

Easton Village Newsletter

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October 2021

Issue 192

NATURE NOTE 122

Brian Davis

Nature is full of fascinating creatures for those with eyes to see. Darwin once remarked that the Creator must be inordinately fond of beetles as there were so very many kinds in the world. He started his career collecting beetles, of course, and a Monks Wood colleague of mine became a national expert in beetles. Another colleague spent his retirement producing books for identifying the 480 different kinds of weevils that are

found in Britain - and that is only one family. Few beetles, in this country, are big or colourful enough to draw much attention, and I have only photographed some that have caught my eye.



This first one here (left) is one of the lady-birds, an unusual colour variety in not having black spots. There are 46 species in the

UK, most of which feed on aphids and so are 'a good thing' in the garden. Many are red and this is a warning to birds that they are distasteful. One recent immigrant, though, the Harlequin ladybird, is bigger than all the others and poses a serious threat to biodiversity by attacking other ladybirds and other useful insects like Lacewings. The second picture shows a Cockchafer captured in a light trap in our garden. Also known



as May-bugs or June-bugs, this used to be a common insect that was familiar through flying noisily into lighted rooms at night. Its larvae live for 3 years in the soil feeding on roots of grasses, and formerly on corn where they could do a lot of damage.



My third example, Wasp beetle, is, as its name says, a wasp mimic, not only in appearance with its yellow stripes but also in its jerky mode of walking. Its long

antennae show that it is a member of the longhorn family of beetles, whose larvae live in dead and decaying wood. They are quite harmless, of course, as they don't have a sting. The fourth picture is of a Tiger beetle. This is a predator with powerful mandibles that could give you a nip - if you could ever catch one in hand. However, they not only run very fast along the ground but frequently make short flights. These are mostly associated with sandy soils and woodlands so are uncommon in Huntingdonshire.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated produce and store-cupboard items to the Manor Cheshire Home in Brampton on Sunday 12th September. There was a wonderful array of fruit and vegetables and the Home was enormously grateful for our continuing support. A big thank you, too, to all who helped to decorate the Church or contributed to the Service in any way, including Phil, who kindly played the keyboard, and the readers; also, those who provided refreshments afterwards and all who helped with packing up the boxes of produce.

EASTON VILLAGE QUIZ



Now in its 23rd year, this will take place on Saturday, 23rd October 2021 at St. Peter's Church. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. for a sharp start at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £7.00 per adult; £3.00 school age children. Fish and Chip supper available at extra cost. Tickets on sale soon!

THE EASTON A14 JUNCTION

Mike Baker

I attended the follow-up meeting with the Highways Agency along with other Parish Council Chairmen on the Brampton to Thrapston section. As far as the Easton junction is concerned, the Highways Agency have agreed to:

- (i) Cut back vegetation to improve sight lines;
- (ii) White line the central reservation to give priority to those leaving Easton to join the Eastbound carriageway so that those coming from Spaldwick turning right into Easton will have to wait. Additionally, they may resurface the whole of the central reservation.

Whilst they continue to say that they cannot afford to provide deceleration or acceleration lanes on the Westbound carriageway, there is a CONSULTATION going on at present and our Parish Council's submission is included [here](#):

<https://routestrategies.highwaysengland.co.uk>

Easton Parish Council ask for the provision of a GRADE SEPARATED junction. At present, leaving the A14 on the west bound carriageway is extremely dangerous. Drivers have to slow to about 25mph to negotiate the sharp left-hand bend and HGVs following don't expect drivers to slow down so much; the skid marks on the road evidence the emergency braking done by some HGVs. Tailgating is both intimidating and dangerous. A deceleration lane on the west bound carriageway is an ABSOLUTE PRIORITY

ANY OTHER RESIDENT can also write in. The consultation finishes on 30th November 2021. Submissions are limited to 500 characters so the Parish Council had to stick to the main points but people can make other suggestions like service roads to Spaldwick or Ellington or you could make play with the fact that the Easton junction is the first one with a deceleration lane that an HGV driver will come to after leaving Felixstowe.

The Parish Council would urge you to write.

EASTON WILDLIFE

Steve Thomason



I thought the attached picture might be of interest. I was busy making a coffee in the kitchen one day recently, and suddenly there was a cloud of feathers and a commotion in the bushes outside. A Sparrowhawk had pulled down a pigeon and, presumably as it may have been too heavy for it to carry away, it started to pluck the feathers out on the lawn, before making a meal of it next to the kitchen window. This Sparrowhawk is likely to be a female bird as the male Sparrowhawks are smaller and will be less likely to take birds the size of pigeons.

NEW EDITOR

Jenny Hyde

As some people may be aware, our house is currently on the market and we are hoping to move closer to our son, who lives in Dorset. After more years than I can remember, this means that the newsletter will need a new editor and I am delighted to say that Janet Thomason has very kindly agreed to take this on. I know that she will continue to receive all the support you have given me and I am sure that she will give it a new lease of life. In future, therefore, please send your contributions to Janet at janet-thomason@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you to everyone who has made the newsletter possible in the past.

CHURCH SERVICES IN EASTON DURING OCTOBER

Sunday 10th October	09.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
Sunday 24th October	09.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
Sunday 31st October	10.45 a.m.	Group Service in KIMBOLTON

For further information please see the Benefice website: www.kymchurch.org.uk



Deadline for November Newsletter will be 25th October