

# The Raynhams' Newsletter - October 2024

## Dates for the Diary

- Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30pm.
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> - Creative Crafters in Village Hall from 10am to midday.
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> - Mobile library at West Raynham bus shelter from 9:30 to 9:45am.
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - Bingo night at The Airman's Arms from 7pm. Book to reserve places.
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - Updates on the project for St Margaret's ruins starting at 6pm in the Village Hall with refreshments provided.
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Village Hall Committee meeting starting at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Morning in Helhoughton Village Hall from 10am to midday for ShelterBox which provides emergency shelter to families in conflict & disaster zones.
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - The Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6 to 7pm.
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> - Christmas light switch-on and disco at The Airman's Arms from 5pm.

## Church Services

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - St Mary's, East Raynham, from 10.50am: *Remembrance Sunday*.
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30am.
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - St Martin's, South Raynham, from 10:30am.



# COFFEE MORNING

More than thirty people enjoyed an array of cakes and savouries and the chance to catch up on all the local gossip over a cup of coffee last month.

With your help, and an extremely generous donation from Katie Mead's family, we raised £320 that will be put towards providing a bench for the churchyard in her memory.

Thank you everyone for your generosity





## Newsletter Contact Details and Past Issues

- [westray.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westray.newsletter@gmail.com) - To send in articles or manage subscriptions.
- <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents> - To download previous Newsletters.
- Recent issues available to view in West Raynham Reading Room.

## Car Vandalism

In recent weeks there have been at least three separate incidents of nails placed under car tyres in The Street in West Raynham, as shown in the pictures below. Two involved residents' cars, and another was found under a visitor's car. It is possible there were other such incidents that went unnoticed, and victims may have experienced punctures at some point after driving off.

This is extremely dangerous and criminal. The police have been informed and are investigating. If anyone has any information related to this, please contact Norfolk Police, either by calling 101 or reporting online at <https://www.norfolk.police.uk>.



## Christmas Party - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Party in the Village Hall from 12:30 to 4:30pm. If you would like to attend then please let Debbie Lamont know by email to: [rabbits\\_peterrabbit@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rabbits_peterrabbit@yahoo.co.uk), or call 07736 459221.

Any donations gratefully received for a raffle prize draw. Please can you leave any nice gifts or items in the Reading Room and Debbie will keep an eye out for donations.

West Raynham  
Village Hall  
Christmas  
Party

14<sup>th</sup> December 2024

12:30-16:30 in the Village Hall

Please join us for a fun filled afternoon.

Delicious hog roast, mince pies, wines,  
carol singing and a fantastic raffle.

RSVP to Debbie please at [rabbits\\_peterrabbit@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rabbits_peterrabbit@yahoo.co.uk)  
or via 07736 459221

## Cecil West

In August 2023 I asked for help to trace descendants of Private Cecil West, a soldier from West Raynham who died in Belgium in August 1917. A lady from Attleborough had contacted me to say that she had found a bronze plaque with Cecil's name on it, and she was keen to return it to his family.

These individual memorial plaques, with a commemorative scroll, were issued in 1919/20 to the next of kin of all soldiers killed during the war, in acknowledgement of their sacrifice.

With help from this Newsletter, readers didn't disappoint. Cecil's sister, Emma, married Amram Brown in 1916 and, with help from Carole Clarke in Fakenham, contact was made with her grandson, Brian 'Bimbo' Brown, who still lives locally. A meeting was arranged and the plaque returned to the family in September this year. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen.

Cecil will be among those remembered, by name, at the War Memorial during the Remembrance Sunday service in East Raynham at 10.50am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.



## Private Cecil Edward West

### 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Cecil was baptised, at the age of nine weeks, in St Mary's, East Raynham on 15 July 1883 with his 4-year-old sister, Beecher and 2-year-old brother, Wallace.

The family - parents John and Eliza, and a total of eight children, lived at number 53 in West Raynham. John was an iron founder, and later a moulder, probably in the iron foundry in the centre of the village. Cecil was to join him there, also as an iron moulder, when he left school in Helhoughton at around 14.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1917, at the age of 33, Cecil enlisted as a Private with the Suffolk Regiment though was later to transfer to the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was killed four months later on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

The 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been part of the 48<sup>th</sup> Division in action at the Battle of Langemarck, at Ypres in Belgium and were billeted near Reigersberg. The regimental war diaries record the following:

"[Companies of the Warwickshire Regiment] moved into positions previously reconnoitred for them and they dug themselves in as far as was possible under the appalling weather conditions. During the greater part of the night rain was falling and the ground became more and more difficult to traverse"

"The morning [of the 27<sup>th</sup>] gave promise of a fine day, but the ground allowed no opportunity for drying, as several showers fell. The men remained concealed in their positions, apparently unobserved by the enemy, until 'Zero' (1.55pm). The five Coys [companies] then attacked under cover of our artillery and MG [machine gun] Barrage, but



owing to the activity of the enemy's MGs and to a much greater extent the impassibility of the ground, the final objectives laid down in operation orders were not gained"

Edward Vaughan, who led the advance of the support company, described the scene: "Shells were pouring onto the St Julian - Triangle Road as we advanced, and through the clouds of smoke and fountains of water I saw ahead the lines of figures struggling through the mud. It only took us 5 minutes ... but in that time I saw, with a sinking heart, that the lines had wavered, broken and almost disappeared."

Cecil was one of 35 in the Battalion killed that day, with a further 83 wounded and 54 missing. He had never married and on file there is a statement made by his sister, Sophia, and witnessed by the Revd Malcolm McLean, Rector of East Raynham, that he had stated, before leaving for the front in June, that in the event of his death he wished to leave all his personal effects to his mother.

Cecil was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

*Bridget Howarth.*

	<p><b>Remembrance Sunday</b></p> <p>The Annual Act of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 10 November at St Mary's Church in East Raynham</p> <p>The service will begin at 10.50am, with Two Minutes Silence and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial at 11.00am</p> <p>All welcome</p> <p><b>We Will Remember Them</b></p>
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## St Mary's Church

The Raynham Estate have kindly agreed to mow the churchyard before Remembrance Sunday. A group of us will be going up on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and/or Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November to generally tidy and trim around gravestones, and to clean the church. If you would like to join us, please send an email to: [Stmaryseastraynham@gmail.com](mailto:Stmaryseastraynham@gmail.com), so that we can coordinate times.

We have been so grateful to have received a number of offers of help with the church and churchyard, and this would be an opportunity to discuss how this might be achieved in future.

## St Margaret's Project Receives Heritage Fund Support

We wanted to update residents on exciting developments at the village's much-loved ruin, St Margaret's. As readers will be aware, the ruin has deteriorated significantly in recent years following the last round of stabilisation work in the late 1990s, and we recently had to rope it off entirely because of the danger of "catastrophic collapse". This has meant that, for the time being, access to the building itself, including for occasional open-air services, is not possible. However, we now have the exciting prospect of significant funding to stabilise the ruin and manage it in the long term.

A group of concerned residents came together and set up a charity, the St Margaret's in Ruins Conservation Trust (SMIRCT), to raise funds for the site. SMIRCT has taken over the day-to-day running of St Margaret's from the Parochial Church Council, having been granted a 25-year lease on the ruin by the diocese of Norwich. The group has already enjoyed the heartening support of the community in various ways including volunteering as well as backing from the Solar Fund, and without this support we would not be where we are now. So, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far.

That said, the sums needed to stabilise St Margaret's are well beyond what can reasonably be raised in the village, so SMIRCT applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are delighted to report that the Heritage Fund has chosen to support the initial phase of works which includes emergency scaffolding and fencing and the thorough investigation of what needs to be done to secure the site in the longer term. You will see scaffolding and fencing going up on the site in the coming weeks and, once in place, this should remove the possibility of catastrophic collapse before the full fundraising application is submitted.



The local volunteers at SMIRCT are hard at work developing the project, but we still need your help because, for the Heritage Fund to provide the far larger sums needed for the actual stabilisation, they need to see consistent, strong local support. This can be in the form of continued volunteering for the maintenance work in the churchyard or by agreeing to make a modest financial contribution, or both. The key is that even quite small amounts raised locally will be massively boosted by the Heritage Fund, but only if they see that local support.

The Trustees of SMIRCT would like to take the opportunity to provide a more detailed briefing on the St Margaret's project to any residents who might be interested. We invite all those keen to hear more to attend a meeting at the Village Hall at **6pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. Refreshments will be provided.

The Trustees of SMIRCT are Alan Forsyth, James Hickman, Anne-Marie Martin and David Stubbs.

## Village Hall Committee

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October and we are pleased to announce the following officers and members were elected/confirmed for the coming year:

David Stubbs (Chair)	Janice Hankey
Debbie Lamont (Secretary)	Tracy Joliffe
Melvin Forman (Treasurer)	Jessie Neale
David Sidell (Representing Parish Council)	Tony Myers (new member)
Sandra Forsyth	Frances Neale (new member)

There were no outgoing members this time. However, Andy Mead, who has been our regular barman and cleaner for the last three years, has decided to stand down. His last shift will be to run the bar on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - please do come along that evening to wish him well and have a drink among friends. The Committee gave a vote of thanks to Andy.

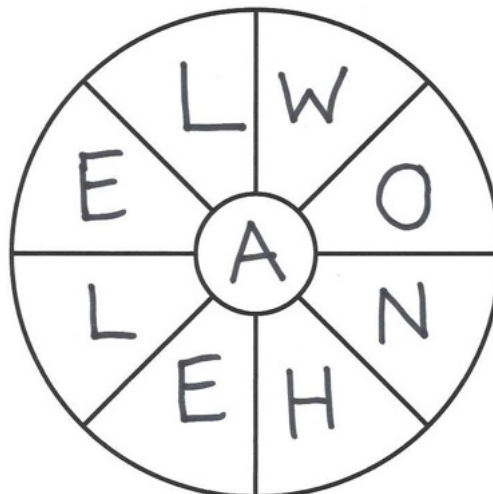
The first meeting of the new committee will be on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm** in the West Raynham Village Hall. Subsequent meeting dates will be set at this meeting.

Raynham residents are very welcome to attend Village Hall Committee meetings as observers and there is a standing agenda item for anyone to raise matters with the committee, provided they have given the Secretary notice that they wish to do so. A copy of the minutes of our meetings can be found in the Reading Room or requested from the Secretary.

All correspondence with the committee or enquiries about hiring the hall should be addressed to [westraynham.vhc@gmail.com](mailto:westraynham.vhc@gmail.com) or posted in the Village Hall letter box.

## 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, and you may not use plurals, foreign words, or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be discovered. I obtained 20 words altogether, not including the nine-letter word which is where I started when constructing the wheel. The words I found are listed on page 8 and include the nine-letter word - well done if you got that one!





**CHRISTMAS  
BINGO**

MONDAY - DECEMBER 2nd  
WEST RAYNHAM VILLAGE  
HALL

DOORS: 6pm EYES DOWN  
7.30PM

RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE

EVERYONE WELCOME  
LOTS OF LOVLEY PRIZES

MORE INFO:  
TRACY J - 07788882018

*Text Only*

The Airman's Arms

**BINGO**

**Saturday 16th November**

Book you seat with the bar staff | Buy your books from 7 PM | Eyes down at 7:30 PM

**GUARANTEED CASH PRIZES**

*Booking your seat is essential as spaces are limited*

The Airman's Arms

**Christmas Light  
Switch-On  
& DISCO!**

**Saturday 30th November - All Ages Welcome!**

*Open from 5 PM for Hot chocolate & drinks  
Switch-on at 5:30 PM*



*Christmas  
Carol Service*

**CAROL SERVICE**  
MUSIC and READINGS for  
CHRISTMAS

with mulled wine and mince pies

St Mary's Church  
East Raynham

6pm

on Christmas Eve,  
Tuesday 24th December

## Recipe Corner - Prosecco Cake

The coffee morning in October raised funds to go towards a seat planned for St. Margaret's ruins in memory of Katie Mead. Everyone knew that Katie loved a glass of prosecco - or as she called it - "prosetto". For that reason, we thought it would be fitting to have a prosecco cake in her honour and searched for a recipe.

The one we went with was from Olive Magazine (<https://www.olivemagazine.com>) and the feedback from those who tried it was that it was very tasty. If any of you would like to try it, then here's the recipe. I found that there was way more 'orange juice, sugar, prosecco mix' for soaking the sponges than was needed (maybe they were extra juicy oranges) so go carefully with the mix, but apart from that it was relatively simple - hope you enjoy it.

### For the sponges:

200g unsalted butter  
200g golden caster sugar  
4 eggs  
175g self-raising flour  
50g ground almonds  
150ml prosecco  
2 oranges (zest and juice)  
100g granulated sugar

### For the filling:

300ml double cream  
1tsp vanilla bean paste  
1 tbsp icing sugar  
1 orange (zest plus 1 tbsp of juice)

Heat the oven to 180 deg. C (160 deg. C for fan ovens), or gas mark 4. Butter and line two 18cm loose-bottomed sandwich tins.

Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one by one, then fold in the flour, almonds and a pinch of salt. Fold in 100ml of sparkling wine and the orange zest, then divide between the two tins, smoothing over the tops. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until risen and golden, then cool on wire racks.

While the sponges are still slightly warm, prick all over with a skewer. Mix the orange juice, granulated sugar and 50ml of wine, then pour the mixture over the sponges and allow it to seep into the holes. Leave to cool completely.

Whip together the filling ingredients until soft peaks form and use to sandwich the sponges together. Dust with icing sugar to serve. It will keep chilled for two days.



## Word Wheel Answers

Ale, All, Haw, Law, Lea, Wan, Hale, Hall, Halo, Heal, Lane, Lean, Wall, Wane, Weal, Wean, Whoa, Allow, Whale, Hallow. Nine-letter-word: Halloween.



## Daffodil Bulb Planting in West Raynham

The bulbs for planting on the village green by the Methodist Chapel and elsewhere in the village arrived during October. However, we decided that the 2,000 wild daffodil bulbs originally ordered in early October would not be enough, and another 1,200 bulbs were purchased. It seems the supplier may have been generous and given us an extra 400 bulbs!

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October several Gardening Club members and West Raynham residents met in the village hall to sort out groups of 100 bulbs into flowerpots for the recommended planting density of 100 bulbs per square metre.

During the previous morning, Paresh and I had staked out one metre squares going down both sides of the green. The plan was to plant the bulbs in six metre drifts on either side of each road going round the triangle of the green. In the end we were able to extend the planting from six to eight metres of bulbs on both sides of both roads, descending the green.

So, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October dawned dry but cloudy and still mild. We met in the village hall to take the bulbs to be planted along to the green. As on the Friday night a number of West Raynham residents arrived to help with the planting. Some people struggled with bad knees and bad backs but managed to plant their square metre of daffodils in some interesting ways! Me included as my kneeler kept sliding down the bank on the wet grass!! As well as planting



down both sides of the green, we have planted two patches of 200 bulbs either side of the chapel so that in time the bulbs will be visible from all three roads around the green

We planted the bulbs to the recommended depth of 10cm (4 inches) and have tried to place the bulbs in as natural a way as possible. But it will take time over the coming years for the bulbs to flower and seed and become even more 'natural looking' as the newly seeded plants eventually flower.

Next year we will add some more bulbs to those on the green but also plant up the small patch of grass at the junction of The Drove and Hollow Lane. We will also hopefully plant some in the vicinity of the road verge containing bee orchids on the Helhoughton road.

I would like to thank all everyone who provided support and encouragement with this project, whether members of the Gardening Club or not. We were able to purchase the bulbs due to the money raised from Open Gardens in June, to which so many people contributed and made such a success, and which benefited from a grant by the Solar Fund.

A huge 'Thank You' to all those who turned up last Friday night and for the planting on Saturday, for without you it wouldn't have been possible to plant 3,600 daffodil bulbs in 90 minutes!

*Bryan Welton.*

## October Photo Competition

Our thanks to everyone who sends in photos for the monthly photo competition, and Paula Smith in Sculthorpe has chosen the two images for October.



Winner: Tracy Jolliffe



Runner-up: Paresh Shah

### Photos for November and December

We are almost at the end of this year, and for the December Newsletter we would like photos for both November and December. Please remember photos can be submitted which were taken either this year or in 2023. When you send in your images, can you please make clear which ones are for November or December. Email your images to [westray.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westray.newsletter@gmail.com).

**Deadline for November and December photos - 5pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**



# VETERANS CENTRAL - WEST RAYNHAM SHQ CHRISTMAS FAIR






## Sunday 1st December

Station Headquarters will be decorated for Christmas and as part of our Veterans and Public events we are holding a Christmas Fair. This is a great opportunity to view this unique RAF building and its decorations, browse the stalls for presents, indulge in Christmas snacks and more

- \* SHQ Christmas Decorations
- \* Craft and Gift stalls
  - A wide range of stalls to browse – and buy presents
  - Book and Jigsaw Puzzles sale
  - How to wrap presents!
- \* Childrens Fun Zone:
  - Design your own Christmas Card
  - Post a card to Santa
  - Games to play
  - Make Christmas Decorations
- \* 'Christmas at War' display
- \* Plus:
  - Festive snacks
  - Tombola and games
- \* Plenty of parking

Located between Swaffham and Fakenham at NR21 7PL





For information email [events@veteranscentral.co.uk](mailto:events@veteranscentral.co.uk)

Or visit our Facebook page  **West Raynham SHQ – Veterans Central**

West Raynham NR21 7PL

Registered in England & Wales as a charity #1208763

The Airman's Arms

# BINGO

## Sunday 1st December

Book you seat with the bar staff | Buy your books from 7 PM | Eyes down at 7:30 PM

GUARANTEED CASH PRIZES

Booking your seat is essential as spaces are limited