

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 109

November, 2013

NATURE NOTES 80

Brian Davis



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness – Keats' magical words echo in my mind every year when autumn comes. The *gathering swallows twittering in the skies* have now gone back to Africa, but the *red-breast* in our garden follows us around the garden *with treble soft*, while *hedge crickets sing* and clouds of *small gnats wail, borne aloft or sinking as the light wind lives or dies*. Our apple trees were indeed *bent down with apples*, and *windfalls* piled upon the grass. There should have been Red Admiral butterflies feasting on these but they all seem to have gone into hibernation. Among other autumn symbols there are the glossy chestnut conkers strewn across the road outside the churchyard, the lime tree within, with leaves glowing golden in the sunshine and contrasting with the deep purple of our Parrotia, while, tucked away in the undergrowth by the hedge, I found these seed head spears from **Jack-in-the-pulpit**; like the fallen apples, they celebrate autumn's own harvest festival for birds and other small creatures before the winter.



FROM THE RECTOR

After twelve years as your parish priest, I shall be retiring in February when I reach the age of 70. This brings very mixed feelings. Older friends tell me that retirement is highly recommended. But for clergy it means moving away from a place which has become the most important thing in our lives. Sue and I have greatly enjoyed being part of the community in the five parishes and it has been a privilege to share with many of you in the joys and in the sadnesses of life. Spaldwick, Barham, Woolley and Easton have shared a succession of priests since 1950. This long partnership will continue, with Stephen Bowring, the Rector of Kimbolton, taking over these parishes, while Ellington and Grafham will be linked with Brampton. In the mean time I hope to enjoy my remaining few months as your Rector, before Sue and I move - only a few miles - to Godmanchester.

SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER

3 rd November	-	9.30 a.m.	All Saints Day Eucharist
10 th November	-	6.00 p.m.	Remembrance Sunday service
17 th November	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
24 th November	-	No service in Easton. Nearest services: 9.30 a.m. Spaldwick/11.00 a.m. Ellington.	
Also, at 4.00 pm in Grafham there will be a service at which departed loved ones will be remembered. Lights can be placed on the altar in memory of each.			

FROM REV. STEVEN BOWRING

I'm sure you will join with me in wishing Jonathan and Sue every blessing and good health to enjoy a well-earned retirement. I am delighted to be taking on Spaldwick, Easton and Barham with Woolley in February. Some of you will know that I was appointed in 2011 on the understanding that this would happen when Jonathan retired, and it is exciting for me to see the plan come to fruition. Of course there will be challenges, but also great opportunities in the increased size of the benefice. It has been good to get to know some of the people of the three parishes over the last two years, and I look forward to that friendship growing and extending.



SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND INTER-VILLAGE QUIZ

Early in October, Margaret and Malcolm Halliday together with Jenny Hyde bravely agreed to represent Easton at the SCF Inter-Village Quiz, which takes place annually in Kimbolton Castle. A small group of supporters also went from Easton to cheer them on. Eleven villages were represented and to the great relief of Easton's team, although the hosts do not keep a record of the final positions, they were NOT last and succeeded in getting through the first two rounds. The final was played out between Brington, Catworth, Pertenhall and Dean with Brington and Pertenhall ending up as joint winners; they will share the winner's shield for half a year each. The evening was great fun and enjoyed by all, and resulted in the sum of £498 being raised for *Save the Children*. Hopefully, a few more people will be encouraged to attend next year.

FROM THE PCC

On the hottest day in September Peter and Beth climbed onto the church roof with the church architect, Julian Limentani, to inspect the lead covering; there had been leaks in the aisle and the chancel during the worst of the winter weather. This inspection happens every five years and the Parochial Church Council (Easton PCC) try to cover the repairs that are needed before the next inspection. Our track record is good and although several things still remain to be done, the most vital have been covered. Thanks should be given to everyone who has helped with fund-raising and taking on some minor repairs themselves, and to those who brought about the most wonderful transformation of our church by the alterations to the tower and meeting room and the re-glazing of the clerestory windows. Julian was involved with the alterations but was full of praise for what we have achieved.

ANNUAL CHURCH TIDY-UP

This will take place on Sunday 17th November from 11.00 a.m. onwards. Refreshments will be provided for all who come and help. We hope enough will come along to have time to clean out the upper floor in the tower as well as the usual tasks of clearing the leaves and the roof gutters etc. If it is raining we will clean out the tower and then meet the following Sunday, 24th November, to do the churchyard.

CHCT RIDE, STRIDE or DRIVE 2013

Many thanks to all who helped in any way. Two cyclists from Easton took part in this annual event. Generous sponsors helped them to raise £160, of which half comes back to our Fabric Fund with the rest put into a general fund for the maintenance of historic churches in Cambridgeshire.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR EASTON

Premises in Easton are included in the *Connecting Cambridgeshire* programme. This means that, by the end of 2015, there will be improvements to the broadband infrastructure that will enable many homes and businesses to receive superfast broadband speeds (minimum 24Mbps)* while others will be able to receive fibre broadband speeds of between 2Mbps and 24 Mbps. Superfast broadband is forecast to be available in our area sometime between June and September 2014. The scheduling for each phase depends upon the outcome of surveys and more detailed planning so BT cannot be more precise until these are completed. They will be updating the website regularly as the information becomes available.

The broadband speed you will get depends on a number of factors including the length of your line from the telephone exchange or green roadside cabinet, the line quality, and the equipment and internal wiring within your premises. *Connecting Cambridgeshire* is working to ensure that everyone in the programme gets as fast a speed as possible given their geographical location. Some premises may be particularly hard to reach, meaning that a connection to the fibre network may not be possible. Where appropriate, alternative technology may be used to provide broadband connectivity (minimum 2Mbps). These technologies are likely to be delivered later in the roll-out but still before the end of 2015. Our area has a Broadband Champion, Steve Thomason (Tel: 891516) who has been helping BT raise awareness of the programme and encouraging people to register their demand for superfast broadband.

**To get superfast broadband speeds you will need to subscribe to the superfast broadband service once it is available. You will be able to order superfast broadband from all major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as well as BT. The fibre-based network will be open to all communications providers on an equal wholesale basis bringing greater choice and affordable prices for customers.*

PLAYING FIELD - PLAY AREA - SLIDE REPLACEMENT

For over a year the Easton Parish Council has been aware that the slide in the play area has been in need of repair/replacement and has been actively seeking opportunities to raise the required funds for replacement. We can now relay the good news that funding has finally been obtained to progress this. The funding has been obtained from three sources. Firstly, from The Huntingdon District Council Community Chest Fund, also from RES, and finally a contribution has been made by BT via their BT employee 'People Awards' scheme which supports work in the community for their employees by giving yearly grants to assist with charitable projects. The next step is to obtain firm quotes for the work to be carried out and this will be progressed over the next couple of months.

RES WOOLLEY HILL WIND FARM - COMMUNITY BENEFITS PACKAGE

It is RES policy to ensure that each wind farm development brings tangible benefits to the local community. RES voluntarily offers a community benefits package based on £5,000 per megawatt installed. At Woolley Hill, this equates to £50,000 per year for the lifetime of the wind farm (approx 25 years). The package provides two main types of benefit: a Community Benefit Fund and a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS).

- **Community Benefit Fund:** RES are proposing a Community Benefit Fund of £20,000 per year, index linked, based on an indicative installed capacity of 10MW. The fund will be administered by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, but decisions about where the money is spent will be made by a Fund Panel of local people. The Parish Council wish to encourage anyone with a view on how an element of the Community Benefit Fund should be spent for Easton to discuss this with the Parish Council, as they have representatives on the Community Liaison Group. The fund will not commence any distribution of grants until the wind farm is operational, which is estimated to be in late 2014 or early 2015.
- **Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS):** The Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) has been developed by RES as a new form of benefit for communities hosting its wind farms. The scheme is open to all residential, business and community buildings (including schools, places of worship and village halls) within the eligible area that has an electricity meter. LEDS at Woolley Hill is offering people living and working within two kilometres of the four-turbine wind farm an annual discount of £100 off their electricity bill once the wind farm is fully operational. Eligible properties - which do not include Easton - have been contacted directly by RES with details of how to register for LEDS.

BROADWEIR BRAINTEASER: There is no Brainteaser this month owing to lack of space. Answers to Quiz No.3 are available on request from John Hill or from Jenny Hyde.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 6 December to Sunday 8 December

At St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton

Opening Friday 6 December at 7pm
Tickets £3.50 from Truffles & Twine
to include mince pies and mulled wine.

Open Saturday 7 December 10.30am – 5pm
and Sunday 8 December 12noon – 5pm
entrance £2.50
Refreshments on sale throughout the festival