

Raynhams' Newsletter - July 2023

- Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - Raynham Art Club in the Village Hall from 10am to 2pm.
- Wednesday 5th - Raynhams' Book Club at No. 22, The Street, West Raynham, from 6pm.
- Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7pm to 10:30pm.
- Thursday 10th July - Meeting of Helhoughton Parish Council from 7:30pm preceded by a presentation at 7pm by Tom Raynham on the development of bathhouses on Raynham Lake.
- Friday 28th - Raynhams' Gardening Club meeting in the Village Hall from 6pm to 7pm.

Note - Knit and Natter in the Village Hall will resume in September.

Church Services

- Sunday 9th - St Mary's, East Raynham, from 6pm.
- Sunday 16th - All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30am.
- Sunday 23rd - St Martin's, South Raynham, from 10.30am.
- Sunday 30th - All Saints, Toftrees, from 6pm.

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

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 2023** 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 dates for this year are:

- 25th July
- 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 issues of the Newsletter.

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

The Raynham's Gardening Club has organised a coach trip to Beth Chatto's Plants and gardens near Colchester on Saturday 19th August. The cost of coach hire is being paid for by an award from the Raynham Solar Fund committee, so the travel to and from the gardens is completely free for everyone in The Raynham's.



There are five garden areas and the best known is the Gravel Garden, which was once a car park, and it has never been watered. Despite being in one of the driest parts of the country and having poor free-draining soil, this garden has become renowned for the spectacular display of drought-tolerant plants.

You will need to pay the entrance fee and any refreshments that you buy. Entry purchased in advance online is £12.50 per person and price on the day is £13.50. Further details can be found at: <https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/>.

You can bring a picnic, but it must be eaten in the designated picnic area in the adjacent field, so not in the actual gardens itself.

If you wish to reserve one or more places on the coach, then please send an email to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com by **Saturday 5th August**.

Just to emphasise again, this trip is for **ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE RAYNHAMS**.



Ruby's Birthday Celebration

Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate Ruby's first birthday on Friday 30th June and here is a photo of young Ruby (with her Mum) with one of the oldest residents of The Raynhams, Kate Mead.



Wine Tasting - Friday 14th July

Myself and Anne-Marie Martin are holding a rosé wine tasting evening on Friday 14th July, with the profits being donated towards the Friends of St Margaret's Church Ruins. The event will probably be held in the Village Hall or possibly at the ruins but we will confirm nearer the time.

After some 'research', we've chosen three delicious but different wines for the evening. There's going to be a French Cremant Cuvée (so some bubbles for fans of something sparkly); a beautiful high-altitude rosé from the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon; and an aromatic rosé from Puglia in Italy.

The price for a glass of each and a small amount of snacks is £10 in advance, which given the quality of the wines is a bargain! We will try to accommodate those who turn up on the night though the £10 price is reserved for advance bookings only.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend by **Friday 7th July** by email to: ianpearson8@btinternet.com, and I will provide details of how to pay. Hope to see you there!
Ian Pearson

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. If the weather is fine, we will use the field adjoining the village hall - please bring chairs etc. Drinks will be provided (up to a certain amount) but the bar will also be available. Please bring a food dish for sharing and your dancing shoes. We look forward to seeing you!

Raynhams' Gardening Club - Visit to Elsing Hall

On the evening of Friday 9th June, the Gardening club members went around each other's gardens in West Raynham on a warm and beautiful evening. The gardens vary in size, but all are very individualistic. So, thank you to all those who opened their gardens and to all who came and visited them.

This was a precursor to the main event of the weekend which was the visit to Elsing Hall on Saturday 10th June.



We met up at the village hall and shared cars for the trip. Normally when you visit on the rare days that it is open the park acts as a giant car park, but this time it was just our few cars. One of the owners, Patrick Lines, greeted our group and gave a brief talk about the history of the hall and the gardens. After paying for entry and refreshments, we were free to explore the grounds. There was only our group of 12 in the gardens during the entire afternoon, so we had the place to ourselves. The house dates back to 1470 and

is moated. Around the house are beautiful gardens full of roses and other plants. Once over the moat you get gorgeous views back to the house reflected in the moat. There is a big walled garden packed with plants and a large pool naturalised with plants. There is a mound with a lookout which was built from the remains of dredging the moat. But always your eyes are drawn back across the moat to the house.

Then it was time for our tea and we had a private terrace by the hall with a table set out for us with tea, coffee and a Victoria sponge cake prepared by Patrick and his partner Han. Somehow between us we managed to devour the cake!

We were really surprised that Patrick and Han keep all the gardens going by themselves with some help from two gardeners each Thursday!

If you have never been to Elsing Hall gardens, then we would thoroughly recommend that you do manage a visit soon!



Bryan Welton

Pupil Teacher

One of the more poignant gravestones in St Margaret's churchyard is that of Horace Beck Scott who died on 13 April 1882, aged 21. His father, James, was a tailor from Helhoughton, who moved to West Raynham and ran a draper's shop, and later a grocer's shop.

James died in January 1876 leaving his wife, Mary Anne, to carry on the family business. Very sadly, Mary Anne was to outlive not only her husband, but five of her twelve children and she laid them all to rest in a railed off section just inside the churchyard gate.

Horace was born in April 1861 and baptised in St Mary's church, East Raynham. He will have attended the school opened by Marquis Townshend in West Raynham just a few years before he was born. In 1875, just as he was leaving school, a decision was made to run West Raynham and Helhoughton schools as one, with girls going to West Raynham and boys to Helhoughton. There were new Head teachers at both schools that year so it will have been a time of great change for the pupils.

Horace must have been a bright, intellectually promising student, for he was offered the job of 'Monitor' in Helhoughton, helping the Master in the classroom. Although children in both villages will surely have known each other well, it must have been reassuring for the West Raynham boys moving to Helhoughton to have a well-known face move with them.

A year later, Horace was formally made a Pupil Teacher, and embarked on a five-year teaching apprenticeship. He will have taught groups of boys during the day, and then have had separate lessons himself with the Master after school, with formal examinations every year. Success in his fifth year would lead to recognition as an uncertified teacher but he could choose then to sit a Queen's Scholarship exam that might finance further training at one of several new colleges.

Horace worked hard, passed his exams and gained experience as a teacher. This experience was put to the test in November 1877 when Thomas Moore, the School Master, was taken ill and the school was closed. It reopened after a week with Horace at the helm, conducting lessons with the help of a Monitor, until the Master returned two weeks later. Quite a responsibility for a second-year pupil teacher.

A new Master, George F Woodhouse Kett, arrived in October 1879 and seems to have taken a different approach to teaching and discipline. He and Revd. Richard Phayre did not always see eye to eye and Horace increasingly found himself in the middle of their arguments. The School logbook details more than one occasion when Kett was told to close the school and vacate the school house, only to have the keys returned and told to open once again.

Kett was accused of being rude to two parents in March 1880, which of course he denied. Horace was instructed to write up Kett's account in the school logbook, and to list the pupils who had 'offered to give evidence'. Kett then resigned as Master after just one year in post: "in the face of the continued difficulties attending the working of the school. No corporal punishment allowed, parents are dissenting, indifferent and obstructive." He added later "I would however record before closing, my testimony to the pupil teacher (Horace Scott). I have found him invariably anxious, industrious, amenable and dependable; and his work in the School a success."

Kett returned in September to work out his notice, but the situation was no better and he and Phayre fell out once again. "Mr Phayre struggled with me for possession of my Time Table, and that, finding I should only be able to keep a part of it - as it would infallibly be torn - at best, I at length surrendered it, informing him he must take the consequences. He took the

paper home with him." Horace was instructed to produce a new timetable and to charge for his time and materials. Horace was in his fifth and final year by March 1880 and Kett wrote in the logbook: "Horace Scott wishes to pass the Scholarship Exam next July in order to go in Residence." There followed an extensive list of subjects considered essential preparation, including Euclid, Map Drawing and School Management.

Horace's health began to fail at around the time that the new Master James Layland took over in October 1880. He was away from school in November, again in February 1881, and then for most of June. On 4 July however, he felt able to travel to Peterborough to sit his scholarship exam and returned to school for the end of term. The School Inspector in September 1881 was happy to report on considerable improvement in the school under the new Master, and that Horace had passed his exam. "He should be informed that he is now qualified under both Art[icles] 60 & 79". Unfortunately, Horace was not in school to hear the news himself and his name no longer listed as one of the teachers as in previous Inspection reports.

On 14 April 1882, James Layland noted in the logbook: "Horace Scott formerly a teacher in this school died last night." A half day holiday was given so that the boys could attend his funeral in West Raynham the following week.

The Lynn Advertiser reported that Horace Beck Scott "died at the early age of 21 (of consumption). The coffin ... was borne to the grave by four of his old schoolmates, and followed by a large number of relatives and friends, ... The boys are anxious to erect a tombstone to his memory, but finding they cannot raise sufficient funds they have appealed to outside friends for help".

Their memorial inscription begins: "erected by friends and pupils as a mark of respect and esteem in fond remembrance of Horace Beck Scott who for 5 years faithfully discharged the duties of pupil teacher in the Helhoughton school".



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.

Insects in Gardens

Bumblebees

Bumblebees seemed to have been relatively unaffected by the cold Spring weather and have been very noticeable feeding on flowering plants. By mid-June I think there were worker bees from three species in our garden at Foundry Cottage, namely:

- (A) Buff-tailed bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*
- (B) Red-tailed bumblebee, *Bombus lapidarius*
- (C) Common carder bee, *Bombus pascuorum*



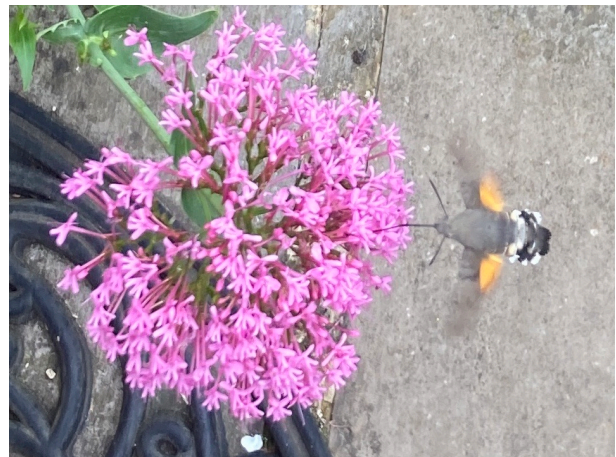
Buff-tailed bumblebee



Red-tailed bumblebee



Common carder bee



Hummingbird hawk-moth

Hummingbird hawk-moth

Individuals of *Macroglossum stellatarum* have been spotted several times in our garden during June. These day-flying (or diurnal) moths do not generally survive winters in the British Isles and initial populations fly in from France every year to breed. Larvae prefer to feed on bedstraw and wild madder, and second-generation adults emerge in late summer.

Moth trapping

Moth numbers caught in mid- and late-June seem to be back to normal, and highlights have included a Privet hawk-moth, which is the largest resident moth in the UK, and an Eyed hawk-moth trapped at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve.



Privet hawk-moth



Eyed hawk-moth



Scorched Wing



White Plume



Beautiful Golden Y



Burnished Brass

Cinnabar



Lobster moth

Effects of light pollution on moths

A recent review of possible effects of Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) on moths found light pollution can directly and negatively affect adult feeding, reproduction, larval development and pupal diapause. Indirect effects on moth species can also occur through effects of light pollution on hostplants (e.g. digestibility, earlier leaf emergence) and via insect parasites and predators, for example elevated levels of bat predation around street lights may reduce local moth numbers. However, whether there are negative impacts at the population level requires more work.

Reference

D.H. Boyes, D.M. Evans, R. Fox, M.S. Parsons & M.J.O. Pocock (2021). Is light pollution driving moth population declines? A review of causal mechanisms across the life cycle. *Insect Conservation and Diversity* 14: 167-187. Download PDF at: <https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/icad.12447>.

Journals from the Royal Entomological Society can be accessed at: <https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>.

Paresh Shah.

West Raynham Nature Notes - June 2023

I had to start this month with this stunning picture of a male marsh harrier snapped by Tracy Jolliffe from her kitchen window in The Drove. Just a pity this year we don't have the calendar photo competition because this would certainly be a winner!



Some might be forgiven for thinking this is a red kite, which is so much more frequent round here. However, the tail and underwing pattern are characteristic of marsh harrier.

Not only is this a fabulous picture, but it is a great record. I do see marsh harriers round here from time to time, but they are not sufficiently regular. They are more often seen further down the valley around Sculthorpe, but only occasionally make it up to the Raynham area. When they do, they are typically seen over fields, well away from wetland areas, which are their normal habitat.

If you want to see lots of harriers, wait until winter and go to Titchwell at dusk. Dozens of marsh harriers, and a few hen harriers, come into roost there every evening.



Little ringed plover. Photograph by Shantanu Kuveskar.

Back to the Raynham area, and I have good news. I mentioned previously that little ringed plovers have turned up on the temporary silt lagoons where the lake is being dredged. Up to now I had only seen three adult birds together. Finally, though, on the 28th June, I counted five birds together, including at least two juveniles. They have bred successfully!

This is remarkable and a lovely example of how nature springs up and recolonises places once the conditions are right.



One of the temporary silt lagoons viewed from the diverted public footpath.

Another good news story has been the presence of a pair of spotted flycatchers in and around the playground. They sometimes stray over to the Bowling Green and my garden too. On BBC Springwatch, Chris Packham bemoaned the decline in the population of these once familiar summer visitors, so we can count ourselves very lucky to have them breeding in the village. There's usually a pair near the Old Rectory, and sometimes along the river corridor, but as the riverside path is impenetrable, I can no longer confirm this. However, Nigel Middleton reported one from his garden by Stables Farm.

Turning to other wildlife, I have found it a poor year for butterflies so far. This month, apart from good numbers of red admirals and the emergence of the browns - meadow brown and ringlet - I have seen fewer than normal. I have, however, seen a few hummingbird hawk moths already and there are lots of Silver-Y moths around at the moment.

In a few places Jan and I have come across tiny frogs and toads freshly emerged from their natal ponds. They are so small and easily overlooked, but always marvellous to see.

There was a good crop of bee orchids this year - at least 14 flowering spikes - on the road verge by the playground and, thankfully, with the help of Andrew and Bridget Howarth, we managed to prevent them being mowed. The pyramidal orchid I found last year in St Margaret's Churchyard is flowering again and the wildflower areas have been looking fabulous lately.

Finally, on the last evening of the month, there was a large hedgehog in our garden. Usually, we first see them in late summer when the apples start to fall, so this one was quite early here.

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