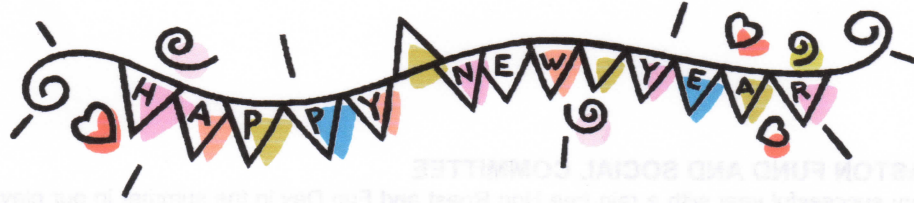


Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 63

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MORE EASTON WILDLIFE



Steve Thomason sent this amazing photograph of a Sparrow hawk which got trapped in his chicken coop recently. He says: "We have our chickens in a coop which opens out into an open chicken run. The coop itself has an enclosed wire mesh area in front of the chicken house and from time to time we have had blackbirds and similar trapped in the open part of the coop, when I assume they have tried to get at the chicken food. Walking past recently, I noticed lots of flapping going on and upon looking closer I thought at first there was a kestrel trapped inside. I checked the chickens and they were all accounted for, so had a closer look and found it was a Sparrow hawk. I assume it had flown in to attack one of the chickens and although they were all in the run by this time, none had been harmed and they did not seem to be too concerned about the invader in their coop. The sparrow hawk itself was significantly smaller than the chickens. I nipped back to grab a camera and managed to get a couple of photos as it was flapping round the coop. I eventually opened the top to the coop and it flew away unharmed".

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area could be difficult. According to the Royal Horticultural Society, resistant trees include Sweet Chestnut, Oak, London Plane and Hornbeam, while particularly susceptible trees include Horse chestnut, Beech – and Walnut unfortunately, as one donated by John Jolly had just been planted. "I think I'll have to think again."

To accompany this fascinating note on a male Sparrow hawk in Easton, Wendy Kruger told me she saw a Goshawk in her garden at the end of November. However, when I reported this to the county bird recorder he said it was much more likely to be a large female Sparrow hawk as Goshawks are extremely rare in this area and are more like a Buzzard in size and appearance. On the other hand, I have it on the authority of the county fungus recorder that the large brown fungi growing last month around the bases of the two horse chestnut trees that were felled in the churchyard are Honey fungus. This is also known to attack a wide range of living trees so establishing a new tree in this



Brian Davis

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Thanks to Charles Nixon and the generosity of villagers, the Poppy Collection in the village this year raised £100.85.

SUCCESS FOR SPALDWICK SCHOOL

Spaldwick Community Primary School was very pleased with the result of their Ofsted Inspection in November 2009. The Inspectors have registered the school as 'outstanding', as you can see from these report quotes: "Spaldwick is a warm, happy, busy school that provides an outstanding education for its pupils and makes an excellent contribution to its community... Teachers successfully keep pupils on task and interested through varying activities and through ensuring that tasks set match the different abilities. Pupils feel valued and appreciate the many opportunities made available to them to take on responsibilities. The school, working closely with parents, has high expectations of behaviour and pupils respond very well." Head teacher, Miss Rachel Prior, said: "We are all very proud of the Ofsted report. It recognises that at Spaldwick school everyone works together to enable all our pupils to succeed during the different stages of primary schooling and to continue with their education as confident young people. The Ofsted inspection has highlighted the outstanding quality of care given to the pupils and how staff, parents and governors work closely to challenge all pupils to achieve their potential. The Inspection also acknowledged the wide range of curriculum opportunities provided for all pupils and how the school staff and governors are continually aspiring to improve." In the Spring term the school will be holding an open afternoon, and we hope you will be able to come along and meet us all.

www.spaldwickschool.org.uk

HARTHAM STREET

Mr. Simeon Carroll from the County Council reports that the work on Hartham Street is substantially complete so walkers, cyclists and horse riders may now use this byway again. A final 'power harrowing' of the surface will, however, take place in the early spring. The gates will remain closed to 4-wheeled traffic until the end of April.

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NEWS FROM EASTON FUND AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This has been a very successful year with a rain-free Hog Roast and Fun Day in the summer in our playing field. We used the new village marquee for the first time. The Bonfire and Halloween Party on 31st October was also a great success with a crowd of us enjoying the excitement of the roaring bonfire and burning the guys in the darkness of the playing field; there were sparklers and small children everywhere. We ate hot dogs and gulped down hot soup served by witches from caldrons in the tents. Prizes were given for the best guy, judged by John Hill who had toured the village on his bike earlier in daylight, and more prizes were given for those who dressed for the occasion in a scary Halloween costume! Shall we make our Bonfire and Halloween Night a regular village event, and arrange to celebrate it again next year on the Saturday before 5th November. We finished the year with the Christmas Mulled Wine Party in the church on 6th December. The Committee wish to thank everyone who helped to organise the events, and who gave donations for raffle prizes. These have raised funds for charities outside the village. A special thank you to everyone for joining in the fun. We look forward to another year and to using the church as a village meeting place for the first time in hundreds of years. The alterations inside the church should be completed by Easter.

ADVENT FAIR

At the recent Five Parish Advent Fair £790 was raised to be divided between the five parishes. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way. Making or providing items for sale or for the raffle, stall holders, those who came to buy or support in other ways and those who helped set up or clear away at the end. Particular thanks to Peter who organized his traditional pickle and chutney stall and to Mike who with his two lads helped to transport boxes from the Rectory to the Church.

CHURCH NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the Christmas celebrations at St. Peter's, especially those who decorated the Church so beautifully, those who provided refreshments and most of all, those who enriched our worship by turning out in such numbers to attend the services. It would not have been the same without you.

Services during January will be:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|------------------|
| 3 rd January | - | 9.30 a.m. | Epiphany Service |
| 10 th January | - | 6.00 p.m. | Evensong |
| 17 th January | - | 9.30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 24 th January | - | 8.00 a.m. | Eucharist |
| 31 st January | - | No service in Easton. Group Eucharist at Spaldwick at 10.00 a.m. | |

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The County Council has asked if an article which they have produced detailing how the over-65's can be given choice over their social care can be included in any news letter! As the article covers two sides of A4 paper, it is only possible to draw attention to this new initiative. To find out whether you are eligible, please telephone 0345-045-5202, email in.controltotal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or look up Self Directed Support on the County Council website – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social/selfdirectedsupport.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

The PCC are very grateful for the sum of £80 that was raised for the Fabric Fund from this delivery service. Conditions just before Christmas were extremely hazardous and we are all relieved that no-one slipped and broke anything in the process! However, it was a little disappointing that it was only used by about 15 people. Maybe we should give this a miss next Christmas? If you have any views on this, please make them known to a member of the PCC (Mike Baker, Peter Gould, Beth Davis or Jenny Hyde).