

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 113

March, 2014

## NATURE NOTE 82



If you go down to the woods today... you may be in for a big surprise. I am speaking of Shepherds Close - the little woodland nature reserve a mile along the Stonely road. If you walk up the perimeter path you will see that the large hawthorn trees at the top have been cut with high stumps and laid on their sides. This is to produce a jungle of new growth to attract birds (other than wood pigeons) to nest there. An earlier attempt was unsuccessful after the (low) stumps were simply killed by rabbit grazing. The reserve was planted up with a team from Easton just 30 years ago this winter, and with Steve Thomason I have been taking stock. Out of the 277 trees planted, only 109 have survived (40% overall – 64% for ash, 11% for oak) mainly owing to suppression by shading from fast-growing elm suckers and hawthorn, by summer droughts and most recently by serious ring-barking by rabbits during the period of thick snow

last winter. I can check the survival and growth of every tree because they were planted on a grid and labelled. James and Robert Burton will remember relabelling them with me in August 2010 and Steve Thomason and I have now done this again with help from Ed Sloper. It is interesting to note that the ash trees have grown much better in the lower half of the reserve and that they are, on average, more than three times the girth of the oak which have grown like bean poles to keep their heads in the sun but often just given up when 3-4 metres tall. A recent fungal foray group recorded 26 species, of which this Scarlet elf cap is the speciality of the reserve. We would appreciate a small work party here in March. Please contact me or Steve if you are able to help.

Brian Davis

## A LETTER FROM CANON JONATHAN YOUNG

Dear Friends in Easton,

Sue and I would like to record our heartfelt thanks for all the good wishes we have received as we leave Easton and the other parishes. There was standing room only at the farewell service on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and we have been overwhelmed with cards and messages. The plant is ideal for the glasshouse at our new home in Godmanchester and we are completely astonished by the cheque, to which so many of you must have contributed.

By chance while thinking about an appropriate way to spend the cheque, we received a special offer for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Some of you will know that I was due to go on a similar pilgrimage two years ago, but was struck down with meningitis and unable to go. Your amazing generosity will go a long way towards paying for both of us to go on the pilgrimage in July.

Thank you, too, for your friendship in the church and the wider community in Easton during the past twelve years.

With best wishes,  
Sue and Jonathan

## CHURCH SERVICES DURING MARCH

Now that we are part of a group of seven parishes, there is a very wide variety of services available. The service pattern – and much more – is available on the church website: indeed, there is so much going on that it is well worth making [www.kymchurch.org.uk](http://www.kymchurch.org.uk) one of your "favourites". Of course, like so many websites dependent upon volunteers, it is not guaranteed that everything is always entirely up to date but it is definitely worth keeping an eye on!

<b>Sunday 2 Mar:</b> 08.00 KIM Communion BCP <b>09.30 EAS Morning Worship</b> 09.30 SPA Morning Worship 10.45 KIM Family Service 11.00 BAR Eucharist 15.00 COV Baptism	<b>Sunday 9 Mar:</b> <b>(Lent 1)</b> 08.00 KIM Communion BCP 09.30 SPA Family Service 09.30 TIL Family Service <b>10.45 EAS Eucharist</b> 10.45 KIM Matins 15.00 STO Evensong
<b>Sunday 16 Mar:</b> <b>(Lent 2)</b> 09.30 COV Matins 09.30 SPA Family service 10.45 KIM Family Communion <b>18.00 EAS Evensong</b>	<b>Sunday 23 Mar:</b> <b>(Lent 3)</b> 09.30 TIL Eucharist 09.30 SPA Eucharist 10.45 KIM Eucharist 15.00 KIM Evensong
Please note that <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March is ASH WEDNESDAY.</b> There will be a service of Holy Communion & Ashing in Kimbolton Church at 7.30 p.m. at which Bishop Stephen will be presiding.	

Note: KIM = Kimbolton; BAR = Barham; COV = Covington; EAS = Easton; SPA = Spaldwick; STO = Stow Longa; TIL = Tilbrook.





In addition to the above, please note that **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March is Mothering Sunday**. This year, Mothering Sunday services have been arranged at **Spaldwick Church at 9.30 a.m.** and at **Kimbolton Church at 10.45 a.m.** There will be a warm welcome for anyone who would like to attend either of these services.

### IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN

Melodramatics' production for 2014 is *Snow White & The Magnificent Seven* – the Snow White story with a cowboy theme! Dates are from 26th February to 1st March inclusive and tickets are available from Watson's electrical shop in Kimbolton. Oh yes – and rumour has it that our new Vicar Stephen with his wife Lesley are also involved somewhere...

### BIG BREAKFAST

Everyone is reminded that the next Big Breakfast will be on 15<sup>th</sup> March – usual arrangements and price STILL only £5.00!



### CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE (BROADBAND UPDATE)

**Steve Thomason**

Here is an update from a briefing that was received in late January: New green cabinets are still being rolled out across Cambridgeshire. By the end of 2015 there will be 500 new cabinets in place. Twenty-three of the ones already installed have now gone live. The *Connecting Cambridgeshire* website (just type 'Connecting Cambridgeshire' into Google to find it) 'My Area' pages now link to an interactive map showing live cabinets in green and cabinets coming soon in white, which will be regularly updated. The nearest ones to us that are already live are Grafham and West Perry.

Checking on the *Connecting Cambridgeshire* website, it still confirms that Superfast broadband is forecast to be available in our area between June and September 2014. However, there is still the caveat highlighted that inevitably there may be some premises that turn out to be too far from a cabinet to receive faster speeds. The 'my area' pages show when areas can expect to get superfast broadband, and also have useful advice on "How to get superfast broadband" once cabinets are live. As well as keeping the Broadband Champions in the loop, *Connecting Cambridgeshire* will announce the new live cabinets by emailing local parishes and people who have registered for updates, on Twitter @ConnectingCams and on the *Connecting Cambridgeshire* website home page.

Help for small businesses: *Destination Digital* will be officially launched in late February 2014 as part of the *Connecting Cambridgeshire* programme, which has won £4.5 million extra Government and European funding to help small and medium sized businesses afford better broadband connections and make the most of digital technologies. The scheme will offer grants in the form of vouchers to help Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire SMEs pay for high speed broadband connections, as well as free business support and grants to SMEs across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to encourage companies to go digital. *Destination Digital* runs until March 2015 with funding and support available on a first-come, first-served basis. Businesses can find out more and register for the scheme at [www.destinationdigital.info](http://www.destinationdigital.info) or call 0800 9177044.

### The Church as Your Venue

Did you know that the church and meeting room can be hired for private occasions by residents of Easton? The cost is very reasonable and the chairs and folding tables can be hired separately.

Contact Malcolm Halliday to make your booking at Ford Cottage, Chapel Lane, Easton. Tel: 890125 or e-mail [malcolm.halliday@virgin.net](mailto:malcolm.halliday@virgin.net)

### KIMBOLTON PARISH MAGAZINE

A reminder that the Kimbolton Parish Magazine is published 10 times a year (there are combined issues for December/January and for July/August) and can be delivered to your home for £3 a year (payable in advance). As well as keeping you in touch with all that is going on in the seven parishes – not just in the churches – this contains useful information, trade advertisements and contact numbers for a wide range of needs. It will not replace the regular Easton Village Newsletter and for the time being it is intended that the two will run in parallel. If you would like to receive the Parish Magazine for all seven villages (Kimbolton, Barham-with-Woolley, Covington, Easton, Spaldwick, Stow Longa and Tilbrook, which is our new grouping), please let Jenny Hyde know ([j.hyde2@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hyde2@btinternet.com) or telephone 891454).

### SAVE THE CHILDREN QUIZ NIGHT

There is still time to make up your team of eight for the Quiz Night in the Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

The cost is £56 per team (£7.00 per person) to include a Ploughman's Supper and a bar will be available. Book your table by sending your team name and contact details with a cheque for £56, payable to *Save the Children*, to Roy and Nora Butler, 71 Castle Gardens, Kimbolton.

### 49 CLUB

The recent winners of the 49 Club draw were:

December - Sue and Andy Burton (49);

January - Chris Charlton (11);

February - Vicky Arbuthnott (33).

Congratulations to the winners and if anyone wishes to join or have an additional number we have two numbers available, so contact John Maith or Peter Gould.