

Easton Village Newsletter

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NATURE NOTE 91



Brian Davis

One man went to mow,/Went to mow a meadow,/One man and his dog.... In days of yore, half of the men of Easton would have been out with their scythes in the last few weeks mowing their plots to make hay for their beasts. Today, I doubt if anyone – apart perhaps from Philip Burton or Ray Ellis – has ever wielded a scythe effectively. I guess Ted Mills could have done, but the last Easton person I actually know who used a scythe was Cecil Clarke, formerly of The Manor House. He told me once that he used to earn half-a-crown as a boy for scything the churchyard, and it took him all weekend. I last saw men scything meadows a few years ago in Rumania. It looked

easy but when a friend asked if he could try, the scythe was quickly snatched back. “Not like that!” Anyway, I have been cutting my meadow this week and praying for three consecutive dry days to turn and dry the hay. With my motorised Shanks Scythe (and without a dog), it took me barely an hour to cut and rake up my 1/6th rood (that’s 1/24th acre, or 170 square metres, for those of you who have forgotten their Imperial measures). It’s got ten kinds of grasses, and 36 flowering plants, including several that I have sown like the rare sulphur clover, so it makes real gourmet hay. It is also good for many kinds of moths, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects. I am having a battle this year against hogweed, which threatens to dominate and is an indicator that the soil is too fertile. I am seeking diversity, not productivity.

CHURCH SERVICES

<p>Sunday 30th August (Trinity 13)</p> <p>10.45 KIM United Parish Communion (Rev Nicki Bland presiding; Rev Stephen Bowring to preach)</p>	<p>Sunday 6th September (Trinity 14)</p> <p>09.30 COV Parish Communion 10.45 KIM Pets Praise! 10.45 SPA Parish Communion 18.00 STO Evensong</p> 
<p>Sunday 13th September (Trinity 15)</p> <p>09.30 TIL Family Service 09.30 EAS Parish Communion 10.45 KIM Parish Communion 10.45 SPA Morning Worship</p>	<p>Saturday 19th September</p> <p>18.00 BAR Harvest Festival</p>
<p>Sunday 20th September (Trinity 16)</p> <p>09.30 COV Matins 09.30 STO Parish Communion 10.45 KIM Matins 10.45 SPA Parish Communion 18.00 EAS Harvest Festival</p>	<p>Sunday 27th September (Trinity 17)</p> <p>09.30 TIL Parish Communion 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr Mike Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion 10.45 SPA Family Service 18.00 KIM Evensong</p>

HARVEST FESTIVAL



You are warmly invited to celebrate Harvest Festival in Easton Church at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday, 20th September. Families with children are especially welcome and there will be an opportunity for harvest gifts to be taken up to the altar during the service. We would be very grateful for gifts of flowers and produce, as well as help with decorating the church on

Saturday, 19th September. After the service a sit-down Ploughman's supper will be served to everyone in the Church. There will be no charge. Please note that the supper is being funded by a Parishioner and is not being paid for from Church funds. There will also be a competition for children and prizes will be available for the best Harvest Festival drawing/painting. Following the service the produce will be taken to the residents of the Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton who are always grateful for our support. Please do come and join us. Further information will be circulated nearer the time.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The Annual "Ride, Drive or Stride" event takes place on Saturday, 12th September. Churches in our area will be open to welcome visitors on that day. Participants can cycle, walk or drive between the churches and can choose how many they visit – there is no set route. Sponsorship is split half and half between the participant's nominated church and the CHCT for the maintenance of other churches in the county. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would either like to take part or sponsor a participant. If cycling is not for you, why not drive out and visit some of our beautiful churches and help to raise money for their upkeep? Please contact your village organiser, Roger Silcock (890455) for further details.



EASTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE!

Easton Parish Council is pleased to announce the creation of a website for Easton. The URL is:

<http://easton.btck.co.uk/>

The new site has been built using a free facility offered by BT for charities and communities. Part of the reason for the creation of the website is to fulfil our obligation to improve the visibility of the various documents managed by the Easton Parish Council, such as minutes and agendas of the council meetings, yearly accounts, and various policy documents. However, the opportunity has been taken to include sections for Village Events, Village News, and other areas such as a guest book and a gallery. It is still early days yet, so there is work to do, but the village events for the year and all the Parish Council documentation have already been uploaded. The site is managed by the Easton Parish Council and there are details on the web site to contact the Parish Council or the webmaster for the overall site. We hope people will find this a useful resource.

GRASS SNAKES IN THE COMPOST HEAP



Steve Thomason

I thought I'd share a recent photo with you. This young Grass Snake was caught up by our manure heap on Friday the 21st August. A similar sized one had also been caught the week before. This one may be approx 2-3 years of age and has had an accident at some point in the past with the tip of its tail now missing. Its eyes were milky and opaque, and overall generally dull in colour, which is a sign that it is about to shed its skin, something it will do about twice a year. You can also see the remains down its body of a yellowish (smelly!) secretion it gives out when threatened. After a few minutes it was carefully put back in the same place it was found. This one was probably too small to lay eggs this year, something male snakes will do after about the 3rd year and after the 5th year in the case of females. It is reported that they can live up to 15 years. Eggs laid this year will be about to hatch from now onwards until mid-September. The babies will be about the size of a pencil after hatching, so please be careful around your compost heaps over the next few weeks! All three of the British snakes have conservation orders on them, so bear this in mind if you see any.

Copy deadline for the next newsletter will be Friday 25th September 2015.