

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 124

March, 2015

NATURE NOTE 88

Brian Davis



And our sixteen rose to thirty-two and lo behold three score/ A wild white welter of winnowing wings and ever more and more. In early January Beth and I went three times to Little Paxton Nature Reserve, with Ray Ellis, the Goulds and our son's family, to watch the aerial display of Starlings as they gathered over their roost before settling in a reed bed for the night. This 'murmuration' of starlings, as it is called, lasts about half an hour from the appearance of the first small flock of a dozen or so, and builds up to many hundreds wheeling in synchronised formation and continually changing shape like an amoeba, sometimes stretched out across the sky above us and then congealing into a tight ball with a mighty whirring of wings when they pass close by, until, as the last cohort arrives, there is a sudden dive into the reeds and all is still. I used to see a roost at Buckworth Wood and understand that there is another one currently at Fen Drayton Pits Nature Reserve. This flock is spectacular enough but small in

comparison with that photographed near the Scottish borders this winter, while my former zoology professor, Wynne-Edwards, recorded eleven roosts in Devon and Cornwall in 1928-29 where the larger roosts each housed between 100,000 and half-a-million birds nightly. If you think this is big, consider the Passenger pigeon which was once the most numerous bird in North America living in vast migratory flocks. One flock in 1866 was estimated at a mile wide and 300 miles long, containing more than 3.5 billion birds. Very localised resources need many eyes to find them. However, its numbers declined catastrophically after habitat loss and mechanized shooting in the late 19th century as cheap food for slaves, and the last individual died in

captivity in 1914. Starling populations in Britain have declined by two-thirds since the 1970s. Sound familiar?

CHURCH SERVICES DURING MARCH

Sunday 1st March (Lent II) 09.30 COV Parish Communion 10.45 KIM Family Service 10.45 SPA Parish Communion 15.00 STO BCP Evensong	Sunday 8th March (Lent III) 09.30 TIL Family Service 09.30 EAS Parish Communion 10.45 KIM Parish Communion 10.45 SPA Family Service
Sunday 15th March (Mothering Sunday, Lent IV) 09.30 COV BCP Matins 09.30 STO Parish Communion 09.30 EAS Mothering Sunday Service 10.45 KIM Mothering Sunday Service 10.45 SPA Parish Communion 11.00 BAR Mothering Sunday Service	Sunday 22nd March (Lent V) 09.30 TIL Parish Communion 09.30 EAS Morning Worship 10.45 KIM Parish Communion 10.45 SPA Morning Worship
Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday) 10.45 KIM United Service	

Note: KIM = Kimbolton; COV = Covington; EAS = Easton; SPA = Spaldwick; STO = Stow Longa; TIL = Tilbrook.

MOTHERING SUNDAY



Mothering Sunday falls this year on 15th March and there will be a special Mothering Sunday service in Easton at 9.30 a.m. to which everyone is warmly invited. It would be good to see as many families as possible there, with grannies, grandpas, aunts, uncles, cousins and anyone else you can think of! Please come and support this special occasion.

EASTON DANCE ACADEMY

A group of people from Easton are having Ballroom Dancing Lessons every two to three weeks at Grafham Village Hall. These usually take place on a Sunday in the afternoon or early evening and are laughingly called the Easton Dance Academy. The lessons are run by Alan Doyle who has been conducting Ballroom lessons for many years in the area and has a good deal of patience. Why not come and join us for an hour of hilarity and exercise? It will not take long for you to catch up with us and dodgy knees, hips and backs are a speciality! Next lesson is on Sunday 1 March at 6.00pm followed by Sunday 29 March at 4.00pm. Keeeep Dancing!

CHIMNEY SWEEP

A sure sign that spring is on the way, the sweep will be in Easton this year on Monday and Tuesday, 20th and 21st April. He starts work at 7.30 a.m. and can do up to 10 chimneys in a day. If you would like him to call, please contact Jenny Hyde no later than Monday 13th April either by email at j.hyde2@btinternet.com or by telephone on 891454, or drop a note through the Fiddlers letterbox. Please also give some indication of your preference for time and day. Please note that Jenny will be away from 17th-31st March so no confirmations will be given until after that date.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.....



For the last few years Easton Parish Council has requested trees and hedging plants from Huntingdonshire District Council for planting around the parish of Easton. Over the course of several weeks, this winter Mike Baker and his Duke of Edinburgh volunteers had cleared brambles and undergrowth near the boundary of the Easton playground to enable further planting of a proper hedge around the boundary. Thanks are due to Kathy Yates who made a donation towards the project to allow the boys carrying out the work to receive recognition for their efforts.

On Saturday the 14th February members of Easton Parish Council with the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers braved the elements and planted further hedging to complete a proper boundary towards the playing field gate. The hedging and trees planted around the border of the playing field planted in previous years were all doing well with most of the plants appearing to be in good health. A number of trees had also been planted on the road out of Easton towards the A14 over the last couple of years, and these were checked and all but 2 (which were replaced) appeared to be establishing themselves well.

Hot News on Forthcoming Events

Advance notice of events being held this year to put in your diary:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 14 March | – Big Breakfast |
| 24 March | – AGM |
| 9 May | – Big Breakfast |
| 28 June | – PCC event Strawberries Tea |
| 11 July | – Big Breakfast |
| 18 July | – WW2 Commemoration Social |
| 12 September | – Big Breakfast |
| 10 October | – Beetle Drive |
| 21 November | – Big Breakfast |
| 13 December | – Mulled Wine |

The big summer event is a WW2 VE-Day Commemoration Social on 18 July at Spaldwick School. This will be an indoor street party with live music and a late disco. More details will follow shortly.

** NEXT NEWSLETTER (April) **

Please note that owing to holidays, the deadline for next month's Newsletter will be **Sunday, 15th March**. Hopefully, this will allow time for it to be put together, printed and out for delivery in good time before Easter. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated!

Easton Fund and Social Committee

8.00 p.m. Tuesday 24 March 2015 in
The Community Room, St Peter's Church, Easton

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Any Other Business

All Easton residents are welcome to attend. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for social events.