

# The Link



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*The Link*

## Quendon & Rickling Parish and Church

## NEWS

February 2025

### In this issue

Church Contacts	2	District Council	6	Bowling Club	14
Vicar's Letter	2	Hundred Parishes	9	S.W. Museum	15
Church Services	3	Church Care Request	11	Flower club	15
100 Club	3	Community Café	12	APOPO	17
Pumpkin Competition	4	U3A	12	What's On	19
Useful Contacts	5	Village Hall	13	Emergency Life-saving	19
Parish Council	5	Maces Farm	13	Publication Details	20

**Snowdrops by  
Peter Warwick**



**Winter coppice by  
Sandra Arnold**



**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

**Rickling:** contact church.jo@yahoo.com

**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.

### February Reflections

As February begins, it will be hard not to come across the commercialism that surrounds Valentine's Day on the 14th. Some of us will have left any marking of this day long behind, some of us, no matter what age we are, may take this day as an opportunity to reaffirm our love for someone, and some of us may even take the opportunity to make a proposal of marriage to that special person in our lives.



Whatever Valentines Day means or does not mean to us, it does at least bring to our national consciousness an awareness of the place that love plays within our relationships, whether romantic, familial, or relationships of friendship.

I recently heard a story that illustrates love. It is about an elderly couple named George and Margaret who had been married for over 60 years. Margaret's memory had begun to fade due to dementia, and she often did not recognise George. Yet every day, George visited her at the care home, holding her hand and reading her favourite psalms. One day, a nurse asked George why he continued to visit so faithfully when Margaret did not even remember him. His answer was simple: "She may not know who I am, but I know who she is—and I made a promise to love her."

George's faithfulness reminds us that love is not just a fleeting feeling but a commitment to care for others, even when it is hard. It is this kind of steadfast, sacrificial love that mirrors Christ's love for us—a love that never gives up, never falters, and never forgets us, even when we feel lost.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul writes, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."



This chapter in Corinthians is often read at weddings but is worth reading at any time and applying to all our relationships, as it calls us to a love that reflects Christ's own: patient, kind, selfless, and enduring. It is a high calling and challenges us to reflect on what is my course of action in this situation if I am to show this kind of love towards another. Especially when that other may have hurt

me, used me, ignored me, or harmed someone I love.

Following Christ and the teachings of Christianity is not for the faint hearted, it is no easy path to follow, and it doesn't allow us to plead ignorance or bury our heads in the sand. For it is quite clear that Christ calls all who follow him to a lifestyle of costly love for God and the other with no exceptions. Gulp! I find myself saying and turning my sense of not being up to the task quickly into prayer asking for help from God. Help in the form of wisdom and discernment to know how best to love God, others, and myself. Help in the form of the power and the wherewithal to love God and one another. Help in the form of peace that I may know the love and acceptance in which I am held by God despite my shortcomings in seeking to love as God loves me.

I have come to know more and more over the years that God's love for me in Christ, and acceptance of me is the greatest foundation I could possibly have upon which to build my life. The assurance of these things is liberating as they allow me to get on with life and with the help of God try my best to love others, whilst not living under crushing guilt on those occasions I know I have fallen short of God's best.

I pray that during this month, which marks the place of love in our lives, you may also come to know in a new or renewed way the depth of God's love for you, the meaning, direction and purpose following Christ brings, and the encouragement and support of the Holy Spirit as you seek to love as God has first loved you.

Wishing you a blessed month,  
Rev Pete.

**Church Services in the Benefice**

**February**

**Sunday February 2nd**

9.30am Newport Communion

11.15 Widdingorn Communion

**Sunday February 9th**

9.30am Newport All Age Service

11.15am Quendon Communion

**Sunday February 16th**

9.30am Newport Communion and Sunday Club

11.15am Widdington Communion

**Sunday February 23rd**

9.30am Newport Morning Worship

11.15am Quendon Communion

**Quendon & Rickling 100 Club**

Congratulations to the latest winners

December 2024

1st Prize	M Ingham	£30
2nd Prize	C Osbourn	£19
3rd Prize	C Foulser	£9

January 2025

1st Prize	C Foulser	£30
2nd Prize	M Atlee	£19
3rd Prize	J Tissot	£ 9

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.

## Quickling Village Pumpkin Competition

After last years winning pumpkin, grown by Willow Braddy weighing in at 9.5kg, the Parish Council would like to invite villagers to come and take part in the Quendon & Rickling Village Pumpkin Competition and try their hand at winning the village silver cup.

- 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@hotmail.com) or Katherine Nuthall (knqrpc@gmail.com) to register your interest. Please include your name and address.

<b>For Crimes and suspicious activity NOW phone</b>	<b>999</b>
You can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes that have already happened online at <a href="https://www.essex.police.uk/">https://www.essex.police.uk/</a> and click on the appropriate button ("Chat" feature is bottom right of screen). Alternatively phone 101 but online contact is preferred.	
<b>Action Fraud</b> 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 <a href="https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime">https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime</a> If someone has tried to defraud you but you have <u>not</u> lost money, phone or report online at <a href="https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing">https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing</a>	0300 123 2040
<b>CRIMESTOPPERS</b> To give information anonymously phone or report it online at <a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>	0800 555 111
<i>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.</i>	

## 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 (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](mailto:quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com)

Telephone: **01279 814473**

### Contact our District Councillors

Email: [cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Telephone: **01799 543487**

Mobile Telephone: **07801 039550**

Email: [cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Telephone: **01799 540411**

Mobile Telephone: **07854 687748**

See also DCs' regular reports in *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](mailto: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](mailto:kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk)

Telephone: **02072 191943**

## From the Parish Council Chair

On behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2025. I hope you had a happy and safe Christmas period.

The village Christmas season started with the lighting of the tree outside the Cricketers Arms pub by a special guest who arrived magically on a 'Rein-donkey' drawn carriage, heralded by members of the Bishops Stortford Brass Band. The weather was kind and not too cold and the hundreds of folks who joined in the fun, hopefully had a good time.

Activity continues in and around the village and we hope you have noticed the reappearance of two of the village ponds. There are actually three ponds in the village, do you know where they all are? We were given a specific grant to clear the reeds and weeds which we hope will now bring forth a plethora of wildlife into the newly cleared environments.

Other Business. At a recent PC meeting we questioned our County Council representative; Cllr Ray Gooding, about the bus service through the village which is not as reliable as we'd expect. His response is as follows;

"I am advised that Stephenson's, who operate the bus service have decided that they cannot operate the service because of the poor take up by passengers. Unfortunately, as you know, Essex do not operate bus services so this will be entirely a matter for the bus company. I am aware that a number of children use the service to travel to school and I can say that where those children are provided with a free pass to use the bus, Essex will provide alternative transport. However, if you are aware of any children from the village that use the bus and their parents purchase the ticket then please let me know. I am liaising with the officers at the moment to establish whether a replacement service will be commissioned to replace the one operated by Stephenson's."

Councillor Gooding's email address is [cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk)

The PC would love to see you at one of our meetings in 2025. There's been a recent vacancy in the team which you are invited to be involved with village activities. The next meeting dates are 13th February and 12th March.

It just remains for me to once more wish you a healthy and happy New Year and hope that your New Year's resolutions last longer than mine normally do!

Gari Spearpoint

## District Councillors' Report

### Local council reorganisation

The government White Paper published in December requires that over 100 councils across the country be abolished and reconstituted into unitary councils. For us this means abolishing Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council and the other district councils in Essex and forming new 'all services in one' unitary councils by grouping existing districts into new larger councils. Also to be abolished are the two existing unitary councils which are Southend and Thurrock. Further, the ECC administration also want a new Mayoral-led Strategic Authority covering all of Essex with additional council tax raising powers.

The government white paper is about 120 pages long covering many things, and contains some impenetrable government speak. For example, in the section on 'Culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy':

*The Government will work with Mayors and Local Authorities to devolve the levers of growth in these sectors. The Government will work with Mayors and Local Authorities to ensure decisions about funding are made with them and, where possible, align with Local Growth Plans. The Government will also coproduce an ambitious, transformative National Youth Strategy that will have a particular focus on empowering young people to have a strong voice in local government and the issues that matter in their communities. This new Strategy will be published next year.*

No doubt our young people will be much comforted when this 'transformative National Youth Strategy' is published.

## **Impact of council reorganisation**

Essex County Council alone employs over 7,500 people. It is one of the largest local authorities in England supporting 1.8 million people. To dismantle it and 14 other councils in Essex and reform into different councils is a hugely complex and expensive project. It will involve 'novating' thousands of contracts, scrapping or converting many IT systems, splitting out functions like Highways, Education and Social Care, and harmonising hundreds of processes, functions, finances, and buildings.

UK Government has a record of poor decisions and mandating this vast change across half of the country without any business case and risk analyses is inept for this £multi billion upheaval covering half of the country. They talk of greater efficiency but are silent about the diseconomies of breaking up very large authorities like Essex and splitting its functions into possibly five new authorities.

There is no evidence that greater size is better. For example, Essex Children's Social Care Services are 'Outstanding' on the Ofsted rating. Thurrock, already a unitary and nine times smaller and with a vast debt also is rated Outstanding. The efficiency of a council follows how well it is led and administered, not its size.

This reorganisation will take a long time, be disruptive, put reorganisation blight on many activities, including cost saving work, and above all will be very costly to council taxpayers. Nowhere in the White Paper does it say the government will fund any of the costs.

UDC has the second lowest council tax in Essex. As the new unitaries will have the same tax throughout so ours will rise to the average. And that will be on top of the annual 5% a year rises. District councils are capped by government at 3% rises but for unitaries it is 5% a year. Then the new Essex Mayoral Authority will need to pay for its offices and staff and likely some £millions to management consultants. The mayoral precept charged by Greater Manchester is £113 a year.

UDCs' council tax support scheme for people on low incomes is the most generous in Essex, so that will also be revised, likely to the disadvantage of about 3,000 residents

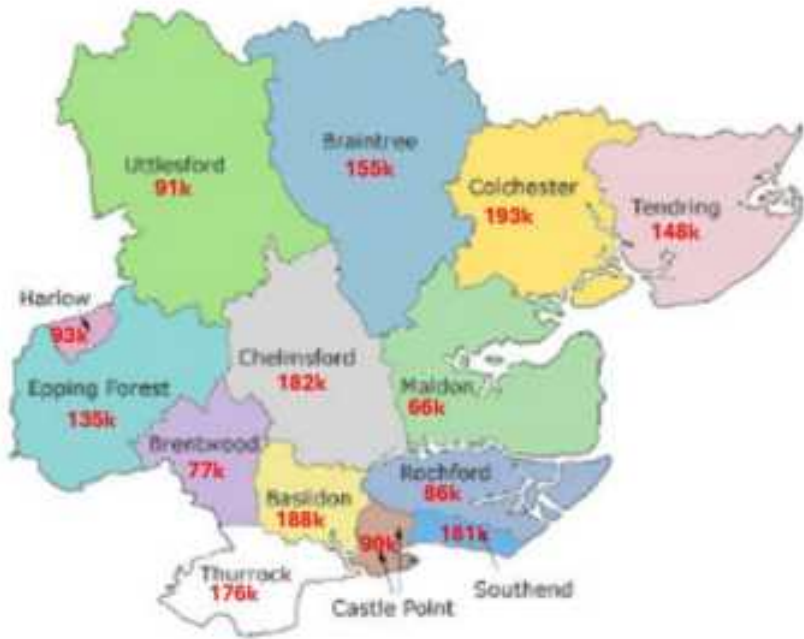
There may be benefits in many years time but evidence from other new unitaries is that the £ hundreds of millions of savings they were promised are illusory and the reality is tax increases. Merging councils struggling after a decade of government cuts and restrictions will not magic away financial shortfalls.

The new unitary councils will struggle for viability unless the government provides the vital long term financial stability which has frequently been promised and never delivered. The government needs to act on these long-term Westminster failures and not assume very costly reorganisations will free them from responsibility.

## **What is UDC doing to get the best for our businesses and residents and council staff?**

The requirement is to create unitaries out of combinations of existing councils. We are not allowed to join cross border eg with South Cambridge or East Herts (why not?).

The government says unitaries should have populations of about 500,000. There is however no evidence for this figure – we would expect to see convincing research of where the best balance of scale economies and diseconomies lies, but this is another fundamental statement on no evidence. Indeed, many current unitaries are smaller. We will therefore be seeking the best grouping based on similarities of area and current council operations, not total size, and also so that largely rural Uttlesford is not disadvantaged by joining with city groups with understandably different issues and priorities. Authorities can't be left isolated so Harlow must join into a combination with Epping. And Maldon and Rochford can't join together because of the River Crouch.



At a UDC Extraordinary Council meeting on 8th of January there was unanimous cross-party agreement to support the council to obtain the best out of the government requirements despite a very long list of unresolved matters.

**Elections and Democracy**

The ECC Conservative administration, which has run Essex for 24 years, has requested cancellation of the May 2025 election, and in reality all their future elections. They will therefore stay in power for probably seven years with no election. This will deny Uttlesford residents both their vote and the intended extra county councillor agreed by the Boundary Commission and needed because of our population growth. We won't have any more district elections either and district council terms

may also be extended, but that is not our choice. Your county and district councillors, by these changes, now operate with no electoral consequences to consider. Democracy has been suspended. And for the future there will be fewer councillors, probably one for this ward in place of two district and one county councillor, and a more distant council.

Extracts from Judy's speech at the Extraordinary Council meeting

'During the time I worked in the City I saw numerous changes of leadership in my client base. A key feature was the desire to be seen to be effecting change. Reorganisations, in and outsourcing of services and mergers were common. The best managed of those change programmes had a key feature – a clearly articulated set of objectives, cost/benefits and success factors. None of these has yet been demonstrated.'

None of us have much say in this, and no say at all in the new Mayoral Authority:

'Representation matters – not just to our residents but to all the organisations that will be impacted by this proposal. Exclusion and centralisation of decision making is hardly a positive start or indicative of a genuine commitment to devolution'

### **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.

Our contact details are:



[cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
01799 543487 or 07801 039550

[cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
01799 540411 or 07854 687748



### **Other News from Uttlesford District Council**

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



## **THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY**

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

This article was drafted by a member of The Hundred Parishes Society who has allowed us to adapt and publish it.

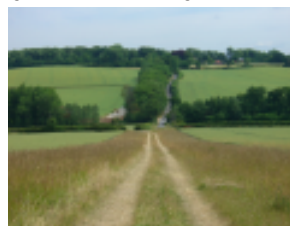
Like others, I have covered many miles through the patchwork of landscape in the Hundred Parishes and have often crossed intersecting footpaths, stopping to examine my map to understand why they exist and where they go.

Recently, I picked up local author Christopher Hadley's book, The Road, in which Hadley explores a spur of Ermine Street which connects former Roman towns at



**Elmdon to south**

Braughing and Chesterford, carving a straight line for 13 miles through The Hundred Parishes. Hadley draws on years of archaeological and historical research. Tracing the route, he gathers lost names, locates burial mounds and tracks down archaeology in the hope of revealing two thousand years of history. Through his words, we gain a glimpse of the civilisation that sited and constructed the road, of the people who used and maintained it and, eventually, of what happens when a road passes out of general use and the legacy it leaves behind.



**Towards Elmdon**



**Beards Lane**

Much of this route can be walked still; the actual Roman road is most visible as Beards Lane where it defines straight parish boundaries, with Clavering and Arkesden to the south-east and Langley and Elmdon to the north-west.



**Shallow tumulus  
Elmdon-langley**

In short, The Road is a lyrical, nostalgic, sometimes humorous and intriguing social history and travelogue which will enthrall enthusiasts of cultural and local history. After finishing this book, I find myself re-examining parish churches, wondering if the red, small bricks in the tower are Tudor in origin or perhaps pillaged from a lost Roman storehouse.

The highway which is the focus of this book is one of several local routes with Roman origins. Many feature somewhere in the walks that can be downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).

**Ken McDonald, Secretary**

Enjoying a winter stroll along any of the described walks within the Hundred Parishes provides an opportunity to view the landscape features visible from various vantage



**Hatfield Broad  
Oak**

points. Much of this countryside has been farmed by many successive generations as these custodians of the land have raised livestock and garnered variable harvests of grain. The spring of 2024 was rather wet, and this resulted in poor establishment of autumn-sown cereals. This, combined with the inclement conditions during harvesting, resulted in disappointingly low yields.



**Langley**

However, it seems that with dry weather in the autumn of 2024, the sown wheat, barley and oats have germinated well, with most fields now covered with fresh green shoots. Many farmers have decided to cut back on growing oil seed rape, and they may choose to plant alternative niche crops such as sunflowers or borage once the weather is warmer.



**Manuden**

These farmed landscapes have traditionally supported assorted wildlife including skylarks, rooks, ladybirds, bumble bees, butterflies, badgers and foxes. In addition, well-maintained soils

contain not just beneficial fungi, but a variety of earthworms and beetles which in turn provide food for many other creatures. Sadly, other less-welcome creatures such as slugs and root-eating beetle or fly larvae are also present. Seeing a sizeable flock of birds following a plough demonstrates this plethora of food!



**Stansted  
Mountfitchet**

Recent concerns about the loss of insect life, especially pollinators or those that eat aphids, is encouraging farmers to find ways of enhancing habitats for insects by leaving marginal strips round fields for wildflowers, planting new hedges or creating beetle banks within their fields. These features may be visible from footpaths during the winter months so make a note of where they are and plan return visits during the summer to observe them full of flowers and other wildlife.

**Tricia Moxey, Trustee.**

## **CAN YOU SPARE TIME TO HELP CARE FOR OUR CHURCH?**

Quendon Church needs your help. This 13th 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.

If you would like to help preserve our church for future generations please contact.

Christine Osbourn 01799 543367 or

Jane Bienemann 01799 543297

for further information or to arrange a visit to the church.

## Rickling/Quendon Community Café

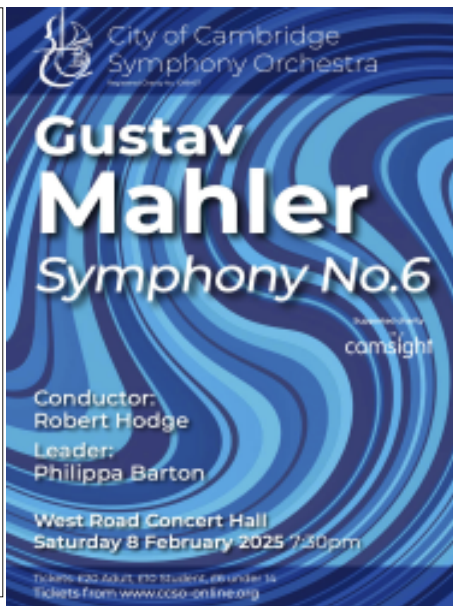
Quendon & Rickling Village Hall,  
Quendon CB11 3XQ



### Fun Bingo/ Raffle

Wednesday 19th February  
Coffee Morning  
10.00-12.00am

Please contact:  
Angie 01799 218061



07874-385541

u3a

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

### Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

“Dull one isn’t it?”

“But it is going to get out this afternoon!”

“Ah, enjoy it then!”

An alien might wonder what “it” was but as passers by we don’t need to articulate our reliance on the sun - we just monitor it constantly - appreciating the lift in our mood and occasionally recognising the miracle of growth it brings about.

The Garden group in the u3a is clearly attuned to growth and how it can be nurtured and guided to create plants and produce to gladden us all. Meeting on the second Monday of the month from 2-3.30pm the group examines a broad range of topics all reflecting its members’ interests. As well as regular meetings there are also visits to historic and beautiful gardens. Planned for February is a visit to Bennington Lordship gardens in Stevenage which boast an ancient family home and a diversity of types of garden, including a formal rose garden and walled garden, as well as drifts of snowdrops at this time of year.

The Garden group is but one of many classes and activities which you could participate in were you to join the u3a. Run by volunteers the u3a is a nationwide movement which exists to encourage local people to continue learning by following their choice of activity in the company of people who become friends.

The range of activities to choose from is impressive. Take the monthly meeting with

its 2025 eclectic mix of talks, including a second visit from Lindsay Whitehouse former governor of Chelmsford Prison. Also in the Saturday Seminars, to stimulate your brain further, Professor Anthony White will give a talk on 'Rockets and Space' on March 8th. If all that were not enough, each meeting comes with tea and biscuits!

For more information visit [www.stansted.u3asite.uk/](http://www.stansted.u3asite.uk/) or call 07874 385541.

Julia Cook

### **Q&R VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

#### **• WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW TRUSTEE**

A vacancy has arisen for the position of a Trustee for Quendon & Rickling Village Hall.

The role is a voluntary one and has no financial implications or liabilities. The main role of a Trustee is to oversee the running of the Hall. However, as a member of the management committee it is very useful to take on the occasional day to day matters. The task is not an onerous one but is very rewarding in helping to maintain one of the villages' greatest assets.

If you are interested and would like to know more then please contact Sonia Michaelides on 01799 541460 or Brandon Chapman on 07909 686627

#### **• PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

As notified towards the end of last year we have now introduced a policy of asking owners of vehicles parked at the Hall to make a contribution to its upkeep.

As a reminder we have stated:-

Parking on a regular basis - £100 per annum.

To obtain a permit please contact Brandon Chapman on 07909 686627 or email [pebbles4@btopenworld.com](mailto:pebbles4@btopenworld.com).

To park occasionally or on a temporary basis:- we ask that you donate a reasonable donation and suggest - £1 for up to 2 hours

£2 for half a day

£5 for a whole day or overnight.

The contribution to be deposited in the post box located in the porch.

To confirm, these arrangements DO NOT apply to those who are using the Hall

**We would like to thank those who have already made a contribution or have indicated that they would like a parking permit, very much appreciated.**

The Trustees, Q&R Village Hall

### **Maces Farms February Update 2025**

Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and new year. This time of time on an arable farm is relatively quiet. All winter crops lie dormant until the spring. For once we have had some colder weather which hopefully has meant any bugs and diseases

within the crop have disappeared and once spring kicks in will be healthier for it. Results from our Sugar Beet yield were very promising setting the highest yield ever with 88t per Ha, at least one crop benefited from a wet year. The factory at Bury reached a total of 5million tonnes processed by Christmas which I think was a record. Pigeons were relatively quiet over the Xmas period; I think they have plenty to eat so were not concentrating too much on our Oil Seed Rape crop which is fine with me. We now look forward to applying some early Nitrogen to our backward crops, we tend to like a frost as we can travel across the fields without making a mess.

Mark Gemmill

[Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk](mailto:Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk)

## **Quendon Bowling Club News**

### **Bowling**

Despite the bad weather of late the green is doing very well, all the effort put in by the members in the autumn was well worth it, just need some drier weather as it could do with a bit of a mow.

### **Indoor Bowling**

Our team in the indoor bowls competition at the Turpins indoor bowls centre in Saffron Walden continue to get close to the opposition but we are still looking for our first outright win.

On Wednesday afternoons we are now playing carpet bowls in the clubhouse. It's a light-hearted afternoon of entertainment with tea and possibly cakes. If you would like to give it a try please contact John Pampling on 07724 071959 and join in.

### **Social Members / Evenings**

Our live music night with the Sounds of Vegas was a great success and we are going to have another live act later in the year.

The Christmas party night was also a great success; silly games, festive knitware, dancing and plenty of liquid cheer was enjoyed by all.

A date for your dairies, our next quiz night will be on Saturday 22nd March, teams of up to six members, eight rounds including sport, music, and of course general knowledge.

Remember you don't need to bowl to be a social member and join us at our regular Friday social evenings, that are on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, and take advantage of our facilities, events programme and bar at club prices. Keep lookout on the Parish notice boards and on our website for details. Why not follow us on Facebook? Or even come over and meet us in person, we are a very friendly lot.

### **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.

## NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

### Friendship, Fun and Flowers

Our club meeting's were closed for December and January, we will be back on 19th February 2025.

Our next club night is 19th February; our demonstrator is Rachael Borenkova – 'Let's go to the Flower shop'. Rachael is a newly qualified demonstrator and we welcome her to the Newport & District Flower Club. Please come and support her as she embarks on her demonstrating journey!



We meet on 3rd Wednesday of the month (except January, August, & December) – 7pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR. Contact Patricia Sanz [flowersanzp2020@gmail.com](mailto:flowersanzp2020@gmail.com)

Visitors are always very welcome.



## Saffron Walden Museum

### Visiting the Museum

Our standard opening hours are:

Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday 10-4.30pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-4.30pm

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](http://www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org)

This year is very special for the museum as it turns 190 years old, making it one of the oldest museums still with its original collection and housed in its own purpose-built home. When the museum opened in 1835, its goal was to examine the natural world, humankind and burgeoning technologies. The museum aimed to save things of the past to share with those of the future in the hope that we could better understand the world around us. This year, there is an extensive program of events, exhibitions, and fun activities to entertain you and your loved ones. This year, we will explore nature, marvel at the wonders of our collection, and journey through space and time. We hope you can join us as we celebrate our past, take a step forward, and inspire the future.

## Museum Calendar

### JANUARY

#### Special Exhibition

We Choose to go to the Moon

Sat 26 October 2024 - Sun 2 March 2025

An exhibition exploring the cultural and scientific history of the final frontier. It's space, but not as you know it.

### FEBRUARY

#### Family Activity

##### SPACE NIGHT

Sat 1, 6pm - 8pm

Join us and Thaxted Astronomy Society for an evening of star gazing and all things space!

#### Family Activities February Half-Term

Mon 17 - Sun 23

Wed 19 Infinity box

£7.50 per child. 1hr sessions at 10.10am, 11.15am and 2pm

Thu 20 Junk model robot

£2.40 per child

30 min sessions between 10.10am - 12.40pm or from 2.00pm - 2.30pm

#### Adult workshop

Intro to Screenprinting

Wed 26, 10.30am - 3pm

A chance to try your hand at screen printing inspired by our temporary exhibition. £50 per person

### MARCH

#### Special Exhibition

##### WORK IN PROGRESS:

Collections sneak peek

Sat 8th March - Sun 27 April

A mini-exhibition unveiling ongoing behind the scenes work.

### APRIL

#### Adult workshop

Easter Marbling

Fri 4, 10.30am - 12.30pm

or 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Explore the ancient art of marbling and leave with some beautiful decorations for

Easter.

£60 per person.

#### Family Activities Easter Holidays

Mon 7 - Mon 21

Wed 9 Easter bunny mask

Thurs 10 Froggy fingerprint cards

Wed 16 Paper butterflies

Thurs 17 Yarn Sheep

£2.40 per child

30 min sessions between 10.30am - 12.40pm or from 2.00pm - 2.30pm

### MAY

#### Special Exhibition

##### WONDERS

190 Years of Saffron Walden Museum

Sat 10 May - Sun 12 October

An exhibiton showcasing the Wonders of Saffron Walden Museum collected across 190 years, chosen by the people of Uttlesford.

#### Family Activity

190th Birthday Party!

Sat 10, 11am - 3pm

Join us to celebrate the Museum's 190th birthday!

#### Family Activities May Half-Term

Mon 26 May - Sun 1 June

Wed 28 Leaf embossed pinch pots

Thurs 29 Green Man badge

£2.40 per child

(30 min sessions between 10.10am - 12.40pm or from 2.00pm - 2.30pm)

### JUNE

#### Adult workshop

Advanced Cyanotype

Wed 4 June, 10.30am - 3pm Building on our introduction to cyanotype, explore toning and working into your prints £60 per person.

ONLINE BOOKING for Activities

<https://saffron-walden-museum.artickets.org.uk/>

January's Object of the Month focused on the museum's archaeology collections. The display includes finds from the Anglo-Saxon manor site at Wicken Bonhunt, discovered after fieldwalking by Bari Hooper in 1967 and subsequently excavated in the 1970s when the M11 was built. Pictured is a bone comb from the site which dates to between 650 and 900 AD. On display in January was a beautiful bone flute from the same site.



In general, the museum's archaeology collections illustrate the prehistory and early history of north-west Essex from the Ice Ages to the Middle Ages. Important collections include early stone and bronze tools, Iron Age farming, Roman and Saxon life and items of Treasure found by metal detectorists in the local area. Objects of particular interest in the archaeology collections include the North-West Essex Anglo-Saxon ring, a Viking necklace and a Roman moulded glass bowl, which can be seen along with the bone comb, on display in the museum's ground floor archaeology gallery.

There are also significant collections of finds from the Roman town at Great Chesterford, Iron Age and Roman sites at Wendens Ambo and Great Dunmow and a medieval farm at Stebbingford. The museum receives site archives (the finds and records) from archaeological excavations and fieldwork in north-west Essex. Airport, road and housing developments and community projects in the area are continually revising and increasing our understanding of human activity in the district.

## **APOPO**

APOPO's involvement in Ukraine officially launched in 2023, with scoping missions taking place and a permanent presence began from January 2024. In collaboration with Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the program will address the urgent need for clearance of regions affected by explosive contamination as a result of the ongoing conflict through the provision of Technical Survey Dog Teams (TSD Teams).

Estimates regarding contaminated land in Ukraine are staggering. As of February 2024, over 156,000 square kilometers are estimated as being contaminated due to Russia's invasion in February 2022 and the ongoing conflict. This makes it the 'largest minefield in the world', covering about 30% of Ukraine's total land area. The severity of the issue prompted a € 2 million grant from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) and the United Nations Development Program to call for over \$1.5 billion over five years to address this problem.

Officials categorize land as either Suspected or Confirmed Hazardous Areas depending

on the type of evidence of landmines or explosive remnants of war (ERW). Although historical evidence from other conflicts points to a smaller percentage of these areas containing actual landmines, it is clear that the problem is significant in Ukraine. With the country in need of land for agriculture and economic activities, accurately identifying and clearing these areas is urgent. The process involves Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and Technical Survey (TS) methods to efficiently outline true hazardous areas, allowing non-contaminated land to be rapidly returned to safe use. This approach ensures that the slow and costly manual demining assets are concentrated on areas with known contamination.

APOPO Mine Action personnel visited Ukraine in 2023 to discuss how the Technical Survey Dog (TSD) approach could help accelerate land release within the overall MA Strategy. A partnership was formed with Sumy National Agrarian University (SNAU) to establish APOPO's dog training center. Unfortunately, after the program started in 2024, the security situation in Sumy made it non-permissive to establish a base there and the location was moved to a kennels facility in Krasylivka, Brovary, just outside Kyiv. Currently, the training of four teams towards Ukrainian NMAC Certification is on-going. Once operational, the initial use of the TSD will be in suspected or confirmed hazardous agriculture areas, with remote-controlled vegetation-cutting machines considered for use in any areas where they might be a tripwire threat.

### **Initial Training in Cambodia**

APOPO registered as a non-profit in Ukraine in September 2023 and began recruiting staff after that. Twelve Ukrainian women from Sumy Oblast underwent training in Cambodia to become TSD Handlers and six of them continued after their return to Ukraine in April 2024. Nick Guest joined as the Manager of the Program in Ukraine in January 2024, initially tasked with program management, certification, habitat building, team mobilization, and operational deployment.

In September 2024, after NMAC Certification, APOPO, sub-contracted to MAG, will deploy four TSD teams in Ukraine, two funded by the EU and two by UNDP. These TSD Teams will work alongside MAG manual teams in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv Oblasts, based on state prioritization.

### **Innovative Detection Methods**

APOPO TSDs are trained to work in vegetation, therefore do not need the area prepared ahead of them as a more conventional MDD would. They can rapidly survey large areas of land and either confirm or deny the presence of explosive ordnance and can better identify the actual areas of contamination. This allows manual demining teams to focus their efforts on confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), significantly reducing the cost and increasing the efficiency of land release.

The clearance of hazardous areas allows for the safe return of displaced families and the productive use of land. This initiative supports community development, economic growth, and a safer, more stable Ukraine. By restoring safe environments, APOPO helps communities rebuild their lives and secure their livelihoods.

## 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.



<b>Name</b>	<b>Home Telephone</b>	<b>Locality</b>
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
Chris Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Sue Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Wendy Stannard	01799 541869	Middle - Cambridge Road
Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird	07793600697	Southern end
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 [www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/](http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/)

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

## 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

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saffron Searchers	<i>1st Monday/month</i>	20.00-22.00	Q&R Village Hall	
Pilates	<i>Mondays</i>	09.00-10.00	Q&R Village Hall	Jan Crawley 07742 182272
Dance Exercise	<i>Tuesdays</i>	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
Community Café	<i>3rd Weds/month</i>	10.00-12.00	Q&R Village Hall	Angela 01799 218061
U3A Choir	<i>Wednesdays</i>	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Carpet Bowls	<i>Wednesdays</i>	Afternoon	Quendon Bowls Club	John Pampling 07724 071959
Social Evening	<i>2nd &amp; 4th Fridays</i>	19.00-23.00	Quendon Bowling Club	
Pilates	<i>Tuesdays</i>	19.00	Q&R Village Hall	Vicki 07810826 465
Pilates	<i>Thursdays</i>	09.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vicki 07810826 465
Pilates	<i>Thursdays</i>	18.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vicki 07810826 465
Communion	<i>9th February</i>	11.15	Quendon Church	
Flower Club	<i>19th February</i>	19.30	Ugley Village Hall	see item in magazine
Communion	<i>23rd February</i>	11.15	Quendon Church	

*The Link* is published on behalf of Quendon & Rickling Parochial Church Council, who do not necessarily share or endorse any opinions expressed by contributors or advertisers. It is created, printed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Advertising supports the maintenance of our church buildings and their grounds, but largely covers the costs of production.

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

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