

Easton Village Newsletter

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August 2020

Issue 178

NATURE NOTE 115A

Brian Davis



Over the past six years when Barry Dickerson has been trapping and recording moths in our garden, he has totted up a total score of 412 species. During the same period, I have seen 22 kinds of butterflies in the garden. All of these have a vegetarian diet as caterpillars, and so this suggests a diverse food supply. Some species, of course, must fly into the garden from plants growing elsewhere, but I thought I would just see how many of the butterflies, for instance, could have been born and bred in our garden because the food plants grow here:



Species	Food plant	Species	Food plant
Brimstone	Buckthorn	Large skipper	meadow grasses
Red admiral	Stinging nettle	Small skipper	"
Peacock	" "	Essex skipper	"
Comma	" " & Hop	Speckled wood	"
Painted lady	Thistles	Gatekeeper	"
Small copper	Sorrel	Meadow brown	"
Common blue	Bird's-foot trefoil	Ringlet	"
Holly blue	Holly & Ivy	Small heath	"
Brown Argus	small Cranesbills	Large white	brassicac
White-letter hairstreak	Elm	Small white	"
Orange-tip	Hedge garlic	Green-veined white	wild brassicas

In fact, all these butterflies could have been reared in the garden except Brimstone (and I have now planted five Buckthorns for them), Painted lady (a migrant from the Continent), and Common blue and Brown Argus which probably bred in the adjacent churchyard. Anyone could see these in their garden but it helps to have good nectar flowers like Buddleja, or Sweet Williams, or a good bramble bush. I picture two to look out for: White-letter hairstreak and Small copper. These should be flying in July.

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

Revd. Phil Howson

As you will have seen in the press, churches have been permitted to re-open for public services since 4th July. However, there are a number of caveats to this, most notably that social distancing must be observed and that no singing is to take place. In addition to this, there is the added difficulty that most of our clergy are in the "Shielded" group and are not permitted to go out before the end of this month! The results of the "consultation" with PCCs and others that has taken place recently are still being assessed and as at the date of going to print, no definite plan is yet available. Please keep an eye on the South Leightonstone benefice website for further information shortly – www.kymchurch.co.uk. We are very close to proposals for August and September which, in the main, will mean holding outdoors services where possible.

LAST CALL FOR THE CHIMNEY SWEEP!

Please note that if you would like the sweep and have not already made a booking, Jenny Hyde needs to know **no later than Friday, 7th August!** He will be in Easton on Wednesday, Thursday and (probably) Friday, 9th, 10th and 11th September. To fix a date and time, please contact Jenny Hyde by email at j.hyde2@btinternet.com or by telephone on 891454 (he starts at 7.30 a.m.!).

EASTON HONEY FOR SALE

New season's Easton honey for sale - £5.00 per 1lb. jar. All proceeds to be given to St. Peter's Church appeal for funds. Contact Peter Gould on 891043.

THE CROMWELL MUSEUM



The Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon is now reopened. After major refurbishment at the beginning of this year, the Cromwell Museum in the centre of Huntingdon was able to reopen officially in early March – unfortunately, just in time to close due to lockdown.

Having carried out a trial reopening to test health and safety procedures, the museum is now once again open. The new museum is fully refurbished with interactive display, audio-visual presentation and 30% more items on display.

Families who wish to view the museum in isolation may book private tours with the curator as guide on Tuesdays, via the website. Otherwise, the museum is open from 11.00 till 16.00 Wednesdays through to



Saturdays, free of charge. <https://www.cromwellmuseum.org>

THEY'RE BACK...!

Spotted Flycatchers have been a feature of summer in Easton for a number of years now but it seems the village is gaining in popularity for these little birds when they return from wintering in Namibia. In early July, a pair were spotted in the Hyde's garden, nesting in the wisteria, and were duly visited by an ornithological expert. The male was checked over and ringed so that he can be followed in future years; the female, however, was something of a surprise as she was already ringed and proved to be the female that had nested last year at Springfield! A fledged family have also been recorded above the Chapel Lane pump at the beginning of July and after a gap year the Flycatchers at the Davis's have been back and reared at least two chicks successfully. They then laid another four eggs but these were robbed just before hatching, probably by a Jackdaw or a rat, though they have also seen a Weasel cross their lawn. As there are only about 200 pairs of Spotted Flycatchers in the whole of Cambridgeshire, we obviously have something going for us!



EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Government guidelines currently still in force preclude public meetings and it is not possible to hold a Parish Council meeting in the Church. Easton Parish Council has scheduled a Parish Council meeting via 'Zoom' on 3rd September 2020 at 8pm. If you are not already on the Parish Council mailing list and would like details and the link to attend please email: clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

EASTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in (or possibly outside) St. Peter's Church Easton on Tuesday August 25th. at 7.30p.m. Everyone is welcome.

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL – Goosey Close



The Parish Council is sorry if anyone has been inconvenienced when the Goosey Close play field was temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic and although playing fields have been reopened, play areas are a casualty of the Covid-19 restrictions. This is why all the play equipment in the Goosey Close Field has been taped off and remains out of use. The Parish Council is working towards compliance with HM Government Guidance for managing play grounds which includes communications to users and general public, the Risk Assessment process and Hygiene requirements, Advice to users of any risk and to comply with social distancing recommendations when using any item.

The annual inspection is due to be carried out by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd this week to approve the equipment is safe to use. In the meantime, one damaged piece has been removed for renewal. The area has been sprayed to kill the weeds which have grown through lack of use and new play bark will be spread over the area as soon as possible when the area may be recommissioned and opening is allowed, which it is hoped to be in the not too distant future. Thank you for your patience with this.

Deadline for the September Newsletter is 24th August