

# The Link

Quendon & Rickling  
Parish  
and Church

You can find *The Link*  
and much more at  
[www.quendonandrickling.co.uk](http://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk)

## NEWS

June 2021

### In this issue

Church Services	2	Dementia Activity Group	6	Catering Assistant Required	11
Vicar's Message	2	Parish Councillor	6	Wildlife Village	12
Church Contacts	3	Sewing Machine	6	Parish Information	12
Police Contacts	3	District Council	7	Emergency Life-saving	13
Community Café	3	Member of Parliament	8	What's On	13
Dementia Café	3	Hundred Parishes	10	Saffron Screen	13
PAT Turner, R.I.P.	3	100 Club	10	Publication Details	14
Council Chairman	4	Blossom!	10		
Council Annual Report	5	U3A	11		



Visits: If you would like the Vicar to visit you at home or in hospital, or know of anyone who would like him to visit them, please let the Vicar know.

**The Rev'd. Neil McLeod**, The Vicarage, 5, Meadowford, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3QL

**Telephone:** 01799 540339 **E-mail:** [vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.com](mailto:vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.com)

# From the Vicarage Study

Rev. Neil McLeod,

Priest-in-Charge of Newport with Widdington, Quendon and Rickling.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.' My season here in the parishes of Newport, Quendon, Rickling and Widdington is coming to an end.

I shall be leaving at the end of September, with my final service being held on Sunday 26th in Newport. My final service in this parish will be Sunday 12th which will be held in Quendon Church. By then I will have had the joy of leading you as your vicar for 8 years, having taken responsibility for you in the autumn of 2013 following Revd Chris Bishop's retirement. It has been my privilege to serve as your vicar.

I am not moving on to another vicar role. I am leaving because on 30th October I shall be getting married to my partner Melvyn, which I am really looking forward to. We came to this decision because of the situation with the pandemic which has impacted all of us. I struggled during the first lockdown because I just did not know when I was going to see Mel again, and I found that very difficult. I didn't mention this to many at the time, as at that point I had told some people that I was gay, but not mentioned it to all. I'm aware many of you will be reading this or hearing about it for the first time. My sexuality did not affect my God-given ability to lead the churches so it did not need to be widely known.

Sadly whilst I have received nothing but love and support from the local churches here in Newport, Quendon, Rickling and Widdington, the law of the Church of England means that I cannot continue in my role as vicar. Whilst I am sad about this, I am not angry with the Church of England. This is my choice and, for me and Mel, it is the right choice. I shall be moving to Sunderland where we shall set up home in our new house, which is lovely.

I am not running away from the Church. There are many forms of ministry; I am simply stepping back from one but looking forward to taking up another. It is my hope to find a church that will be happy to let me preach, lead services or lead a bible study group or Lent courses. God isn't done with me yet, and I'm not finished with him either!

I take with me many happy memories of my time here in Quendon and Rickling. Of seeing the numbers who come to the Crib Service increase over the years. Of chats and laughter at the coffee mornings. Of seeing a couple do the Madness walk to 'It Must Be Love' at their wedding in Quendon Church. Of guests arriving in a double-decker bus for a wedding at Quendon. Of very emotional leavers services held for the primary school in church. It has been an amazing time!

Thank you for all of your support and love over the years. I have loved being here and I have loved being your vicar. It will be sad to leave, and I have already predicted that I may cry at my last service! But it is the right decision for the two of us. Simply put I love him, and want to spend my life with him. The gospel is about love, so it feels right. 1 John 4:16 states, 'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them.'

With Love

*Revd Neil McLeod*

## Church Services in the Benefice

### Sunday 6th June

10.00am Online - Zoom Contemporary Communion  
11.00am Widdington Holy Communion

### Sunday 13th June

10.00am Online - Zoom All Age Service  
11.00am Quendon BCP Communion

### Sunday 20th June

10.00am Online - Zoom Holy Communion  
11.00am Widdington Holy Communion

### Sunday 27th June

8.30am Newport BCP communion  
10.00am Online - Zoom Morning Worship  
11.00am Rickling Holy Communion

### Sunday 4th July

10.00am Online - Zoom Contemporary Communion  
11.00am Widdington Holy Communion

### Sunday 11th July

10.00am Online - Zoom All Age Service  
11.00am Quendon BCP Communion

### Sunday 18th July

10.00am Online - Zoom Holy Communion  
11.00am Widdington Holy Communion

### Sunday 25th July

8.30am Newport BCP communion  
10.00am Online - Zoom Morning Worship  
11.00am Rickling Holy Communion

**Priest in Charge of Newport with Widdington and Quendon and Rickling.**

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

Telephone: 01799 540339 E-mail: [vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.com](mailto:vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.com)

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

**Rickling:** Lisa Huxtable 07771 541944

**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](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

0800 555 111



**Rickling/Quendon Community Café  
Fun Bingo and Refreshments**

3rd Wednesday of the month (commencing August 2021)  
10.00am-12.00pm  
Quendon & Rickling Village Hall,  
Quendon CB11 3XQ

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Free cup of tea and biscuit with this advertisement:  
Come along and have fun with your friends and neighbours



Contact: Angie on 01799 218061  
Carole on 01799 543807



**Saffron Walden Dementia Café  
Re-Opening at new premises  
Wednesday 7th July 10am-12pm  
Faircroft House, Audley Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3HD**

Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia / Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat?

Then why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, and advice and of course refreshments.

We will meet weekly in Faircroft House, onsite parking available.

Why not drop in and see us or if you would like to find out more call **07900 123917**

or email [saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com](mailto:saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com)

**Pat Turner**

The village was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Pat.

David thanks all for the many letters of condolence which he has received. There will be a great sense of loss from all who knew Pat.

We send our deepest sympathy to David and his family.

## From the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Villagers!

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to Ted Crow, deputy chair of the Parish Council, who has just stepped down. Not only does he run and manage the football pitch, which takes many hours of dedication, but he helped me understand all the financial running of the council and interpreted all the budget sheets for me, he updated the village asset list and he was in charge of the Community Environment Facilities (you may well ask!!). I bent his ear on so many occasions, I think he probably deserves a much needed break!! He has been a huge asset to the Council and will be sorely missed! We are therefore looking for a replacement so if you are interested in being a voice for your community with the potential of effecting real change and making a difference, then email our Parish Clerk to register your interest.

We had our first face to face Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall for our May meeting, which was great fun because of all the restrictions in place - 2 metres apart, all the doors and windows wide open and masks on. It meant that there were many repetitions and gloves and scarves were at the ready! It was definitely good to be back though, don't think we will miss Zoom.

We welcomed Judy Emmanuel, our new District Councillor, to the meeting. She won the seat in the May election and came along to the meeting to introduce herself to the team. We believe she will be very helpful as she is very knowledgeable with regard to local affairs, especially planning applications and appeals.

The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum took place on 6 May and was voted in by a large majority, 90.5% with a turnout of 44.2%. The plan will now carry significant weight in relation to future planning applications. So thank you to the team who co-ordinated this plan because it was many years in the planning and was done in record time.

The monthly litter picking sessions will hopefully begin in June. More information will be put in *The Link* and on Facebook for those of you keen to help and keep our villages tidy! We know a number of you already pick up litter on your daily walks and it is really appreciated. The amount of litter and dog poo has definitely been on the increase. There was even a dog poo found very near to the wicket!!!! Perhaps if anyone sees a culprit they could have a friendly word and ask them to take their deposits to the nearest bin. Just to confirm that dog poo is allowed in the general bins as well as the dog poo bins, so no excuses!

The steps, or lack of them, of the public footpath at the

north end of Quendon, on the left, are now rather dangerous, especially in the wet, but they have been reported to the PROW restoration team, who plan to restore them over the summer months. This is the same team that installed the "bridge" over the Quendon Woods stream and they did an excellent job there so we are hoping that steps will be in place sooner rather than later.

The 40mph buffer zone sign and roundel is still missing, as we are sure you are all aware! The calming measures are now in the detailed design phase and we have been informed that these missing items will be installed when the calming measures are put in place. We are assured that everything is progressing but the wheels of Essex Highways turn very very slowly!

The Rickling Ramblers have had their first matches on the Green and have been utilising their beautifully restored Pavilion. The flagpole has been mended so now the Club's flag will be flying whenever a match is due. Please do pop along to support them, nothing can beat a glass of wine or a pint of beer whilst watching the boys in white, especially if they are the winning team!

The Cricketers Arms has opened its doors again and those outdoor tables have been in great demand despite the freezing temperatures. At least the wine was never warm! By the time you read this article, the tables inside will be available to book so a great summer lies ahead on the Green!

Terrace and Garden's pop up evening was a resounding success. Such a great idea and obviously loved by everyone as so many of you turned out. It was so lovely to see so many talented villagers displaying their wares, Waffle & Co were there to feed the masses and Secret Wines to quench everyone's thirst and to see so many villagers again after such a long time was quite restorative! They are planning on doing another one this month, so do pop along again but they also have cards and gifts available to buy at any time.

"Quickling" - Saturday, 7 August - is now at the Committee stage, so if anyone would like to be part of an amazing village event, please get in touch with Carrie or Katherine. This could be to join the committee, help with the arrangements on an ad hoc basis or just help on the day, all help will be gratefully received.

Finally, here's to the glorious month of June -

***"And since all this loveliness can not be Heaven  
I know in my heart it is June"***

*Abba Goold Woolson (1838 - 1921)*

*Sally Kitcat*

## Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Well, we can safely say that this has been a year like no other!! Quendon & Rickling are still standing though so thank you to everyone who was there for everyone else. It is lovely to know that the community and neighbours were there when needed.

The Parish Council meetings have continued to be held, but on Zoom - not particularly easy as half the team were not au fait with online meetings or technology and those that were did not have particularly good signal, so the meetings were interesting but at least we know what to do if it ever happens again!

We have had two councillors leave this year, Ted Crow and Ele Stoneham and all we can say is a very big thank you to them both. They will be missed! Jennie Sutton replaced Ele and we are in the process of advertising for a replacement for Ted.

The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum took place on 6 May and was voted in by a large majority, 90.5% with a turnout out of 44.2%. The plan will now carry significant weight in relation to future planning applications.

The precept for 2021/22 has remained the same as we felt everyone had suffered enough without having to worry about paying more tax. It does mean though that we will have to cut back on certain items, but we think we will manage. The precept has not been increased since 2015/16 so it will most likely have to increase next year.

Foxley 2 is almost complete, with all houses sold. The Stonebond contribution monies have paid for the Highways Survey to be undertaken, purchased a cricket cage for the club, a ride-on lawn mower for the football pitch, a contribution towards the Bowling Club's new floor and a speaker and lights for events. There are still monies available for people and clubs to apply for.

The Highways Survey, produced by Bruce Bamber from Stuart Michael Associates, has come along in leaps and bounds this year. The detailed drawings are now in the hands of Essex Highways. It was approved at the Local Highways Panel in March so therefore funding will be available during the financial year of 2021/22 for detailed design of the calming measures and funding for the installation of these designs has been reserved.

The 40mph buffer zone is almost complete. One sign has been installed on the north bound but we are waiting for the southbound sign to be installed and the roundels on the road surface to be painted!! Essex Highways have assured us that it is being progressed! Despite the fact these are missing, we have also been assured that the buffer zone is currently enforceable.

The Quendon trees saga is, we believe, now over. The trees have leaves!! Essex Highways paid a new

contractor to plant live maple samplings and to maintain them after the previous contractor cut down all the horse chestnut trees by mistake and replaced them with dead samplings.

The football pitch is looking at its best, thanks to Ted Crow and his team. Ted will continue to maintain and run the pitch despite stepping down from the Council. There is a full fixtures list, with teams describing it as the best pitch in the area. It is fully self supporting, so congratulations must be given to all the dedication that has been given to this project. Unfortunately in April, the portacabins, which are used for storage and one as a changing room, were vandalised and this is now in the hands of the police forensics, so hopefully there will be a positive outcome.

The Cricket Pavilion is also looking at its best following a serious restoration project.

The Cricketers Arms is a focal point for the village and what a year they have had. They have done everything possible to ensure that their customers have been kept safe - they have put up beach huts, marquees, heaters and purchased more outside tables, all to accommodate Covid 19 restrictions. We wish them well!

A Wildlife Friendly Village initiative has been set up this year to try and encourage more wildlife to the villages. One of the first things we are doing is to create two wildflower areas at the edge of the village green.

The Events Team have been, unfortunately, rather quiet this year due to all events being cancelled due to the Government restrictions. They managed though to organise an incredibly moving Remembrance Exhibition at the Village Hall, which featured in the local papers and an amazing Christmas lighting display at the Fountain, complete with Puff The Dragon and we have had the culinary delights of Waffle & Co for a couple of evenings outside the Pavilion.

Personally, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the running of the parish - all of whom play an incredibly important role. The amount of hours that people give to the villages, on a voluntary basis, is really quite amazing! Also a big thank you to Neil Hargreaves, our District Councillor, who makes it so much easier to understand my job as Chair.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors! What a fantastic team they are - the villages couldn't ask for a better one!

*Sally Kitcat, Chairman,  
Quendon & Rickling Parish Council*

## Are you passionate about your community?

**Would you like to become a voice for your community, with the potential of effecting real change and making a difference to your local neighbourhood?**

## Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council is the local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people of the Parish.

Quendon & Rickling Parish Council is made up of 7 councillors, supported by the Parish Clerk, who are elected to represent the voice of the residents within the two villages and who volunteer their time freely. You will be involved collectively in the following:

- engaging with local residents to ensure their views are heard, understood and addressed
- have responsibility for managing local services, amenities and policies
- help make decisions regarding finances involved in delivering local services
- work to protect and improve the environment
- contributing to long term policy development or being part of the team that assesses and comments on local planning applications
- liaising with other organisations, agencies or other parishes, where necessary
- helping to foster community spirit and engagement by organising/endorsing local events

You will be joining a great team, who meet once a month and email regularly in between, but how much time you are able to commit is largely down to you and the level of involvement you would like!

The best way to discover if this is for you is to join one of our monthly meetings, meet the team and see us in action!

Please drop the Parish Clerk an email registering your interest at [quendoneandricklng.clerk@hotmail.com](mailto:quendoneandricklng.clerk@hotmail.com).

## Popular Dementia Activity Group Reopens in Dunmow

People living with dementia can once again benefit from a hugely popular weekly Activity Group in Dunmow run by Essex-based charity Action for Family Carers which has reopened following 4 months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than a dozen people attend the Dunmow group and a further 50 in West Essex attend similar groups mixing with others and participating in a variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities ranging from seated exercise, indoor bowling, reminiscence discussions and games often including music.

The Groups are led by a small team of professional and caring staff and a large number of dedicated local volunteers. Morning sessions, called Keeping Active, focus on physical activity and afternoon sessions, called Active Minds, focus on activities to stimulate the mind.

Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle and can help overall wellbeing. It can give opportunities to spend time with others, reducing isolation and loneliness and support people to continue being

independent.

Cognitive stimulation involves activities and exercises that stimulate thinking, concentration, communication and memory in the person with dementia. It involves talking about day-to-day interests, reminiscence and information relating to the current time and place.

Group Activity Support Manager, Clare Savva, said "There's never been a more important time for groups such as ours which help stimulate minds and bodies and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. The group also provides a much-needed break for carers who are often close family members."

The Activity Group takes place in Great Canfield Village Hall near Dunmow on Mondays 10-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm and new members are welcome.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining the groups and for more information please call **0300 770 80 90** and ask for Clare Savva or email [clare.savva@affc.org.uk](mailto:clare.savva@affc.org.uk)



## Sewing machine needs a new home

This New Home Janome sewing machine is a basic machine in good working condition. Contact Sandra Arnold - 01799 543075 for further details.



## Report from District Councillors Judy Emanuel and Neil Hargreaves

### New councillor Judy Emanuel



I was elected on the 6th May to be a district councillor for the Newport ward which covers Newport, Quendon, Rickling and Widdington. I look forward to supporting each of the villages alongside the immensely hard-working Cllr Neil Hargreaves. I have worked with Neil for a number of years already in my capacity as Vice-Chair of Newport Parish Council and on the steering committee for the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan.

It was fantastic to see the Neighbourhood Plan finally brought to referendum and even more so to see the support from residents of each of the villages. I have developed useful relevant experience having been on the Parish Council in Newport for six years, particularly through leading the team responding to planning applications and appeals. As we are fortunate enough to live in such a beautiful area there is no doubt in my mind that more planning applications will be forthcoming. It is important that we work to ensure that the scale of development is appropriate and that infrastructure to support further growth is provided alongside whatever may be proposed.

Following the by-elections here and in the Sampfords the Council is back up to 39 members. The political composition is 24 Residents for Uttlesford, 5 Liberal Democrats, 5 Conservatives, 2 Greens, 2 Uttlesford Independents (the north Uttlesford members centred on Gt Chesterford), and 1 Independent (who has aligned with the Greens). Committee memberships are largely allocated according to the number of seats each party holds. Unsurprisingly it has taken a while to allocate everything to everyone's satisfaction!

### Round up of the year

This is time of the year when parish councils have Annual Meetings at which we are invited to submit reports of what has happened in the last year. So here are some highlights:

1. Work on the commercial investment strategy has continued. This is to cover the £4.8m pa income

shortfall which would otherwise have happened as a result of the ending of the Government Rate Support Grant and New Home Bonus (NHB), and continuing delay on doing the 'Fair Funding Review' for all authorities. In the absence of this review the NHB has been continued as a one-year-at-a-time short term substitute.

2. The investments came on stream earlier than budgeted and so made £2.45m available as one off spend to do Climate Change work, business recovery post covid and provide grants for sport provision. This has also helped UDC with the loss of income, for example from car parking.
3. Work on the Local Plan has involved a significant consultation process and now goes to the next phase, following a Call for Sites
4. An extra £240k is included in this year's budget for the Planning Dept, and upgrades to its operation are planned following an external review. Throughout covid the flood of applications has continued.
5. As well as one-off spending on climate change work, the council has built environmental upgrades into its core budget. One example is at the new Canfield bin lorry depot, a water recycling truck washing machine is installed which will substantially reduce water use.
6. As noted in the last Link the airport appeal has been strongly defended. The recent Government decision to include aircraft CO2 output in the urgently needed CO2 reductions means STAL's claims to have nothing to do with this are even less plausible.

And the most significant task has been the covid work. This includes both administration of grants and applying for them, running the business rates cessations, local volunteer coordination, environmental health checking of premises, and logistical support of the vaccination programme including staff secondment. All at the same time as switching most office staff to home working and keeping all the other services going, including the recent elections, and adjusting pretty much every part of council operations to be as covid safe as possible. A remarkable achievement, particularly as it all had to be worked out from scratch and rapidly implemented.

### Councillor Surgeries

These are currently suspended. Our contact details are:  
cjlremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk; 01799 543487;

Mobile 07801 039550

cjlrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk; 01799 540411

And we are on the village Facebook.

*Cllrs Judy Emanuel and Neil Hargreaves*

### 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](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted).

## Report from our Member of Parliament

### Welcoming back our local businesses

As the lockdown measures ease, it has been great to see businesses across the constituency opening up and Saffron Walden and Dunmow high streets busy with shoppers.

I have been catching up with residents in Saffron Walden to talk about the support they have received from Essex County Council, central Government support as well as the fantastic hard work of the Saffron Walden BID team and Dunmow Town Team.

The economic hardships caused by the pandemic have undoubtedly taken a toll on our high streets and after the sacrifices they have had to make over the last year, it is right that we do what we can to support them.

Every business in our constituency has so much to offer and I have been making the case on behalf of businesses to ministerial colleagues to ensure they can bounce back. I am pleased Chelmsford City Council have received over £159,000 and Uttlesford over £80,000 to enable them to help them do so.

This builds on the funding they received last year as well as the business grants, job retention scheme, self-employed grant and so many others that have kept local businesses afloat.

### Additional grants for arts and culture sites

As part of the Government's Culture Recovery Grant schemes latest allocations, I am pleased that four organisations in our constituency have once again benefitted.

- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received The Faircroft House to receive an additional £35,220 on top of £19,500 already received
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received GHB Hire Limited a festival and event production hire company in the constituency to receive over £88,000
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received Showstars a production company specialising in supplying crew for live events to receive over £232,000

This is in addition to the funding received by Hylands Estate, The Saffron Hall Trust and Audley End House late last year as part of the Government's commitment to support our arts, culture and heritage organisations.

I will continue to do all I can to ensure our local independent cinemas, arts centres, heritage sites and all those in the sector have the support they need so they can thrive as we recover from this crisis.

### Police, crime, sentencing and courts bill

Last month I voted for the new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts bill, which will enhance police powers to tackle crime and introduce tougher sentencing for the most violent criminals.

One of my manifesto commitments was to keep our communities safe and this bill will:

- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received to protect women and children from sexual abuse
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received to give great police powers to tackle disruptive protests
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received to tackle unauthorised traveller encampments – something I have worked towards since becoming the local MP
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received to strengthen support for our police and their families
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already received to end early release of dangerous offenders

There has been much misrepresentation of the bill, with some suggestions it removes the right to protest. This is not true. This bill will introduce measures to stop seriously disruptive behaviour that impacts the public. I have myself seen the result of this behaviour, such as people unable to get to A&E in Westminster because of protests that go well beyond what is required to make the point.

Here's the QR code for a useful protest powers factsheet in relation to the bill.

*(The URL text is far too complex to be usable! - Editor.)*



### Improving local bus services

Given the rural nature of areas of our constituency, many of us rely on our cars to travel around. However, it is important we have access to reliable public transport that is accessible to all.

This is why I welcome the Government's new £3 billion bus strategy that will see over 4000 new electrical or hydrogen buses built and distributed across the country. The new strategy also means that those who rely on these services will see an increase in bus services with new price caps.

Constituencies like ours will also benefit from an extra £20 million in the form of the Rural Mobility Fund to enable on-demand services to be trialled where traditional bus services are unavailable.



## Report from our Member of Parliament (cont.)

I am pleased Essex County Council have received nearly £1.5 million as part of the fund and have written to the cabinet member to ensure our local areas will benefit from it.

### North Hall road, Little Henham update

I met with Cllr Ray Gooding recently to discuss the closure of North Hall road which has been causing much disruption and inconvenience to local residents and I could not understand why after 9 months, there was little prospect of a quick resolution.

Cllr Gooding explained the complexities behind what originally seemed like a simple repair.

The work when completed needs to be solid enough to last for 120 years and will not be a quick bit of maintenance but a significant structural build.

There are a number of aspects complicating the repair including:

- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already open reach overhead cables
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already a water main
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already a major national pipeline
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Gigaclear cables

And multiple agencies are involved in the project including:

- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Essex County Council
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Highways
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already 4 separate utility companies to co ordinate
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Environment agency
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Landowners (to acquire permits)
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Legal advisors
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already Those completing topographical and geotechnical surveys

What is absolutely paramount is the safety of those completing the work as well as local residents,

particularly given this route is often used for them to take their children to school.

I know the diversion is adding additional time to residents' journeys, however given the height of the wall and the small distance between the wall and the carriageway it can not safely support traffic, this is extremely dangerous and it is right the road remains closed to prevent further erosion until the repairs are complete. Children's safety is central to this decision.

I note a number of residents also have concerns regarding the diversion route, I have been advised by Cllr Bentley:

- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already They are investigating the drainage north of the closure to alleviate the flooding issue
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already They will be repairing damage to the verges on the route
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already They are exploring placing temporary signage to reinforce the message the roads are narrow
- Saffron Walden Community Cinema to receive an additional £6,970 on top of the £90,00 already And finally they are unable to change the diversion route due to the low railway bridge which would be difficult for large vehicles to manoeuvre

I will continue to raise this matter with Essex County Council to ensure the project is finished as quickly and safely as possible.

### Uttlesford Community Travel

As Patron of Uttlesford Community Travel, it was great to catch up with the General Manager Malcolm Barrell and Chair Ian Shaw virtually.

The service Uttlesford Community Travel has been vital to our local response to this crisis and despite the challenges UCT have faced as a result of it, they have worked hard to provide their service to some of the most vulnerable residents across Uttlesford.

With some residents shielding, UCT provided a safe transport option for them to attend essential medical appointments and more recently has been supporting Uttlesford residents to vaccination hubs.

I am honoured to be patron of an organisation that has played such an important role in our local response to this crisis and I would like to thank everyone at UCT for your hard work over the past year. I look forward to supporting UCT in the coming months as we recover.

### How to contact me

Email: [kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk)

Tel: **0207 219 1943**

Write: Kemi Badenoch MP,

House of Commons,

London, SW1A 0AA

*Kemi Badenoch, MP*



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## Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the May 2021 Winners

1st	L Chandler	£33
2nd	W Stannard	£22
3rd	C Clark	£15

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.

## Advance notice of blossom!

Peter Warwick (who incidentally manages our allotments - see Parish Information above) sent this picture of last June's display of a Philadelphus shrub in full bloom. He comments that you can almost smell it, and he's right, isn't he!

Will it be on time this year?



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[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

As summer arrives, we hope that readers will continue to enjoy the walks listed on the website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). These varied routes provide a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the variety of wildflowers growing in field margins, hedgerows, verges, churchyards and village greens.

After this season's chilly start, the warmer days have encouraged an abundance of flowers to provide essential nectar and pollen to support visiting pollinators. With the increasing concern about the alarming reduction in insect numbers, many of those caring for green spaces have adopted the 'NO MOW IN MAY' approach to grass maintenance, where the uncut grassy places can support a surprisingly large number of different native species. Their flowers add variety to these areas and the bees benefit as well!

Wayside plants such as Stinging Nettles, Goosegrass (the

## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

long, hairy plant that sticks to your socks) and Cow Parsley thrive alongside lanes and tracks. Cow parsley, with its splay of tiny white flowers, can grow as high as a person. A touch of pink is often added by the flowers of Red Campion, also known as Bachelor's Buttons as it might have been worn as a buttonhole by unmarried men.

Common bright yellow flowers include Dandelions and the shiny golden petals of a great variety of Buttercups. The tall Ox-eye Daisy is often present where wildflower mixtures have been sown. In recent years these have become a common sight beside new roadways.

The types of wild flower I have listed can be seen and enjoyed almost everywhere in the Hundred Parishes. There are many more varieties to be seen and occasionally something quite rare. For smart phone users there are apps to help with identification, but we do not have to be experts to appreciate and enjoy nature's abundance.

*Tricia Moxey, Trustee*



## **JOB VACANCY AT FARNHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL:**

### **Catering Assistant Role**

Farnham CE Primary School are looking to recruit a Catering Assistant to join our busy and friendly team. The role has become available due to the retirement of our wonderful Mrs Brown who has been working at Farnham CE Primary School for over 31 years.

Previous experience of catering is desirable although training would be available for the right candidate. The successful applicant will be required to:

- Collect the food from Rickling School and deliver to Farnham School each day (mileage paid)
- Assist with the preparation and serving of school meals
- Undertake all aspects of cleaning equipment, floors, fixtures and fittings, cooking utensils, cutlery, glassware etc. as directed.
- Maintain a high standard of personal and general cleanliness and hygiene to comply with statutory school regulations.
- Applicants will be required to complete a level 2 award in food safety in catering.

This position is required from September 2021.

Previous experience of catering is desirable, although training would be available for the right candidate. The successful applicant will be required to take and pass a Hygiene and Food Handling course unless they already have a current up to date qualification. All applications must be made online via the Essex jobs website using the application form. Our advert is available here which gives full details of the role:

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=64698>

Farnham Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This appointment will be subject to enhanced DBS clearance, satisfactory medical checks, and satisfactory references.

Farnham CE Primary School, Farnham, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 1HR

Telephone: **01279 771 339** | email: [admin@farnham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@farnham.essex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.federationfarnhamrickling.co.uk](http://www.federationfarnhamrickling.co.uk)

07874 385541



[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home)

**W**ednesday 2nd June is U3A day. To mark this event a History Walk around Stansted entitled "Walking in the Footsteps of the Victorian Gardeners\* of Stansted Hall" will be led by Kate Birbeck. Further information will be sent to all members by email mid-May and, as numbers will be limited, places will be given on a first come, first served basis. However, if there is a great deal of interest, we hope to organise further similar walks later this year.

All being well, the Government's wished for end of lockdown on June 21st will be followed by a social meeting on Thursday, June 24th with tea, cakes and the opportunity to chat and catch up from 1.30 in St. John's Hall. We look forward to seeing all members.

A full programme of speakers for the rest of 2021 has been booked. On 15th July we look forward to Alan Hayes giving his talk entitled "Baby Boom Generation

and Nostalgia".

On 17th July we have arranged a Saturday seminar. Jeremy Batch will be presenting The Story of Navigation, 2000 BC to 2020 AD. Look out for Sally Rich's newsletter for more info about this and news of the various groups that will start up very soon.

There are still a few rooms left in The Royal Hotel in Weymouth from 20th to 24th September.

Visits to Mottifont Abbey, Swanage Steam Railway, Corfe Castle, Dorchester & Bridport are included. The cost is £439 excl. N.T. entry fees. Please contact the above number and leave a message for Nigel Johnson if you are interested.

Hopefully we will hold the AGM in August and our Christmas Lunch on December 16th at Bury Lodge.

*\*Family name, not a mis-spelling! - Editor*

## A Wildlife Village

There has, over the last few years, been a realisation that the perfectly manicured, suburban style garden, reliant on pesticides, fungicides and chemical fertiliser, deployed with vigour to impose an image of order, can be a brutal place for our wild creatures.

For wildlife needs wild places.

If nature is to thrive it is important that we give it some space. Space to grow and exist in ways that we don't anticipate or try to suppress.

If we want to encourage wildlife into our lives it's important to leave some untended, less intensively managed, some might say untidy, areas for wildlife to find a home in.

And one of the fruitful, most easily accomplished, ways to do this is to incorporate some dead wood into our gardens.

Dead wood is an important wildlife habitat - over 2000 species of invertebrate in the UK depend upon it for all, or part of their life cycle - that is often removed from the countryside and our gardens. But its removal depletes the natural ecosystem and deprives insects and birds, reptiles and mammals of a meal, and a home.

Standing dead wood is particularly important. Trees with holes in their trunks are, of course, nest sites for bats and for all manner of birds. But dead branches, clear of foliage, also provide a useful visible perch for displaying

birds in search of a mate.

Beetles, hoverflies, butterflies and moths all thrive in the presence of standing dead wood. Which is obviously a benefit for the insects themselves, but it's also beneficial for the larger creatures that prey on them.

But, if there is no opportunity to allow dead trees to decay where they stand we can at least leave stumps to gather moss, fungi and lichen and gently rot into the ground, nourishing invertebrates and the soil as it decays. We can also deliberately add dead wood to a garden by creating a wood pile.

To make one that is most beneficial to wildlife pack it tightly so that it retains some moisture, make sure it is direct contact with the ground and use a mixture of different woods. As it slowly decomposes into the soil it will become home and nourishment to a host of insects and, with any luck, slow worms and toads. To attract hedgehogs add some leaf litter.

Meanwhile, lizards will make use of logs left in the sunshine to bask upon. And logs with holes drilled in them that are left in a sunny position will be attractive to solitary bees.

So, if we want to encourage a fuller range of the flora and fauna that could be present in our village we should stop seeing dead wood as 'dead wood' and start viewing it as the essential part of the ecosystem that it is.

## 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](http://www.essex.police.uk/ecm)

### Contact the Parish Council

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

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## What's On

In these uncertain times, contact the Hall Manager, Christine Osbourn on 01799 543367 for details of events in Quendon & Rickling Village Hall.

Please check with organisers before attending events elsewhere:

Event	Date	Time	Place	Notes
Armadillos	Tuesdays (term-time)	09.00	Rickling School	
Rickling Runners	Thursdays	19.30	The Green	
Buffy Playbus	Fridays	09.15-10.30	Rickling Green	Term-time

## June 2021 at...



NOMADLAND (12A)	Sun 6 June 7.30pm
PETER RABBIT 2: THE RUNAWAY (U)	Wed 2, Fri 4, Sat 5 & Sun 6 June 2.30pm
PETER RABBIT 2: THE RUNAWAY (U)	AUTISM-FRIENDLY SCREENING Tue 1 June 2.30pm
PETER RABBIT 2: THE RUNAWAY (U)	SUBTITLED FOR THE HARD OF HEARING Thu 3 June 2.30pm
THE DIG (12A)	Fri 4 June & Sat 5 June 7.30pm
AND THEN WE DANCED (15)	Mon 7 June 7.30pm
SIX MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT (12A)	Fri 11 June 7.30pm & Sat 12 June 2.30pm
GODZILLA VS. KONG (12A)	Sat 12 June 7.30pm & Sun 13 June 2.30pm
EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: SUNFLOWERS	Sun 13 June 7.30pm
JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (15)	Mon 14 June 7.30pm
SOUND OF METAL (15) SUBTITLED FOR THE HARD OF HEARING	Fri 18 June 7.30pm
EARWIG AND THE WITCH (PG)	Sat 19 & Sun 20 June 2.30pm
AFTER LOVE (12A)	Sat 19 & Sun 20 June 7.30pm
MANDABI (PG)	Mon 21 June 7.30pm

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Tickets available from the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, at [www.saffronscreen.com](http://www.saffronscreen.com)  
OR CALL 01799 524002 (Mon-Sat 09.30-17.00)

## 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/](http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/)

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

*The Link* is produced on behalf of Quendon & Rickling PCC, who do not necessarily share or endorse any opinions expressed by contributors or advertisers.

*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: <http://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](mailto:robert@arnold-q.uk), or at Talbots, Cambridge Road, Quendon, CB11 3XJ; otherwise telephone 01799 543075

Copy for each month is normally required by the 19th of the preceding month to allow for assembly, printing and delivery.

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Contact: Tessa Deriziotis on:

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[volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk)



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