

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 60

October 2009

NATURE NOTES 52



We had a good splash of rain around the beginning of August (55 mm in 10 days according to the Silcock rain gauge) but only 15 mm since then. However, that splash dampened the ground thoroughly and encouraged a mole to make several forays into my lawn covering an extraordinarily large area in just a few days, and Tony Ellis has had a similar experience. I tolerate moles in our orchard but not in the lawn when I want to play croquet! I was reminded of a study done in the Dutch polders in the 1960s when someone introduced a mole into a pasture and measured the daily length of new runs produced. It dug about 13 metres a day for the first four days, 38 metres over the weekend, and a further 13 metres on the seventh day, making a total of 102 metres in one week! The study does not relate how it continued to expand its

territory but there were lots more wormy cow pats in the field to discover and exploit. Neither Tony nor I have managed to trap our moles but I thought I was doing quite well by catching seven young rabbits in cage traps this summer until I heard that Tony had caught 70. Myxomatosis now seems to have decimated the rabbit population around Easton.

Brian Davis

THE FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR 2009

This year's Advent Fair will be held on Saturday, 28 November and as an experiment will be held in Ellington Church. Could you start thinking what you could do to help? There is no reason why the same people do the same stalls each year so could you offer to co-ordinate a stall? Can you start jam- and pickle-making, collect bottles and raffle prizes, craft items, bric-a-brac etc.? Could you organise a competition, game or activity? Offers of help please to Sue Young on 453350.

49 CLUB

Iris Brooker was the lucky winner of the August draw.

YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOSPICE NEEDS YOUR HELP



The Milton Children's hospice is looking for Collection Box Organisers and Publicity Officers. Both roles would involve a few hours a month and full training will be given. Your help will enable us to ensure that we can continue to provide care to children with life-threatening conditions and complex health care needs and support to their families. If you are interested in becoming part of the children's hospice at Milton and would like to learn more about the work of EACH please come along to our Volunteer Open Day on Monday 12 October 2009 from 3pm-6pm. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Nicky Jackson or Beccy Turner on 01223 205180 or email nicky.jackson@each.org.uk to book your place and to answer any questions.

THEFT

On the night of Friday 28th August, David Leverington at The Nook had all 6 of his solar-powered garden lights stolen. The following week on Friday 4th September the fixed light on the gate was also stolen. Villagers may wish to take this as a warning to be extra vigilant about garden items and if anyone has any information about these thefts David would be very pleased to hear from you.

CHURCH NEWS

Services during October will be:-

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 4 th October | - 9.30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 11 th October | - 6.00 p.m. | Evensong |
| 18 th October | - 9.30 a.m. | Eucharist |
| 25 th October | - 8.00 a.m. | Eucharist |

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who so kindly helped to decorate the Church most beautifully for Harvest Festival and to everyone who generously donated such a wide variety of produce and flowers. The produce was later taken to The Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton. They are always extremely grateful for our support as our contributions help with catering for their 20 disabled residents plus all the staff who care for them. There are nearly 100 Leonard Cheshire Disability Care Homes across the UK and The Manor provides the very highest levels of personal care requirements to people of all ages with physical and sensory impairments and people with learning disabilities. They have specialist skills in areas such as progressive neurological conditions and acquired brain injury and provide much-needed support.

HARVEST IN EASTON

I wonder how many of us have walked out into the fields during the harvest this year, even to see the dust storm created by the combine harvesters, and so few of us came to celebrate the harvest festival in Church which was beautifully decorated. We had a sheaf of corn rescued from the combine harvester by Kath Goodwin and there were freshly baked loaves of bread - the bread of life! - as well as produce from some of our gardens and orchards. In years gone by our keenest gardeners used to bring a barrow load of produce for the Harvest from their vegetable gardens. In recent years we were aware of the harvest as wagons laden with corn thundered down the village street to Townend Farm, but the village is silent now, farming has changed. I remember as a child the fun of harvest and helping to stook the corn following the reaper. It was hard work but everyone joined in, and whether the harvest was good or bad we all came to celebrate afterwards in Church, as a community.

Beth Davis