

EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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NATURE NOTES 53

Brian Davis

'Butterfly'. What a strange word! The origin of the name is unknown, though the OED lists several older English variants such as botryflye. Shakespeare says "Men like butter-flies, shew not their mealie wings but to the summer", and I like the 1726 quotation "And what's a Butterfly? At best He's but a caterpillar drest." Each language has its own distinct word: French has 'papillon', German has 'schmetterling' and Spanish has 'mariposa'. The friend who took this picture of a Small Tortoiseshell mariposa in the Pyrenees this year suggested the caption "One in the eye for a naturalist!" It has, indeed, been the summer of the Painted Lady in Britain, "estimates putting the number in the UK as high as a billion", according to my Magazine of Butterfly Conservation. (Thank goodness the larvae feed only on thistles.) They started from the foothills of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and swept through France during April and May, one enthusiastic lepidopterist called Geoff Carefoot recording 130 per minute passing through his garden, "all moving unerringly north-east". They arrived in Britain on an 850 mile wide front, and volunteers counted 20,000 in two hours at 180 sites between Cornwall and Skye on 30th May. Some were seen returning south in the

autumn, but one must wonder if this urge to fly north represents some 'folk memory' of a long distant interglacial period when Britain was warm enough for winter survival? And may yet be so again!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As Easton is part of the 'Catworth Cluster' of 12 villages along the A14 between Ellington and Keyston, I am now receiving regular information on security issues. With the help of Kath Goodwin and John Jolly, I recently printed and distributed a note to all households in Easton. I do have about 20 email addresses for doing this but if anyone else could let me have their emails for this purpose, it would save me much time (and paper). I won't overload you with trivia. bdavisnk@btinternet.com.

49 CLUB

The October draw was won by Andrew Burton.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Some years ago the PCC began offering a Christmas card delivery service to homes within the village "envelope" in return for a donation towards the Church Fabric Fund. The suggested minimum donation is 10p per card. This service will be available again this year and all cards should be delivered to Kath Goodwin's house at 6 The Lane together with your donation. Why not drop your cards off when you collect your newspaper?! Positively the last and final date to get your cards to Kath is **Friday 18th December**, to allow time for the cards to be sorted and delivered around the village.



CHURCH NEWS

For many years Easton shared its priest with Barham-and-Woolley, Ellington, Grafham and Spaldwick. Then a few years ago, after a long period when they had been without a priest, Fr. Jonathan took on Alconbury cum Weston and Buckworth. Because of the continuing shortage of priests and our inability to provide the funds to pay for them, with effect from 29th November Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Martin are also taking on Great & Little Gidding with Steeple Gidding, Winwick and Hamerton, bringing the East Leightonstone group of parishes up to 10.

The Church's year begins on Advent Sunday which this year falls on 29th November and it will be marked by a Group Eucharist at Ellington at 10.00 a.m. There will be a number of special Christmas services during December and in particular we hope to see most of the village represented at the Village Carol Service on 20th December, after which refreshments will be served.



6 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
13 th December	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
20 th December	-	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
25 th December	-	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Eucharist

Nearest Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve will be at Spaldwick at 11.30 p.m.
Nearest service on Sunday 27th December will be Eucharist 10.00 a.m. at Alconbury.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

We should be most grateful for extra help with decorating the Church on the afternoon of Saturday 19th December from 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. for the Carol Service (Sunday 20th) and Christmas Day. Donations of any Christmas arrangements, greenery or white flowers would also be most welcome (these may also be left in the porch earlier in the day if more convenient). **PLEASE** - we do also need some children to come and help to decorate the Christmas Tree at 2 pm.!