

Raynhams' Newsletter - November 2022

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 3rd, 10th, 17th - Line dancing in Village Hall from 7pm.
- Friday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30pm.
- Friday 4th - Table tennis in Village Hall from 5 to 6pm, all welcome!
- Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Knit and natter in Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon.
- Saturday 19th - Wine tasting and related quiz in the Village Hall from 7pm.
- Friday 25th - Raynhams' Gardening Club monthly meeting in Village Hall from 6pm.



Our annual Act of Remembrance will take place at St Mary's Church, East Raynham, from 10.50am on **Sunday 13th November**, with refreshments afterwards.



Community Carol Singing: Join us in the ruins of St Margaret's Church in West Raynham from 6pm on **Friday 16th December**, with mulled wine and mince pies.



A Service of Readings and Carols on **Christmas Eve** in St Mary's Church, East Raynham, from 6pm. Refreshments afterwards.

Raynham Parish Council

Minutes, Agendas and reports of Parish Council meetings are available to view and download from our website at 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 remaining date for this year is **Tuesday 29th November**.

Tom FitzPatrick, Parish Councillor.

Wine tasting - Saturday 19th November

A wine tasting and related quiz will be held in West Raynham Village Hall from 7pm on Saturday 19th November for residents of The Raynhams. The event will be a chance to sample a few wines from around the world with friends in a fun environment. No prior knowledge required or expected!

The cost will be £10 per head, which includes four wines (see options below) and some snacks. Please contact Ian Pearson on ianpearson8@btinternet.com by **Sunday 6th November** if you would like to attend, and stating which of following options you prefer:

- four white wines
- four red wines
- two red and two white wines.

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.

Newsletter Photo Competition - October

Thanks to all those who sent in photos for last month which were all judged by Paula Smith in Sculthorpe. As in previous months, the images were emailed to Paula without the names of the entrants attached.



Winner: Ashleigh Britton



Runner up: Tracy Jolliffe

We are nearly at the end of the competition and to get the calendars ready for Christmas, please can you send in your entries for November AND December by November 25th. All winners and runners-up will feature in the end of year calendar.

Email your entries for November and December by November 25th to
westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Please mark which photos are for which month

We plan to have the calendars ready for purchase by mid-December and please email the newsletter if you would like to reserve one or more calendars. The price is not known right now as we are looking into production costs with the digital design company.

Paresh & Judy.

Modern Line Dancing - Thursdays in the Village Hall

If you think you might be interested in joining us, then you are very welcome to 'drop-in' to a class for £6 just to see what it is like - you will be surprised how much fun it is, as well as providing some nice gentle exercise! Classes run from 7 to 8pm.

Table Tennis in the Village Hall

The next dates for table tennis are Friday 4th November and Friday 16th December from 5 to 6pm. All ages and abilities welcome! Anyone who would like to play please get in touch with Sandra Forsyth on ssforsyth@gmail.com.

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 and 'Pachinko' by Min Jin Lee. For more information email westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Dog Sitter Wanted

I am looking for someone to dog sit very occasionally in their house or ours, with two well behaved Dachshunds for a few hours in an evening for a date night!! Or an appointment in the day. Contact Helen on 07810 750038 to meet and discuss.

Village Hall Committee Update

A new Committee was elected at the AGM on Sunday 16th October with the following members:

Officers

- Chair - David Stubbs
- Treasurer - Melvin Forman
- Secretary - Debbie Lamont

Members

- Janice Hankey
- Allison Henshaw
- Ian Pearson
- Tom Raynham (representing Raynham Estate)
- Paul Reeve
- David Sidell (representing Parish Council)
- Jay Williams

Four members of the previous committee stood down and were warmly thanked for their contributions: Paresh Shah (former Chair), Bridget Howarth, Andrew Mead and Judith Pell.

We are delighted to confirm that Paresh and Judy will continue to produce the monthly newsletter. This is an important means of keeping Raynham residents up to date with forthcoming events and other local news.

From time to time, however, we may want to communicate about Village Hall matters and events at short notice, separately from the newsletter. If you would like to be included in any such notifications, please confirm by emailing us at westraynham.vhc@gmail.com and we will add you to the Village Hall mailing list.

We will also post information on the Village Hall Notice Board, so do keep an eye on that.

Wi-Fi/broadband

Unfortunately, our broadband provider Voneus has had to withdraw their service at short notice. This means the hall is without Wi-Fi for the immediate future. We are looking into new service options. Meanwhile, this means we cannot promise to screen movies and sports events as we had hoped to do so in the coming weeks. We will update as soon as we have a new system in place. Bluetooth and 4G still work so we can continue to play music during bar evenings.

Friday bar nights

For over a year we have been running the Village Hall bar on Friday evenings. Some nights are rocking, some are fairly quiet, but overall this has proved a popular occasion for local people to get together and have a nice chat or play pool or darts.

We are open from 7:00pm to 10:30pm. Do come along, we look forward to seeing you!

The Village Hall Committee.

St Margaret's (in ruins) Conservation Group

As reported previously, we have established the conservation group to raise funds for the stabilisation of the ruins of the old church, the iconic centrepiece of our village heritage and which is in urgent need of repair. We are very grateful to all those local residents who have so far made generous contributions to our appeal.

Last week, on 27th October, we had contractors on site to carry out a high-level survey of the ruins. Led by specialist historic building architect Ruth Blackman and engineer Stuart Armitage, the team used a cherry picker hoist to inspect the top of the walls and test their stability. We are now eagerly awaiting their report, with recommendations, costings and specifications for carrying out the stabilisation works.

Once we have this information, we will proceed with an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. Meanwhile, if you would like any further information, please contact me at alan@sandra-alan.co.uk.



High level inspection in progress



Looking down on the ruins



Survey work in progress



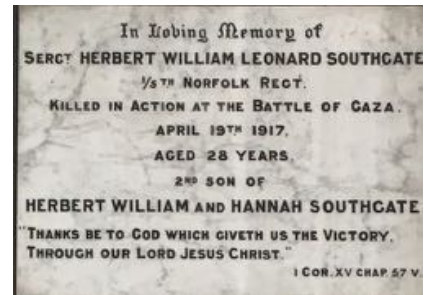
Checking stability of structure

Alan Forsyth.

Sergeant Herbert W L Southgate



Herbert William Leonard was the fourth of eight children born to Herbert and Hannah Southgate. The family lived in West Lodge on the Raynham Estate where their father was a carpenter and joiner. Herbert, though known locally as Leonard, was born on 19 September and baptised in St Mary's Church, East Raynham on 28 October 1888. Inside the church is a plaque marking his death in the Battle of Gaza in 1917.



Herbert was an orchid specialist. He began his working life as a gardener on the Raynham Estate before moving to Westonbirt in Gloucestershire and then to Kew Gardens. A short obituary in the 1918 Kew Guild Journal reported: *"Coming to Kew early in March 1910 from this famous Orchid establishment [Westonbirt], it was only natural that HWL (as we often called him) should settle down in the Orchid Department"*.

He returned to Westonbirt after two years, but three months later was invited back to Kew to take up the position of sub-foreman in the Orchid department. He would have been responsible for supervising the clear up after a 'suffragist outrage' in February 1913 when several of the orchid houses were damaged in an attack.

Herbert threw himself into the social side of life at Kew, as a member of the Cricket Club Committee and Captain of the Royal Gardens Football Club. He became an active member of Kew's Mutual Improvement Society presenting two papers himself on orchids, and was Vice Chairman of the Society during the 1912-14 session. He left Kew in December 1913 to take up the post of Assistant Editor of the 'Gardener's Magazine'.

On 23 October 1914, Herbert and his younger brother, Frank, enlisted with the British Territorial Force, 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, a unit famed for its associations with the King's Sandringham Estate. Herbert rose quickly from Private to Sergeant and, with his brother, sailed for Egypt on 31 January 1916 with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



An artist's impression of the Norfolk Territorials' disastrous attack at Gaza on 19 April 1917, showing the tank 'Nuttie' leading the way to the 5th Battalion's objective, a Turkish redoubt.

On 19 April 1917, the first day of the Second Battle of Gaza, Herbert was posted as wounded, and missing, possibly taken prisoner by the Turks. The attack had been a disaster that would be remembered as the blackest day in the history of the Norfolk Regiment. For years afterwards, April 19 was commemorated as Gaza Day in Norwich with a parade and wreath-laying ceremony at the city's war memorial. Company Commander, Major Tom Purdy, wrote: *"120 men of the Battalion are reported killed, 250-odd men wounded ... and 318 men missing. In other words, the battalion is wiped out"*.

For seven months the War Office were unable to provide any definite information about Herbert's whereabouts until, in December, his brother wrote from Egypt to say he had at

last secured authentic news that Herbert's body had been found. His body was reinterred in the Gaza Military Cemetery in Palestine with the inscription "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ". His brother, Frank, survived the war and returned to Raynham. He married Annie Payne and they lived in Pudding Norton until Frank's death in 1940, at just 45 years old.

In addition to his parents' own tribute in St Mary's, Herbert's name is listed on the memorial with all the men on the Raynham Estate who served King and Country.

During the course of the war, the Guild Journal had proudly recorded the names of men from Kew who had volunteered. "Few professions or callings can have responded to their country's call more nobly than that of Horticulture ... Kew and Kewites, Past and Present, are nobly taking their share in the gigantic struggle". Sadly, obituaries followed for 37 of these men, including Herbert, who had "made the supreme sacrifice for their country".

Sgt Herbert WL Southgate is commemorated on a special memorial in the Temple of Arethusa at Kew Gardens. Designed by architect Sir Robert Lorimer, it was unveiled on 25 May 1921 before a crowd of family members and 'Kewites'.



Bridget Howarth.

Autumn Moths in the Garden

For this month I'll present some of the moths identified at Foundry Cottage from light trapping during September and October. What still surprises me are the shapes, sizes, colours and patterns of these night-flying insects, and there are some wonderful looking species to be found during Autumn.



Oak Hook-tip *Watsonalla binaria*,
Adults flying in May-June & July-September,
Caterpillars feed on oak leaves.



Feathered Thorn *Colotois pennaria*,
Adults from September-December,
Caterpillars feed on deciduous trees and shrubs.



Light Emerald *Campaea margaritaria*,
Adults from May-August & August-October,
Caterpillars feed on deciduous trees.



Centre-barred Sallow *Atethmia centrigo*,
Adults flying from August-September,
Caterpillars initially feed on ash buds then
move to flowers & leaves.



(1) Black Rustic *Aporophyla nigra*,
Adults during September-October,
Caterpillars feed on herbaceous and
woody plants.

(2) Lunar Underwing *Anchoscelis lunosa*,
Adults from August-October,
Caterpillars feed on grasses.

(3) Red-line Quaker *Leptologia lota*,
Adults during September-November,
Caterpillars feed on catkins of willow and
sallow, moving to leaves when more
mature.



Green-brindled crescent *Allophyes oxyacanthae*,
Adults from September-November,
Caterpillars feed on trees and bushes including
hawthorn, buckthorn, dog rose and crab apple.



Merveille du Jour *Griposia aprilina*,
Adults from September-October,
Caterpillars feed on oak initially on buds and flowers
then on leaves as they mature,
Adults feed on ivy flowers and overripe berries.

Paresh Shah.

West Raynham Nature Notes: October 2022

It's getting darker every day... Autumn is fully here and many creatures will soon be heading into hibernation. Our last summer birds have departed - I saw a swallow over the village at the beginning of the month, to be replaced by a more wintery cast of redwings, siskins and bramblings. Two of the latter were calling from the beech tree close to the Village Hall the other day, and I heard a fieldfare calling from a neighbour's garden.

The biggest surprise for me was a group of five snipe flying over the village one morning later in the month. Skeins of pink-footed geese have also appeared in our area these last few days. There are thousands of them around Holkham and along the coast, but it's not easy to predict whereabouts they come inland, so it was nice to see them over our village.

It has been a bumper year for fruit and there are lots of rotting windfall apples, pears and plums in local gardens. These are a hugely valuable source of food for wildlife. Hedgehogs are still active at the moment; they seem to be attracted to rotting fruit and they are also regulars below our bird feeders, where they feast on spilt sunflower seeds.

It continues to be pretty mild - unseasonably warm in fact - and there are plenty of bats still flying around each evening. Late butterflies too - I was delighted to see a really pristine comma butterfly at the bottom of Park Lane, Helhoughton the other day.



Remember, please do take care if you are having bonfires at this time of year - all sorts of wildlife could be trying to shelter under piles of cuttings and dead leaves.

David Stubbs.

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