

Raynhams' Newsletter - January 2023

- **Friday 13th, 20th, 27th** - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30pm.
- **Thursday 19th, 26th** - Line dancing in Village Hall from 7 to 8pm.

Christmas Services

In preparation for the Christmas season, some sturdy souls braved the freezing weather on 16 December to sing carols together in St Margaret's churchyard in West Raynham. Many thanks to Françoise and Roger for organising the evening, and to those who provided blazing fire pits and an unending supplies of mince pies and mulled wine to keep us warm.

Christmas Eve saw a full church for the return of the annual Service of Lessons and Carols in St Mary's. With a crib and Christmas Tree in pride of place, and candles in every window, the church looked beautiful.

An ad hoc choir helped lead the singing and readers came from each of the Raynhams and beyond to tell the Christmas Story. Mulled wine and mince pies provided a friendly and sociable end to the evening.



Modern Line Dancing Starts Again!

After a brief winter break the next series of six weekly sessions will start again on Thursday 19th from 7pm in the Village Hall. If you might be interested in joining in, then 'drop-in' to any class, or for more information please send an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com. Costs will be determined closer to the time.

Raynhams' Book Club

A small friendly group meets in West Raynham at the beginning of each month to talk about the books they are reading and literary likes and dislikes! Members take turns to recommend a set book every two months, and recent titles have been 'The Promise' by Damon Galgut; 'Pachinko' by Min Jin Lee, and 'Rosewater' by Tade Thompson. For more information email westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Contact Details & Past Newsletters

- westray.newsletter@gmail.com to send in articles or manage subscriptions.
- <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents> to download previous issues of the Newsletter.

A New Year's Party - 10 January 1953

Dear Sar,

Well, here's Christmas cum an' gon afore we know where wi' are. We got messed up for our Christmas party. Jimmur he worn't earble to cum, acos he hed to go an see his sister wot wuss sadly, an oul Mrs W..., she didn't cum acos she had a bad cold, consequently, me and Granfar ha' been a liven on sossige rolls and mince pies since Christmas.

A' Christmas Day Aunt Agatha took Mrs W... har Christmas dinner, an blowed if Granfar dint open his hart, and send har sum rum. He pored sum rum outer his bottle inter a little bottle, then filled it up wi' warter (so there'd be a nice lot).

Well we hed a New Year's party insted. We hed wot Aunt Agatha called a high tea. Jimmur he set nexter Granfar, wi' Mrs W... the yin side o' Jimmur. Arter tea we played cards. Granfar dint play, he reconed as how he'd got roomatism in his hans. (He ount play wi' Mrs W..., he recon she cheart.) Learter on Aunt Agatha left us fer a time to go an see a woman wot wornt well, she dint go empty handed neyther, an she pored us orl out a glass o' port wine afore she went.

Mrs W... she was full o' prattle. Do yew know what? When Jimmur and Granfar went an hed a harf pint a tha' noontime, they see orl Mrs W... nip round to tha back o' tha Crown. Jimmur say, 'I recon tha' oul gal is a gorne to prime harsel up fer tha party to nite.' Granfar he got inter a muddle, he hid his bottle o' rum up, wen he new Mrs W... was a-cumin, then he forgot where he'd hid it. We wore a hunten for it, high an' low.

Oul Mrs W..., she cum trew outer our back plearce, she say, 'Wot ever are yew a dewen on?' Granfar say, 'We're a playen a gearm.' She say, 'Can I cum in?' Granfar say, 'No, that yow carnt, this is fer men only.' Jimmur found it at last, that wus in the shew cubboard, shoved inter one o' Granfar's high-low shews. Well we set there a torken, then every now an agin when Mrs W... wornt a looken, Jimmur kep a putten sum rum inter har glass, arter a time she say, 'I think I'll git inter tha' easy chair I fear tired.'

She was sune asleep. Granfar say, Put that ther antermacasser over har fearce, dornt she'le gi' me nitemare. We'll hev a gearme o' nip' (his hans wore orlrite for nap). Wen Aunt Agatha cum back she say, 'Is she orlrite?' Granfar say, 'I think she tarned a little faint.' Aunt Agatha wen she uncovered 'er she say, 'Faint!! by tha' look o' har fearce she'll sune fly afire.' Aunt Agatha hed an idea wot wus up.

We hed sum supper an strong corfee an wot amused Granfar most wus wen Jimmur took Mrs W... home. Fare yer well tergether.

Yours obediently

THE BOY JOHN

PS Aunt Agatha, she say, 'How nice that is to do northen, an then rest afterwards.'



Sidney Grapes was born in 1888, the son of a carpenter and builder in Potter Heigham, in the heart of the Broads district. Sidney lived all his life in the same village, and to the end of his days spoke the Norfolk dialect he had known in his boyhood before it was corrupted by 'foreign' influence.

He is best known and remembered for the Boy John letters which he began to write to the Eastern Daily Press in 1946 and continued until his death at the age of 70 in 1958.

Bridget Howarth.

Insects in Gardens

In the June 2022 issue of the Newsletter, I mentioned a photo sent to me by James Hickman of what he thought might be "an interesting insect". The photo was taken on 14 April 2022 in the Hickmans' garden next to the ruins of St Margaret's church in West Raynham.

At first, I believed it was either a spider-hunting or a digger wasp, but looking through possibilities on the internet I finally thought it could be a female of *Ichneumon stramentor* (Rasnitsyn, 1981), commonly known as the Yellow-tipped Darwin Wasp. Adults of this parasitic wasp are usually seen during April.

I finally got round to sending an email with the photo from James and my tentative identification to an expert on parasitic wasps at the Natural History Museum in London in early November last year. I was grateful (and surprised!) to have confirmation on 7 November 2022 that I had identified the species correctly and was asked to post the photo and record of the sighting on to the iRecord website, which I did about a week later.



Life cycle

Ichneumon stramentor is an insect parasite of the caterpillars of two moth species which are quite common in West Raynham, based on moth trapping results from 2021 and 2022. Adults of the Large Yellow Underwing are found throughout summer, and adults of the Setaceous Hebrew Character fly in early summer and autumn (two generations per year or bivoltine). The caterpillars of both moth species are generalist feeders of broad-leaved plants.

The female wasp lays an egg inside a caterpillar which is then eaten from the inside by the developing wasp larva (an example of endoparasitism). The wasp larva pupates then emerges as an adult from the cadaver of the parasitised caterpillar.

Ichneumon stramentor in Norfolk

Trying to determine how unique the sighting of this wasp might be in Norfolk has not been easy. There are 49 records of *I. stramentor* in the UK shown on the atlas held by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN); about 150 records of the species in the UK on iNaturalist, and 416 records on iRecord.

Combining all online sightings of *I. stramentor*, I think the species has been noted in 14 locations in Norfolk, including West Raynham.

Records of *I. stramentor* in Norfolk from three online sources.

Source	Date	Location
NBN Atlas	19/2/2021	Shouldham Warren
iNaturalist	27/3/2020	Eaton, Norwich
	23/12/2020	South Burlingham
iRecord	16/4/2017	Weybourne
	20/4/2019	Stoke Holy Cross
	21/4/2019	Shotesham All Saints
	10/4/2020	
	20/4/2021	
	27/3/2020	Eaton, Norwich
	22/9/2020	Waxham
	16/9/2020	
	16/9/2020	
	23/12/2020	South Burlingham
	29/3/2021	nr. Muckleburgh
	4/4/2021	Old Catton
	19/4/2021	Thurgarton
	23/4/2021	Hunstanton
	24/8/2021	North Walsham
	24/3/2022	Langham
	26/6/2022	
	14/4/2022	West Raynham

Sources

NBN Atlas

https://records.nbnatlas.org/occurrences/search?q=lsid:NHMSYS0000899757&fq=occurrence_status:present&nbn_loading=true#tab_mapView

iNaturalist

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/541750-Ichneumon-stramentor>

iRecord (requires free sign-up): <https://irecord.org.uk/>

Paresh Shah.

West Raynham Nature Notes: January 2023

As usual, I like to start New Year with a big birdwatch on foot around West Raynham. In fact, there's a growing movement known as "low carbon birding" to encourage people to focus on their local "patch" and only walk, cycle or take public transport. This is the counter to the relatively high carbon "twitchers" who drive - and sometimes even fly - long distances to tick off rare birds.

Local patch watching is much more fun; it's personal and gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation of what can be found close to home. You can also pick up trends as to which species are doing well and which are in decline.

This New Year's Day was a good one. Not to the record breaking extend of 2019, when I found 70 species, but a very respectable 62 this time. Highlights were three species of wader up on the farmland next to the Solar Farm - green sandpiper being the most notable, and there were good numbers of lapwing and snipe. A small bird with bright yellow underside, which is inaptly named grey wagtail, was another good find up there.

Later on, at South Raynham I discovered the Wensum in full spate, with water flowing across the entire width of the riverside woodland belt. Lots of teal were calling from the flooded woodland, although none were visible. More obvious was the brilliant white of a single little egret probing around a marshy pool, and a green woodpecker flew across my path.



Impassable footpath across the Wensum at South Raynham



This was all in contrast to just a few weeks earlier when we had a period of freezing weather. Cold weather often results in significant bird movements, as several species escape even worse conditions further afield. Most obvious this time was the sudden abundance of blackbirds and song thrushes, but the prize goes to Paul Adler at Rosier's Barn, who sent in this picture of a snipe on his lawn.

The heavy frost certainly changed the landscape for a few days and lots of people were out with their cameras. This is my effort - the lime avenue as we rarely see it.



St Margaret's Churchyard

The fund-raising coffee morning on 10 December in the Village Hall was a great success, making over £500 towards the project for conserving the ruins. Many thanks to all who contributed their time, provided prizes and refreshments and who came along on the day to support us.



David Stubbs.

If you have any unusual nature observations please let me know:
David Stubbs: davidstubbs1@btinternet.com or WhatsApp me on 07974922197