

Raynhams' Newsletter - February 2022

Dates for your diary

Dates in February

- **Friday 11th, 18th, 25th** - Village Hall bar open 7 to 10.30 pm.
- **Saturday 12th, 19th, 26th** - Knit and natter from 10 am in the Village Hall.
- **Sunday 13th** - Come & help with snowdrop planting: 10 am by The Raynhams' village sign.
- **Friday 25th** - Raynhams' Gardening Club from 6 pm in the Village Hall.

Advance notices for March and beyond

- **Thursday 3rd March** - Raynhams' Book Club from 5:30 pm, venue TBC.
- **Thursday 3rd March** - Next six-week series of Line Dancing classes starts at 7pm & for more information send an email to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.
- **Saturday March 19th** - Super Saturday Six Nations final matches. Come and watch on the Village Hall big screen. Times nearer the date.
- **Saturday March 26th** - End of an Era Open Day in the Village Hall. Find out about West Raynham school and share your memories if you were a pupil. Refreshments available.
- **Saturday 2nd April** - Felting Workshop 10 am in the Village Hall. Making a hen & chick with Annie from Moonbrush Studios. To book contact: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.
- **Saturday 16th April** - Easter Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. All the usual fun!
- **Friday 27th May** - Sid's Quiz in the Village Hall, it's back so get your teams organised!
- **Saturday 18th June** - Open Gardens.
- **Saturday 25th June** - Village disco under a marquee in the village hall car park.
- **Sunday 26th June** - Village Fête with craft stalls, food, music, games and prizes.

St Margaret's churchyard - interpretation boards

With thanks to the Solar Fund two interpretation boards - one depicting the natural environment, the other the built heritage of the church - will be unveiled in the churchyard on **Saturday 12th February at 12:30 pm**.

Please come along to see them - everyone welcome!

Reading Room

The Reading Room in West Raynham is open every day if you want to meet up with friends or just sit by yourself and contemplate. It holds a free library of books, CDs, DVDs and games for you to take or exchange. The Reading Room also has the following:

Free sunflower seeds

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

Recycle your crisp packets

There is a collection bin for used crisp packets to help raise funds for the Whitwell and Reepham Railway.

Donations for tombolas and raffles

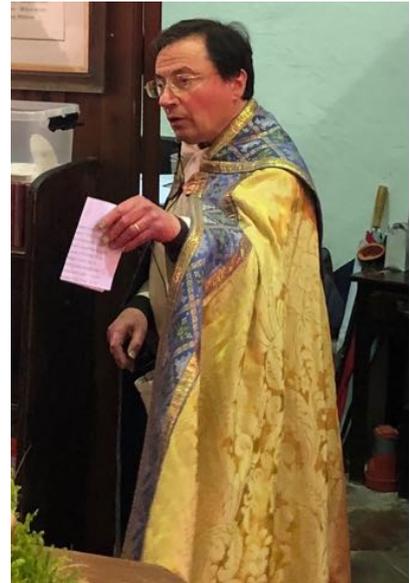
Please leave any items which can be used as prizes and suitable donations will be kept for village hall coffee mornings and other events to raise money for charity.

Father Edward Bundock

Father Edward Bundock conducted his final service as vicar of the Coxford Benefice at Helhoughton on the evening of Sunday 30th January. Father Edward has been vicar here for over 25 years and he and Catharine will be vacating the vicarage over the next few weeks and moving to Fakenham.

A very full church heard tributes to Edward paid by representatives of the Benefice as well as from the wider Deanery. Revd. Clive Wylie, as Rural Dean, paid tribute to Edward's long service and his dedication to the Deanery. Clive will be taking care of the Coxford Group in the interim.

We all wish Edward, Catharine, Alligan and Kaira the very best for the future in a new chapter of their lives.



West Raynham Village Hall Committee

The current officers are Paresh Shah (Chair); Melvin Forman (Treasurer), and Debbie Lamont (Secretary). Committee meetings, which start at 6:30 pm, are open to residents of The Raynhams and dates for forthcoming meetings are:

- 21st March
- 16th May
- 18th July
- 19th September
- October - date TBC for AGM & election of Officers and Committee members

The Village Hall can be booked for events by sending an email to westray.vhc@gmail.com or leaving a note in the post box.

Raynham Parish Council - Tom FitzPatrick

Minutes, agendas and reports of Parish Council meetings are available to view and download from our website at www.raynhampc.info, which also includes the latest news from Norfolk County Council.

Parish Council meetings are held in West Raynham Village Hall starting at 7 pm, and the dates for this year are:

- 29th March
- 31st May - Annual Parish Meeting (APM) & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (APCM)
- 26th July
- 27th September
- 29th November

Newsletter Photo Competition



It's back! You may remember during the lockdown year of 2020 we held our first ever photo competition for the Newsletter. The winning photos were used to produce The Raynhams' calendar for 2021. This year we plan to do the same again, so please send us your best photos by the 25th of each month. Entries will be judged by Paula of Paula Harrison Photography in Sculthorpe. All winners and runners-up will feature in the end of year calendar, which will be printed just in time for Christmas to use as stocking fillers or send to friends and family.

Basic rules

The competition is open to all ages with a maximum of five images per participant submitted each month (by the 25th). Photos should have been taken in 2021 or during 2022. Digital images must be in LANDSCAPE not portrait orientation; be of high resolution (min. 300 dpi); full size (i.e. not cropped), and relevant to the Raynhams. Sorry but we cannot accept printed photographs or images.



January and February 2022

The competition is now open for photos for January and February, and please make it clear which of your images are being submitted for each of the two months.

Send your photos for January and February before February 25th to westray.newsletter@gmail.com

Knit and Natter

Every Saturday morning the Knit and Natter group gather in the Village Hall for a couple of hours of chat from 10 am while we get on with knitting, crochet or any other crafty projects we have on the go. Janice is a real expert and keeps us on track with advice and help with picking up dropped stitches. While she is away having a lovely time on holiday you can see we are keeping up the good work and muddling through - 'while the cat's away, the mice will play'. If you are a crafter do come along and join the fun.



Upright Piano - Free to a Good Home



Made by W. Howlett and Son of Norwich - Regularly tuned - 133 cm wide
Contact westray.newsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter Info and Contact Details

- Deadline for articles or notices is the 28th of each month
- westray.newsletter@gmail.com to send in articles or manage subscriptions
- <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents> to view and download newsletters



JANICE'S JOY RIDE



A Coach Trip

To

St Ives & Ely

July 16th

From West Raynham Village Hall 9am

FREE

Courtesy of the SOLAR Farm Fund

To join in please book your seat **ASAP**

To book please contact:

Janice: 07776025040

Monica: 07804329067



Raynham Faces- Bridget Howarth

In January 1932, The Lynn News and County Press looked back over the names and ages of local people who had died the previous year:

"The Days of our age are three-score years and ten" said the Psalmist. On this page we set forth the names of 985 men and women from West Norfolk and neighbouring districts who exceeded the allotted span - 100 of them by more than 20 years, during 1931."

The oldest was Rebecca Metcalfe who had died in Wisbech aged 103, but the list also included two names from Raynham.

Thomas Parker was born in West Raynham and baptised at St Mary's on 1st July 1856. He lived all his life in the village where his father, John, was the village baker. Thomas never married and worked with his parents at the bakery, near the school. His younger sisters, Laura and Jane were Assistant Teachers there. Thomas died on 14th December 1931, aged 75 and was buried at East Raynham.

When George Reeve's death was registered in February 1931, he was said to have been 91 years old. He was in fact baptised in August 1838, making him almost 93 when he died. George was born in East Raynham but spent most of his working life in Fakenham, with over 15 years as a groom for Edward Rudge, a doctor living on Wells Road. It was here that he met his future wife, Ann Emerson, who worked as a housemaid. George and Ann were married in 1877 and moved to live on Constitution Hill. He later became a gardener and was still working at the age of 73.

Over the next couple of years, the newspaper reported on other notable elderly residents in the area, and West Raynham was again featured.

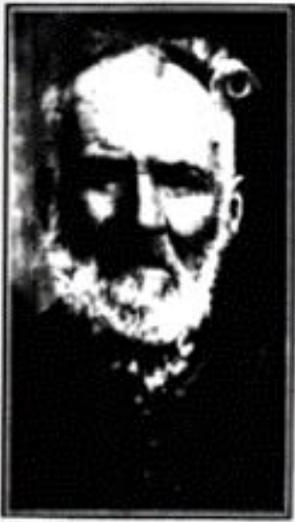


In December 1932 the Lynn Advertiser carried a photograph of Mrs William Segon, the "Oldest Resident of West Raynham".

She was born Mary Ann Pitcher in West Lynn on 7th July 1844, to William and Sarah. Mary worked as a parlour maid before her family moved first to Barney and then to Stibbard, where she was an Infant School Teacher. Mary married William Segon on 15 January 1873 and moved with him to West Raynham, where three generations of the Segon family had worked as cordwainers, or shoe and boot makers - almost next door to the Parker family's bakery. She had five sons, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mary Ann lost her husband in 1923 but was still living in the village at No. 9 West Raynham (now Chiff Chaff Cottage) with her son Edward when the 1939 Census was taken. She was, by this time, described as 'Infirm', and her age seems to have been slightly exaggerated with the years. Despite having been born in 1844, her date of birth was given as July 1842 in the 1939 census; and then in July 1940, the Lynn Advertiser reported on her 100th birthday celebrations. But should we quibble over four years? Mary Ann died a couple of weeks after her birthday on 25th July 1940, and her age was officially recorded as 100.

In September 1933, "West Raynham Veteran" Mr John William Kenny was featured in the newspaper. He was born in the village to John and Sarah Kenny and baptised at St Mary's on 11th February 1849.



John started work on the Raynham Estate at the age of seven, earning 1s 6d per week. Like his father, he started as a shepherd and apparently joined the Shepherd's Club at the age of 16. However, by the time he married Harriet Harwood, also from West Raynham, on 17th March 1877, his occupation was recorded as labourer.

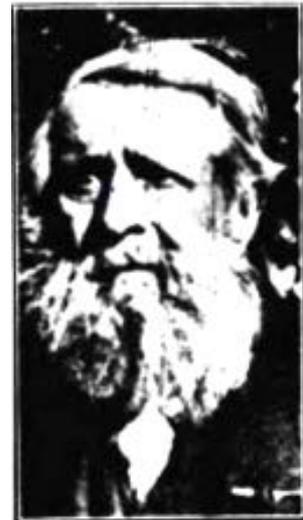
John left the Estate and went to work as a farm labourer for Mr Arthur Butcher, a farmer with land near the Lynn Road. He stayed with him for more than 40 years and lived with Harriet at No. 42 West Raynham for many years. John died, aged 88, in



February 1937 and was buried in West Raynham.

Another local man was Mr Thomas Tufts, or Tuffs, who was described by the Lynn Advertiser in December 1932 as the oldest resident of Helhoughton. Thomas was born in Rougham but grew up in Pattesley, where his father was Farm Bailiff, and moved to Helhoughton when he was 21.

When Thomas died on 27th January 1934 at the age of 93, the Lynn Advertiser gave a resume of his career: "In his younger days he was engineer at Mr Francis's farm, and then became landlord of the village off-licence house, a pork butcher and purveyor of milk". He had taken over the licence for the beer house from Samuel Payne in 1886, when Payne moved to the "New" Greyhound in West Raynham. Thomas was married to Martha Caldwell for 56 years and she predeceased him by 11 years.



Recipe Corner - Judy Pell

Although Christmas seems like a distant memory, if you came to the Christmas Coffee Morning on December 4th and tried Jenny's fruit cake, then you will definitely remember it! The cake was really delicious. Jenny has kindly provided the recipe which I have reproduced below with all of her tweaks and tips so you can try it yourself - and not just at Christmas!

Fruit Cake by Jenny Holland

It is a boiled fruit cake and one of the simplest recipes that I have on a scrappy piece of paper. I have no idea where it came from.

Ingredients

- 6oz margarine/ butter (I use butter)
- 6oz sugar (I use soft brown)
- 1 cup of cold water
- 1 cup mixed fruit (I actually put in one each of sultanas & raisins plus as many cherries as I feel like)
- 1 level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda.

Put the ingredients in a large saucepan and boil gently for 20 mins. The liquid will rise up the pan because of the bicarb., so you need to keep an eye on it.

Cool completely - this is important.

Add 9 oz self-raising flour, a teaspoon of mixed spice and two large eggs. Mix well.

Cook in a loaf tin for about one and a half hours at 160 °C, 325 °F, or 3.5 gas - but check when getting near the end.

Moths in the Garden - Paresh Shah

As some of you may know I started moth trapping last year with the aim of getting an initial species list for The Raynhams. This was my first go at running my own moth trap, although I had been involved in similar work about 35 years ago, but in a very, very different environment to the mix of intensive agriculture, temperate woodland, scrub, parkland and garden habitats we have here. I had no real idea about night-flying moths before doing this and all of the species I encountered last year, besides the hawk-moths, were new to me.

For this month I would like to give an overview of the moth trapping carried out at Foundry Cottage, and next month I will discuss results from trapping done elsewhere in West Raynham, as well as in East Raynham and the Observation Tower at the old airbase.

Before I start, there are a couple of questions to deal with first:

- What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth? British butterflies have clubbed antennae unlike nearly all British moths (exception is the burnet group of moths);
- What is a micro-moth? Micromoth species are generally smaller in size with a length of 10 mm or less, but there is some overlap with the size of macromoths which are more common in light traps.

Moth catches and identification

The moth trap consists of an ultraviolet lamp mounted on top of a plastic bucket containing empty eggshell cartons. The light trap was run on seven nights from dusk until dawn, starting in late April and the last catch was taken towards the end of July in 2021. Photos of the captured moths were taken with an iPhone on the following morning and the images were downloaded onto a laptop. Running totals were kept of several moth species recognised through experience. With the photos, identifications were made by comparing individual images with illustrations in several guides and photos on websites. Other insects also caught in the moth trap included beetles, insect-parasitic wasps, midges, mosquitoes and caddis flies, but these were not identified to species level.



Initial species list

Trapping was carried out on 28/29 April; 7/8 May; 28/29 May; 8/9 June; 12/13 June; 17/18 July and 22/23 July. A total of 357 individual moths from 61 species in 11 families (or groups) have been identified, after looking at nearly 500 photos. There are about ten photos where a species or individual has not been identified, either because the image was of poor quality, or the species could not be identified with certainty.

Top five moth species

Family	Latin name	Common name	Larval foodplant	No. individuals
Yponomeutidae	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bird-cherry ermine	Bird cherry, Wild plum, Dwarf cherry & Rowan	90
Erebidae	<i>Eilema lurideola</i> (Zincken, 1817)	Common footman	Lichens	57
Crambidae	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Garden grass-veneer	Grasses	40
Noctuidae	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i> / <i>blanda</i>	Uncertain/rustic agg.	Herbaceous plants	17
Noctuidae	<i>Mythimna impura</i> (Hübner, 1808)	Smoky Wainscot	Grasses	13

Next steps

All the identifications will be submitted to the Norfolk County Recorder to be verified and will hopefully be added to the local and national records for this area. National distributions of moths are recorded in 10-kilometre square blocks, and the 10 km square for Sculthorpe/Raynham is TF82 which also includes the Rudhams, Shereford, Weasenham and Great Massingham.

Some of my favourite moths



Buff-tip

Phalera bucephala (Linnaeus, 1758)

My absolute favourite of all the moths caught last year!! Said to resemble a broken birch twig when at rest. Larval foodplant: broadleaved trees such as birches, sallow, oaks and hazel.



Knapweed conch

Agapeta zoegana (Linnaeus, 1767)

Larval foodplant: common knapweed.



Chinese Character

Cilix glaucata (Scopoli, 1763)

Resembles a bird dropping for camouflage.

Larval foodplant: blackthorn, hawthorn, crab apple.



Burnished Brass

Diachrysia chrysitis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Larval foodplant: common nettle and other plants.



Poplar Hawk-moth

Laothoe populi (Linnaeus, 1758)

One of the largest moths visiting gardens with a wing span of 30 - 46 mm.

Larval foodplant: poplars, aspen, sallow and willows.

Identification sources

1. M. Townsend, P. Waring & R. Lewington (2019). Concise guide to the moths of Great Britain and Ireland. Second edition. Bloomsbury Wildlife, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.
2. M. Chinery (2007). Insects of Britain and Western Europe: revised edition. Domino Books.
3. <https://norfolkmoths.co.uk/>
4. <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/gallery/moths>
5. C. Manley (2021). British & Irish moths: a photographic guide. Third edition. Bloomsbury Wildlife, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.
6. P. Sterling, M. Parsons & R. Lewington (2012). Field guide to the micromoths of Great Britain and Ireland. Bloomsbury Wildlife, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

My deep gratitude to Adrian Riley for assisting with some of the identifications. Adrian is a renowned moth expert who worked for many years at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and now lives in Syderstone.

Nature Notes for January 2022 - David Stubbs

The year began with the warmest New Year's Day temperature ever recorded, following on from a record New Year's Eve. Both days topped 15 degrees Celsius. While the rest of the month remained generally cold, we did have quite a lot of sunny periods and many marvellous sunrises and sunsets.



Sunset over West Raynham, 12 January 2022

Two unexpected sightings included a small tortoiseshell butterfly basking on one of the crumbling walls of St Margaret's Church on the 14th - the earliest in the year I have ever seen a butterfly out, and only one day later than the Norfolk record, according to Butterfly Conservation. I also observed a bat flying along the lime avenue at dusk on the 27th.

Back to that mild and bright New Year's Day, my annual start-the-year big walk around the parish was nowhere near as productive as the previous year. On 1st January 2021, a cold day that started foggy, my six hours in the field produced 70 species of birds. In contrast, this year and following mostly the same route, I only found 54 species.

Now I should not complain. Finding 54 species in a single session round here is a pretty good outing. I had nice views of woodcock, snipe, lapwing, barn owl and an unexpected shelduck on Raynham Hall lake, but overall birdlife was a bit thin on the ground this time. However, I was surprised and pleased to see a Chinese water deer up near the airfield. That's a species I don't often see round here.

One of the highlights from a year ago was a pair of ravens seen flying across the Wensum Valley. I didn't see any this year, but one day in the middle of the month I bumped into Kit and Dorian Moss from Helhoughton who told me they had just seen ravens near Raynham Hall and the other side of East Raynham. That makes the third record in our area in the last few years and the signs are that ravens are gradually becoming more frequent in the county. They are quite often seen at Holkham Park.

If you would like to see something special, I have three suggestions for you. First, if you go down to the marshy area by the River Wensum near to St Mary's Church about 45 minutes before dark, you should be able to see a swirling flock of some 200 pied wagtails circling

round over the reeds before plunging down to roost as it gets dark. That's a new roost site as far as I know - I certainly have not seen them there in previous years. Look out - or rather listen out - for a few reed buntings that come to roost there too.



River Wensum on a misty morning

My second tip involves a trip to Fakenham. Since late January there has been a massive starling roost close to the water tower off Holt Road. These birds are forming the most spectacular pre-roost murmuration displays. Many thousands of birds swirling in incredible synchrony against the pink glow of the twilight sky. Get there about ten to five and stay till they come down to roost - it's unmissable. Hurry too, as there is no telling how long they will roost here before relocating elsewhere.

My third and final suggestion is to try and see the white-tailed eagle that is currently spending its days along the North Norfolk coast. It has been reported at various points between Holme and Cley, so there is no guaranteed spot, but worth a try. It is one of the young birds from the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme and for the moment it is spending time in our county.

Finally, I expect some of you will have enjoyed watching the BBC's Winterwatch broadcast from Wild Ken Hill, near Snettisham. It was amazing seeing all the nocturnal wildlife they picked up with thermal imaging cameras. I would like one myself!

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