

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 33

July 2007

## NATURE NOTES 27



We have just returned from a week in one of the "Saxon" villages of Transylvania where life is still much as it must have been in Easton in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with unsurfaced roads, men going out with scythes to cut the hay and bringing it in with horse-drawn carts. The meadows are full of flowers there, with Purple Emperors and many other brightly coloured butterflies, having never had sprays or fertilizers. The most common wayside bird was the Red-Backed Shrike sitting on wires and looking out for big insects like cockchafers, both of which have now almost gone from England. We enjoyed watching the 100 or so cattle and a dozen buffaloes come trooping into the village in the evenings, stopping to drink from a trough and each turning into its owner's open gate with a moo, and a little later the milk churns would be brought to the dairy. The sheep stay up in the hills, moved along by shepherds and guarded by fierce dogs as there are wolves and bears in 'dem dar forests'. It's hot there too, with temperatures around 31 degrees. Back in shivering Easton I am glad to hear from Gwen T. that a Flycatcher has been spotted – is it nesting? – and Val found a dead Privet Hawk Moth on the road. The large purple striped caterpillar of this moth is one of the 'aristocrats' which I used to find and rear as a boy, along with those of Poplar and Eyed Hawk Moths and the strange Puss Moth caterpillars with their twin 'tails'. I'm sure they are still to be found here on poplar and willow, if one spent the time searching for them that I did then.

**Brian Davis**



The house-to-house collection in the village this year raised the amazing record sum of £124.99. This enabled the Kimbolton & District Branch to achieve a total collection of £2,079.70, which is much-needed for the continuation of the work of the SCF. Thank you all so much for your generosity.



## T. PETER'S DAY – OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL

This is an important day in the life of our Church and we hope to see as many villagers – past and present – as possible to celebrate the occasion. The Church will be open from 10.00 am until 4.00pm for you to see a photographic exhibition by Sam Malt centred on Easton and Sam will be there all day to talk to you about the village. At 3.00 p.m. there will be a special Patronal Festival service, followed by a strawberry tea.



## JULY SERVICES

Services during July will be:

1 <sup>st</sup> July	-	3.00 p.m.	PATRONAL FESTIVAL SERVICE AND TEA.
8 <sup>th</sup> July	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
15 <sup>th</sup> July	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
29 <sup>th</sup> July	-	10.00 a.m.	Group Eucharist at <b>Spaldwick</b> to celebrate the feast of St. James – Spaldwick's Patronal Festival. <b>There will be no service in Easton on this day.</b>