

Easton Village Newsletter

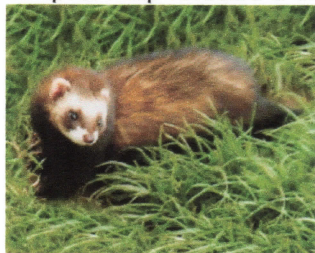
Issue 55

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NATURE NOTES 48

Brian Davis

I've been watching a red-tailed *lapidarius* bumblebee this afternoon quartering my orchard in search of a vole burrow wherein to make its nest. The first hole may have been occupied as it reappeared quickly, but when it disappeared underground for five minutes I guess it may have found a suitable vacancy. And removing an old carpet from my compost heap revealed a two foot Grass snake. Highlight news this month, though, is the first Easton record of a Parakeet, courtesy of Geoff Prigmore's bird feeder. And in February a Polecat was shot near Magpie Farm. This larger relative of Stoats and Weasels was once widespread in England. Now common only in Wales and Scotland, it has been spreading eastwards recently and there are confirmed records from eastern Northants. The domestic Ferret was bred from Polecats and they still hybridise quite readily. Like Mink, another - though introduced - relative, they are terrible for chickens and nesting game but, if it were not for our penchant for rearing pheasants to shoot, Polecats might be seen as good for reducing Rabbit numbers. Talking of hybrids, now is the time to see the False Oxlip, e.g. in the corner of Easton churchyard. This cross between Primrose and Cowslip turns up quite commonly where the parents co-exist. The true



Oxlip is a woodland plant common only in Essex though occurring in a few woods in southern Cambridgeshire. The *Flora of Huntingdonshire* describes it as "forming great sheets of yellow (in Waresley Wood) in mid-April", but in recent years it has been badly eaten back by deer and few of the plants we saw this week had flowers.

CHURCH NEWS

Services during May will be:

3 rd May	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
10 th May	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
17 th May	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
21 st May	-	9.00 a.m.	Ascension Day Eucharist - Spaldwick
24 th May	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
31 st May	-	10.00 a.m.	Pentecost Eucharist at Ellington



On **31st May** our Rector, Jonathan Young, completes 40 years in holy orders. To mark this anniversary, everyone is invited to a joint service at **Ellington Church** at 10.00 a.m.

THANKS...

At the Church Annual Meeting thanks were recorded to the kind people who help throughout the year with flower-arranging, cleaning, grass-cutting and all the many tasks that are involved in keeping the church open, and especially to all those not necessarily regular members of the congregation who nevertheless support the Church financially.

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th May at 8.00pm in the Church and all are welcome to attend. The Parish Council has received a free of charge offer of soil improver 'compost' from Huntingdonshire District Council: it is on a collection basis of one per household. If you are interested please contact Anthea Beer at clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk (01480-890332). Following news last month of the Easton United Charities' website, it has been suggested that the Parish Council/village had a website. The idea would be for the various bodies within the village to have their own pages - the Church, Easton Fund & Social Committee, maybe Neighbourhood Watch etc. However, someone with experience of setting up websites is needed to advise and help set it up. If anyone feels they have something to contribute to this idea, please contact clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk. (NB: "clerk_eastonpc..." etc.)

✠ VAL ELLIS

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Val, who died on 1st April at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Val had lived in Easton for many years, having come to the village in 1962 when she married Ray, who was born and brought up here. She will be very much missed by so many of us to whom she was such a kind and generous friend - always so ready to help anyone in need. She will be remembered especially for the beautiful flowers which she donated and arranged in the Church every Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, and by those for whose weddings she decorated the Church. With her knowledge and love of nature and wildlife, she was a regular contributor to the Nature Notes in the monthly newsletter. She also helped on the Easton Fund & Social Committee and her delicious cooking will be remembered by many. We owe her our deep gratitude for all her help and support in so many ways. Our love and sympathy are with Ray and with Val's sister, Heather and family in New Zealand.