

Raynhams' Newsletter - April 2023

- **Tuesday 4th** - Raynham Art Club inaugural meeting in the Village Hall from 10am to 2pm.
- **Wednesday 5th** - Raynhams' Book Club at No. 28, The Street, West Raynham from 6pm.
- **Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th** - Line dancing in the Village Hall from 7pm to 8pm.
- **Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th** - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7pm to 10:30pm.
- **Saturday 15th** - Volunteers for 'spring clean' at St Margaret's Ruins from 10am.
- **Friday 28th** - Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6pm to 7pm.

Easter Church Services

- **Sunday 2nd** - Palm Sunday from 10:30am starting St Margaret's in West Raynham with Blessing of Palms and procession to St Mary's, East Raynham.
- **Thursday 6th** - Maundy Thursday at St Mary's, East Rudham, from 6:30pm.
- **Sunday 9th** - Easter Sunday at St Mary's, East Raynham, from 10.30am

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:

- 23rd May; 25th July; 26th September; 28th November.

Raynham Estate

Lambs

Some of you may have seen that we have ewes with new-born lambs in the park surrounding Raynham Hall - please ensure that if you are walking your dogs that they must be kept on leads.

Norfolk Farmers and Makers Market

Norfolk Farmers and Makers Market heads to The Walled Garden on Sunday 14th May from 9am to 3pm. Packed full of local producers and makers, why not come along and support these local businesses. For trader enquiries contact norfolkfarmersmarket.co.uk.

Rabbit Hills

The area has been tidied up and reseeded with grass and wildflowers. Old broken fences have been removed and we have also added bird boxes and the trees made safe whilst maintaining nesting habitat.

Abbie Panks, Head of Events and Marketing.

Deadline for May Newsletter

Please send in any news items or articles by **Wednesday 26th April**. Our email is westray.newsletter@gmail.com, or leave a note at Foundry Cottage, The Street, West Raynham.

The Raynham's Coronation Big Lunch - 6th May

To commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, the event will be screened in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th May and the bar will be open. On Sunday 7th there will be a street party by the Village Hall starting at midday. If you plan to attend the street party then please email westraynham.vhc@gmail.com, and more details of the Coronation weekend are in the poster below.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

A RIGHT ROYAL KNEES UP!

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

The Raynham's Coronation Big Lunch
Please bring a dish of your choosing to share and your own cutlery. We will provide:
plates, soft drinks, beer, wine, bubbles and music.
Village Hall bar will also be open.

WHERE & WHEN:

The Street, West Raynham
Sunday 7th May - 12 noon 'til 4pm
[Village Hall if raining]
RSVP and for more info: westraynham.vhc@gmail.com

The Coronation Big Lunch brings neighbours and communities together to share friendship, food and fun.

CoronationBigLunch.com

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CORONATION big lunch

SPONSORED BY

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THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

Allison Henshaw.

Community Call to Action

Hello everyone,

I am pleased to share some news about efforts to raise awareness and funds to preserve our unique treasure, St Margaret's Ruins which sits in the heart of our community.

As you know, the ruins are in a precarious state and are likely to collapse altogether without remedial work and stabilisation. We would like to raise funds through grants and other fundraising activities to conserve this precious site. A safe haven for flora and fauna and a place that provides enormous sense of peace and wellbeing.

We have created presence across various communications platforms including the launch of a brand-new website - <https://st-margarets-ruins.org/>.

We have social media presence on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, and you can link and follow us on all of these via the website. So please do pay us a visit.

Furthermore, we have set up a Crowdfunder account to raise funds for the much-needed immediate work. Our target is ambitious, with good reason.

Please help us with as little or as much you can spare and most importantly, please spread the word by sharing the link far and wide. You can also access the donate button from our website.



To enhance our marketing and communications we want to create a bank of photos of the site. You will all have taken many of these and we would be grateful if you can share them with us via email at info@st-margarets-ruins.org or amm100martin@gmail.com. Thank you!

Finally, we will be running an early season volunteering day at the site on Saturday 15th April from 10:00, to spruce up the churchyard. If you'd like to join us, please contact David Stubbs by email at davidstubbs1@btinternet.com, with many thanks. Hope to see you there!

Thank you for your invaluable support. More to come!

Anne-Marie Martin,

On behalf of the St Margaret's Ruins working group.

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.

Open Studio - Easter Weekend

The Studio at Park View Lodge on The Street in West Raynham will be opening over Easter, from Good Friday to Easter Monday, i.e. 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th April from 10am to 4pm inclusive, and look out for the pavement signs.

There will be a wide choice of unique contemporary interpretations of the wild North Norfolk coast. Come and say hello and take a look - no obligation to buy! See more images on my website at: www.turton-artist.com.



Kevin Turton.

Subscription to 'Which?' Magazine

The Solar Fund committee have kindly agreed to sponsor an initial year's subscription to the monthly Which? magazine starting from March 2023. The organisation is famous for making comparisons between products and services. It is entirely independent and uses member subscriptions to finance in-depth research into all manner of consumer interest areas from electrical goods to travel, cars, insurance, financial services, health and many more.

The monthly Which? magazine will be available in a plastic cover and placed on the table in the West Raynham Reading Room. Please do not take the magazine away from the building but leave it in place for others to enjoy. A binder to build up a Which? magazine archive will also be supplied.

Tony Myers.

West Raynham Control Tower - 2023 Events



Opening times are 10am to 4pm on the following dates:

Open Weekend - Sat. 27th and Sun. 28th May

Cockpit Weekend - Sat. 22nd July and Sun. 23rd July

Open Weekend - Sat. 9th and Sun. 10th September

Fish and Chips Supper - 23rd September

This year's fish and chip supper will be on 23rd September with Tropics Two once again supplying the food. There will be live entertainment supplied by Glen Cooper. More information to follow nearer the time but please make a note of the date if you would like to take part.

Melvin Forman.



West Raynham Plant Stall

There are plants for sale on the stall including several pots of bulbs with some in flower. However, with the sharp cold spells this winter many of the other plants are only just wakening from their dormancy, so it is going to be a while before they are ready for sale. Please do keep an eye out during April as new plants will appear when available.

At the moment I have plenty of large and small pots, but I never seem to have enough of the medium size measuring 13-16cm in diameter or 5-6.5 inches. So, if you have some that you don't need, please leave them at the stall. As always, all the proceeds from the plant sales go to Guide Dogs.

Bryan Welton.

RHS Certificate of Recognition



On 31st March the Raynham's Gardening Club presented Bryan with a certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), and a card signed by all the Gardening Club members.

The RHS award is to recognise and celebrate Bryan's work in running the plant stall in West Raynham over the last eight years to raise over £1,500 for Guide Dogs. Bryan also has considerable knowledge and experience in garden design which he willingly shares with anyone looking for advice.

Raynham Art Club

I am delighted to confirm that our group's first session will be held in West Raynham Village Hall from 10am to 2pm on Tuesday 4th April, and the same time on Tuesdays thereafter. It is free of charge, and I hope will be great fun. There will be a break for tea/coffee at some point in the morning. See you then!

Rowena Buckeridge.

Raynham's Book Club

A small friendly group meets at the beginning of each month to talk about the books they are reading. The next couple of meetings are scheduled to start from 6pm on Wednesday 5th April at No. 28, The Street, and Wednesday 10th May at Park Lodge (next to ruins), both in West Raynham village. For more information email westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Modern Line Dancing

Classes are an hour long and take place on Thursdays from 7pm in the Village Hall. If you would like to try it out, then you are very welcome to 'drop-in' to any class to see how much fun it is. The cost is £6 for a single session. If you have any questions or for more information, please email westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Judy Pell.

Knit and Natter

We aim to hold sessions in the Village Hall every Saturday from 10am to midday. If you would like to join in, then please contact Janice on 07776 025040.

Janice Hankey.

Table Tennis

Change of arrangements for table tennis players: please phone or text Sandra on 07960 000147 for access to the Village Hall and leave Fridays clear for the bar nights.

Sandra Forsyth.

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.

West Raynham Nature Notes - March 2023

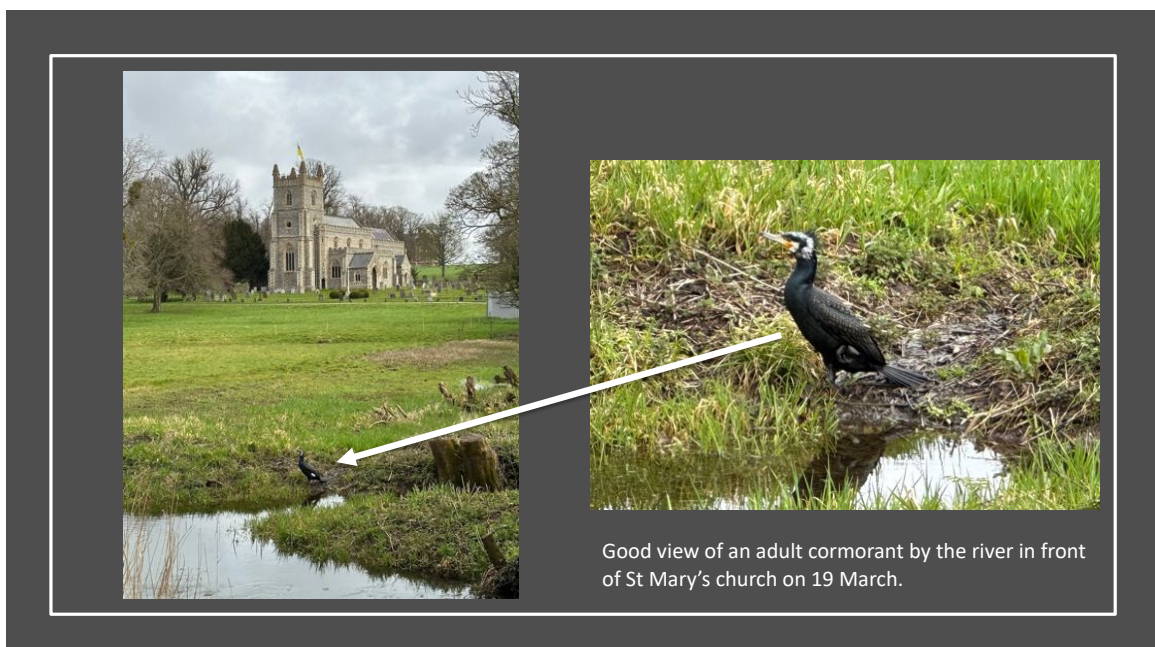
It's well known that one swallow does not make a summer, but seeing one through the drizzle over my garden on the last day of the month certainly made my day. Other arriving summer migrants have been few and far between so far; just a smattering of chiffchaffs offering their tuneless song and the far more melodious notes of blackcaps singing from ivy-clad trees down near the river.

We have had plenty of winter birds hanging on; lots of fieldfares and redwings, although the latter have gone now. More notably, I saw both brambling and redpoll on our garden feeders, both rare visitors in the village and all the more special for being right in our garden. Lapwings and snipe were still present mid-month up on the rough grazing land next to the solar farm, while down by Raynham Hall Lake, a pair of mandarin ducks was only my second record here.

The massive earthworks to create slit lagoons have been completed and the lake dredging will shortly begin. Throughout the month while the lagoons have been shaped, there has been an ever-present flock of black-headed and common gulls, occasionally joined by a few herring gulls. A pair of shelduck and a pair of oystercatchers probing along the muddy banks are perhaps early signs that interesting things might turn up over the coming weeks. Anticipation mounts...

At the very least, some nice, settled weather would be a bonus. It was never sunny for long enough to draw out any butterflies, so I still just have the one sighting of a comma back in February. On the other hand, it's been great from frogs and the spawn in our garden pond hatched en masse on 23rd March.

Here's hoping for a productive migration season. Who will be the first to hear a cuckoo this year along the river corridor? The first ones usually arrive mid-April. Do let me know if you find one.



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