

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 98

November 2012

NATURE NOTES 74

Brian Davis



As each spinning down leaf / To extinction is cast. Did you notice how the lime tree in the churchyard was covered in yellow leaves one day and completely bare the next? Ash trees are now following suit in spattering the ground with yellow and our apple trees this year are surrounded by masses of fallen fruit. A good time now for fungi in the churchyard and along the 'new' footpath beside the Jolly's charity field. The churchyard has recently yielded a fine crop of Shaggy Ink-cap (above left) which were delicious on toast for lunch, while the footpath has had some weird-looking fungi spotted by Ray Ellis, including Dead Man's Fingers (top right) and Earth Stars (below), as well as some poisonous-looking, bright yellow Sulphur Tuft. On Sunday 21st the Hunts Fauna & Flora society had its annual fungus foray in Brampton Wood when fifteen pairs of sharp eyes espied nearly eighty species of fungi, including the scarlet Fly Agaric toadstool beloved of Pixies, which, my book states, "contains poisons that are dangerous to health"!

SO WHO WERE OLIVER CLARKE, BEN HARRISON AND WILLIAM SEWARD?

John Hill

Well, here's a clue LET THOSE THAT COME AFTER SEE TO IT THAT THEIR NAMES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Oliver, Ben and William are the names inscribed on the village war memorial.

Oliver was a private in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and lived in Easton. Probably, like the others, he was a farm labourer but made his way to Huntingdon and was killed in action (with millions of others) on Monday 25 March 1918 aged 24. He enlisted in 1914 and was only a little older than John Messenger, James Arbuthnot and Kate Saunders when he joined up. His body was never found but his name is on the Arras memorial at the Pas de Calais.

Benjamin - slightly older - also lived in Easton (there are numerous Harrisons in the graveyard). He was killed on that dreadful battle of the Somme. He, too, had joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment and is buried at the Euston Road cemetery on the Somme. He was killed in 1916 aged 24. He still has relatives living nearby.

William was a private in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He died in 1916, again on the Somme. He was younger than Ben Wood or James Bell when he was killed and his body was never found.....along with millions of others who were either blown to pieces or buried in the mud and tunnels that were never unearthed. His name is commemorated on the beautiful Thiepval memorial on the Somme.

The village war memorial has been cleaned up and their names made clearly visible. Spare a thought for those brave lads of Easton who never came home. Without their sacrifice and that of all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, it is doubtful if we would even be here today, let alone have the freedom and liberty we all enjoy.

You will have the chance to remember them at the Remembrance Day service at Easton on Sunday evening, November 11th. So who are they - Oliver, Ben, William?

**LET THOSE THAT COME AFTER SEE TO IT
THAT THEIR NAMES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**

SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER

4 th November	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
11 th November	-	6.00 p.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service
18 th November	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
25 th November	-	No service in Easton. (9.30 a.m. Eucharist at Spaldwick; 11.00 a.m. Eucharist at Ellington; 4.00 p.m. "Lights to Remember" - a service at Grafham to remember departed loved ones. Individuals can be mentioned by name and a candle lighted for each one).	



CHURCHYARD TAP

Villagers are advised that an outside tap has now been provided at the east end of the church building for the benefit of those who wish to arrange flowers or are tending the churchyard

CHCT RIDE + STRIDE

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way. The event took place on a lovely day in early September. Three cyclists from Easton cycled round nearby churches. Particular thanks to all sponsors who helped them to raise a total of £247.92. Half of this money comes back to the Fabric Fund of our church with the rest going towards the maintenance of other historic churches in Cambridgeshire.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- The annual **“Churchyard tidy-up”** is planned for Sunday, 18th November, with Sunday 25th as an alternative in case of bad weather. All are very welcome – the more the merrier!!
- Next **“BIG BREAKFAST”**
The next Big Breakfast will take place on Saturday, 17th November in the church.



CAUTION – THATCH!



If you are considering having a firework display in your own garden this year, please be aware of the thatched cottages in the conservation area, take into account the wind strength and direction and aim any aerial fireworks accordingly, well away from any buildings. Please also keep all bonfires under control. Sparks can easily be carried on the wind... and don't forget to check for hibernating hedgehogs before you light it!

We do not want anything like this horrific photograph to happen in Easton.

EASTON CAROL SINGING

We are planning to reintroduce the much loved annual carol singing around the village on Thursday 20th December. Many of you will remember fondly the days when the Easton Choir used to do this every year. A collection will be held for village funds. If you would like to take part in the singing please come to the rehearsal in the church at 7.00 pm on Thursday 6th December. Children and adults are welcome. In the meantime if you would like to know more about what is being planned please contact either Courtney Leach or Kathy Yates.



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