmas Day

On 28th December there will be a Group Eucharist in Ellington Church at 9.30 a.m. to which everyone is warmly invited.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

As in previous years, members of the PCC are offering to deliver your Christmas cards to village residents in return for a donation to the Church Fabric Fund. This is a very worthwhile fund-raising exercise for the Church and we do hope it will have your support. It should also help you to have one less task at this busy time! All you have to do is deliver your cards to "Avondale" in Chapel Lane with a donation to church funds (suggested minimum 10p per card) no later than Sunday 14th December and the PCC will deliver them to the individual households around the village.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Sunday 14th December

Please do come and join us for this special service – all are very welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards. If there are any children who would like to decorate the Christmas tree in the Church, please come along on Saturday 13th December at 11.00 a.m. We should be very grateful for any help.



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

We shall be decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday 20th December at 2 pm and should be most grateful for help with this, or for any gifts of white flowers or Christmas arrangements. Also, if any children would like to help to put up the crib, please come along at the same time.

PLAYTIMES PLAYGROUP



PLAYTIMES would like parents to know that they are now open earlier!! Breakfast club (2½ - 11 yr olds) now open from 7.30am Monday to Friday. Playgroup sessions available for children aged 2½ yrs to 5 yrs Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm. **Mucky Pups** (parent and toddler sessions) Thursday 1.30pm-3pm. For more information please telephone 01480 890077 or look up www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk