

# The Raynhams' & Orchard's Newsletter: May 2020

## *John Reed*

As many of you may already know John sadly passed away in late April. Before moving to be nearer family, John and Jill had lived at the Old Foundry in West Raynham for over 30 years, and were an integral and much-loved part of the village. Our sincere condolences go out to Jill, Ben & Claire, and Georgie & Chad.

## VE Day

This year May 8<sup>th</sup> marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and we take this opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who endured the Second World War and its aftermath. Today, as in 1945, we look forward to better times in the future.

## Homechurch newsletter

The Rev. Edward Bundock is producing a weekly leaflet called Homechurch for those wishing to pray and reflect together. Please email [elbundock@aol.com](mailto:elbundock@aol.com) if you would like more information.

## Photo competition

Our thanks to everyone who submitted photos to the monthly competition. We had 38 entries for April - the most so far! Now it's time to start thinking about submitting images for May- perhaps some bluebells? Don't forget, all images should be in landscape and NOT portrait!

## Wildlife and countryside

This month's issue sees the start of what we hope to be a regular 'Nature Notes' feature by David Stubbs about the wildlife and countryside around the villages. As a lapsed entomologist, I have also added some notes about several insects I recently spotted while gardening. If you would like to contribute or have ideas for other topics then please get in touch.



## Rainbows and flowers

Thank you to Molly for her lovely signs that appeared in West Raynham at Easter and over the May Bank holiday - they really cheered us all up and here's hoping for more!

*Paresh Shah, Foundry Cottage. Email: [pareshs999@gmail.com](mailto:pareshs999@gmail.com).*

## Contact details

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Village Hall bookings - Joy Forman: [westraynham.vhc@gmail.com](mailto:westraynham.vhc@gmail.com); 07810763512

If you wish to make an announcement, place an advert in the newsletter or, when things are back to normal, book West Raynham village hall for a private event, then please contact Joy.

Donations for tombola and raffle prizes are ALWAYS appreciated. Please leave them in the Reading Room, which is checked regularly.

# Photo Competition: Results for April

**Winner: Monica Fitzjohn**



**Runner-up: Jack O'Donnell**



**Special Mention: David Stubbs**



Our competition judge, Paula, of **Paula Harrison Photography**, Sculthorpe, had a really difficult selection job this month - but April's Winner is **Monica Fitzjohn** for her beautiful picture of the fabulous Raynham cherries. The Runner-up is **Jack O'Donnell** for his lovely picture entitled 'Bull's Eye'. For the first time we also have a Special Mention for **David Stubbs** for his evocative picture of the lime avenue. More submissions of the wonderful West Raynham cherry trees can be seen at the end of the newsletter - just too good not to include.

Monica's winning entry will be the April 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 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.

Deadline for May pictures is **28<sup>th</sup> May**

**Be inspired and join in**

Open to all ages; maximum of five images per participant each month. Please submit images to [westray.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westray.newsletter@gmail.com). Full rules available from Paresch.

Images **MUST** be landscape (NOT PORTRAIT), high resolution (min 300 dpi), full size if possible (i.e. uncropped), relevant to the Raynham and seasonal for the month. Sorry, no hard copy images please.

**GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!**

# Raynhams' Nature Notes for April 2020: David Stubbs



We think of April as the month when spring really gets going and the peak of cherry blossom season. It's the time when our wonderful lime trees come into leaf and the hedges are ablaze with blackthorn flowers.

In the bird world it is a period of transition and the chance to see late winter birds like redwings, fieldfares, bramblings and the large flocks of common gulls in the fields before they head off to cooler northern climes, while also welcoming our summer migrants back. Oystercatchers make a noisy return to the fields and several shelducks can be seen on Raynham Lake, while winter ducks like teal, shoveler and gadwall depart.

This year with the exceptionally dry and sunny weather, there have been some really early records. House martins and swallows were back in the village from 5 April and the first swifts reappeared on 25 April. Françoise Walker reported hearing the first cuckoo on the 16th and as the month progressed chiffchaffs and blackcaps filled up our woodlands with their songs.

Rarer passage migrants included a number of sightings of ring ouzel and wheatear and I saw three golden plovers on a ploughed field towards Whissonsett on the 1<sup>st</sup>.



We have also started seeing more and more butterflies as the month has progressed. First ones out were peacocks, small tortoiseshells and brimstones, while in the last couple of weeks the wonderful orange tips have appeared in good numbers. Look out also for the diminutive holly blue; it's often found on ivy and privet (despite its name).

Two summer migrants that are very rare nowadays, but still sometimes turn up are turtle dove and spotted flycatcher. Look out for them in the woodlands along the Wensum. Cuckoos should be much more in evidence and if you are lucky you might see a hobby, a really elegant falcon that scythes through the air at high speed hawking after large insects and small birds.

May is the season for hawthorn, cow parsley, red campion and bird cherry. Many of the latter are found in the wet woodlands along the Wensum and some are already coming into flower. By the end of the month some bee orchids may be in flower along uncut road verges and lawns.

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

## Ancient and veteran trees: Edward Bundock

The Rev. Edward Bundock has started to make an inventory of old and ancient trees in the Raynhams and Helhoughton. An oak from 1590 is thought to be the oldest tree in the villages. According to the Rev. Bundock there was extensive planting of fruit trees in the 1630s followed by oaks in the 1700s and huge sales of timber in the 1840s.

If you are interested in helping with the survey and inventory then please send an email to [elbundock@aol.com](mailto:elbundock@aol.com).

## Insects in the garden: Paresh Shah

For me Spring is bookended by two flies (Diptera) with the beefly, *Bombylius major*, hovering around early Spring flowers, while from late April we can see small clouds of St. Mark's-fly or the Hawthorn fly, *Bibio marci*.

This Spring I've also noticed two types of Hymenoptera (bees and wasps), both of which form nests underground. The Ashy mining bee, *Andrena cineraria*, looks like a honey bee but is black with white fringes around the thorax. Seen flying in the same area is the Red Wasp, *Vespula rufa*, which has a distinctive red coloured 1<sup>st</sup> abdominal segment.

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](mailto:pareshs999@gmail.com).

## A Wordsearch for May

### Types of Dog

H	G	E	L	P	H	D	U	H	O	T	G	M	E
S	H	E	N	E	U	A	S	C	S	B	I	R	E
R	B	O	X	E	R	C	D	E	A	U	R	R	H
H	N	B	R	L	M	H	D	N	R	L	E	A	R
C	C	O	R	G	I	S	N	I	E	L	I	O	P
O	D	N	U	O	H	H	A	I	H	D	R	R	I
L	R	H	U	R	E	U	S	R	H	O	R	E	N
L	A	R	H	D	D	N	U	B	C	G	E	T	S
I	H	T	A	B	A	D	T	L	S	E	T	T	C
E	E	A	D	A	L	M	A	T	I	A	N	E	H
L	M	A	S	T	I	F	F	H	B	A	H	S	E
S	C	H	I	H	U	A	H	U	A	O	P	S	R
T	E	H	M	I	R	B	E	A	G	L	E	B	A
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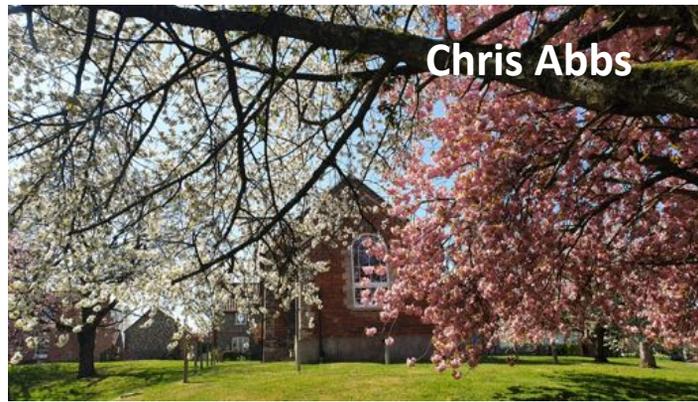
DALMATIAN  
DACHSHUND  
BEAGLE  
PINSCHER  
SHEPHERD  
MASTIFF  
SETTER  
CHIHUAHUA  
BULLDOG  
COLLIE  
HOUND  
CORGI  
TERRIER  
BOXER

Find more puzzles at <http://thewordsearch.com>.

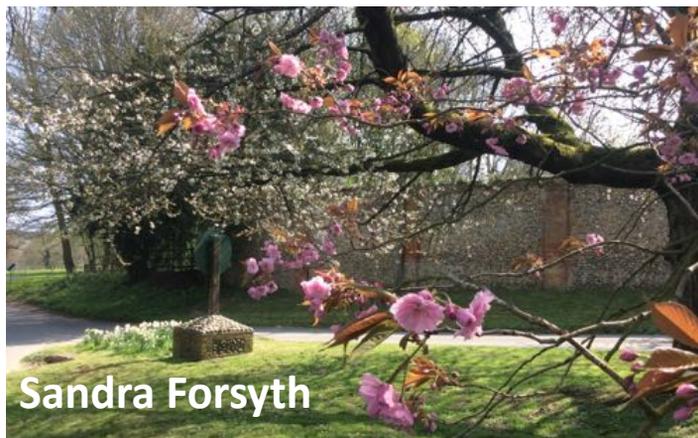
# More images of the cherry trees in West Raynham



Molly Williamson



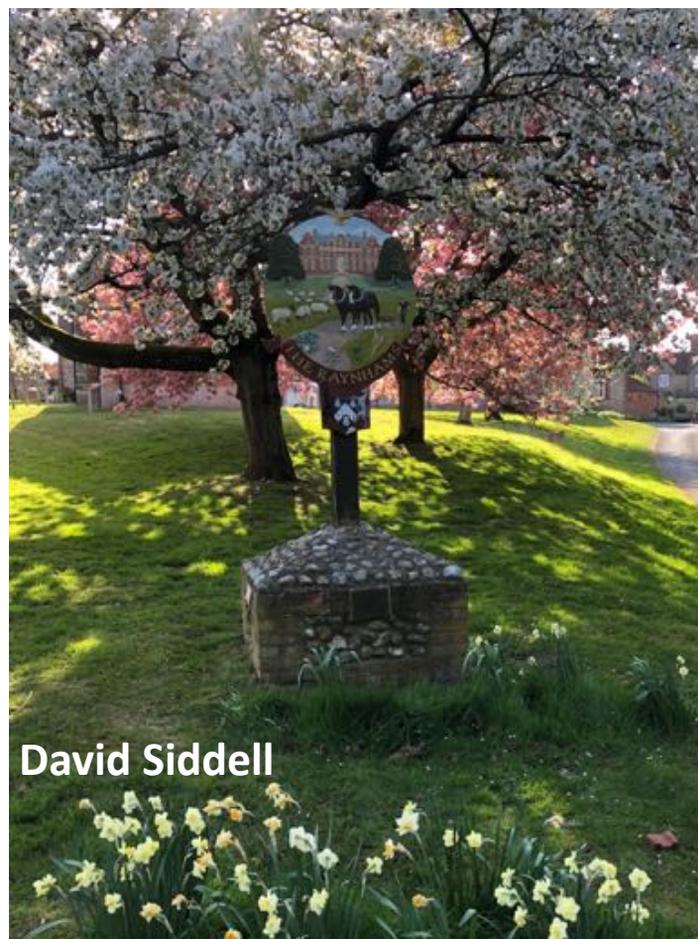
Chris Abbs



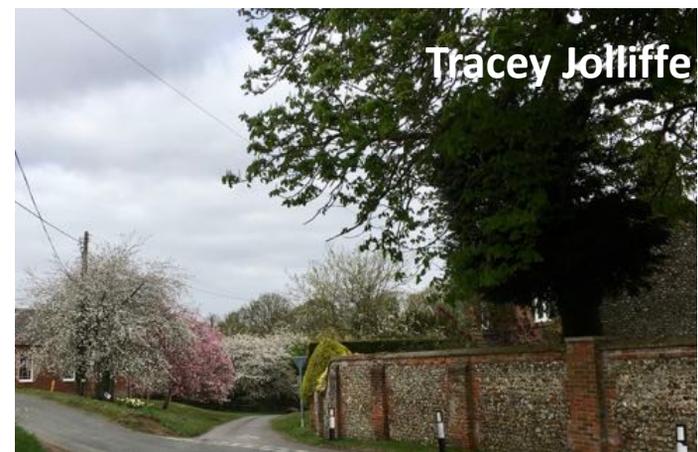
Sandra Forsyth



David Stubbs



David Siddell



Tracey Jolliffe

## CALL FOR PHOTOS OF PAST RAYNHAMS' DAYS

Raynhams' Village Day on June 27<sup>th</sup> has had to be cancelled but that doesn't stop us celebrating by including pictures from past Village Days in the June Newsletter. Please send your pictures and we will include them!

Deadline May 28<sup>th</sup> to:

[westray.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westray.newsletter@gmail.com).