

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 53

March 2009

SPECIAL SNOW EDITION!

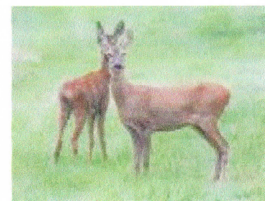
The heavy snowfalls in February were not all bad news and for several days the village looked like a Christmas card. The children (and probably some of the Dads, too!) made some amazing snowmen during the time that schools and businesses were closed: if there had been a prize, it must surely have gone to the two-legged snowman that was about 7' tall!



NATURE NOTES 46

If winter comes can spring be far behind? We haven't had a good old-fashioned winter like this for many years, but the 1962/3 winter was far worse, and there must some in Easton and Spaldwick who were here through the 1947 winter and could share a memory or two. Aconites were already yellowing the ground in our garden before the snow, waiting for a brave bumblebee, and I guess that frogs and toads are waiting impatiently to gather at their nuptial ponds. I recently found a list I made in 1968 of the fields in Easton that used to have ponds: a few fields had two, making a total of 94 ponds in 89 fields. These must all have been for livestock and it is strange how these records on old maps preserve echoes of the numerous cattle and sheep that must once have formed a dominant part of village life. A map I made in 1968 also shows 14 meadows in Easton parish with ridge-and-furrow, preserving echoes of even more ancient ploughing techniques with horses or oxen. Of these only five, I think, still survive. The Countryside Survey I mentioned last month estimates that there are now only about half a million ponds in Britain (excluding those in gardens) and there is a drive to double this number. A Roe deer has recently been doing the rounds in Easton – seen by the Burtons in the village and by Shepherds Close. They reach 25 inches at the shoulder and stand more erect than Muntjac which reaches 19 inches and has the distinctive hump back with sloping rump.

Brian Davis



ANNUAL PANTOMIME

Don't forget to get your tickets for *Melodramatics'* production of 'Mother Goose' at the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton. This runs from Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th February, with no fewer than three performances on Saturday! Several members of the village are involved and tickets are the same price as last year (£6.00 and concessions at £4.00). You can still obtain them from Dave Watson's shop in Kimbolton or ask John Hill to reserve a place and get your tickets for you (896444).

CHURCH NEWS

Services during March will be:

1 st March	-	9.30 a.m. Sunday Worship
8 th March	-	6.00 p.m. Evensong
15 th March	-	9.30 a.m. Eucharist
22 nd March	-	9.30 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service
29 th March	-	8.00 a.m. Eucharist



ANNUAL QUIZ

The 11th Annual Quiz evening took place at Spaldwick School on 7th February. In spite of the weather, there was a good turnout for a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to everyone who came to the quiz, gave raffle prizes and donations and helped to organise the event. A total of £353.50 was raised for the Easton Church Fabric Fund.

BALLS AND QUIZZES WITH THE HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Brian Arbutnott and I have recently joined the H.S.A. Fundraising Committee and we have a couple of events coming up that may be of interest to Easton villagers.

Pop Quiz

Why not come along to a Pop Quiz on Friday 27th March (it was unfortunately cancelled because of the snow earlier this month). It is to be held in Hinchingsbrooke House at 7.30 for an 8pm start. Tickets are £5 each and why not make up a team (max 12-16). Quiz rounds are from all decades so come a long and have some fun.

Mid-Summer's Ball

On Friday 3rd July we are hold our biggest event of the year with our Mid-Summer's Ball, in the fantastic venue of Hinchingsbrooke House. With live band, disco, four course meal and tickets under £30 each, let's get a crowd from Easton going, hire a bus and have a good time??!! Further detail and tickets for both these events can be obtained from Brian (890585) or from me, Richard Burton (891848).

MOTHERING SUNDAY – 22nd March

There will be a service for the village at 9.30 a.m. at Easton Church. All are welcome – please bring your families and friends to join us for this special occasion.