

Raynhams' Newsletter - August 2023

- Friday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7pm to 10:30pm.
- Sunday 6th - Antiques and Collectables Fair in the Walled Garden from 9am to 3pm.
- Tuesday 8th, 14th, 22nd, 29th - Raynham Art Club meets from 10am to 2pm.
- Wednesday 9th - Fundraising for breast cancer research at the Control Tower from 11am to 3pm.
- Saturday 19th - Coach trip to Beth Chatto's Gardens near Colchester from 9am to 5pm.
- Friday 25th - Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6pm to 7pm.
- Sunday 27th - Summer's End party from 4pm in the Village Hall and Seppings Field.

Church Services

- Sunday 13th - St Mary's, East Raynham, from 6pm with the Revd. Clive Wylie.
- Sunday 16th - All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30am with Canon Keith Richards.
- Sunday 23rd - St Martin's, South Raynham, from 10.30am.
- Sunday 30th - All Saints, Toftrees, from 6pm with Canon Stuart Nairn.

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

Village Hall Committee - AGM and Elections

The AGM and elections for committee members and officers will be held on **Monday 23rd October** starting at 6:30pm in West Raynham Village Hall.

Solar Fund Committee

Applications are now open for the Solar Fund for projects that benefit The Raynhams. Previous community awards have included funding for: grassland/wildflower management in St. Margaret's churchyard; the fish & chip supper in the Village Hall and supporting the King's Coronation celebration.

Application forms can be obtained by contacting David Sidell, Chair of the Solar Fund by email at davidsidell@outlook.com. Completed forms must be returned by **31st October** and should be sent to David Sidell (Sid) at 5, The Bowling Green, West Raynham, NR21 7HD.

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 remaining dates for this year are:

- 26th September
- 28th November.

Contact Details & Past Newsletters

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

Farewell from the Pearson family in The Rectory

We would like to thank all who contributed and attended the village hall on Friday 30th June to celebrate Ruby's first birthday. A special thanks for the wonderful birthday cake along with the gifts and cards received. Jenny and Paul (Mum and Dad) will have a lovely story to tell Ruby about her first birthday in the village hall.

As you may know our stay here in the village has been a temporary one and you made us feel very much at home. So, we want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your open arms welcome and hospitality and accepting us into the village so easily and quickly. Unfortunately, time has flown by very quickly and we will be moving into our new home by the end of July. Although we are moving on, we will keep an eye on the newsletter and sign up for events (quiz nights etc.). West Raynham is a little 'gem'.

Wishing you all the best,


Mick, Kay, Jenny, Paul, Ruby, Scruffy and Badger.

End of Summer Party - Sunday 27th August

Following the stunning success of last year's gathering we are holding an 'End of Summer Party' on Sunday 27th from 4pm till late in the Village Hall and Seppings Field (Village Hall car park). Please bring a food dish for sharing and your dancing shoes.

There will also be live music courtesy of BANDWIDTH from 8.15 pm in the Village Hall. The five-piece band from North Norfolk plays Rock, Blues and Pop numbers mainly from the 1960s to the 1990s along with their own original material.

Please send an RSVP to Anne-Marie at amm100martin@gmail.com by **12th August**.



SUMMER'S END VILLAGE PARTY SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST FROM 4 PM (UNTIL LATE)

Please join us for our annual summer celebration on the Village Hall Green/Village Hall (weather dependent)

Good food, great drinks, wonderful company, fabulous LIVE music and dancing and a huge amount of fun!

LIVE MUSIC courtesy of BANDWIDTH from 8.15 pm in the Village Hall

A five-piece North Norfolk band featuring lead, rhythm and bass guitars, keyboards and drums. Setlists include Rock, Blues and Pop numbers sourced mainly from the 60s to the 90s along with original material.

We will provide, wines, beers, cider and soft drinks. The bar will also be open in case of alternative requests and during live music session. Please bring a sharing dish or two with you (savoury/ sweet or both) for us all to enjoy together.

RSVP to Anne-Marie at amm100martin@gmail.com by 12th August

Antiques and Collectables Fair - Sunday 6th August



Black Dog Events

The Walled Garden Brocante


ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR

Sunday 6th August.
The Walled Garden
Raynham. North Norfolk.

Expect to find 60 plus curated Antique, Vintage and Artisan exhibitors along with a small Food Village with Street Food and local producers. Free onsite parking and facilities available. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead at all times.

Open from 9.00am to 3.00pm
Admission £3 per person (accompanied under-14s are free)

Supporting Breast Cancer Research - Wednesday 9th August



TO: EVERY ONE

**YOU'RE INVITED TO
AN AFTERNOON TEA!**

TO RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT PEOPLE
AFFECTED BY BREAST CANCER.

FROM: Shelly Booty

RSVP: Just turn up!

WHEN: 9th August 2023

WHERE: The Control Tower
West Raynham
NR21 7PL

TIME: 11am till 3pm.

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Breast Cancer Now is a company limited by guarantee registered in England (9347608) and a charity registered in England and Wales (1160558), Scotland (SC045594) and the Isle of Man (1200).

AFTERNOON TEA

BREAST CANCER NOW The research & support charity

Coach Trip to Beth Chatto's Garden - Saturday 19th August

The coach is all booked, courtesy of the Solar Fund, and the day is fast approaching for the visit to Beth Chatto's Gardens near Colchester in Essex.

This is a very special place which has been a long while in the making. Beth's main approach to gardening was "to get the right plant in the right place". No good putting a water loving plant in a dry gravel bed as it just won't thrive. The five gardens vary from wet and dry and everything in between. So, Beth demonstrated how 'problem' areas of the garden could be gardened very successfully if you did certain things. She had a dry gravelly car park when I first went there in the 1980s, then on a whim she tore it all up and showed what could grow in dry gravelly soil! It was amazing and a revelation compared to what it was before and the result is stunning. So come and see the garden in its entirety!



Travel to Beth Chatto's Gardens is **FREE FOR EVERYONE IN THE RAYNHAMS!!** The only cost is the entrance to the garden.

TIP - if you buy your entrance ticket online in advance, then you pay a bit less than purchasing one on the day. Check out www.bethchatto.co.uk for further information.

We are planning to leave West Raynham at 9am on Saturday 19th August. The journey should be about two hours, and we will have about four hours at the gardens to wander through and have lunch too. You can bring a picnic lunch or there is a café/restaurant if you want to buy lunch on site. We are planning to return to West Raynham by about 5pm.

We need to know who is coming by **Saturday 5th August** so please get in touch ASAP. Please contact Paresh or me or send an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS FOR EVERYONE IN THE RAYNHAMS
NOT JUST GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS!!**



Bryan Welton

Fish and Chip Supper - Saturday 23rd September

The fish and chip supper event is being paid for by the Solar Fund and will start from 7pm in the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd September. The following items are available:

- Cod
- Scampi
- Fish cakes
- Burgers
- Chicken nuggets
- Chips
- Mushy peas
- Curry sauce

There are vegetarian sausages, burgers and nuggets. Gluten-free options are also available. Catering will be provided by Tropics Two from Dersingham, who supplied the meals in 2021 and 2022.

There will be live entertainment in Village Hall after the meal and the bar will be open for drinks.

Please email your meal requirements to westraynham.vhc@gmail.com, also stating whether you wish to eat your meal in the Village Hall. The deadline for meal requests is **Monday 18th September**.

Please note this invitation only applies to residents of The Raynhams.

St Margaret's in Ruins Conservation Group

The St Margaret's in Ruins Conservation Group (SMIRCG) has been meeting, planning, and applying for grants to stabilize (our main priority), maintain and develop the site to become a model for the preservation of areas of historical significance and eventually a centre of excellence.

It is hoped that the site will attract visitors from far and wide who are interested in such projects, and to congregate, talk, play music, display and admire art, learn about the history, and many other things...

SMIRCG would love to find an individual volunteer who would be willing to manage our modest accounts, probably just on an annual basis. We are also eager to involve as many additional volunteers as possible in terms of sharing plans and ideas with others in our community, so that we can receive much needed feedback and input into this general endeavour.

If anyone is interested in contributing to this exciting and important project, then please email info@st-margarets-ruins.org or telephone Alan Forsyth on 07960 000147.

Sunflower Seeds in the Reading Room

Please help yourself to sunflower hearts to fill up your bird feeders. These have been provided by a grant from the Solar Fund.

Andrew Buck.

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.

The Airman's Arms - The Kiptons



This Community Interest Company (CIC) is managed by Peter Harris, and Peter and his six assistants are all unpaid volunteers. The Airman's Arms is open on the following days during the week:

- Monday: 7pm to 11pm.
- Friday: 7pm to 11pm.
- Saturday: 1pm to 5pm and 7pm to 11pm.
- Sunday: 1pm to 5pm.

Peter is keen on providing events and activities. Currently there is a bingo session once a month on a Saturday night, and a quiz night will be held on Saturday 12th. More information can be found on the Facebook page of the Airman's Arms.

West Raynham Control Tower

West Raynham Control Tower and Heritage Collection Open Days 2023

A room with a view!
Take part in guided tours to the roof

We are open, 1000 to 1600 for the following events-

- 27th and 28th May Tower Open Days
- 22nd and 23rd July Cockpit Event at the Tower
- 9th and 10th September Tower Open Days

Sample our home made cakes in the vintage Tea Shop

Blenheim Way, West Raynham NR21 7PL
info@westraynhamcontroltower.co.uk
07707 292906

Facebook Instagram

Tropics Two Fish & Chips

Fish and chips and other meals, including gluten-free options, are available from Tropics Two in the car park of the Airman's Arms in Kipton Green every Friday from 5pm to 8pm, and at the Village Green in Great Massingham on Thursdays, also from 5pm to 8pm. Payment is by cash or card.

Raynham 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 their literary likes and dislikes. Members take turns to recommend a set book every two months, and the current one is 'The Viceroy of Ouidah' by Bruce Chatwin published in 1980. For more information about the group please send an email to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Meetings start at 6pm on the first Wednesday of each month and dates and locations for the rest of this year are:

- 6th September - Rowena Buckeridge, 37, The Street, West Raynham.
- 4th October - Allison Henshaw, 24 Stephenson Close, The Orchard.
- 1st November - Paresh Shah, Foundry Cottage, The Street, West Raynham.
- 6th December - Debbie Lamont, Park Barn, The Street, West Raynham.

Mobile Library

The mobile library service, provided by Norfolk County Council, is in West Raynham each month on a Friday from 9:30 to 9:45am, stopping by the bus shelter opposite the Village Hall. The dates for visits during the remainder of 2023 are:

- 18th August
- 15th September
- 13th October
- 10th November
- 8th December.

Mobile Post Office

A mobile service from Great Massingham Stores calls frequently in East Rudham, stopping in the car park opposite to The Crown pub. The days and times for this stop are:

- Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9:20-10:20
- Wednesdays - 15:10-16:10
- Fridays - 11:00-12:00.

On Fridays the mobile van also calls at Weasenham, Whissonsett and Helhoughton before East Rudham. Check www.massinghamstores.co.uk for more information or phone 01485 520272 (option 3).

22A Bus to Fakenham

On Tuesdays the 22A bus goes to and from Morrisons in Fakenham. The service calls at The Kiptons, near The Airman's Arms pub, and West Raynham village (bus shelter opposite Village Hall). The bus arrives at Morrisons at 11am and leaves for the return trip at 12:30. Stopping times and locations for journeys into Fakenham are:

- West Raynham, adj. The Kiptons 10:35
- West Raynham, opp. Village Hall (bus shelter) 10:43
- South Raynham & West Raynham Road (o/s 10) 10:46
- East Raynham, adj. Lodge Gates 10:47

A detailed timetable can be found at: <https://bustimes.org/services/22a-north-elmham-litcham-fakenham> or phone Sanders Coaches on 01263 712800.

Mill Covert

Hidden away on the Raynham Estate, between West and South Raynham, is a little cottage that was once home to the Estate's gamekeepers.



"The keepers' house at West Raynham adjoined the wood and both were known as Mill Covert ... built of flint and brick with the end part of the house hexagonal. This was the sitting room, and it was encircled by a veranda with a pillar at the edge supporting the room above. This was

a bedroom, circular in shape and access to this room was by its own stairs which were a continuation of the main staircase. The living room and kitchen, with bedrooms above, were built on the side of the hexagon shape." (Frank Cullum, 1987).

Unoccupied since the 1980s, the cottage has recently been renovated for use as a family home once again.



A short distance away, until the 1840s, was the windmill that served the Raynham estate and gave the cottage its name. There is little evidence of the old post mill now, but it can clearly be seen on Bryant's map of 1826 (above) and on Faden's earlier map of 1797. No image of the mill itself is known to exist, but it is likely to have been similar in design to the mill still to be found in Wreningham (right).



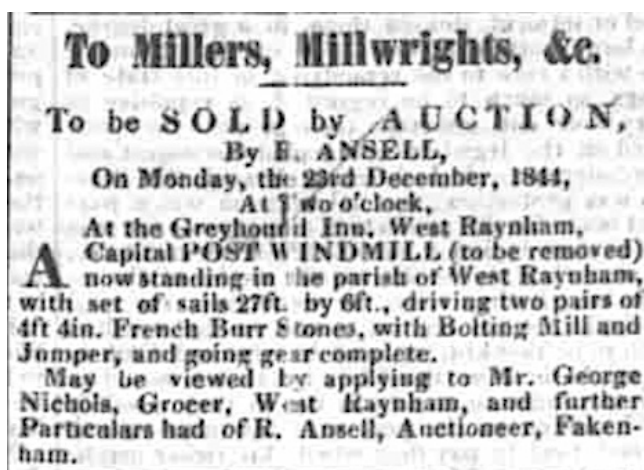
It is thought that the miller until the 1790s may have been Nicolas Savory from Syderstone, but certainly by 1798 Silvan, or Silvester, Fowle was miller and baker, and in that year took on an apprentice, George Clark. Silvan came from South Raynham and married Elizabeth Shearing there in 1795.

Their son, Robert, was born in 1797 and was one of the very last recorded baptisms in St Margaret's, West Raynham, where Silvan was churchwarden. Unfortunately, he was

declared bankrupt two years later, and was called to appear at the Angel Inn in Norwich in January 1800.

In 1824, the miller, Abdall Smith, was convicted of selling bread "contrary to the assize set". The Bread Act of 1822 specified that all loaves should be sold by the pound, and it seems that Abdall was probably selling his bread underweight. He was fined 20 shillings, plus costs. It is uncertain when he took over the Raynham mill, but after marrying Maria Digings in East Raynham in 1802 he worked in Whissonsett for a while. He was back in the village by 1820 and moved to Swaffham in around 1836.

There was no miller listed in the 1841 census for West Raynham, and in October that year the mill was advertised as available for let: "with New Dwelling house (could this have been Mill Covert cottage?), Baking-office, Granary, Stables, Cart-sheds, Piggeries and about three Acres of pasture". It was advertised again in December 1844, this time for sale at auction; on condition that the buyer should dismantle the mill and move it away.



To Millers, Millwrights, &c.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By E. ANSELL,
On Monday, the 23rd December, 1844,
At Two o'clock,
At the Greyhound Inn, West Raynham,
Capital POST WINDMILL (to be removed)
A now standing in the parish of West Raynham,
with set of sails 27ft. by 6ft., driving two pairs of
4ft 4in. French Burr Stones, with Bolting Mill and
Jumper, and going gear complete.
May be viewed by applying to Mr. George
Nichols, Grocer, West Raynham, and further
Particulars had of R. Ansell, Auctioneer, Faken-
ham.

White's Directory of 1845 lists John Miles as miller and baker, but the mill was probably dismantled and moved away soon afterwards, leaving a very isolated Mill Covert Cottage available for use instead by estate gamekeepers and their families.

You can read more about the life of gamekeeper Frank Cullum, who lived in Mill Covert Cottage during the 1950s, in his autobiography which is available from Fakenham Library: Frank Cullum (1987). 'Both Sides of the Fence: The Autobiography of a Poacher Turned Gamekeeper'. Panda Publishing, Lowestoft.

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. An item from their family history has been found, and I would love to help return it.

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?

Bridget Howarth.

Insect Miscellany

Dragonflies and Damselflies

July has been a good time to look out for dragonflies and damselflies when it has been sunny and warm. These insects are in the order Odonata and are considered to be among the earliest of flying insects. Genetic analyses indicate they were present over 450 million years ago, with dragonflies having evolved from damselflies about 260 million years ago (Kohli et. al., 2021).

At Sculthorpe Moor I've noticed Azure, Blue-tailed and Banded Demoiselle damselflies and a Common Darter dragonfly, while at Foundry Cottage there have been Large Red damselflies, as well as a Southern Hawker dragonfly laying eggs by the side of the pond.



Ladybird Parasite

Last week while I was carrying out a safety check of equipment in the children's play area at Thursford Steam Museum, I spotted a 7-spot ladybird stuck to a metal post.



Underneath the ladybird was the cocoon of a parasitic wasp *Dinocampus coccinellae*. This species is in the group of wasps called the Braconidae whose members are all parasites of insects, with *D. coccinellae* specialising on ladybird beetles. The adult wasp lays an egg on the underside of a ladybird (usually female). During the egg-laying, a virus is also passed into the ladybird which infects the nervous system and causes paralysis in the ladybird. The wasp larva feeds on the fat bodies and gonads and once it is ready to pupate,

the larva emerges from the underside to form a cocoon. The developing wasp is protected in its cocoon by the 'zombie' ladybird acting as guard, scaring off possible predators with its bright colour and occasional twitching. After six to nine days the adult wasp emerges, and the ladybird will nearly always die afterwards.

Moth trapping

With the help of Maire Spurrier, I have been carrying out light trapping during July in several gardens and locations around The Raynhams. This is a repeat of a survey which I did two years ago when I'd just started looking at night-flying moths. Our thanks again to everyone who allowed us into their gardens, and we will report on the findings in future Newsletters. On my part, it has been great fun having Maire help with the moth identifications - I think we both learnt a little bit from each other!

For this month I'll focus on a group of moths called the 'micromoths'. This is a label of convenience and generally covers small moths with a forewing length of 10mm or less, although there is overlap in size with 'macromoths'.

Micromoths are considered harder to identify to species level than macromoths and may even be ignored by some moth enthusiasts, which is shame as it is all useful data!

Garden Grass-veneer



Bird-cherry ermine



Little Grey



Knapweed Conch



Mother of Pearl



Marbled Orchard Tortrix



Dark fruit-tree tortrix



Diamondback moth



Ringed China-mark.



The Garden Grass-veneer, *Chrysoteuchia culmella*, and Bird-cherry ermine, *Yponomeuta evonymella*, are two of the most common micromoths I've found during the summer. Larvae of *C. culmella* feed inside the roots of grasses, while larvae of *Y. evonymella* feed on the leaves of the bird cherry tree, and they can also occur on wild plum, rowan and dwarf cherry. In 2021 and 2022 I think I overestimated numbers of Bird-cherry ermine by confusing this species with the slightly larger Willow ermine, *Yponomeuta rorrella*.

Larvae of the Ringed China-mark, *Parapoynx stratiotata*, are aquatic and feed on pondweeds and other water plants. The Marbled Orchard Tortrix, *Hedya nubiferana*, is one of several similar looking tortricid micromoths that mimic bird droppings to avoid predation. The larvae of this species feed on a range of deciduous trees and shrubs, including hawthorn, blackthorn and wild cherry.

The Diamondback moth, *Plutella xylostella*, is a severe pest of brassica crops especially in the tropics where it has gained resistance to a range of insecticides used for pest control. Studies in May 2000 showed that populations of the moth migrate from southern Europe to the UK, carried on prevailing winds about 150-195 metres above ground level (J.W. Chapman et. al., 2002).

References and further information:

- M. Kohli et. al. (2021). Evolutionary history and divergence times of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) revealed through transcriptomics. *iScience* vol. 24, Issue 11. Article accessed on 1st August 2023 from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589004221012931>.
- <https://www.nhsn.org.uk/an-encounter-with-a-ladybird-parasite/>.
- J.W. Chapman et. al. (2002). High-altitude migration of the diamondback moth *Plutella xylostella* to the U.K.: a study using radar, aerial netting, and ground trapping. *Ecological Entomology* 27: 641-650. Download PDF at: <https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1046/j.1365-2311.2002.00472.x>

Paresh Shah

West Raynham Nature Notes - July 2023

Swifts, glorious swifts

Late July is peak swift season in West Raynham. Every day we have large swirling groups of these wonderful birds wheeling around high above The Street, or smaller groups chasing and screaming round the houses in dare-devil formations and living up to their name of swift.

These screamers, which we often refer to as 'hooligans', tend to be sub-adults, the non-breeding posse that spend the summer here. Sometimes they can be seen flying up to roofs and then peeling back at the last second, or occasionally landing on a gutter for a few seconds before resuming their flypast. I think this behaviour is how they prospect for potential future nest sites and practice coming into land. Since fledging, they have been entirely airborne, so timing their landing onto a roof and finding the right spot, needs some practice.

Although the first swifts arrived back here at the end of April this year - which is quite early - the season got off to a sluggish start and I feared numbers were down. However, as we moved into June and now July, I was reassured to see more and more birds in our skies and many of the usual nest sites seemed to be occupied.

The nest in our roof that I monitor with an infra-red camera, began late because starlings were in occupation when the swifts first arrived, but by late May the starlings fledged, and the swifts immediately set up their nest. I could not see much of what they were doing, as for some reason they moved the nest further into our loft, underneath the camera, so only parts of the birds were visible.

This pair hatched two young this year - normally it has been three nestlings - and at the time of writing they are both doing well and look nearly ready to make their maiden flight.

What I want to know is how many swifts we have in West Raynham. It's impossible to get an accurate count - even when they are all flying in a group overhead, they are too fast and swirly to be able to keep track. The only answer is to take a picture and count the dots, as in the shot below, which also has the rare merit for this summer of being perfectly blue sky.



There are 34 birds in this cropped photo. There were 37 in the original full picture. Other birds were out of shot and then there are those on nests. I'd say it's a safe bet we have a population of between 60 and 70 birds, but hard to prove for certain.

No matter, they are a great joy to observe, and we are lucky to have them in our village,



Hannah Bourne-Taylor outside Downing Street
(PA News Agency)

as the species is generally declining at an alarming rate across the country. Much of this is attributed to lack of suitable nest sites in modern houses. One valiant campaigner - Hannah Bourne-Taylor - went as far as giving a speech last November at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park and then walking to Downing Street naked, save for ink feathers body paint 'dressing' her as a swift!

Her petition for all new house to have swift bricks installed as a legal requirement, gained over 100,000 signatures and was debated a few weeks ago in parliament. All to no avail of course, as it wouldn't do for government to respond positively to a good idea. But at least her campaign gained a lot of attention and spread awareness of the plight of these amazing birds.

Butterflies

This cooler, wetter than usual summer has put a dampener on all sorts of wildlife, not least butterflies. It's generally been a very poor year for many species. However, in the last week or so, there is one place where I have noted a profusion of butterflies. This is along the footpath that skirts the southern end of Helhoughton Common and passes alongside the northern flank of Raynham Lake. Go there late morning or early afternoon on a sunny day with little or no wind and you should be in for a treat. Dozens of whites, browns, skippers and the colourful 'vanessids' - red admiral, peacock and comma. Add in a few blues and - if you are really lucky - a silver-washed fritillary.

Dredging the lake

The Dutch contractors who have been pumping silt out of the lake over these past few months, have now completed their assignment. In total they have extracted 51,000 cubic metres of lake sediment, which are now settling in the temporary lagoons to the north of the village.

The lagoons have attracted many different birds that are not frequently seen from the village - St Margaret's Churchyard is a great vantage point. Five species of waders, including little-ringed plovers that bred there (see previous Nature Notes in July newsletter), shelducks, gadwall, teal, little egret, herons and many geese and gulls have been seen so far.

Signing off

Our Dutch friends have left, the swifts are about to go, and I too am going to take a break. This will be my last Nature Notes for a while. I have enjoyed doing these monthly articles (since April 2020) and appreciated the kind feedback from many readers, but unfortunately my increased work commitments mean I have to cut back on certain things. Thank you for reading.

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