

# Raynhams' Newsletter - June 2023

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7pm to 10:30pm.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> - Raynham Art Club in the Village Hall from 10am to 2pm.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> - 'Knit and Natter' in the Village Hall from 10am to midday.
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Raynhams' Book Club at No. 28, The Street, West Raynham from 6pm.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Elsing Hall gardens from 2pm to 5pm.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> - Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6pm to 7pm.

## Church Services

- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> - St Mary's, East Raynham, from 6pm.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30am, Father's Day.
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> - St Martin's, South Raynham, from 10.30am

To hear about regular services and other events in the local churches, please send an email to: [coxfordbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:coxfordbenefice@gmail.com).

## Sid's Quiz Night - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Our thanks to Sid and Theresa for organising the quiz night. This was also their first time as quiz masters, and they did really well keeping the various teams in order! The eventual winner was Missing Lincs with Jan & Roger Mundy and Bridget & Andrew Howarth - congratulations and well done! Second and third places went to Fork Candles and the Orchard Flyers, respectively. A total of £106 was raised from the raffle for the Village Hall and the prizes were provided by a grant from the Solar Fund.



Members of the winning team Bridget (left) and Jan (right) with quizmasters Theresa and Sid



## Coronation Lunch in the Village Hall - 7<sup>th</sup> May

Fifty-five local residents and guests came together to enjoy a communal lunch in the Village Hall. Many thanks to the Solar Fund for their grant, which enabled us to run a free bar for the occasion. Also thank you to Janice Hankey, Anne-Marie and Neil Martin and Allison Henshaw for their help in organising the event.



## Ruby's Birthday Celebration



Ruby will be one year old on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June! Her parents and Ruby would be delighted if you could pop into the bar from 7pm onwards to raise a glass and have some cake to celebrate the occasion. If you would like to bring a contribution to some nibbles then that would be great as well.

## Free Range Eggs for Sale

I have fresh eggs for sale at £1 per half dozen at 14 The Drove, West Raynham. The eggs are from free range chickens fed on Garden Mix.

*Julie Mayhew.*

## Rudham Village Fete - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June

From midday until 4pm at the Rudham playing field. Attractions include a tractor run, dog show, live music, beer tent, raffle and barbeque.

## Thursford Collection Gala Day - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

A showcase of mechanical organs, classic vehicles and vintage steam engines at Thursford Green. The steam engine Victory will be on following a complete overhaul and restoration. Carousel and gondola rides will be available in the Steam Museum. Tickets are £12 and children under 12 have free entry.

## Raynham Parish Council

Minutes, agendas and reports of Parish Council meetings are available to view and download from the website at <http://www.raynhampc.info>, which also includes the latest news from Norfolk County Council. Parish Council meetings are held in West Raynham Village Hall starting at 7pm, and the dates for this year are:

- 25<sup>th</sup> July
- 26<sup>th</sup> September
- 28<sup>th</sup> November.

## Contact Details & Past Newsletters

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



## Flooding in West Raynham

Photo kindly provided by Melanie Lund of the rainwater on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May when The Street was flooded. The photo shows Mahnvir Singh clearing some of the blocked drains.



### Help needed!

I am trying to discover whether any of the West family or their descendants may still be living locally.

John and Eliza West had eight children, but most of them moved away from the area.

However, Emma West married Amram Brown in 1916 and lived all her life in West Raynham. They had four children: Basil, Arnold (Rimmer), Brenda and Norman (Sam). Rimmer had two sons who would now be in their seventies. Are they still living locally? Did they have children of their own?

Eliza's granddaughter, Dulcie West married Tom Wake in 1931 and they lived together in Hollow Lane. Their daughter Doreen married Raymond Breeze in 1955. Perhaps she had children too?

Do you remember the Brown or Wake families? Do you have any memories that would help me find any that are still living locally? An item from their family history has been found, and I would love to help return it.

*Bridget Howarth.*



## Aerial photos of Raynham Lake

Photos of the dredging operation taken by John Fielding on 29<sup>th</sup> April. More details at: [https://www.flickr.com/people/john\\_fielding/](https://www.flickr.com/people/john_fielding/).





## Raynhams' Gardening Club

We have organised a trip to see the gardens at Elsing Hall privately for Saturday 10th June from 2pm to 5pm. The admission is £10 for entry plus £4 for teas and refreshments. This trip is open to anyone in the Raynhams whether you are members of the Gardening Club or not. We are using shared cars to get there and back.

For me Elsing Hall has the finest private gardens in Norfolk, and I travelled from Mid-Wales to see the gardens for the first time 20 years ago! It is usually open just once or twice a year.



Recommended gardens from the National Garden Scheme (NGS; [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)) during June include the following:

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June** - High House Gardens at Blackmoor Row near Shipdham. Open from midday to 5pm. It is a garden full of wonderful perennial plants and big herbaceous borders.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** - Manor House Gardens at Wellingham. Open from 11am to 5pm. Literally the next village over the main road! A really beautiful garden with some unusual plants.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** - Wells-next-the-sea Open Gardens. Open from 11am to 5pm. Five varied gardens opening together in the town. When I went previously they were of varying quality but I found some of the small gardens particularly interesting

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Silverstone Farm, North Elmham. Open from 6pm to 8pm. An unusual evening garden opening with a glass of wine thrown in!! Owned and designed by George Carter who the Sunday Times says is one of the 10 best garden designers in Britain.

*Bryan Welton.*

## West Raynham Plant Stall



There are lots of plants available at the plant stall right now and much more ready to come out so keep an eye on it for that special plant.

Tomato plants are available right now and did you fancy growing a pomegranate? Just remember pomegranates need a conservatory or heated greenhouse to over winter. Only a very few number of pomegranate plants available.

Thank you for all the pots that have been donated. They will be of great use.

*Bryan Welton.*



## St Margaret's, West Raynham

St Margaret's Church was abandoned in 1721 and the parish was joined with St Mary's Church in East Raynham. Originally built in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, the church was extended in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and seems to have been a fairly typical Norfolk church. According to T. Martin in around 1740, it was called Little Raynham church and had a north aisle, a square tower and a small south porch. You can see images of St Margaret's today on Facebook and Instagram:

- <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089978093149&sk=followers>
- <https://www.instagram.com/stmargaretschurch4/>

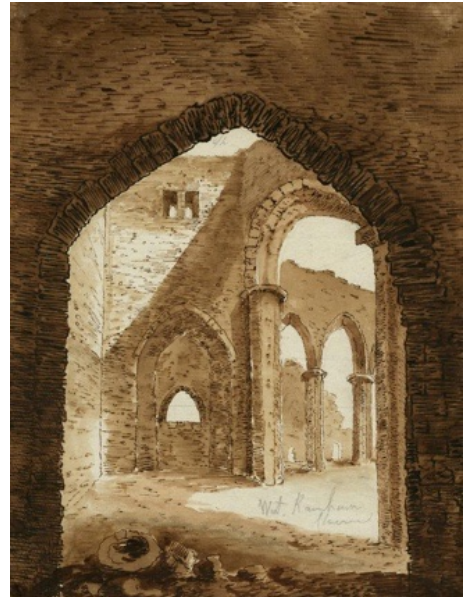
Here are some newly discovered historical images of St Margaret's:



Raynham Wilderness and Lake from the west front of Raynham Hall c. 1725  
Drawing by Edmund Prideaux  
West Raynham village and St Margaret's church in the distance



**Northeast view of West Rainham Church  
Watercolour (sepia) dated 10 Oct. 1778  
possibly by William Watts  
Norfolk Museums Collection**



**Interior of West Rainham Church  
Watercolour (sepia) c. 1778  
possibly by William Watts  
Norfolk Museums Collection**



**Northwest view of West Rainham Church  
Watercolour (sepia) c. 1778 possibly by William Watts  
Norfolk Museums Collection**

*Bridget Howarth.*



## Moths in Gardens

Cold and overcast conditions have persisted during May following a cold April. Besides looking at moths, I have been helping with weekly butterfly surveys at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve since last year. The surveys start in April and finish at the end of September, and the data is passed on to Butterfly Conservation as part of their national monitoring scheme. Last year we completed six out of a possible eight survey dates during April and May. This year we have done one full survey and a couple of partial surveys, as the weather has been too cold for butterflies to be flying.

Cold days and nights have also meant the numbers and species of moths recorded in the moth trap have been disappointingly low.

### Comparison of moth catches during Spring in 2022 and 2023

Totals from three sample dates in April and three in May for both years.

	2022		2023	
	April	May	April	May
No. individuals	20	80	10	7
No. species	7	35	5	4

About 11 times fewer individuals were caught in May 2023 compared with May 2022, and the total number of species recorded in May 2023 was nearly nine times lower than in May 2022. In addition, I have not found any geometrid or 'micromoth' species so far this year.

### Moth species caught in May

Poplar Hawk-moth - *Laothoe populi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One of the largest moths regularly visiting gardens. It usually has a single generation each year and adults fly from May to July. Occasionally a second brood emerging in August and September can also occur.

Larval foodplants: Leaves of poplars, aspen, sallows and willows.



Hebrew Character - *Orthosia gothica* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Named after the distinctive mark in the centre of forewing which is unique among spring-flying, moths and it is said to resemble the Hebrew character nūn.

One generation per year (univoltine) with adults flying from March to May.

Larval foodplants: Herbaceous plants, bushes and trees.

Flame Shoulder - *Ochropleura plecta* (Linnaeus, 1761)



Found in many habitats with two generations per year (bivoltine). Adults fly from April to June and July to September.

Larval foodplants: The nocturnal caterpillars live on low plants such as dock (*Rumex*) and plantain (*Plantago*).

Treble Lines - *Charanyca trigrammica* (Hufnagel, 1766)



Common and widespread. Characteristic three fine crosslines on the forewings.

Larval foodplants: The nocturnal larvae feed on several herbaceous plants including greater plantain (*Plantago major*). The caterpillars generally live just below the surface of the ground and chew through the stems at ground level.

Descriptions of moth species taken from:

- <https://www.norfolkmoths.co.uk/>
- <https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/>

Paresh Shah.



## West Raynham Nature Notes - May 2023

I have been reading many comments from people up and down the country, expressing their worry that there are so few insects around this spring, and consequently fewer birds. It certainly has been an unusual period; colder than normal and many plants have been flowering either later or more or less profusely than usual - hawthorn has been spectacular this spring. Much of this is due to the extremely hot, dry weather last summer and then alternating dry and wet period over winter and early spring.

I have found butterflies few and far between so far, while birds I have felt to be in average numbers. Cuckoos have been calling frequently from along the river corridor and good numbers of reed warblers turned up from early May. Whitethroat, lesser whitethroat and willow warbler all put in an appearance up by the solar farm, but I missed out on wheatear and ring ouzel again this year - maybe I'll find some in the autumn when they head back south.

The very end of the month produced a real treat in the form of a couple of spotted flycatchers calling from the playground and flying to and from the Bowling Green. Another couple turned up in our garden on 3 June, the first ones I have seen there since 2018. They used to be common breeding birds in the area (before my time in West Raynham, which is coming up to 8 years), so I hope to report in the next newsletter that they have stuck around. We will see.

While many migrants were quite late, swifts appeared early this year. The first one arrived at the end of April and there have been good numbers throughout May. Regular readers will know I have a camera monitoring a swift nest in our roof space. This year a pair of starlings took up residence and raised a brood of four young. I was worried what would happen when the swifts reappeared. Sure enough, on 7 May the first swift arrived back, and the starlings sent it packing to cower in the corner. It stayed there for a couple of days, and then it left. The starlings continued to rear their young, which all fledged around the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. By the 25<sup>th</sup>, a pair of swifts had returned and I have high hopes they will now settle in the nest.

The one snag is that the starlings built a huge nest of straw, not really to the swifts' liking. Consequently, they have repositioned themselves further into our loft, so I can only see part of them as they are largely tucked underneath the camera mount. More on this next month, I hope.

### Raynham Nature Lake dredging

The temporary lagoons where the slit is being pumped are proving very popular with water birds. One morning in late May there were 10 oystercatchers clustered together and squabbling loudly, while a few metres away was a pair of little ringed plovers keeping a low profile, as they do. All this and various gulls, ducks and a family of herons can easily be viewed from St Margaret's churchyard, or from along the diverted footpath. Early morning or evening are the best times to have a look.



One of the lagoons as seen from St Margaret's churchyard



Sludge being pumped from Raynham Hall Lake into one of the lagoons

### St Margaret's churchyard

Some good news first. The ruins have been formally entered onto the Heritage at Risk register. That's good because it means we have more justification to apply for grant funding to proceed with the urgently needed stabilisation works.

The not so good news is that parts of the ruins have deteriorated further in the last few months, and we are going to need to erect some temporary reinforcing under each of the arches in the south wall and install more secure fencing around the perimeter to keep people out. The risk of falling masonry is real. We await a report from our specialist architect (Ruth Blackman) and structural engineer (Stuart Armitage), but it will mean we will need to raise some £10k or so for these immediate safeguarding works.

On 3 June we held our second conservation working session of the year. On this occasion it coincided with a visit from two officers from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). They were highly impressed by the site, the enthusiasm of our volunteers and are keen to support our efforts to conserve this special site.



A big thank you, as always, to those who turned out to help us. It was much appreciated.

If you have any unusual nature observations, please let me know:  
David Stubbs: [davidstubbs1@btinternet.com](mailto:davidstubbs1@btinternet.com) or WhatsApp me on 07974922197.