

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 34

August 2007

## NATURE NOTES 28

Brian Davis



We returned last week from the Spanish Pyrenees – entering Spain *with Aragon a torrent at the door*, and marvelling at the *boom of the far waterfall, like doom*. We saw Black Kites there, rather than the Red Kites we have here; Black Kites used to scavenge over

London in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. We also saw three kinds of vultures, which we don't have here: not enough dead sheep! The upland meadows in one area were blue with Irises, and I spotted one Humming-bird Hawk-moth – heading this way? They have had a very wet spring there this year but now bask in temperatures of 30-33 degrees, while Britain has saved its usual spring rainfall to July; Roger has recorded 121 millimetres (almost 4 ¾ inches) in Easton so far (26<sup>th</sup> July). Older residents, and those who saw the recent exhibit of historical photographs of Easton in the church, will know that the brook floods periodically but this is only the second time in the past 43 years that the water has reached the doorstep of Brook House. Wendy Kruger actually watched a frog swimming across the road! The wet conditions have been jolly good for snails, which may account for the continuing broods of Song Thrushes this year. The rain has also been wonderful for the young trees planted last winter along the new 'spinney footpath'. Both oak and ash have put on an average of 39 centimetres already. The biggest ash tree in the village is probably that near the stile into the former Charity Field behind Carrock Cottage. With a girth of 7ft 10in (239 cm) I estimate it is about 140 years old. The row of partly dead ash trees on the western boundary of that field are no bigger but, like all old trees with dead wood, they afford special habitats for many wood-boring insects and birds like woodpeckers.



## 49 CLUB WINNER

The winner for June was Iris Brooker.

## T. PETER'S DAY

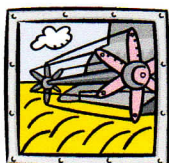
Thank you to everyone who supported the event on 1<sup>st</sup> July. We were particularly grateful to Sam Malt and the Grafham Wildlife & Conservation Group for the interesting display of photographs, which were much enjoyed by some 150 visitors including many past residents of Easton. Thanks also to all who helped prepare the church, arranged flowers, cut grass, provided refreshments etc. and to those who attended the service. A total of £160.16 was raised in aid of Easton Church running costs, for which we are especially grateful.

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## AUGUST SERVICES

Services during August will be:

4 <sup>th</sup> August	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
11 <sup>th</sup> August	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
18 <sup>th</sup> August	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> August	-	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist



**Date for your diary:** Harvest Festival will take place at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September.