

RAYNE IN FOCUS



May 2024



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. Luke 12 vs 27

This picture of Snakes Head Fritillaries was taken at Goulds Farm by Roger Jiggins but the fritillaries around the pond in Oak Meadow, Rayne have given a fine display this Spring.
See page 20 to read the full wildlife report.

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The Three Churches: Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne

Services at All Saints May 2024

Sunday, 5 th May	9-30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday, 12 th May	9-30am	All Age Worship followed by APCM
Sunday, 19 th May	9-30am	Modern Holy Communion (Pentecost)
Sunday, 26 th May	9-30am	Traditional Holy Communion (Trinity Sunday)

Every Wednesday at 9-00am Morning Prayer is said in Church

Services at Black Notley Church

1st Sunday	9-30am	All Age Eucharist
2nd Sunday	9-30am	Eucharist (Flower Festival)
3rd Sunday	9-30am	Eucharist
4th Sunday	9-30am	Eucharist

Services at the Church in Great Notley

11-00am every Sunday

Baptisms Weddings and Funerals arranged through contacting:-
 Lisa at:- admin@thethreechurches.co.uk or phoning 01376 330988.
 Home Communion visits by arrangement with Colin Miles.

For further details of the work of All Saints Rayne please contact Rev Rachel Prior or Rev'd Roman Kukiewicz or the Churchwardens. (See inside back cover for contact details.)
 Or visit us on www.thethreechurches.co.uk
 or www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne

A message from Rev Rachel.

April 2024

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this, I am looking at the tree in the front garden which is full of blossom. It is quite simply lovely. I wonder why I've not really paid much attention to it before – because of course there is blossom every year. I think it's been noticeable this year because I've been looking at it through the eyes of my children. They want to touch and smell the blossom and my daughter has delighted in spotting the bees zooming in and out of the flowers. It's a feast for the senses.

I have done nothing to the tree apart from occasionally drive into its branches. And yet it has brought so much joy and wonder into our little family's life. But of course it has a larger part to play – the bees, the nectar, the pollination, all of these things are essential for us to have and eat the fruits we love. It's a wonder that I don't stop to marvel more.

I'm reminded of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem:

*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.*

There are so many opportunities we are given each day to wonder, to draw us more deeply into beauty, which can make us consider questions like 'why does beauty exist?' 'Is this all due to chance?' 'Could there possibly be a Creator?' And if we start to wonder about these big questions then that changes the way that we see things and see ourselves – as part of something so much bigger, a creation 'afire with God.'

But it is easy to get distracted. In a conversation with a friend recently, we were talking about our addictions to our smart phones. Though we are of very different generations – her retired with grandchildren and me in my thirties – we both talked about the dopamine rush we get from social media. It is easy and exciting to get sucked into scrolling, seeing new information, new ideas, new...new...new but she commented how we have lost the art of gazing.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus talks about worry, and he looks to nature to give people a little perspective. He says:

"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. (The Message paraphrase, Matthew 6.30-33)

This month, as the grass grows and the flowers bloom and we hope the weather gets warmer, may we gaze a little more and wonder a bit more deeply. And I will look at the blossom tree just a little longer.

With love

Rachel

GLAD TIDINGS

We are aware of how important the family graves and memorials in our churchyard are to many of us. But sometimes it can be hard to find time to visit and maintain these precious memorials to our loved ones.

A local team of dedicated volunteers is ready to offer you peace of mind and positive help in exchange for a donation of money to church funds.

For a donation of £30 a year they would be willing to:

- Maintain one grave in an orderly manner
- Cleaning the headstone twice a year (summer, winter)
- Cutting any edging to stop encroachment of grass
- Clearing old leaves, twigs, weeds, etc.

In addition they would undertake to send you a photo of the work done.

You might even consider making such an arrangement a gift to someone you know; perhaps for someone who you know is finding difficulties visiting All Saints churchyard for some reason but who would value the gesture.

Contact: revromankuk@gmail.com

**WE'RE
OPEN**

Rayne Church is open every day from
8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Do come and visit if you would like to
pray or to look around.

You will be very welcome.



Thank you to everyone who supported our Picnic in the Park Easter craft session. It was fantastic to see the church packed with so many happy, smiling

children.

The crafts were brilliant, especially the Easter hats. The hot cross buns and sheep cup cakes proved very popular!! We gave out almost fifty picnic bags, plus lots of chocolate. There was even coffee and cakes for the grown-ups.



We also showed two children's films in the church, over the Easter holidays, both of which proved extremely popular. Over the two sessions we gave out almost seventy free picnic lunches and it was a delight to see so many children enjoying themselves.



Keep an eye out for further Picnic in the Park events over the next half term holiday.

Easter at Rayne Church



The empty tomb with the 'stone' rolled away.
Alleluia, he is risen!! Easter Sunday



Harry the Donkey leading the Palm Sunday
Walk to Church



Easter Vigil – a service of light and fire with the Easter Candle on Saturday



A huge Thank you for your generosity before Easter during lent , it is much appreciated.

The continued rise in prices mean more and more people are being forced to turn to Foodbanks to survive, unfortunately these are the hard facts behind life today. Many of you have supported the foodbank generously for several years now and continue to do so, thus providing meals for the most needy in our society. Please continue supporting the Foodbank by dropping your donations off at 6 Brunwin Road. (in the box on the doorstep) or at church any day between 8-00 and 4-00pm.

Updates on requirements can be found regularly on All Saints Facebook page. Thank you.

Current shopping list includes:-

Food items

Tinned cold meat i.e. Spam

Jam

Rice

Gluten free alternatives

Tinned hot meat i.e. Stews

Long life sponge puddings

Tinned rice pudding

Non-food items

Cat/dog food

Shampoo

Please remember only items with a shelf life of six months or more can be accepted.

Rayne Church's Bread making Group

We meet once a month on a Saturday morning from 10am to noon in the church.

On Sat 11th May we are having an open session. Bring your own recipe or catch up on an earlier bake. All ingredients and most equipment is provided. All ages and level of ability most welcome. £4 donation per session to cover costs.

To book a place contact: revromankuk@gmail.com
or message Kate on 07522 443 622

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Your Street is in our prayers!!

Rayne Church will be praying for the people and situations in our village, at our All Age Service.

This month we will be praying for those people living in Capel Close and Barnfield End.

If you live here and have something you would like us to pray for, however large or small, then please get in touch with us on :-

rayneprayers@outlook.com or telephone either Reverend Roman or Reverend Rachel. (Their numbers are in the back of this magazine.)

Your requests can, of course, be anonymous if you would like them to be.

Your prayers can also be said in private if you would prefer.

Best Wishes and Blessing to you



St Patricks Day Lunch

Sixty people sat down to a celebratory St Patrick's Day lunch at the Old School Rooms. On the menu was Guinness beef casserole, colcannon and soda bread followed by Bailey's roulade or apple pie, all topped off with an Irish coffee!

Huge thanks to Kate and her team, as always, for the fantastic food!!

After the meal had finished Roman organised a Karaoke of Irish songs and the hall echoed to the sounds of Danny Boy, The Wild Rover and Molly Malone.

Well done to all those who were brave enough to wear the Irish hats and beards!!



Bambinos play and stay group.

Bambinos returned on the 17th April 2024 at 10 am. The groups runs from 10 - 12 at the Old School Room Shalford Road Rayne. The group welcomes all carers, mums, dads and grandparents to bring pre school age children to this fun group. £1 for 1 adult and a child under 1, £3 for 1 adult, 1 child over 1 and 1 child under1, additional children over1 are £2. each.

We have a variety of toys and a craft each week. In the summer we will be able to use the garden.

The Bambino cafe serves a variety healthy treats and some not so healthy. Carers also get a treat and tea or coffee.

Come and join the fun, everyone is welcome.

Joy Darby 07702632021



1st Rayne Scout Group

Incorporating boys and girls in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Easter Monday was the day of our annual Duck Race. Thankfully the weather was reasonably kind. This is our major fundraising event of the year. Leading up to the main event, our youngsters had been out and about in Rayne, knocking on your doors and also spent two hours selling in George Yard, Braintree.

What a fantastic result this year!! Everyone has been incredibly generous and we can't thank you enough for the massive support shown to 1st Rayne Scout Group. Thanks to everyone who bought a duck and congratulations to our winners this year :- 1st prize of £100 went to Trevor, 2nd prize of £50 went to Emma Wood, 3rd prize of £25 went to Bulkely and the last duck home won a £10 prize which went to Laura Reed.

If you are Rayne residents, we hope you enjoy spending your winnings, perhaps locally..

Youngsters from all four sections represented our group recently at the funeral for Michael Payne who sadly passed away this year.

Mike had swiftly become an important and integral member of our volunteer leadership team and will be sadly missed by all at 1st Rayne.

Our thoughts, love and prayers go out to Anouska and the family. RIP Mike.

Our youngsters will be enjoying outdoor life more now that the evenings are lighter. If you see them out and about, give them a wave and revel in the fact that they are out and about. Some local Scout groups were forced to close during or after the pandemic, and running a group such as ours takes volunteers – lots of volunteers. You are welcome to join us and do not have to be a parent of a youngster currently in one of our sections. There are many high points – running a successful activity and weekend camp, handing out badges (there are Squirrels with arms filling up, and I marvelled recently at how a Cub could walk in a straight line, so heavy was the weight of badges on her left arm).

Get in touch with us to find out how you could make a real difference.

Contact us now at 1straynecubs@gmail.com or gavin.wood@essexscouts.org.uk and get your youngster, or yourself involved at 1st Rayne.

Rob Punnett

Rayne Bellringers

Huge congratulation to our village bell ringers and to Ian Girard in particular for securing a grant of £820 from the Stansted Airport Community Fund. This money will pay for the 'Sally's' (the woolly bit of the bell rope) and the 'tail ends' (the bit at the end of each rope, which is looking very sad at the moment!) to be replaced. The ropes will be taken down and sent to Maypole Bell Ropes in Sittingbourne who will make the new parts. The bell ringers have decided on blue, white and gold which Maypole Bell Ropes have just supplied to Lambeth Palace for the Archbishop of Canterbury's Bell, so we will be in esteemed ecclesiastical company!!

Well done to all concerned.



Rayne Lunch Club

All Saints Church hold a weekly lunch club in Rayne in the Old Schoolroom.

On Thursdays from 12noon to 2pm we offer 2 choices of homemade soup and a sandwich made to order with a choice of 4 fillings, tea and coffee and often a piece of cake, all for £4. Expect a warm welcome and a chance to chat and meet friends. Make it a regular fixture. No need to book just turn up.

On the second Thursday of the month 12 for 12.30 pm we offer a two course lunch which is home cooked, with fresh seasonal veg and includes juice to start and tea and coffee costs £6

May 9th	Beef lasagne and salad, garlic bread	Lemon meringue roulade
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Below is the date and menu for May

This is open to anyone who would like to meet other people over a lunch, there are no age limits. If you are housebound and unable to attend we would be happy to deliver a lunch to you. Also we will gladly accommodate any special dietary requirements

To book a place please message Kate Kukiewicz on 07522443622 or email revromankuk@gmail.com



Dear all, I hope my monthly report finds you all well.

It was fantastic to see and chat to so many residents at the recent coffee morning, on a vast range of topics across the village. The morning was jointly hosted by the Parish Council and Team JAWS, fundraising on behalf of Young Lives vs Cancer. An amazing amount of money was raised. A huge well done to all involved.

I also popped into Braintree Library to see the exhibition by the Rayne Artists. Well done, for those that organised the exhibition and to all the artists that exhibited their work. I hope that you will be able to do another one soon!

The Essex County Council consultation on its Mineral Plan, has now ended, after being given a time extension. Thank you to all that took the time to help fight the two proposed extensions to the current quarry. We now have to wait for ECC to process the answers and see what sites will be put forward as their preferred sites. This will be likely to be at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

Applications to the Councillor grant scheme are now open again. Please get in contact if you wish to apply for a small grant that will help within the community. The last year saw me use all of my allocation across three projects. I helped fund new carpet at Rayne Village Hall entrances, insulation at the Old School Room and a new noticeboard at Rayne school for the PSA.

During the past month I helped deliver and supported the 'Debate not Hate' motion at Braintree District Council. The unanimous support of all Council members during the debate, means that BDC will be signing up to the Debate not Hate campaign. It is sad that we have to do these kinds of campaigns, but in a recent poll seven out of ten councillors have suffered from abuse, intimidation and ridicule, in all sides of their role. It was important that this motion was highlighted and supported, I am proud to have been a big part of Braintree District Council signing up and adhering to the campaign.

I have also attended member training on waste management and recycling in the District. This was an enlightening and valuable evening. The Council is always looking at ways of improving its recycling rate and we discussed ways in which we can improve services and how recycling can be made easier for residents.

There was also a briefing on how the bins are collected. Routes are planned by adjacent areas day to day. So, if a bin is missed, it is not far out of the way to go back and collect it. Lorries have equipment onboard that allows them to mark when a road is completed, meaning back at base, they can direct quickly to a missed bin that is reported. Any missed bin collections must be reported to the Council by 12:30 the day after your normal collection day.

As usual, if you do require my assistance or would like to reach out to me, my email address is cllr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk This is my preferred method of contact. Although, in an emergency I can be contacted on my mobile, 07852 552247. I also have active social media pages, Facebook (Cllr Ann Hooks) and Instagram page (cllr_ann_hooks), where you can keep up to date with what I am up to! I also now have an X (formerly known as Twitter) account, you can follow me @CllrAnnHooks

Ann

Parish Council News – April

At the meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024, eight councillors were present.

District Councillor Ann Hooks and County Councillor Butland were also in attendance.

No members of the public were present.

PLANNING

No new applications were received this month.

PLANNING RESULTS

24/00091/FUL | Creation of car parking area. | Old School Rooms Shalford Road Rayne Essex CM77 6BT

Application withdrawn

24/00125/FUL Erection of 3 No. dwellings with associated access. Longfield Station Road Rayne Essex CM77 6RX

Application Refused

PLANNING APPEAL

23/02722/OUT – Land South of Springfields, Braintree

Outline application with all matters reserved except access, for the erection of 74 affordable residential dwellings.

The appeal will be heard on 23rd and 24th April. The Chair will attend and speak on behalf of the Parish Council. More details will follow.

WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

The full calendar has been added to the Rayne Parish Council Facebook page and was included in the December Focus report but here are the dates for May:

Wednesday 8th May – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 14th May – Grey bin and food bin

Tuesday 21st May – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Wednesday 29th May – Grey bin and food bin

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Our next Community Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 25th May 2024 at the Village Hall between 10 and 12 so do come along for a cuppa and a chat. Our Councillor Surgery will be open if you have any questions.

If any local organisations would like to come along and set up an information stall then please contact the clerk (rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk) to arrange a booking.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will be outside Rayne Primary School, Capel Road on Thursdays between 9:40 – 10:10. The next dates are 2nd May and 23rd May 2024.

CHANNEL SWEEPING

The sweep will take place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May so please try to park vehicles away from the side of the road if at all possible on these dates.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If anyone is interested in helping our community by getting involved, please email:

community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

At the time of reading this, the Annual Parish Assembly will have taken place on 24th April. A full report will be printed in June's Focus edition.

STANSTED AIRPORT WATCH

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) is pressing hard for the removal of the current Government restrictions, which currently allow a maximum of 13,700 Stansted night flights a year. A public consultation is underway and will close on 22nd May 2024. This matter will be discussed further at the next Full Council meeting but the email address for replying to the consultation is night.flights@dft.gov.uk.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT

The office will continue to be open for a limited time during Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings, so please keep an eye on social media for CIP opening hours during this time or call 01376 552489 to check opening hours. The Clerk is available to discuss any issues or provide guidance on the most appropriate authority that can assist, please call 01376 552489 or email rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk.

During the office opening times you can pick up your clear recycling sacks or collect from The Welsh Princess public house during their normal opening hours. (Clear sacks must only be used for clean sorted materials for recycling, please do not use them for other purposes such as general refuse or garden waste.) At the Parish Office there are also dog poo bags, supplied by the Dogs Trust, for just a small donation, plus we still have a small stock of energy efficient lightbulbs.

Rayne village New Resident Welcome Packs are available if you have a new neighbour moving in.

Outside of the office opening times emails and voicemails will be monitored.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May 2024** at the Old School Rooms, Shalford Road. Please see agendas for meetings posted in the notice boards and on the website. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at the public forum at the beginning of the meeting on subjects on the agenda. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms associated with Covid or any other infectious disease.

DUTY COUNCILLOR

The Duty Councillor scheme continues to be available, if you need help you can speak to a councillor who will be able to organise assistance. Please phone 01376 552489 and choose option 2 to speak to the Duty Councillor. Our Councillors volunteer for this role so if they are not able to answer your call immediately, please be patient. If you need to speak to the Clerk, please choose option 1.

The Year 3 and Year 4 children at **Rayne Primary and Nursery** have been out and about in the community the last half term. In history, Year 3 have been conducting traffic surveys which has been a brilliant way to think like geographers and apply their maths skills. They surveyed the traffic on Stane Street (now The Street) which they had discovered was one of the roads originally built by the Romans as a direct route from St Albans to Colchester. Within a 15 minute period, they discovered that just like in Roman times, it continues to be a busy main road today. We weren't lucky enough to see any motorcycles but we saw a bicycle and a bus. The fact that the bus came past, reinforced our conclusions about Stane Street being a main road. We have also started to think about the environmental impact of the traffic on Stane Street as part of our Changemaker's curriculum, realising that living on a main road is noisy and polluting. During our survey we didn't see a single electric car and most vehicles, including the bus, only carried one passenger.



Year 4 took a trip to the church as part of their RE curriculum. They have been focusing on: How do religious groups contribute to society and culture in the local area and beyond? They visited Reverend Roman and Kate to discuss all the different activities they host and provide for the community. We learnt that the church help many areas of society including: children, adults and the elderly! We also found out that they provide Picnic in the Park and have also made woolly hats for the homeless in the winter. We enjoyed visiting the church and learning about all the different contributions they make to our local community. A massive thank you to Rev Roman and Kate for providing a fantastic talk as well!





The Rayne Cricket Club is actively looking to recruit new members to play in their two senior sides. The club has been in existence for over 100 years and has continued to field two sides over the weekend in the face of growing pressure on village cricket teams. Shalford, Cressing, Bocking, and Felsted are a few neighbouring villages that once boasted strong clubs but sadly are no longer in existence. This demise continues beyond our local villages but we're determined to keep our club going and would love to hear from potential new members or returning members. Our programme of fixtures runs for 18 consecutive Saturday's from the start of May and we also have a friendly side twice monthly on Sundays/occasional 20 over weekdays games.

We're happy to accommodate people that are looking for a regular game as well as players who might only be able to make an occasional appearance. As we run two sides we can cater for all standards and we try and emphasise the social/enjoyable side of the game rather than a win at all costs mentality! We plan on running regular nets throughout the summer for people who might fancy coming along and having a go before diving straight into a game and details of these sessions will be advertised in Rayne in Focus and the Club Twitter/Facebook page. Unfortunately we do not run any junior sides at present but juniors are welcome to play in our senior sides. If you'd like to find out more please phone David Bull on 07900 052 603 or find us on Facebook and drop us a line.

HOW TO PROTECT AND MARK YOUR PROPERTY

I talk to many of you in the rural communities whether at farmer's markets, coffee mornings or generally patrolling about the importance of marking property as every year Essex Police recover hundreds of items and we are unable to return to their rightful owners -**why is this?** Because the property is not marked.

There are various ways in which you can mark your property, the simplest method being to mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your address. All of these measures help police identify stolen goods, making it harder for thieves to sell. *So make your mark!*

As technology improves there are now advanced products on the market:

Essex Police do not promote any one company, just those that are secured by design.

What is Property Marking?

The Secured by Design ("SBD") membership scheme includes member companies whose products have been awarded the 'Police Preferred Specification' status. As a police initiative Secured by Design was implemented to encourage the building industry to adopt crime prevention measures in the design of developments to assist in reducing the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating a safer and more secure environment and ensuring that the product is sufficiently robust to resist physical attack by casual and opportunistic criminals. The SBD focus is on the critical factors that combine to deliver a product's performance - design, use, quality control and the ability to deter or prevent crime. Examples are:

Smart Water, Selecta DNA, Asset Marking.

What is DNA Property Marking?

DNA property marking is a forensic marking system designed to reduce theft by coding valuable possessions with unique synthetic DNA and using warning labels to alert criminals your property is protected. Each property marker contains thousands of microdots which allow Police to identify property located at the scene in a matter of seconds. Thieves can no longer get away with possessing stolen property when confronted by Police. This small bottle of glue which is easily applied to lots of household items contains UV tracers which are incorporated in the synthetic DNA product making it easy for Police to locate and return to their owners.

Other DNA products include Personal Defence Sprays, Underground DNA spray for cables, Tool marking kits, DNA intruder sprays and Tagging Sprays.

For more information around crime prevention advice visit the Essex Police web site:

[Crime prevention advice | Essex Police](#)

Stay safe, enjoy the Spring & Summer months, but please MARK YOUR PROPERTY.

I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Terrie Johnson

PCSO 8143 Braintree Community Policing team

Braintree & Uttlesford Community Policing Team | North Local Policing Area | Essex Police | Mobile 07812 065122 : terrie.johnson@essex.police.uk

To find out what is happening in your neighbourhood and all about your local neighbourhood policing team visit www.essex.police.uk/yourarea and enter your postcode



JAZZERCISE—FREE TASTER CLASS



Have you ever looked at our Social Media posts and thought, I'd love to do that but I'm not sure I'd keep up? We hear you and we're introducing a brand new class just for YOU!

Jazzercise Lo Chair

This class is designed especially for seniors, those recovering from injury/surgery, pregnant/post pregnancy or people just starting out on their fitness journey who want to progress slowly to our regular classes.

Our new Jazzercise LO Chair classes are minimal impact with maximum results! Get your heart rate up without impact. High impact movements are replaced with muscle focused alternatives to protect your joints and maximise your results! All the FUN of Jazzercise but at a slower, more gentle pace, using the chair for support throughout the class!

Here are some frequently asked questions...

How long will the classes be?

Each class will be 45 minutes long and include a warm up some cardio (dance) and then strength training (which is also skilfully choreographed to make it effective but also FUN!)

Will there be cardio and strength training?

Yes! Dance based cardio to raise your heart rate and strength training to help maintain muscle and bone density focussing on your upper torso, legs and abdominals.

What happens after the 6 week course?

After the 6 weeks, you are more than welcome to join the next 6 week course or progress to one of our regular classes.

What do I wear?

You can wear anything that you feel comfortable working out in, but a good pair of trainers is essential!

How do I book MY chair?

You can either click the link below to book your space or simply leave a comment below & we will book it for you.

Places are limited for this class so booking is recommended

<https://www.supersaas.co.uk/schedule/Jazzercise/Classes>

Don't let your age, size or health conditions define you. You've got to keep moving to keep going and this class is the perfect way to do it.

After our Free taster classes will continue to be in Rayne Village Hall at 10.45am from Friday 26th April 2024. £8 per class or save money and block book the six week course for just £42.

Come join us, we look forward to helping you live a happier, healthier, fit life with Jazzercise

Wildlife Reports, till April 7th 2024

Neville Walker Brunwin Road 13/3 was putting out apples for the Blackbirds when he spotted a Hummingbird Hawkmoth hovering over the flowers on the Crocuses and Hyacinths. Neville commented that it is very early in the year to see them, and most books report they are not usually active until early summer. They are one of my favourite insects as they hover and uncurl their long proboscis to reach down to the bottom of long flowers to reach nectar at the base of the flowers. Their wings do make a humming sound. It is usually only a summer visitor migrating to the UK from Southern Europe in variable numbers each year, feeding on flowers such as Red Valerian, Honeysuckle, and Buddleia. There have been reports that this day flying moth is overwintering in increasing numbers. Neville's moth is probably regretting its decision to overwinter this year but they are reported as flying in light rain.

Roger Martin Duckend Green 21/3 reported hearing a Chiffchaff in his garden and earlier in the week at Felsted and at Braintree station. This is also mainly a summer visitor, spending the winter in the Mediterranean area and south of the Sahara. I cannot comment on its call as I depend on lip reading as many of you have discovered. Roger finished his email with the comment "Spring is here-what a relief !" Since then its blown storm force winds and rained virtually every day, I'm glad Roger is not forecasting the weather.

Beryl Whiteside 25/3 sent an email commenting on the abundance of Snakes Head Fritillary and the **yellow Marsh Marigold** near the ponds at the Oak Meadow Nature Reserve. Beryl sent pictures of both growing at the reserve. The Marsh Marigold was a resident when the Parish Council purchased the Nature Reserve area, but the Fritillary came from seeds from plants in our garden. Our plants originated from seed from a Suffolk Nature Reserve and from a friend of Sylvia's who had them growing on her land in Ireland. The Suffolk source was a very wet meadow which was heavily poached by cattle so competition from other plants was minimal. I apologise to Beryl as the picture shows her picture of the Marsh Marigold at the Nature Reserve but the Fritillary pictures



are from Goulds which covers an area of about 5m x 20m in size and must be about 5-6 years old. I have been waiting to write about creating flower rich sites on village roadside verges or land owned by the Parish. The secret is not to cut off the plants until the seed has completely ripened. All the Fritillary at Goulds have spread by seed, admittable with help by human hands. But this technique can be applied to many other wild plant varieties. One does have to tolerate unkempt areas while the preferred plant is colonising it. The Fritillary species we have in Rayne is *Fritillaria meleagris* and is uncommon in the UK. It is considered by many botanists as native to the UK, other botanists disagree. There is

no disagreement that it is a very attractive plant and if anyone wishes to add it to their patch, I am willing to give them some seed. It is stated that it requires damp conditions but at Gould's the area is usually dry under trees. Roger and Sue Pertwee at Rayne Hall have it growing near one of their ponds.

Phil Monk 4/4 saw his first Swallow of the year flying around the sewerage works and two Red Kites and numerous Sky Larks over the nearby airfield.

Tim Wignall Pound Farm Cottage had 6 Siskins in his garden, on 26/3 this had then increased to 14. He also recorded 2 or 3 Red Kites flying near his cottage. A Wren has also visited the garden which probably indicates a nesting site nearby. *The picture is of a male Siskin on one of his feeders.*



Chris Turner Medley Road 4/4 was having dinner and like all good wildlife reporters was looking out of the window. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth was feeding on the primroses in the garden. Chris also commented that he thought it was the earliest he had ever seen one. I hope it was a different one from the one that Neville recorded earlier in this report.

At Goulds we have regular visits from a Red Kite. One morning I was able to watch it sitting in a tree about 30m distance while shaving in the bathroom. Since then both Sylvia and I have had numerous sightings as it has flown below tree height through the garden. We quickly realised that these visits were to check up on a **Jackdaw** which had a damaged wing and could not fly. Every time the kite appeared the Jackdaw quickly disappeared under the nearest bush. We have an open fronted bird nest box which is the most stupid item to have for nesting birds as it provides an easy meal for Grey Squirrels when the nestlings become large enough.



The squirrel always waits until its intended meal grows to an edible size. I should add that my nest box is now inside a cage of 70mm mesh which keeps out most larger predators. Since installing the cage we have had different species using it. This year it is a Wren which has filled the nesting area of the box with one large nest with a single small

hole to enter the nest in the top, centre. All our Tit boxes have 32mm entry holes which allow Great Tits to use them, All these boxes have a metal plate with a 32mm hole which prevents Grey Squirrels from opening up the entrance hole of my timber boxes to take the young. Concrete based boxes do offer some protection, but we have bat boxes made of this material that have had their entrances enlarged. The bats roost in the top of the box so they probably escape being eaten.

Unfortunately, we have been very successful with rearing wild Mallard ducks. In the last two years we have had duck counts of over 50 including progeny. This has destroyed the wildlife habitat of our main garden pond which was the former farm water supply before mains water, and the lagoon which now takes all the storm water from the farm buildings. What goes into the beak of a duck comes out of the other end into the water. The two water bodies used to be clear and had a range of damselflies and dragonflies. This year we have two pairs of mallard, one on each water body, there are also up to three to five drakes that stick together. These have a female that will be nesting in nearby gardens that have a small pond or ditch containing water. The female always has a nest site that has nearby water for the ducklings when they hatch. Once the eggs hatch food supply for the ducklings becomes important. It is important that any neighbours near Goulds get a supply of food suitable for ducklings in stock, adult duck food is inadequate. I use sunflower hearts which is suitable for adults and ducklings. This should be fed as soon as ducklings are seen or immediately you find a duck wandering round the garden. This will hopefully discourage the female from returning to Goulds with its ducklings to get fed by me. Rearing ducks is more satisfying than having a dog or pet as eventually the ducks will fly away.

Roger Jiggins Tel 01376 324 311, email r.jiggins@btconnect.com



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LOS INFIERNOS DOG RESCUE (SPAIN)

I am collecting leads and collars, new or used, to take to my sister who is a volunteer at the Los Infiernos Dog Rescue centre in southern Spain.

The Los Infiernos centre looks after abandoned dogs and many are rehomed in the UK. At any one time, they will have approximately 100 dogs being cared for, pending rehoming.

I m happy to come and collect them from you or they can be left at 12 The Maltings, Rayne.

Beryl Whiteside

07802 415330

COLLECTIONS FOR UKRAINE

There are two more deliveries to Ukraine this year, in June and October so we will aim to collect items for the June delivery. The gentleman has requested the following items:

Food such as

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| · Tinned fish | Toiletries |
| · Pasta | Toys |
| · Porridge oats | Good condition clothing |
| · Tinned fruit | |
| · Lentils (NOT baked beans!) | |

The collection point will be open from the beginning of May and is to be located at 5 Brunwin Road, Rayne. Please leave items beside the garage which is to the left of the property, and protected from the weather if at all possible!

Let's hope that we can make an even bigger collection than we did last time!

Thank you all for your kind generosity.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HIRE THE
OLD SCHOOL ROOM
FOR A GROUP OR A PARTY?**

**PLEASE CONTACT CHARLOTTE BRINE ON
324719 OR EMAIL charlotteb19@btinternet.com**

Update from the Old School Room Management Committee (OSRMC).

The OSRMC met on the 20th March with 10 Members present. Charlotte Brine gave a detailed update of the finances. After committed expenditure our balance is £5,183.000.

New Resources

It was agreed to introduce Bambino party packs, which will be offered at an additional charge for people booking the hall for children's parties. The packs will include the use of (1) 20 children's chairs and tables, (2) lidded cups for adults, beakers for children, bowls and plates (3) a selection of garden toys and a slide, (4) A selection of indoor toys. Bambinos will be responsible for the hiring of the items. The OSRMC and Bambinos will receive 50% each of the additional income .



Works

The hall was closed the week before Easter to have the floor in the OSR refurbished. The work looks fabulous and this with the painting, new lighting makes a huge improvement. Other improvements are set to be undertaken in April.

The cottage room has been drying out (damp issues having been resolved) and currently a donated kitchen is being stored until we can find a grant to help us install it along with the refurbishment needed.

Plans for the parking are still ongoing, along with additional insulation and a garden tidy up. Currently there is no parking on the grassed areas.

Gina Buckley was successful in receiving £4k from the Walter Farthing Trust to have the ceiling in the storage room and the floor in the middle room replaced. Gina is now looking for further funds to allow us to continue the refurbishment. Congratulations to Gina.

Fund Raising: Next Event

The Allbeats Band plus DJ Kirk on Saturday 8th June at 7.30 in the Village Hall £12 per ticket. Tickets available from Scott at the Welsh Princess or from Joy 07702632021. Tickets are limited so get yours early.

Open Afternoon at the Old School Room on Sunday 15th September from 2 – 4. This will be a fund-raising event with refreshments being served.

Congratulations to Andrew Goldsmith who organised an excellent quiz night with over £500 being raised.

Joy Darby

11th Stebbing Vintage Tractor Run.

May 12th

This year, over 80 old tractors will be trundling through the lower part of Rayne from Gt. Saling then across the fields to Panfield (avoiding the Swan traffic lights). Hopefully there will be lots of spectators lining the route. The time is approximately 11am, but there are sometimes delays.



The run is in aid of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for which very good cause we have previously raised over £63,000, so if anyone along the Shalford Road would be prepared to 'rattle a bucket' we'd be very grateful. Pat Hughes 01371 856424.

Of course if the ground hasn't dried out in the meantime another route will have to be arranged. Checkout details on the Stebbing Parish Council website

<https://stebbing-pc.gov.uk/stebbing-vintage-tractor-run-2024>



Volunteer opportunity - come and join our team!

Baby Stuff Braintree is a small charity run by volunteers.

We support local families with free pre loved clothing and some essentials.

Based at Carousel family hub CM7 3QZ

We are looking to recruit a small team of volunteers to help check & sort donations and support families when we are open, making up clothing bundles etc.

Able to commit to Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, term time only. (minimum once a month)

Helping with social media and website a bonus!

There will be lifting of boxes required.

The applicant will have to have a DBS check which we can facilitate.

PLEASE EMAIL INFO@BABYSTUFFBRAINTREE.CO.UK IF INTERESTED



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WHAT'S ON IN RAYNE

REGULAR EVENTS AT RAYNE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 14.00-16.00 Sequence dancing with Tom 01376 328033
 16:45-19:30 YGD Karate Class with Kate 07981 362039
 19:45-20:45 Stretch Class with Carolyn 07789 811067

TUESDAY 19:15-22:00 W.I. (1st Tues in month) OR
 18:30-22.00 Line Dancing (All other Tues) 01376 528600
 12.30-13.30 YGD class with Kate

WEDNESDAY

 16:00-21:30 Janet Foulsham Dance 07886 615874

THURSDAY 18.30-19.30 Jazzercise Sculpt60
 20.30-22.00 A&M Dancing

FRIDAY 09:30-10:30 Jazzercise
 10:45-11:30am Jazzercise LO Chair
 17.00-18.45 YGD

WEEKENDS Junior football teams use the field www.rayneyouthfc.org
 Cricket use the field from May - Sept www.raynecc.co.uk

Table Tennis use a dedicated room www.tabletennis365.com/rayne

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides : For details contact 01376 570464 or
office@girlguidingsexne.org.uk.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOM

1st MONDAY of Month	19:30	Rayne Parish Council see details in the Parish report
1st Saturday of the month	08:30	Men's Breakfast Contact Graham Brine (Churchwarden)

Every WEDNESDAY in term time 10.00—12.00 **Rayne Bambinos**
 Contact Face book (Playgroup Rayne Bambinos) Or WhatsApp on 07702632021

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector	Rev'd Rachel Prior	01376 325277
Associate Priest	Rev'd Roman Kukiewicz	01376 321479
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Nikki Horsley	07810280002
Administrator	Lisa Gregson	01376 330988
Reader	Mrs Chris Hutton	01376 324630
Churchwardens	Mr Colin Miles	07775756009
	Mr Graham Brine	01376 324719
Treasurer	Mrs Charlotte Brine	01376 324719
Secretary	Mrs Kate Kukiewicz	01376 321479
Sunday Fun Club	Mrs Michele Harris	07515 799727
Old Schoolroom Bookings and Warden duties	Mr G or Mrs C Brine	01376 324719
	Or mobile No.	07793 553828
Websites	www.thethreechurches.co.uk www.rayne-heritage.ifo	
Facebook	www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne	
Instagram	allsaintschurch_rayne	

RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Hazel Godfrey Email: rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk **Correspondence address :**
 Rayne Parish Council, Community Information Point, Gore Road, Rayne, Braintree, CM77
 6TX **Website:** www.rayne-essex.gov.uk

Duty Councillor :See Parish Report for details.

The Facebook pages are: <https://www.facebook.com/RayneVillage/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/rayneparishcouncil/>

Rayne Primary and Nursery School 01376 324959 email: admin@rayne.essex.sch.uk

Contacting the Police: **Non emergency number 101**

Or mailto: Clare.Bailey@essex.police.uk>

Rayne Village Hall information 0784 7764753

RAYNE IN FOCUS

Magazine articles— Linda Taylor 01376 343474

raynefocus@gmail.com

Advertisements— Peter Kukiewicz 01376 321479

pckukiewicz@hotmail.co.uk

Distribution - Cheryl Harris 07792 099 068

cladharris@gmail.com

Magazine copy deadline 7th of the preceding month

Advert deadline 1st of the preceding month including payments.



Live Music Fundraiser Event

Saturday 8th June, 2024

7:30pm - 11:30pm

(doors open 7pm)

Rayne Village Hall

Featuring: Live music from 'The AllBeats Band' plus DJ Kirk

Tickets: £12 each

Available from Scott at the Welsh Princess Public House,
Rayne, or Joy 07702 632 021

No bar, bring your own drinks and nibbles.

All Proceeds to the Old School Room Project funding.



Facebook

The AllBeats Band



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