

The Link

Quendon & Rickling
Parish
and Church

You can find *The Link*
and much more at
www.quendonandrickling.co.uk

NEWS

March 2022

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Spring Almost Here!
by Peter Warwick

Parish Churches in Quendon and Rickling

From The Church Wardens

We are delighted to have very good news. Following an interview the first week of February, we are delighted that the position of Priest in Charge has been filled. Revd. Peter Allen will be taking up the post; both he and his wife Sharon are excited to be joining us.

Peter has experience of both working in and leading Ministry teams, and has been involved in Chaplaincy roles in the past. As well as being our vicar Peter will be also be serving as a Chaplin at Stansted Airport two days a week.

We don't have a date for his arrival, although the assumption is it will be late May /early June.

Our visiting organist of Christmas day is continuing to play for us, for our monthly services.

Our service on the second Sunday of March 13th will be at Quendon and on 27th March we are returning to Rickling Church for Mothering Sunday.

Chris Bishop is continuing to support us until Peter arrives.

Church Services in the Benefice

March 2nd - Ash Wednesday

11.15am Holy Communion Newport

Sunday March 6th

9 30am Morning Worship Newport

11 15am Holy Communion Widdington

Sunday March 13th

9 30am All Age service Newport

11 15am **Holy Communion** **Quendon**

Sunday March 20th

9 30am Holy Communion Newport

11 15am Holy Communion Widdington

Sunday March 27th - Mothering Sunday

9 30am Morning Worship Newport

11 00am **Morning Worship** **Rickling (earlier time)**

11 15 Morning worship Widdington

Priest in Charge of the parish of Quendon and Rickling - post vacant

Churchwardens - **Quendon:** Mrs Christine Osbourn 01799 543367 and Mrs Maureen Hawkins

Rickling: TBA

Treasurer - **Quendon and Rickling:** Mrs Sandra Arnold 01799 543075

Police contact information

For crimes and suspicious activity **NOW** phone

999

For non-urgent incidents and reporting a crime that has already happened

101

Alternatively you can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes on-line at <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-on-line/>

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber-crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

0300 123 2040

If you have been defrauded i.e. lost money phone or report online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>

If someone has tried to defraud you but you have not lost money, phone or report online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing>

To give information **anonymously** phone CRIMESTOPPERS or report it on-line at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

0800 555 111

Quendon Churchyard

Once again our group of volunteers has dwindled. Now we are only four.

The larger section around the church building only takes around a couple of hours to mow. It's not difficult, using the self-propelled mower provided, and the glow of satisfaction on seeing the job done is worth the effort! The smaller section, being more shaded, grows more slowly, but looks spectacular when kindly tended!

Chugging along, it can provide an opportunity to let your imagination run free, compose poems, plot the overthrow of our oppressors, plan your life of freedom...

So please join us in this undemanding but rewarding service to the community. The more volunteers we have, the less onerous it is!

Contact Robert Arnold, telephone **01799 543075**,
e-mail robert@arnold-q.uk

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Of

**The Quendon & Rickling
Village Hall Committee**

Will be held on

Wednesday 13th April 2022

at 2:30 p.m.

In

The Village Hall

Please come and give your support
All residents are entitled to attend and vote
Coffee and biscuits will be provided

Transport

Lighting

Spaces

Footpaths

Services

These are just some of the interests of the Parish Council.

Join us and take part!

Contact the Parish Clerk at
quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com or on
01279 814473

or ask any member of our Parish Council

Crime Reduction

Sports & Leisure

Environment

Safety

Social Events

Planning

Traffic

From the Parish Council Chair

Dear Fellow Villagers!

Obviously this month the first item we have to talk about is that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has decided to take control of major planning application decisions away from UDC. This means that instead of any planning applications of 10 houses or over going to UDC for consideration, developers can go directly to the The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), ie, the Government, instead, although developers may still go to UDC if they so wish, but PINS then make the final decision whether approval is given. In effect, our MP's department gets to decide what gets built in Uttlesford and where, rather than locally elected representatives. The reason for this is that UDC refused too many planning applications which ended up being overturned on appeal so DLUHC decided that UDC were not adequately performing their function. The only good news about this is if PINS turn down an application there is no opportunity for an appeal by the landowner/developer. We have sent an email to our local MP, Kemi Badenoch, outlining our grave concerns that this designation notice has been issued and asking for reassurance that PINS will take into consideration the views of the local residents and that we are given a voice and are properly listened to by the authorities before any development is approved. We have received a response from her assuring us that "if any applications are made to the Inspectorate, the community will have the opportunity to comment on proposals in the usual way and that local hearings will be held, as needed, to consider the arguments in public." Any applications, though, under 10 houses are still being dealt with by UDC and just to confirm that the Local Plan and Call for Sites are still going ahead as expected with the first indication of sites possibly next month.

We suggest, if you are worried, that you also email Kemi Badenoch as individuals and express your concerns too.

This is her email address:

kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

If you would also like to include Michael Gove, who is the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and whose department issued this designation notice.

This is his email address:

michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

We believe the more people who lobby, the more our voices will be heard!

You will be pleased to hear though that we now have a Planning Consultant on standby; hopefully we will not need to call on them.

By the time you read this, the Parish Council would have hosted an extraordinary meeting in the school hall for Pegasi, so we will all know what their "vision" is for

large scale development in the village. Hopefully you will all have had an opportunity to ask your questions and leave your comments in the Comments Box.

One of our Parish Councillors, Carrie Williams, stepped down at February's meeting as she is expecting a new addition to her family, so we would like to thank her for all the hard work she has done, especially when wearing her lawyer's "hat"! She has been a huge asset to the PC and the villages and we will miss her very much indeed! Carrie will still be part of the Events Team, fortunately, so we are not losing her completely! We wish her, Patrick and "Boy Blue" all the very best and look forward to meeting him very soon!

So now we are looking for two councillors. We keep putting requests in *The Link* and on FB but to no avail. If no one comes forward, we will be reduced to concentrating purely on the most important issues in the villages, and the smaller ones will just have to look after themselves; so you will just have to bear with us and remember that we are doing the best we can to the best of our ability! When there is no one left on the council.....!

As we write, the footbridge over the stream leading into Broom Wood by the pond is still in a state of disrepair and is very dangerous to walk over, so please beware. This has been reported to PROW's/Highways and we will do so again but we are at the mercy of ECC, so we will just have to keep persevering! We have informed the landowner as well, but they insist it is purely the responsibility of ECC.

We have managed to organise a meeting with a PROW (Public Rights of Way) officer to discover exactly where we stand regarding footpaths and the responsibilities of land owners, since Pegasi have informed us that, as from now, ECC is purely responsible for footpaths not them.

We believe we are slowly getting closer to work being started on the traffic calming scheme, Phase 1, through Quendon. After nearly four weeks of waiting for confirmation following the meeting in January, our County Councillor, Ray Gooding, has been in touch to confirm that the design of the bollards which are being placed in North Quendon, are not going to be cast iron as we would like, but apparently Highways want us to have some lovely plastic reflective ones, which surely completely defeats the object of a conservation area! We are not happy with this at all and are determined to put up a fight! The design of the delineation between pavement and the parking areas at Waterbutt Row is currently being resolved with the contractor. There is some concern about the detail of how the "cobbles" will be laid and that they do not cause a trip hazard. The residents along Cambridge Road will be informed, by Highways, when Phase 1 work is due to commence.

From the Parish Council Chair (cont.)

You may have noticed whilst driving through Coney Acre there is a speed survey in progress. This was due in March 2020, but obviously Covid managed to get in the way, but hopefully this will begin the process to make a difference to the speeds of vehicles going through Rickling Green. We also requested one on the B1383 through Quendon so we see the difference before and after Phase 1 of the traffic calming scheme and we believe that this is due to be set up soon.

Brian Blackwell has stepped down from maintaining the "green side" of the village so we would like to thank him and his son-in-law, Mark, very much for all their hard work. On this note, we have employed a new green maintenance contractor, James Penrose, who was brought up in the village, so he knows it very well indeed.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Sunday, 5 June, on the village green, are coming along very nicely.

The Events Team are in the process of booking various entertainment, so please do keep an eye open for more information. There will be no Quickling this year as obviously it would be too close to the Jubilee celebrations and rather a lot of extra work for the Team.

The Tulip tree, to commemorate the Jubilee, is being planted imminently. It will be protected by a black tree guard so it stays safe from cricketers and cricket balls during the summer months and any little wandering muntjacs at other times of the year!

The England Cricket Day on the green has been announced, which is very exciting as it has been sorely missed over the last couple of years, so please put Sunday, 3 July in your diaries and keep your fingers crossed for a lovely sunny day!

Finally, here is to dancing with daffodils!

Sally Kitcat



QUENDON & RICKLING VILLAGE HALL

Join the Village Hall Committee

Preserve village history - Serve the community

Come to our Open Morning on 12 March 2022 or to our AGM on 13 April 2022 to find out about what we do.

The Village Hall is at the heart of community activities and functions: from birthday parties to wakes, exercise classes and choir rehearsals to show dog training and games.

It is where we vote and where our Parish Council holds its meetings.

It is an important part of village history, built as a memorial to Villagers who fought and died in the two World Wars.

By becoming a member of our Committee and Trustee you will be making a great contribution to your community and helping safeguard the Hall for future generations.

New thinking and new ideas welcome!

Look forward to seeing you

Open Morning 12th March 2022 11:00am -1:00pm

AGM 13th April 2022 2:30pm

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the February 2022 Winners

1st	M Tissot	£33
2nd	D Belton	£22
3rd	M Atlee	£11

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club generates a source of funds for the Village Hall and both our two churches, All Saints, Rickling and St Simon & St Jude, Quendon.

Rickling/Quendon Community Café

Quendon & Rickling Village Hall,
Quendon CB11 3XQ

Fun Bingo



**Wednesday 16th March
10.00am-12.00pm**

All Welcome to the Coffee morning - we look forward to seeing you all again.

Please contact:

Angie and Carole 01799 218061/543807

Parish Information

Welcome Packs

The Parish Council provides a Welcome Pack of information for new residents to the Village. If any newcomers to the village have not received a copy of the pack, do please let the Clerk know on the contact details below and a welcome pack will be provided. It would help if an e-mail address could be provided to enable the pack to be sent digitally.

Allotments (part of the Quendon Hall Estate):

- Peter Warwick, No.5 Thistley Crescent, Green Road, Rickling
- Telephone: **01799 543526**

Highway Problems

The Essex Highways website is available for anyone noticing a problem to report it: <http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-problem.aspx>

A tracking facility for all reported faults is available.

Police/Crime

The Essex Community Messaging Service provides useful information to the public about policing and safety issues. It is free to register and information is given relative to your postcode, thus providing accurate and up-to-date community safety information and crime prevention advice. Users can choose to receive information via e-mail, text or voice-recording and can select what information to receive – based on where they live and work and on issues of interest. For further details and to sign up, visit www.essex.police.uk/ecm

Contact the Parish Council

The Clerk, Keith Williams can be contacted by e-mail at quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com or by telephone **01279 814473**

District Councillor's Report

There is a lot going on at the council, including climate change work and revamping the Planning Dept. As well as an interim head of planning we have a lead officer running the improvement processes. A new permanent head of the department is being sought and I'm on the interview panel. At the lower levels we are seeing some new excellent planning officers in place, and although our conservation officer function still relies on an outsourcing, the officer who generally covers our area has produced a very high quality of assessments in response to applications, and indeed very prompt advice concerning the proposed use of plastic bollards in the work to be done by Waterbutt Row.

Council tax and budget for 2022/23

I will be presenting the annual budget and five-year financial forecast to council members on 22 February, following its review by the Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet. There will be a balanced budget, which means that incomes and expenditures are balanced within the year. The proposal is for council tax to rise by £5 a year on band D properties. UDC collects the tax for five preceptors, of which Essex County Council is much the largest share. For comparison the UDC £5 rise is 3.09%, the Police and Fire increase £10 a year (4.79%) and Essex £60 a year (4.49%).

Council house rents are proposed to increase by 4.9%, which is in line with government policy of Consumer Price Index + 1%, and this has been agreed by the Tenants Forum. It will take the average rent to £107 a week. Council house finances are kept entirely separate from the rest of the council General Fund, and are required to be self-financing. The total rental income is forecast at £16.8m and expenditure at £13.4m, which, with a small draw on reserves, leaves £3.6m going to the capital budget for new houses.

The collection rates on council house rents are very high, which implies most people are able to pay. But otherwise, Housing Benefit can be applied for. The application also covers the Local Council Tax Support scheme, which for people on low incomes gives a reduction of 87.5%, and this is on top of other discounts such as for single occupancy.

Effect of changes in accounting rules on UDC

UDC has an external funding requirement of about £16.8m a year, but Council Tx is only £6.4m. We retain a small percentage of the business rates, and for the coming year there is a one-year settlement of New Homes Bonus and some other government finance. However, the second largest component of council income, comes from our highly successful commercial investment portfolio. This is now worth about £40 million more than the properties cost, and in 2022/23 it is forecast to bring in, net of interest and the new impositions noted below, income to support services of £5.7m.

However, changes to accounting rules recently imposed on local authorities by the Government, and the accounting body CIPFA, now significantly restrict local authorities' use of this commercial investment income to support council services, and perversely prevent us from running the portfolio in the most efficient manner. Most of the Council's properties are new build, state of the art, with new tenants on long term leases, with automatic upward rent increases, and all are freehold land. The intention was to sell them before any repair or upgrade work was required and while there are years left on the tenancies. The new rules in most cases prevent sale and reinvestment, and now mean holding them in perpetuity, and a separate requirement to build up huge unusable and unnecessary reserves to pay off 100% of the borrowing for assets we had no intention of holding for 50 years.

District Councillor's Report (cont.)

This means that in decades to come the Council will have large capital gains, which, as other perverse government rules prevent use of capital gains on council running costs, is the last thing wanted. The need is for income, not capital gains. The strategy was to recycle each of our properties at the optimal timings and market positions, to further enhance income by reinvesting, and without building up unusable capital gains. Unfortunately, it appears the Government has no understanding of commercial property investment.

In 2017 it said it would put local government finance on a long-term sustainable system, but year after year it has kept promising but has failed to implement anything apart from reducing council funding. This is why many councils have taken similar action to UDC. Councils are required to plan finances on a five-year forecast, but the Government itself is not, and announces (provisional!) annual piecemeal amounts in December of each year. Councils also have a legal duty to present balanced budgets, but the last time any government did this was in 2000. Strict rules for you, but no rules for us?

Good news

Following the December announcements from government and CIPFA, UDC senior finance staff worked through the Christmas break, including cancelling booked holiday, to calculate as many different financial options to make the best of the new rules as could be devised. The consensus was that we could keep the finance reduction to £4m a year after four years. However, the five-year Medium Term Financial Strategy, just published as part of the budget papers has an updated commercial strategy option which, if it goes ahead, will cut the required reduction to £2.6m pa in 26/27. This is still a challenge but as noted in an earlier press release "In the past we've shown we are good at finding solutions and we will adapt and continue to innovate so that we can continue to meet the needs of our residents".

The Government 'designation' of planning applications

This has been imposed because UDC has not quite met the government target of winning 90% of appeals. The Council 'only' won 86.5% of them. Considering that all the decisions are subjective, for example balancing landscape damage against housing need, I think winning 86.5% is amazingly good. The Government has only fairly recently tightened the target from 80% to 90%.

The change is that applicants for 10 or more houses may apply direct to the Inspectorate. How many will do so is uncertain as if the Inspectorate refuse the application there is no appeal. And the evidence of the 86% is that unsuitable applications will still be refused. Residents, parish councils and UDC will still be able to submit evidence to the Inspectorate, but we will only have 21 days to do this, which for a major application where the developer has had months to prepare means we will need to be sharp.

Neil Hargreaves

Councillor Surgeries

These are in Dorringtons every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30. If we have to cancel these, we will post on the village Facebooks.

Cllrs Judy Emanuel and Neil Hargreaves

Our contact details are:



cjlremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk
01799 543487 or 07801 039550



cjlrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk
01799 540411 or 0745 4687748

Other News from Uttlesford District Council

You can get email newsletters and alerts on a whole range of topics via Keep me posted – sign up and find out more at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted.

Our Member of Parliament

Face to face surgeries for you to meet with me, your Member of Parliament, and seek advice or assistance on confidential issues are not currently possible. For all enquiries please send an email or speak over the phone.

How to contact me

Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: **0207 219 1943**

Write: Kemi Badenoch MP,

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

Kemi Badenoch, MP

Editor's Note

Lest readers suspect that I am unduly selective, please note that I send the same monthly invitations to Cllr. Gooding (Chelmsford) and Kemi Badenoch (Westminster) as I send to other potential contributors to *The Link*!

Advertising in *The Link* reaches every household in Quendon and Rickling. If it's non-profit it may even be free!
Contact Advertising, **preferably by e-mail with attachments as necessary** at
sandra@arnold-q.uk; otherwise telephone 01799 543075.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Society has now sold all 800 copies of its first hardback book *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There will be no reprint, although we have open minds on the possibility of a second book. Preparation of our first book took several years and was only possible because of the vast resource of what had already been written, in far more detail, about individual places, people and events. The Society holds more than 300 local books and pamphlets.



The Society's website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has recently been updated to ensure, amongst other things, that individual parish introductions include references to their share of available literature. A good number of local books are available, in person or online, from the four excellent outlets that each sold many copies of the Hundred Parishes book: Harts and the Tourist Information Centre in Saffron Walden, the TIC in Bishop's Stortford and Between The Lines bookshop in Great Bardfield.

A few parishes, as yet, have no book of their own, or perhaps just a pamphlet available in the church, whilst other places have extensive coverage. One of the Society's trustees, Peter Sanders, conducted research for 30 years before compiling a definitive history of Stansted Mountfitchet. Another easy-to-read classic, *Littlebury: a Parish History*, was produced by a team of authors. I have recently been absorbed by a largely pictorial history of Swards End and by the 4th edition of *Around Cold Christmas*, not least because the latter has frequent references to my wife's distant relatives. Clavering's Jacqueline Cooper always seems to be working on yet another book about Clavering or Saffron Walden. Several local history societies have generated books or booklets, or have work in progress. So rich is our local history that there is no shortage of reading material or potential subject matter.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

07874-385541

u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Learn, Laugh and Live

We would like to encourage more people to join us, to reap the benefits that shared activities, knowledge and passions can bring.

For those who are no longer in full-time work, the prospect of having time to make new friends, develop new interests, share experience and knowledge, is an exciting one. Stansted u3a already offers a wide range of groups enjoying the benefits and friendship of sharing activities and interests and we aim to increase the scope of these still further in this 40th year of the u3a movement.

We also have the benefit of monthly talks and at the January meeting Brian Carline gave a warm and interesting, illustrated talk on Life in the 40's and 50's. The Speaker in February, Tanya-Fern Smith took us through the long history of Stansted Hall, from

Tudor times, through being rebuilt as a Jacobean Hall and following a fire, being re-built in the 19th century. At our next meeting on Thursday 17th March we will have the pleasure of a talk from Toni Neopard and Kate Broad who will take a light-hearted look at marriage and relationships in Victorian times, "For Better or Far Worse"

Joe Brooks 'showcased' the Art House Group in February and at the March meeting Patricia Powell will be showcasing the Card-Making Group. Hopefully April will put a spring in your step, and you will be there to welcome Peter Regelous who will chronicle his life in Showbiz and showcase his book "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Life".

Do Come and join us for a cup of tea and biscuits and settle down for an informative and interesting afternoon. We meet in St John's Hall every 3rd Thursday from 1.30pm. (We even have a raffle!)

Eileen Quinn

Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



A Quendon & Rickling Parish Council led Event

Quickling Village Pumpkin Competition

A reminder to all those interested in taking part in this year's Village Pumpkin Competition to please contact Katherine (knqrpc@gmail.com) to register your interest. Please include your name and address.

- All Ages Welcome - Come test your growing prowess!
- £2.50 Entry Fee
- The only rule is you will need to buy a pack of 3 Competition Seeds (A different pumpkin variety will be chosen this year so there can be no using last year's seeds!)
- Pumpkins will be weighed in October with the winner being awarded the highly prized Quendon & Rickling Village Pumpkin Competition Silver Cup
- Sow seeds either indoors (April) or outdoors (May onwards) the choice is yours...

Good Luck & Happy Growing



Armadillos
BUMPS, BABIES AND TODDLER GROUP

RICKLING SCHOOL HALL
TUESDAYS 9AM - 11AM
(TERM TIME ONLY)

COME AND JOIN US !

**£2 INCLUDES
TEA & SNACKS**

ARMADILLOS@HOTMAIL.COM



The Big Toddle
celebrates it's
25th
Birthday

Get your party hats on and help us celebrate The Big Toddle's 25th Birthday by joining us on another roar-some Safari-themed adventure!

Visit the Big Toddle website to find out how you can join the adventure. When you sign up, you'll receive a free fundraising pack in the post, our turtle-y amazing digital activity packs and every child taking part will get their own Big Toddle medal and certificate.

TO SIGN UP visit our website
www.bigtoddle.org.uk

Believe in children
Barnardo's

FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR



Current Exhibition - Fossilisation: a slice of the Anthropocene

Runs until 20 Mar 2022

Fossilisation features original bronze and mixed media sculpture by acclaimed artist Kabir Hussain.

Drawing on the concepts of fossilisation and preservation and accompanied by objects from across the museum collection, Fossilisation: a slice of the Anthropocene questions what traces of modern society might remain in the fossil and geological record thousands of years from now.

We are very pleased that Kabir's original sculptures are for sale throughout the exhibition period, with pieces available for collection once the exhibition has closed.

Kabir has exhibited at the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, and completed various residencies across London and the East of England. He is based near Woodbridge, Suffolk, where he combines his art with a career as a professional bronze caster, and educational work for students and emerging artists.



Bronze & Bubbles

The Bronze and Bubbles workshops proved very popular, with both sessions sold out several weeks in advance. 16 people joined us over two workshop sessions for a tour of our special exhibition, Fossilisation: a slice of the Anthropocene, with drinks and snacks available.



The main event was an introduction to the 'lost wax' method of casting, followed by sketching, then modelling clay maquettes to plan the participants' final wax model. Each wax model will be cast in bronze at Walnut Works foundry in Suffolk by Kabir Hussain, the sculptor behind Fossilisation, with the attendees

looking forward to receiving their very own bronze sculptures in the next few weeks.

By popular demand: a 3rd workshop will be held on Tuesday 15th March at 10am.

Book online:

<https://saffron-walden-museum.arttickets.org.uk/>

Future Exhibition - All Fired Up:

Jenny Oxley, Collections Officer (Human History) recently visited the staff and volunteers at Essex Fire Museum at Grays, part of Essex Fire & Rescue Service, to work with them to plan the combined exhibition being

held here at Saffron Walden Museum.

The All Fired Up exhibition is scheduled to open on Saturday 2nd April and run in the temporary exhibition gallery until Sunday 3rd July.

1514 Charter



This beautiful illuminated 1514 Charter on renewable loan to the museum from Saffron Walden Town Council can be seen on display in the museum's Local History gallery.

The charter is handwritten in Latin onto parchment and is decorated with gold leaf and illustrations.

We've recently re-issued a factsheet for visitors about this charter.

Find more information on the 1514 Charter at: <https://saffronwaldenmuseum.swmuseumsoc.org.uk/collections-focus-1514-charter/>



Lost Language of Nature

You can see James and Charlotte at work on Wednesdays in the Museum conserving and restoring delicate taxidermy birds ready for display, and to encourage people to share stories of their experiences with wildlife and nature.

Do you know any old or dialect names for garden birds?

Do you know stories from across the world about native birds on other continents?



We'd love to hear from you to help create an exhibition and make lasting improvements to how we think about, care for and discuss items in the Museum collections.

Pictured: (left) Great Potoo, formerly labelled as a Frogmouth (above) Crossbills.

Heating Breakdown

Did your heating break down this winter? If so, we sympathise. The Museum central heating failed, and this caused an outbreak of mould in one of our stores.

Mould forms in cold and damp conditions and this was due to the rise in relative humidity linked to the drop in temperature caused by the loss of heating. We installed extra equipment to improve the environment and the heating system is working again.

Several glass domes containing bird specimens had

Museum (cont.)

mould on their wooden bases. This has been treated and removed with alcohol. The domes are being moved very carefully to a different store that has more equipment to control temperature and the amount of moisture in the air. This is Sarah, one of the Natural Sciences Officers, starting to transport a collection of hummingbirds from South America mounted inside a Victorian glass dome that was also known as a shade.



Object of the Month

The Museum's 'Object of the Month' provides an opportunity to explore interesting and unusual objects from our stores.

February's object of the month showed gemstones which are associated with love and romance, to celebrate Valentine's Day.

It was chosen by James Lumbard, one of the museum's Natural Sciences Officers.

Amethyst is the birthstone for February, but as a symbol of love, St Valentine is said to have worn an amethyst ring so Christian couples in Ancient Rome could identify him. Valentine was a priest who carried out forbidden Christian marriages and married young couples, when the Roman empire persecuted Christians and preferred their soldiers to be unmarried men.



Lapis lazuli can represent truth and friendship, and in Christianity represents the Virgin Mary. With the blue of the sky and gold of the sun, it represents success in Jewish traditions, while beads found in the ancient town of Bhirrana from 7500 BCE are its oldest known use by people. The remains of Bhirrana are in the Indian state of Haryana.

Sapphires are popular for engagement rings, as used for Lady Diana's engagement ring from Prince Charles. Sapphire is the traditional gift in the UK for a 45th wedding anniversary and can symbolise truth and faithfulness.

In Ancient Greece and Rome, the word sapphire was used

for lapis lazuli, as sapphire was only widely known from the Roman Empire onwards.

Learning & Outreach

Saffron Walden Museum is committed to sharing stories from its collections through its learning and outreach services.

We welcome schools and community groups to the Museum or offer outreach sessions.

Why not book for the next school term or for your community group.

Our loan boxes are also available for hire, £18 for 6 weeks, and will be quarantined in between hires to ensure they are Covid secure.

Visiting the Museum!

Our standard opening hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10-4.30pm, Sunday 2-4.30pm, closed on Mondays.

Tuesdays are reserved for pre-booked group visits by schools and other parties

Please pay by cash or card at our welcome desk on arrival at the museum. We no longer require online booking in advance.

In the interests of safety, we still encourage

- Wearing of face coverings
- Maintaining social distance
- Using hand sanitiser

To find out more visit the Museum in February to see it on display or check out the Blog on our website.

Helping the Museum!

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team on a regular basis. We would also be delighted to hear from volunteers who are able to provide adhoc 'cover' for our regular shift volunteers when they have planned absences such as holidays, hospital appointments, etc.

To find out more about these and 'Learning and Support' volunteer opportunities please contact the museum using the details below.

Find details of our opening times and book online:

Website: [https://](https://saffronwaldenmuseum.swmuseumsoc.org.uk/)

saffronwaldenmuseum.swmuseumsoc.org.uk/

Email: museum@uttlesford.gov.uk

Phone: 01799 510333

Security Advice



Computer/smartphone security is a frequent topic in these pages but the number of spam e-mails your Editor receives is evidence that the address book of at least one of his correspondents is not secure! Don't think "Oh I don't visit naughty sites so I don't need anti-virus software", nor "Why pay for security when I can install it free from the internet". Why is it free - what

are you really getting?

- Use strong passwords to keep your data and emails safe, for example use three random words such as "Click-Sand-Drum". Do not use your email password for any other account. To add extra security use two-factor authentication (a type of "double check" system).



- Use up to date and recognised anti-virus software on all of your devices to keep you safe from known viruses. Install software and device updates as they become available to keep your phone, tablet or computer well protected.
- Information stored on your devices may be irreplaceable, so back up your data and create a copy should it get compromised or stolen. Back it up using a 'cloud' service, such as Google Drive (free), or to a USB device that you keep somewhere safe.
- Don't click on links or downloads in emails

unless you are 100% of the person or company who has sent the email to you. Links in emails are the biggest threat to downloading malware (malicious software) onto your computer.

- Fraudsters often use the names of well-known companies to commit their crime. Reputable companies will never phone you to ask for access to your computer; if you receive such a phone call just hang up.

Mostly from Paul Harris, Essex Police Tel: 07738 736687

Paul.Harris@essex.police.uk

TWITTER: Paul Harris EWLO@PaulEssexWatch

Rickling Primary School

A fantastically busy start to the year at Rickling Primary School!

From science experiments that involve building our own windmills, to designing Mayan artefacts from clay – we've certainly enjoyed this year so far.

Our oldest children visited the allotment and woodland area to practise some outdoor First Aid.

Maple class teacher Mr Flack said:

"For our Out and About' session this week, we did a mixture of DT, PSHE and science. We completed some first aid training and talking about what to do if we injured ourselves on a walk.

Following this, 3 actors pretended to fall over and 'injure' themselves whilst we were walking through the woods as a class. We then split into 3 groups to apply our DT skills to make stretchers to help carry the injured children back to school." Here are some photographs.



A useful and productive learning experience.

Hannah Wheatcroft

Headteacher

Federation of Farnham and Rickling

News from APOPO

Last year, APOPO planned to release 5 million square metres of dangerous land in Cambodia for further development and thanks to our animal teams and rats like Magawa, we managed to surpass this target significantly! The programme released a total of 7,035,966 m2 of safe land back to local communities.

Our HeroRATs have continued their lifesaving work around the world, and as you may have seen in the news, in January, our much beloved Magawa passed away peacefully in his sleep. Magawa, holder of a Guinness World Record for the most landmines detected by an African giant pouched rat, was also the recipient of the PDSA Gold medal for life-saving work. It was very sad, especially for the handlers and trainers who worked so closely with him,



but he did live to a grand old age of eight and in his memory, our supporters raised over \$10,000 to help support future HeroRATs.

At our Tanzanian Training Center, we have just had a new litter of HeroPUPs born - they are still nestled up with mum and will begin the process of socialization at 4 - 5 weeks of age. Socialization means that APOPO trainers gently carry them around, introducing them to sights, sounds, smells, and noises, to adapt them to the training environment and their human trainers. It is this crucial part of the training, which makes our HeroRATs always so friendly and adaptable with people.

The 24th of March, is World Tuberculosis Day, which is where we join the thousands of other health agencies to raise awareness and promote donations to those helping in the fight against tuberculosis. Fighting tuberculosis in countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Tanzania, is

News from APOPO (Cont.)

more important than ever with the emergence of COVID19, adding another severe acute respiratory illness into the mix. It is more important than ever that our work detecting missed tuberculosis samples continues.

The fight to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) involves the combined efforts of clinics, programs, and volunteers working together to address the diagnosis and treatment shortfalls. APOPO's TB detection HeroRATs do their part by helping find undiagnosed cases of TB. After a positive sample has been confirmed, the partner clinic is notified so that patients can start treatment and begin feeling better. Once the clinic receives the notice of a positive diagnosis, APOPO's community partner steps in to help provide additional education and support and ensure that medications are completed. APOPO has

volunteer healthcare workers who provide much-needed outreach to underserved communities and rural areas where there is a high gap from diagnosis, to linkage, to care.

Many of these volunteer healthcare workers have themselves suffered tuberculosis or provided care to families afflicted with the debilitating disease. Knowing the hardship tuberculosis imposes, they now help those in need.

Our HeroRATs detect 40% more cases of tuberculosis than microscopy alone, meaning donations not only save lives from the horrors of war, but also from the horrendous symptoms associated with tuberculosis.

<https://www.apopo.org/en>

March 2022 at...



Sing 2 (U)

Memory Box (15)

The Eyes Of Tammy Faye (12a tbc)

Parallel Mothers (Madres Paralelas) (15)

Rigoletto (**Recorded ROH**)

Death On The Nile (12a tbc)

Belle (12a tbc)

South: Sir Ernest Shackleton's Glorious Epic Of The Antarctic (U)

Flee (*Flugt*) (15)

The Duke (12a)

The Real Charlie Chaplin (tbc)

Petrov's Flu (18)

La Traviata (**Live ROH**)

Sat 26 & Sun 27 Feb 2.30pm,

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Mar 2.30pm

Mon 28 Feb 7.30pm

Fri 4 & Sat 5 Mar 7.30pm

Sun 6 & Mon 7 Mar 7.30pm

Thurs 10 Mar 7.15pm

Fri 11 & Sat 12 Mar 7.30pm, Sun 13 Mar 4.30pm

Sat 12 Mar 2.30pm

Sun 13 Mar 8pm

Mon 14 Mar 7.30pm

Fri 18 & Sat 19 Mar 7.30pm, Sun 20 Mar 5pm

Sun 20 Mar 8pm

Mon 21 Mar 7.30pm

Wed 13 Apr 6.45pm

Tickets available from the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, at www.saffronscreen.com or at the cinema Box Office

What's On

Where no organiser is shown for any event in Q&R Village Hall, contact the Hall Manager, Christine Osbourn on 01799 543367 for details

Event	Date	Time	Place	Notes
Saffron Searchers	1st Monday in month-		Q&R Village Hall	
Dog Training	Mondays	08.00-09.30	Q&R Village Hall	Pauline Everton
Pilates	Mondays	09.00-10.00	Q&R Village Hall	Jan Crawley 07742 182272
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	14.30-15.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
Armadillos	Tuesdays (term-time)	09.00	Rickling School	
Community Café	3rd Weds in month	10.00-12.00	Q&R Village Hall	Angela 01799 218061/Carol 543807
U3A Choir	Wednesdays	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	19.00	Quendon Bowls Club	David Edwards 07804 954095
Line Dancing	Thursdays	-	Q&R Village Hall	Dawn Bond 01787 460274
Buffy Playbus	Fridays	09.15-10.30	Rickling Green	Term-time
Open Morning	12th March	11.00-13.00	Q&R Village Hall	
Holy Communion	13th March	11.15	Quendon Church	
Morning Worship	27th March	11.00	Rickling church	For Mothering Sunday
Hall AGM	13th April	14.30	Q&R Village Hall	

Emergency Life-saving

Should someone suffer a cardiac arrest or show symptoms of a heart attack e.g. pains in the chest, then your first action should always be to phone the ambulance service on 999. The service will refer you to our Automated External Defibrillator which is at the front entrance to Quendon & Rickling Village Hall. Another is sited outside Reception at the front of Rickling School. Anyone can save a life by using one of them until an ambulance arrives. In addition you can seek help from any of the volunteers listed below.

Name	Home Telephone	Locality
Alan Price	01799 542527	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Jane Price	01799 542527	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Robert Arnold	01799 543075	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Sandra Arnold	01799 543075	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Andrew Thomson	01799 543253	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Karen Thomson	01799 543253	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Thelma Wilson	01799 543313	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Chris Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Sue Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Nigel Ackerman	01799 540678	Middle - Cambridge Road
Wendy Stannard	01799 541869	Middle - Cambridge Road
Anne Howes	01799 543545	Southern end - Cambridge Road
Joanne Hales	07903 596011	Rickling Green
Janice Hart	01799 541196	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling
Clare Willoughby	01799 543637	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling



For further information see www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/

Remember: Using the defibrillator can't cause injury. Doing nothing can.

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The Link is delivered free of charge by volunteers to every household in the villages of Quendon and Rickling. It is also available by post and online at: <https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk>

All correspondence for *The Link* should be addressed to the editor, Robert Arnold, preferably by e-mail with attachments if necessary: robert@arnold-q.uk, or at

Talbots, Cambridge Road, Quendon, CB11 3XJ; otherwise telephone 01799 543075

Please supply copy by the 19th of the preceding month to allow for editing, printing and delivery.

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