

# Easton Village Newsletter

December 2021

Issue 194

## NATURE NOTE 123

**Brian Davis**

*Holding tenure so brief/ Shall it end with a sigh/ As each spinning-down leaf/ Becomes a new good-bye?*



I 'hoovered' up the leaves with my mower only yesterday and already it has a carpet of new ones. They are really very beautiful, for a while, and then they all turn a dull brown. They must be full of goodness as they turn into a wonderful, black, crumbly compost after being set upon by a myriad of fungi and bacteria for a year in one of my compost bays, aided by woodlice, millipedes, mites and springtails. The trees that bore them are now full grown and afford a canopy world for birds seeking caterpillars and other insects, or fruit and seeds in the autumn. Other, evergreen, trees, such as conifers and laurel, and a beech hedge which keeps its leaves in winter, provide shelter from rain and storm. Elsewhere, we try to keep mixed hedges, thickets of thorn, ivy and bramble, a mixed orchard, a flower-rich meadow, and now a wildlife pond, as well as a tidy lawn and shrubberies. The 'bird man' who used to come to check on our spotted flycatchers once said it was 'a perfect wildlife garden'.

I could have added that pigeons, rabbits, moles, muntjac and field mice thought so too! Though I prefer to mention the 460+ kinds of moths and butterflies the garden has produced over the past few years. It is not easy managing this heterogeneous landscape, and I do wonder how much longer we can continue to cut and bag up the hay crop for Sarah Hart's horses. Seen from above, Easton village is just a small oasis within a landscape of a few crop monocultures but every tentacle of hedgerow, tree line and unsprayed field edge can help to stem the downward spiral of wildlife that we are constantly told about. We cannot just let this end with a sigh.

## HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Brian Davies has diligently provided the village with the most interesting and comprehensive observations of the wildlife in Easton for more than 16 years and would now like to reduce his number of contributions and I would therefore welcome any volunteers who would like to offer occasional articles of interest for Nature Notes.

## 59 CLUB

I must apologise for not keeping you up-to-date with the latest winners of the 59. The winners since my last update were -

July Iris Brooker  
August Maureen O'Brien  
September Marie Dunne  
October Margaret Halliday

No male winners, must be something in the air? Congratulations to the winners and the next draw will on Saturday 27th November and as usual will be the bonus ball number from the national lottery lotto draw. Good luck and Merry Christmas to all as this will be the last update until the New Year **John Maith**

## SPEEDWATCH

In response to an identified local need, a band of thirteen willing volunteers attended training with PC Amanda Large on Speedwatch Awareness. This training highlighted the emphasis on education rather than enforcement.

Since then seven Speedwatch sessions have taken place near the bus stop in Easton. On several occasions vehicles have been seen decelerating after seeing the Speedwatch sign and volunteers in high viz jackets. Some of these vehicles have still triggered the speed sign which shows that they were initially travelling in excess of 30mph coming into Easton.

We would like to thank our volunteers for their time and ongoing support. If anyone else is interested in volunteering and training, please contact Pam Bell.



## MEDICAL TAXI SERVICE

As you may know, ALBRAM refers to the combined Surgeries based in Alconbury and Brampton.

ALBRAM operates its own car scheme, run by volunteers, offering transportation to those who may find it difficult to make their medical appointments at the

Surgery, hospital, optician, dentist etc. We can also be contacted to deliver medications from the Alconbury Surgery Dispensary. Individuals must be registered at either Surgery.

The scheme was established more than 35 years ago but had to suspend its activities due to COVID-19. We resumed operations in May 2021. Take-up of the scheme has been slow but is steadily increasing.

Should you wish to use this service, please contact them via the website or the telephone number below.

Home: 01480 414320      Email: [albram.carscheme@gmail.com](mailto:albram.carscheme@gmail.com)

## **EASTON WILDLIFE 2021 - PROGRESS**

No-one can switch on the TV, read a paper, or listen to the radio without hearing about deforestation and the huge importance of trees to our world. With the forthcoming Queens Jubilee next year and the news that Cambridgeshire is reported as the most treeless county in England, the connection with the Queens Green Canopy for the 70th Jubilee celebrations is so important.



As highlighted in the August Newsletter the Parish Council has been working with local landowners to identify suitable spaces to plant hedges and trees. One area of agreement that has been reached is for a planting scheme along one side of the footpath at the south of Townsend Farm, leading to the Stonely Road. This stretch of footpath has no trees or hedges at present and permission has been granted

by the landowner Michael Picton, for a line of trees along the other side of the drainage ditch, and also filling gaps right through to the Stonely Road.

The photo above shows the current view along the footpath looking to Townsend Farm. In future it is hoped that there will be a line of trees on the left-hand side.

This is in addition to 160 meters of hedging bordering a field belonging to the Easton Charities, near the footpath to Ellington. This is to be planted with hedging ordered from the Woodland Trust who is making huge quantities of hedging and young trees available to local communities and charities. Also, a small number of trees are now on order for the north side of the Brook along Church Road. Further tree and hedge planting activities are expected to be announced shortly and at some point over the winter period, the Parish council would be very grateful for any volunteers to assist with planting. If interested,

please let the parish clerk know (email: [clerk\\_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk)), or any of the councillors, and we'll be in touch nearer the time.

## **Easton Parish Council**

### **CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTIONS**

As is usual at this time of year, during Christmas and New Year residents will have a change of collection day for their waste. All residents will receive a bin hanger at the beginning of December advising of the changes; or visit [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins) There are 4 weeks of disruption this year starting the week before Christmas

### **AND FINALLY.....**

A big thank you to all those who helped to tidy up the Church Yard on a windy Sunday morning. More than 15 volunteers gave up their time to brush up leaves, clear gutters, weed around the grave stones and trim back hedges. Particular thanks to Alison and Peter for providing hot drinks and bacon sandwiches for sustenance.

**Mike Baker**



### **CHURCH SERVICES DURING -DECEMBER**

Sunday 12 th December 9.30 a.m            Easton Parish Communion

Sunday 19th December  06,00 p.m        Easton Carols

Friday 24th December 11.30 a.m        Spaldwick/Kimbolton

Saturday 25th December 9.30 a.m        Holy Communion

For further information please see the Benefice website    [www.kymchurch.org.uk](http://www.kymchurch.org.uk)

## ***MERRY CHRISTMAS***



**Deadline for Januarys Newsletter is 23rd December**