

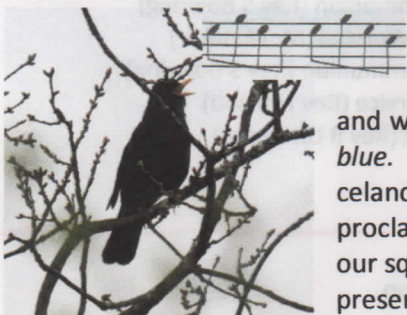
Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 139

May 2016

NATURE NOTE 94

Brian Davis

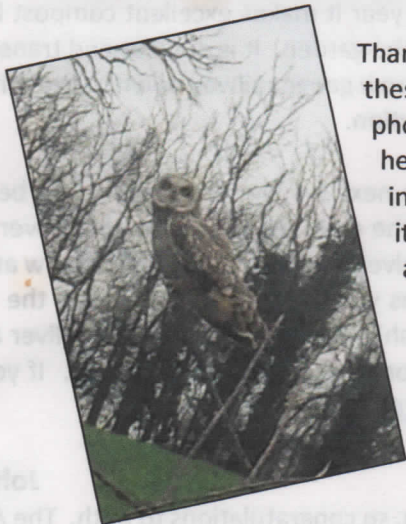


Oh to be in Easton now that April's here, where nothing is so beautiful as spring, when thrush through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring the ear, and while we seek to coerce the songs of skylarks into singing words,

and watch spring's progression turn earth's counterpane from gold to hyacinthine blue. As I stitch these three poems together, I am thinking of the tapestry of celandines in the grass beside the bus stop and listening to our resident blackbird proclaiming his favourite two lines of *Bobby Shafto's gone to sea* from the top of our squirrel-sown oak tree. Our first migrant visitors have been chiff-chaffing their presence in the garden, while from our kitchen I can watch a blue tit checking out

the hollowed birch-log nest box I made three years ago. Great globules of black-centred frog spawn appeared suddenly in the brook opposite the church after the flood – only to be swept away by the next surge – and in the orchard the fruit trees are burgeoning with buds. The first three butterflies, brimstone, comma and orange-tip, have made brief appearances, while buff- and red-tailed bumblebees are visiting early flowers and burrowing into grass tussocks seeking sites to build their combs for worker broods. Three buzzards mew overhead; at dusk a barn owl haunts the hill for voles, while a fleeting shadow betrays a sparrow hawk. We love to see the first two but denounce the latter – though each is testimony to the earth's excess wild bounty. If Easton could support ten times as many hedge sparrows, might we attract a breeding cuckoo? And do we need more slugs for hedgehogs to thrive? *Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.*

WILDLIFE IN EASTON



Thanks to Fraser Hindmarsh for these two beautiful photographs of an owl which he took with his mobile phone in Easton recently. He thinks it might be a Short-Eared Owl and not the usual Barn Owl, but any expert confirmation or correction of this would be welcome!



SAFARI SUPPER



Ed Sloper

A reminder that the arduous Easton Safari Supper will take place on the Saturday 21 May 2016 at 7.30pm. The event will start in the Grange Croft Courtyard for starters and then move on to one of five locations for a main course finishing at the church for dessert and coffee. Every attempt will be made to keep parties together for the main course. The theme for the evening is "Great Britain" if you wish to wear something appropriate. This has no bearing on the referendum to be held shortly afterwards!! Numbers are limited to 60 for this popular event and tickets will be on

sale from 2 May. Pre-orders can be sent to ivan_kathy@hotmail.com or e.sloper334@btinternet.com

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 1st May (Easter 6)

09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson)
10.45 KIM Family Rogation Walk & Service (Rev S Bowring)
10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)
18.00 STO Evensong (Rev N Bland)

Sunday 8th May (Sunday after Ascension; Easter 7)

09.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs L Bowring)
09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)
10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)
10.45 SPA Morning Worship (Rev S Bowring)

Sunday 15th May (Pentecost)

09.30 COV Matins (Rev S Bowring)
09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson)
10.45 KIM Parish Communion for Pentecost (Rev R Lancaster)
10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)
11.00 BAR Family Service (Mrs L Bowring)
18.00 EAS Evensong (Rev S Bowring)

Sunday 22nd May (Trinity Sunday)

09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)
09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr M Baker)
10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)
10.45 SPA Family Service (Rev N Bland)
18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev R Lancaster)

Sunday 29th May (Trinity 1)

10.45 EAS United Benefice Parish Communion

BIG BREAKFAST

Ed Sloper

The next Big Breakfast is on Saturday 14 May 2016 from 9.30am to 11.00am, if it is not already in your diaries. The photographs of a group of Easton villagers, taken by the entrance to the Church a few months ago, will be on display so that anyone who has not yet placed an order can do so.

FREE WELL-COMPOSTED HORSE MANURE

Steve Thomason



Each spring we offer free horse manure from Springfield in Chapel Lane (opposite the village pump). After horse manure is decomposed for at least a year it makes excellent compost for use all round the garden. It is dug out and transported by the narrow gauge railway down to the driveway for distribution.

For the next 3-4 weekends there will be a wagon left in the drive for people to come over and help themselves, so bring your wheelbarrow and take as much as you like (we will help with the loading if you wish). Alternatively, we can deliver anywhere in Easton at the rate of £1 per bag. If you want a

delivery, either ring Steve or Jan on 01480 891516 or email thomsk@btinternet.com.

59 CLUB

John Maith

The February and March winners were Kathy Yates and Linda Maith, so congratulations to both. The April draw will be on Saturday 30th April and you can check if you have won as the winner is the National Lottery Lotto Bonus Ball on that Saturday. Good Luck!

[APOLOGY!]

As most people may have realised, the delightful little poem last month was by Margaret Halliday. Sadly, her name was accidentally cut off in the editing leaving her unacknowledged, for which my apologies.]

Copy deadline for the next newsletter will be Monday 23rd May 2016