

Easton Village Newsletter

August 2023

Issue 214

EASTON FAUNA

Charles Nixon

Pigeons-Columba Palumbus- and Doves

Love them or hate them there are a lot of these in the village. They are noisy



and messy but there is more to them than you might think. They are actually highly developed birds with superb navigational skills - indeed several homing pigeons have won military medals for bravery in delivering messages.

They mate for life, have 2 offspring and both adults care for them. Have you ever seen a baby pigeon? Probably not, because they stay in the nest for 90 days

and when they emerge, they look almost exactly like the adults except they do not have white patches on either side of their neck.

What we often see in the spring and early summer is the nuptial display as the males walk along a horizontal branch or church parapet with swelled neck, lowered wings, and fanned tail, bowing up and down to the female. During the display flight the bird climbs, the wings are smartly cracked like a whiplash and the bird glides down on stiff wings. The characteristic sound, coo-COO-COO-coo-coo of the bird has been interpreted as “I luv you bay” or “Take two cows, Teddy” (Wikipedia)

There are an incredible 344 different species of Pigeon and Dove. We tend to have the **Wood Pigeon** (see above photo), the UK’s largest and commonest pigeon, largely grey with a white neck patch and white wing patches, clearly



visible in flight. As well as being a common resident, large numbers migrate here from the continent in the autumn and winter. Size 40cm -42cm.



Stock Dove (see photo at bottom of previous page)- somewhat smaller than the Wood Pigeon, it has a shimmering green patch on the neck. Size 30-33cm.

We also see the **Collared Dove** (photo on the left) which is not migratory and only came to the UK in the 1950's after a rapid spread across Europe from the Middle East. The scientific name of the collared dove is *Streptopelia decaocto*.

'Streptopelia' is derived from two Greek words 'streptos' meaning collar and 'peleia' meaning 'dove'. The specific name 'decaocto' comes from a myth which describes how a maid complained about her very low wage of 'decaocto' (eighteen) pieces. The dove was created by the god Zeus to shame her mistress

EASTON BARN OWLS



It appears that we have Barn Owls living in the village. **Phillip Mottram** kindly sent these fabulous photos of the owls he had seen flying over the field in the centre of the village opposite the Church.

We put up a Barn Owl box a couple of years ago at the bottom of one of the fields. Last year, we were disappointed to find that

Jackdaws had taken it over, but this year we have seen a pair of Barn Owls flying in and out and we are now hoping to see some owlets. What we don't know is if they are the same owls that Phillip has seen. However, the territory of the Barn Owl is 1-4km from the nest, so it is very likely they are the same ones.



A Barn Owl usually breeds between March and August. They lay between 4-6 eggs, hatching just over a month later. A typical lifespan for an adult Barn Owl is 4 years although the British longevity record is 15 years. Let's hope we get to see them more often and many thanks to Phillip for the photo

EASTON UNITED CHARITIES

The Easton United Charities holds various parcels of land in and around the village which are rented to tenants. The Parish Council nominates 2 persons, who together with four others, act as Trustees to run the Charities.

The current four-year term is ending for the two Trustees who are representatives for the Easton Parish Council and the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone interested in taking these positions for the next term.

Please contact any member of the Parish Council for any further information if you would like to take this opportunity to become involved in the village Charities.

Parish Councillors: Michael Baker, Mrs P Bell, Richard Burton, Stephen Thomason and Clive Wood

Clerk: Mrs A Beer clerk_eastonpc@yahoo.co.uk 01480 890332

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

59 Club

The winners in May and June were Val and Nick Harris with number 54 and Brian Davis with Number 31. Congratulations to our winners. The next draw will be on Saturday 29th July, so good luck to you all. If anyone would like a number in the village and the surplus proceeds are used for the maintenance of our Church for the benefit of all in Easton.59 Club, please let me know by email maiths60@hotmail.com and will accommodate you. It is £12 annually and the winner each month receives £25. This is organised by Easton PCC

John Maith

Do you know about eCops?

eCops is an email messaging system brought to you by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and powered by Neighbourhood Alert. By registering with eCops, you receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice – direct to you as an e-mail. The service is completely free and works alongside Neighbourhood Watch, to bring you messages about your local area. It also allows you to feedback information to your local policing team, to help us police your neighbourhood effectively. Messages can include crime prevention advice, details of incidents and appeals for your help in reducing crime in the county. Signing up is free and easy at www.ecops.org.uk For those new to the village, we also have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which is run by Dave Hindmarsh.

Useful Phone Numbers

All emergencies 999 Non-emergencies 101 Hard of hearing textphone service 18001 101 or for emergencies Text 999

Huntingdon Police Station 01480 456111 789 321 **Action Fraud** 0300 123 2040 **Crimestoppers** 0800 555111 (anonymous)

To stop unwanted phone calls Telephone Preference Service TPS 0345 070 0707 **To stop unwanted mail** (Royal Mail) 03457 740 740

Power cut Call 105 or 0800 31 63 105 or text POWER and your postcode to 80876 <http://www.powercut105.com/>

Church Services August 2023

Sunday 13th August 9.30 Easton Parish Communion

Sunday 27th August 9.30 Easton Morning Worship

For further information on Church Services please visit

<https://www.kymchurch.org.uk/wp2/index.php/church-services/>

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Deadline for the next Newsletter is Friday 24th August