

The Link

Quendon & Rickling
Parish
and Church

The Link is available on-line at
www.quendonandrickling.co.uk

NEWS

February 2023



*Merveille Du Jour Moth
by Keith Woollard*

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

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

Telephone: L: 01799 732059; M: 07878176551

Day off: Friday

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

Rickling: TBA

Treasurer - Quendon and Rickling: Mrs Sandra Arnold 01799 543075

From the Vicarage Study

Rev. Peter Allen,

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

I wonder what the season of Lent means to you? It wouldn't be a surprise if for most of us meant a time to give up something. Denial and Lent just seem to go together for most of us. The danger with this is that we end up making Lent about us and what we do. Another way of approaching Lent is to see it as a time where we seek to empty ourselves in order to allow God to fill us and transform us. This is something we would do well to be aspiring to all year round. However, Lent can act as a time to rediscover this and enable it to become a regular part of our lives.



The word 'Lent' is taken from the old English word for Spring which heralds the lengthening of days after winter. These days are days of transformation in the natural world about us: something which, during Lent, we can mirror in our own lives both inner and outer. The early Christians focused on three areas of life to help them empty themselves and create the right conditions for their transformation by the Holy Spirit. These were prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer is not primarily about us getting what we want from God. Rather, it is about us strengthening our connection to, and relationship with, God. Contemplation upon God, his word, his presence, his goodness, and his teaching creates in us the mind of Christ by which we better understand the real purpose of life and creation.

Time given over to prayer, maybe of the quiet more reflective type during Lent, is never wasted time. Such prayer lets the Spirit of God into our lives to bring about the kind of transformation he alone can do: truly a miracle occurring in us.

Fasting, or giving up something such as chocolate or alcohol during Lent, is not without its benefits for us; but regulating such things in our lives should be normal practice if we value our bodies and our long-term health. Fasting during Lent is about denying ourselves in order to acknowledge God as all sufficient for us. This may consist of denying ourselves a meal a week, or having just bread and water one day a week depending on what our health requirements sensibly allow. We could give away the money saved from these fasts too.

This leads us naturally to the third element of Lent, **Almsgiving**. When, through prayer, we create space in our lives for God to transform us, and fast in order to acknowledge God's all sufficiency, we can become more aware that God's love extends to all people. In giving money, time, or our material goods to others in need we live this out and reflect the very nature of God through our actions. In addition we can discover liberation from some of those things - which is never a bad thing.



PRAY FAST GIVE.

However you decide to mark Lent this year, it is important that it is done in faith and in the expectancy of the activity of God the Holy Spirit in you and through you. In using the three elements of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we also keep the centuries old Christian tradition practised by those who have travelled this season before us.

Rev Pete



Peter Warwick snapped this image of Quendon church in the winter sunshine.

Nice!

National Parish Magazine Awards 2022 Results

The results of the 2022 National Parish Magazine Awards were announced too late to be included in the last issue of *The Link*.

Out of 450 entries *The Link* achieved 16th place in the A4 magazine category.

So there it is. 434 parish magazines were worse - and they were only the ones who entered the scheme!

Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday Services

5th February

Newport 9.30am Communion
Widdington 11.15am Communion

12th February

Newport 9.30am Family Service
Quendon 11.15am Communion

19th February

Newport 9.30am Communion
Widdington 11.15am Communion

26th February

Newport 9.30am Morning Worship
Rickling 11.15am Communion

5th March

Newport 9.30am Communion
Widdington 11.15am Communion

12th March

Newport 9.30am Family Service
Quendon 11.15am Communion

19th March

Newport 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service
Widdington 11.15am Mothering Sunday Service

26th March

Newport 9.30am Morning Worship
Rickling 11.15am Communion

There will be an **Ash Wednesday** service at Newport church 7pm February 22nd

Reporting Crime

For Crimes and suspicious activity NOW phone

999

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

101

Alternatively you can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes online at <https://www.essex.police.uk/> and click on the appropriate button

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 not lost money, phone or report online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing> or, if the attempt was by Email, by forwarding it complete to: report@phishing.gov.uk

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

0800 555 111

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

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the December 2022 and January 2023 Winners

December 2022

1st	J Evariste	£32
2nd	S Cundy	£21
3rd	C Osbourn	£10

January 2023

1st	D White	£32
2nd	N White	£21
3rd	S Gemmil	£10

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

Rickling/Quendon Community Café

Quendon & Rickling Village Hall,
Quendon CB11 3XQ

AGM



Wednesday 15th February
Coffee morning
10.00am-12.00pm

Please contact:
Angie and Carole 01799 218061/543807

Quendon & Rickling Golf Society

Our first event of the year will be held on Thursday 27th April at Whitehill Golf Club. Whitehill is a lovely rural course which suits all levels of golfers. Our day will comprise of tea/coffee and a bacon bap on arrival, 18 holes of golf and a selection of sandwiches at the end as we mull over the day. All for £55pp.

As many of you know we are a friendly group who just love playing golf, and we would really welcome anyone who would like to join us whether you live in our parish or any adjacent village. The thought of joining a golfing group can be a little daunting, but please put any concerns you have aside. As long as you can hold a golf club, that's all we ask. Should you not have played with us before but would like to do so, please do get in touch with me and I will be able to reassure you that this is all for fun, we are NOT low handicappers, but just enjoy being out in the open doing something we all very much enjoy. Give me a call.

Brandon Chapman

01799 543518

07909 686627



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Parish Information

Welcome Packs

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

Contact our Parish Council

Details of Parish Council meetings may be found on the village web-site <https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk> and on village notice boards. All are welcome to attend.

The Parish Clerk is Keith Williams

Email: quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com

Telephone: **01279 814473**

Contact our District Councillors

Email: cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: **01799 543487**

Mobile Telephone: **07801 039550**

Email: cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: **01799 540411**

Mobile Telephone: **0745 4687748**

See also monthly report in every issue of *The Link*.

Contact our County Councillor

Cllr Raymond Gooding

Essex County Council

County Hall, Duke Street

Chelmsford, CM1 1LX

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

Telephone: **01279 813103**

Mobile Telephone: **07778 643759**

Contact our Member of Parliament

Kemi Badenoch, MP

House of Commons,

London, SW1A 0AA

Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: **0207 219 1943**

Moth and Memories!

This month's cover picture was supplied by Keith Woollard who spotted the Merveille du Jour Moth on the path near the bottom of Hanging Hill. The web-site UK Moths identifies the moth going under this name as *Griposia aprilina*, flying in September and October and states that it is "widespread, though thinly scattered over most of Britain". This was the first that Keith had seen in his 70 odd years in the village, so we can regard it as being scarce around here. The moth frequents oak woods of which there are some nearby and the photograph was taken in October.

Keith goes on to comment that the place he saw it is the former site of The Howells, which stood there up until the 1970s. He recalls it as "a mock Northumberland castle" built of red bricks and in his younger days it was the home of Quendon Hall's gamekeeper. At its side was a large pond with a sluice gate for the water, and Keith and his friends used to go there for picnics during the summer months or fish for tadpoles and sticklebacks. Sadly there is now no trace of anything being on the site; it's just a memory from the past.

Mr Woollard recalls that also on the slope going down to The Howells stood the wreck at least for 30 years of a 1920s/30s Morris car which had an argument with a steam engine coming the other way. He says that in the end he believes it finished up being buried in the gravel working that stood at the side of the lane, remnants of which are still visible.

In another reminiscence Mr Woollard mentions a black wooden bungalow which used to stand to the right-hand side of Bradley's Barn (north end of Rickling Green), which was last lived in by the bank robber Maddson. In his efforts to evade capture he set fire to the bungalow, burning it to the ground and for a period he escaped capture. It was reported that in one of his robberies a policeman had been injured and later died of his injuries. For a few weeks afterwards Mr Woollard and his friends used to visit the wreckage and at times retrieve "funny foreign coins" which they used to swap with other lads at school for marbles or cigarette cards - for which they had more use!

Thank you for that, Keith. Memories of the past of our villages are fading fast, so let's note down what we can of them before they are lost for ever!

From the Parish Council Chair

Dear Villagers,

Welcome to 2023 - year of new kings and new beginnings. I hope your year has got off to a positive start, in spite of rain, rain, rain!

A few updates from the village - Bradleys Barn permitted development application is due to be decided towards the end of January. A good number of neighbours and villagers have lodged negative comments on the Planning Portal. The common themes are around the safety of pedestrians walking along Brick Kiln Lane to reach any facilities, the absence of sufficient car parking, and in general the unsuitability of converting an empty barn in that location into five small houses. We can only hope that our views carry some weight with the officials determining the application.

On the same topic concerns have been raised that this is a dangerous precedent for development of other agricultural buildings in the village. The regulations around this are fairly complex but it is clear a Class Q Permitted Development doesn't apply to buildings which have not been used for agricultural purposes recently, nor to listed buildings, both counts of which disqualify permitted development where Terrace and Garden is, on the Green.

Our Wildlife Champion, Paul, has applied for a grant to progress on the **Pond maintenance** initiative begun last year. We'll only hear whether we have been successful in spring; even if we do get the grant there will not be an opportunity to start work before autumn this

year - so no action will be taken immediately.

Grit bins are located at three locations around the village. They have grit in them so if and when we get another very cold snap remember the grit is available to residents if they wish to take some to clear the footways and keep it safe to walk round the village. The bins are to be found outside the Cricketers Arms, on Thistley Crescent and in Coney Acre.

I'm sad to have to report there's been a number of bouts of vandalism at the **football field**. The nets have been cut with knives. The football field is maintained to a very high standard by a small team of volunteers for the benefit of the village and this sort of incident really blunts their enthusiasm. If you do see any groups doing damage to the field and its equipment then please contact the PC or Ted Crow and we will investigate further - tddqrpc@gmail.com

We welcome another flock of **sheep** to the village - this time off Brick Kiln Lane behind the pond. The electric fences there are sturdy but if dog-walking in the vicinity do please keep your dog under strict control along the footpath up to Rickling Hall. I'm not expecting there to be quite the dramas we had last time we hosted this breed of animal in the village!

Speedwatch is fully up and running. We have eight volunteers and are trying to put a team out at least once a week. As a reminder this initiative on the request from the police is to gather statistics on the true scale of the speeding problem through the village. More

From the Parish Council Chair (cont.)

volunteers means that we can get a more accurate picture of the problem, and reduce the dependence on the current fairly small team. If you'd like to get involved please contact Ljiljana at Ljiljana.editor@gmail.com

Despite assurances from Highways that clearance of the **footway along the B1383** was going ahead, no work was undertaken in December. However the Essex CC lead for Highways is coming in person to examine the problem, in January, and we are expecting action this quarter.

On the same topic, the **Highway Rangers** team who do small jobs for Highways (such as trimming verges and clearing footpaths of overhanging vegetation) is, regrettably, being disbanded. This is because ECC has withdrawn funding. There was a plan from Uttlesford to replace that funding with money from the parishes, but not enough parishes stepped forward to commit, so I'm afraid the Rangers are winding up in April. We'll be

sorry to see them go because they've done good work in our parish over the years, but it's small rural parishes who benefit most, so in a largely urban county that's the first thing that gets the chop, when cuts need to be made.

Finally - how do you fancy a new challenge for the New Year: become a Parish Councillor! We are a friendly crew who meet every month and the amount of work you commit to is your choice. There are two vacancies on the council at present, and we find it a rewarding activity. Training will be given and all ages and abilities are truly welcome. If interested please drop a line to the Clerk - quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com or come along to one of our meetings - next one 8th Feb at the Village Hall.

Best wishes for a strong start to '23 - keep those resolutions going!

Tom Duncan.

District Councillors' Report

A week in the life of...

...a parish and district councillor

Sunday - preparation for site visits for planning committee

Monday - morning site visits to Gallows Green near Lindsell to a former chicken farm and a proposed large extension in Saffron Walden. Afternoon working through the agenda for Parish Council and updating the PC on planning application progression within Newport (approved/refused/appeal updates)

- evening, Newport Parish Council meeting which included decisions about appointing a consultant to help us update the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan and preliminary thoughts for a village improvement plan.

Tuesday - morning writing a speech for an appeal hearing relating to 4 houses proposed in Widdington. Afternoon preparation for planning committee - the agenda is over 200 pages long so this took the rest of the day and evening.

Wednesday - planning committee from 10am-5pm. Consultation regarding a 170 house development proposed for Saffron Walden, approvals for 120 new houses in Great Dunmow, 10 in Stebbing, 5 in Gallows Green, deferral of a deed of variation regarding affordable housing and refusal of the extension due to the overbearing impact on the neighbours.

Thursday - meeting regarding a new Multi Use Games Area in Newport.

Friday - meeting with Neil Hargreaves and Howard Bowman (chair of the Parish Council). A busy but productive week!

...a district councillor and cabinet member

Monday - morning, interviews to appoint a new head of Internal Audit. I did informal chat with candidates along with the chair of the Governance Audit and Performance committee. Full interviews and tests were done by HR, the finance officer and the outgoing head of audit, who we share with Chelmsford City Council, and they want her full time. We gave our feedback, and an employment offer has been made.

-evening, all-councillor workshop on the budget for 2023/24 and following years, including agreeing in principle a proposal for a Cost of Living Fund available to those just outside the criteria for the (generous, but restricted) Local Council Tax Support Scheme

Tuesday - Local Plan Scrutiny Committee, in place of the Council Leader who was in other meetings. This also involved a pre-meeting including the chair, who is one of the Independent councillors from Chesterford Neil Gregory, the Local Plan cabinet member John Evans, the head Planning Officer Dean Hermitage and the interim officer running the Local Plan, John Clements. As members of the opposition tend to use this meeting for political attacks, an element of rehearsal is necessary to ensure a smooth and productive meeting. Which it largely was.

Thursday - morning, writing this!

-lunchtime, informal meeting with other cabinet members to share what we are all doing and any issues we need to know about.

-evening, Investment Board, reviewing and agreeing updates to the Commercial Strategy for the council's

District Councillors' Report (cont.)

commercial property portfolio. This was a follow up meeting to one in December where the full portfolio was reviewed, with the external valuations and reports. These showed as at September 2022, on the very low point just after the Truss-Kwarteng minibudget, to be worth £74 million pounds more than was paid for them.

Friday - see below...

Other things we do as they come in, which is mostly ward case work. Also there is writing letters to the papers and working on press releases. There is an election in May and the opposition are flooding the media, in some cases with down-right lies, like claiming Residents for Uttlesford is responsible for the poor state of our roads, when of course it is Essex. We can't ignore this as some voters will believe it. Unfortunately this sort of behaviour is why so few people vote, but we do our best to ensure the truth is available.

It takes hours to write a good letter, and they have to be short and clear. Often they don't get published, but when they do it is rather satisfying!

Councillor Surgeries

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

Cllrs Judy Emanuel and Neil Hargreaves

Our contact details are:



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



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

Other News from Uttlesford District Council

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

Our Member of Parliament

Uttlesford Community Action Network AGM

As patron I was pleased to attend the Uttlesford Community Action Network (UCAN) AGM this year - an opportunity to hear more about their community projects and thank them for all of their hard work supporting residents.

There are significant pockets of rural isolation, digital exclusion and other social disadvantages in Uttlesford and UCAN projects like the Dementia Café, the mobile community hub and the Essex Shed Network have helped to support those facing these challenges.

As we emerge from the pandemic and face the upcoming challenges ahead, I know UCAN will continue to do all they can to provide services to local communities in Uttlesford who need it most.

Mind in West Essex visit

I'm a patron of Mind in West Essex and very supportive of the work they do to support residents in Uttlesford and their commitment to opening up the conversation around mental health support in the community.

I had the pleasure of visiting their new office and community space in Saffron Walden where people can drop in and have a chat. I met with Jade Bolton, Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator, Mike Ellen, Uttlesford Team Manager and Craig McColl, Services Development and Lived Experience Manager.

Living through the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health of people across our country, and I welcome the steps the Government is taking to improve access to mental health support and services. This is

alongside the vital work local charities and support groups like Mind do.

The drop-ins are held on Monday and Wednesday 9:15-11:15am, and all details can be found on Mind's website here: www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/

Tiffin Cup competition

The Tiffin Cup is an annual nationwide competition run by the Tiffin Club seeking to promote the importance of South Asian restaurants throughout the UK.

This year I will be putting forward a restaurant from our constituency and I am asking residents to help me choose by nominating their favourite in the community.

If the restaurant gets through to the Grand Final of the competition, they will be asked to prepare a signature dish which will be judged by an expert panel in Parliament and the winner will be crowned Tiffin Cup winner 2023.

You can send all of you nominations into me via the link here: www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/tiffin-cup-2023

Saffron Walden Almshouses

King Edward VI Almshouses, Saffron Walden have been in and around our town since at least the year 1400. They are a charitable form of self-sufficient, low-cost community housing, held in trust for local people in housing need.

In Saffron Walden they have 47 homes and unlike most Almshouses there is no minimum age to apply.

The charity has a number of ongoing projects they are seeking support for, including Project Crocus, a development of up to 16 sensitively designed, energy

Our Member of Parliament (cont.)

efficient new properties. If you are interested in supporting one of their projects, you can find further information at: www.swalmshouses.org/support-us

I was very grateful for the briefing provided by Steve Hasler, Trustee & Project Lead, Joanne Stone, Chair of Trustees and Malcolm Domb, Trustee, and for all the work they do to support the community with such enthusiasm and passion.

Clavering Supermarket opening

I was delighted to attend the re-opening of the Spar supermarket in Clavering alongside my predecessor Sir Alan Haselhurst, owner Muru, his family and residents.

Lots of new additions to the store including a bakery and a re-vamped fresh food section!

Local supermarkets are vital to our communities, and we must continue to support them wherever we can.

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

Quendon Bowling Club News

Outdoor Bowling

The wet weather, that has been seemingly continuous, is delaying some of the work to the green that we had hoped to have been completed by now. The moss treatment applied before Christmas has worked, but we have not yet been able to scarify the surface and continue its improvement. At one end of the rink we are in the process of replacing some of the ditch boards that have rotted so the grounds team still have work to keep them busy to ensure we are in tip-top condition before the bowling season starts.

We have a full programme of fixtures in the three weekday leagues we have entered as well as some weekend friendly matches, beginning on the 2nd of May with a home fixture against Stansted, and ending on the 24th of September with our Club finals day. Most midweek games are late afternoon/early evening with a 6.00 or 6.30 start and the weekend friendlies are usually a 2.00 or 2.30 start.

We are always looking for new members, especially for the ladies' section, either experienced bowlers or newbies. We will be having a club open day on Sunday 23rd of April at just before the start of the season for anyone interested, or just curious, to come and give it a try. Coaching will be given and all you need is flat soled footwear - trainers are fine - a range of different size and weight bowls will be available for you to try. Come and meet the members, see what facilities we have and have a drink at the bar or a cup of tea from the kitchen.

Indoor Bowling

We have been playing in the Thursday indoor league at Turpin's in Saffron Walden with little success, although I would like to say we were climbing our way up the

league table, despite some close results, unfortunately we are still propping up the table.

On Wednesday evenings at 7.00 we have carpet bowls in the Clubhouse usually on two "rinks", a very light-hearted and social way to get introduced to bowling, and the club members, and to have a chat over tea and biscuits and sometimes even cakes.

Social Evenings

The Christmas social and get together was a fun evening with some festive fancy dress and much Christmas knitwear in evidence. The short Christmas themed quiz was well received with a small prize for the winners.

Our social evenings are continuing in the clubhouse during the off season on the second and fourth Fridays of the month; the 27th January will include a Bingo game. We will try to add something a little extra to the fourth Friday dates, so keep your eyes on the village notice board and also the Quendon & Rickling Facebook pages for regular updates.

General

We have recently had our Clubhouse catering facilities inspected by Uttlesford District Council and we are pleased to say that they have been passed as meeting the required standards.

Don't forget that the Clubhouse, including the kitchen and licensed bar, including bar staff, can be hired out for your special occasion. There is plenty of parking and, when the better weather arrives, outside seating. Currently the hire rate is £80.00. If you wish to enquire about availability, please contact Mick on **07570 156095** or leave a message on the Clubs answerphone **01799 543544** and we will get back to you.

Quendon Estate & Maces Farms

From all of us on the Quendon Estate, Maces Farms and at Pegasi we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Following a break over the festive period, we have had a busy start to 2023 as we continue our focus on improving

the ecology and biodiversity across the Estate by planting new hedgerows and gapping up existing hedges at respective locations across Maces Farms. This year we are planting approximately 1,200m of hedgerow which

Quendon Estate & Maces Farms (cont.)

equates to thousands of saplings. As part of our countryside stewardship commitment, we have opted for a traditional English hedgerow mix which includes hawthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, dog rose and hazel. Once complete we look forward to seeing how these establish and we plan to carry out further planting in the forthcoming years.



Linked to our aim to continue improving and protecting soil quality, over the Christmas period we welcomed some woolly assistants from a local farmer to graze an area of cover crop we planted by Rickling Hall. The flock happily worked their way through the cover crop which consisted of vetch, rye and stubble turnips. The land is now ready to be drilled with a spring barley subject to weather conditions, so keep your eyes open for Mark using our drill in the coming weeks.



Following our residents meeting on the 2nd November 2022 at Bradleys Barn, Uttlesford District Council are currently assessing our proposal to convert the barn into

five terraced residential dwellings to offer two/three bedroom accommodation which will be retained and rented out. We are expecting a decision on the 25th January 2023 and we will provide an update in due course.

After hosting our first community surgery meeting on Wednesday 7th December 2022, thank you to everyone who registered interest. If you would like to meet with us to ask a question or learn more about the Quendon Estate and Maces Farms, our next community surgery will be held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 starting at 10am and finishing at 6pm at Maces Farm office. If you would like to call in to see us, please book a time in advance by emailing Robert Timmins: RTimmins@pegasi.co.uk. By such time our long-awaited new information boards should be in position at respective locations across the Estate following a short delay with manufacture.

We look forward to providing you with further updates on our activities as the year progresses.

Robert Timmins

Resident Agent & Company Surveyor

Tel: +44 (0) 207 245 4510

Mobile: +44 (0) 7468 012 350

Email: RTimmins@pegasi.co.uk

Address: Quendon Estate & Maces Farm, Maces Farms, Maces Farms Office, Bury Farmyard, Rickling Green, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3YG

07874-385541

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

During 2022 we have had some very interesting speakers at our monthly meetings and we have learned a lot from them and from our many visits out and there are many more lined up for 2023. Our meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1.30pm in St John's Church Hall. You will be most welcome.

Recently a small group visited Talliston House in Gt.Dunmow.

We were welcomed into what had been a small semi-council house bought some 25 years ago by John Tallow, a young man then, but now a published author.

He has spent 25 years changing this house into an eighteenth century Anglican rectory with Gothic Revival gardens, irrigation channels and pathways. Each room inside represents a different country and is furnished in the most magnificent way of its time. From Wales to New Orleans, to Japan or Canada. John's vivid imagination kept us enthralled.



The garden group had an excellent speaker, Joe Sharman, proprietor of Monksilver Nursery in Cottenham. His illustrated talk about plants in dry places, covered areas from the Californian desert regions to the extinct volcanoes of Spain and the arid areas of the Poloponnese and Turkey. He gave us a fascinating insight into nature's ways of adapting to climate change. The garden visits will continue when the weather becomes more favourable.

There is always room for new groups and several members have given us their ideas; they include Internet Technology, Quiz and Crosswords, Culture and Religions, Science and Technology and many more. If interested please contact Susan at bertiestar@gmail.com

Our Annual Christmas Lunch was held on December 15th. Some eighty members braved the snow, ice and freezing conditions to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Bury Lodge. What a joyous party it turned out to be, full of festive fun with seasonal music playing, an enjoyable meal, some wonderful raffle prizes and convivial company. Our thanks

u3a (cont.)

go to Teresa and her team at Bury Lodge for their hospitality and to Gill and Bob Dean who so ably organised the whole event. It proved a fitting finale to a wonderful year for Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.

The General Meeting on 16th February is entitled “Medieval Maldon”. With busy quays, substantial housing, flourishing artisan guilds and even a royal mint in the early years, Maldon in the middle ages was a prosperous port at the mouth of the Blackwater. Local resident and amateur historian Dennis Eraut will increase our appreciation of an often overlooked small town.

Last year our membership increased by 20% so we have been encouraged to introduce several new interest groups for 2023 including “Antiques and Collectibles”, “Geography”, a new “Walking” group and a “Singles Group”, a social group aimed specifically at people on their own.

The first Saturday Seminar of 2023 will be held on 25th February. Called “Old Russia to European State: a history of conflict between Ukraine”, it is timed to recognise the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Russia. David Morson will be exploring the history of the relationship between Russian and Ukraine to give some insights into what lies behind this tragic conflict. The Seminar will be held at the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AG. Members should book their tickets from Ticket Source, £7 each although a few may be for sale at the February General meeting for members without internet access.

Anne White
Obo Stansted u3a.



www.hundredparishes.org.uk

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

Flowering snowdrops are a welcome sight in early February.

Although not native to this country, these spring-flowering bulbs were planted in churchyards from the 16th century onwards.

As their seeds are dispersed by ants, they have become

naturalised in suitable locations such as hedgerows. Snowdrops carpet parts of Hatfield Forest and the gardens of Audley End and Easton Lodge where visitors can admire them; smaller clusters will be present in most of the churchyards around the Hundred Parishes.

Snowdrops are easily seen, but other early spring flowers will follow them as the days lengthen.



Winter Aconites



Snowdrops (obviously!)

Yellow-flowered primroses, winter aconites and lesser celandines appear alongside sweet violets. All these flowers produce pollen and nectar, vital food for early-foraging honeybees, queen bumblebees and other insects. Surveys of churchyards indicate they

can be havens for wildflowers often supporting species which have become rare in the wider countryside.

Whilst neatly mown grass is appreciated by many, leaving vegetation uncut allows many attractive grassland plants to flower for the benefit of insects.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland organises a wildflower hunt to record what is in flower at the start of the year. The aim is to record how flowers are responding to a warming climate. Enthusiasts search their local area, noting what is in flower. Last year, the number of species recorded within the Hundred Parishes was much reduced, almost certainly due to the wintry



Takeley

weather experienced in December.

More flowers will bloom as spring advances, so I encourage you to enjoy one or more of the walks or open gardens listed on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - or visit your

local churchyard. If you are able, take some photos of what is in flower to share with friends or family or post them on Facebook, perhaps on The Hundred Parishes Facebook group.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

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reaches every household in Quendon and Rickling at attractive rates (usually free if for non-profit).

Contact Advertising, at sandra@arnold-q.uk, telephone 01799 543075.

A Quendon & Rickling Parish Council led Event

Quickling Village Pumpkin Competition

Following on from the 'ENORMOUS' success of last year's Village Pumpkin Competition and Jo Kitkat's 18kg winner, the Parish Council would again like to invite villagers to come and test their growing abilities and try their hand at winning the Quendon & Rickling Village Pumpkin Competition Silver Cup!

- All ages welcome
- £2.50 entry fee
- Competition seeds will be provided (3 Seeds per entry) for the 'Grand Finale Weigh-In' of the entrants heaviest pumpkin to be held in October at the Autumn Daze event. (A different pumpkin variety will be chosen so there can be no using last year's seeds!)
- Prizes to be awarded for the heaviest Pumpkins

Please contact either our Parish Clerk, Keith Williams (quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com) or Katherine Nuthall (knqrpc@gmail.com) to register your interest. Please include your name and address.



Saffron Walden Museum

The museum for north-west Essex



Visiting the Museum!

Our standard opening hours are:

Wednesday-Saturday 10-4.30pm*

Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-4.30pm*

*Please note the earlier closing time over Winter

Closed Mondays (apart from bank holidays)

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

The Bugs Are Back!

The last lonely female stick insect at the Museum has some new friends. Thanks to generous local insect enthusiasts we now have 12 Malaysian stick insects in the bug cage on the Discovery Centre gallery.

Females are large and green; males are smaller and brown. There is also a youngster – will it grow up to be a boy or girl?

Can you find them all when you visit the Museum?

Grant Application Success

We're very pleased that our application for a small grant from the Association for Independent Museums has been successful. The Collections Care Audit grant will allow the Museum to employ a freelance natural history collection specialist to assess and report on how the Museum's insect and taxidermy bird collections are

stored. The report will recommend improvements and priority actions, and will support further grant applications for specialist work that may be required.

Objects on the Move: Archaeological Metals

One of our behind-the-scenes projects is moving archaeological metal objects from a small, cramped store in the Museum to better accommodation in our off-site store, which is modern and purpose-built.

Ancient metal artefacts need to be kept in a stable, dry (low humidity) environment, which is much easier to achieve in a modern building. It also gives us more room and better conditions for staff, volunteers and researchers to work in, so we can be more efficient in caring for collections and researching objects for exhibitions and enquiries.

Thanks to Newport Depot

Uttlesford District Council colleagues from Newport depot repaired the cracked cover that protects our giant septarian nodule boulder from frost damage. A smart new Perspex top was fitted in time for the arrival of cold winter weather.



Thank you for saving something that is 135 to 205 million years old.

Museum (cont.)

Object of the Month

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

December's Object of the Month was chosen by Alice Lodge, Project Assistant, Greater in Spirit, Large in Outlook project, EFDM & SW Museum

Epping Forest District Museum (EFDM) has recently been granted a generous Arts Council England grant to produce a major exhibition of around 300 ethnographic objects connected to the Buxton family.

The Buxton collection was donated to EFDM by the family of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, 3rd Baronet, grandson of noted abolitionist Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, 1st Baronet. We wanted to combine the work of the Buxton family as well as explore the cultures of the countries that they visited.

EFDM will be working closely with Saffron Walden Museum to collaborate on their Ethnographic collections. Here at Saffron Walden Museum we hold one of the largest World Cultures collections in Essex, making our collaboration with this project significant. The objects acquired by the Buxton family include items from New Zealand, Australia, East and West Africa, India and the Pacific Islands. This brilliant opportunity will allow both museums to work directly with community groups such as the Ethiopian History Society and the Ngati Ranana London Māori Group as well as numerous other community organisations.

The object Alice had from the Saffron Walden Museum collections for December's Object of the Month was this 'Love Letter' beadwork panel which contains coded messages. Made by the Zulu people in the late 19th century in South Africa, these were traditionally given to female lovers;



each colour represented a different message. Modern love letters of this sort now contain images rather than colours to signify something of importance.

For more about the GSLO project here: <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/museum-world-culture-collections-project/>

January's Object(s) of the month were selected by Curator Carolyn Wingfield.

They explored the popularity of the hunting theme in Roman Britain through objects showing hare and hounds.

In later times, 'Hare and Hounds' became a popular pub name.

Today there are concerns about illegal hare coursing especially in this region. If you see anything suspicious, please contact the Police.



Bone Black: a brief history of colours Runs until Sun 19 March 2023

An exhibition exploring the making, meaning and use of colours from prehistory to the present day

Join us

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

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

For full details of our opening times and to book online:

Website: www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

Email: museum@uttlesford.gov.uk

Phone: 01799 510333

All images © Saffron Walden Museum

Ratty News!

2022 - What a Year for Apopo!

As the year ended, our HeroRATs and brave deminers still continued their work apace. Throughout 2022, a total of 7,830 landmines and unexploded remnants of war have been detected by our teams globally and almost 11 million square metres of land have been declared mine-free!

We have HeroRATs deployed across five different countries – working to save lives with their incredible sense of smell! Last year, we estimate that with donors' support, APOPO helped over 20,000 direct beneficiaries and over 100,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Apopo's work releases land and people from the shackles of fear and opens up opportunities for entire communities. It gives people the freedom to play, walk and drive without fear, and it enables people to lift themselves up in a socioeconomic sense. People can plant crops, build new community buildings, graze



"Here's one!"

News from Apopo (cont)

cattle and also create new infrastructure, improving entire villages' financial outlook.

The horrors of landmines cannot be ignored though – every year over 5,000 people are maimed or killed by a landmine or UXO and half of the victims are children. Every landmine that Apopo's HeroRATs detect and their assistants remove from the ground prevents another accident.

Coming Up

Looking forward to 2023, our HeroRATs will be continuing operations in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Angola. We will also be looking into other geographical regions where our HeroRATs may be able to save lives.



Donors' support also helps us research new ways in which our HeroRATs can save lives, so research will continue into our search and rescue rats (RescueRATs!) and our wildlife trafficking detection HeroRATs.

Support our HeroRATs at

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/support-apopos-herorats-life-saving-missions/>



A HeroRAT TB Detective!

What's On

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

Event	Date	Time	Place	Notes
Saffron Searchers	1st Monday in month	20.00-22.00	Q&R Village Hall	
Pilates	Mondays	09.00-10.00	Q&R Village Hall	Jan Crawley 07742 182272
Dog Training	Mondays	20.00-21.30	Q&R Village Hall	Pauline Everton
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	14.30-15.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
Community Café	3rd Weds in month	10.00-12.00	Q&R Village Hall	Angela 01799 218061/Carol 543807
U3A Choir	Wednesdays	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	19.00	Quendon Bowls Club	David Edwards 07804 954095
Buffy Playbus	Fridays	09.15-10.30	Rickling Green	Term-time
Social Evening	2nd & 4th Fridays	Evening	Quendon Bowling Club	
Parish Council	8th February	19.30	Q&R village Hall	
Communion Service	12th February	11.15	Quendon Church	
Farm "Surgery"	15th February	10.00-18.00	Maces Farm	See p9
Ash Wednesday	22nd February	19.00	Newport Church	
Communion Service	26th February	11.15	Rickling Church	
Bowling Open Day	23rd April		Bowling Club	see p8
Golf Event	27th April		Whitehill GC	See p4

ICO Advice

New year, no spam? Check your privacy settings to reduce unwanted direct marketing

Many of us make new year's resolutions – why not make yours to receive less unwanted and intrusive direct marketing?

When you buy something online, or you sign up to a service, make sure you check whether you'll be receiving direct marketing emails. If you don't want to receive them, you can unsubscribe or opt-out – and the organisation has to respect that. If they don't, you can complain to us.

Sometimes direct marketing can be useful. But sometimes, it can be a nuisance, or even stressful and upsetting. Take control of your inbox and unsubscribe from unwanted direct marketing emails.

You have the right to object to an organisation using your information at any time. It's one of your rights under data protection law.

You can only object to processing when the organisation is using your data:

for a task carried out in the public interest;

for the exercise of official authority;

for their legitimate interests;

for scientific or historical research, or statistical purposes; or

for direct marketing purposes.

Learn how to exercise your right to object and about stopping unwanted direct marketing at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/the-right-to-object-to-the-use-of-your-data/>

ICO Advice (cont.)

Video doorbells: make sure you're respecting other people's privacy

Video doorbells, like those sold by Ring or Google Nest, have been in the news recently. There are a few things you need to be aware of if you're using a video doorbell to ensure you're not breaking data protection law.

Keep the doorbell pointed away from neighbours' homes, gardens and shared spaces if possible.

Tell people that you've got CCTV (via a notice or something similar).

Provide people with the footage if they ask.

Regularly delete old footage.

If someone asks, and it's possible to do so, stop recording them.

More here - <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/domestic-cctv-systems>

Do you know how to protect your most important asset – your identity?

Identity theft is a huge problem. But recent research by Nationwide has found that many of us don't know how the personal information we share online can be used by fraudsters, putting us at risk.

We have information on our website to help you keep your information safe – and advice on what to do if someone does steal your identity.

Read more about protecting your identity online at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/identity-theft/>

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

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It is also available by post and online at: <https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk>

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

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

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

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
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
Paul Carrol	07889 344869	Southern end - Cambridge Road
Joanne Hales	07903 596011	Rickling Green
Janice Hart	01799 541196	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling
Clare Willoughby	01799 543637	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling



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

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

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