

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 65

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NATURE NOTES 64

Brian Davis



Drowned in yonder living blue/ The lark becomes a sightless song. When my grandfather came to England from Boston, USA, in 1937, he went out for a walk and came back saying that he had seen skylarks but they weren't singing. Of course, if you see a skylark in the sky that is precisely what they are doing. But I understand his problem as I'm afraid it's rather like that with me these days, and Beth always hears the first spring warbler to arrive. Unfortunately, fewer and fewer people do hear skylarks nowadays as they have been declining over most of England and Wales, mainly because of winter-sown cereals in the east and the change to intensive silage-making in the west. The Entry Level Stewardship scheme,

administered by Natural England and the Environment Agency, is now helping to reverse this trend through grants for 'skylark plots' in cereal fields, as I saw last autumn in the RSPB farm at Knapwell. These are just unsown patches about 4 metres square and two per hectare, but they make all the difference. Skylarks can raise two to three broods a year by feeding their chicks on beetles and other insects in these patches, so in just five years the numbers of skylarks there have increased dramatically. Actually, the Burtons have achieved great success with Skylarks and Lapwings through having fallow fields in their Higher Level Scheme. Several skylarks were singing in early February over their fields near Stocking Barn. Perhaps we could have another farm walk this year to see what they have achieved.

QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to everyone who helped and/or supported this event, which benefited the Church Fabric Fund by ~~£366.60~~ £443-20.

PANTOMIME

Just a reminder that the Spring pantomime is *Sleeping Beauty* at the Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton from Wednesday 2nd March until Saturday 5th March. There is an early start on the Wednesday so that children won't be up too late, and three shows on the Saturday. Tickets are available from Dave Watson's shop in Kimbolton, or ring 860444

49 CLUB

Barbara Wallis was the lucky winner of the January draw.

CHURCH NEWS

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in the Church on Monday, 28th March 2011 at 8.00 p.m. Anyone may attend the meeting and ask questions, but only those on the Church electoral roll are eligible to vote.

The **new chairs** for the meeting room have now arrived and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to the cost or sponsored a chair. They will improve meetings immeasurably! Do call in and see them.

Services during March will be:

6 th March	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
13 th March	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
20 th March	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
27 th March	-	6.00 p.m.	Evening Eucharist



On 3rd April there will be a **Mothering Sunday Service** at 11.00 a.m.

During Lent, there will be Friday lunchtime Eucharist at 12 noon followed by a frugal lunch and these will take place as follows:

18 th March	-	Grafham;	25 th March	-	Easton;
1 st April	-	Ellington;	8 th April	-	Spaldwick;
		15 th April			Barham.

There will be a Bible Study group in Ellington at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesdays from 15th March – details from the Rector (891695) or Sarah Woodruff (891496). *N.B. To help organisation, we need to know in advance the approximate number likely to attend.*

CHIMNEY SWEEP



Winter must surely be on the wane as Mr. Barrow, the chimney sweep, will be coming to the village on Thursday and Friday, 31st March and 1st April. He will be increasing his prices on 1st April but has agreed to maintain last year's cost of £25 per chimney for this year's visit to Easton. If you would like the sweep to call, please telephone Jenny Hyde on 891454 no later than Thursday 10th March.

MAY BALL AT HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL

Richard Burton is helping Hinchingsbrooke School to organise a May Ball on Friday 20th May in the fantastic venue of Hinchingsbrooke House. With a Pimms reception, live band, three course meal and tickets at £30 each, come and get up an Easton table and have a good time!! Further details can be obtained from Richard (891848)

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