

# Easton Village Newsletter

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July 2019

Issue 165

## NATURE NOTE 110



What a strange year it has been in the garden. Weeks of drought when we should have had April showers, so that grass seed failed to germinate and the lawn continued to look moth-eaten from last year's drought, and now all this cold and rain in mid-June! Is this just another manifestation of climate change? Better than torrential floods, of course, but the consequences can be serious. Almost all our apple blossom was caught by late frosts and the crop is the worst ever with not a single Bramley apple. Meanwhile, the earlier-flowering pear trees set and survived and look really good after these recent rains.

We tend to take insect pollination for



granted, and assume that honeybees will serve our needs, but these days bumblebees now seem to fill this role, at least in our garden. We have at least five kinds of bumblebees, most of them quite small workers, with bigger queens and males. It is fascinating to see how all the many varied flowers have their own special contingent of bumblebees – the biggest for foxgloves and the smallest for buttercups. The picture shows a 'tree bumblebee' Bombus hypnorum, with its orange body and white tail. We tend to forget the host of nocturnal pollinators which also play a significant role, and these are suffering badly this year, according to Barry Dickerson, our county moth expert. He came with his light trap last week and identified 37 different species but says he should be catching twice this number in June – and other trappers have reported the same story. And what has happened to our 'cabbage white' butterflies? Don't get me wrong. I'm not in favour of pests, but when the balance of the natural world goes awry, we should perhaps take note.

## RAY ELLIS 1933-2019



The Imperial Service Medal  
(1998)

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Ray Ellis, who died on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Raymond James Ellis was born at North Cottage in Easton, which was a timber-framed cottage situated where "The House" is now, on The Lane. They had a large room with a big open fire and oven and a pantry downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs. Ray's father worked on a farm in the village and they also had a smallholding with poultry and beef cattle. He had a sister and two brothers, all older than himself. Water had to be carried from the village pump or the cottage next door. Between the ages of 6-14, Ray walked to school in Ellington. When he left, he worked for his father on the small-holding, then served from 1951-53 in the Army Catering Corps. On leaving, he went to work at Brampton Nurseries, where he met Val and they were married in 1962. Ray started work with the

Transportation Squadron at RAF Alconbury in 1966 where he became a full-time established driver in August 1970. In 1998 he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of his outstanding service in support of the USAF.

Ray will be very much missed by everyone who knew him. He was a familiar sight on his walks around the village and his considerable knowledge of the local wildlife was well-known. He will also be remembered for his kindness, and for helping others. Sadly, after a fall when he fractured his femur, he was confined to the house for the last two years. After several difficult stays in hospital, he was able to be looked after at home, with carers coming in. This was made possible largely by the wonderfully kind help and concern for his welfare by several of his neighbours and others in the village. He died peacefully at home, as he had wished to do. His funeral was held in Easton Church on 17<sup>th</sup> June and he was laid to rest in the Churchyard with his beloved wife, Val, who died ten years ago, and whom he never stopped missing.

### CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY

<b>7<sup>th</sup> July - Trinity II</b> 09.30 COV Parish Communion Revd R. Lancaster 09.30 SPA Morning Worship Jill Dighton 10.45 KIM Family Service Lay 18.00 STO Evensong Revd J. Rawlinson	<b>TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> July - 19:30 KIMBOLTON</b>  <b>Institution of the new Rector</b>
<b>SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July - Trinity IV</b> 10.45 KIM Benefice Parish Communion The Rector <i>Followed by a Bring-and-share lunch i the Mandeville Hall. *</i>	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July - Trinity V</b> 10.30 COV ) 09.30 STO ) t.b.a. 09.30 SPA ) 10.45 KIM )	<b>28<sup>th</sup> July - Trinity VI</b> 9.30 TIL ) 9.30 EAS ) t.b.a. 10.45 KIM ) 18.00 KIM )

- *If you intend coming to the Bring-and-Share lunch, names and details of your contribution MUST be given to Nora Butler no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June. Tel: 861007*

### 59 CLUB

**John Maith**

The recent winners of the 59 Club are: March - Roger Silcock; April - Marie Dunne; May - Roger Silcock. Congratulations to Marie and Roger. I don't think Roger controls the National Lottery!! The next draw will be on Saturday 29th June, and, as usual it will be the bonus ball from the National Lottery, so good luck to all those participating.

### SEAN, OUR POSTMAN

**Malcolm Halliday, Ford Cottage**

Some of you may be aware that Sean, who has been the postman for Easton for very many years, moved to part-time working in mid-June prior to his retirement. Consequently, he will no longer be delivering our mail in Easton, apart from as a stand in from time to time. Margaret and I plan to give him a gift (Amazon token?) as a thank you for his friendly and efficient service to us, for all these years. If anyone else would like to join in with our thank you, please put an envelope through our door with your gift and we will put it all together and let you know later how much it totalled. Closing date for contributions will be Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**N.B. The deadline for the AUGUST newsletter  
will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, on account of holidays.**