

The Raynhams' Newsletter - March 2024

Dates for the Diary

- **Friday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th** - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30pm.
- **Saturday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th** - Creative Crafters in the Village Hall at 10am.
- **Wednesday 6th** - Raynham Book Club at Foundry Cottage, The Street, from 6pm.
- **Monday 11th** - Village Hall Committee meeting in the Village Hall from 6:30pm.
- **Thursday 14th, 21st, 28th** - Line dancing in the Village Hall from 7 to 8pm; drop-in sessions cost £6 per person. Note there is no class on the 7th.
- **Saturday 23rd** - Local Green Initiatives Forum at Helhoughton Village Church Hall from 2:30pm.
- **Monday 25th** - Easter Bingo in the Village Hall: Doors open at 6pm and eyes down from 7:30pm.
- **Wednesday 27th** - Raynham Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall from 7pm.
- **Friday 29th** - Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6pm.
- **Sunday 31st** - Easter Egg Hunt at Station HQ, West Raynham airbase.

Church Services



Palm Sunday
Sunday 24 March

10.30am at St Martin's, South Raynham



Easter Sunday
Sunday 31 March

10.30am at St Mary's, East Raynham

Local Green Initiatives Forum - Saturday 23rd March

Residents of Helhoughton, West Raynham and Tatterford are invited to a meeting to find out/share ideas on being more eco-friendly as individuals and communities.

Our speaker is Emeritus Professor Tim O'Riordan who established the internationally successful School of Environmental Science at the University of East Anglia. As Norfolk President of the Countryside Charity (formerly the Campaign to Protect Rural England) Tim is very knowledgeable about county issues.

This free event will take place at Helhoughton Village Church Hall on Saturday 23rd March from 2:30pm to approximately 3.45pm and will be followed by refreshments.

To express an interest and/or find out more, please contact Rob and Elizabeth Lodge on 01485 528744 or send an email to: elodge5@btinternet.com.

Coffee Morning - Wednesday 3rd April



Spring is just around the corner and the days are getting longer; it must be time for another West Raynham coffee morning! Not a fundraising event but a chance for people to just meet for a chat over coffee and cake. There will be a small charge for refreshments to cover costs. Why not come along, bring your friends and enjoy each other's company!

Talk on Ancient Jewellery - Wednesday 10th April

Ken Delve, who leads the Squadron HQ (SHQ) Project at the old West Raynham airbase, will be giving an illustrated talk on very ancient jewellery covering the Egyptian and Babylonian eras. The talk will take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th April at 6pm, and it will be free of charge, but donations can be given for activities at SHQ.

Would anyone interested in attending this event get in touch with me by email at rrbuckeridge@aol.com, so I can get an idea of possible numbers. It should be really fascinating!

Rowena Buckeridge.

Newsletter Contact Details & Past Issues

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

EASTER BINGO



MONDAY MARCH 25th
WEST RAYNHAM VILLAGE HALL
DOORS: 6pm EYES DOWN
7.30PM
RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



LOTS OF LOVLEY PRIZES
MORE INFO:
TRACY J - 07788882018
Text Only

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Katherine O'Shea
07793 563913

You can contact me on the above number or text/ Whatsapp me ... alternatively go directly to my Facebook page Happy Feet Norfolk where you will find direct links to my website www.happyfeetnorfolk.com and contact info.

(Accredited practitioner)

Raynham News Hounds

Would any Raynham dog owners like to be included in a WhatsApp group which we are considering setting up. I have often thought it would be nice to have a fast way to spread news relevant to our dog friends - particularly if anybody's dog gets lost, found, and for any useful info on good/bad vets, good suppliers of medicines, new dogs in the village and any problem dogs that it's handy to be aware of.

If you'd like to join then please let me know your mobile phone number which we will add to the group list; you will need to have WhatsApp on your phone. My email is rrbuckeridge@aol.com.

Rowena Buckeridge.

Watch Found

A wristwatch has been found on the grass verge near the old Methodist Chapel in West Raynham Please contact the Newsletter either by sending an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com or leaving a note at Foundry Cottage opposite the red phone box on The Street in West Raynham.



Events Plan for March to July 2024

Station HQ at West Raynham Airbase

Veterans Breakfasts

On the second Saturday of each month. We are now officially part of the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Clubs (AFVBC). For more information and to book a place please email us at: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk.

Events

In addition to the normal opening and project work at Station HQ (SHQ), we also plan to run a number of events each month; the provisional list for March to July is shown below. Do come and join us - and spread the word to friends and colleagues.

March

- Friday 1st - Sculpture unveiling from 10:00-12:00 in the Memorial Garden by Group Captain Wigglesworth, Station Command, RAF Marham. Unveiling ceremony at 10:45.
- Sunday 3rd - Canberra Day: XH135 cockpit plus Canberra Heritage Trust, presentations, photo albums and much more.
- Saturday 23rd - Great Tommy Sleep Out: Email us if you want to take part (bring your own tent!).
- Sunday 31st - Easter Egg Hunt: children's activities, SHQ mice stories, in conjunction with Scotty's Little Soldiers.

April

- Sunday 14th - Cold War History Day: Re-enactors - Checkpoint Charlie and others; History Displays; Canberra XH135 cockpit, short talks, Q&A, and more.

May

- Saturday 18th - Bomber Command Day with Lancaster flypast; Short talks and Q&A; Bomber Command VR experience; briefing room and then fly the mission.

June

- Sunday 9th - To be Confirmed.

July

- Saturday 6th - SHQ Annual Open Day: BBMF flypast; Military vehicles, Classic cars, Craft Stalls; Children's Fun Zone; Displays; Aviation and military East Anglia displays, Canberra Heritage Trust rooms, Military Gallantry display, and more

Follow us on Facebook or email us at: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk for more information.

West Raynham Control Tower and Heritage Collection Open Days 2024

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

Sample our home
made cakes in the
vintage Tea Shop

Blenheim Way, West Raynham NR21 7PL
westraynhamcontroltower@gmail.com
07707 292906



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

Open Days-

Sat 13th April
Sat 11th May
Sat 8th June
Sat 10th August
Sat 14th Sept

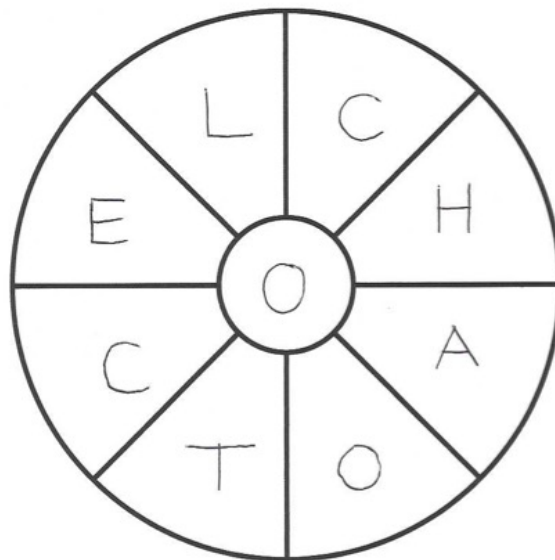
Open Cockpits
event-

Sat 13th and Sun
14th July

Word Wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words, or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found.

I found 21 altogether - not including the nine-letter word which is where I started when constructing the wheel; see if you can beat me! I bet there are more words in there that I missed. The words I found are listed on page 11 and include the nine-letter word - well done if you got that one!



Judy Pell.

February Photo Competition

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos last month and Paula has chosen the following two images for February.



Winner: Bryan Welton



Runner-up: Debbie Lamont

Deadline for March photos: by 5pm on Wednesday 27th

Email your images to westray.newsletter@gmail.com

Details

Photos must be of local relevance and taken during 2023 or 2024. Digital images must be in LANDSCAPE not portrait orientation; be of high resolution (min. 300 dpi); full size (not cropped), and relevant to The Raynhams. Sorry but we cannot accept any printed photographs or images.

Recipe Corner: Simnel Cake

This month I have a recipe for Simnel cake which is a cake associated with Easter. I'm not sure where I got the recipe from, but I think it is a simplification of the traditional one which has layers of marzipan and marzipan balls on the top rather than little Easter eggs.

The 11 marzipan balls (or eggs in my case) are said to represent the 12 apostles minus Judas Iscariot although some recipes have 12 to represent Jesus and the 11 remaining apostles.



Easter isn't the only religious celebration this month; there are also the festivals of Ramadan (Muslim), Holi (Hindu) and Purim (Jewish) all of which have special foods. So, if you fancy doing something different with your lamb then look up some Ramadan recipes on the BBC Good Food website at: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>. Alternatively, you can try recipes for sweet treats like Gujiya (for Holi) and Hamantaschen (for Purim) which can also be found on the BBC website. Of course, we also have St. David's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday this month, so lots of opportunities to celebrate.

SIMNEL CAKE

Ingredients

Cake :-
4oz butter / marg
2 large or 3 medium eggs - beaten
2oz corn flour
1 1/2 tbsp baking powder
1 tbsp cinnamon
1/2 tbsp ground nutmeg
1/2 tbsp mixed spice
4oz caster sugar
6oz plain flour
2oz ground almonds
100-175 ml milk
optional 6oz dried fruit

Topping :-
2oz ground almonds
4 tbsp double cream
2 tbsp caster sugar
chocolate eggs (11 for the 11 apostles - Judas)

Oven = Gas Mark 3

Cake
Cream together the butter and sugar until its light and fluffy. Add the eggs and milk and fold in the flour, corn flour, baking powder, almonds and combine. Add spices and fold in fruit.

Grease and line a 20cm 8" deep cake tin. Pour in the mixture and bake for 1 hour. Test with a skewer. Cool for 5 minutes, remove and cool.

Topping
- mix almonds/sugar. Stir in the cream and spread over the top of the cake just before serving.

If you have a treasured recipe which you are happy to share, then please contact: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Judy Pell.

February Fill Dyke

We are all aware that it's been a very wet autumn and winter, but locally February has surpassed it all. The weather station at nearby Houghton Hall has recorded TRIPLE the February rainfall, and that was days before the month's end.

However, February has had a reputation of being a wet month for some considerable time either from rain or melting snow, though personally as it's my birthday month, around my birthday there has been some lovely weather!

FEBRUARY FILL DYKE it is called and there is a traditional country rhyme:

February fill the dyke,
Be it black or white,
But if it be white,
It's the better to like.

The rhyme refers to heavy rain [black] or snow [white] filling the ditches in wintertime.

Artists too have painted February Fill Dyke, among them the wonderful watercolour painter Rowland Hilder.

'February Fill Dyke'
Artist: Rowland Hilder



Locally the River Wensum has overflowed several times this winter, more than I can remember seeing before.

I used to live on a high hill overlooking the Severn valley near Welshpool, and each winter the rain would come down from the Welsh mountains and turn the flood plains of the valley into a vast lake. Flood plains have a use, and we ignore this at our peril.



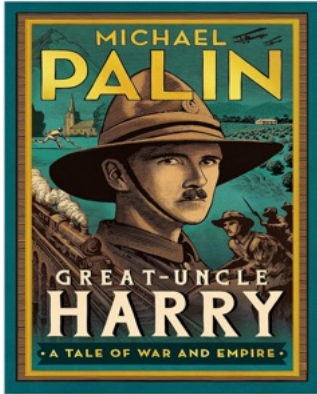
Let's hope that March is just a bit less wet!

Bryan Welton.

Great Uncle Harry

This month features an alternative local 'ramble' without dogs but linking into a recent factual book which I hope will be of interest to some of you.

Whilst reading Michael Palin's fascinating biographical account of his 'Great Uncle Harry', (Hutchinson Heinemann, 2023), I was drawn to the fact that his grandfather, Edward 'Eddy' Palin (1868-1937), the eldest son of Edward and Brita Palin, had been a Doctor in Fakenham.



He had lived with his family and three servants who were Florence Emma Bartaby, aged 25, cook from Colkirk; Florence Getrude Park, 25, housemaid from Whissonsett, and Laura Williamson, 21, children's nurse from Oak Street in Fakenham (1911 Census), and the house had a garden bounded by the infamous 'crinkle crinkle' wall.

Palin writes of seeing: "photos of his Fakenham garden with its distinctive brick wall built in a series of sinuous, wavy curves".

Crinkle crinkle walls are thought to have originated in ancient Egypt and are relatively common in Suffolk. Their undulating appearance means that they are constructed with a thickness of only one brick rather than two thereby reducing cost but maintaining strength. This immediately caught my interest and I set about discovering its location on my next trip into the town.

Research online revealed that the Grade II listed wall could be located behind the Connect building (at the rear of the library). Repair works to the crinkle crinkle wall have recently been completed. The estimated cost for the works was initially £120,000 but the final repairs came to £224,000 which enabled more advanced structural work to take place thus preserving this unique heritage architecture (Eastern Daily Press, 24th February 2024).

So, armed with this knowledge I set off on my voyage of discovery. Lo and behold, although I was unable to locate the exact house in which Edward lived, I did find the crinkle crinkle wall which I walked alongside.



I noted the doors in the wall on the outside which made me wonder if these would have led into Edward's garden and were still in use.

However, due to the height of the wall, I was unable to explore any further but left feeling that I had enriched my reading with a local piece of history.

The book itself is a fascinating read as it follows Harry's adult life in India as part of the British Empire and then in New Zealand where he joined the New Zealand army at the outbreak of World War I, along with a work colleague.



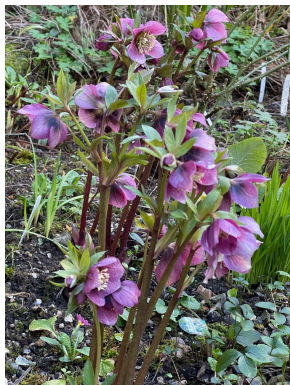
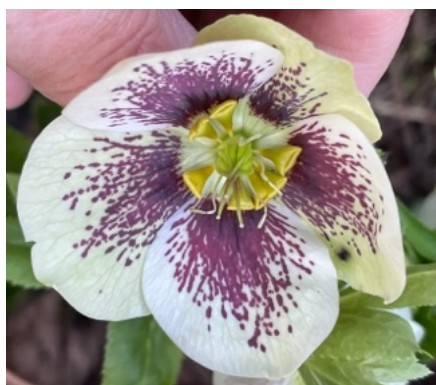
In this capacity, he fought in Gallipoli, which he survived, before being sent to France. Although he was not directly involved in the initial Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916, he was killed later in the same year near Factory Corner. His remains were not located but he is commemorated on the memorial wall at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

Debbie Lamont.

The Raynhams' Gardening Club - Hellebores

Many of you will know and grow Hellebores in your gardens; they flower from January, if mild, until March and you can leave their flowers on to form seedheads and with luck get new seedlings, which will be potluck in terms of their colour, but that's part of the fun.

Helleborus orientalis mainly originates from the mountain areas of the southeast Balkans. They are an edge of woodland plant so like some shade as well as some sun. In terms of soil conditions, a leafy damp soil is perfect for them, but I have had them seed into my sunny dry border and do well, so I think they will do well in a variety of situations.



If you do get seedlings, then you can have some idea of the flower colour by looking at the colour of the stem. If it is green then the flowers will be lighter colours like white or cream, if the stem is darker then the flowers will be darker colours such as burgundy. But it won't give you any indication if they are speckled or not.

If you pick hellebore flowers and put them in a vase they will wilt in a few hours. So, the answer is to fill a shallow bowl with water, pick individual flowers off and float them on the water. They will last some days and you are able to look at the individual details of the flowers.

Most plants sold are hybrids, that is crosses of the *orientalis* plants. This information was given to me many years ago by Rosemary Verey, a great plantswoman who designed gardens for Elton John as well as King Charles at Highgrove.

Another plantswoman Beth Chatto had this to say about hellebores:

An extract from Beth Chatto's *Shade Garden*:

'There is something heart-stopping about the earliest flowers, particularly the snowdrops and Lenten roses (*Helleborus x hybridus*). At this bleak time of year they evoke strong emotions, often more intense for me than the 'gaudy flowers' of summer. Is it because they return unfailingly with the coming of the light, their delicate beauty concealing an unshakable life force? Or just that there is comparatively little else at this time of year?'



Hellebores grow well with other early flowers like snowdrops, winter aconites, cyclamen, pulmonaria and dwarf iris.

There is another type of hellebore you can grow which is from the Mediterranean - *Helleborus corsicus* and this is found high in the mountains of Corsica. It has green flowers that emit a slightly musky scent. It amazes me that the flowers start to form at the end of November and will last until April. Several of these plants can be found at the base of the wall beside the plant stall on The Street.



The last type of hellebore that is both grown in gardens and found in the wild is *Helleborus foetidus* or the stinking hellebore. I haven't gone down on my knees to smell it but possibly best avoided. The plant is naturalised in the wild in England and I have had one grow from seed on my drive. It is beautiful with green flowers like *H. corsicus*.

I should say that hellebores are toxic when eaten but I have never had a problem with handling them.

Bryan Welton.

Word Wheel Answers

Coo, Cot, Hoe, Hot, Loo, Lot, Toe, Too, Coat, Clot, Cola, Cole, Colt, Coot, Halo, Holt, Hoot, Loot, Tole, Tool, Loath. Nine letter word = Chocolate (thinking of all those Easter eggs!).

Moth Trapping - Survey of Gardens in 2023

During July 2023 moth trapping was carried out in several gardens and sites throughout The Raynams. This survey was a repeat of one done initially in July 2021, when I first started recording moths. This time round I had the considerable expertise of Maire Spurrier from The Drove to help with the species identifications. All moths were released after being identified.

In total 98 species were identified from 701 individual moths caught on seven nights of moth trapping (Table 1). Forty-five species were recorded from the capture of a single individual and a further 45 species were based on finding between two and ten individuals. The most common species from all sites was the Garden grass-moth, making up 19% of the total number of moths identified in this short survey (Table 2).

Table 1: Sample dates and summary of moth catches.

Sample dates	Garden/site	Number of individuals	Number of species
11/12-Jul	East Raynham	131	30
12/13-Jul	Old Bakehouse	75	27
13/14-Jul	Hollow Lane	94	25
219/0-Jul	21 The Street	91	26
20/21-Jul	Bowling Green	63	27
21/22-Jul	12 The Street	92	29
28/29-Jul	Control Tower	155	29
	TOTAL	701	98

Table 2: Top five species recorded in the garden surveys.

Latin Name	Common name	No. recorded	Caterpillar food plants
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden grass-moth	131	Grasses
<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	Common Footman	85	Lichens
<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria/ blanda</i>	Uncertain/Rustic agg.	82	Herbs
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	71	Herbs, grasses
<i>Mesapamea secalis agg.</i>	Common rustic agg.	50	Grasses

Thirty-eight of the 98 species found in these July garden surveys were not recorded during the more regular moth trapping done from April to October at Foundry Cottage. Some of the 'unique' species included the Dun-bar, Eyed Hawk-moth, Peppered moth and the Diamond-back moth.

In late February the moth records were uploaded by the County Recorder to the Norfolk Moths website at: <https://www.norfolkmoths.co.uk/>.

Maire and I would like to thank all our neighbours who gave us permission to carry out the moth surveys in their gardens.

Paresh Shah.

Joseph Arch's Parliamentary Campaign in North-West Norfolk

The campaign to extend voting rights to the mass of agricultural labourers, the vast majority of whom rented their cottages, was central to the union's policy platform from its inception, and one which Joseph Arch tirelessly promoted. In 1884, twelve years after founding of the national union (NALU), their efforts were rewarded when Gladstone introduced his Representation of the People Bill, extending the franchise for the first time to rural labourers. For Arch this was a huge triumph, recording in his memoirs that 1884 was "the great year of my life. We had the vote at last; we were now politically alive and existent; and there were those amongst us who intended to use that existence to the utmost of our power in pressing forward our best interests". He urged labourers to organise and educate themselves so that their votes had maximum impact, even offering them the assistance of the union to this end: "If you expect Tory parsons and Tory squires, or any of their agents, to educate you, you will be deceived. You must read and think for yourselves". At a meeting in Swaffham, Arch told the assembled labourers "Now the welfare of the country depends on you, and I should like you to use your power for the good of the country".

Inevitably, talk of Arch as the labourers' representative in Parliament intensified. Norfolk labourers were enthusiastic for Arch to be their candidate, and local union activists proposed his name to Norfolk Liberal Associations. Walsingham district organiser Zacharias Walker was keen to seize the moment, aware that the Liberal Association were used to a few gentlemen meeting to select the candidate, but "we will see them up in the moon before they shall have it their own way now....the labourers mean to have Joseph Arch and no surrender".

An early signal from the Freebridge Division (about to be changed to North-West Norfolk) suggested he might become the nominee there. Yet the labourers feared Arch might not win selection and demanded that, as new voters outnumbered existing ones by three to one in the rural areas, labourers should have a substantial influence on the Liberal Hundred, the body responsible for candidate selection. In April 1885, a febrile and overcrowded meeting at the Crown Hotel, Rudham, endorsed this view with Arch announcing his intention to stand, arguing that delegates to the Hundred should properly represent the electorate. Echoing this, NALU elders Walker and John Wingfield insisted that the Hundred should be fully representative. Fakenham Liberal Association, tasked with organising elections for the Hundred, received the message loud and clear and, in acceding to requests for fairness, announced that elections were based on one delegate per 500 head of population within the division, which numbered around 51,000.

Arch soon had his endorsement. On 5th May, he attended a meeting of the North-West Norfolk Liberal Constituency Selection Committee at Blackfriars Hall, Kings Lynn. The candidacy was a straight choice between Arch and Sir William Brampton Gurdon, an Eton-educated civil servant, with Arch winning the selection vote by 64 votes to 36. Even after his handsome victory, however, eight of those present refused to endorse his candidacy, perhaps a sign that the idea of an agricultural labourer as a Parliamentary candidate was a concept some were not ready to embrace. It was in many ways the perfect constituency for Arch, predominantly rural and with large numbers of agricultural labourers.

Norfolk labourers had their man and were euphoric. Throughout the summer, Arch addressed meetings across Norfolk including in Massingham, Helhoughton, East Rudham, Sculthorpe and Fakenham. These were attended by hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people at a time. All NALU districts reported high excitement in the branches. At a huge Bank Holiday meeting on Holkham beach, a crowd of between six and seven thousand heard Arch deliver "a thrilling address" on religious and political subjects. At the Lynn Arms, Syderstone, Arch remembered how, years earlier, he had walked through deep and drifted snow to the same venue to talk to labourers about the union, in the days before they had the vote. Now they had the franchise, he wanted to guide them to vote according to their best interests. As well as stirring up interest in union matters, Arch had now done the same for politics. In villages such as Sculthorpe, East Barsham and Fulmodeston, meetings of Liberals were held for the first time, discussing land reform, education, free trade and the Poor Laws. The Norfolk countryside was feverish with political talk.

Farm workers were keen to discuss their newly conferred rights and the impact they might have. Even before Arch's selection, mock ballots in villages across Norfolk had helped labourers understand the electoral process and judging the relative virtues of different candidates. Ballots particularly helped the illiterate; of 8,282 voters at the election, at least 550 were illiterate. Arch recalled the clever wife of one illiterate labourer who had no idea where to mark his ballot paper: "You can't read but you can count. A-R-C-H that is four letters, B-E-N-T-I-N-C-K (his Tory opponent) that is eight, so draw the cross opposite the four letters".

Disturbed by Arch's popularity, the establishment attempted to bring him down. Opposition attacks centred on Arch not being a Norfolk man and accusing him of being no friend to the farm labourers, falsely claiming he was "robbing the labourers of 18s out of every pound they put into the union". The *Lynn Advertiser* labelled Arch a "Revolutionary Radical who wishes to pull down the old constitution of England and reconstruct it on the lines of Messrs Bradlaugh and Chamberlain". He also faced opposition and intimidation at his public meetings. A gang of navvies laying a new railway line to South Lynn once overheard talk of Tory roughs planning to set about Arch at an upcoming meeting. Arch recalled the incident: "They sent a troop of men down to one of my meetings to cripple me. They gave them five shillings and a gallon of beer each". The navvies turned up at the meeting, thrashing the men 'most unmercifully' when they commenced their assault.

Farmers' sons were often despatched to his meetings to disrupt them. There was a good deal of resentment from the farming community that the Liberal Party seemed to be focussing its attention on the newly enfranchised labourers at their expense. This intimidation did not deter Arch, his uncompromising stance underpinned by the motto "Face the foe and don't fear the fall". Many farmers warned their labourers that they would be dismissed if they voted for Arch to which Arch suggested that labourers march in unison to polling stations "with one of your best men at the head" to avoid intimidation. Yet, recognising that complete belligerence against farmers would be self-defeating, Arch attempted to court them, meeting on behalf of NALU with the Farmers Alliance and agreeing a set of objectives to: stimulate land cultivation by obtaining security for tenant farmers' capital investments; promote laws relating to the ownership and transfer of land; abolish tithe rent charges to tenant farmers by landowners; reform the Game Laws, and

improve cottage accommodation and allocation of allotments. It was a sign that Arch had developed his political and negotiating skills and adopted an inclusive campaign approach.

Parliament was dissolved in November and the election battle went into full swing. Arch and his wife moved to Norfolk, staying (fittingly) at the Temperance Hotel in Kings Lynn. His 16-point manifesto was printed in the local press calling for free trade in food items, secular education, disestablishment of the Church, closure of public houses on a Sunday (except to travellers), international arbitration instead of war, and reform of the House of Lords. As a concession to farmers, he included support for reform of the Agricultural Holdings Acts to give greater security of tenure to tenant farmers.

The election on 8th December passed off peacefully, despite extra police being drafted in Fakenham and Kings Lynn in case of disorder. It was a cold day, punctuated by flurries of

The following is an analysis of the polling :-

Polling Place.	No. on Register	No. Polled,
Middleten	430	380
Raynham	193	161
Rudham	328	270
Stibbard	333	258
Terrington StClement	663	564
" " John ...	397	273
Thornham	377	277
Tilney-cum-Ilington	545	162
Walpole	360	292
Walsoken	591	543
Walton	369	314
Wiggenhall	177	147
Burnham	473	387
Castleacre	326	280
Castle Rising	153	120
Creake	405	353
Dersingham	661	495
Deking	611	510
Emneth	196	162
Fakenham	882	699
Grimston	484	370
Hunstanton	528	441
Lynn	853	638
Massingham	290	232
	10,441	8,328
Papers which wanted official mark ...		2
Voted for more candidates than one ...		4
Writing or mark by which voters could be identified ...		13
Unmarked, or uncertainty as to whom elector voted for ...		26
Total for Mr. Arch		4461
" For Lord H. Bentinck		3821
Total		8327

Polling breakdown from the 1885 election (English Labourers Chronicle)

snow, but the weather did not deter the labourers from walking, in some cases many miles, to register their vote. When the result was announced the following day at Kings Lynn Town Hall, Arch was declared the winner, with 4,461 votes to 3,821 for Lord Henry Bentinck, an old-school Tory. Arch, appearing from one of the Liberal Club-room windows, gave a gracious speech in which he forgave the attacks upon him by his opponents: "During this election campaign I have not said any unkind things about my opponent, but I am sorry to say that I cannot say the same with regard to some who have worked for the noble lord. However, I always like to write my blessings upon marble, and the ill remarks which are used towards me upon the sands - upon the sands of your Norfolk shore, where the first incoming tide will wash them all away". He thanked his supporters and promised to serve them faithfully. The assembled crowd, wearing their blue and white favours, were jubilant, cheering Arch and his wife on their way to the station, at one point unharnessing the horse from his carriage and pulling it themselves.

On their way to Swaffham, Arch displayed a board visible from the train, which read 'Joseph Arch MP'. In an extraordinary victory, Arch became the first agricultural labourer elected to Parliament. The next day's *Eastern Evening News* summarised Arch's achievement aptly:

"This is perhaps the most notable victory in the county. The candidates are not only of opposite opinions, but stand as it were at the two extremities of social life. Lord Bentinck is an aristocrat, while Mr Joseph Arch began life as a labourer. It is not only a triumph for Liberalism, it is a memorable victory for all the working orders throughout England. Mr Arch has obtained a majority smaller than might have been anticipated, but it must be remembered that he had against him the whole force of squirearchy and clericalism, to which may be added the hostility of the tenant farmers."

The London press was also impressed, with the *Pall Mall Gazette* commenting that Arch was:

"-- so staunch a Liberal in so Tory a place as Norfolk. Mr Arch has been one of the best abused men of the time. Noble lords have ridiculed him and reverend prelates have wanted to duck him in the horsepond. Mr Arch now has the revenge - than which one may imagine none could be sweeter - of beating a live lord and the heir to a dukedom."

**TO THE ELECTORS
OF
NORTH-WEST NORFOLK.**

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER a prolonged and severe contest you have returned me to the Imperial Parliament as your Representative. In expressing my sincere thanks for the very high honour you have conferred upon me, I feel no form of language can adequately express my gratitude, nor my sense of the responsible work you have confided to my charge.

To all those who, in addition to their votes, have given much valuable time, and rendered helpful service in promoting my election, I tender my warmest acknowledgments.

To the Agricultural labourers and the industrial classes generally, I feel specially indebted for the loyal support they have given to those Liberal principles which I have held all my life, and whose votes have materially aided in securing my return.

Obediently yours,
JOSEPH ARCH.

Barford, Warwickshire,
December 14th, 1885. (12097--9355)

Arch thanks the voters of North-West Norfolk (Downham Market Gazette, 1885)

Arch recalled how devastated the Tories were to lose the seat for the first time in sixty or seventy years. Rejecting any notions of slavishly following class interests, he was keen to be inclusive - as representative of both the Prince of Wales (Sandringham was in his constituency), and the farm labourers, he pledged that neither would have reason to be ashamed of him.

Phil Henshaw.