

Easton Village Newsletter

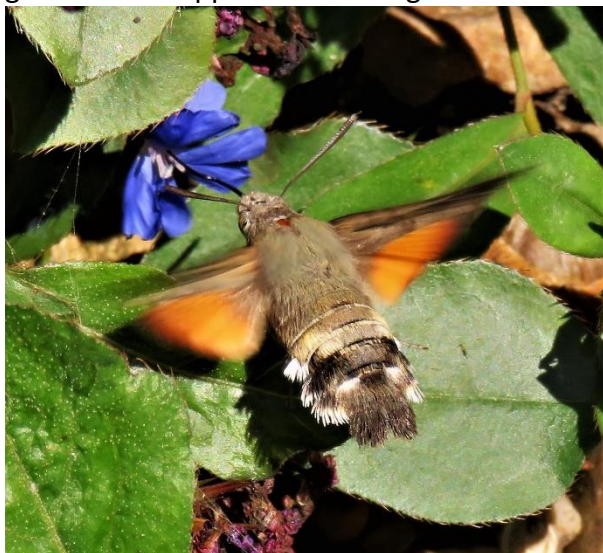
October 2022

Issue 204

A Fascinating Visitor to our Shores

Steve Thomason

Many people may have been taken by surprise if they have seen in their garden what appears at first sight to be a small hummingbird hovering



among the flowers. A careful check of the size and a closer look unmasks this imposter as a Hummingbird Hawk Moth

(*Macroglossum stellatarum*). They are one of the handful of UK moths that fly during the day.

The exceptionally hot weather this summer has resulted in record

numbers of this small migrant to our shores due to the warm southerly winds carrying them north from their Mediterranean strongholds. 4 times the usual population in the UK have been recorded this year, and they are most common in southern England. A small number also breed here, laying their bluish-green eggs on plants such as Cleavers ('sticky willy') and Bedstraws and Rubia (wild madder). A single female can produce as many as 200 eggs, which grow into stripy green caterpillars up to 6 cm long.

If you kept watch on your pink and purple flowers like Buddleia, honeysuckle, Red Valerian and Viper's Bugloss during July and August as the peak months, you stood a good chance of seeing one this summer.

They are approximately 2 inches in size and have markings and a hovering behaviour that results in the initial confusion with a hummingbird. Amazingly, they are thought to have a good memory as individuals return to the same flowerbeds every day at about the same time.

The wings beat so rapidly that they produce an audible hum and can be seen only as a haze. The darting movement from one flower to the next with the long proboscis uncoiled completes the illusion of a hummingbird. You may still be able to spot them in warm September days, so look out for a chunky moth with orange wing patches and a black-and-white rear end to its body.

Hartham Street Update

Hartham Street, the Byway that runs from Stonely Road just outside the village to Grafham Water, is one of our more popular routes for walking,



Easton Parish Council

cycling, and riding. Although it was finally re-surfaced in late 2021, it had spent many years in a deplorable condition, especially during the winter months. If you have a look at the photo taken in winter 2019, even with wellies on it was

barely useable.

The Parish Council has reached an agreement with the Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Officer, for the Parish Council to locally manage the access to the Byway. The Parish Council now hold a key for the gate. During periods of poor weather, or if the surface is getting damaged, we have the ability to lock the gate to prevent access by 4 wheeled vehicles (still allowing walkers, riders, and 2 wheeled vehicles), until the surface dries

out, or once the surface has been repaired. This will be carried out as a joint action with the Grafham Parish Council who will ensure the gates at the Grafham end of Hartham Street are also locked.



Going forward, we can all play a part in ensuring the Byway remains in good condition. If anyone sees any significant damage occurring to the surface of the byway, can you please

ensure the details are passed on to the Parish Council so we can consider if it justifies temporarily closing the gates to prevent 4-wheel traffic from using the route.

Thank you

Ultrafast Broadband for Easton

Easton Parish Council

There was a positive turnout in the church for the Ultrafast Broadband presentation by County Broadband on the 6th September. Following the further village communications by email and the additional information added to the Easton website, it is hoped that anyone who might be interested in this now has sufficient information to make a decision.

Checking with our County Broadband representative for Easton, on the 21st September they had identified 7 people wishing to commit to the pre-deployment offer. The threshold for this to go-ahead will be 22 advance orders (or approx. 25% of the village). The closing date for these submissions will be approx. 2-3 months from the date of the presentation. So, by mid-December we should be able to receive confirmation of the results.

Anyone who still has questions that they would like to raise with County Broadband please go the FAQs section of their website at; (<https://countybroadband.co.uk/more/faq/>) where there is more information plus a phone number and email address to contact them.

Church Services in October

Sunday 2nd October	9.30	Spaldwick	Morning worship
Sunday 9th October	9.30	Easton	Parish Communion
Sunday 16 th October	9.30	Spaldwick	Parish Communion
Sunday 23 rd October	9.30	Easton	Morning Worship

For more local services please go to the following website
[https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services`](https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services)



Deadline for the next Newsletter is October 25th