

The Raynhams' Newsletter - December 2024

Dates for the Diary

- **Thursday 5th** - Santa Dash 2024 at The Airman's Arms from 5:30pm.
- **Friday 6th** - Mobile library at West Raynham bus shelter from 9:30 to 9:45am.
- **Friday 6th** - Pub night in Helhoughton Village Hall from 7 to 11pm.
- **Friday 6th, 13th** - West Raynham Village Hall Bar open from 7 to 10:30pm.
- **Saturday 7th** - Coffee Morning in Helhoughton Village Hall from 10am to midday in aid of Mid Norfolk Foodbank. Donations welcome (e.g. tinned goods, toiletries).
- **Saturday 7th, 21st** - Creative Crafters in Village Hall from 10am to midday.
- **Sunday 8th** - Walking Home fundraising walk at West Raynham SHQ from 10:30am.
- **Saturday 14th** - West Raynham Village Hall Christmas Party starting at midday.
- **Saturday 21st** - Christmas Disco with Santa at The Airman's Arms from 5pm.
- **Tuesday 24th** - Christmas Eve Party at The Airman's Arms (2pm children; 7pm adults).
- **Tuesday 31st** - New Years Eve Party at The Airman's Arms from 7pm to 1am.

Local Church Services

- **Sunday 15th** - All Saints, Helhoughton, from 10:30am.
- **Sunday 22nd** - St Martin's, South Raynham, from 10:30am.
- **Tuesday 24th** - Carol service at St Mary's, East Raynham, from 6pm.

Raynhams' Christmas Party - Saturday 14th December

Please note the party will start at 12 noon ready for the caterers to start serving at 12.30. Food will be a hog roast (vegan option available) and salads followed by tea/coffee and cakes/mince pies. The bar will be open for drinks (cash or card).

If you have not already replied confirming your attendance, please do so urgently to Debbie at: rabbits_peterrabbit@yahoo.co.uk.

This event is funded by the Raynham Solar Fund and is free to residents of The Raynhams and The Orchard, but not to residents of The Kiptons which is covered by the Helhoughton Solar Fund. The Village Hall Committee has decided to request a £10 charge per head if non-residents wish to attend this party and similar events to conform to the requirements of the Raynham Solar Fund.

West Raynham Village Hall Bar

From January next year the bar will be open on SATURDAY nights from 7 to 11pm and not on Fridays.

Andy's last bar night is on Friday 13th December, and all are welcome for a farewell drink - nibbles will be provided.

Raynham Solar Fund - Awards for 2024/25

The Raynham Solar Fund is now in its ninth funding round. The committee met in November and was pleased to receive a wide and varied range of applications, but the total sum of the applications received was nearly double the grant available, therefore some reductions and adjustments had to be made. The following applications were successful and will be delivered over the next year:

- End of Summer Party 2025 at West Raynham village hall/green.
- An application from the Parish Council Clerk to replace the safety matting underneath some of the play equipment at the recreation ground in West Raynham.
- Fundraising quiz night at the village hall in May, date to be confirmed.
- Christmas party in the village hall for the benefit of the local community.
- Fish & Chip supper, repeat of this successful and well supported community event, more details later in the year.
- Replacement of one of the LED streetlamps in Hollow Lane with a Victorian style lamp.
- Bird feeders and supply of bird food for year-round feeding in the parish, continuing this popular project for another year.
- Provide a year's subscription to 'Which?' magazine, copies to be available to browse in the Reading Room, this has proved to be a successful addition and accords with the historic principles of the Reading Room.
- Repairs to the tower at St Mary's Church, East Raynham.

Raynham Solar Fund Committee.

Mobile Post Office

Beat the Christmas queues by using the mobile Post Office from Great Massingham Stores. Service times for nearby villages are as follows:

East Rudham (car park for The Crown)

Monday	09:20 - 10:20
Tuesday	09:20 - 10:20
Wednesday	15:40 - 16:20
Thursday	09:20 - 10:20
Friday	11:00 - 12:00

Helhoughton (opp. village hall)

Friday	10:05 - 10:50
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Harpley

Monday	08:00 - 08:30
Tuesday	08:00 - 08:30
Wednesday	16:20 - 16:45
Thursday	08:00 - 08:30

Weasenham

Friday	08:00 - 08:50
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Whissonsett

Friday	09:00 - 09:50
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The Airman's Arms - Kipton Wood

Come & wait in the Airman's Arms
for the

 *Santa Dash 2024*

Thursday 5th of December
from 5:30 PM

Kids hot chocolate 50p & other usual drinks available
while we wait for Santa to arrive!



The Airman's Arms



Christmas Disco with Santa!

Saturday 21st December

Open from 5 PM | Visit Santa 6 PM-
7 PM - Then Disco!

Party games
for the kids!

All Ages
Welcome!

See Santa & get a gift!
£2 per child.
Purchase from the bar or
DM us!

Pass the parcel,
musical chairs
& other games!

Kids Christmas Eve Party

Tuesday 24th of December 2 - 5 PM
Adults party 7-11 PM



The Airman's Arms

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Open
7 PM - 1 AM

Kids countdown
at 9 PM!
Adults - usual
time!



Tuesday 31st December

Strictly no under 12s after 9 PM countdown has ended

*Christmas
Carol Service*

CAROL SERVICE
MUSIC and READINGS for
CHRISTMAS
with mulled wine and mince pies

St Mary's Church
East Raynham
6pm
on Christmas Eve,
Tuesday 24th December

West Raynham Coffee Morning - Saturday 25th January

The first coffee morning of 2025 will feature winning and runner-up photos from the Newsletter photo competition in 2024.

We are pleased Paula Smith, who has been the photo competition judge since 2020, will be attending the event.

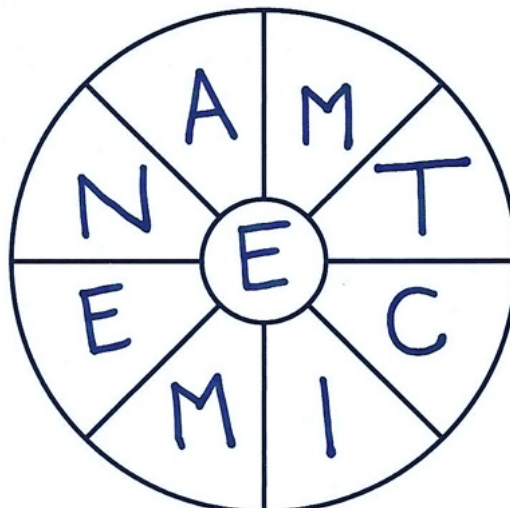
Proceeds from the coffee morning will go to Thornage Hall, near Holt, which provides supported living for adults with learning disabilities. A selection of crafts made by Thornage Hall residents will also be on sale.

More information on the ethos and activities at Thornage Hall can be found at: <https://www.thornagehall.co.uk/>.



Word Wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. Plurals, foreign words or proper nouns are not allowed. I found 36 words not including the nine-letter word, which is where I started when constructing the wheel; see if you can beat me! The words I found are listed on page 10 and include the nine-letter word - well done if you got that one!



St Margaret's Project Announces Heritage Fund Support

The Trustees of the newly formed St Margaret's in Ruins Conservation Trust (SMIRCT) presented their project at a public meeting in West Raynham Village Hall on Sunday 24th November. The meeting, moderated by Anne-Marie Martin along with fellow trustees, James Hickman (Chair), Alan Forsyth and David Stubbs, gave village residents the opportunity to hear about plans for stabilising the ruins of St Margaret's and a range of activities to build community engagement and educational initiatives connected with the site.



The Trustees were delighted to announce the project had been awarded a grant of £74,445 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This funding is for the 'Development Phase' which will involve detailed planning and consultations ahead of a further application to the Heritage Fund for 'Delivery Phase' support later next year.

While this is a substantial investment from the Heritage Fund, it is contingent on being able to show continued local community support for the project. This may be in the form of volunteering, joining in activities and financial contributions. Small regular contributions from local residents would make a huge difference and help to attract additional investment into our community.

In the next few weeks, some protective scaffolding and emergency repairs will be put in place to ensure the ruins, which are in a precarious state, are shored up while the main project

funding is sought. The wildlife conservation work in the churchyard will continue. The Trust is managing St Margaret's via a 25-year lease granted by the Diocese. This will allow the East with West Raynham PCC to focus their efforts on the much-needed restoration work for St Mary's, but they will of course remain in close contact with SMIRCT.

In answer to questions raised at the meeting, it was confirmed that the site remains consecrated ground,

and a number of religious services can continue to be held there, albeit not within the core of the ruined church for the time being. This may include interment of ashes and erection of headstones.

It was also agreed to set up a messaging group for volunteers, so that as far as possible advance notice could be given of upcoming activities.

Special thanks were given to: The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Raynham Solar Fund, and the many community supporters and partners who have helped the project so far.

For further information please see: www.stmargaretsruins.org, or email info@st-margarets-ruins.org.

David Stubbs.



Photo Competition Results for November & December

Our thanks to everyone who sent in photos over the past year for the photo competition, and we also thank Paula Smith in Sculthorpe for kindly looking through the entries each month and selecting a winner and runner-up.

November



Winner: Jane Woolridge

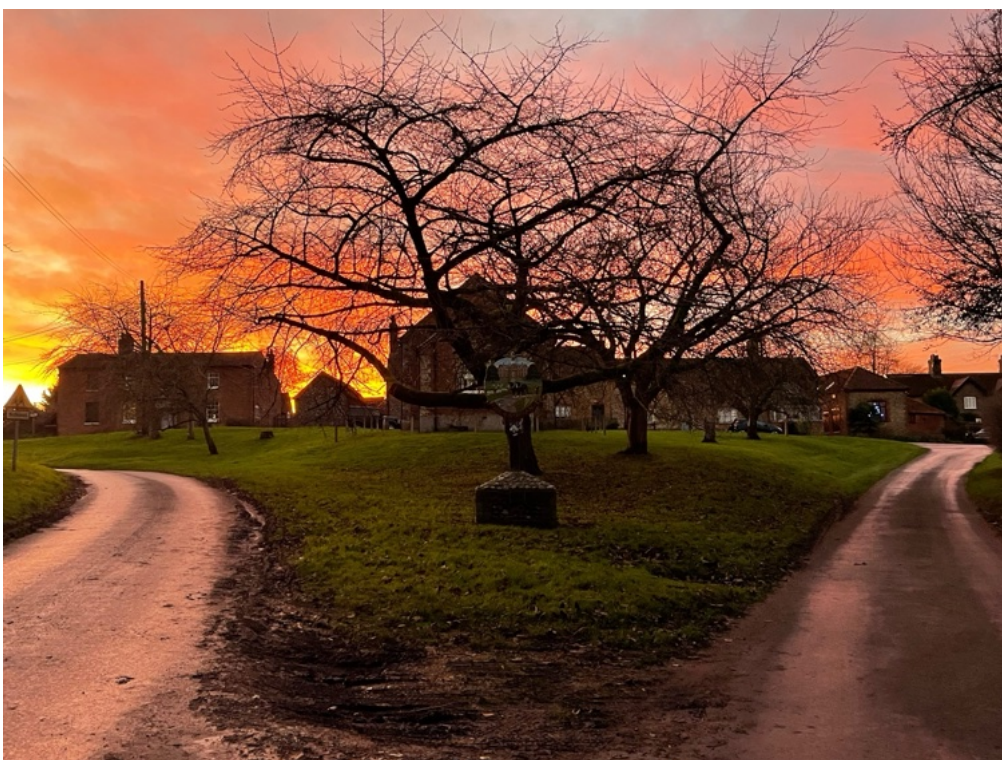


Runner-up: Sandra Forsyth

December



Winner: Tracy Jolliffe



Runner-up: Bryan Welton

All the winning and runner-up photos from 2024 will be on display during the coffee morning on **Saturday 25th January** in West Raynham Village Hall from 10am to midday. Our judge Paula will be present, and proceeds will go to Thornage Hall, near Holt, which provides supported living for adults with learning disabilities.

Recipe Corner - Chestnut Stuffing

This is my Mum's recipe and was probably her Mum's before her. It is simpler than most, but this is our family tradition and a firm favourite at Christmas - we just like the pure chestnut flavour. Besides using it as a stuffing for the Christmas turkey, you can also just bake it in a foil covered dish as a vegetarian side, and if you replace the butter with a plant-based spread it becomes a vegan alternative. The stuffing can also be an ingredient in other dishes, for example it adds lots of flavour if dropped into a mushroom or butternut squash risotto or the filling of a sausage roll - and of course you can add your own favourite flavours to it and start a new family tradition.

I've just made and frozen a batch of this stuffing for this Christmas, which is good because it is usually all made 'by eye', so making it early meant I could weigh everything to produce a more useful recipe for the Newsletter - and take a few photos too.

Ingredients (for about 900g stuffing)

3 x 350g 'nets' of shop-bought chestnuts (or your own foraged chestnuts)

About 170g unsalted butter (softened)

Black pepper (approx. 20 twists of the pepper grinder)

Method

First you need to make a slit in the shell of each chestnut with a sharp knife; it doesn't need to be very big - just stick the knife in and twist a bit to ensure the chestnut is opened. These days it is possible to buy chestnuts that have been laser scored which makes life easier. Whether you intend to roast or boil the chestnuts, the slit (or laser score) ensures they cook evenly and don't explode.



For this stuffing you need to simmer the chestnuts in unsalted water for about 1.5 hours until the flesh is soft when you test it with a knife through the slit you made in the shell.

Drain off the water and let chestnuts cool down. Then comes the fiddly part of the job - getting the flesh out of the shell. I would suggest slicing the shell off the side of the chestnut that has the slit in it - it will be soft after the boiling.



Also scrape off the inner papery membrane which is bitter and then squeeze the nut to encourage the flesh out. You might need to use a knife to get the final pieces out.

If most of the chestnuts are 'good' you should end up with about 750g of large and small pieces. Out of the three nets I used this year, I only discarded two rotten chestnuts (black inside).

Add the softened butter and pepper and mix with your hands to make the stuffing. I split mine up into three zip-lock bags (about 300g in each) and froze them - a couple will be for Christmas, and one will be saved for a risotto in the new year. I hope you enjoy.



If you have a treasured recipe which you are happy to share, then please let us know by sending an email to: westray.newsletter@gmail.com.

Judy Pell.

Butterflies and Moths

The weather during Spring and early Summer was very cold and wet, and very few insects seemed to be around. The cold conditions had a knock-on effect for insects during July and August. For example, at Sculthorpe Moor we would expect to count about 200 butterflies (mostly Peacocks and Red Admirals) in mid- to late-July during our regular walks for Butterfly Conservation, but this year the maximum number recorded was around 20 butterflies in the transects. However, the mild Autumn led me to carry on moth trapping beyond the end of September, and I found several species that I hadn't seen before, and which are illustrated below.



Delicate
Mythimna vitellina
Adults: April-Nov
Larvae feed on grasses.
Immigrant with possible recent colonisation in Norfolk.



Pink-barred Sallow
Xanthia togata
Adults: Sept-Oct
Larvae feed on willows, poplars and herbs.
Adults feed on ivy flowers and ripe berries.



Chestnut
Conistra vaccinii
Adults: Sept-May
Larvae feed on trees, blackthorn and docks.



Clancy's Rustic
Caradrina kadenii
Adults: May-Oct
New for Norfolk in 2018.
This individual was recorded at Mousehold allotments, Norwich, with Butterfly Conservation.



November Moth
Epirrita species
Adults: Sept-Nov
Complex of three species distinguished by dissection and examination of their genitalia.



December Moth
Poecilocampa populi
Adults: Oct-Jan
Larvae feed on the foliage of broadleaved trees. Males have very feathered antennae to detect sex pheromones emitted by females.



Feathered Thorn
Colotois pennaria
Adults: Sept-Dec
Larvae feed on the foliage of a range of broadleaved trees and shrubs.



Sprawler
Asterothrips sphinx
Adults: Oct-Dec
Larvae feed on broadleaved trees.
Common name 'Sprawler' comes from the caterpillar's habit of throwing its head back in a defensive posture when threatened.

Voluntary Norfolk

Have you considered volunteering? Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk & Waveney boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns, and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit the Voluntary Norfolk website at www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference. You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand.

Interested in volunteering?



Make a real difference and strengthen your community



Meet like-minded people, make new friends and have fun



Support our NHS and healthcare services



Learn new skills and get great experience in health and social care situations



Volunteering with
VOLUNTARY NORFOLK
voluntarynorfolk.org.uk



 www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

 volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

 01603 614474

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Word Wheel Answers

Ace, Ate, Eat, Ice, Men, Met, Nee, Net, Nie, Tea, Tee, Ten, Tie, Cane, Came, Mace, Mane, Mate, Meat, Mean, Meet, Meme, Mice, Mime, Mine, Mite, Name, Neat, Nice, Tame, Team, Teen, Time, Meant, Mince, Emetic. Nine-letter word: Mincemeat.

Newsletter Contact Details and Past Issues

- westray.newsletter@gmail.com - To send in articles or manage subscriptions.
- Deadline for submissions - 25th of each month.
- <https://www.raynhampc.info/documents> - Download previous Newsletters.
- Recent issues available to view in West Raynham Reading Room.