

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 105

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## NATURE NOTES 78

Brian Davis



Whilst butterflies seem to have disappeared altogether from our garden during June, we have been fortunate in a return of a pair of Spotted Flycatchers. This classic 'little brown job' is distinctive only by its graceful aerial flights from a branch or the back of a garden chair to catch a passing daddy-long-legs or other insect and then back to its perch. They are now nesting in our climbing Hydrangea against the kitchen wall so we can watch their aerial acrobatics while eating breakfast. It is many years since we had a nesting pair, though Gwen Tomline had them for several years more recently on their garage wall at Springfield – before the parrots moved in! Like the Cuckoo and Turtle-Dove, Spotted Flycatchers have been declining nationally, so it is especially gratifying to see that our garden can supply the shelter and food that they need. Even the humble Woodpigeon can provide entertainment:

I recently watched one walking around the edge of the shrubbery on the gravel driveway, obviously prospecting for something. It picked up several small twigs but cast them aside after deciding that they were not up to spec. Finally, it disappeared within the shrubbery and emerged with a smug expression carrying a high quality, branched, twig with the perfect dimensions, and flew off to its nest across the road. The way that pigeons, and rooks, can knit sticks together into a robust nest in a tree, defying high winds, never fails to amaze me. Twisting willow branches into hoops is child's play by comparison.

## SERVICES DURING JULY

7 <sup>th</sup> July	-	9.30	Sunday Worship
14 <sup>th</sup> July	-	6.00	Evensong
21 <sup>st</sup> July	-	9.30	Eucharist
28 <sup>th</sup> July	-	9.30	Patronal Festival Eucharist at Spaldwick (with Fr Stephen Bowring, Rector of Kimbolton.

## MORE ABOUT BIRDS AND OTHER WINGED CREATURES...

There doesn't seem to be much news to report this month (hasn't anybody done anything interesting or wish to announce any future event?!) so Brian has suggested a challenge to identify this photograph (right) of two insects found on the trunk of a pine tree. Answers to Jenny or Brian!



And in response to John Hill's challenge in May, we submit a few photos from our garden on 22<sup>nd</sup> June (photos Adrian Hyde). Maybe we should start an Easton Bird Book!

