

Easton Parish Magazine



Easton May Fair 2017

Our May Queen, Charlotte Gibbon (12) with Attendants (left) Martha Gibbon (6) and (right) Sam Bailey (6).

Don't they look lovely?

(Thanks to Peter K For this photo)

June 2017

Price 25p

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EASTON

Priest-in-Charge	:	Revd. Deirdre West Smokey House, The Common, Tunstall	Tel: 688340
Churchwarden	:	Jane Woodbury-Eggs Bickley, Harriers Walk	Tel: 746667
Treasurer	:	Carol Rook Ivy Cottage, The Street	Tel: 746162
Magazine Editor	:	Clare Owen 5 Harriers Walk	Tel: 745015

Dear Friends

The Church celebrates Pentecost on 4th June. For Christians, Whitsun (or Pentecost) is an important day, very much a day to celebrate, as many see it as the birthday of the Church. This is because of the way in which, as vividly described in the Bible, the Spirit of God filled Jesus's followers as they were together locked in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. It drove them outside into the streets to tell the crowds of foreign pilgrims there about what Jesus had done by his death and resurrection, and what this would mean for the future of the world! The inspirational energy of God's Spirit fired them with such power that they were able to communicate the joy, the confidence and the love of God which they knew to be theirs. It was a message that transformed all who heard it, and one which continues to transform people's lives today

Another significant date following soon after this is one personal to me. Sunday July 16th will mark the conclusion of a ten year period during which I studied for a BA in Christian Theology, learned the skills required of a minister, and waited impatiently for God's direction for my ministry to become clear. A decade gone in a flash. Ten years during which I have never worked so hard, nor so many long hours in my entire life, and these last four years as Priest-in-Charge of the seven unique and different parishes of Brandeston, Campsea Ashe, Easton, Hacheston, Kettleburgh, Marlesford and Parham have been the icing on what has been a truly amazing scrumptious 'cake'!

I do however feel extremely sad as this exciting phase of life ceases, but I await with great interest the next challenge our Lord has in mind for me, as I feel quite sure he isn't planning the 'scrap heap' quite yet. So in this month of Pentecost, let's all of us be open to the transforming power of God's Spirit; and let his gifts work within us, transform and inspire us, and through us the world in which we live.

With love in Christ

Deirdre



Church Matters

Orebeck Benefice Services

The June Orebeck Benefice service for Whit Sunday (Pentecost) will be here at Easton on Sunday 4th June at 10 am (Holy Communion with choir).

On 2nd July there will be a benefice communion service at Hacheston at 10 am.

Orebeck inauguration party

The party will take place at Hacheston Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June from 7.30 until 10 pm to celebrate the official creation of our new seven-parish benefice. There will be a pay bar and attendees are asked to bring a plate of food for sharing. We are hoping for a nice summer evening so that we can be outside as well. Do come! See notice on page 3.

Hidden Gardens

This popular event takes place on 2nd July. Do come and support (or be nosey!) and have tea or ploughman's lunch at the Village Hall. See elsewhere for details.

PCC Meeting

There is a PCC meeting on 13th June at 7.30pm at Almond Tree Cottage.

Big Church Clean

A big thank you to all the ladies who turned up and got stuck in to cleaning the more out-of-the-way parts of the church. What wonderful cobwebs we found!

Discussion Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th June at Ash Grove, Framlingham. The topic is Siblings in the Bible. The meeting will start with coffee/tea at 10.30 am. New members are always welcome.



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 16th July

The benefice service at Brandeston will be Deirdre's last service as our Priest in Charge. As this is a café Sunday we shall be welcoming her, and those who would like to come and wish her well, to the Village Hall after the café.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins

The Orebeck Party



**Saturday 3rd June
Hacheston Village Hall
7.30 ~10pm**

(some people have to work the next day!)

Everyone and anybody is invited –
bring a friend or two
and a sharing plate of food.

Cash Bar open – first drink on Deirdre
(though this is not her leaving do)!

Just an excuse to meet and mingle with friends
from other parishes
on a summer's evening.

The open air terrace is sure to be popular
if the weather is kind.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASTON
is hosting**

Sunday Cafe



Easton Village Hall
Sunday 18th June
Open 10.00 - 11.30 am

**Come and chat with friends and make
new ones. Everyone welcome.
Lots of homemade goodies
to enjoy**

It's



Don't Worry, Be Happy!

Sometimes we are scared. Sometimes we are happy. Sometimes we are sad. Sometimes we are full of giggles. Sometimes we are fearful. Sometimes we are brave.

Don't Worry Be Happy..... as COSMIC is here to help

This month we will be finding out about the disciples' difficulty in standing up for their beliefs. It's hard sometimes to tell others how you feel without being embarrassed or worried about what they might think.

We will be talking about what we are scared of and what makes us happy and making some worry beads to pop in our pockets and take with us wherever we go to help us feel happy and banish those worries.

Come along and join us on Sunday 25th June. If it's sunny we can be outside on the grass chatting.

Emma Gibbon T: 746866



COSMIC
(Children on Sunday Morning in Church)

HIDDEN GARDENS OF EASTON



SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2017
11.30 am — 5.00 pm

**Collect your guide from any of
the gardens signposted.**

**Ploughman's lunch, drinks and
cakes in the Village Hall.**

ADULTS	£5
CHILDREN UNDER 12	£2

For further information please contact
Carol Rook on 746162 or email
carolrook2012@gmail.com

In aid of All Saints' Church

RIP

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Derek Martin** and send our love and sympathies to Rosemary at this difficult time.

We also learned with sadness of the death of **John Brown** after a long illness and send our love and sympathies to Inge and family.

There will be a fuller obituary of both these fellow villagers in due course.

TED READ

The death has also occurred of Ted Read who used to live opposite the school with his brother and sister-in-law until moving to Framlingham. Ted or 'Tiddles' as he was always known, was very much part of the bowls fraternity and after he stopped playing the game and tending the green, he often came to the club at Easton to watch matches. Ted had always liked growing vegetables and enjoyed farm life and country pursuits such as shooting. His funeral was well attended by the many friends he made during his life in the country.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

	Flowers	Cleaning
3rd June	Jane Pollock	Emma Gibbon
10th June	Paul Batley	Imogen Hayward
17th June	Paul Batley	Imogen Hayward
24th June	Dot Blane	Dot Blane

Easton Primary School



At the end of the spring term and now into the beginning of the summer term, Easton has been a very busy school.

We finished off the spring term with our usual celebrations and events. The children had a fun morning (albeit in the rain!) on their Easter egg hunt! The Easter bunny was very generous this year and there was plenty to go round. The children brought in an amazing display of Easter bonnets; we have some very creative children with amazing ideas! Well done to the winners in each class, I'm glad I didn't have to be a judge they were all so good! We finished on the Friday with a lovely service at the church; the singing as always was wonderful. Thank you to all the parents and friends who joined us for the service. It was lovely to see you all.

We are pleased to hear your Almost May Fair went well and the weather was kind for you. We hope you liked our art work that we displayed; the children were very excited about having their work on show. And so as we arrive at our final term this academic year, we still have lots to do. The year 6 children have their SATs and we are very proud of them all for handling this time in a mature way and remembering not to be anxious about these tests and just trying their best.

They had a fun day on the last day (a day without SATs) by cleaning up our wildlife garden and making it into a beautiful space for us all to enjoy! Now it is the turn of our year 2 children to complete their SATs and we wish them good luck and know that they too will try their best. Pirate Class also had a busy week during this time. In order to give our friends in year 6 some peace and quiet, we transferred our lessons to the outdoors. We visited Easton Farm Park for our science lesson on forces. For our History lesson we went to Orford Castle and learnt a lot about castles. We particularly enjoyed seeing the king's toilet! Then for our RE lesson we went to Easton Church and were very grateful to Jane, Carol and Emma for showing us some important and interesting features of the church and for explaining about some of the special times the church is used for. We are very grateful to these ladies for giving up their valuable time. A very worthwhile visit!

We finished the end of term with a dress up day to come as anyone who may have lived or worked in a castle and learnt some medieval dancing and enjoyed a spectacular banquet!

Reception and year one also took part in an academy multi-sports festival and had a really good time learning new skills and meeting up with old friends from our other schools in the academy.

And finally auditions have taken place for our summer production; lots of hard work ahead of us!

Mrs D Payne, Early years/KS1 teacher

Village People

Brian Kendall

How long have you lived in Easton?

Twenty-three years.

What made you move here?

Having spent thirty years working in London, we wanted a peaceful place to retire.

What's your favourite thing about living here?

Our house and the French class in Framlingham!

What's your *least* favourite thing about living here?

Speed of traffic through the village.

What's the most interesting job you've ever had and why?

Working for two renowned clothing companies—Aquascutum and Daks-Simpson as Cloth Director. This entailed travel to Scotland, Italy, France, Germany—developing and buying fabrics—and visits to Japan to our parent company.

Have you ever lived in another country?

Regrettably no.

My greatest strength is ...

DIY

My greatest weakness is ...

Prevarication.

My favourite TV programme is ...

Holby City!

My favourite book ever is ...

'Swallows and Amazons and all the books of Arthur Ransome, which stimulated my interest in sailing and boats.



My favourite place in the UK (other than Easton!) is ...

The Lake District. Memories of holidays with my parents and later my wife, and sailing my boat on Lake Windermere.

The best day of my life was ...

When my father came home from Ceylon after the war.



EASTON PRE-SCHOOL
www.eastonpreschool.org.uk
eastonpreschool@yahoo.co.uk
01728 746935

Easton Pre-School has places for children age 16 months to 4 years. Newly re-located to Easton Farm Park with highly experienced, caring staff. Extra activities around the farm and dance sessions, currently at no extra cost.

Flexible hours within our newly extended hours 8 am—4 pm Mon/Weds/Thurs/Fri. Government funding available for some 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds.

'Children make good progress in readiness for school in this welcoming and stimulating environment'.

OFSTED July 2015

Rated 'GOOD' at re-inspection December 2016



EASTON GARDENING CLUB?

Would you like to help set up an Easton Gardening Club?
The recent Fit Villages survey identified several residents would like to take part in a Gardening Club in the village.

You don't have to be a gardening expert, just have an interest. Clubs can run with a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to book speakers, manage subscriptions and payments. It doesn't involve having to physically carry out gardening or be able grow giant vegetables (unless you want it to!).

Many successful clubs meet monthly to hear speakers on gardening related topics for 9 months of the year, perhaps have an annual outing. Membership is generally an annual basis with non-members also being welcomed to talks and events. Clubs are run to widen gardening knowledge and most of all to socialise with likeminded people.

If you would be interested in setting up Easton Gardening Club please get in touch with Jenny McEvoy, Village Hall Management Committee.

Telephone: 747366 or email: jennymcevoy@icloud.com



NEW Gentle Exercise Class

at Easton Village Hall

MONDAYS 2pm - 3pm

ONLY £4 PER CLASS

***What is it:** A range of movements and stretching to help with activities for daily living. The pace is set by you. It is not a high tempo exercise class but where you can benefit your health and socialise as well, so mind and body are exercised throughout. Exercises are adapted to your needs, so if you cannot lie on the floor or sit down I will adapt the exercise for you. No barriers. So whether you want to tone up, lose some weight or get a bit fitter this class will incorporate it. Why not give a go.*

**To find out further information or book
please contact Adrian; Tel: 07801023365**

Email: adriansmith7@hotmail.co.uk



Village View in June



Mobile Library
Wednesday 7th June
12.20—12.40 pm
Village Hall

Sunday Café
18th June
10-11.30 am
Village Hall

Annual Village Tidy Up
Saturday 24th June
10—12 noon
Meet on village green

Easton Belles WI
Tuesday 27th June
Annual BBQ

Watercolour Workshop
Wednesday 28th June
Village Hall
10—4 pm
See page 22 for details



Gentle Exercise Class
Mondays
2—3 pm
Village Hall
Contact Adrian Smith on
07801 023365
See page 12 for details.

Yoga Flow
Tuesdays
9.30 - 10.45 am
Village Hall
Contact Kat Hesse on 638604
for more information.

Table Tennis
Every Wednesday
6.30 pm Village Hall
£5 per session

Rabble Chorus Community
Choir
Thursday evenings
8—9.30 pm
Village Hall
First session free!

Easton Pre-School
The Hamilton Room at
Easton Farm Park
Mondays, Wednesdays or
Fridays 9.15am—3pm
Thursday mornings
9am-11.30am

SUMMER SPORTS IN EASTON

Why not come and visit one of the clubs to watch a game and enjoy a drink on a nice summer's day or evening. Perhaps you would like to become a social member in which case you can arrange that when you visit.



JUNE FIXTURES

Cricket

Sat	03	1st XI	v	Clacton	Away
		2nd XI	v	Worlington II	Home
Sun	04	Sunday XI	v	Kesgrave	Away
		Ladies XI	v	Woolpit	Home
Sat	10	1st XI	v	Coggeshall	Home
		2nd XI	v	Tendering	Away
Sun	11	Sunday XI	v	Castle	Home
		Ladies XI	v	Thriplow	Away
Sat	17	1st XI	v	Copdock & OI II	Away
		2nd XI	v	West Mersea	Home
Sat	24	1st XI	v	Ipswich & ES	Home
		2nd XI	v	West Bergholt	Away
Sun	25	Ladies XI	v	Mildenhall	Home

Matches start at 1.00pm

Bowls

Thu	01	Fynn Lge	v	Martlesham	Home	6.45
Thu	08	W'bridge Lge	v	Waldringfield	Away	7.00
Mon	12	Open Comp	v	Pairs Tournament	Home	10.00
Tue	13	W'bridge Lge	v	Otley	Home	7.00
Thu	15	Fynn Lge	v	Wickham Market	Away	6.45
Tue	20	W'bridge Lge	v	Sweffling	Away	7.00
Thu	22	Fynn Lgev	v	Sweffling	Away	6.45
Tue	27	W'bridge Lge	v	Martlesham	Away	7.00
Wed	28	P Dunnet Cup	v	Sweffling	Away	6.45
Thu	29	Fynn Lge	v	Otley	Home	6.45



THE ALMOST MAY FAIR

Well, what a day! We had a wonderful couple of hours in gorgeous sunshine (again!). For so many years this has really been a lovely village event. It seemed this year we had a record number of people helping, taking part and enjoying all the sideshows and stalls. The WI provided wonderful cream teas and the Rabble Chorus and Ipswich Community Wind Band performed brilliantly. The new Human Fruit Machine was very popular! So thanks to all of you for helping us to raise a record £1421.07 profit for the church. Emma and I are so grateful to everyone who was involved before, during and afterwards. Your enthusiasm and support is so important. We couldn't do it without you!

Clare Owen and Emma Gibbon





Thanks to Ben
Saunders
for the photos.



EASTON & LETHERINGHAM

VILLAGE HALL



Our AGM was held on 9th May. Thank you to those who attended and continue to support the work of the committee. An electronic copy of the report is available to anyone wishing to read it. Please email lanPalfreyman@icloud.com to request a copy.

At the AGM it was announced that Andrew Maskery will be standing down from the committee as the Letheringham Residents' Rep and we thank him for the hard work and support he has given the committee over the last 3 years.

With some changes to roles, we have a vacancy for a new member to join the committee and take on the role of Bookings Secretary. Anybody who is interested in volunteering for this role please contact me on 747366.

We continue to try and bring new activities to the hall. Following the Fit Villages questionnaire carried out in March, we were delighted Suffolk Sport have helped set up a Gentle Exercise Class. A free taster session was run on 15th May which was very well attended. Weekly classes have now been set up for 8 weeks on Mondays from 2-3pm with a view to this being a regular hirer. The instructor, Adrian Smith, comes highly recommended and can adapt the class to suit individuals' abilities. Please see separate posters for specific dates.

Another key area of interest from the Fit Villages questionnaire was to have a Gardening Club. We have lots of information on how to run one from established groups in the area, so if you are interested in helping to set up a club please get in touch with Jenny on jennymcevoy@icloud.com or 747366. See separate poster for more details.



Anybody with eagle eyes at the Sunday Café last month would have noticed our new smaller folding tables. From our fundraising efforts last year and a grant from Adnams Community Trust, we have purchased 12 new smaller tables to offer flexibility for hirers and functions as well as attracting new hirers for leisure learning courses. The tables are also ideal for seating individuals in art or craft activities or can seat 4 in a social setting. We have also purchased 12 more padded chairs increasing our total to 72. Improvements to the hall facilities are only possible with the hard-work of the committee and the support of the community who attend functions – thank you to all.

Ian Palfreyman

VACANCY

Bookings Secretary

The Village Hall Management Committee have a vacancy for someone to join the committee to take on the role of Bookings Secretary to manage the diary for the hall and be the first point of contact for hiring enquiries.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact
Ian Palfreyman on 747366 or
ianpalfreyman@icloud.com

ANNUAL VILLAGE TIDY UP



Could you spare a couple of hours on Saturday 24th June from 10 to 12 noon to help clean up our village before the Hidden Gardens event on 2nd July? Please contact Michael Coney on 746181. If you can't make that date, but would be happy to do some other time, just let Michael know.

Thank you!



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Message from Suffolk Constabulary following the terrorist attack in Manchester

Suffolk's chief police officer has urged people to go about their daily business, while being alert to suspicious activity. It comes as police respond to the national terror threat level being raised to critical.

Armed officers have been deployed to key locations, in particular crowded areas with high footfall, to provide visible reassurance.

It comes after the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre raised the threat level – meaning an attack not only remains highly likely, but a further attack may be imminent.

Chief Constable Gareth Wilson said: “The public would expect us to respond appropriately and proportionately to this raised threat level and the deployment of armed officers is our primary response to this.

“Suffolk is a safe county and this additional policing is about providing a visible reassurance to the public. Armed officers will be on patrol across the county and will be there to engage and to provide a presence in busy areas.”

Military personnel are not currently being deployed in joint patrols with police officers in crowded places – but the threat assessment is continuously under review.

Officers are also reviewing security plans for a number of events in the coming weeks.

Mr Wilson added: “I would urge people to go about their daily business as usual, but be extra vigilant and report anything you think looks out of place.”

Members of the public are asked to remain calm but alert – if you see anything which causes you concern, then call the police immediately. Look out for anything that seems out of place.

Latest guidance on recognising the terrorist threat and remaining vigilant can be accessed via www.nactso.gov.uk

To report any suspicious activity or behaviour call 0800 789 321 or in an emergency dial 999.

John Owen

Watercolour Workshop

Learn Watercolour Landscape painting with Colin Ayers at **Easton Village Hall** (with disabled access):
Paint along with me in stages, creating a complete painting.



These themed one day workshops run monthly, the next workshop is on Wednesday 28th June 2017 from 10.00am until 4.00pm

Cost: £25 for a day's workshop; bring your own materials.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided through the day; bring a packed lunch.

To book a place or for further enquiries, please contact me on [07528515214](tel:07528515214)

or

info@colinayersart.co.uk

www.colinayersart.co.uk

Society for all artists professional associate

More on the History of the Hamilton Family
by
Brian Boon
(Easton was under their tenure for 92 years)

The Four Iron Steamships
Of
William Alexander Lewis Stephen Douglas-Hamilton, KT
12th Duke of Hamilton, 9th Duke of Brandon,

Continuing the brief account of the lives of the two passenger paddle steamers and the two personal luxury yachts that he had built by Blackwood & Gordon of Port Glasgow.

Part 4b – The second luxury steam yacht *Thistle*

Under the ownership of Empress Eugénie, the second *Thistle* continued to move in the circles that she had been designed for. Residing in Hampshire, Empress Eugénie was a frequent guest at Osborne House, Isle of Wight. The following are extracts from the Isle of Wight County Press.

18th July 1896

The Empress Eugénie will probably spend the first few days of next month at Cowes. Her yacht, the *Thistle*, is now at that port refitting after its return from the Mediterranean. The *Thistle* will remain at Cowes Roads (sic) during Regatta Week.

21st August 1900

(Note: *Osborne House*) Her Majesty the Empress Eugénie, attended by Madame De Arcos, visited the Queen yesterday and remained to luncheon.

7th August 1909

(Note: *This was during Cowes week which included a visit by the Emperor and Empress of Russia, the review of the fleet took place, followed in the evening by many parties on board the yachts.*)

“In the afternoon, the King and Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, visited her Majesty the Empress Eugénie, on board her yacht *Thistle*. Princess Henry of Battenberg, who had a number of Royal visitors at Osborne Cottage, paid a visit to The Empress Eugénie on the steam yacht *Thistle*. (Note: *The King and Queen would have been King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.*)

3rd August 1912

On Tuesday afternoon, the Queen of Spain visited the Empress Eugénie on the *Thistle* in Cowes Roads

Thistle's service when commandeered into the Royal Navy was rather short lived and is recorded as being from October 1914 to March 1915 in British Waters. *Thistle* only had one foray to sea, where she was nearly swamped. After returning to base, she was decommissioned and returned to the Empress.

HMS Thistle's Log 6th November 1914

In pm: Ship's company drawn up to receive HIM the Empress Eugenie (of France), accompanied by the C-in-C and suite to inspect ship. (The 88 year old empress, widow of Napoleon III and owner of the *Thistle*, lived in Farnborough, Hants.)

HMS Thistle's log 3rd December, 1914

Lat - 56.2, Lon - 2.3(approx.) (Off the East coast of Scotland).

1.00am – Strong Gale, very heavy head sea, ship taking very heavy water aboard fore and aft. Wheel box and stern gratings washed overboard. Breakers for'd carried away. Fore hatches lifted by seas and water flooding mess decks below.

7.00am – Starboard foc'sle bulwarks and poop upper bulwarks carried away. Bowsprit ringing carried away.

8.00am – Starboard lifeboat lost with all gear

6.00pm—Approaching May I. Ship dodging East and West throughout night eastward of May I.

(Complete Log can be found at <http://naval-history.net> search for HMS *Thistle*).

10th February 1917 - Isle of Wight County Press

Well known Yacht Master's Death. Capt. Francis Albert Uphill.

He was, at first, Second Officer of the *Thistle* and afterwards Captain for 19 years. He was on the *Thistle* when it was owned by the Duke of Hamilton. During his captaincy, most of the crowned heads of Europe were entertained on the *Thistle*, including the Kaiser at Bergen, some years ago,

'Reflections of the Empress Eugénie", by Augustine Filon, her P.S, 1921

.... There is a third residence where, during the last 25 years, the Empress has passed some peaceful and not unhappy days. I allude to her yacht *Thistle*, on which she has taken so many cruises to the Mediterranean and around the coasts of Ireland, Scotland and Norway.

Thistle was finally removed from the Lloyd's Yacht Register in 1919 when converted to a cargo ship. 1922 she was damaged by a fire in petrol cargo off the coast of Portugal and finally scrapped In 1927.

Brian Boon

Wellie Boots for June

Well, May has turned out to be a problematical month yet again. Dry, dry, dry, dry, then wet, wet, wet, wet. Torrents at times, especially at night, but at least just in time to save our gardens from oblivion. However, there's no satisfying us gardeners. The heavy rains have brought forth a virtual explosion of weeds, all of which grow at about five times the rate of any domesticated plant and now that the danger of a late frost has vanished, we're already complaining that the current hot spell is creating difficulties for planting out all our summer bedding. Lack-a-day, lack-a-day.



That's part and parcel of the vagaries of the English weather, I'm afraid, but as usual we'll struggle on to produce Easton's wonderful array of Hidden Gardens for Sunday 2nd July, won't we? I always think of June as being the month that the rose bursts forth in all its wonderful, multi-coloured and scented glory—a real joy to behold. Let's hope they hang on for our Hidden Gardens. And if you would be willing to open your garden for a charitable cause this year, please contact Carol on 746162 who will be very pleased to hear from you. It's not a competition, work in progress is always of great interest, and I find visitors are always extremely charming and complimentary, so why not give it a try? And to really make sure Easton is looking its very best, could we please have volunteers for our annual **Village Clear Up on Saturday 24th June from 10 am to 12 noon**. Not convenient? I'm sure we could find you a couple of hundred yards for you to tidy up at your leisure before the day.

So what is happening of interest in the garden this month? Well, as you all well know, I always leave my dahlia tubers to over-winter in situ with varying results, but this year the omens were very good and healthy new growth began to appear until ... disaster. Overnight an army of snails had marched through the bed, destroying almost everything in its path, so urgent action was required. I hate slug pellets because of all the damage they do to the environment and all

our friendly inhabitants such as frogs, toads, hedgehogs and domestic animals, so back to the tried and tested beer traps, with limited success. So, over to science and nemalodes and nemaslug. Fairly expensive, £21.96 from Amazon. Apparently millions of them that you dissolve, water in and are supposed to be very effective. However, after falling asleep one evening in front of the TV as one does, I awoke as dawn was breaking to see three of the biggest, fattest wood pigeons ever taking breakfast al fresco off my latest dahlia shoots. Pigeon pie anyone? Sincere apologies to all those innocent snails I so unjustly accused, but at least you died drunk and happy, didn't you?



Elsewhere, perennials are surging ahead, but if you have the time, why not improve their life and appearance. First the Chelsea Chop, which can be carried out any time soon. This produces much bushier plants that flower until much later into the season, but my advice is to only treat some of your plants in this way until you see how good you are at it and how you like it. Cut or pinch back plants by half and nature itself makes sure you end up with far more bushy plants later in the year. Rudbeckia, echinacea, sedum, golden rod and helenium all make good subjects for this method, whilst others such as lavender, aubretia and alyssum can be lightly sheared all over after flowering, stopping leggy growth and producing compact plants and an abundance of flowers for next year. As delphiniums, foxgloves, lupins, verbascum etc progress, always remove their spent spikes down to the nearest bud for further flowering.



As for watering, it is fast becoming essential around this time of year. First of all, contrary to widespread belief, we do not normally get a hosepipe ban in this area, but do remember there are such things as water meters, so use very wisely, it can become expensive. I'm alright Jack, I've got a well—and a pump. So firstly, if at all possible, water in the evening to reduce evaporation and always water the base of the plant. If you have to water during the day, not the foliage please or you'll end up with badly discoloured leaves.





Meanwhile, we now have to face the trials and tribulations that follow a mild winter, one of the first being a plague of scarlet lily beetles. The best way is to remove gently by hand hit over the head with a size nine boot. All very well if you have half a dozen lilies or so, but a different kettle of fish if you have sixty or more. Falling to the ground, these pesky beetles always land on their back and are almost impossible to find. Comparatively, aphids are easy-peasy to deal with and my mother's old solution of a spray of strong soapy water is unbeatable outside, whilst greenhouse pests are best controlled by a spray or 'smoke' bomb, depending on the problem. I prefer the latter as the smoke should get into any last nook and cranny, hopefully for total elimination.

Anyway, here we are in June once more, and the swallows have already arrived, swooping around local buildings looking everywhere for nesting sites, whilst another summer visitor, the cuckoo, can often be heard in the distance looking for someone else's nest to invade. Some poor hedge sparrow or similar is doomed to a thankless summer serving the relentless demands of some obese cuckoo chick. Meanwhile elsewhere in the garden blackbirds, robins, collared doves, hedge sparrows, several varieties of tits and a song thrush have already set up residence, playing very happy families. The Easton goose is still around, but Easton ducks are in very short supply this year, only one clutch so far which was taken by mother, with Goosie riding shotgun, over to the Deben and only three came back. It was the day after that torrential overnight downpour, the Deben was out of control and they stood no chance. Even the three survivors were gone within twenty-four hours, probably back to the Deben. Happens almost every year without fail. Seems that duck not bred on the river cannot recognise the dangers when a river's in flood.



Well, that's all from Wellie Boots this month. Who was that saying 'thank goodness for that, thought he'd never shut up'? Naughty step for you, my friend. But 'nuff said, it's that woman again—Delilah. Just getting herself into a strop because she hasn't had a mention this month.

Happy Gardening.

Wellie Boots





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Do you have something to put in the magazine?

Contributions to the next Parish Magazine should arrive by the 20th of the month before, either by email or by handwritten piece, please.

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