

Easton Village Newsletter

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Issue 151

May 2017

NATURE NOTE No: 100

Brian Davis



The presence of four 16th century houses along Church Road is a good indication that the Easton Brook has been well controlled for centuries. Sometimes it runs dry in summer and since the ford was piped it has occasionally overflowed the road as far as the driveway of Brook House. But up to a few years ago, it must have had a continuous connection with the Ellington Brook for long periods, for I remember seeing a small pike in it and a White Egret sometimes visited on fishing trips. This year it has virtually run dry in April, only a small weir somewhere near Crown Cottage holding back a few inches of water, with large, motionless patches of grey scum. A couple of sticklebacks dart about and one small colony of tadpoles currently enjoys the warm soup by the

footbridge to Grange Croft. The banks themselves are greening over now and hiding the dredged mud that was spread there, and in places this has sprouted patches of bright yellow Kingcups as far as Easton Road. These have come from seeds washed down from the original plants introduced by Malcolm and Margaret Halliday opposite Ford Cottage a few years ago. The golden evening sunshine also picks out the delicate form of the large willow tree opposite the church.



I have tended to keep a record each year of about a dozen harbingers of spring, mainly butterflies and a few birds. Thus, just to pick out four: the first hibernator to appear each year is a queen Buff-tailed bumblebee, usually in the second week of March, followed by the large yellow Brimstone butterfly a few days later. The first warbler to arrive is always a Chiffchaff between the 18th March and 2nd April, with the Blackcap in the second week of April. Both stay to breed, whilst Willow-warblers just pass through. We have had six other butterflies in Easton so far this year, but we have to wait until about mid-May to see whether our Spotted flycatchers return.

This is my centurial Nature Note. Anyone else with a point of view?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Ed Sloper

The Annual General Meeting of the Easton Fund and Social Committee will be held in the Church on 9th May 2017 at 8.00pm. It will be followed by a committee meeting. If you want to know more about the planned social activities for Easton or can spare some time to join the committee, please come along. Coffee and biscuits will be served!

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

<p>Sunday 7th (Easter 4) 09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Rogation Walk Service (Mrs L Bowring) 10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 STO Evensong (Rev N Bland)</p>	<p>Sunday 14th (Easter 5) 09.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs L Bowring) 09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 16.30 SPA Messy Church (team)</p>
<p>Sunday 21st (Easter 6) 09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson) 09.30 COV Morning Worship (Rev S Bowring) 10.45 KIM Matins (Rev N Bland) 10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson) 11.00 BAR Family Service (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 EAS Evensong (Ms. J Dighton)</p>	<p>Sunday 28th (Ascension Sunday) 09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring) 09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr Mike Baker) 10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster) 17.00 SPA Prayer & Praise (Rev S Bowring) 18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev N Bland)</p>

MAKING EASTON A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

Steve Thomason

Easton Parish Council purchased more bark for the playground for this spring, and last week 80 bags arrived which required spreading across the surface of the park. The existing surface beds down with use over time, so to ensure that the surface has enough depth to allow our children to play safely, it needs topping up every few years. Last week members of the Parish Council and a small band of helpers were out in the evening, raking over the new bark which will hopefully keep the surface in top condition for a while to come.



Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter will be Friday 26th May