

Easton Village Newsletter

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August 2021

Issue 190

NATURE NOTE 121

Brian Davis



Small Elephant Hawk Moth



Pine Hawk Moth

When I was just eleven years old, I was introduced by my older cousin to the thrills of finding Poplar hawk caterpillars on the poplar trees around his garden. It was easy to feed these in a box until they pupated in the soil and emerged as moths the following July. Imagine my pleasure, then, when the Huntingdonshire moth expert started moth-trapping in our garden in Easton in 2014 and found both Poplar and Elephant hawk moths here. In 2015 the first Privet hawk moth appeared, in 2017 an Eyed hawk was added, and this July two more species, Small elephant and Pine hawk, two of each. A Lime hawk moth was spotted by Roger and Stephanie Silcock resting on the wall of Crown Cottage (many years ago), and is surely still breeding in Easton on some of the planted lime trees, so this completes the full complement of 7



Privet Hawk Moths

native British hawk moths (of the family Sphingidae).

To these must be added the Hummingbird hawk moth, a regular, day-flying, migrant from the Continent, and a dead Convolvulus hawk moth, a rare migrant, which was

once picked up in the driveway of The Grange. The Elephant and Small elephant are named after the caterpillars, for their resemblance to elephant trunks, while the Eyed hawk is like a Peacock butterfly in having big round circles on the hind wings. The caterpillars of these three feed on willowherbs, bedstraws and apple, respectively. All the others are simply named after their food plants. The Pine hawk moth is especially interesting as I know of only one actual pine tree in Easton – outside The House in The Lane. All hawk moths are strong fliers and could cover miles, but to catch *two* suggests a nearby breeding site. The largest of these seven moths is the Privet hawk, which can attract attention when seen sitting on a fence post. A friend of the late Ray Ellis, living in Yaxley, brought me one last week to identify, and we had a ‘plethora of Privet hawks’ in the latest light trap.

NEW SEAT ON THE EASTON TO ELLINGTON FOOTPATH

Mike Baker

Thanks are due to the Jolly family who have provided and installed a new seat in memory of their late parents, who lived in the village for 50 years. The seat is very welcome to weary walkers!

VILLAGE PUMP

Thanks are also long overdue to Geoff Messenger, who has restored the formerly rotting village pump to something close to its original glory. It is now a notable feature in Chapel Lane and we are grateful to Geoff for making such a good job of this work.

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Accounts year end 31/03/2021 of the Easton Parish Council have been approved and signed at the last meeting held on 24th June 2021. The full accounts are posted on the Parish Council website <http://www.eastonpc.co.uk> together with the Notice of Public Rights & Publication. The notice and a copy of the Accounting Statement for 2020/21 is also on the notice board, the inspection runs to 06/08/2021

59 CLUB

John Maith

It is a while since my last update regarding the 59 Club winners - sorry about that! The April winners were Jill and Richard Burton with Number 1, the May winners were Mac and Jayne Baker with Number 44, and the June winner was Ruth Mill Brooks with Number 19. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck to all in the next draw which will be on Saturday 31st July. If anyone would like to join the 59 Club, please let me know and I will arrange a number for you. I can be contacted at maiths60@hotmail.com.

EASTON WILDLIFE 2021 – PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. The international movement to increase our tree population is gathering pace, with organisations such as Friends of the Earth wanting to see tree coverage doubled in the UK. Just 13% of the UK's total land area has tree cover, compared with the European average of 35%. The government is working

closely with the Forestry Commission to dramatically increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares of new trees in the UK each year, with plantations sequestering carbon and helping the government reach net zero emissions by 2050.

More locally, we have also had suggestions about planting trees in Easton in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh and we are considering some suitable locations and discussions with a number of landowners are on-going. Some other areas in the village the Parish Council are considering are: along the north bank of the ditch along Church Road from the junction with Chapel Lane to opposite the Church. Also, a few fruit trees (cherry?) on the grassy area next to the church, if we can ensure traffic visibility is not compromised.

If anyone has any thoughts on these ideas or any other suggestions, please let us know either by the 'Contact Us' form on the web site or via the Parish Clerk (clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk), or speak to any of the Parish Councillors directly.

Without wishing the summer away, the tree planting season will soon be upon us, so if you have any room in your gardens, please consider a tree!

Easton Parish Council

EASTON WEBSITE

Easton Parish Council

In 2015, the Parish Council had a new requirement to lodge their meeting documents and other official information online. We registered a new site with a British Telecom hosting service which gave a free platform for charities and communities to get

online. The offering was basic to say the least and also had a drawback because the platform was not searchable by the usual internet search engines.

This BT Community Web Service was withdrawn in May this year and we were then forced to find another solution. A new village website has now been launched which still has the same name (eastonpc.co.uk) but is now looking a little more professional. It is not just a repository for parish council documents, but also acts as a store for other village information, documents, and photographs. If anyone has any other archive photos, or good quality recent photos of the village they would like to see on the website, just use the contact form on the website to let us know.

There is also a section on the website for the Easton Wildlife 2021, to display the variety of wildlife we have around the village and to show initiatives in support of the village wildlife scheme.

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 1st August. **Tilbrook Summer Festival**

9:30 Parish Communion

11:00 Summer Festival and picnic



Sunday 8th August. **Kimbolton Summer Festival**

9:30 Parish Communion

10:45 Summer Festival and picnic

Sunday 15th August. **Barham Summer Festival**

9:30 Parish Communion

10:45 Summer Festival and picnic

Sunday 22nd August. **Stow Longa Summer Festival**

9:30 Parish Communion

10:45 Summer Festival and picnic



Sunday 29th August.

10:45 Spaldwick Joint Service

The deadline for the September newsletter is 23rd August