

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 111

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE OF A COUNTRYMAN

NN 81

Brian Davis



I have been fascinated by a series of Radio 4 programmes on Mondays called *The Life Scientific* in which Jim Al Khalili interviews various scientists about their life and work. So, when I recently received this photograph from our born-and-bred Eastoner, Ray Ellis, I decided to interview him. He was born, the youngest of four children, in North Cottage, which was pulled down about 1951 after the 'Swedish' council houses were built but which stood next door to where he is now, where the Grahams built The House. He went to the C of E School at Ellington until he was fourteen and then helped his father who kept bullocks and up to 4,000 poultry in land behind Ted Mills' house. After National Service in the Catering Corps, where Ray narrowly missed being sent to North Korea, he joined Wood & Ingrams nursery where he met Val and worked for ten years. When the land at Brampton was sold for building he moved to a MOD vehicle operations unit at Alconbury for the next 32 years until he retired and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. From boyhood, Ray has been a countryman,



collecting butterflies and birds' eggs, as one did in those days, helping with the harvests and beating for pheasants in all the surrounding parishes. Now, at eighty, he still walks around the village every day, noting the birds and butterflies in his garden (e.g. a Small tortoiseshell on 8<sup>th</sup> December!), the kites swooping over the meadow, the fungi in the churchyard and the fox cubs playing in surrounding fields. When I asked him about this photograph of a Daddy-long-legs spider catching a House spider (notice the thicker legs) he showed me how he took the photograph under his kitchen table where the spiders came from behind the skirting board. So, as John Hill might say, "Look beneath you" before you sit down!

## SERVICES DURING JANUARY

5 <sup>th</sup> January	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
12 <sup>th</sup> January	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
19 <sup>th</sup> January	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
26 <sup>th</sup> January	-	No Service in Easton.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	-	11.00 a.m.	Candlemas – Benefice Service.

*This will be Fr. Jonathan's final service before retirement.*

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE WELCOME CLUB!

Many members of the village are either Members or Associate Members of the Welcome Club which meets regularly. We are very pleased to announce that the Club has been chosen by Waitrose as their Community Matters Scheme for January. Every time you shop at Waitrose, you will be given a green token to place in one of three boxes at the exit: please make sure your token goes into the Welcome Club box.....and tell your friends and family, too! The more tokens that are placed in the Welcome Club box, the more the store will subsidise the Club financially towards future trips and outings. Please support your local club

## 49 CLUB

Many thanks to those who have re-entered the 49 Club. The winner of the October draw was Becky and Paul Reece with number 9, so congratulations to them. The winner of the November draw was Barbara Wallis, so congratulations to Barbara. If anyone wishes to join the 49 Club there are two numbers available which, of course, would just be £10 for the remaining 10 months.

## COMMUNITY PROJECT – CONGRATULATIONS!

A notable milestone in the course of the Easton Community Project was achieved in November. The final instalment, £2,500, of a loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust was repaid. The CHCT had, four years ago, lent the project £10,000 interest free. Thanks are due to very many people for fundraising, hands-on work and administrative activities during the course of this project and their efforts have led to the creation of a superb community facility within St Peter's church. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) maintains three bank accounts: Fabric Fund, General Church Account and Community Project Fund. All three require continuing income. The Fabric Fund provides for the costs of repairs and maintenance to the building (see October newsletter item from the PCC); the General Church Account pays for costs directly linked to worship in the church, such as a share of heating and lighting and part of the insurance premium; the Community Fund has to date been solely for fundraising to repay capital loans. In continuing to provide the Community facility, the account needs to continue fundraising in order to share costs for insurance and heating etc (the annual insurance premium is £2,067). Please contact Malcolm if you have queries such as the possibility of Gift Aid donations

## BIG BREAKFAST

The next Big Breakfast is planned for Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please note that thanks to O2 discontinuing the provision of email services in November, your editor now has a new email address, which is [j.hyde2@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hyde2@btinternet.com).

## BROADWEIR BRAINTEASER NO.5

1. What country did Good King Wenceslaus rule over? .....
2. How many gifts in total in the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas'?.....
3. Who banned Christmas between 1647 and 1660? .....
4. What is the birth sign of people born on 25th December?.....
5. In the pantomime Aladdin, what was the name of Aladdin's brother?.....
6. In the song "Winter Wonderland", who do we pretend the snowman is? .....
7. The Territory of Christmas Island is in which Ocean? .....
8. 'When a child is born' was a hit for .....
9. From which country does the 'poinsettia' originate?.....
10. Maid Marion appears in which pantomime?.....
11. What was the name of Scrooge's partner?.....
12. Who became famous for singing 'Walking in the Air'? .....
13. Fe Fo Fi Fum is the start of a classic line from which pantomime?.....
14. Name the missing King - Caspar, Melchior, \_\_\_\_\_?.....
15. How many points does a snowflake have?.....
16. Why were Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem? .....
17. Who wrote the lyrics and music for 'White Christmas'? .....
18. One foggy Christmas Eve, Santa needed help guiding his sleigh through the stormy night. Who did he ask for help?.....
19. Which Christmas Carol was written by Franz Gruber in 1818? .....
20. According to the song, "Frosty The Snowman" what kind of soul does Frosty have? .....
21. In the British Army, what is "gunfire" on Christmas morning? .....
22. What was the name of Santa's only female reindeer? .....
23. The song 'White Christmas' was first performed in which 1942 film?.....
24. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country? .....
25. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', '...my true love brought to me nine...' what? .....
26. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray.....'?
27. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant? .....
28. In the inspirational 1946 film, 'It's a Wonderful Life', what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel? .....
29. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland? .....
30. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847? .....
31. In what year was Band-Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas' the UK Christmas chart-topping record? .....
32. Which country did St Nicholas come from?.....
33. Who wrote Auld Lange Syne? .....
34. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas? .....

If you are stuck with the answers ring John Hill on 896444!