

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 46

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NATURE NOTES 39



I have often mentioned Crested Cow-wheat as a local speciality on Stocking Lane road verge, near the turning to High Park Farm. It was described by the eminent botanist Claridge Druce in the Victoria County History for Huntingdonshire in 1926 as "A most beautiful species, and one of the most characteristic plants of the county." It is mainly a plant of north-eastern Europe but creeps into East Anglia between western Essex and Huntingdonshire. Even here it is steadily losing ground. A former Monks Wood colleague published a detailed account of this plant for a botanical journal in 1972 so at the end of June I checked on all the places mentioned by him and by Druce. It seems now to survive in only in one other place in Huntingdonshire – at the edge of Monks Wood. Four years ago I spread some seed from the east side of the road onto the west side and this has now done very well. In fact, I counted 562 plants there and about 430 on the original side, making almost a thousand plants altogether - surely the largest population in Britain! Another rare plant, Slender Tare, also appeared on a verge near there, while in Easton itself we seem to have three pairs of Turtle Doves - one at the end of my garden, one in the Playing Field and one opposite Michael Picton's house, seen nest-building by Ray and Val. There are also two breeding pairs of Spotted Flycatchers in the village, at Brook House and Oversland. Any others?

Brian Davis

49 CLUB

The winner of the May draw was Linda Maith.

CHCT "RIDE and STRIDE" – Saturday 13th September 2008

This is the 25th Anniversary year of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust fund-raising event, which consists of cycling or hiking round the local churches. Please think about taking part or sponsoring one of the cyclists/hikers. Details from Roger Silcock (890455). Half of any funds raised will go to the Church nominated by the participant and half to the CHCT.

CHURCH NEWS

Services during August will be:-

3 rd August	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
10 th August	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
17 th August	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
24 th August	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist

DEDICATION OF BELL

On Sunday 31st August there will be a Group Eucharist at St. Giles' Church, Barham at **11 a.m.** This will be a special service to re-dedicate Barham's bell and will also be a celebration of their Patronal Festival. Do come and support this occasion - everyone will be most welcome.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

This will be celebrated in Easton on Sunday 21st September at **5.00 p.m.** – all welcome.