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OR code for The Link

April 2025

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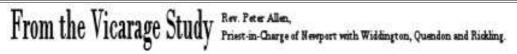
Priest in Charge of the parish of Quendon and Rickling, Coordinating Chaplain Stansted Airport (2 days per week)

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 -

Treasurer -

Quendon: Mrs Christine Osbourn 01799 543367 Rickling: contact church.jo@yahoo.com Quendon and Rickling: Mrs Sandra Arnold 01799 543075



Vicar's Easter Letter

Dear Friends,

In our world today, it can sometimes feel as though darkness overshadows the light. We see suffering, uncertainty, and challenges that weigh heavily on our hearts. Yet, the message of Easter reminds us that God's love is stronger than despair, that hope can rise even in the most unexpected places, that new life is possible for us all.

Such things remind us that Easter is not just about looking back to an event that happened two thousand years ago; it is about recognising that the power of the resurrection is at work in our lives today. Just as the first disciples encountered the risen Christ and were transformed by his presence, we too are invited to meet him, emerged from the grave, offering new life, new hope, and a new purpose. For once we have encountered for ourselves the risen Christ, and experienced something of the reality of his real presence and power, we are given new purpose, not only in following him, but also in living for him with a lifestyle that speaks to others and the world as a whole of his love and offer of new life for all.



This wonderful, hopeful message is timely as the seasons of the year move from winter to spring, the season of renewal. For as spring unfolds around us, with flowers in bloom and the days growing longer, we are reminded that God's creation is full of signs of hope. Signs that mirror the idea that life from death is not such an alien concept to us as we might think. For life from death is what God does time and again in creation and Jesus's resurrection

is the ultimate expression of that reality, a reality God promises we will all share in one day. And when that day comes the new creation we will emerge into will be a creation that no longer includes within it the loss and pain of death, the damaging

influence of the powers of darkness, and the presence of sin, that is the fallen human condition, which is at the root of any estrangement from God we may currently experience.

I know such a message and hope can sound too fantastical to be true, too fanciful to be credible, too much to ever hope for, and something only the gullible and weak minded cling to. Such



natural human scepticism is, I believe, one of the reasons God has given us the example of the first risen human being in Christ. For the risen Christ is a pioneer, a forerunner, a prototype, a precursor, an archetype, a model, of what our ultimate destiny will be. For in Christ's resurrection God has shown his power over death, the one thing in life that seems unchallengeable, unchangeable, so final, and so powerful. Whatever you may think of the message of Easter, I hope that as spring emerges around us it may lift your spirit with its new life, new possibilities, and give you a renewed vigour for life. Furthermore, may the miracle of spring reveal to you something of the deeper truths about of God's ultimate plans and purpose so eloquently displayed in this season of new life and renewal.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and hope-filled Easter. Rev Pete

Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday April 6th

9.30am Newport Communion

11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday April 13th

9.30am All Age

11.15am Quendon Communion

Maundy Thursday

6.30pm Newport Church House Light Passover Supper

7.30pm Newport St Mary's Maundy Thursday Communion

April 18th Good Friday

10.30am Newport Messy Church 2pm Widdington an hour by The Cross

April 20th Easter Sunday

9.30am Newport Easter Celebration Communion and Kids Club

11.15am Widdington Easter Celebration Communion

11.15am Rickling Easter Celebration Service

Sunday April 27th

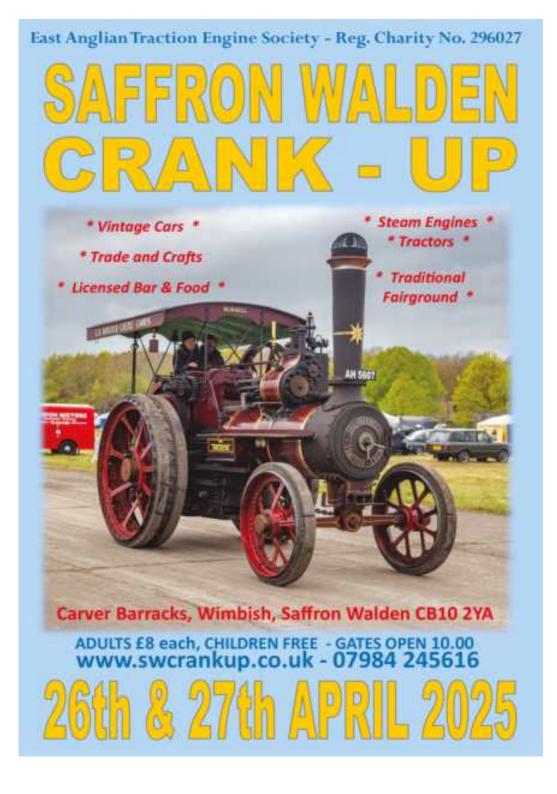
9.30am Newport Morning Worship 11.15am Rickling Communion

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the latest winnersMarch 20241st PrizeM Bonfield2nd PrizeP Ball2nd PrizeP Ball3rd PrizeR Heggie29Quendon & Rickling 100 Club generates a source of funds for the Village Hall and both our two churches, All Sints, Rickling and St Simon & St Jude, Quendon.

| CAN YOU SPARE TIME TO HELP | |
|--|--|
| CARE FOR OUR CHURCH? | Quendon Churchyards |
| Quendon Church needs your help. This 13 th Century building still exists because inhabitants of our village have looked after the church for generations. It is now our turn and we are asking for new volunteers to help dust, sweep or vacuum once or twice a year. It is not necessary to be a regular church goer and we welcome anyone with an interest in historical buildings to join our team of volunteers. The church is used by many people for special services including Rickling Primary School services, weddings, christenings and funerals. | Quendon Church is surrounded by an ancient graveyard and another is sited separately on the other side of the drive. They are a precious village asset containing a record of many of the former inhabitants of the village. They offer a tranquil place in which to relax, walk, and be surrounded by our past but they do require maintenance. We know many of you take advantage of this space. There are curently only six of us who provide this care. Equipment is provided. Please join us in keeping these facilities, |
| If you would like to help preserve our church for future generations please contact. | which are open to all, safe and tidy. Contact Robert Arnold by e-mail; robert@arnold-q.uk or telephone: 01799 543075 . |
| Christine Osbourn 01799 543367 or Jane Bienemann 01799 543297 for further information or to arrange a visit to the church. | Note from the Editor: Yes even I take part in this rota - gives some exercise and fresh air while helping to keep areas of our village tidy |

| For Crimes and suspicious activity NOW phone | 999 | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| You can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes that have already happened online at <u>https://www.essex.police.uk/</u> and click on the appropriate button ("Chat" feature is bottom right of screen). Alternatively phone 101 but online contact is preferred. | | |
| Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber-crime in England, Wales and Northem Ireland. If you have been defrauded i.e. lost money phone or report online at https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime If someone has tried to defraud you but you have <u>not</u> lost money, phone or report online at https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing | 0300 123 2040 | |
| 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 i reporting it correctly through the proper channels. Thank you. | t effectively, by | |



Parish Information

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| Welcome Packs | The Parish Clerk is Keith Williams | |
| The Parish Council provides a Welcome Pack | Email: | |
| of information for new residents to the | quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com | |
| Village. If any newcomers to the village have | Telephone: 01279 814473 | |
| not received a copy of the pack, do please let | Contact our District Councillors | |
| the Clerk know on the contact details below | Email: cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk | |
| and a welcome pack will be provided. If an e- | Telephone: 01799 543487 | |
| mail address is provided the pack can be sent | Mobile Telephone: 07801 039550 | |
| digitally. | Email: cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk | |
| <u>Allotments (Quendon Hall Estate):</u> | Telephone: 01799 540411 | |
| Peter Warwick, No.5 Thistley Crescent, Green | Mobile Telephone: 07854 687748 | |
| Road, Rickling | See also DCs' regular reports in <i>The Link</i> . | |
| Telephone: 01799 543526 | Contact our County Councillor | |
| <u>Highway Problems</u> | Cllr Raymond Gooding | |
| The Essex Highways website is available for | Essex County Council | |
| anyone noticing a problem to report it: | County Hall, Duke Street | |
| http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a- | Chelmsford, CM1 1LX | |
| problem.aspx | Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk | |
| A tracking facility for all reported faults is | Telephone: 01279 813103 | |
| available. | Mobile Telephone: 07778 643759 | |
| Contact our Parish Council | Contact our Member of Parliament | |
| Details of Parish Council meetings may be | Kemi Badenoch, MP | |
| found on the village web-site: | House of Commons, | |
| https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk | London, SW1A 0AA | |
| and on village notice boards. All are welcome | Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk | |
| to attend. | Telephone: 02072 191943 | |

From the Parish Council Chair

There is no PC report this month.

However, some time ago one of the village dog walkers asked if the PC could provide an additional dog poo bin at the entrance to Quendon Woods. We have acquired an additional bin and are ready to install it but would ask the person who requested it to be more specific in where it is required as there are several entrances to Quendon Woods.

District Councillors' Report

Planning

The council has applied to the government to be removed from planning designation. The threshold is to have less than 10% of major application refusals overturned at appeal. We are now at 1.54% appeal losses for major applications for the past two years, although 4 appeals remain to be determined. Between April 2018 and March 2021 the average overturn rate was about 17%.

Three times more major applications are still coming to UDC for determination instead of the applicants going straight to the Inspectorate. In the period from January 2023 to date 21 major applications went to the government, which refused 10 of them, a refusal rate of 48%! There is no right of appeal, although one application at Takeley appears to have been so badly handled by the Inspector that it was challenged in the High Court, which ruled that the Inspectorate must hear the application again (with a different inspector).

In contrast UDC in the two years from April 2023 to March 2025 dealt with 65 major applications. The committee refused 17, which is 26%, of which 7 have gone to appeal (11%). Of these, 2 appeals were dismissed, one upheld, and 4 have decisions awaited. Even if all four went against the council, we would still be under the 10%.

Speculating, but it looks like the applicants with the weaker proposals are the ones cutting out UDC, and then finding the Inspectorate, who are given the full opinion of our officers and the committee, decide using the same rules as UDC would, and are not a push over.

More improvements are underway - along with the relevant planning officer, the planning committee have been engaging in a lot of pre-application discussions with developers recently. This is positive as issues can be raised and addressed far earlier in the process. Also, developers are engaging with the relatively new Uttlesford Quality Review Panel. We're seeing much better-quality schemes come forward as a consequence.

The planning department is also taking a firmer line on cost applications where appeals were dismissed and the inspector considered them unreasonable, or had unreasonable elements which caused the council unnecessary legal or other costs. A major application, which last year had the appeal withdrawn at a very late stage, is now the subject of a significant costs claim by the council against the appellant.

Local government reorganisation (LGR)

This has moved to the next stage, which is sending a letter to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government from (probably) all 15 councils in Essex saying 'Yes we will do as you require, to create new unitary councils, and will come back in September on your specified timescale with detailed proposals. And here is a list of largely financial requests of government to make this work'. At the time of writing the various councils are meeting to agree to sign the letter and UDC will be doing so on 19th March – the deadline for sending being the 21st. The letter, largely drafted by ECC but with input from all 15 councils, has run to 17 pages of verbosity, with a sprinkling of self-satisfaction, but does have useful request of government.

https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38906/

Appendix%20A%20Greater%20Essex%20Interim%20Plan.pdf

At this stage, however, the detailed content does not matter. What does matter is that, regardless of there being no mandate for this major reorganisation, it is happening, and it is vital that our council leader and chief executive, and our officers, have full rights to shape the change. So UDC's name must be on the letter to ensure we carry full

weight in the extensive works to come.

One of the main matters to be agreed in the next few months is the number of new councils to be formed. Ten of the fifteen councils have already voted at leaders meetings for 5 unitaries. But there is also lobbying for four and three. As part of the work to set out what size of new councils would be best, UDC and its chief executive Peter Holt (who has overseen a similar reorganisation at Northants), have done a forensic analysis of current unitary councils' outcomes related to their sizes.

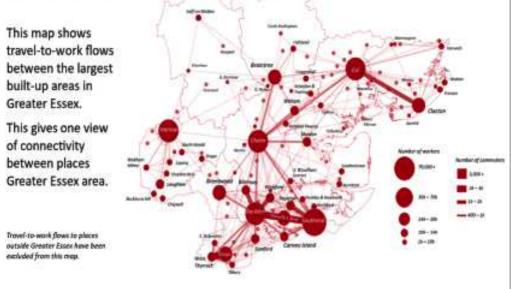
What this very clearly shows is there is no correlation between size and performance (and therefore we should go for what works best and with no assumption that greater size is in any way intrinsically better). The piece calls out an unevidenced assumption for the intended new councils that bigger = better. It analyses six different categories of outcomes, service and financial, using independent government statistics. Every one of the analyses shows no size correlation at all.

https://www.districtcouncils.info/performance-data-undermines-case-for-mega-councils/

The Chief Exec's conclusion is "It's not being super-sized that makes a council high performing or financially stable – it's years of hard work by dedicated public servants, supported by strong political and officer leadership."

The obvious combination for our area is Epping Forest – Harlow – Uttlesford. This graphic shows that having five unitaries provides a single city or town as the likely administrative centre. For example, Braintree, Colchester and Tendring wish to be a new council, which puts the City of Colchester as an obvious centre:

Considering identity and 'place'



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 facebooks.

Our contact details are:



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

> cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk 01799 540411 or 0785 4687748



www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Other News from Uttlesford District Council

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

07874-385541 Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

A Winter's Tale

u3a

Drawn by the promise of snowdrops, cyclamen, aconites and hellebores, the gardening group determined to say goodbye to Winter and enjoy Spring at the gardens of Benington Lordship near Stevenage. Arriving expectantly, they were not disappointed by the immaculately manicured borders, banks of snowdrops and a delightful parterre in front of the striking Georgian house. Alas, Winter laid on cold sleety rain which bullied and buffeted the doughty party. The group withdrew to the café's warm and friendly wood burning stove to partake of some bad-weather-enhanced-hot tea. Despite Winter's caprices, they swore to return to do justice to a very beautiful place.

Appreciating the wilder landscape of Wales through the illuminating and insightful lines of Owen Sheers was the great pleasure of the Poetry group in a recent meeting. Following some excellent preparation by one member, the group

animatedly read and animatedly discussed the ways Sheers describes profound and thought-provoking elements of the human condition through the Welsh landscape. Here he uses a sight we have all seen many a time, but gives voice to the utter cheerfulness of birds in Spring in his poem Calendar,

'Swallows crotchet and minim the telephone wires, sing volts down the line.'

(illustration by Julia Cook)



Forthcoming Poetry sessions include: The life and work of John Donne, poems related to new technology, The life and work of e. e. cummings, and poems about water - all of which are sure to challenge and gratify!

Stansted u3a has such a wide range of classes available, it is well worth checking out the website where you can find information about all of them. You will be warmly welcomed to sample any of the classes to find out what might suit you. Please contact via www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted or by 'phone on 07847 385541.

Julia Cook

Quickling Village Pumpkin Competition

Remember to get your seeds to take part in this year's competition.

- All ages & abilities 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 beheld in October at Autumn Daze.

• Silver cup to be awarded for the heaviest pumpkin

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

Quendon and Rickling Community Club

Welcome to all those who have moved to the village recently, and also to all the existing residents.

We have now been going since 2017, starting as a Carers Support Group and then changing into a coffee morning, by request of the residents. We would like to extend the hand of friendship and fun to anyone who would like to meet new people, and enjoy a social few hours which together with bingo, a quiz, refreshments and raffle makes for a full morning.

This is for all ages, especially during the school holidays where your children can also make new friends .

So please join us, and keep this activity alive in the village. We love new ideas and new friends Angie Hutton

Rickling/Quendon Community Club

Quendon & Rickling Village Hall, Quendon CB11 3XQ



Fun Bingo/Raffle

Wednesday 16th April Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00am Please contact: Angie 01799 218061

QUENDON & RICKLING VILLAGE HALL

VACANCY FOR A CLEANER

We are looking for a conscientious person to assist us in keeping our Village Hall clean and tidy. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who is looking for a flexible, part-time post.

On average, the task will entail working for about two hours a week, whenever is convenient to you but not during ongoing activities within the Hall. All cleaning materials will be supplied.

If you are interested in this position and would like to know more, please contact Sonia on 01799 541460 who will be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

Q&R Village Hall Trustees



FHE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps record the location of numerous ponds in farmland across lowland England, but since then farming practices



Albury

have changed and many have disappeared.

Well-maintained ponds are hot spots for biodiversity, supporting special plants and animals. Responding to concerns about the loss of such habitats, researchers at the Pond Restoration Research Group at University College London joined forces with others to



Finchingfield

investigate the potential for restoring such lost ponds and produced advice about the best ways to create new ones.

Following on from this, Essex Wildlife Trust identified 17,200 Essex farmland ponds on these old maps but noted that 10,400 had since disappeared. A few have been restored, and the team is working with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group to secure funding to help more farmers reinstate their lost ponds - https:// www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds

However, pond restoration can be challenging - as evidenced by the difficulties faced



Matching

during the project to resolve problems with Doctor's Pond in Great Dunmow. In recent years it has been polluted by toxic blue green algal growth. Ambitious and costly plans were drawn up to desilt the pond which necessitated the safe removal of fish so they could be returned in due course. Work commenced last

October with the installation of safety fencing and the draining of water so that a digger could be used to help remove

over 1,900 tons of contaminated silt. Heavy rains made the silt very slippery, and the digger became stranded in January. By the end of February all the silt had been removed.

Future plans include landscaping of the surrounding area and replanting with suitable vegetation once the pond is refilled. It is anticipated that in the coming months this attractive pond will once again provide a great habitat for ducks, fish and dragonflies. Tricia Moxey, Trustee.



Doctors Pond Great Dunmow



Maces Farms Spring Update 2025

How quickly it can turn around from being wet and horrible to dry and bright. Although it has been a cold start to the spring the weather has allowed the farm to get ahead of the spring workload.

Early nutrition has been applied to the whole farm giving all crops a

kick start to the growing season. We are now on our 2nd application of Nitrogen as the crop demonstrated great uptake from the 1st pass. It's all about getting the efficiency as high as possible on winter cereals. Lots of

factors like rainfall, temperature and wind all play a part on the Nitrogen use efficiency and sometimes a calculated well-timed

application is needed to get the best from the product. As a farm we continue to look at other ways to feed the crop nitrogen, especially from organic sources. This would



be from a legume from the previous crop or as a companion and applying organic manures. You can also apply live bacteria to the leaf which will take the Nitrogen from the air to feed the

plant. After all, the air is made up of 78% Nitrogen so tapping into this resource is great for producing sustainable food. This year we are

hosting a trial at applying bacteria to our Oil Seed Rape crop and seeing whether we can reduce the need for applying so much inorganic fertiliser. So many variable factors are



- Partitioned

involved and it's not an exact science but on the right year it can certainly provide a small percentage of useable Nitrogen to the crop.

Spring drilling preparation is all complete and the Spring Oats have been planted in great conditions. It certainly was dry enough and meant that the equipment would cause less compaction. We had a mixed bag this year. some fields were direct drilled and others that were cultivated. Both have their advantages and will be great to see the comparison throughout the season. Drilling into a field that hasn't been moved will stay colder for



longer but will benefit from an untouched structure where more worms will thrive. Moved cultivated soils will be slightly warmer and may have



more tilth but the soil will dry out quicker and take more time to replenish its soil organisms.

Sugar Beet will be drilled early April - it needs a specialised drill, so we use contractors for this.

This is called precision drilling where we will apply exactly 120,000 seeds per ha using a total of 5 million



seeds. This seed is manufactured to a perfect sphere so thus easier to plant. We are hoping this will produce over 3000t of beet from 5 million seeds. This will in turn produce over 430,000 x 1kg bags of Silverspoon sugar which is quite a few cakes' worth.

In other news, the farm will be supporting Ted with the football pitch, and we will do what we can to help Ted improve the pitch and the car parking area. Many years ago, I worked in the sports turf industry so any excuse to get involved and to dust off some of my sports turf knowledge.

We have had a great start to the spring and long may it continue. The old saying no two years are the same in farming never disappoints and what an improvement already from Spring 2024.

Mark Gemmill - Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk Maces Farms

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. We have been able to donate \pounds 338 to both the Village Hall and our two Parish Churches as well as pay out \pounds 696 in prizes.

New residents to our villages please consider joining to support our community. You can purchase numbers for next year, at £2 a month, application forms can be downloaded from the Quendon & Rickling Parish Council website (Village Hall page) or please contact the Quendon & Rickling PCC Secretary at qrpcc.sec@gmail.com

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

and All Saints, Rickling Churches and Quendon & Rickling Village Hall. Renewal forms for existing members will have been delivered during March. New members are always welcome. See above as to how you can join. The Village Hall has used its donation as part of the major redecoration project and the churches have used this for remedial electrical works Many thanks

Quendon Bowling Club News

Bowling

The new bowling season is fast approaching, and the green is looking very good, a lot of hard work scarifying, spiking and moss treating has paid dividends. We are on track for its first outing with the in-house club presidents vs club captains team's competition on 19th April.

The following weekend, on Sunday 27th, we are holding a pairs competition with 24 teams coming from three counties and even a team from London. This is a cash prize competition and there will be some great bowling from these class players. The grounds will be open for spectators, why not come and see how its done. Bacon rolls will be available from 10.00am and the bar will be open all day.

Advance date for your diary, the weekend of 24th/25th May, if you want to give it a go in association with Bowls England we will be having an open weekend. More details to follow.

Indoor Bowling

Our team in the indoor bowls competition at the Turpin's indoor bowls centre in Saffron Walden continue to get close to the opposition and have recently secured our first win against Bishops Stortford and an impressive draw against the league leaders Radwinter. Unfortunately, like Cambridge United, we have left our charge for the end of the season too late. Better luck next year.

With the start of the new outdoor season our Wednesday afternoon carpet bowls will finish on Wednesday 16th April

Social Members / Evenings

Our social evenings are continuing with games, music, banter and of course drinks at club prices. The dates of these Friday socials and our special events will be posted, keep a lookout on the Parish notice boards and on our website for details. Why not follow us on Facebook? We will also publish the dates of our home games as the bar and grounds will be open on these occasions, you can visit 3 times as guests before having to sign as a social member, the cost of which is a very reasonable £30 a year as the bar prices are generally at least 40% cheaper than local alternatives.

Remember you don't need to bowl to be a social member and join us.

Looking for a venue

The Clubhouse is also available for hire by the hour, half day and full day. If you need a venue for your club, meeting, party celebration please contact us either by Facebook or calling 01799 541196 and leave a message.



Saffron Walden Museum

Visiting the Museum

Our standard opening hours are:

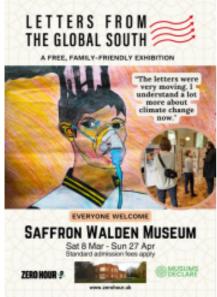
Tuesday, Thursday -Saturday 10-5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-5pm

Closed Mondays (apart from bank holidays)

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

Please note that during the Winter months, November-February, the museum closes earlier at 4.30pm, rather than at 5pm

www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org



The museum is hosting an exhibition examining climate justice, from 8 March to 27 April. The exhibition presents first-hand accounts from children and activists concerning the impacts of climate change in some of the most affected countries. It includes items from the Museum's collections that underscore themes of pollution, wildlife loss, and climate change, as well as informative posters. Admission to the exhibition is free and included with standard museum entry (£2.50 for adults, £1.25 for concessions, and free for under-18s). This exhibition is presented with gratitude to Zero Hour UK

March object of the month

Associate of the Royal Red Cross (ARRC) medal Awarded to Miss Nancy Winter

To celebrate Women's History Month, we are looking at just one of the many extraordinary women from Uttlesford.

Although we do not have much information about Miss Nancy Winter, records indicate that she dedicated her life to nursing until her passing in 1938. Her nursing career began at the Women's Hospital in Soho Square, where she received her first

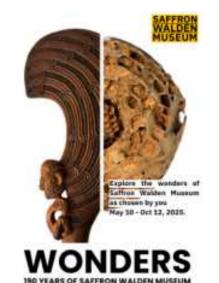


nursing certificate between 1881 and 1884. In 1884, she worked at the General Hospital in Wolverhampton before moving to Saffron Walden Hospital, where she served from 1884 to 1890.

Miss Winter was awarded the Associate of the Royal Red Cross (ARRC) medal. This award is given to fully trained nurses in officially recognised nursing services, whether military or civilian, who have demonstrated exceptional devotion and competence in their nursing duties over an extended period or who have performed an extraordinary act of bravery and dedication while on duty.

Wonders exhibition.

The museum is nearly 190 years old (189 years and 10 months, approximately), and are incredibly proud. To celebrate, we are launching our WONDERS exhibition in May. Local communities, groups, organisations, and the wider public are invited to get involved. We ask people to choose their favourite wondersomething that enchants, moves, or speaks to them and their history. With collections of all sorts from around the world, there is little we don't have. Do you belong to a community group or organisation that would like to get involved? If you do, please send an email to Museum@Uttlesford.gov.uk with 'Wonders' in the subject line, and we will let you know how to join in. Individuals can get involved by participating in our public voting event. We invite you to cast your vote for the most



wondrous item from our collection. Simply visit our front desk and complete the easy voting form.



Update on APOPO's work

This March, APOPO's life-saving work continues across the world. There is an urgent update on recent funding cuts and why building a stronger, more resilient future for our programs is more important than ever. Despite these challenges, the need for continued tuberculosis detection remains high, and we are expanding our TB program into Tanzania's Kilimanjaro region. We also recognize World Wildlife Day and discuss how USAID funding cuts have directly impacted our Wildlife Detection

program. Finally, we highlight our HeroDOGs, who are returning to the field in Ukraine as spring begins, helping to clear landmines and save lives.

Recent unexpected cuts in US international aid have forced APOPO to close its Zimbabwe demining program.

This heartbreaking situation has reinforced the importance of having a diverse base of support. APOPO has always relied on a wide range of donors, from



government grants and foundations to businesses and individuals. But to ensure longterm stability, we need to expand this even further. A broader base of recurring donors provides the reliability needed to continue our work, no matter what challenges arise. ΤВ

Although the recent funding challenges are placing tuberculosis (TB) under great strain, APOPO remains committed to expanding access to diagnostic tools where they are needed most. Recognizing the ongoing need for faster and more accurate TB detection, APOPO TB Tanzania has launched a collaboration with Kibong'oto Infectious Disease Hospital in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region. This expansion will ensure more communities benefit from APOPO's innovative detection methods.

Despite being fully treatable, TB claimed 1.25 million lives in 2023, the last year for which data is available. Last year, the United States contributed about half of international donor funding to TB. Recent funding cuts to TB programs have left thousands without access to testing or treatment, putting lives at risk and allowing the disease to spread unchecked.

Our method, which integrates trained TB detection rats, is low-cost, efficient, and scalable, allowing us to screen more samples in less time and help bridge the diagnostic gap left by funding cuts.

Illegal wildlife trade

Every year, pangolins, elephants, rhinos, and other species are poached and smuggled across borders, hidden in shipping containers and cargo holds. Despite global enforcement efforts, traffickers continue to find ways to move illegal wildlife products undetected.

HeroRATs are being trained to detect smuggled wildlife products, offering a faster, more cost-effective way to



identify illegal shipments. Traditional inspections are slow and unreliable, but our rats can quickly sniff out even well-hidden contraband, helping authorities intercept illegal trade before it reaches the market.

However, our Wildlife Detection program has been directly impacted by recent USAID funding cuts. USAID was a key donor supporting the development of this program, and the sudden loss of funding has forced us to slow down progress at a time when it is needed most.

The need for this work has never been greater. Wildlife trafficking remains one of the biggest threats to global biodiversity, and with further investment, trained rats could become a powerful tool in the fight against wildlife crime — leading to more traffickers caught, fewer animals poached, and protection for endangered species.

HeroDOGS

As winter comes to an end in Ukraine, APOPO's HeroDOGs are returning to the field for their first full demining season in Mykolaiv. The colder months limit demining efforts, but with spring's arrival, operations are now at full capacity. Months of training have led to this moment. Mykolaiv is one of the most heavily mine-contaminated regions in Ukraine, where landmines and unexploded ordnance pose a daily risk to civilians.



Farmers cannot safely return to their fields, families are unable to rebuild their homes, and entire communities remain trapped by hidden dangers.

That is why our Technical Survey Dogs (TSD) — including adoption HeroDOG Khai — are now at work. Our TSD teams are surveying large areas of land to determine whether explosives are present and define the actual boundaries of a minefield within a larger suspected hazardous area. This helps cancel unnecessary clearance in areas without evidence of explosives, saving time and resources. By narrowing the focus, deminers can work more efficiently, clearing land more quickly where it's truly needed. A single dog like Khai can help survey up to 1,500 square meters of land per day.

See more information on all APOPO work at https://apopo.org/

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/month | 20.00-22.00 | Q&R Village Hall | |
| Pilates | Mondays | 09.00-10.00 | Q&R Village Hall | Jan Crawley 07742 182272 |
| Dance Exercise | Tuesdays | 10.30-11.30 | Q&R Village Hall | Christine Alexander |
| Community Café | 3rd Weds/month | 10.00-12.00 | Q&R Village Hall | Angela 01799 218061 |
| U3A Choir | Wednesdays | 11.15-13.15 | Q&R Village Hall | |
| Pilates | Tuesdays | 19.00 | Q&R Village Hall | Vicki 07810826465 |

What's On (cont.)

| Pilates | Thursdays | 09.30 | Q&R Village Hall Vicki 07810826465 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Pilates | Thursdays | 18.30 | Q&R Village Hall Vicki 07810826465 |
| Social Evening | 2nd & 4th Fridays | 19.00-23.00 | Quendon Bowling Club |
| Communion | 13th April | 11.15 | Quendon Church |
| Easter Celebration | 20th April | 11.15 | Rickling Church |
| Communion | 27th April | 11.15 | Rickling Church |
| | | | |

Emergency Life-saving

Should someone suffer a cardiac arrest or show symptoms of a heart attack e.g. pains in the chest, then your first action should always be to phone the ambulance service on 999. The service will refer you to our Automated External Defibrillator which is at the front entrance to Quendon & Rickling Village Hall. Another is sited outside Reception at the front of Rickling School. Anyone can save a life by using one of them until an ambulance arrives. In addition you can seek help from any of the volunteers listed below.



| 5 | 1 5 | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Name | Home Telephone | Locality |
| Robert Arnold | 01799 543075 | Northern end - Cambridge Road |
| Sandra Arnold | 01799 543075 | Northern end - Cambridge Road |
| Chris Phillips | 01799 542351 | Middle - Cambridge Road |
| Sue Phillips | 01799 542351 | Middle - Cambridge Road |
| Wendy Stannard | 01799 541869 | Middle - Cambridge Road |
| Paul Carrol | 07889 344869 | Southern end - Cambridge Road |
| Joanne Hales | 07903 596011 | Rickling Green |
| Janice Hart | 01799 541196 | Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling |
| Ann Merrit | 01799 542110 | Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane |
| Tom Duncan | 01799 541299 | Brick Kiln Lane |
| Sue Joannou | 07805 037586 | Rickling Green |
| Jacolin Lampon | 07710 281382 | Southern End - Cambridge Road |
| For further information see ww | vw.communityheartbea | at.org.uk/ |
| | | |

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

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

Please supply copy by the 19th of the preceding month.





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