

The Link

Quendon & Rickling

Parish
and Church

NEWS

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

December 2020

**On behalf of The Link's volunteers, may all our readers have a merry
Christmas and happy New Year!**

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*Holly
By Peter Warwick*

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.



As I write this article our churches are closed once more as we are in a second period of lockdown. I hope and pray that you are coping with it. If not, you may be struggling with the uncertainty of it all or simply lonely not able to get to see family and friends. The church does have a Community Care Team, members of which, would be happy to speak to you. We are here for you.

It is difficult to know or even forecast what may lie ahead from 2nd December which is the projected end of the lockdown period. Will the churches be able to re-open and hold services once again? I hope so, but even then Christmas in our churches is going to be radically different this year. Because of the social distancing guidelines we simply cannot accommodate the numbers in church that we usually get. At present I am exploring different ways of doing our Christmas services that will still make it feel like Christmas, and help as many people within the village to attend. I haven't got an exact plan as yet as I am waiting to see what happens after lockdown, so please keep an eye on the Facebook page and/or notice boards to see what services are planned and how they'll be taking place.

If possible I am aiming to conduct at least one service in each of the three parishes that I am responsible for as I think it is important to gather in the church, at least once, over Christmas. The services agreed by the churchwardens are:

- BCP Communion at 8.00pm on Christmas Eve in Quendon Church
- Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve in Newport Church
- Holy Communion at 10.00am on Christmas Morning in Widdington

There will need to be a system whereby you can book into the service, and reserve seating. The team in the church have done a great job knowing how and where to seat people so you will be allocated a specific pew. If you are not booked in then I politely ask you not to attend as we may have to turn you away which will be heart-breaking.

A very odd Christmas indeed! Yet remember the words of the hymn featured in the picture above, 'Joy to the World, the Lord has come, let earth receive her king.' We celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, he who is the Lord that has come to the earth. He is Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. I believe that he can and will bring so much to our lives. My prayer this Christmas is that however we celebrate, you will open your hearts and receive your King.

Stay safe, and God Bless. Merry Christmas.

Revd Neil McLeod

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 <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

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

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

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.

Kemi Badenoch, MP

How to contact me

Tel: **0207 219 1943**

Write: Kemi Badenoch MP,

House of Commons,

London, SW1A 0AA

Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk



Parish Information

Welcome Packs

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

Allotments (part of the Quendon Hall Estate):

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

Highway Problems

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

A tracking facility for all reported faults is available.

Police/Crime

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

Contact the Parish Council

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

Broadband update

Recently broadband coverage has become a hot topic in parts of our village so here's the state of play.

Gigaclear continue to connect people as they request a service, but they do not have any plans to extend their network to cover any more of the village, apart from in-fill of off-road houses they have skipped previously.

It's likely they will have more discounted offers towards the end of November (with Black Friday and so on) so if you're about to order just look out for their offers on facebook or their website.

Bluebell Drive/Oxlip Close have recently been covered by Openreach FTTP (that's the same technology as Gigaclear but I think connected by overhead wires rather than underground). You would need to contact your broadband provider if you want to be upgraded however – as usual, you won't be connected automatically.

That leaves Ventnor Road. There are no firm plans by commercial providers to provide coverage.

It looks as though residents there are covered by the Government's Universal Service Obligation (USO) to provide a service of at least 10Mbps download speed. Given the fact that Openreach FTTP is available a few yards away, it's very likely that FTTP will be the technology used, giving ultrafast speeds (over 100Mbps).

A wrinkle here is that the USO website states that Ventnor Road can already get a good broadband speed and are not eligible for USO – but that's not the case and the records are wrong.

Several residents on Ventnor Road have successfully registered with BT (who run the USO scheme) to start the process and I can put others in contact with them for advice on getting on-board.

The BT website is at <https://www.bt.com/broadband/USO>

Any questions – drop me a line

Tom Duncan

tddqrpc@gmail.com

From the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Villagers!

As you read this, we will nearly be at the end of Lock Down 2! What a year 2020 has been - who would ever have imagined this a year ago!!

Firstly, I would like to thank Ele Stoneham, who is leaving us this month for pastures new, for all her hard work! Hard to believe she would want to move to another village but there you go!! It is definitely our loss as Ele has been a fabulous councillor and we will all miss her very much! On that note, we now have a vacancy for a councillor, so if you are interested in joining our team, please drop our Parish Clerk an email or have a chat with any one of the current councillors for more information. There is a notice on the noticeboards advertising this and also on the website under News! It is a great way of contributing towards village life, meeting new people and learning new things, so please get in touch, it would be lovely to have you on board!

I am hoping that you all saw the beautiful and haunting Village Hall Remembrance display this year. It really was quite special and made quite a few of the local papers so a big thank you to the team, led by Carrie Williams and a special thanks to Mike Stevens, who installed the lighting. He also set up the candle display in the Fountain over Halloween and we are keeping our fingers crossed that he will remain in the village for some time to come!!!! I believe he is doing a lighting display at Quendon Church for Christmas, so keep an eye open for another beautiful exhibit! Also a big thanks to everyone who donated hand made poppies for the display - knitted, lino cut, crocheted, felted, painted, made of clay, fashioned out of wire, watched over by a Tommy called Albert! It took a village effort to make this display work and it was definitely worth it! The proceeds from the sale of the clay poppies has raised around £100, with all the proceeds going to The Royal British Legion.

Waffle & Co's horsebox was by the Pavilion selling their delicious waffles on Bonfire Night! It was very popular so the Events Team is thinking about doing different takeaways in the village over the course of the next few months, pizza, Indian Street Food, Vietnamese to name but a few! Also remember that The Cricketers will be doing takeaways too, 7 days a week when lock down finishes.

We plan to put up a Christmas tree again this year - we are not sure whether it will be by the Pavilion or by the village hall, maybe both again, but with all the restrictions at the moment and uncertainty, we are playing it a little by ear! There will certainly not be the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall but perhaps we could do a social distanced lighting of the Christmas Tree! We certainly need a bit of sparkle in our lives at the moment!

As you will have seen, the Pavilion's restoration has begun and, hopefully, will be nearly complete by the time

you read this. The seasoned boards are not due to be painted until the spring so the sight of bright white clapboard will just have to wait a little longer, I'm afraid! It will be worth the wait though, we have been assured! Let us hope that a full season will be allowed next year, Rickling Ramblers are certainly hoping so!

The signs at either end of Quendon have proved to be somewhat challenging, to say the least!! You would have thought that they would have been relatively easy to rectify but the hoops one has to go through to do this is, frankly, quite unbelievable!! The recently re-installed VAS sign at the north end has now decided to join in with the lock down and has ceased to flash at speeding cars and, believe me, the councillors have tried their best to make it work and the 30mph sign at the south end is, for some reason, half the height of its opposite number! Both have been reported so hopefully it won't take quite so long to rectify this time!!

One of our residents has suggested the idea of a "Walking Buddy" system in the village. In the current climate, it is so good to be able to just get out there and walk but there are many people who love walking but perhaps are not happy walking on their own or like to chat when they are walking but have no one to chat with or would just like to meet new people in the village - you could be of the older generation or at the other end of the age scale or have little ones in buggies who would like to meet other little ones in buggies and haven't been able to do so this year or have dogs that need a buddy to run around with or just walk! If anyone is interested in this, perhaps you could contact the Parish Clerk and we can take it from there! A co-ordinator will be needed if it proves a success, so we are open to offers!!!

You should have received a leaflet by now from UDC regarding the new Local Plan. As part of this Local Plan-making process, an independent forum has been set up to debate a series of different topics which are relevant to the eventual drafting of the new Plan. Their thoughts will then form the basis for a wider community involvement. They are encouraging everyone to get involved with this process and will be seeking responses to their various questions. The leaflet gives you all the relevant forums on which you can respond. We will put all the information, when it comes to us, on the website, social media and in The Link to keep you up to date. The first forum was on the 9 November but they are running over a period of 6 months. This will be very important to our area so please do keep an eye on developments.

Finally, lets hope Lock Down 2 will finish on the 2nd, as promised, and we will be able to celebrate the festivities in at least some sort of style!!

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!

Sally Kitcat

Report from District Councillor Neil Hargreaves

UDC grants to voluntary bodies

Cllr Petrina Lees from Elsenham, and Cllr John Lodge, late of this parish, and myself form a working group which allocates UDC funds to voluntary bodies. (The council has lots of working groups for all sorts of things, which most people never hear about. For five years I was credited on the UDC website with being on an Over Sixties group which didn't exist but no-one told the UDC admins. Until a new broom from R4U went through the list). The total for this year is £330,000, and the total giving by the council including this and the various community grants and the Members Ward Initiative is £610,750

Here is the Voluntary Bodies allocation:

Voluntary body	Allocation 2020/21
Accuro (Care Services)	10,000
Action for Family Carers	15,400
Carers FIRST	6,000
Citizens Advice East Herts	11,500
Community360	6,000
Council for Voluntary Services	34,000
Hearing Help	2,000
Home-Start Essex	10,500
Saffron Hall Trust	1,000
St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust	3,000
Support4Sight	12,000
Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association	5,000
Uttlesford Citizen Advice	160,000
Uttlesford Community Travel	40,000
Volunteer Uttlesford	13,600
Grand Total	330,000

Last month we reviewed, with officers, half-year reports from the recipients. The groups had worked hard to modify their support channels for covid. Some had not suffered much financially as mostly grant funded and not charging anything to those they help. Other such as Community Travel have funded PPE and vehicle modifications, and at the same time lost revenue from reduced riders. Others will have lost fund raising events.

The original intention was the funding allocations should be for two years, but we decided as circumstances, including financial, have changed, new applications and a reassessment will be invited for next year. The two year model also excludes new applicants which we considered unreasonable.

Just to feature one group; Action for Family Carers, which supports young people who care for their parents or other relatives. Here is a cut from their website:

'Our Young Carer Lead Tracey has been keeping in touch with Young Carers in Uttlesford by telephone and Facebook. Some of them are confused about their future plans – whether they will still be going to college, etc., and we are helping by explaining the latest government advice and guidelines.

They have been talking about how lockdown has affected them and their families. Many of them have said that they miss seeing their friends and being able to go out and about. They are all looking forward to starting club again, which we have discussed with them. They know that we are working to find ways in which we can do this that will work for them too.

*Tracey will continue to stay in touch with the young people and they know they are more than welcome to call her anytime they want to talk or have support. Call Tracey on **07702 858650** or email her at tracey.hartley@affc.org.uk.*

Thanks to Uttlesford District Council for enabling the support for Young Carers in their district.'

A comment in their report was that some young carers during lock-down had been doing home schooling for their younger siblings.

Neighbourhood Plan

This will go to the UDC Cabinet on 24th November. If ratified it immediately acquires weight in planning applications even though the referendum cannot be held yet. There is an issue over one of the policies which the plan examiner re-wrote. Part of it is unclear and the wording does not make sense. It needs just three words deleted, but in order to get this corrected this bit of text must go to a six week consultation which will be done after the cabinet meeting.

I'll do a full report on the Neighbourhood Plan next time.

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. All three parish councils in the ward are meeting by video and it works well.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish everyone in Quendon & Rickling a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

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.

Rickling/Quendon Community Café

Quendon & Rickling Village Hall,
Quendon, CB11 3XQ

Refreshments and Fun Bingo



This is wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Although 2020 has been a very different year for us all we have to be positive and look forward to 2021 and to meeting again. Love from the Rickling and Quendon Community Cafe Team.

Please contact: Angie and Carole
01799 218061/543807



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Remembrance Day Display



You may have seen pictures in the Saffron Walden Reporter of our Remembrance Day display at the Village Hall. Not to be out-done (first is not invariably best!), *The Link* is proud to bring you some more!



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 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, 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 quendoneandricklmg.clerk@hotmail.com.

Uttlesford Local Plan



What is it?
The Local Plan provides a vision and framework for addressing the housing, economic and infrastructure needs of the district for years to come, including where proposals will be located and what they will look like.

Where are we now?
At the start! We'll be updating our website and asking for your thoughts on a wide range of themes. The feedback you give will help to inform our first draft of the Local Plan.

What's next?
Once we've prepared a first draft, we'll consult again to see what you think. We'll then take on board any comments, make any necessary changes and finalise the plan so we can submit it for government approval. We expect that the plan will be in place by summer 2024.

Towards Net Zero Carbon



Sally mentioned in her article that Local Plan leaflets that should be arriving through our letterboxes soon. Here are both sides of it for those of us who indiscriminately consign unaddressed mail and advertising junk to the recycling bin!

Uttlesford Local Plan



How can I stay informed?
Our website is being kept up to date with the latest information, starting with the range of topics we'll be seeking views on (such as climate change, healthy lifestyles and homes), as well as maps, policies and other important documents.

WEBSITE
Visit the website for local plan updates
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook @UttlesfordDC
Twitter @UttlesfordDC
YouTube Uttlesford District Council
Instagram @uttlesforddc

'KEEP ME POSTED!'
Sign up for the 'Local Plan e-Newsletter'
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted

CAN'T USE THE WEBSITE?
01799 510 510
Local Plan Team
Uttlesford District Council
London Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4ER
Call us: 01799 510 510



ROBOSCAMMERS

With more people now working from home than ever before, you may have recently become more aware of the number of nuisance calls to your landline or mobile phone. Robocallers are likely to have increased during lockdown, as they do not rely on human call centres. Many of these calls are computer generated making them cheap and difficult to trace. The pre-recorded messages are often designed to scare people into handing over money or personal details—this includes the Amazon Prime scam and HMRC scams. These calls will often ask you to “Press 1 to speak to someone”.



HOW TO STOP UNWANTED CALLS

- **BT:** The free BT Call Protect service monitors nuisance calls and sends them straight to junk voicemail. BT says it blocks 99 per cent of pest calls.
- **Sky:** Free service Talk Shield stops fraudsters by insisting all callers provide a name.
- **TalkTalk:** CallSafe screens and blocks unwanted calls for free.
- **Plusnet:** Call Protect is free and blocks unwanted calls from a list that you can add to.
- **EE:** Landline customers can block up to ten numbers at a time using the free Choose to Refuse option, which bars the last call answered. Dial 14258 and press ** when asked to confirm.
- **Virgin:** You may be able to blacklist, silence or block calls, depending on your phone.
- **Mobile phones:** Download free apps such as Truecaller, Whoscall and Hiya to block dodgy calls and alert firms to possible scammers.
- **Complain:** By making a complaint about a robocall, you can help to stop them. Experts recommend directing complaints to three bodies: the ICO, by calling 0303 123 1113, visiting ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint, or writing to ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF; the Telephone Preference Service, by calling 0345 070 0707 or visiting tpsonline.org.uk/complaint; or Ofcom, by calling 0300 123 3333 or visiting ofcom.org.uk/complaints

HMRC Issue Scam Alerts

HMRC have issued a fraud alert after being made aware of increasing numbers of people receiving text messages impersonating HMRC and stating that they have a COVID-19 tax rebate pending. They are being directed to click on a link in order to ascertain the level of their rebate.

Students are also regularly targeted with fraudulent messaging regarding tax rebates and there are concerns that this trend will continue or increase with the new lockdown restrictions. During the previous lockdown, we saw an enormous increase in scams relating to COVID-19, where residents were encouraged to click links in unexpected and unsolicited emails.

If you receive an email/text message offering a tax rebate that you are not expecting, please do not click any links. You can find information on identifying genuine HMRC communications, and report any suspicious messages at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/reporting-fraudulent-emails

Village Hall

Hopefully, you all managed to catch sight of the Remembrance display outside the Village Hall. What an amazing community effort and a massive thanks to all those who organised it and contributed the wonderful homemade poppies. Many might not know that the small room within the Village Hall was built as the memorial to all those who lost their lives in both World I and World War II. Their names are remembered on memorial plaques in the hall. If ever you want to view them please contact the Booking Secretary on **01799 543367**

We have noted an increasing number of vehicles parking at the Village Hall. Please remember this is a private carpark for users of the Village Hall (there are signs indicating this). The carpark should not be used by anyone for overnight parking, or even parking during the day, unless they are attending an event at the Village Hall.

However, as a community facility, if a village resident wishes to use it as a short term measure, such as building work, family event etc. then we will oblige where possible, but they should contact the Booking Secretary on the above number. At times the whole carpark is needed for an event at the Village Hall, so please check first. In these instances we would request that a donation is offered towards the upkeep of the carpark; the more it is used the more it deteriorates and as a non profit making charity we do have to consider its upkeep. We would like to say thank you to those who do contact us and donate.

Unfortunately, the Village Hall, as a community facility, is required to remain closed during this second lockdown period; we wait to see what guidance is issued after 2 December. Let's hope we will be open to all before too long.

The Fountain

Like many people during the first few weeks of first lockdown, Chris and I spent some time tidying up our files and looking at old photographs. We came across these pictures of the fountain and could not believe that it is 10 years since the accident happened. I still remember quite clearly that cold, snowy winter morning, a few days before Christmas, when I was Parish Clerk and received a call very early on asking if I was aware that the fountain had been hit by a car and was in pieces. I was not. What should I do first? As I was getting my winter coat and boots on, someone from UDC called to say they had been informed and were going to assess it as it would likely be deemed to be a dangerous structure. Chris and I met the people there and, indeed, we had to arrange for the pieces to be gathered up from around the green, put together with the remaining structure, with a secure fence around.

I found out that the accident had happened when an uninsured driver had come into the village at speed, skidded on the ice, mounted the pavement, and came to a halt after hitting the fountain. Fortunately I knew that it was insured so contacted the insurers immediately.

The fountain, together with the trough, had originally been donated to the people of Quendon in 1887 by Henry Tufnell in memory of Col. Cranmer-Byng of Quendon Hall. It had later been restored in memory of George Beaumont Beeman who lived at Manor Farm (opposite the fountain) from 1922-1954. As well as being loved by the villagers, the fountain is the one thing that people driving through Quendon remember, albeit many refer to it as a “bandstand”. It was obviously important that it should

be restored to its original glory as sympathetically as possible. However, because of the unusual structure of the building, its oak beams and carving, and wooden roof, it was difficult to find a builder who was able/willing to undertake the work. After a couple of months Tusk Carpentry & Building Co. took on the challenge.

After some painstaking work and various discussions as to whether the restored structure should incorporate a gap at the front, as it had had before the accident, or be totally enclosed as seen in original photographs, and comments that the new parts of the wooden roof and replacement uprights were not the same colour as the old, the restoration was completed in late summer of 2011 at a cost of c£20,000 (fully covered by the PC’s insurance).

As it was such an important event for the village, it was decided that an official re-opening ceremony should be held. This took place on 2nd October 2011, with local press in attendance, and a small party was held around the fountain with Maureen Hawkins kindly agreeing to cut the ribbon whilst a champagne toast was raised. Maureen has lived in the village for many years and her late husband, Roger, had served as Chairman of the Parish Council and had also undertaken some work on the fountain in the past.

10 years later, I think we can agree that the restoration work was well done, the new timber has weathered well, and the fountain remains an iconic part of the village.

Sue Phillips



Advertising in *The Link*

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It could be promoting YOUR business

Contact: Advertising on telephone 01799 543297 or

The Editor preferably by e-mail at robert@arnold-q.uk, or telephone 01799 543075

What's been happening at Rickling Primary School...!

Spirit of the Wild

The whole school were treated to informative talks about the different classifications of animals by the staff of Spirit of the Wild. They learned a great deal whilst being impressed by the wonderful animals on show.



We have been extremely busy in Acorn this week.

Children followed instructions to make their own explosions for Bonfire Night during Wellie Wednesday, they climbed carefully in PE applying positional language to their lesson and created poppies that were sent home to be displayed on their windows for Remembrance Sunday.



CAMBRIDGE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Beech Class were thrilled to have Bronwen from Cambridge Botanical Gardens come in to give them a talk on plants and their adaptations in different habitats. She showed them plants from mountains, rainforests and deserts! There were even carnivorous plants! A wonderful end to their Science topic of habitats!

'Tis the season to be as jolly as we can!



To bring us all a little festive cheer, the Parish Council and the Quendon and Rickling Events team are planning a Christmas display in the village which will be unveiled in early December, and will be in line with current Government guidelines.

We aren't able to share details of what is being planned yet, so please keep an eye out on any of the following forums for updates:

- "Quendon and Rickling Events" Facebook page
- Parish Council website
- Village noticeboards
- "Community Updates" WhatsApp Group

Merry Christmas!

The Grange Care Home

At The Grange, our care is the kind we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. In these difficult times the elderly population is particularly vulnerable at home. If you're concerned about how your relative will cope and would like them to have more support, The Grange provides family-led care delivered by highly trained staff in a warm homely environment.

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- Spacious secure garden



01799 243 005



www.countrycourtcare.com



Fallow Drive, off Bury Water Lane,
Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3NZ

Hallowe'en

Here are some pictures of the frightening displays in our scary village!





With the nights drawing in you may be thinking about topping up your heating oil for the coming winter months. With the value of fuel at a premium, have you considered whether your fuel is as secure as it could be?

It's not only domestic properties at risk from fuel thieves. Farms and other similar businesses are at risk too.

Fortunately there are a number of security devices available that will protect your fuel supplies. You can find details of these via your fuel supplier or local plumber's merchant. Consider systems such as **GPRS Fuel-Oil Alarm** from www.compoundsecurity.co.uk and **Tank Commander** from www.commandersecurity.co.uk which have "Secured by Design" accreditation; these detect a dramatic drop in fuel and alerts you with a telephone call. There are also other systems that will add on to an existing intruder alarm system, whilst others protect the filler cap, and there are of course the conventional locks.

Read these helpful tips to make your fuel more secure.

- Ensure the oil gauge is secured correctly to the tank. It is worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to thieves. Close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip.
- If your tank has a lid design, consider fitting suitable locks and/or lockable valves.
- Always check when you have had a delivery so you have a starting point of the level of oil in the tank.
- Monitor your oil tank on a regular basis for any signs of tampering and also alert you quickly to any problems you may have. As mentioned above, remote electronic oil level gauges are available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls.
- If your tank is on view consider concealing it and using defensive planting/shrubs around the tank as a natural defence, out of sight if visible from the road side. This would prevent the opportunists and provide a decorative disguise. Restrict access to your tank by gates and/or fencing - don't overlook the importance of ventilation if enclosing the tank.
- Consider building an outer metal skirt to box in plastic oil tanks. This makes it difficult for thieves to puncture the tank, and minimises the risk of leaving fuel pouring out of the bottom of the tank.
- If your tank is overlooked by a window or close to occupied property and is also located under security lighting, it is not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams. A more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy 'dusk till dawn' lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. Thieves may not take the risk of being seen.
- If you need to replace your tank, consider where you position the tank, and ensure that you make it more secure. To deter thieves from entering your property install fencing/gates and locks on access gates.
- Consider access to your tank when it comes to delivery of oil. Make arrangements with the driver, consider using a combination padlock or arrange deliveries when you will be at home.
- Ensure all outbuildings that contain tanks are kept locked at all times and remove any empty oil drums/canisters from plain view to avoid drawing attention to an oil tank being on the premises.
- Consider investing in technology such as alarms, CCTV or security lighting. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.
- Make a note of any unfamiliar vehicles looking suspicious or out of place. Report any suspicious activity to the police.

Romance Fraud

How can you spot the signs?

You've struck up a relationship with someone online and they declare their love for you quite quickly.

They constantly make up excuses why they can't video chat or meet in person and they try and move your conversation off the platform that you met on.

They claim to be overseas, working in the military or medical profession. They might say they are abroad, carrying out vital work, including charity work. This helps them paint a picture of themselves as being heroic, trustworthy and reliable, and also gives them an excuse for the use of international dialling codes or poor internet connection.

When they ask for your help, it will be -for a time critical emergency. The reason will be something emotive, which pulls at your heartstrings. They'll open up to you about a problem, or something that is worrying them to appear vulnerable and make you feel sorry for them. They may get defensive if you decline to help.

They tell you to keep your relationship private and insist that you don't discuss anything you talk about with your friends and family. This also includes the crisis they find themselves in that requires money. They will convince you this is part of the normal privacy that forms a healthy relationship.



How can you protect yourself

Avoid giving away too many personal details when speaking online to someone you've never met in person, as it can lead to your identity being stolen. This includes revealing your full name, date of birth and home address - even if you're doing it for what seems to be harmless reasons, such as your partner wants to send you flowers or a gift.

Stay on the site's messaging service until you meet in person. Criminals want to quickly switch to other platforms that are less regulated and have better encryption, so there's no evidence of them asking you for money.

On social media, only accept friend requests from people you know and trust.

Most online platforms have a reporting tool which you can use if you suspect someone online is using pictures that don't belong to them, you are suspicious of their behaviour, or they have asked you for money. Reporting their user profile means it can be blocked which helps protect others.

If their pictures seem too perfect or doesn't match up with what they tell you about themselves, you can perform a reverse image search on Google to see if the photos have been taken from somewhere, or someone, else.



www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

With Christmas just around the corner we are thinking of calling friends and family but not, I suspect, from a red telephone box.

In 1924 the Royal Fine Art Commission invited three architects to submit designs for new telephone kiosks. The winner was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who also designed Liverpool Cathedral where he is buried. Scott was at the time a trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum and he topped his kiosk with a dome similar to that on the mausoleum Soane had designed for himself. It was produced in cast iron as GPO model K2, replacing the K1 concrete kiosk.



Westmill Defibrillator

Later designs had a similar appearance. The most common, the somewhat smaller K6, was introduced for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935.

The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot, although Scott had suggested silver. These robust and iconic survivors of the 20th century, found in almost every town and village, are worth preserving. At the last count, 51 within the Hundred Parishes had been listed.

Most red phone boxes have now been decommissioned although a few, like the one in Anstey, still operate as a pay phone. Many villages have used the box to house a defibrillator; others have inventively turned them into informal book exchanges and information points.



Hildersham Library

Some villages have been even more imaginative: the box in Standon has been transformed into a greenhouse full of colourful plants.

With Christmas in mind, the Society still has a limited supply of its book *The Hundred Parishes: an Introduction*. The 400-page hardback with a thousand photos is available for £25 from tourist information centres and good book shops, or by arrangement with me – **01279 813226**.



Standon Garden

The Society's trustees wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

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
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
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.

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the November 2020 Winners

1st P Turner £35
 2nd C Holt £25
 3rd S Gemmil £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.

What's On (sigh - not a lot!)

Thanks to "Lockdown 2" the Village Hall is again closed. Other regular activities are shown below but please check with the organiser where possible before attending as they, too, may be cancelled.

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

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, 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.

The Link is assembled using Scribus software and is printed through the generosity of

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