

Raynhams' Newsletter - September 2020

Welcome to this month's issue!

A wake for Tony Lee was held in the Village Hall on 5th September and our thanks to his niece Sue Goddard for providing an obituary for Tony on page 3.

Current and past issues of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Raynham Parish Council website and we really appreciate Jodie Bond, the Parish Clerk, for organising this. Please see <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents>.

If you wish to include any news about the Raynhams, share notices or events or, even better, send in an article, then contact us by either leaving a note in the post box at the village hall or by sending an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Call for applications to the Solar Fund

Applications are invited for projects which benefit the community to be considered by the Solar Fund. An application form can be obtained by contacting David Sidell (Chair) who can provide a copy.

Completed forms must be returned by **30th September 2020** and can either be left in the Village Hall post box or sent to David Sidell (Sid) at 5, The Bowling Green, West Raynham, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 7HD.

Contact details and further information

To receive the newsletter by email or to submit photos and articles please send a message to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

To book the Raynhams village hall for an event, you can leave a message in the post box or contact Joy Forman at westraynham.vhc@gmail.com.

Unsubscribe from the newsletter

If you did not sign up to the newsletter or no longer want to be included in the distribution list then email us at westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Village Sign for The Raynhams

The village sign was unveiled 20 years ago this month and many thanks to Sid for providing a photo of the event!



Unveiling of the new sign in September 2000 with the Marquess Townshend and David Siddell (foreground)

Raynhams' local history group

Since moving to Foundry Cottage in West Raynham about two years ago, Judith and I have been really fascinated to learn about the history of several of the houses close to us. Along with Monica, we would like to try to put together a collection of memories, anecdotes and photos associated with the people and buildings in the Raynhams.

For information, a short history of the parish was published by the [Norfolk Heritage Project](#) going up to the 1990s without any personal narratives or recollections.

If you want to get involved to share some of your stories then do get in touch with Monica or email Paresh at pareshs999@gmail.com.

Tony Lee

Tony Francis Lee was born in Helhoughton on 25th February 1929, he was the youngest of five children and the family moved up to West Raynham in 1934. He attended school at Helhoughton and played football for the local team. During one game in his early twenties he broke his leg quite badly and had problems with it all his life.

When he left school, he worked for Raynhams Farms and stayed there until his retirement. He never married but stayed at home with his Mum and Dad and after they died his sister Nina looked after him. He loved the countryside and enjoyed shooting and fishing. He also liked to watch football, went to speedway at Norwich and enjoyed the racing at Fakenham. He was always fun and became a much-loved uncle when his older brother and sister produced their families. He took the boys fishing and was always up for an outing to Sandringham, Holkham or Wells as his nieces got older. His good friend Dick Burgess was also usually involved as he was the driver. His other good friend John Scales also used to take him out to various places in the area on his days off. Tony never liked driving very much but travelled extensively in America in his forties and fifties, he loved to fly and kept in touch with many of the people he met on his travels. He went to New Zealand on one holiday and thoroughly enjoyed the change of scene. He also collected postcards of Norfolk and he and Dick would go off on the train all over Britain to postcard fairs.

As he got older that old leg wound became a bit of a problem and he had difficulty in walking. He also developed Parkinsons which affected his mobility. It was a very sad day when in March 2015 he was forced to move into Holmwood House in Swaffham as he could no longer look after himself. The staff there were wonderful and he looked on them as his family. His real family couldn't get to see him as much as they would have liked as they all lived too far away and Covid-19 prevented them from being with him when he died on 7th April - the last of the Lee family who lived in West Raynham all those years.

Susan Goddard

AGM for the Raynhams' Village Hall Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will take place during the third week of October at the village hall but the exact date has yet to be confirmed. There are 16 committee members at present including Paresh Shah, Chair; Melvin Forman, Treasurer; and Joy Forman, Secretary. If you want to know more about the committee or AGM then please drop a note in the village hall post box or email pareshs999@gmail.com.

Photo competition: Results for August 2020

For September 22 entries were sent in for consideration by Paula of Paula Harrison Photography in Sculthorpe. The winner is Paresh Shah with a photo of the bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius*, and the runner up is David Stubbs with an image of the ruins of St. Margaret's Church.

The winning entry will form the August image in the Raynhams Village Calendar for 2021. Prizes for monthly winners and runners-up will be presented at a **Christmas Coffee Morning in December**. Thanks to everyone who submitted their photos and remember you can submit pictures from previous years or views from your window or garden, so you don't have to leave your home to join in.



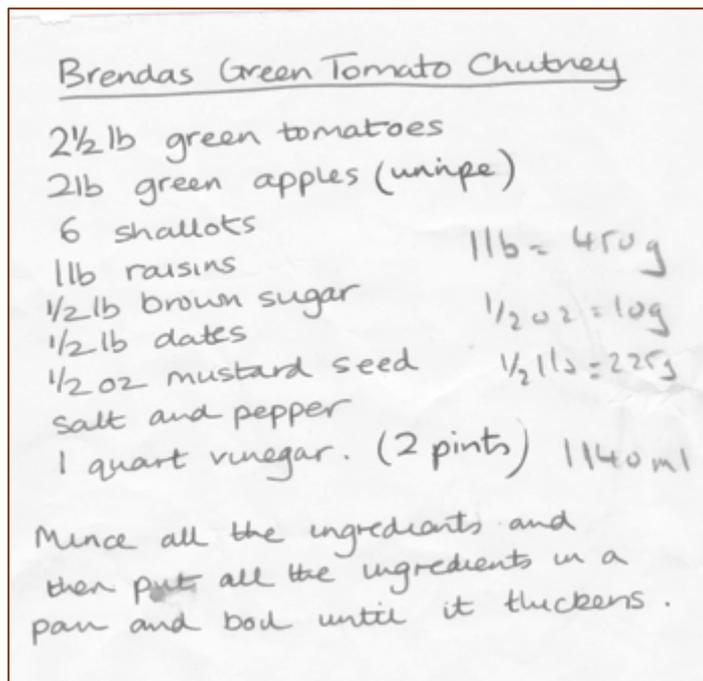
The photo competition is open to all ages with a maximum of five images per participant each month. All images must be **LANDSCAPE** (not portrait), high resolution (min. 300 dpi), full size (i.e. uncropped), relevant to the Raynhams and seasonal for the month.



Please email your photos to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

**** Next deadline is 28th September ****

Recipe Corner: Green Tomato Chutney - Judy Pell



This recipe could come in very handy if your tomatoes are not ripening as quickly as you would like them to. It is a recipe that my Aunt Brenda sent to my Nan back in the 1970s, and which I transcribed when we first started growing tomatoes. This version is helpfully improved with Paresh's weight conversions. Good luck!

If you have a recipe to share, especially if it has a personal story with it, then either post it in the village hall post box or email it to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com

Insects in the garden: Paresh Shah



Pompilid wasp with spider

Early in August I saw a spider-hunting, or pompilid wasp, *Anoplius nigerrimus* taking a paralysed spider into a burrow it had excavated in a fresh mole hill. The most common grasshopper in medium to tall grassy areas seems to be the field grasshopper,



Field grasshopper (church ruins)

Chorthippus brunneus. Also in lawns and grassy areas

throughout August are tiny brown and green insects which ping up as you walk through, and include leafhoppers such as *Deltocephalus pulicaris* and *Elymana sulphurella* (both tentative identifications). Finally, in late August I found an immobile 7-spot ladybird on a plum twig from the Old Rectory, and underneath it was a cocoon (5 mm long) of the braconid parasitic wasp *Dinocampus coccinellae*. The wasp larva paralyses the ladybird to act as cover against predators while completing the last part of its development, eventually emerging as a parthenogenetic adult female which lays unfertilised eggs in ladybirds to restart its life cycle.



Wasp cocoon under ladybird

West Raynham Nature Notes: David Stubbs

Extremes of prolonged heat early in August and lashing winds and rain towards the end have marked what has been a pretty unsettled month. It has not been particularly notable but there are distinct signs of seasonal change, as early migrants herald the beginning of autumn passage.

First, though, August is very much the month of young birds, recently fledged. There have been lots of young blue tits and goldfinches in the garden and a juvenile green woodpecker has been practising its yaffling call around the village.

In the reedbeds and marshy fringes along the Wensum corridor I was pleased to find family parties of both reed and sedge warblers and spotted flycatchers. Many different passerine species have been turning up along the north Norfolk coast in recent weeks, but I've not noticed anything unusual in our area. It's hard to find any once they disperse inland, plus of course there are many more birders searching the coastal areas.



Greylag geese taking flight

The greylag geese have been gathering in increasing numbers throughout the month and now the barley has been cut, we can see some 300 birds foraging over the stubble each day. The village jackdaw roost is a noisy salute to each sundown with several hundred birds swirling around in twisting, cackling flocks. Rooks are beginning to join them and this corvid roost will continue to grow over the coming months, usually peaking in October when several thousand birds can be seen in the fading light.

Large numbers of gulls are back in the fields, attracted to freshly ploughed earth. They are also drawn in on those days when flying ants emerge and the air above the village is alive with the frenzied feeding flocks of black-headed and common gulls, mixed with swallows, house martins and a few late-staying swifts.

Talking of which, we still have one active swift nest with young in our roof and it is looking likely they could be here until the beginning of September. Numbers have steadily dropped off from over a dozen at the beginning of the month to just a handful of birds by late August, but on

26th I was surprised to see over twenty birds passing over our garden. I assume these were a passage flock. Some days earlier I noticed several swifts feeding over the straw fields just past East Raynham alongside the A1065 - I couldn't stop to watch them more closely, but it seemed likely there were a couple of dozen or so.

There have been good numbers of house martins feeding over The Street most evenings - at least 30 birds, probably nearer 40. Swallows are less numerous but there do seem to be more than the last couple of years, which is gratifying, but I hear other people saying numbers are down across the country. We are lucky to have a strong population in our area.

A bit later than planned, but we finally did the main summer cut of the grasslands at St Margaret's churchyard on the 24th. Thanks to Andrew Buck for bringing along a colleague's reed cutter, which made light work of the heavy long grass and created a good-looking low cut and partly scarified the sward - exactly what is needed to help encourage more species of wildflowers to colonise the site.

We left a few patches uncut, partly to ensure a range of habitat cover for small mammals, frogs, toads and invertebrates. The other reason was a pragmatic avoidance of cutting too close to the four active wasp nests we had spotted! We will do a final cut and rake in October.

It was hard work raking and carrying the cuttings to a large stack in the far corner of the churchyard, but an enjoyable community activity and many thanks to all who joined in (see below).



West Raynham haymakers: L to R - Jay Williams, Lola Reeve, Paresh Shah, Françoise Walker, James Hickman and Andrew Buck

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

Open Gardens - 19 July 2020

Some more photos from our 'virtual Open Gardens' and our thanks again to all those who sent in their photos!



François Walker



Denise Hickman



Ann Chestney



Helen Brooke



Roy Vickery



Sandra Forsyth



David Stubbs



Mick Harris



Tracy Jolliffe



Helen Brooke



Monica Fitzjohn



Denise Hickman



Bridget Stanley