

Easton Village Newsletter

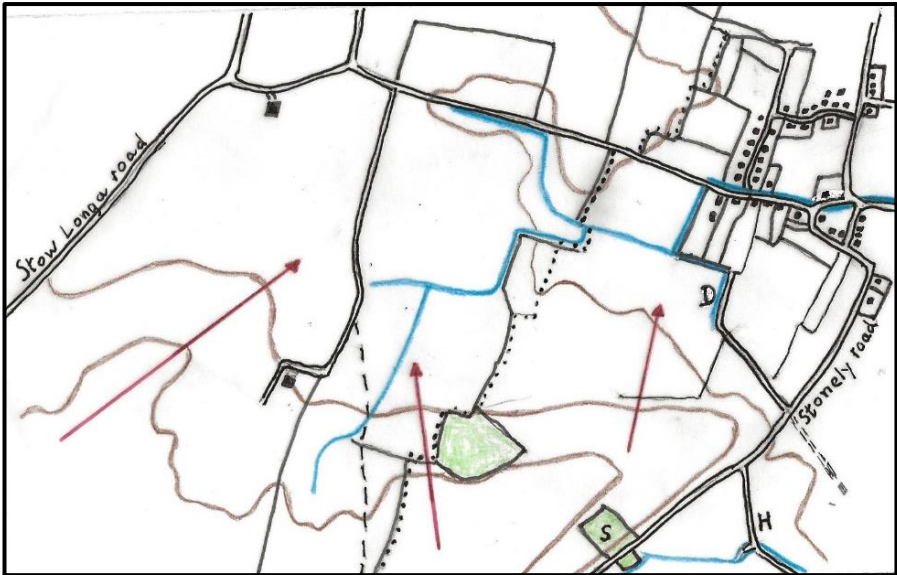
Easton Village Newsletter

March 2021

Issue 185

NATURE NOTE 119

Brian Davis



Nature is not just pretty meadows and butterflies, as I like to describe. In some parts of the world nature shows itself as hurricanes, collapsing glaciers or wildfires, and we in Easton have just experienced a glimpse of this other face. Our rain gauge recorded 59 mm over the 23/24th December (35 mm recorded by the Silcocks on 24th), a fraction of what the Pennines, Cumbria and Wales have experienced this winter but enough to overwhelm the Brook here. The map above shows why.

All the rain falling on the hillside to the south west of Easton, and this side of the Stow Longa road, must find its way by field ditches into the Easton Brook (in blue). The red arrows point directly downhill as determined by the contour

lines (in brown). Above Shepherds Close (S at the bottom of the map) and southeast of the Stonely Road, the rain will flow into the big drain beside Hartham Street (H). The whole map shown here is 3.5 square kilometres so one may very crudely estimate the catchment area for the headwaters of the Easton Brook to be about half of this. The ditch beside the farm road at D is directly in line with this downhill gradient, and therefore affords a perfect conduit for flood water heading directly towards Hill Farm. This ditch may once have connected with the Brook near the wooden footbridge where the footpath crosses it, but little or no water seems to flow through the deep ditch behind the tall conifer hedge now, so flood water has to pass over the surface. A great many ditches were piped or simply filled in during the mid-1960s when hedges were removed to increase field sizes. The open ditch along the Stonely Road from Avens to the Brook was piped and likewise the Brook itself at the ford.



Photo Mark Payne at point D

The five thatched cottages beside the Easton Brook have all survived centuries of winters and summers so they have stood the test of time. But times are changing. The total rainfall recorded in Eynesbury for 2020 was 768mm compared with 638mm annual average over the previous 19 years since 2001; only 2001 and 2012 were wetter. The Met Office *national* summary for 2020, indeed, reads like a litany of broken records with the head of the National Climate Information Centre saying:

“Due to climate change we expect UK winters to become wetter [and] in just over a decade we have now seen the UK’s wettest February since 1862 (2020), April (2012), June (2012), November

(2009) and December (2015).” In 1862, of course, and until the mid-20th century, much of this land in the parish of Easton would have been grassland without modern field drains so the *rate* of run-off would have been much less.



Photographs of the Christmas floods courtesy of Richard Burton. And then we had snow....!



59 CLUB

John Maith

First of all, I must thank all those who posted their 59 Club contributions through my letterbox, a big help. Secondly, I would like to thank all in the village for their continued support of this, as it now is the only fundraising activity for the Church, given the current lockdown. Consequently, the 2021/22 round will commence on Saturday 27th February so good luck to all.

The last winner of the 2020/21 round in January was Malcolm Halliday, so well done Malcolm. Let's hope we get a gradual relaxation of the Covid measures and can restart more village activities later in the year. Until then, stay safe.

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING DATES FOR MARCH 2021

Please email clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk for meeting date notifications and the Zoom link if you are not already receiving these.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** which is the open meeting for everyone in the village will be held in March and the Parish Council hopes as many residents as possible will 'zoom in' for this meeting. It would be helpful if you would advise in advance any item you wish to discuss. The dates will also be advertised on the notice board.

CHURCH SERVICES

Update 31 January 2021: After consultation with Reverend Philip, the PCCs decided that services at all churches will continue to be suspended during February to help keep our communities safe. We will review the situation again at the end of the month and make a decision then about services in March. In the temporary absence of services in church, remember the [South Leightonstone YouTube pages](#) where there is a rich supply of services and daily thoughts and prayer. Why not join us there? If you subscribe and use the notifications bell, you will be notified when we upload a new service.

Sundays, 5pm: Evening prayer with Philip via Zoom – [email Philip](#) for a link to join this. Ongoing services [on YouTube](#), including daily thoughts and prayers (about three times a week).

Deadline for the April newsletter is 24th March