

# Easton Village Newsletter

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December 2020

Issue 182

### NATURE NOTE 118

**Brian Davis**



*An Easton meadow?*

With so much talk of 'rewilding' and reversing the loss of species in the countryside, I have tried to think how Easton has changed since I came here in 1963. Article after article describes the national decline in insects and common farmland birds, yet conservation bodies like Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and Butterfly Conservation can also point to amazing local successes as a result of focussed habitat management. I have said before that the village is like an oasis in a sea of arable land thanks to the many gardens that have been planted up and the large number of new trees replacing lost elms. There are horse-and cattle-grazed meadows too, though just a fraction of what there used to be, and several garden ponds, though these do not seem to prevent the decline of toads and frogs. The loss of hedges is one of the biggest changes,

of course; decades of herbicides have left very few weeds and harvesting these days leaves little for seed-eating birds. Burton's farm has probably done more than anything through the DEFRA Stewardship system to diversify the Parish through its flower-rich field margins, red clover fields and strips of sunflowers. For the first time, this year, Marbled White butterflies were recorded near Shepherds Close, and when I went to look, I found them scattered all along the field edge strip of herb-rich grassland on both sides of the railway bridge. If such strips extended into the village they would act as a link to the wider world. There are not many patches of diverse grassland in the village, of course. The churchyard has the greatest variety of plants, but is too closely mown to support most insects, and the pastures also are closely grazed. The Gould's front gate meadow and my 'hay meadow' are token gestures. Mine does support a population of Meadow Browns and up to 20 other butterfly species nectaring but this depends on harvesting the hay and finding someone who wants it. Rewilding is not appropriate for Easton: diversification is hard enough.

### EASTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Luton Airport Flightpaths:** Notification has been received that a [public consultation on new arrival flightpaths](#) into London Luton Airport is now running. Currently, Stansted and Luton airports share arrival holds and routes. The proposals are to separate these. The formal consultation website contains a full virtual exhibition with more information and maps, as these are likely to affect this area.

**Dogs on Leads:** There has recently been an incident involving a dog not on a lead and although no-one was harmed, it caused distress to another dog and its owner. Would all dog owners ensure their dog is kept on a lead and under control when near other people and/or dogs. Huntingdonshire District Council has a Public Spaces Protection Order in place which imposes a number of Dog Controls. This has been recently been considered for renewal to 2023. More information including the current order and affected locations can be found at <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmental-issues/dog-related-issues>.

### THE VILLAGE SAYS FAREWELL TO THE CRESSWELLS

**Mike Baker**

John and Judy Cresswell moved into their house in Broadweir in 1982 and brought up their two children, Darryl and Marianne, here.

Shortly after they settled in, Judy started to research a booklet on The History of Easton which she completed in 1984. It is a very thorough account of the people and properties in the village in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is a thoroughly fascinating read. Sadly, only about eight copies were produced but it will be included in the new Village Archives. Additionally, Judy produced a map of the Churchyard and researched who was named on the gravestones and their relationship to others in the village. It has been, and is, a very useful guide when new burials take place, to indicate where there is still space.

John and Judy are downsizing and moving to Bedfordshire to be nearer to their daughter. They will be living in Marston Moretaine, which has been much in the news recently because another resident – Captain Tom – has been doing his walking. As both Judy and John are keen walkers, they may well meet up in the village!

Marston Moretaine is not that far away, so we will hopefully see them back in Easton from time to time where they have many friends. We wish them Bon Voyage – they will be missed by many in Easton.

## PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Every few years the bark on the surface of the playground requires topping up, and in October the Parish Council purchased 3 pallets of play bark to spread over the existing surface. A small band of merry helpers turned out to assist and the area now looks much improved. More importantly, it makes the area safer to play in. The bouncy scooter has also been recently replaced and now the monkey bars also require repair to replace a number of missing rungs. This will be the next task to be dealt with.



*The small band of helpers with the newly-spread bark*

Easton Parish Council



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

We're here to help you stay well this winter! It's really important that we all remember that the NHS is here to help you stay well, safely. We have been working hard to make changes to how healthcare is provided to make it safe for you during the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. If you're worried about your health, don't delay. The sooner you get advice, the better.

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| <br>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough<br>Clinical Commissioning Group   |  |
| <br><h2 style="margin: 0;">We're here to help you stay well this winter</h2><br> |  |
| <h1 style="margin: 0;">GP</h1>   | Call your GP practice or visit their website to arrange an appointment. This may take place over the phone or via video. If needed, you will be seen face to face.                   |
| <h1 style="margin: 0;">PHARMACY</h1>   | Prescriptions, over the counter medications and first aid help, everything you need is still available at your local pharmacy.   |
| <h1 style="margin: 0;">111</h1>  | NHS 111 can help if you're not sure what to do. Call 111 or visit <a href="http://111.nhs.uk">111.nhs.uk</a> 24/7. If you're in a mental health crisis call 111 and select option 2. |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE<br/>or<br/>MINOR INJURY UNITS</h2>  | Located in Ely, Wisbech and Peterborough you can get help with minor injuries and illnesses, as well as xrays  |
| Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for more information  |  |

## THE ANNUAL CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP

Very many thanks to the 25 people who came out to help on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Whilst we all kept socially distanced, we achieved a great deal. We have never before had so many volunteers and more parts of the area were cleared than ever before. The churchyard now looks stunning!

## FOUND...

A small metal fob, resembling a modern car key, with four buttons on it marked 1, 2, 3 and 4. If anyone lost this in the churchyard, then please collect it from me and explain what it is!

**Mike Baker**

# CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER



| Date                             | Time           | Location | Service Type  | Minister(s)   |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|---|---|
| 6/12/20                          | 9:30           | COV      | Parish Communion  | Rev. Revd. P Howson   |
|                                  |                | SPA      | Morning Worship   | J Dighton   |
| <b>Advent 2</b>                  | 10:45          | KIM      | Family Service (Christingle)  | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 15:00          | STO      | Evensong  | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 9:30           | TIL      | Family Service  | Warden/Rev. P Howson  |
| 13/12/20                         | 10:45          | KIM      | Family Communion  | Rev. P Soult  |
|                                  | 12:00          | EAS      | Tree and Carols – Outside. <b>No singing permitted</b> (not even impromptu choir). Recorded only. | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 16:00          | SPA      | Family Communion (St James)<br>In church, not Ferriman Road                                       | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  |                | Online   | Five Lessons and Carols   | Rev. P Howson etc   |
|                                  | 19/12/20 (Sat) | 12:00    | TIL   | Tree decorating with the village<br>Recorded music & readings |
|                                  | 17:00          | TIL      | Outside lessons and carols. <b>No singing permitted: recorded only.</b>                           | Rev. P Howson/Warden  |
| 20/12/20                         | 09:30          | STO      | Holy Communion  | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 10:45          | KIM      | Matins  | Rev. R Lancaster or Warden and Organist                       |
|                                  | 11:00          | BAR      | Parish Communion  | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 16:00          | KIM      | Five lessons and carols.<br>Ticketed event if lockdown allows.                                    | Rev. P Soult  |
|                                  | 16:30          | COV      | Outside lessons and carols. <b>No singing permitted: recorded only.</b>                           | Warden and Rev. P Howson                                      |
|                                  | Tbc            | STO      | Outside Lessons and Carols. <b>No singing permitted: recorded only.</b>                           | Rev. John Rawlinson   |
| 24/12/20<br><i>Christmas Eve</i> | 15:00          | KIM      | Crib service. Indoors, with choir or recorded music.  | Rev. P Soult  |
|                                  | 15:30          | SPA      | Crib walk-through   | SPA team & Rev. P Howson                                      |
|                                  | 17:00          | SPA      | Lessons and Carols  | As above  |
|                                  | 18:30          | BAR      | Tree and carols. Outside - <b>No singing permitted: recorded only.</b>                            | Rev. P Howson   |
| 25/12/20<br><i>Christmas Day</i> | 8:00           | COV      | Sunrise Holy Communion  | Rev. P Howson   |
|                                  | 9:30           | EAS      | Holy Communion  | Rev. P Soult  |
|                                  | 10:45          | KIM      | Holy Communion  | Rev. P Howson   |

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020



Photo Left: The Rev. Howson held a Memorial Service in the churchyard on 8<sup>th</sup> November when John Hill & Clive Wood laid wreaths.

### AVE ATQUE VALE!

It is with great sadness that we leave Easton and all our neighbours and friends after 38 very enjoyable years. I am sure the Turner family will settle in quickly. They are looking forward to being part of Village life. Best wishes to everyone.

Judy and John Cresswell

## RESURFACING OF HARTHAM STREET

People living in Easton Road and Stonely Road are probably only too aware of the fact that Cambridgeshire County Council were carrying out work to Hartham Street at the end of October/beginning of November. In addition to the haulage of the plant to the site, the equivalent of twenty tipping lorries had to pass through the village! However, as these photographs show, the work will be much appreciated by the walkers in the village:



1 Before...



2 ... And After!

**Deadline for the January 2021 newsletter is 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

