

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 151

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NATURE NOTE 105

Brian Davis



Grey squirrels are certainly highly intelligent - and sometimes entertaining. This picture was taken through our kitchen window of one climbing a metal pole from which we had hung a nut feeder for tits. If we smeared the pole with dish-washing liquid or soap, it usually couldn't make it to the top, but even halfway up it could grab a snack. We once hung a feeder from a string suspended between two trees, and after a couple of failed jumps from the back of a nearby chair, it sized up the problem and bit through the string at one end.

They are, of course a serious pest introduced into England in 1870 from north America by rich Victorians 'to add variety to their estates' and have spread inexorably northwards ever since. They kill young beech and other trees by stripping the bark from the growing tips, and they take birds eggs, but worst of all they have nearly eliminated our native Red squirrel in England now. This is partly because they are simply bigger and bolder competitors for food resources, but also because they pass on the deadly squirrel-pox virus to which they themselves are immune (just as Europeans decimated native Americans through the introduction of smallpox).

Currently, there are thought to be only about 4,000 red squirrels left in England, making a last stand along Hadrian's Wall under siege from three million Greys. The population around Grasmere in the Lake District has shrunk from 30 to a dozen individuals. Trapping, shooting and poisoning of Greys has done nothing to stem this tide but a new hope has recently emerged through research into a squirrel contraceptive which would be disguised in a nut paste offered in feeders that only the heavier Greys could open. "One lick would make males and females infertile for six years". Well! Let's wait and see.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

<p>Sunday 6th May - Easter VI 09.30 COV Holy Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson) 09.30 SPA Prayer & Praise (Jill Dighton) 10.45 KIM Family Service Mossy Church Rogation Walk 15.00 STO Evensong (Rev R Lancaster)</p>	<p>Sunday 13th May – Easter VII 09.30 TIL Family Service (Pauline Swinburn) 09.30 SPA Holy Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson) 09.30 EAS Holy Communion (Rev John Alford) 10.45 KIM Family Communion (Rev R Lancaster) 16.30 SPA Messy Church</p>
<p>Sunday 20th May - Pentecost 09.30 COV Morning Prayer 09.30 STO Holy Communion BCP (Rev Dr J Rawlinson) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster)</p>	<p>Sunday 27th May – Trinity Sunday 09.30 TIL Holy Communion (Rev Dr J Rawlinson) 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr Mike Baker) 10.45 KIM Matins (Rev R Lancaster) 18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev R Lancaster)</p>

OPEN GARDEN



An Open Garden and Strawberry Tea is being held at Brook House on 27th May starting at 2.30 p.m. with a talk in Easton church by the British Trust for Ornithology on Spotted Flycatchers. Tickets will be available at the church door, price £7.50 (children free). All proceeds will go to the British Trust for Ornithology to fund more research on flycatcher migration.

59 CLUB

John Maith

The next round of the 59 Club is up and running, after a slight delay. I would like to thank all for the continuing support and wish you luck over the next 12 months. The first £25 winner for March was Ann Harlow, so congratulations to Ann. The next draw will be Saturday 28th April. If anyone would like to join there are one or two numbers available, so please let me know (891647).

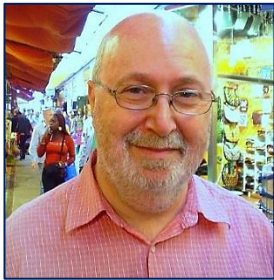
MUSIC FOR EVERYONE



Thank you for the support of the village and the Easton Fund and Social Committee in the recent *Music For Everyone* concert held in the church on Saturday 7th April. We were entertained by the Oriana Singers, Kate Atalay and Elvis! The wine and canapés helped the evening along, and the amazing sum of £800 was raised for MOTS (Multi-Organ Transplant Support charity).

EASTON COMPOSER WRITES ROYAL WEDDING FANFARE

Easton-based composer, Michael Lawson, has written a Royal Fanfare, *A Toast for Harry and Meghan*, for a concert entitled *A Celebration for the Royal Wedding* at London's Cadogan Hall which takes place on the day itself, Saturday 19th May 2018. The concert features the London Festival Sinfonia under Paul Showell, and the outstanding singers of The Eltham College Choral Society, College Choir and Boys' Choir.



Michael Lawson's powerful orchestral showpiece, *Symphonic Movements* opens the concert, followed by one of John Rutter's masterworks, the brilliant and colourful *Magnificat*, performed using English text. The second half highlights shorter, much loved choral pieces by Rutter and Bob Chilcott. Continuing the theme of showcasing living British composers, Clive Malabar's magnificent orchestral *Celebration* introduces the second half and the world premiere of Lawson's new symphonic suite, *The Seasons*, concludes the concert. All the music in the concert is designed to be accessible for the enjoyment and celebration of the widest possible audience. Tickets at £15 (£13) and £10 (£8) are available from the Cadogan Hall website. The Cadogan Hall is situated two minutes' walk from Sloane Square Underground Station.

ROLL-UP! ROLL-UP!!

Elections will be held this year on 3rd May and St Peter's Church will be your Polling station. The Polling station is open from 7am to 10pm. Elections will be for Huntingdonshire District Council Alconbury Ward. There is an uncontested election for Parish Council. Details can be seen here:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/upcoming-elections-and-results/>

and Candidates can be found here:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3011/statement-of-persons-nominated-district.pdf>



BBC YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2018 – Woodwind Final



*Says it all, really –
No comment necessary!*



Deadline for the June Village Newsletter will be 25th May