


# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 47

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## NATURE NOTES 40

Brian Davis



When I was a boy I was introduced to nature by an elder cousin largely by looking for the caterpillars of Hawk-moths and other 'aristocrats' like Puss-moth and Lappet-moth. This urge has never left me, though I do not devote the hours to searching nowadays, and Huntingdonshire seems less productive than Dorset and Hampshire were then. This month, however, I have achieved a 'life first' in finding a Lime hawk caterpillar (in the

Cambridge Backs), and a 'second' in finding a Comma caterpillar on nettles in my garden. The former is a simple lime-green colour with pale diagonal stripes and the characteristic 'tail' of all Sphingidae. The latter has the characteristic branched spines of all Nymphalid butterfly larvae, but is half white and half orange so that it looks like a bird dropping. Like the Red Admiral, and unlike the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock, all of which feed on nettles, the eggs of Commas are laid singly and usually in semi-shaded places. I had hoped to see the bright orange butterfly emerge in September, but alas! a large parasite has emerged instead and pupated on a leaf. I watched a Cabbage-White butterfly flitting among my Brussels-sprouts last week dabbing an egg here and there. Is it inconsistent to hope that ichneumon wasps will attack a good many of the caterpillars that are now emerging?

## 49 CLUB

Congratulations to Becky Reece who was the winner of the July draw.

## CHCT "RIDE and STRIDE" – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Please note that there are some changes to the normal pattern this month. Services during September will be:-

7 <sup>th</sup> September -	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
14 <sup>th</sup> September -	10.00 a.m.	Sunday Worship with Baptism.
21 <sup>st</sup> September -	5.00 p.m.	Harvest Festival
28 <sup>th</sup> September -	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

The time of the service on 14<sup>th</sup> September has been put back by half an hour in order to accommodate the baptism of Robin and Sarah Purser's baby daughter, Evie. We hope that many people will want to come and welcome her into the family of the Church.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 5 p.m.

Please note the earlier time of this service, which has been brought forward by one hour this year, as we should very much like to welcome families and young children at this special village occasion. If there are any young people who might like to play an instrument during the service, please contact Stephanie Silcock (89045) or Margaret Halliday (890125).

## IN MEMORIAM - Tom Ramsay

Tom Ramsay died at the age of 95 years on 18<sup>th</sup> July. His family and many friends attended his funeral in Easton church on 31<sup>st</sup> July. He was Church Warden for more than 20 years until he moved to live in Brampton in 1977 and the village will always be indebted to him for the great love and care he gave to the church. He was a quiet man much loved by everyone. Tom came to live in Easton in 1943 in Chapel Cottage with his wife Barbara where his son Michael and daughter Linda were born. Barbara died tragically of pneumonia when Linda was three years old and Tom left the village, then to return to live in Church Cottage until 1977. From the 1960s Tom, with two or three other families, kept the church open and in constant use. One day, while Tom was cleaning the pigeon guano in the tower Michael fell 25 feet through the rotten floor boards to the ground, miraculously only suffering a twisted ankle. Every Sunday Linda helped her father to light the oil lamps when they were needed; they hung from the chains where there are now hoops with electric light bulbs. Before the services in the winter months Tom lit a cast iron Turtle stove to heat the church, which often smoked or glowed depending on the direction of the wind! Tom's care and devotion in maintaining the church and churchyard during the 1950s, '60s and '70s kept the church open for our use today.