

RAYNE IN FOCUS



August 2024



**MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH
& NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**



Picture of All Saints Rayne by Rungrudee Curtis

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The Three Churches: Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne Services for August 2024

All Saints, Rayne:		
Sunday 4 th August	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11 th August	9.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
Sunday 18 th August	9.30 a.m.	Modern Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th August	9.30 a.m.	Traditional Holy Communion
St Peter & St Paul, Black Notley		
Sunday 4 th August	9.30 a.m.	All Age Eucharist
Sunday 11 th August	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 18 th August	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 25 th August	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
The Church in Great Notley		
Sunday 4 th August	11.00 a.m.	URC Communion
Sunday 11 th August	11.00 a.m.	All Age Workshop
Sunday 18 th August	11.00 a.m.	Praise Service
Sunday 25 th August	9.30 a.m.	Wiggle Church
	11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise

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.

A message from Rev Rachel.

July 2024

Dear Friends,

Sometimes our plans are not always best appreciated. As my daughter will be starting school in September, we have spent more time away as a family before school term time begins. In April, we took our first flight as a family to go to France. As the plane was taking off, going at pace down the runway, she turned to me and (very loudly) said ‘Mum, can we go on a caravan holiday to West Mersea please?’ Out of the mouths of babes! I couldn’t believe she had taken that moment to reveal to us, and all the passengers on the plane, that she’d rather be elsewhere. We did end up having a lovely holiday (despite it not being West Mersea) but it was not without its moments!

Holiday times can come with pressures. Perhaps desire for things to be different, people to behave better, weather to improve... It all to be perfect and look perfect and give us perfect anecdotes. Unmet expectations can easily cause disappointments. Roberts Burns in his poem ‘To a mouse’ wrote, ‘*The best laid schemes o’ Mice an’ Men, Gang aft agley*’ – things can all so easily go awry, despite our most perfect plans and our best intentions.

It reminds me of an old joke: How do you make God laugh? Tell him your plans. It is challenging when we feel out of control, but control is really an illusion. Christian faith teaches us that God comes to meet us right where we are, in the thick of the reality of our lives – not in our dreams or our expectations. God longs to partner with us in the every day, to guide us to live in a way that is rooted and grounded in love, even in the midst of disappointments. And as we do this, we can become more thankful for what we do have, rather than focusing on what we may lack.

May you have a blessed August whatever you are up to – I think we will end up spending some time down the road in West Mersea!

With love

Rachel

All Saints Church, Rayne

Choir Practice

August 10th and 17th

Come and join us at All Saints Church, from 3pm. It's great fun and no experience is necessary. You will be made very welcome. For further information email

gloria@arriveontime.com.au

Glass in Rayne Churchyard

Glass can be a hazard, especially to those helping to keep the churchyard clean. Please do not leave any glass or ceramic in the churchyard (jam jars, vases etc.) And please do not place any broken glass in the dustbins. Monumental masons will supply you with safe alternatives for floral tributes if you need that.

Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

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 poster for the Rayne Arts & Crafts group. It features a large yellow paint palette in the center. The words "Paint", "Craft", "draw", "chat", "sketch", "enjoy", and "learn" are arranged around the palette. A paintbrush is shown dipping into the palette. At the top, there are small images of paint palettes and a bundle of brushes. The text "Rayne Arts & Crafts group" is written in red on the palette. Below the palette, the meeting details are listed in red and blue text.

Rayne Arts & Crafts group

**"We meet at All Saints church,
Shalford Rd, Rayne from 1pm to 4pm
on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
Cost is £3 and tea and coffee are provided.
For more information please contact
Caroline on caroline610678@aol.com**

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 Duck End Green

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.

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

Rayne Church's Bread making Group

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

On Sat 10th August we are making Pizza and to celebrate a full year of Bread group we will share a pizza lunch with salads after the session.

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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 OR EMAIL charlotteb19@btinternet.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.

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Bell Ringing in Rayne Church

Thank you to everyone who recently joined us on a tour of our refurbished bell tower. Over twenty people made the climb to the tower and several more were brave enough to go right up to the roof. We hope we have encouraged you to have a go at ringing. No experience is required, you don't have to be musical or strong and it's a great way to keep fit. It's also great fun. Our practice times are Wednesday mornings from 11am – 12.15pm and Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 8.15pm. Why not give us a try? Young people, don't forget that bell ringing can now be part of your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

WHAT COULD BE MORE SUMMERY THAN A CREAM TEA ON THE LAWN!



Thank you to everyone who came along to support our Midsummer Afternoon Tea. Over sixty people sat down to delicious sandwiches and mouth watering cakes and, altogether £640 was raised for church funds.

Thank you also to the incredibly hard working team who cooked, served, and washed up afterward, to those people who helped move tables and erect the marquee and to Ian Whiteside for keeping us all entertained with his wonderful saxophone.

Even the sun shone for us!!



At Rayne Park, near the playground.

On Tuesdays from 12 noon :

30th July

6th August

13th August

20th August

27nd August

3rd September

Offering free picnic lunches to primary aged children & siblings accompanied by an adult.

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER PICNIC IN THE PARK

We are looking forward to seeing you all again.

Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update

More than ever, wildlife and their habitats are under threat for survival. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy provides a new vision for our natural spaces and the draft strategy is being prepared for public consultation.



The primary aim of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy is to pinpoint the best locations for the creation and enhancement of habitats, ensuring the greatest benefits for biodiversity and the wider environment. By outlining key biodiversity priorities and proposed actions, the aim is to achieve a more connected, collaborative approach to nature recovery.



The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy draft has been developed in collaboration with farmers, landowners, environmental NGOs, local authorities, members of the public and more. The draft strategy is expected to go to public consultation later this summer.

Sign up to receive updates when the public consultation is live by scanning the QR code below or visiting: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/c-e/lnrs-public-consultation>



For more information of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy visit www.essexnaturepartnership.co.uk

Bambinos play and stay group.

Bambinos 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 crafts 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



RAYNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Rayne Women's Institute meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7.15 for a 7.30 pm start in Rayne Village Hall.

We have a very varied programme to look forward to:-

On **6th August**, Andrew Wiltshire's talk is "Introducing Be-atrice Potter".

On **3rd September** Martin Lockwood is talking about "Heroes and Villains of Essex".

On **1st October**, we are having a special meeting which is an Open Meeting when other WIs, husbands, partners, friends, etc are invited to join the Meeting.

The talk is about Wilkins Jams and Cream Teas. There will be extra special refreshments on offer and maybe some Wilkins samples to savour.

On **5th November**, Lindsey Barrell will be talking about "Burlesque Me and the WI". Who knows there might be some audience participation with the dancing!!

In **December**, we have our Christmas Dinner which is open to Members only.

Please come along and see what we are up to! At the moment, we have over 50 members. We do sing Jerusalem and have talented members who make crafts, knit, crochet and bake. We also do many other things, including outings, and walking, craft, scrabble and book groups.

Visitors are always warmly welcome to join us on the first Tuesday of the month. The cost for visitors is £5.50, which includes refreshments, which are usually homemade cakes and biscuits. After brief business matters, there is a speaker, refreshments and then social time when ladies are able to chat and mingle and we sometimes enjoy a quiz or game afterwards, followed by a raffle.



It's good that folk can walk various paths around the village but it's a great shame that many paths are marred by dog poo. Recently it has been noted that the area in the fields just outside the churchyard is badly soiled and polluted by dog faeces. Please if you have a

Please clean up after your dog dog always clear up and bin it.

Parish Council News – July

At the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 1st July 2024, nine councillors were present. District Councillor Ann Hooks was also in attendance. Apologies were received from County Councillor Butland.

Five members of the public were welcomed to the meeting and the matter of parking in Station Road was raised. One issue was that the road has become narrow and vision restricted due to overhanging hedgerow so the Clerk will contact the landowner to see if this can be cut back.

PLANNING

24/01325/VAR – Land North West of School Road, Rayne

Variation of Condition 2 of (Approved plans) of approved application 23/0150SS/FUL granted 09.05.2024 (Allowed on appeal for erection of 1 x 4 bedroom, one and a half storey self-build/custom build eco-dwelling with associated parking. Variation would allow – Reduction of the footprint of the dwelling.

No planning objection to this application

24/01348/TPO – 3 Hance Lane, Rayne

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO – 15/01

T1 – Cherry tree – Reduce crown by approximately 1-1.5m and prune to shape. Remove epicormic growth from the main stem.

No planning objection to this application

PLANNING APPEAL

APP/Z1510/W/24/3342615 – Longfield, Station Road, Rayne

Erection of 3 No. dwellings with associated access

The appeal will be determined following written representations.

PLANNING RESULTS

24/00159/FUL & 24/00160/LBC Fentons Farm, Fentons Road, Rayne

Conversion of barns into 1 No. dwellinghouse, with single storey extension and single-storey link extension

Application refused

24/00077/TPO The Rectory, Shalford Road, Rayne

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO – 18/76

T1 – Ash Tree – Reduce branches overhanging Rectory garden by approx. up to 4m, back to the main trunk up to 10m high.

T2 – Field Maple – Reduce branches overhanging Rectory garden by approx. up to 4m, back to the main trunk up to a height of 10m.

T3 – Field Maple – Reduce branches overhanging the Rectory garden by approx. 3-4m, back to the boundary line.

T4 – Oak Tree – Reducing branches by approx. 3m back to the boundary line.

T5 – Ivy Covered Hawthorn Tree – Reduce to 3m in height

Application granted

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 August:

Tuesday 6th August – Grey bin and food bin

Tuesday 13th August – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 20th August – Grey bin and food bin

Wednesday 28th August – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Our next Community Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 31st August 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 date is 15th August 2024.

CHANNEL SWEEPING

The next sweep will take place on Thursday 8th August and Friday 9th August so please try to park vehicles away from the side of the road if 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

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.

Continued over page

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 5th August 2024** at the Old School Rooms, Shalford Road. Please see agendas for meetings posted on 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.

Rayne Lunch Club

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

On summer Thursdays from 12 noon to 2pm we offer a sandwich made to order with a choice of 4 fillings, tea and coffee and a dessert, 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

Below are the dates and menus up till September

August 8th	Baked gammon, roasted vegetables	Lemon meringue pie
September 12th	Fish pie and seasonal vegetables	Trifle

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

District Councillor Ann Hooks

I am writing this monthly report the day after the election, where we saw a huge change in the national political landscape. The one thing that won't change is that, I am here as your District Councillor and will continue to support and represent you all, here in Rayne village and across the Rayne Ward at a local level.



Because of the 6 weeks of election period, it has been quiet at Braintree District Council, with meetings postponed. However, I have still been busy with resident concerns and emails. I have also attended the PC coffee morning where the Year 6 pupils came along to show us their eco-friendly refill business. It is a fantastic venture and they gave a brilliant presentation. I can personally recommend the products they are selling. Just remember to save your bottles, so you can get a refill next time!

One of the best parts of my role is to provide grants to Rayne Ward organisations. I am happy to inform, that over the past few weeks I have received two applications. One was from the Village Hall, who have received a grant of £350 to use towards the refurbishment of the floor, which will be carried out later



this summer. The other was to the Old School Room Committee, which received £416 to replace the cupboards in the middle (library) room. These have been installed this week and look amazing. The OSR committee are doing a fantastic job in refurbishing the building and I

look forward to seeing what other projects come to fruition over the next few months and years.

This does mean I have another £484 left in this financial year to give away! So if you are a constituted group and want to put in an application, please do get in contact.

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



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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/>

CONTACTING THE POLICE: Non emergency number 101

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

RAYNE VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION 07847764753 OR raynevillagehall.org.uk

RAYNE IN FOCUS

Magazine articles— Linda Taylor 01376 343474

Advertisements— Peter Kukiewicz 01376 321479

Distribution - Cheryl Harris 07792 099 068

Magazine copy deadline 7th of the preceding month

Advert deadline 1st of the preceding month including payments.

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Bedding & Shavings

Wild Bird Foods - Chicken Feed

Free Delivery



FENCING SUPPLIES

Field & Garden Gates - Post & Rail/Stakes

Concrete Posts and Panels

Electric Fencing - Rabbit Netting

Sleepers



GARDEN CABINS

Offices - Summer Houses

Playrooms - Studios - Tool Sheds

Can be double glazed, insulated and pre-wired

All delivered and erected

Mounts Farm, Shalford Road, Rayne, CM77 6XA

01376 342111

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Wildlife Reports, till July 2024

Tim Wignall Pound Farm Cottage is a regular contributor to this wildlife report so I asked Tim if he feeds his birds as he is surrounded by arable fields which rarely provide food for wildlife. Tim has 3 feeders with sunflower hearts, two lots of fat balls, puts meal worms on the feeders and feeds peanuts autumn and winter. The Blue and Great Tits are credited with removing bugs from the trees including the apples. No wonder Tim always has a long list of birds frequenting his garden. On 10/6 Tim was rewarded with baby Blue Tits in the garden, he also recorded a Wren, a Buzzard, a pair of Red Leg Partridges and Badger droppings near his cottage.

Ken Turner gave us a pot of compost which contained three large larvae. They were very fat and curved in a C shape about 25mm long and whitish in colour, see the picture. They were either the larvae of a Stag Beetle or Cockchafer Beetle. We believe it was the former, which can grow to 8cms long and are usually found in rotting wood. They are now very scarce, and the larvae were placed back in similar conditions. The adult is one of our largest beetles and its huge antlers shaped like 'stag horns' are used to fight off rivals. It is said that their numbers appear to be stable in this country but have had major declines in Europe. I have only ever seen one live adult beetle which was very impressive.



Beryl Whiteside 21/6 reported Agrimony which has yellow flowers on the footpath from the Street to Duckend Green. Beryl also reminded me of the Pyramidal Orchids that she first reported on the embankment to the Fentons footbridge over the A120 from the Dunmow roundabout. The slip road from the roundabout onto the dual carriage way of the A120 has a greater number of orchids than the footway. If you investigate the slipway banks for the orchids, be careful of the road traffic which is travelling at very high speeds to join the A120. One patch had over 20 flowers. The embankments where the orchids are flowering are not cut and the grass and shrub growth is poor so there is no major competition for the orchids. Hopefully Beryl will continue to monitor this site for the future of the orchids.

Andy Goodey 2/7 saw two Marbled White butterflies, his first for Rayne in the meadow opposite the **47** restaurant. The white butterfly has black markings on its wings which makes it very distinctive. They can be seen feeding on the purple flowers of Field Scabious, Common Knapweed and Wild Marjoram. The caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses. I believe this butterfly has not been recorded in Rayne before.



Phil Monk 2/7 found a Gypsy Moth caterpillar on his Black Currant bush. I am reluctant to ask Phil how good his Black Currants are this year. This caterpillar when it is present in large numbers can strip a large tree of all its foliage in one season. I hope Phil has only one lodger living on his bush.

On 12/7 Phil walked along Pods Brook and saw 6 Yellow Hammers, 2 Little Owls in a dead tree in the field bordering the development at Rayne Gardens, 9 Blackbirds, a Song Thrush, several flying

Sky Larks and also heard an unseen Bullfinch.

I am pleased about the Yellow Hammers which used to be common if one walked the Parish footpaths during the nesting period. It often nests low down or at the base of hedges, and many hedgerows had breeding pairs. Unfortunately, a ground predator has also become more successful in recent years, and this has not helped the birds. Most readers will guess I am referring to the Badger but have no evidence to prove they are guilty. Many readers will claim that us farmers also helped the decline by removing hedgerows in the past.

At Goulds we have four Hares that appear every evening when the farmyard is empty. If not chasing each other they spend their time eating a plant in the mown grass. The Kestrel has fledged at least 3 young. I never checked to see how many of the five eggs hatched.

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