

Raynhams' Newsletter for June 2020

Welcome to this month's issue

North Norfolk District Council has provided one-off grants of £10,000 each for the Village Hall and Reading Room, under a national scheme to support small businesses during the coronavirus outbreak. Many thanks to Melvin Forman for making the applications and, amongst other things, the grants will cover some of the maintenance and running costs.

We were due to have the village fete on 27th June but it was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, we have collected pictures from past fetes to include in this issue and remind us what fun it has been. Thanks to Sid for providing the majority of photos, Denise for the one of Morris dancers (2015) and Judy for one from last year.

Early reminder: For the August Newsletter we plan to include a 'virtual Open Gardens' with photos from your gardens taken on 19 July, the day that the cancelled Open Gardens was due to take place. Please put the date in your diary and take some pictures of your best blooms for us all to enjoy.

Solar Farm News: David Sidell

A meeting was held on Wednesday 20th May 2020 for the election of officers to oversee 2020 Solar Donations to the Parish. Due to the current Covid-19 situation the meeting was online and no changes were made to the existing positions.

As from 1st June 2020 the committee will welcome applications for projects to be funded by the Solar fund. All applications for projects that benefit the community will be considered and 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

Newsletter by email and articles: westray.newsletter@gmail.com

Paresh Shah & Judy Pell: westraynham.vhc@gmail.com; 01582 756495

Joy Forman: westraynham.vhc@gmail.com; 07810763512

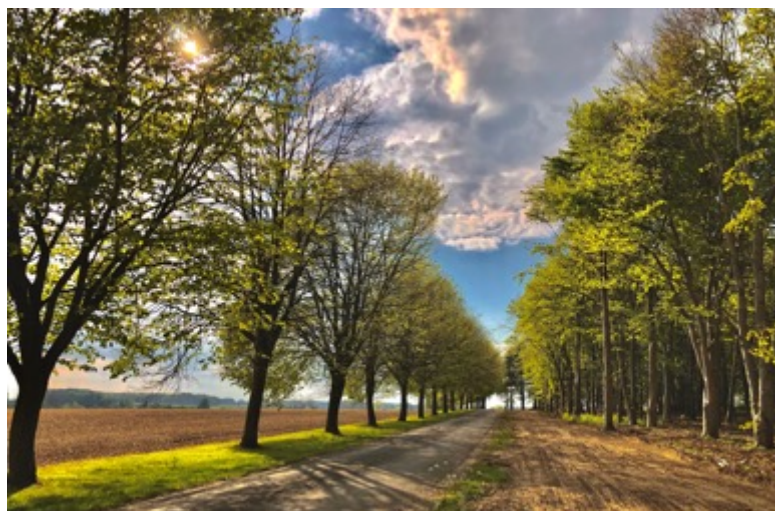
If anyone wishes to book West Raynham village hall for a private event, then please contact Joy.

Donations for tombola and raffle prizes are ALWAYS appreciated. Please either leave them in the Reading Room, which is checked daily, or give them directly to Paresh or Monica.

Photo competition: Results for May 2020

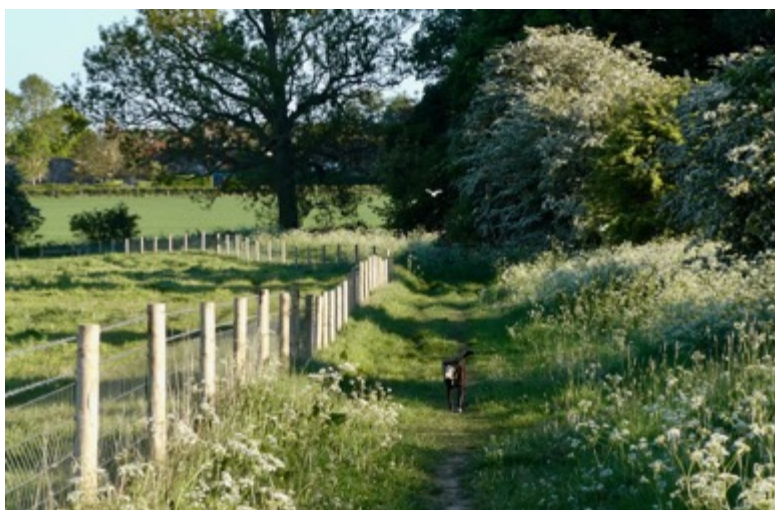
Our competition judge, Paula, of Paula Harrison Photography, Sculthorpe, has made her May selections, and the Winner is Jack O'Donnell for his moody picture of the lime avenue.

The Runner-up is David Stubbs for his lovely picture entitled 'It's behind you: Barn owl and Chimi the dog' - look closely! There is also a special mention for Alan Forsyth's picture of the great sycamore tree in St. Margaret's church yard.



Winner: Jack O'Donnell

Jack's winning entry will be the May image in the Village Calendar for 2021 and prizes for monthly winners and runners-up will be presented at the Christmas Coffee Morning in December. Thanks to everyone who submitted photos and remember, if you are shielding or self-isolating, you don't have to leave your home to join in; you can submit pictures of happy days from previous years or views from your window or garden.



Runner-up: David Stubbs

**** Next deadline is 28th June ****

Competition is open to all ages with a maximum of five images per participant each month. Please submit images to:

westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

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. Sorry, no printed images.



Special mention: Alan Forsyth

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

West Raynham Primary Academy: Mrs Lesley David

The staff at West Raynham Primary Academy continue to support the children and parents during this difficult time of lockdown. Children of Key Workers have continued to go into school along with members of staff from both Unity Academy and Hope Academy. We have also provided work remotely on a daily basis and pre-printed packs where required. Contact through social media, email and telephone calls have been maintained with children and parents but the staff are really missing the children and can't wait to see them again when we start to reopen from June 4th 2020.



Insects in the garden: Paresh Shah

The lovely sunny weather has been great for watching the pollinators visiting the small patch of *Phacelia* we sowed last Spring. I've counted between 30 to 60 bees at various times including honeybees, the common carder bee and the following bumblebees: early; buff-tailed; white-tailed; red-tailed, and garden. I also noted males and females of the cuckoo bumblebee, *Bombus vestalis*, in late May on *Phacelia* and foxgloves.

Day-flying cinnabar moths were seen from early May and the pupae of ladybirds and lacewings were found on leaves of various garden plants throughout the month.

Finally, I'd like to thank Rowena for sending in a photo of a newly-emerged Green Carpet moth (not a pest on carpets!) she found at her cottage in mid-May. The caterpillars feed on bedstraws and adults emerge in early Summer and early Autumn.

Please get in touch if you would like to share any notes or observations about insects and other arthropods in and around the villages. My email is pareshs999@gmail.com.

West Raynham Nature notes: David Stubbs

May has been the driest on record since 1896! The weather has been very pleasant for our lockdown period – following an exceptionally dry April as well – but the lack of moisture in the ground is distinctly worrying. The landscape looks more like late June/July and the vegetation and flowering is a good couple of weeks ahead of normal.

This has had one advantage: the spring flowers along our road verges have mostly been able to flower through their natural cycle before being cut back. The cow parsley in particular has been profuse, bedecking the verges with its elegant white umbels and contrasting beautifully with the bright pink of the red campion, while the hedgerows have been ablaze with may blossom from the hawthorn trees.



Yellow irises along the Wensum (photo Janet Mata)



Red campion (photo Janet Mata)

Along the marshy fringes of the Wensum there are some wonderful displays of yellow iris (or yellow flag) and red campion, and you can also find some of the subtler creamy-green flowers of the spindle bush. The river itself is almost choked with the bright green leaves of fools watercress. These are edible, but should be cooked first (in case of anything nasty coming from upstream) and make a pleasant, carrotty-tasting side veg!

This month has seen large numbers of damsel flies emerging. First were the brilliant large red damselflies, followed by the striking blue of the azure damselflies, both, small, extremely thin and elegant species, which are common visitors to garden ponds and are often seen flitting low over stems of water plants as joined couples laying their eggs. The larger banded demoiselles are also very noticeable, but these prefer running water, so are best seen along the river.

The sunny weather has also brought out many butterflies. It's been a great year for holly blues and the large numbers of orange tips have been a delight, but sadly they will soon be

finished. There are plenty of whites, peacocks and red admirals around, but I have not seen as many brimstones as usual.

There has been plenty of birdlife to see as all the summer visitors have arrived. This May I have found 86 species within walking distance of the village, which has been one of the bonuses of having to stay local. Swifts, swallows and house martins are all back in good numbers and the pair of swifts in our roof that I monitor with a nestcam, completed their clutch of 3 eggs by the 25th, some 8 days ahead of 2019.

Most early mornings and evenings a barn owl can be seen hunting over the pasture between West Raynham and Helhoughton. It seems oblivious to all the local dog walkers and is wonderful to see, often really close up.



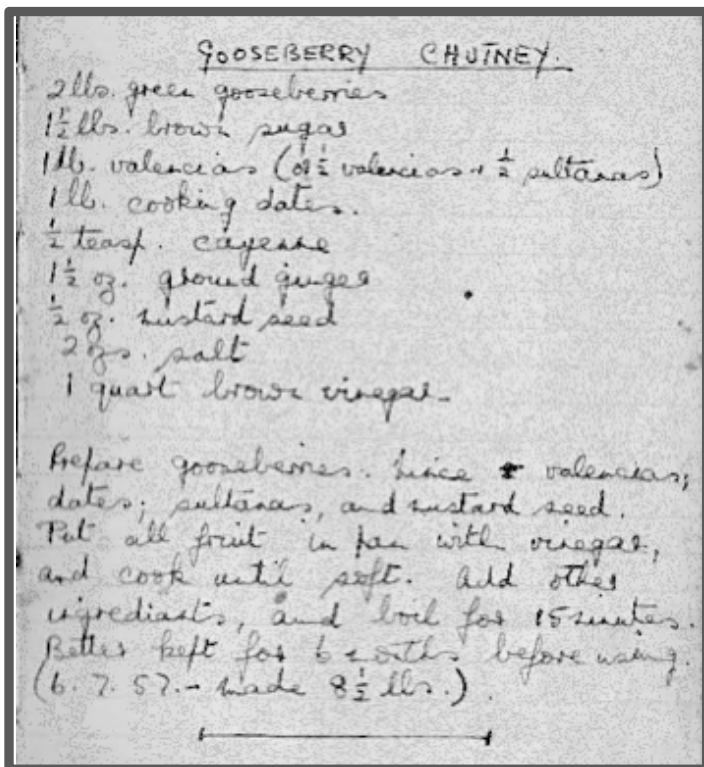
Several cuckoos have been in great voice all along the Wensum, but only rarely venturing up to the village itself.

The riverside walk is great for testing your skill at identifying warblers by song. There are seven species to be found between the bridge by St Mary's and the footbridge upstream at S. Raynham (Cetti's, reed, sedge and willow warblers, plus whitethroat, blackcap and chiffchaff). Among the last migrants to return are the spotted flycatchers and these too are currently to be found along the riverside woodland and among the tall trees by The Rectory.

I haven't yet found any turtle doves here, but I did see a pair on the road between Whissonsett and Horningtoft on the 26th.

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

Recipe Corner: Gooseberry chutney



We (Judy and Paresh) thought it might be nice to include a 'recipe corner' in the newsletter. This one is from Mary Ferguson, the mother of a friend of ours, who was living in Happisburgh at the time.

As you can see she made 8½ lb in July 1957 - maybe you can do the same when the gooseberry season starts! 'Valencias' are raisins made from Spanish muscat grapes, but you can use ordinary raisins or sultanas.

If you have a recipe to share then either post it in the village hall postbox or email to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

June Wordsearch - Harry Potter

Harry Potter

F	F	L	H	I	P	P	O	G	R	I	F	F	W
F	U	A	E	H	E	R	M	I	O	N	E	R	E
U	Y	R	S	T	D	L	V	D	R	O	A	D	A
P	E	N	C	D	L	Y	D	O	E	V	L	A	S
E	D	B	A	M	S	I	R	L	E	A	O	S	L
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F	O	A	R	E	G	A	C	O	H	R	N	L	Y
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R	R	O	L	R	D	T	A	D	P	V	D	G	L
D	U	M	B	L	E	D	O	R	E	A	I	E	P
G	N	I	L	W	O	R	K	J	I	A	F	R	R

RAVENCLAW
ALBUS
HIPPOGRIFF
HERMIONE
HAGRID
POTTER
DARK ARTS
HUFFLEPUFF
GRANGER
WEASLEY
HARRY
SCAR
J.K. ROWLING
DUMBLEDORE
RONALD

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/149/>

Photos from past Village Days at the Raynhams







