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and ChurchNEWS
March 2021

March 2021

Church Contacts
Vicar's Message
In Memoriam
Police Contacts
100 Club
Parish Information
Member of Parliament

In	this	issue
uncil	Chairman	4

Council Chairman	
Community Café	
Waffles!	
District Council	
County Councillor	
Hundred Parishes	
Wilding	

Security Advice	8
100 Club Report	8
Emergency Life-saving	9
Pumpkin Competition	9
Publication Details	10
What's On	10
Saffron Screen	10



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

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

At the time of writing this article the government has not yet published its roadmap out of lockdown. Yet already there are conflicting points of view being given. One hand the number of covid-19 infections is falling, which is good news, but on the other hand we're being told that the number of infections is still too high. Some organisations and MPs are calling upon the government to release restrictions quickly, whilst others are stressing that we need to be more cautious in our approach. Some people are anxiously waiting to receive their first or second covid-19 vaccination but there are also those who dismiss it and talk of conspiracy theories, etc. Is it any wonder that we get confused?

I have a view that no matter what the government announces on the 22nd February the real power for defeating the vaccine lies with us. I think it is great that the number of infections is falling but I'm shocked that the number of new infections published daily is still so high. I wonder how, after almost 6 weeks of lockdown, there can still be over 1,000 new daily infections per day? I can only assume, whether rightly or wrongly, that there are people who are not complying with the social distancing guidelines or who are not following the 'Stay at Home' message. I think that this is utter madness.

Galatians 5:22 states, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' These are the gifts from God that we all need at this point in time to see us through whatever remains of the covid-19 pandemic:

• We need patience to help us wait for our covid-19 vaccination, whether it is the first or second jab. We need patience to help us not want to rush out too soon to start mixing with more people than is necessary and/or essential.

• We need self-control to help us to stick to whatever restrictions are left in place following the announcement of the roadmap out of lockdown. We need self-control to not put ourselves or others at risk.

• We need peace from God to calm our fears and our anxieties at this point in time.

• We need love from God to show us how to love others, for if we love and respect others then we should not want to do anything which might end up harming them. The love we have will show itself in gentleness and kindness in our words, in our actions and in our understanding of what others are feeling.

• We need faithfulness to help us to trust God that he will bring an end to the pandemic.

God can act on his own but he also acts through us. It is through us that the difference can be made, and I believe God equips us to be able to achieve it. God empowers us. We have the power to get through the pandemic. Stay safe. God bless.

Revd Neil McLeod

A Note on Services

A list of services is not currently being published as I am waiting to hear what the situation will be after 22nd February. I am hoping that we can return to services in church soon. If you wish to know when services will resume please contact me on vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.com or by phoning on **01799 540339**.

Geoffrey Harrison-Dees

The Harrison-Dees Family are saddened to say that Geoffrey passed away on 31st December 2020.

He had very much enjoyed living in the village for 35 years.

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 3QLTelephone: 01799 540339 E-mail: vicar4nqrwchurches@gmail.comChurchwardens -Quendon: Mrs Christine Osbourn 01799 543367 and Mrs Maureen HawkinsRickling: Lisa Huxtable 07771 541944Treasurer -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 c https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-on-line/	rimes on-line at		
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	0300 123 2040		
If someone has tried to defraud you but you have <u>not</u> 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		

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

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 upto-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

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the February 2021 Winners1stT Wilson£352ndJ Tissot£25

3rdC Foulser£15Quendon & 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.

Download an information leaflet and application form from https:// www.quendonandrickling.co.uk/

quendonrickling/assets/documents 100-club-application-form





From the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Villagers!

I think the highlight of February has got to be the meeting of Handforth Parish Council! If nothing else, it has put Parish Councils fully under the spotlight. We can assure you that Q&R Parish Council's meetings are not nearly as explosive and our Parish Clerk, fortunately, has not had reason to lock any of us out of the meetings, yet!! We must all remember though to look our best, just in case we do end up on Sky News and go global!! Although I don't think Keith fancies being the next Jackie Weaver or Britney Spears!

A previous resident of Quendon has given us a very generous donation towards the villages. She has been keeping up to date by reading *The Link* and has been so impressed with the efforts of our Events Team and the community spirit shown in the villages that she has made this donation. It is felt that the money should be used in future for the setting up of village events, which indirectly raises more money. We would like to say a big thank you and look forward to meeting her to thank her in person - hopefully in the not too distant future! The Events Team would like to announce an exciting addition to their calendar!! A Pumpkin Growing Competition!

to register their interest. It is hoped to provide 3 seeds, for a small charge per competitor, to be planted outdoors in April and harvested and weighed in October. Following the weigh-in, there is also the possibility of a pumpkin carving competition in time for Halloween! Please keep an eye open for more details.

Also to confirm that Waffle & Co will be visiting us again on Thursday, 18 March between 5pm and 8pm with their delicious savoury and sweet waffles. We have also looked at organising other food vans but they are either booked up already or are not operating in the current climate.

There is good news concerning the new 40mph buffer zone (south of Quendon) process. It is due to be concluded imminently. This means that works are due to be completed before the end of March and Ventnor Road and Bluebell Drive residents will be able to leave their driveway more safely in future! We will keep working on lowering this to 30mph though but it is felt that 40mph is definitely better than 50mph for the time being.

We also have good news concerning the Quendon trees! The replacement saplings, we believe they are one of the maple species, are now with a local tree surgeon, fortunately a different contractor to the previous one.

From the Chairman of the Parish Council (cont.)

They will be planting them as soon as the weather permits. If we are lucky, they may even have been planted by the time you read this article.

As you will have probably seen, there has been a lot of activity in Quendon Woods recently, which is a SSSI (A Site of Special Scientific Interest). It has been confirmed that the Forestry Commission has issued a 5 year felling licence and all permissions are in place for felling in the woods. Conditions have been attached stipulating the coppiced trees will be protected and will be allowed to regrow.

Census 2021 is taking place on Sunday, 21 March. These censuses take place every 10 years and help decide how services are planned and funded in local areas, who we are and how we live. Letters will be sent out in early March to all residents with online codes asking various questions, ie. household size, age, health, education etc. It will take about 10 minutes to complete and is compulsory, so please do take the time to do so.

Finally, the Parish Council is considering making Quendon & Rickling a Wildlife Friendly Village. This has been inspired by an article on Countryfile a few weeks ago and an initiative, "Say No Mow", by PlantLife, a conservation charity dedicated to wild flowers and other flora. Perhaps snowdrops and daffodils could be planted under the new trees at Quendon fountain, some verges could be left unmown so wild flowers could flourish and wildflower seeds could be given out to encourage more wildlife in your own gardens. It would be lovely to hear your thoughts, so please get in touch and let us know!! All ideas and volunteers gratefully received!

Finally, here's to the arrival of beautiful Spring flowers and the lengthening of the days!

Sally Kitcat

Report from District Councillor Neil Hargreaves

Council Budget for 2021/22

A balanced budget for 2021/22 has been prepared, and was reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and then recommended by Cabinet, and by the time this is published I will have presented it to the full Council for agreement. The package is 161 pages of detail, and with the uncertainty over the financial implication of covid the officers have had a harder preparation job this year.

'Balanced' means that regular incomes will cover regular outgoings without making a surplus or a deficit. Reserves are held for projects and for emergencies. Amounts from reserves for any projects you intend to do in the year are put into the General Fund, eg our climate change work, covid business recovery, and sports grants, and so, if all spending goes to plan, by the year end you have a small deficit or surplus carried over, and the cycle starts again.

Covid has made the balanced accounting for this year a tad complex. The good news is that the current forecast outcome for the year end is looking ok. The council's extra covid expenditure, and income losses such as from car parking, are being counterbalanced by some expenditure savings, government finance and, vitally, the early implementation of our investment strategy. This has filled the hole we would otherwise have. In March 2020 during the first total lockdown, when we were all struggling with the unknown and how to see after everyone in this (temporary!) new world, opposition parties tried to halt the commercial investment work. The Greens and Libdems took time out to write a very long and strongly critical letter to councillors and officers, and saying that they would take no part in any investment decisions. We ignored that and cracked on.

The key items from the budget which residents will be interested in are that the Band D council tax is proposed to rise by $\pounds 5$ a year and council house rents by 1.7%, which has been agreed by the Tenants Forum, meaning an average rent of $\pounds 102.73$ a week.

What councillors are paid

A little snippet; our salaries are not proposed to be increased this year. In council-speak referred to as an allowance, but is a taxable salary, members get £5,254 a year, and portfolio holders like me £6,305. We can claim travelling expenses, although I've never claimed any, and the council Zoom meetings means no-one can currently be claiming anything.

<u>Gender pay gap</u>

And on staff salaries UDC has no gender pay gap. The Office for National Statistics in November 2020 put the national figure at 15.5%, down from 17.4% in 2019. I say no gap, actually the mean gap is 0.6% in favour of men, and the median gap is 1.7% in favour of women. So take your pick of those two figures.

<u>Climate Change Strategy</u>

Also coming to full council is our Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2030. The link goes to the glossy version: https:// uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/ documents/s22516/ CLIMATE%20CHANGE% 20STRATEGY.pdf



But supporting this, for example, are detail planning policies we are encouraging developers to follow. I say

Report from District Councillor Neil Hargreaves (Cont.)

'encouraging' because we will be including these in the Local Plan, but we can't wait for that. We start from the existing environmental policies from the 2005 Local Plan, which although old are a very sound base, plus current government planning policies, all of which we can enforce. The addition is a much greater range of measures and standards. Until enshrined in a Local Plan, in theory, we cannot mandate but in practice we believe developers wanting to get their applications through will be keen to support. And we hope, would want to be proud of designing to the very best standards regardless.

Councillor Surgeries

These are currently suspended but I'm available on 01799 540411 and on the village Facebook and by email at cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk.

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.

County Councillor's Report

As the lockdown drags on and we all become increasingly fed up with the restrictions its sometimes good to hear some news that will cheer us up. On those grounds and on local matters I can confirm that the replacement trees on the B1383 have now been planted and this time Essex County Council have appointed a local contractor who will take more pride in the work and I think we all hope that the trees will flourish and add to the environment.

The other news is that the 40 MPH buffer zone to the south of the village has now been agreed by the Cabinet Member and by the time you read this article the signage and other works involved should be installed. On other highway matters I can also confirm that I am working with the Officers to ensure the completion of the detailed design of the traffic calming measures through the village that have been to subject of long conversations. The completion of these details will enable the works to be costed so that, in the new financial year, the works can be scheduled as the funding becomes available.

Speaking of funding takes me on to the matter of Council Tax and I can confirm that the portion that goes to Essex County Council will this year have a zero increase in the Council Tax but a 1.5% increase in the Social Care Precept. I hope that this will be good news to those people who, as a result of the pandemic have found their incomes constrained whilst at the same time allowing the County to concentrate on those members of the community who need additional support.

To that end I am pleased to say that I have, as a result of the Winter Emergency Fund, been able to make £2000 available to the Uttlesford Food Bank with a particular request that not only is this spent to support families within this area with food, but particularly to provide assistance in relation to Fuel Poverty – after all, our energy costs are one of the largest bills we all face and may people struggle with that at this time of year. If you are aware of members of the community who are in need of support, please refer them to the Uttlesford Food Bank.

It is often forgotten that Essex County Council are not just responsible for Highways, but social care and support for people is the largest part of our remit. Not only do we support vulnerable adults, look after 1,100 children who cannot be with their parents and offer through our family support services help and assistance with problem families. During the Pandemic we have had a Holiday Hunger program that has not only fed children on free school meals but also, lockdowns allowing, enabled children to get out and become involved in sporting activities. We have provided more than 5,000 laptops to children so that they can engage in remote learning, and Essex Youth Services have in the last year contacted and supported young people with more than 390,000 interventions.

I hope that this will all help to explain where your council tax goes.

Ray Gooding Member for Stansted

Advertising in The Link reaches every household in Quendon and Rickling at attractive rates. It could be promoting YOUR business. Contact Advertising, preferably by e-mail with attachments as necessary at sandra@arnold-q.uk; otherwise telephone 01799 543075.



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Wilding Our Villages

As mentioned in Sally's message, and promoted by Gardener's World (amongst other gardening) media) we are all encouraged to help the bees and other pollinating insects by reducing our mowing. Many of us are doubtless pleased to be asked to do that! We can assist those little helpers even more by planting wild flowers to provide nectar and the Parish Council is keen to promote the idea. Suitable wild flower seeds (not simply weeds!) are available from the usual garden centres and seed merchants, and are cheaper than hiring a "man with a mower" to cut the verges every few weeks. Most advice is simply to mow once each year and let nature bloom.

Instead of all of our verges being trimly clipped, some could become little meadows with colourful flowers to brighten up the villages. We can take part individually too, in our own gardens, and indeed your editor's garden already includes a small wild flower meadow - in its first year anyway.

What do you think? Let your Parish Council know either by contacting the Parish Clerk (e-mail quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com or telephone 01279 814473) or via the Editor (robert@arnold-q.uk or 01799 543075).



www.hundredparishes.org.uk

At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.



Eagle, Aythorp Roding

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it



seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Church Cottage, **Brent Pelham**

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they



Red Cow, Crishall

are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied

than ever.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.



Flying Pig, Ugley

landed in Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London.

Do keep looking up! Ken McDonald, Secretary



stack and a fox chases a hare

in Brent Pelham. An eagle has

The Thatcher's, Hatfield Heath



Horse, **Great Bardfield**

Cottage

at

Spring Garden Crime Prevention Advice from Stephen Armson-Smith, Braintree & Uttlesford Crime Prevention Officer - 090819

Hopefully by the time that you read this we will be moving into spring and the weather improving inviting us out into the garden. It is a good time to take a look around; are your fences and gates in good condition, do you have good quality locks on gates, will they keep the unwelcome intruder out? To the front of your property where possible keep fencing, planting and hedges to about 1.5m in height so that an intruder is not hidden from view.

Defensive planting: Security does not have to be just about locks, bolts, and spiky fence toppings; nature provides some excellent plants to keep people away.

There are a number of attractive, fragrant plants of a spiky nature such as climbing roses, pyracantha and berberis and other planting of a dense nature that can work quite well. Have a chat at your garden centre or with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the right plant for the right location. We have worked with the RHS at Hyde Hall and there are a number of mature examples that can be viewed there, why not book a visit at https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall.

New plants: Larger plants etc. can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. The RHS or your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

Working in the garden: It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden - if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you stop for a break put your tools away, and at the end of the day as

well as putting tools away put the wheelbarrow and wheelie bin away too. "It will add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house, a neighbour's, nearby building such as a church, or provide a climbing aid or method of carrying things away.

New tools and lawn mowers: Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in bag for collection. If you are not using your lawn mower, jet washer or other put it away out of sight from prying eyes.

Property marking: It may deter a thief if your property or flower pots is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as www.creproducts.co.uk or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as www.smartwater.com or www.selectadna.co.uk. You can also record the serial numbers of any tools at www.toolwatchapp.com or www.immobilise.com/. If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

For suitable security products look for the Secured by Design or Sold Secure logos and for further garden security advice see the following webpages:

www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ www.securedbydesign.com www.soldsecure.com www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606

If only warning messages like this were shared 37,000 times in a day!

'*Tell2, protect many*' is a communication initiative that empowers you to spread crime prevention messages to others in your life, who otherwise may never know. Start with 'tell2' and ask them to do the same. It starts with YOU!

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on **101**.

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. We have been able to donate £440 to both the Village Hall and our two Parish Churches as well as pay out £900 in prizes.

The 100 Club is operated by Quendon & Rickling Village Hall Committee and Quendon & Rickling Churches with half the Club's annual income being allocated to cash prizes and the other half, less expenses, to the Village Hall and St Simon and St Jude, Quendon and All Saints, Rickling.

In the past the Village Hall has used their share of the donation to help fund the under-pinning project and the Churches to enable the wall at Quendon to be repaired. With continued support future donations could help fund the next Village Hall project which is to refurbish the toilet facilities, improving disabled access and further repair work for the Churches.

Renewal forms for existing members will be delivered during March. New members are always welcome and if anyone would like to purchase numbers for next year, at £2 a month, application forms can be downloaded from the Quendon & Rickling website or please contact the Quendon & Rickling PCC Secretary at qrpcc.sec@gmail.com

A Quendon & Rickling Parish Council led Event Quickling Village Pumpkin Competition

The Parish Council would like to invite village members to come and join our first Pumpkin Growing Competition.

- All Ages Welcome
- Test your growing skills
- £2.50 Entry Fee
- 3 seeds per competitor will be provided, to be sown either indoors March-May or outdoors March-June, for the Grand Finale Weigh-In in October.
 Details will be announced later in the year as to how the

weigh in will be carried out

• Prizes to be awarded for the heaviest Pumpkins



☆ Following on from this we would also like to announce that we will also be running a separate competition to find the best carved pumpkin for Halloween!

Please contact Katherine Nuthall at knqrpc@gmail.com to register. Please include your name and address.

HAPPY GROWING!

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. Anyone can save a life by using it 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	The second
Jane Price	01799 542527	Northern end - Cambridge Road	and
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	An other designed
Thelma Wilson	01799 543313	Northern end - Cambridge Road	
Chris Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road	
Sue Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road	and the second second
Nigel Ackerman	01799 540678	Middle - Cambridge Road	Conception of C
Wendy Stannard	01799 541869	Middle - Cambridge Road	
Anne Howes	01799 543545	Southern end – Cambridge Road	
Pat Turner	01799 543314	Rickling Green	
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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Quendon

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> ONSITE PARKING AT THE NEW CLINIC

Interested in TIME BANK?

Join our local Time Bank register to offer and receive ad hoc help with every day jobs such as: small gardening issues, dog walking, befriending, cups of tea, baking, light housework, dietry advice, running errands, and much more ...

Contact: Tessa Deriziotis on: 01799 510 525 (work) 07904 890991 (home) volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk



Bespoke natural looking ponds Ecosystem ponds, streams & cascades Pond Cleaning Service We aim to be Britain's best pond artists www.creativecascades.co.uk 01279771084 / 07889655908 info@creativecascades.co.uk



Advertising in The Link reaches every household in Quendon and Rickling at attractive rates This space could be promoting YOUR business Contact: Advertising preferably by e-mail at sandra@arnold-q.uk, or telephone 01799 543075