

Raynhams' Newsletter – November 2020



A quick update on the 2021 Raynhams' Village Calendar as we are putting together the winning photos to send to the printers. The calendar will sell for £5.99 with any profits going to the Village Hall, and copies can be ordered by leaving a note in the village hall post box or by email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com. Please see page 4 for details about sending in your photos for November and December.

Our thanks to all the contributors for this month's issue including Sandra Forsyth for the pumpkins at the top of this page! If you want to include any news about the Raynhams then please get in touch by either leaving a note in the village hall post box or sending an email to westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Foundation stones

About a year ago we started painting what turned out to be more than 200 stones, and these will be used to form part of the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London.

The Foundation Stones are a commitment to remember the past and build a future free from all forms of hatred, violence and discrimination. A big 'Thank you!' to Monica Fitzjohn and Alan Forsyth for organising the painting and delivery of the stones.

For more information visit the Big Ideas website at: <https://www.big-ideas.org/highlights-gallery>.



Contact details and further information

- westray.newsletter@gmail.com: subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter or to submit photos and articles
- westraynham.vhc@gmail.com: book the village hall for an event
- <https://www.raynhampc.info>: See Documents page to view past newsletters

Raynham War Memorial – Diane Boisson

The Raynham War Memorial has been restored to full glory using monies secured from the village Solar Power Fund and a donation from Viscount Tom Raynham. The memorial was unveiled on 30 July 1920 and formerly commemorated twelve local servicemen who fell in the First World War. Five men and one woman who fell in the Second World War were subsequent additions. A further name - Arthur Boggis who lived in Pollywiggie Cottage with his family and who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, was added in 2016 on request of the Boggis family.



The restoration work was undertaken by Nick Hindle, a revered Norfolk stonemason who routinely works on the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. His skill and expertise has returned the memorial to its original splendour striking a magnificent picture against the backdrop of St Mary's Church.

Most fittingly, the essential work was completed during the centenary anniversary of the unveiling of our war memorial, and as this year's Remembrancetide approaches it will again provide the focus for our commemorations of the Raynham men and women memorialized for their ultimate sacrifice for us.

Diane Boisson, Fakenham & District Branch, Royal British Legion

News from Raynham Estate – Jo Bosch

Hello from me

First things first, I hope you'll indulge me if I introduce myself. I've just started working here as Tom Raynham's PA, and will also be covering Marketing & PR. For the last nearly 9 years, I've been the Marketing and Visitor Experience Manager at the National Trust's Blickling Estate. I'm looking forward to bringing some of the best of what I learnt there to Raynham, whilst gaining more knowledge from the team here about the inner workings of a private estate. I live locally and am very pleased to be here.

New website

If you'd like to keep up to date with what's happening, and hear a little more about our current and future plans, our new website has just gone live: www.raynham.co.uk. If you'd like to, you can also subscribe to our mailing list. You can follow us on our social media channels at:

- <https://www.facebook.com/RaynhamNorfolk> and
- <https://www.instagram.com/raynhamnorfolk/>

Around the Farm

The heavy rain isn't helping, but we're busy getting the last of the maize in, and sugar beet harvesting will be starting soon. As ever, we'll do our best to mitigate mud on the road and traffic noise.

Photography

I noticed from the last newsletter that we have some very gifted photographers in our community. If anyone has photos of the estate that they'd be happy for us to use on our social media channels (with a name credit of course!), then please send a good quality image to jo@raynhamfarm.co.uk with your name and where the photograph was taken.

Village Hall Committee

The AGM was held on 13th October and 15 Trustees were elected including Paresh Shah (Chair), Melvin Forman (Treasurer) and Joy Forman (Secretary). We were looking to open the hall for some limited social events during November, but these have now been postponed until further information is available next month. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the village hall then send an email to westraynham.vhc@gmail.com.

Photo competition: Results for October 2020

For October we had 14 entries which were judged by Paula of Paula Harrison Photography in Sculthorpe. The winner is David Stubbs with his photo of 'Lime Avenue curve', and the runner up is Jack O'Donnell with 'A time to pray'.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted photos so far and remember, you can send in pictures from previous years or views from your window or garden, so you don't have to leave your home to join in.

As we aim to have the calendar printed and ready for sale by early December, the deadline for photos for November AND December is 7th November. This may mean you will have to look through your archives and collections for images from past years. Possible themes include Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and any other festivals or gatherings taking place during this time.

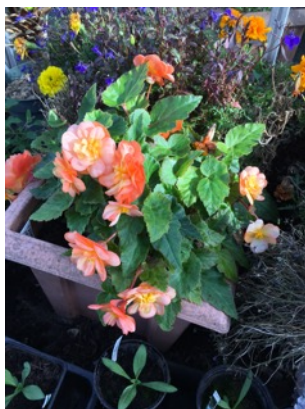
Please email all photos to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com. The same email address can be used to pre-order your copies of the 2021 calendar.



**** Deadline for photos for November and December is 7th November ****

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.

Pottering in the greenhouse and garden - Bridget Stanley



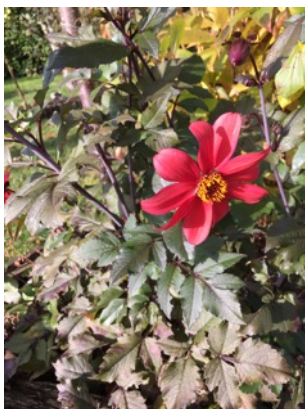
The begonias have revived beautifully after sheltering in the greenhouse for the past couple of weeks. These are tubers bought in spring 2019, now in their second year of flowering.

Also in the greenhouse, are Little Gem lettuce seedlings which have been pricked out into pots. The pots will come into the house to a cool windowsill if needs be, if we get a very cold spell



The basil plants from the greenhouse are already safely lined up on the kitchen windowsill. They hate any cold, so the kitchen warmth is ideal for them. My basil plants this year all came from a supermarket pot, which I divided up and re-potted, and little cuttings taken from the original plant were also successful. Apparently, you can take root cuttings from watercress salad leaves that you have bought in bags, but I haven't tried that yet. On the 'To Do List'!

I am told that this is a good time to feed camellias. Their flower buds are forming now, for next spring. I have watered them with rain water and my spent coffee grounds, which is supposed to give them the acidic conditions that they like! There are still a few colourful pockets in the garden and the roses, dahlias and salvias are still trying hard in spite of all the wind and rain.



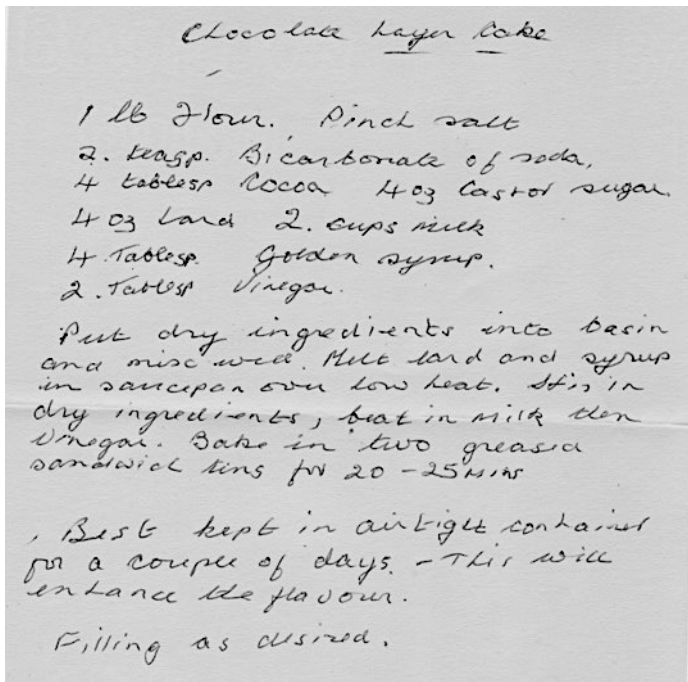
Dahlia Bishop's Children (left): I will leave some of these in the ground as they get protection over the winter from other shrubs around them. Otherwise, they will be lifted and stored dry, in a cardboard box in the greenhouse.

Rose Harlow Carr (right): I will leave this to flower for as long as it likes! Some of the roses keep flowering through to the end of November and beyond, only requiring a little tidy up now and again.



Any suggestions or tips from our Raynham gardeners would be much appreciated! Gardening is all about learning, and remembering what works best from one year to the next - some years are better than others for many reasons! This year has been good for apples and, at the time of writing, there is a box of Bramley apples on the stall in The Street. Please come and have some! There is a little donation box if you would like to make a contribution to Guide Dogs for the Blind, but it's not obligatory!

Recipe Corner: Mum's frugal chocolate layer cake – Judy Pell



This is an interesting recipe. Mum can't remember who gave it to her but it definitely comes from the era of rationing when you had to improvise to make treats for celebrations. You will notice there are no eggs or butter in this recipe and, weirdly, it includes both lard and vinegar which were still readily available in those days. You bake it in a moderate oven (150°C fan). Despite the unusual ingredients it is a very tasty cake and stays moist if you keep it in an airtight container.

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



While cutting up some turf recently I came across several cream coloured larvae of the garden chafer beetle which is common in lawns and can be an occasional pest. Also under the turf were colonies of red ants, probably *Myrmica rubra*, and the worker ants can sting if disturbed or handled roughly!

On 20 October I noticed a number of harlequin ladybirds flying westwards from the Raynham lake direction towards our house, with individuals about a metre above the ground. The harlequin



ladybird is an invasive species which is now widespread throughout the UK since being first recorded in southern England in 2003. The ladybird has over 20 colour forms and can be found sheltering inside window frames over winter. It feeds on a range of insects including other ladybirds, and has been linked to a decline in several native ladybird species through direct predation and competition.

West Raynham Nature Notes: David Stubbs

Well it has rained a lot. And it's getting darker every day... Autumn is fully here and many creatures will soon be heading into hibernation. Our last summer birds have departed - I saw a couple of swallows over the village at the beginning of the month and a few chiffchaffs on passage, but we have a much more wintry cast taking over. Lots of redwings and fieldfares around and a good-sized flock of siskins in the wet woodlands along the Wensum. Even a few redpolls and bramblings have turned up in the village.

The morning of 11th October brought a spectacular passage of winter thrushes all heading west. By 08:00am I estimated over 2000 redwings had passed through in successive waves of between 50 and 200 birds at a time. Occasionally they were punctuated by a few fieldfares, skylarks and meadow pipits - a classic mix of autumn migrants. Many other observers in North Norfolk witnessed the same, meaning that the mass migration was taking place over a broad front.

This month I have had several sightings of red kites. They have become almost commonplace in our area over the last few years, but every time I see one it feels really special. It is their elegant, languid way of flying, their long wings and their distinctively forked pale red tails - somehow they just look amazing and it is always a special pleasure to see them. They are magnificent birds and it is wonderful that we have so many more birds of prey in north Norfolk these days.

One day recently I noticed several flights of ducks taking off from Raynham Lake, obviously in a bit of a panic. Such behaviour often suggests a predator has spooked them. Sure enough, an immature female peregrine came slicing across the parkland. I don't think it caught anything this time and before it could have another go, it was chased off by the local red kites and a buzzard - quite a moment.

My most heart-stopping moment of the month, however, was one morning driving south along the A1065 towards East Raynham, when I noticed a group of large deer cantering across the open field to my left. Suddenly they split up and the leading four proceeded to a fast sprint straight across the road in front of me, without breaking stride - I did the braking and luckily no other vehicles were around. These were red deer, looking absolutely magnificent in their dark russet coats and their imperious attitude of total ownership of their domain. This was the first time I had seen red deer in our area, as they are generally more active at night, but there are plenty of tracks in the soil to suggest they are quite common.

I mentioned hibernation. As the clocks go back more and more creatures are having a final feeding flourish before seeking out safe nooks and crannies for their winter quarters. Although it's been wet, the temperature has been pretty mild and the wasps nests are still active and bats are still flying around in the evenings.

Late flowering plants like sedums and asters attract late butterflies and all sorts of bees, wasps and hoverflies. Banks of ivy flowers are especially important sources of food for these insects, and of course many gardens are littered with rotting windfall apples, pears and plums, which are a hugely valuable source of food for wildlife. Hedgehogs are still active at the moment; there was a really large one in our garden the other night, snuffling around below our bird feeders.

Remember: please do take care if you are having bonfires at this time of year - all sorts of wildlife could be trying to shelter under plies of cuttings and dead leaves.



Ivy in flower along the hedge at the top of Hollow Lane attracts lots of late season butterflies and other insects



Hornet feeding on ivy

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Rare rufous bush chat in UK for first time in 40 years

© 17 October

PAUL NOBBS

The rufous bush chat is rarely seen in northern Europe

Birdwatchers have descended on a salt marsh to see a bird not seen in Britain for 40 years.

The rufous bush chat was spotted at Stiffkey, north Norfolk, prompting up to 100 birdwatchers to go to see it.

This autumn has been notable for the number and variety of rare birds turning up along the N. Norfolk coast. One in particular was the first record in the UK for 40 years, when a rufous bush chat was found in the salt marsh at Stiffkey. The occurrence made national news, probably more for the frenzy of 'twitchers' who came from all over the country to see this off-course bird. Normally a bird of dry scrubland in the Mediterranean region that winters in Africa and further east to India, this unfortunate one obviously had a compass malfunction.

Although we are relatively close to the coast, only rarely do any of the more unusual vagrant birds turn up inland. I have always assumed that the combination of these birds stopping where they first make landfall and the large number of observers along the coast accounts for this. Surely they must disperse inland, where they can just disappear into the wider countryside.



This year there was a good example of this concerning a red-flanked bluetail, a scarce visitor from the east (most of those turning up in Britain probably come from Finland). October 2020 has been a bumper year and several have been seen along the coast at Holme, Burnham Overy and Holkham. More interestingly, however, one was automatically photographed by a camera set up at Pensthorpe Nature Reserve to monitor a fence line. Galling for staff and visitors, but nobody

actually saw that bird, which rather supports my theory. Maybe it (or another one) has been lurking around West Raynham unbeknown to anyone.

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