

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 48

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NATURE NOTES 41



Brian Davis

Season of mists and [very] mellow fruitfulness... - and fungi too: a wonderful great "fairy ring" of about 140 Shaggy Parasol mushrooms has appeared in the spinney near Hartham Street - while *gathering swallows twitter in the skies*. The only pairs of swallows we have twittering in Easton nowadays seem to be based around pony fields, though these are doing their best to raise two or even three broods. It is over 30 years since they nested in my garage, and house martins nesting under our eaves vanished even earlier. Without grazing pastures with livestock in the fields in Easton there are not enough insects in the air

these days to support many such aerial plankton feeders. Roger Silcock measured 142 mm (5 ½ in.) of rain in six weeks during August/September and this has meant a poor year for many butterflies with no local sightings of migrant Painted Ladies, though Speckled Wood and Comma butterflies have done well. As an addendum to last month's note about Cabbage Whites, I discovered a chrysalis of one on a cactus plant in my greenhouse, some seven yards from where the caterpillars were feeding - quite a trek! The most interesting local bird records recently have been a Green Sandpiper on a pond at Lodge Farm, Spoonbills at Grafham Water and four juvenile Crossbills in a spruce tree at Stow Longa. These evidently followed the "irruption" of Crossbills noticed along the east coast during June and July this year, from Scandinavia or the continent.



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Iris Brooker was the lucky winner of the August draw.

CHURCH NEWS

Services during October will be:-

5 th October	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
12 th October	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
19 th October	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
26 th October	-	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who so kindly brought flowers and produce for the Harvest Festival in Church; also to those who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully for the occasion. The Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton was most grateful for the produce and passed on their thanks to everybody.

Thank you also to Christopher Nixon for his hard work this summer cutting the churchyard grass: this has been part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award project and those of us who generally cut the grass are very grateful, especially this year when the grass hasn't stopped growing!

LOGS

Chestnut logs from the Churchyard will again be available this winter at the price of £60 per load. If you would like some, please contact Mike Baker or Jenny Hyde (891454).

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

The annual churchyard tidy-up will take place on Sunday 30th November starting at around 10.00 a.m. Refreshments as usual.

FIVE PARISH ADVENT FAIR

This year's Five Parish Advent Fair will be held on 22nd November at Ellington Village Hall. There will be more details next month but please make a note of the date now!