



QR code for The Link

Quendon & Rickling Parish NEWS

and Church

May 2024

In this issue				
Church Contacts	2	Hundred Parishes	10 S.W. Museum	14
Vicar's Letter	2	Community Café	11 Sheds Security	16
Church Services	3	Pegasi	11 Asian Hornet	16
100 Club	3	Village Hall AGM	11 What's On	18
Useful Contacts	4	Golf Society	11 Berden Open Gardens	18
Parish Council	5	Maces Farm	12 Publication Details	19
The Link Printing	5	Bowling Club	12 Emergency Life-saving	19
District Council	7	Voter ID	13	
1 13 Δ	q	Poem	13	



Priest in Charge of the parish of Quendon and Rickling, Coordinating Chaplain Stansted Airport (2 days per week)

The Rev'd. Peter Allen, The Vicarage, 5, Meadowford, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3QL

Telephone: L: 01799 732059; M: 07878176551 **Day off:** Friday

Churchwardens -**Ouendon:** Mrs Christine Osbourn 01799 543367

Mrs Maureen Hawkins

Rickling: TBA

Quendon and Rickling: Mrs Sandra Arnold 01799 543075 Treasurer -

From the Vicarage Study Rev. Peter Allen, Priest-in-Charge of Newport with Widdington, Quendon and Rickling.

From Rev Pete

My image of the month of May has over the years has been shaped in part by the religious festival of Pentecost, or as it was called when I was growing up in Sheffield, Whitsun or Whit Sunday. Back in 60's and 70's Whit marches were still taking place as a walk of witness as different churches took to the streets in procession all heading for a park or some similar open area where they could all gather. Once there a Whit sing would begin followed by a picnic and games. It was also a time of year where parents might get their children a new set of clothes and if I remember correctly a time when local education authorities would provide new school clothing for those families needing support.



The origins of Pentecost, as celebrated by the Christian Church is the Jewish festival of 'Weeks' or Shavuot. For the Jewish believer this festival commemorates and celebrates the giving of the Torah, the word of God given to Moses on Mount Sanai 3,300 years ago. For the Christian this festival became central to its understanding of God's work in the world as it was on this day the Holy Spirit of God was poured out upon the early followers of Jesus, thus signifying a giving of God to humans of a different

sort, of the Holy Spirit.

It was from this day on that the early followers of Christ grew in boldness. This boldness coming from the living and dynamic gift of the Holy Spirit which transformed those early believers from a group hiding away in fear of their lives to an emboldened group who witnessed openly in public of the events of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and its meaning for all people everywhere.

Such was the fervour of this group and their testimony that they grew in number rapidly and eventually became known as Christians because their lifestyle expressed something of the character of Christ. From those days until now the Church has continued to spread across the globe as generation after generation of Christians proclaimed Christ as risen from the dead and the availability of the Holy Spirit. Part of what the Holy Spirit brings into people's lives is an inner confirmation about the living reality of Christ risen from the dead as well as help for them to grow in Christlike characteristics. This process never finds its conclusion in this life but, God willing, if we pursue God's help and work with the Holy Spirit, we can find ourselves being changed by degrees to reflect the character of Christ in the world.

Such an inspiration doesn't mean Christians don't or can't display characteristics that do not reflect the character of Christ, but the hope and prayer of Christians should be that in the long run some changes take place that reflect the power of the Holy Spirit at work in them.



In the churches of the Benefice we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday by retelling the day that God poured out the Holy Spirit upon that first group of Jesus's followers and remembering that God still pours out the Holy Spirit today.

Whether you celebrate Pentecost or not, may you find in the Christian understanding of this festival hope that change for the better does and can take place in our lives in new and fresh ways when we connect with God's story of his ongoing activity in the world.

Love and prayers for all, Peter

Church Services in the Benefice

MAY

Sunday 5th May

9.30am Newport Contemporary Communion 11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday 12th May

9.30am Newport All Age

11.15am Quendon Communion

Sunday 19th May - Pentecost Sunday

9.30am Newport Communion

11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday 26th May

9.30am Newport Morning Worship

11.15am Rickling Communion

3.30pm Newport Messy Church

JUNE

Sunday 2nd June

9.30am Newport Contemporary Communion

11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday 9th June

9.30am Newport All Age

11.15am Quendon Communion

Sunday 16th June

9.30am Newport Communion

11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday 23rd June

9.30am Newport Morning Worship

11.15am Rickling Communion

3.30pm Newport Messy Church

Sunday 30th June

10am Newport Benefice Service with breakfast baps served beforehand

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the latest winners

April 2024

1st Prize A Bishop £32

2nd Prize M Hawkins £21

3rd Prize K Gray £10

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.

For Crimes and suspicious activity NOW phone	999
You can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes that have already online at https://www.essex.police.uk/ and click on the appropriate button ("Chat" feat right of screen). Alternatively phone 101 but online contact is preferred.	
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. 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	0300 123 2040
CRIMESTOPPERS To give information anonymously phone	0800 555 111

The information you provide is very important to us, so please make sure that we can use it effectively, by reporting it correctly through the proper channels. Thank you.

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. If an email address is provided the pack can be sent digitally.

or report it online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Allotments (Quendon Hall Estate):

Peter Warwick, No.5 Thistley Crescent, Green

Road, Rickling

to attend.

Telephone: 01799 543526

Highway Problems

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

A tracking facility for all reported faults is available.

Contact our Parish Council

Details of Parish Council meetings may be found on the village web-site: https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk and on village notice boards. All are welcome The Parish Clerk is Keith Williams

Email:

quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com

Telephone: **01279 814473**

Contact our District Councillors

Email: cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: **01799 543487**

Mobile Telephone: **07801 039550**

Email: cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: 01799 540411

Mobile Telephone: 07854 687748

See also DCs' regular reports in *The Link*.

Contact our County Councillor

Cllr Raymond Gooding **Essex County Council** County Hall, Duke Street Chelmsford, CM1 1LX

Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

Telephone: **01279 813103**

Mobile Telephone: **07778 643759**

Contact our Member of Parliament

Kemi Badenoch, MP House of Commons. London, SW1A 0AA

Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: **02072 191943**

The Link

Our current free colour printing arrangements with Jon Millward are to come to an end with the August issue. My thanks to him for printing the magazine for us for the last year to enable us to keep delivering free to all households in our villages.

Commercial printing, even by a company which specialises in printing of community magazines, would at around £300 per issue of 300 copies, be simply unsustainable on the level of our income.

Is there anyone who would print The Link? Please help to continue our parish magazine!

Contact Sandra Arnold, editor

by e-mail: sandra@arnold-q.uk; or telephone: 01799 543075

From the Parish Council Chair

Dear Villagers,

Isn't it lovely to see the bluebells out and smelling so fresh as you walk along Willis's Lane or through Coney Acre wood? I hope a redundant warning to residents - please don't step on the bluebell plants as they will not come back once stomped on!

Lots has happened with regards to the Belchams Lane Development in the last month. This is the large-scale development plan from Pegasi for 110 rental properties on land between Ventnor Road and Belchams Lane, including proposals for a farm shop/deli and redevelopment at Terrace and Garden. In the view of the PC (and reflecting villagers' opinions from when the plans were first published), the scale of the development is simply too large for the village; no matter what benefits Pegasi proposes for the village it's a bad deal.

As well as an exhibition of plans in March Pegasi have put their plans as a Screening Opinion request to UDC (available on the UDC planning portal). As of the time of writing no decision has been published whether UDC requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be put together. An EIA is a significant delivery for the developers to explain in detail what the impact to the environment (in its widest sense) would be.

The PC is sending out a letter to all village households regarding the plans, so that everybody in the village has an opportunity to hear about them, if the usual communication channels through the Link, facebook and noticeboards have not reached every residents' ears.

Some of our Councillors have met informally with the Keep Clavering Rural group to take advice on how to handle large-scale development and Sue Joannou and Gari Spearpoint have a list of recommendations and action points to pursue. We will be engaging the planning consultants used for the Neighbourhood Plan who have a lot of experience in the area. The key initial point from that source though is that any concerted effort to oppose the plans is wasted until there is a planning application to oppose, so at the moment we are keeping our powder dry.

Away from that thorny subject we have been considering the Village Hall projects and are enthusiastic to support the reinvigoration of the Hall, with the prospect of it being more in use by villagers in future. Remember it's got two good-sized halls, excellent wifi and a well-equipped kitchen, available for hire at very reasonable rates!

Sadly given all our other commitments we do not have the headcount on the PC to organise a Quickling Event this summer. This is the sort of activity which takes up a lot of effort and is simply not achievable with diminished numbers on the council. Of course, with more councillors

We will put our efforts into the Autumn Daze event in October - that will still be going ahead.

If you're thinking of holding an event yourself, remember that the village has a marquee (6mx3m) for hire at a very reasonable rate! You can find out more on the village website at https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk/local-information/village-marquee/

Many thanks to Phil Sowter for all his hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan over the past year or so. The refreshed Plan went out for consultation in mid-March and will be adopted soon. Version 2 of the Plan has delivered a lot of added value as well as tightening up on some policies and capturing more comprehensively the character of the area.

As it's springtime finally the initial newt survey will be going ahead on the two ponds in the village. UDC has kindly extended the terms of the grant for cleaning up the ponds to the end of the year, so we expect work to happen in November 2024.

No news yet on when the cats' eyes along Cambridge Road will be reinstalled. Please drive carefully after dark, as that significant safety feature is still missing. Gari is keeping up the pressure on highways to get resolution (or even information!) on that subject and the rehabilitation of the footway along the B1383.

Well, that's about it for the May edition. I'll be stepping down as Chair in May, although I will continue to be a councillor for a few months before leaving the council after five years. Please come forward to join the Council: this is a great time to join us as there are several significant and interesting projects in hand which need attention!

Happy Summer - I'll see you watching the cricket perhaps! (Last I heard the prospects for a good summer of weather were improving ...)

Tom Duncan

tddqrpc@gmail.com

District Councillors' Report

Bins follow up and lessons learned

Following the bin collection disruption earlier this year, the cross-party Scrutiny Committee set up a 'Task & Finish Group' to thoroughly review what happened, how it was resolved and what needs to happen to ensure nothing similar happens again. Working with officers, they have produced a report with eight conclusions, supported by twelve appendices. The full papers are on the agenda of the Scrutiny Committee for the 16th of April published on the UDC website. Just picking a few items:

Conclusion C: Many people worked long and hard both to fix the problem and to put in place the patchwork quilt solution as quickly and thoroughly as possible, and they deserve our recognition and genuine thanks. Uttlesford District Council is particularly grateful to Widdington Waste Ltd and Braintree District Council for their help.

Conclusion D: There was a significant failing in the proper management of the process to cope with the unplanned and immediate departure from the council of the previous staff member who held the necessary professional qualification on which continued permission to hold an Operator's Licence from the Office of the Traffic Commissioner is dependent. This failure to ensure a timely replacement was due to human error, and happened in the complex context of mitigating factors. However, this situation underlines the absence of a systemic solution to managing such major risks and critical service dependencies.

Conclusion H: we strongly support the current exercise to identify, and then prioritise and mitigate, key service resilience risks across the whole organisation, and welcome that a senior colleague from a neighbouring council has agreed to quality-assure that exercise. We believe that this is a key action and must be reported up for consideration at Member level, not only in regard to this focused exercise, but also on an ongoing basis in relation to assurance of business continuity measures. We equally strongly welcome the clear indication given by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Change that the whole Cabinet is taking a clear set of actions to liaise directly with their respective chief officers about major service provision risks

The cost was £75k. No wasted expenditure is welcome but to put this in perspective, the variance in the 2023/24 accounts for the amount paid to Essex for the 'gate fees' during the year, ie to dispose of our waste, was over £400k extra because the tonnage fee was increased. The cost of the bin problems will be taken in the bin costs accounts and will have no impact on council tax. The Task & Finish group reviewed the possibility of refunds but as collections cost taxpayers only about 50p a week rejected this in another of their conclusions.

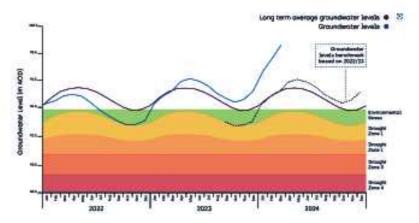
Climate change actions

In 2019 UDC declared a climate emergency, produced an Action Plan, and financed it with £1 million from our commercial income. Progress is reported regularly also to the cross–party Scrutiny Committee. The latest report covers 55 different actions, in 7 categories. These include Decarbonisation of council operations (buildings, vehicles, housing) through to 'Restore, protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the district's natural habitats and wildlife'. Far too much to cover here but the scale of what has been done, and is being done, is impressive, and all the evidence is that climate change action is urgent. Our officers have obtained significant external funding for projects, including £517k from DEFRA for the Saffron Walden Clean Air project, £3.8 million for decarbonising council houses, and we bid for and obtained government environmental funding, out of which for example Newport Parish Council and CURAT received £12,500 for a rewilding project along the Cam.

There are sometimes social media comments such as 'why bother when China, India and the US burn vast quantities of coal?' The answer is we categorise between the actions directly within our power to achieve, and those things we seek to influence to be done. Our Action Plan includes influencing locally. We must rely on governments to do the same in both direct action and global influencing.

Groundwater levels

Unsurprisingly, aquifer water levels are above the Long-Term Average (LTA). The chart is from the Affinity Water Central Region, and this is what they have to say:



Groundwater levels have remained above average through March and continue to increase more quickly than the LTA due to the above average rainfall over the autumn and winter period. Groundwater levels are likely to remain above average over the next seven months if rainfall is more than 60% of the LTA. As a result of the above average levels, groundwater will be able to provide additional support to chalk stream flows this summer. Groundwater levels are currently in a higher position than the above average conditions experienced in 2020/21 but lower than the conditions

experienced in 2013/14 at the end of March.

Councillor Surgeries

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

Our contact details are:



cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk **01799 543487** or **07801 039550**

cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk 01799 540411 or 0785 467748



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.

07874-385541

u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Whether birds evolved flight to descend from the trees or to rise up from the ground will be the first question to be tackled at the Saturday Seminar on 11th May. Mike Howgate MSc FLS will discuss two controversies on the Evolution of Flight - How Birds Fly and The Dinosaur Bird Link. Sometimes known as "Dr Dinosaur", Mike is the General Secretary and Chairman of the Amateur Geological Society of North London and is a member of the Linnean Society of London. In the first part of the seminar he will look at the evolution of flight and will then move on to discussing the prevalent theory amongst palaeontologists that birds arose from a group of Therapod dinosaurs.

At the General Meeting on 16th May we look forward to enjoying a performance from singer, songwriter and musician, Saffron Summerfield. Saffron's career has taken her from live performance on tv and on John Peel's radio show to tours abroad and playing blues guitar alongside black musicians in the Mississippi cotton fields. Her performance entitled "Milton Keynes to Mississippi" will feature different styles of guitar from the classical to the blues.

In March, Ed Fairey, Essex County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme entertained the Garden Group with the history of the NGS. He described how it came into being: why it has always supported nursing charities, and how in 1928, its foundation year, it raised over £8,000 for the Queen's Nursing Institute. Since 1980, when it became independent of the QNI, it has benefited a wider range of health

charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Carers' Trust and Parkinson's UK. In May the Garden Group will continue its own support of the NGS with a visit to "The Mount" in Roydon which opens to visitors under the scheme.

Susan Sedgebeer



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

As day length increases and the air becomes warmer, plants put out new shoots. Many



insects emerge and birds pair up, preparing to breed. Since the 1960's the average minimum winter temperatures have been rising. Snow fall is now a rarity, and frosty days are much less frequent. The current growing season is almost a month longer than 50 years

ago. Primroses and bluebells are opening earlier. Researchers recorded that the first flowering of some 406 plant species has

advanced by almost a month since 1986! This has a knock-on effect for the time of emergence of pollinating insects such as



bees and butterflies; some are adapting to the warmer climate.



Hedgerow shrubs and trees are leafing and flowering earlier too, providing food for so many hungry caterpillars which are ideal food for nestlings. Hedgerows are a valuable wildlife habitat, often providing a living framework to the landscape and our rural

heritage. Long-established hedges grow in soil that is rich in stored carbon and older trees within the hedgerow also hold large stores of carbon.

A recent planning application to fell an ancient hedgerow oak close to Clavering led to a vigorous and successful campaign by residents to save it. This tree is now registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, a record similar to the one for listed buildings.



There are more trees in local hedgerows that could be recorded - details of how to do this can be found on https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record.

National Hedgerow Week organised by the Tree Council runs from 6th May to 12th May and is timed to showcase hedgerows resplendent with fresh new growth and full of wildlife. Please enjoy one or more of the many walks listed on the Society's website - and consider recording some of our wonderful old trees.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

Rickling/Quendon Community

Quendon & Rickling Village Hall, Quendon CB11 3XQ



Fun Bingo/Raffle

Wednesday 15th May 2024 Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00am

> Please contact: Angie 01799 218061

Update from Pegasi

We would like to thank those who took the time to come and meet with us on the 14th and 16th March. We found the consultation most useful.

For those who were unable to attend. we invite you to view our proposals through our website https:// www.belchams-lane-

consultation.co.uk/ and leave feedback if you wish to do so.

If you would like to receive updates directly from Pegasi, please do email enquiries@belchams-laneconsultation.co.uk.

PEGASI

Quendon and Rickling Village Hall AGM

June 6th 2024 at 7pm in the village hall All villagers welcome

QUENDON & RICKLING GOLF SOCIETY

We had our first meeting of the year at Essendon Golf Club (near Hertford) on Tuesday 16th April when 21 cheery golfers met on a day when a touch of Spring was in the air interrupted by one or two rain showers. As always the focus of the day is to have fun and true to say some players had more success on the course than others but all enjoyed the traditional golfers lunch afterwards of ham, egg and chips. Highlights of the day were for Steve Prangnell who had the mens longest drive, Susie Hartley who hit the furthest for the ladies and Ray Hart who managed to get his ball nearer to the pin on the 13th, than anyone else. The main competition was a team game won by Ray Hart, Gari Spearpoint and Lee Dutton with individual best scores from Ray Hart (yep him again!) for the men and Jaine Fieldhouse for the ladies. See cover for image.

A great day out and our thanks go to Gari Spearpoint for organising.

Our next gathering is at Much Hadham Golf Club on 13th June. If you would like to join us and are not already a member of the Q&RGS, just give me a call, no matter what your standard of hitting that little white ball is, you will be very welcome.

Keep Golfin'

Brandon Chapman 543518

Maces Farm

The weather has not really been that favourable for farming this year but in the last month we have been blessed with 2 dry weekends that has allowed us to plant our



spring crops. Spring Oats went in over a weekend in reasonable conditions, it's all up in rows now and we pray for enough rain and sunshine to keep it

pray for enough rain and sunshine to keep it going until harvest. These are a milling variety and will stay in the UK for human consumption. The demand for oats has increased in recent years and one factor is



the popularity of Oat milk. The sugar beet was planted in early

April in surprisingly better conditions than expected. The aim for sugar beet is to grow 100 Tonnes per Ha so to be able to achieve this we plant exactly 120,000 seeds per ha with a precision drill. We have never reached 100 T Ha, but we live in hope.

Crop spraying has continued when able to travel, I've never known a year when it's been so windy and wet so getting on the land has been tricky at times, but crops are faring well, and some are even showing a little bit of potential to yielding well.

As part of working with Defra bringing environmental benefits to the countryside and farming, our 7 Ha of Wild bird areas are due to be re-planted. We have a deadline to meet and look forward to providing these areas for the wildlife within the next 2 months. The aim is the provide winter bird food for the next 2 years until it must be re-planted again. This year I am adding sunflowers in so fingers crossed they will flourish.

The month of May is historically one of our better months so hope that tradition continues

Mark Gemmill

Farm Manager MGemmill@pegasi.co.uk







Quendon Bowling Club News

Bowling

We are on the cusp of the new bowling season and the hard work of the greens team over the winter means we have our rinks in tip top condition.

Our first match is a friendly against a team from Sawbridgeworth on the afternoon of Saturday the 4th May, and our first league match will be at home against Stansted in the Herts and Essex Senior league in the afternoon of the 7th May. When we are playing at home you can always come over and sit in the sun and support our teams.

Gala Day

On Sunday April 14th we hosted an invitation pairs competition where 24 teams from all over played in a knockout competition. The winners were a pair from Silverthorn Bowling Club, who are based in Chingford, and the runners up a pair from Stansted Bowls Club.

Social Members / Evenings

Our social evenings and events will continue through the bowling season, our programme will be posted in the Parish notice boards and also on the Quendon Bowling Club Facebook page. Remember you don't need to bowl to be a social member and take advantage of our facilities and bar at club prices.

A Thought

By the time you read this we would have had our open weekend, I hope some of you took the opportunity to come and give the game a try and if you are not interested in bowling see the facilities we have to offer for social members.



The Clubhouse is also available for hire by the hour, half day and full day. If you need a venue for your club, meeting, party celebration please contact us.

Reminder: Your personal information and elections - Voter ID

As you know there are mayoral, local and police and crime commissioner elections taking place in May in England and Wales. Although in our locality we only have the police and crime commissioner. Voters in this year's local elections need to show a form of photo ID, but remember:

- -You only need to show your ID to polling station staff.
- -You can ask for it to be checked in private.
- -You have the right to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, but make sure you apply by 24 April. https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

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Outside of my house we have a waste bin And today it's a bin with nothing in.

I pulled back the curtains and what a surprise

a bin with it's lid up at the end of my drive.

Were we forgotten or are they on strike? What can we do with that rusty old bike? We saved our jam jars and newspapers

too

All because we thought they were needed by you.

The rubbish built up all over the floor, Don't say your'e not coming no more!

Maureen

Thank you Maureen



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Saffron Walden Museum



Saffron Walden Museum

Visiting the Museum

Our standard opening hours are:

Tuesday Thursday -Saturday 10- 5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-4.30pm Closed Mondays (apart from bank holidays)

Wednesdays are currently reserved for pre-booked group visits by schools and other parties in term time.

Please note that during the Winter months, November-February, the museum closes earlier at 4.30pm

PLANTS

www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

New Exhibition

Plants: The Struggle for Survival Sat 30 March- Sun 7 July 2024

Explore our relationship with plants that heal or harm, feed us or frustrate us, and uncover the secrets of their survival over hundreds

of millions of years. Fossil fronds, Victorian collectors and modern roadsides - this is the story of Plants: The Struggle for Survival.

Object of the month

April's Object of the Month was a Wayang (shadow) Kulit (skin/leather) puppet, from

Java, Indonesia. It is made from dried water buffalo hide, which has been intricately painted.

Shadow puppetry using these types of flat, leather puppets originated in South India before the 10th century and probably spread to Java with Hinduism. It has a bone handle and would once have had moveable arms connected by a rod.

The dhalang (puppeteer) used these rods to manipulate the puppets behind a translucent screen (like a sheet), which was lit from behind.

Their popular night-time puppetry performances lasted for several hours and were accompanied by a percussion gamelan orchestra.

This puppet was collected in 1840 and represents Hanuman, the Hindu god, who is half human and half monkey. Hanuman possesses great strength, and he plays an important role in the Ramayana helping legendary Prince Rama rescue his wife Sita from the demon King Ravana.



Horse chestnut flowers - Peter Warwick

APOPO

The APOPO research team has been busy exploring new applications for the HeroRATs, leading to the training of these rats for use in real-life rescue operations at debris sites, an initiative called RescueRATs.

This focuses on assisting in building collapse rescues, in earthquake scenarios for example. So far a full-scale replica debris site has been built where rats are being trained to effectively locate victims and communicate their findings to rescuers. To do this the rats have learned to locate survivors while wearing a harness, which will soon be exchanged for a high-tech backpack.

These backpacks weigh just 95 grams and feature enhanced signal transmission capabilities, a camera, a light and two-way communication capabilities.

Asian Hornet

At the beginning of April, the National Bee Unit began spring trapping in areas identified as high risk. Traps have been set at locations across Kent, East Sussex, Devon and North Yorkshire to monitor for signs of Asian hornet activity. On the 13th of April, a single hornet was caught in one of these traps near Four Oaks, Kent approx. 3km from the nest found in 2023. The specimen has been sent to the lab at Fera Science Ltd for official confirmation and analysis and the NBU will continue to monitor the area.

The NBU have also received 3 further credible reports of lone Asian hornets this month. The first was a hornet on a ferry midway between Calais and Dover on 8th April. The second was a report on 11th April of a hornet in Folkestone, Kent by a homeowner. Lastly, on 13th April a hornet was sighted on a ferry between St Malo and Portsmouth, France – close to the St Malo port. The hornets reported on the 11th and 13th were both reportedly killed but the specimens were not captured for official confirmation.

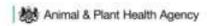




Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport







Security updates Sheds and Outbuildings

These are often targeted by thieves as an easy option and they hold valuable items that can be easily sold on i.e. items such as bikes, mowers, power tools, garden tools and sporting equipment such as golf clubs. Research has shown that the average shed contents are valued between £1,500 and £5,000, making sheds easy pickings if insecure.

- Don't make a burglar's job easier by leaving gardening tools lying around as these are often used to force entry into your home – a garden spade can do a lot of damage to a door or window in a short space of time. Remember most burglaries are committed at the rear of the home.

- Security marking your tools and equipment using an SBD recognised forensic asset marking or etching kit is another highly effective and visible deterrent to thieves and an established method of reducing theft.
- Depending on the quality and construction of your timber shed door, you have several options of securing it. If your shed is of a solid construction, minimum 44mm thick, you may be able to fit a mortice sash lock to BS3621 (https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/standards-explained/locks-associated-hardware)
- The alternative is an SBD approved hasp and staples that hide the fixings when closed. Use two one fitted one-third up and one fitted one-third down the door. The hasp and staples should be coach bolted through the shed structure or secured with either security or non-return screws, sometimes referred to as clutch head screws. These are a special type of screw that once fitted can only be unscrewed with a special tool.
- Wrap a security chain around and through the handles of garden tools, lawn mowers and cycles. Secure the chain to the wall using a purpose made shed shackle and padlock or a ground anchor fixed to the base of the shed. If using the latter, the shed will need a concrete base to secure the ground anchor.
- Think about using a strong lockable box or cage within the shed in which you can securely store garden tools. Where possible, this feature should be securely fixed to a solid floor or structure to prevent easy removal
- Keep items out of view with netting or consider a permanent spray-on frosting to the glass.
- Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren. Please keep it out of the reach of young children.
- Don't leave ladders outside or, if you have no alternative and have to, chain them up.
- Check that you have adequate cover under your household insurance for theft from your garden and outbuildings.

St Simon & St Jude, Quendon Church & All Saints Rickling Church

Reminder: Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting Wed 1st May 7.00pm at Quendon Church All Welcome

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2024 Talks at St Nicholas Church Berden

29 years as Stansted Airport Chaplain

Wed 22nd May @ 7pm

Come and listen to The Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop share his experiences during his 29 years as airport chaplain at Stansted Airport

Hungry For Heaven

Wed 26th June @ 7pm

Join us to hear from The Bishop of Colchester, The Right Reverend Roger Morris. In Berden for one night only!

History of St Nicholas Church Wed 28th August @ 7pm



Find out more about the history of the Church from Churchwarden and local historian Mark Trapmore

History of McMullens Brewery

Wed 18th September @ 7pm

Join us to hear from Fergus McMullen about the McMuller family Brewery's history and sample some beer!

All events are FREE but donations are encouraged to support St Nicholas Church. If you would like to give a future talk or reserve a seat at an event please contact rasalle.trapmore@outlook.com

Please mention

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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

EventDateTimePlaceNotesSaffron Searchers1st Monday/month20.00-22.00Q&R Village HallPilatesMondays09.00-10.00Q&R Village HallJan Crawley 07742 182272

Dance Exercise Tuesdays 10.30-11.30 Q&R Village Hall Christine Alexander

Community Café 3rd Weds/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

What's On (cont.)

Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	19.00	Quendon Bowls Club David Soloman 07817248301
Social Evening	2nd & 4th Fridays	19.00-23.00	Quendon Bowling Club
Communion	12th May	11.15	Quendon Church
Communion	26th May	11.15	Rickling Church
Village Hall AGN	16th June	1900	Q&R Village Hall
Golf Society	13th June		Much Hadham Golf Club Brandon Chapman 543518

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.



5	1	
Name	Home Telephone	Locality
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
Chris Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Sue Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Wendy Stannard	01799 541869	Middle - Cambridge Road
Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird	07793600697	Southern end
Paul Carrol	07889 344869	Southern end - Cambridge Road
Joanne Hales	07903 596011	Rickling Green
Janice Hart	01799 541196	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling
Ann Merrit	01799 542110	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane
Tom Duncan	01799 541299	Brick Kiln Lane
Sue Joannou	07805 037586	Rickling Green
Jacolin Lampon	07710 281382	Southern End - Cambridge Road

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

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

The Link is published on behalf of Quendon & Rickling Parochial Church Council, who do not necessarily share or endorse any opinions expressed by contributors or advertisers. It is created, printed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Advertising supports the maintenance of our church buildings and their grounds.

The Link is delivered free of charge to every household in the villages of Quendon and Rickling and is available online at: https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk

All correspondence for *The Link* should be addressed to the editor, Sandra Arnold, by e-mail: sandra@arnold-q.uk, or at Talbots, Cambridge Road, Quendon, CB11 3XJ; otherwise telephone 01799 543075

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