

The Link



QR code for
The Link

Quendon & Rickling Parish and Church

NEWS

February 2026

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Application for 110 rental dwellings on Belcham's Lane site to be registered.

See details inside Pages 5 & 8



Crocus flowers by
Peter Warwick

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

Curate: Revd Gavin Sunshine Phone: 07379 299845

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.

Dear Friends,

In the church year, February begins with Candlemas, remembering Christ presented in the Temple, described as “a light to lighten the nations”. The account of this can be found in the Gospel according to Luke chapter 2 verses 22 – 40, see qr code below. It speaks of two people, Simeon and Anna, who have been faithfully waiting and praying for God’s promised One and when they see the Christ child they are moved by the



Spirit of God to announce that he is the promised One. In Simeon and Anna we have demonstrated for us the kind of faith that keeps love of God an expectant hope alive over many years, the reality of which is found in faithful worship and service. A love and hope rewarded by fulfilment of that for which they hoped and longed for in love.

Simeon and Anna have much to teach us today about keeping love and faith alive in the face of longing and waiting and the place that worship and service plays in both expressing our love and hope and helping keep them alive.

We know that February is a month that traditionally celebrates love on Valentines Day. The Christian roots of this day are found in the martyrdom of Saint Valentine whose life is associated with acts of sacrifice and love. Today we might associate it more with romantic love, something the card manufacturers are keen to play up to, but love is expressed in a myriad of ways. Many of these expressions happen not with a fanfare but in quiet daily acts of kindness, care, faithfulness, and respect towards family and friends, colleagues, team mates, and church family, much of which is unseen except to those between whom such acts of love are shared.

Love
is all
AROUND

So, as we move through these winter weeks, my prayer is that you may notice the signs of light and life around you and within you that Candlemas reminds us of. Also that you may be inspired by the love God has for you to keep your hope and faith alive and keep on expressing it in those small but not insignificant expressions of love and care that we all need to both give and receive to be fully human as God intends us to be.

With every blessing, Revd Peter Allen

Priest in Charge Newport, Widdington, Quendon and Rickling



Church Services in the Benefice

1st February - Candlemas

9.30am Newport Communion
11.15am Widdington Communion

8th February

9.30am Newport All Age Service
11.15am Quendon Communion

15th February

9.30am Newport Communion
11.15am Widdington Communion

17th February - Shrove Tuesday

6.30pm – 8pm Church House Newport
Pancakes being served.

Also includes a quiz and raffle.

18th February - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Newport Service of Ashing

22nd February

9.30am Newport Morning Worship
11.15am Quendon Communion
3.30pm Newport Messy Church

Car Parking at Quendon & Rickling Village Hall

We are very grateful to those who have made contributions during 2025 regarding parking at the Village Hall. This has certainly helped us with the Hall's ongoing costs. For 2026 we would ask the same for those wishing to park and suggest the following contributions :-

On a regular basis - £100 per annum.

To obtain a permit please contact Brandon Chapman on 07909 686627 or email pebbles4@bopenworld.com.

To park occasionally or on a temporary basis:- we ask that you make 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.

Please contact Brandon Chapman if you have any queries concerning the above or would like to discuss your individual parking arrangements.

An important point to note is that the Trustees can take no responsibility for any vehicle parked within the car park under any circumstances.

Once again we thank everyone in advance for their understanding and co-operation.

Q&R Village Hall Trustees January 2026

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 https://www.essex.police.uk/ and click on the appropriate button ("Chat" feature is bottom right of screen). Alternatively phone 101 but online contact is preferred.	
Fraud and other cyber crime Report Fraud replaces the previous Action Fraud service and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, offering a more streamlined service where the public can tell the police about cyber crime and fraud as well as providing a Report Fraud Victim Service which offers dedicated, and specialist help to victims. You can report suspicious e-mails, text messages and telephone calls, fake web-sites and even fake advertisements . Report Fraud is at https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/	0300 123 2040
CRIMESTOPPERS To give information anonymously phone or report it online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org	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

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: **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

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: **02072 191943**

Wake up to award-winning flavour

Join us for a beautifully prepared breakfast at our 1 AA Rosette gastro pub with rooms, where fresh, seasonal ingredients and relaxed country charm make every morning special



Walk-ins welcome
01799 619260
info@thecricketersarmspub.co.uk

serving breakfast daily
Bam-flam
Delicately available

The Cricketers Arms, Stoking Green, SEH 390

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulationsto the latest winners

December 2025

1st Prize	S Phillips	£28
2nd Prize	C Osbourn	£18
3rd Prize	C Foulser	£8

January 2026

1st Prize	R Heggie	£28
2nd Prize	A Merritt	£18
3rd Prize	R Hackwell	£8

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.

From the Parish Council Chair

Dear villagers,

For a number of years, the village has been aware of the possibility that Pegasi (the property development and management company) would apply for planning permission to build in excess of a hundred ‘not for sale rental dwellings’ on the Belcham’s Lane football field. The village has seen several iterations of their plans which could be considered out of character and out of scale within a rural village

environment for several valid reasons. In December Pegasi announced in the Saffron Walden local paper the following:

'Proposed development at: Land at Belcham's Lane and Maces Farmyard, Rickling Green, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3YG

Take notice that an application is being made by: Pegasi Management Company Limited for and on behalf of Pegasi Limited.

For Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for: Phased development for 110 dwellings (Use Class C3), replacement football pitches, pavilion, parking, landscaping and children's play with access and highway improvements at London Road, together with the demolition and the erection of a new single storey building for flexible employment space (Use Class E), with associated parking and landscaping, and Listed Building Consent and change of use for the refurbishment of the Grade II listed barn for a local shop, cafe and/or commercial uses (Use Class E) at Maces Farmyard.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Uttlesford District Council

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.'

As no details of their application were published it was not clear what representations could be made, and the 21 days are now expired. However, the details will be available, with the application's reference number, when UDC have confirmed that Pegasi have supplied the required reports and documentation, after which the application will be validated for publication and open for comments. We will keep residents informed as soon as we have the planning reference for the UDC website.

Gari Spearpoint

District Councillors' Report

Waiting for everything ...

Unlike Samuel Beckett's play in which Godot never arrives, these government decisions will:

County Council elections

County Council elections scheduled for May 2025 were cancelled because of work needed for the imposed Local Government Reorganisation to disband Essex and district councils and create new unitary councils. The district councils had no say in that cancellation. But for May 2026 the government asked all councils in Essex and the majority, including UDC, requested that elections be held. However some have said No and ECC wrote to the government clearly wanting cancellation and supplying evidence, but were not brave enough to say so. The Minister, Steve Reed, wrote back to the ECC Leader requiring immediate clarification.

The government must decide quickly as there is considerable work (and cost) in running elections and everyone, council staff, polling station venues, candidates and

parties need to know.

If the elections go ahead the councillors will only be in place for 2 years, their council being abolished in 2028. And from 2027 key decisions will have switched to the shadow unitary authorities, for which there will be elections in May 2027, on different ward boundaries to the current county divisions, and which themselves have just been altered to increase the number of county councillors for Uttlesford from four to five. I hope that is all crystal clear....and that for a year we will have four sets of councillors, parish, district, county and shadow unitary.

Local Plan

The inspectors letter giving the go ahead for the Local Plan is expected shortly.

Unitary Councils

The decision on whether we have five, four or three new councils across Essex is now awaited following the end of the government's consultation. If it is five Uttlesford joins with Harlow and Epping. If it is three, we join with Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. All the options are on here <https://www.essexlgrhub.org/proposals>.

This decision is needed promptly because once the election period begins, see above, major decisions are not published and with an enormous amount of reorganisation work to do, any delay is unwelcome.

Council funding settlement

Although the government has sensibly switched from one year funding settlements to a three-year model, they continue to provide the figures much too late in the complex budgetary cycle. This means officers must guess what government will do because budgets must go through internal review and public consultation before they get final agreement via three council meetings.

The draft settlement has been subject to yet another government consultation. Broadly, funding is being moved from rural to urban areas. Deprivation indices are being used to inform this but the extra cost of the distances in rural areas has been removed from the formula. Fundamental services such as bin collecting, road maintenance, school transport, bus service subsidy, and social care are more expensive per head in rural areas than urban.

In response to the consultation, I stated that the extra distance cost of providing council services should be reinstated into the formula. In rural districts there can be extreme wealth adjacent to small areas of deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation Map covers in its neighbourhood analyses eg 'Uttlesford 003C' a large area and so may mask rural poverty pockets behind average wealth. In contrast the urban neighbourhood maps cover much smaller areas and will therefore be more sensitive to deprivation variances.

In the draft submission by the Rural Services Network there were statements that the urban focus is a political instruction, unstated, but to prioritise Labour areas. I wouldn't go that far. But the intended extra weight of funding per head to urban

compared with rural is surely wrong. Rural dwellers already have poorer services than urban ones.

Pegasi

Not a government decision but still awaited. Elsewhere in the Link is a statement from the parish council. The application details for 100+ houses for rent and conversion of the listed barn currently part of the Terrace and Garden business will take some time for the applicant to provide and be validated by UDC. Until the application is published on the UDC website there is nothing to be done.

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
01799 543487 or 07801 039550

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.

MP's Report

Dear Residents,

It is a privilege to serve as your MP for North West Essex, and an even greater responsibility to do so as the Leader of the Opposition. Whilst my role has changed, my focus and dedication to serving as your MP has not. Each week, I balance work in Westminster with time in the constituency. I raise issues at Prime Minister's Questions, challenge ministers on their decisions, and help shape the national debate.

I know that last year was a difficult one for many. Britain saw no growth, higher taxes, and record unemployment, with too many families worrying about their jobs and their futures. Here in North West Essex, I hear that anxiety regularly. From farmers facing the deeply unfair Family Farm Tax, to small businesses struggling under excessive business rates, many feel they are being squeezed from every direction.

It's speaking with residents here in Quendon and Rickling, and across North West Essex that allows me to see first-hand why these national issues matter, and how they impact communities like ours. I will continue to be a visible, active local MP using my national role to speak up for communities like ours.

Whilst I was pleased to see that the Government partially reversed their decision regarding the Family Farm Tax, for many this came too little too late. I will continue

to speak up for the hard-working farming businesses that are vital for our local economy and our nation's food security.

We're lucky in Essex to have so many wonderful independently run pubs, but the truth is many are at risk of closing shop permanently. Again, the Government's U-turn on their decision to increase business rates for pubs was a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go far enough. Village pubs are a hub for communities, which is why a future Conservative Government would scrap business rates for pubs and high street shops altogether.

As always, if you have any comments, issues, or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

07874-385541

u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Scrabble, book clubs, yoga and so much more.....

Don't we just hear those words "so much more" too often, finding little to justify raising such expectations! In the case of the u3a there is truth in that claim because there are another 37 groups apart from the three named above, not counting the talks and visits also on the menu for 2026. Have a quick read here about two recent group meetings, but be sure to look at the website <https://stansted.u3asite.uk/> for 10 minutes to see what is on offer. Alternatively, call 07847 385541 for more information.

At the last Saturday Seminar of 2025, a retired Art History teacher, Joanna Brooks, took her audience on a densely packed tour of Titian's life and achievements. Supported by detailed and specific visual examples of her points, Joanna demonstrated the achievement of the sixteenth century artist, Titian, in the innovative way he took up the new medium of canvas, just available in Venice. His art achieved greater emotional impact as his technique shifted from delicate brushstrokes to a looser style, even using his fingers directly to apply paint to the canvas, creating a variety of seminal masterpieces.

2026's Saturday Seminars promise yet more compelling content on 21st February when prominent British Historian Dr Helen Fry will give a talk on 'A Very Secret War: Bugging the Nazis in WWII'. It's sure to be a captivating presentation by a highly experienced author and broadcaster.

The Poetry for Pleasure group also ended 2025 on a high note. The last two sessions included fun and giggles over poems to do with Christmas food as well as plenty of Christmas food to go with it! Another session focused on reading the poems of Henry Normal a key writer of the famous 'Royle Family' series. He has a lovely sense of humour, is extremely clever with words, but also knows about life's difficulties. The group would heartily recommend this poet's works.

Julia Cook



Newport and District Flower Club

We ended our 2025 year with a wonderful Christmas demonstration by our much loved Barbara Collins. In addition to the ‘sparkle’ in Barbara’s displays, guests were welcomed with a glass of bubbling Prosecco and some delicious savoury nibbles. Our sales table offered many festive items to buy to help us with our own Christmas arrangements and at the end of the evening, Barbara’s beautiful floral creations were raffled. Club members also



Topiary Arrangements

contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival held in Elsenham Church with three fantastic topiary



Some of Barbara Collins arrangements

arrangements, not your usual ‘tree’ but they were much admired! We begin our 2026 year on 18th February by welcoming back the very talented Gill McGregor to demonstrate for us. Gill demonstrates nationally, teaches and is the author of many floral related books so please come and join us for what will

be a fabulous evening. You can also keep up to date with club activities via our Facebook page, ‘Ugley Bunch Flower Club’.

7pm for 7.30pm start – third Wednesday of the month

Ugley Village Hall Cambridge Road CM22 6HR

Sandra Honour [Email: theugleybunch@outlook.com](mailto:theugleybunch@outlook.com)

Quendon Bowling Club News

Bowling

The unseasonally wet few weeks of weather have meant that, although the green is still receiving a lot of TLC, we are behind with some tasks as the ground is still too soft to take the weight of some of the machines. It needs to harden up before we can continue spiking and scarifying. Our Thursday afternoon team playing indoors at Turpin’s in Saffron Walden continue to improve and recently took all 6 points in a close defeat of Bishops Stortford. For something a little more light-hearted on a Wednesday afternoon from 2-4pm, in the clubhouse, we play short mat carpet bowls, a fun game played on a mat appx. 10m x 2m with a wooden obstacle in the middle to negotiate before you get to the jack. £2 per person including tea and biscuits and a warm place to socialise. If you are interested in joining us for this contact John 07724 071959.

We are a very friendly welcoming and social club with members of varying abilities;

come and meet us and see what we offer.

Social Members / Evenings

Following our successful Race Night that we held in November we continued with our usual Friday evening meetings and on 20th December we had our Christmas Party night. A night of silly games, a short three round quiz, mulled wine, a bring and share buffet and good cheer all round with selection box prizes. On 17th



January we re-visited our refreshed Pub Olympics featuring pub skills past and present. Although our numbers were reduced by both winter sun holidays and illness a great team of pubathletes competed in a

pentathlon of bagatelle, table top curling, sling puck hockey, skittles and the "drop" game. Along with the Pentathlon there was a dart and a pool knockout competition to enter. Congratulations to David Solomon on winning the Pentathlon Gold. Our February Saturday event will be on 21st February and will be a

Beetle Drive, a frantic game involving dice and building a beetle. Details of our events are posted on the Parish Notice boards and various WhatsApp pages or call Ray Hart (number below). Why not follow us on Facebook? You can visit our social club 3 times as guests before having to sign as a social member, the cost of which is very reasonable £30.00, and we are pleased that we have had several social members join us since November.



Remember you don't need to bowl to be a social member and our reasonable bar prices will get you 2 large wines, and 2 gin and tonics and a diet coke for less the £15. Come and join in the fun. We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month and with an event on the Saturday in between.

Looking for a venue?

Our Clubhouse is also available for hire by the hour, half day and full day at very reasonable rates and has recently been used several times by local people, and we have 2 bookings going forward. If you need a venue for your club, meeting, party celebration please contact Ray Hart on 07973 632923 by either text or WhatsApp for further details.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Gardens

One of the pleasures of taking a stroll round any of the towns and villages within the Hundred Parishes is enjoying the variety of gardens which enhance

the settings of homes. They are thriving testaments to those within these communities

whose horticultural skills add to the local sense of pride.



Last October the RHS published its State of Gardening Report which highlighted the many reasons why gardens are so important. Within the UK they cover almost a million hectares,



Starlings

more than three times the area of National Nature Reserves. Many local gardens include a variety of trees as well as an increasing range of flowering plants, some from other parts of the world so that the flowering season is extended. This provides not just winter and spring colour but also pollen and nectar for any pollinating insects that are active at that time. Well-vegetated gardens are havens for other forms of wildlife too including hedgehogs and many common birds, especially if supplementary food and nesting sites are provided.

Last spring the Essex Wildlife Trust asked residents to complete records of house sparrows visiting their gardens as these once common birds are now in serious decline. The reasons for the decline of urban populations include the reduction of invertebrate food such as caterpillars, which are essential for rearing nestlings, and a shortage of suitable nesting sites in modern houses. 501 gardens were surveyed and the information gathered suggested that older properties were more likely to provide nesting sites for these birds who also favoured gardens with a pond. By growing a wide variety of flowering plants and installing clusters of nest boxes in your garden you may be able to provide a suitable habitat for encouraging house sparrows to thrive. For information about the project see <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/house-sparrow-project>

Tricia Moxey, Trustee.



Badynghams Great Waltham

Chimneys

The walk descriptions that can be downloaded from The Hundred Parishes website refer to many interesting buildings along each route. Some of the larger and more ancient homes are described as hall houses, having been constructed as a communal hall with one or two wings at the side. The hall would have been



**Tudor House
Newport**

heated by a log fire in the centre of the room, its smoke drifting upwards through vents in the roof.



Cable Cottage Puckeridge

The hall house design fell out of favour, mainly during the period 1550 to 1650 AD, when it became fashionable to instal a fireplace against a wall, complete with a flue or chimney which took away the smoke and also provided an upward draft to encourage the fire to burn.

Where the flue or chimney breached the roofline, it often continued upwards as a chimney pot. In grander houses, these became fashionable accessories and a good number survive today.

During the 19th century, more and more houses had fires and now they tended to be fuelled by coal.

Chimneys became narrower and their pots were less ornate. Fireplaces would be installed in multiple rooms, so houses might have several chimneys.

From mid-20th century, open fires were largely replaced by various forms of central heating and chimney pots are not usually required on new houses. Older pots are sometimes removed before they need maintenance.



Stansted Hall

You are encouraged to look up at our surviving chimney pots, especially those from long ago. Wonderful local examples include: Badyngghams at Great Waltham; Tudor House in Newport; Cable Cottage in Puckeridge; Brook House at North End, Felsted and Stansted Hall in Stansted Mountfitchet. Not so easy to find, but on various walk routes: Moyns Park in Steeple Bumpstead, Broadoaks in Wimbish, and Dynes Cottage in Finchingfied. Happy spotting!

Ken McDonald, Secretary



**Moyns Park
Steeple Bumpstead**



Broadoaks Wimbish



**Dynes Cottage
Finchingfield**

Maces Farms Update

2025 Weather Statistics

- Total rainfall: 449mm
- 55% drier than 2024
- 29% drier than the long-term average
- Hottest day: 1st July: 33°C
- Coldest day: 12th January: -7°C
- Windiest day: 1st January: 53mph (SSE)
- Sunshine: Highest number of sunshine hours for over 10 years

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year. It was a quiet time on the farm, which is always welcome after such a busy year. We ended 2025 in a very positive position, with all crops going into winter in good condition – something we haven't been able to say for several years.

Like all farmers, we live in hope of the “perfect” growing season, where weather and conditions allow us to achieve our full yield potential. Grain markets remain flat and uninspiring, so profitability relies heavily on yield rather than price. Global supply is currently



strong, and UK prices tend only to rise when crops struggle elsewhere in the world. That's a difficult reality, as it means price rises often come from others' misfortune. Wherever we farm, the principles are the same, and it's important we support one another rather than wish hardship on fellow farmers.



Since Ollie joined the team, it's been great to see real progress with winter jobs that often get pushed back.

Farming has a habit of feeling like you're always trying to catch up, but never quite getting there. Alongside maintaining a steady flow of wheat to Weetabix and beans to Tilbury Docks, the team has been preparing ditches for our annual ditch-clearing programme. In dry years it's easy to forget where the wet spots are, but experience tells us they will return when conditions change. With miles of ditches to maintain, it's very much a never-ending job – once you finish, it's time to start again.

As temperatures begin to rise, we'll soon start spring



farming operations. This will include applying nitrogen to crops, and, if conditions allow, preparing land for spring drilling.

We also have a team planting new hedges across the farm, supported by a DEFRA grant. My aim is to reinstate existing hedges and add new ones wherever it's practical. This will greatly increase habitat diversity, create vital wildlife corridors, and encourage beneficial insects. In time, this should also help reduce our reliance on crop protection products.

Mark Gemmill Farm Manager

Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk

How to report cyber crime and fraud



A new service has been launched by City of London Police, aiming to better tackle cyber crime and fraud.

Report Fraud replaces the previous Action Fraud service that has been in place since 2009 and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, offering a more streamlined service where the public can tell the police about cyber crime and fraud as well as providing a Report Fraud Victim Service which offers dedicated, and specialist help to victims.

The Report Fraud Analysis Services team are responsible for the assessment of reports made and to ensure that your fraud reports reach the right place.

The City of London Police is the national policing lead for economic crime and works in partnership with policing and other law enforcement agencies.

Are you at risk of fraud?

According to the 2023 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 1 in 17 adults in England & Wales were victims of fraud. Anybody can be at risk of fraud, no matter your background, age or race. Fraudsters use manipulative tactics to exploit us and lower our defences, so nobody is immune to fraudulent behaviour.

Report Fraud help protect yourselves and others from fraud

Report Fraud are here to make you aware of the tactics and risks to help protect everyone within the cyberspace. Criminals operate everywhere online, including websites, apps, emails, text and phone, so it is essential to learn and understand what you can do to prevent the risks of fraud for yourself and to make others aware.

For more information and guidance on what you can do to stay safe online, please refer to our Individual Protection Guide.

Businesses are also at high risk of fraudulent activity. For tips on keeping your business away from harm, see our Business Protection Guide.

Report fraud & cyber crime to Report Fraud

You can report cyber crime or fraud using our online reporting service any time of the

day or night; the service enables you to both report a fraud and find help and support. We also provide help and advice over the phone through the Report Fraud contact centre. You can talk to our cyber crime and fraud specialists by calling 0300 123 2040. When you report to us you will receive a police crime reference number. Reports taken are passed to Report Fraud Analysis Services. Report Fraud does not investigate the cases and cannot advise you on the progress of a case.

Report Fraud help victims of fraud

If you have been exposed to fraudulent activity, our Victim Support team are on hand to provide the guidance and support needed to move forward. This is a completely free and confidential service available to everyone in England & Wales who are victims of fraud.

Call their support line on 0808 1689 111 or request support online today if you need help and support.

Who reports fraud to Report Fraud

Frauds committed in the UK will be reported to Report Fraud; from Individuals up to larger corporations and financial Institutions.

Individuals

Fraud is a crime that can happen to anyone. There are many types of fraud from complex scams that are carried out over long periods of time, for example, dating fraud, mortgage fraud and investment fraud.

Often when someone is a victim of a fraud they are not certain if a crime has been committed or how to report what has happened to them. Many frauds go unreported by victims because of personal embarrassment. It is likely that if a fraud has been committed against you someone else may have suffered a similar crime. The more individuals report, the more likely it is that fraudsters will be arrested, charged and convicted.

People who report to Report Fraud represent a wide cross-section of the UK. They vary in age from young adults to the elderly. As frauds can be committed online, face to face, over the telephone or via the post, most people will have experienced fraud or know someone who has been a victim.

Large Corporations

Corporations can be targeted by fraudsters online through hacking, account compromise or online extortion. Employee fraud may also be an issue in terms of abuse of expense policies and corporate credit card accounts. More serious crimes are money laundering and embezzlement.

Frauds against large corporations can result in attempted extortion, financial losses and can threaten the long-term viability of the business. Compliance, finance and ICT managers are most likely to recognise the first signs of fraudulent activities within their business.

Charities

The Charity Commission and Report Fraud both work to prevent fraudsters from

appropriating funds under the guise of charitable donations.

Charity scams can be simple: someone who poses as a street fundraiser for an existing charity and asking for donations from passers-by or pretending to participate in a challenge on behalf of a charity and collecting sponsorship. More complex fraud can take the form of a fraudster creating an entirely bogus charity and pocketing proceeds from fundraising.

As the regulator for all charities in England and Wales, the Charity Commission holds information on all current charities as well as those that have been struck off for not complying with the regulations required for operating a registered charity.

Police

Reports are passed to the Crime Analysis team who assess, analyse and send them to police forces for investigation.

Partnership working provides the opportunity for law enforcement and Report Fraud to share fraud and cyber crime alerts to raise awareness to prevent the public and businesses from falling victim.



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

The Decline and Fall

The problems and decline of the public house have been in the news quite a lot lately. This cornerstone of village, town and city community life has been slowly disappearing over the past 40 years, and now the campaign to save the great British boozer is gaining pace. Come and learn a little about the history of these fine establishments and see the names of the pubs that have since passed into history in the district of Uttlesford.



Object of the Month

The Great Easton Lodge Loss

The fire of 1847 at Great Easton Lodge destroyed some of the most remarkable Roman artefacts ever discovered locally. They originated from lavish burials under mounds of Romano-British aristocrats at Bartlow Hills, on the Essex/Cambridgeshire border. There were 7 barrows originally, including a 15m high one, believed to be the tallest Roman barrow in western Europe.

Early investigations of one of the barrows appear to have been proposed by Sir Busick Harwood (1750-1814), a Cambridge physician. Excavations of the barrows were done between 1832-1840, by John Gage (Rokewood) for the landowner Henry, Viscount Maynard of Easton Lodge near Dunmow.

Fortunately, the finds from the excavations had been illustrated and published, so we can see the luxury goods which accompanied the dead. Saffron Walden Museum holds the original illustrations, as well as large watercolour copies, produced by the museum's first professional curator, George Nathan Maynard (not related to Viscount Maynard). The finds included a bronze sphinx-handled flagon (replicas were produced and can be seen at the British Museum and Alnwick Castle), a bronze enamelled "miniature cauldron," an iron folding chair, strigils, a glass urn and pottery vessels.

The Bartlow Hills site is a scheduled monument and can be accessed via public footpaths from the Bartlow-Ashdon road and Bartlow parish church.



As 2025 came to a close, APOPO's mine action teams in Angola carried out final controlled detonations in Cuanza Sul province, safely destroying 716 explosive items. These items had been found and removed over the course of the year through a mix of planned clearance work, survey activities, and responses to explosive hazards discovered outside formal clearance areas.

Throughout 2025, teams worked closely with Angola's National Mine Action Agency to address landmines and other explosive remnants of war wherever they were identified. Some items were located during scheduled clearance tasks, while others came to light through survey work. This combination of systematic clearance and targeted response is essential in environments where explosive hazards can still emerge unexpectedly.

Once explosive items were destroyed and safety checks were completed, land could be released where appropriate and returned to communities for everyday use, including farming, housing, and local development.

In Cambodia, APOPO accredited 20 mine detection rats under the country's national mine action system for use in clearance operations. The rats arrived in Cambodia from APOPO's training center in Tanzania in November, before beginning the final stage of national accreditation the following month. These rats can now be deployed to survey suspected hazardous areas, helping clearance teams work more efficiently and supporting Cambodia's ongoing efforts to address remaining landmine contamination and return land safely to communities.

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.

The Link is delivered free of charge to every household in the villages of Quendon and Rickling and is available online at: <https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk>

All correspondence for *The Link* should be addressed to the editor, Sandra Arnold, by e-mail: thelink@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.

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	
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
U3A Choir	2nd/4th Wednesdays	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Pilates	Tuesdays	19.00-20.00	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Pilates	Thursdays	09.30-10.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Pilates	Thursdays	18.30-20.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465

What's On (cont.)

Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	pm	Quendon Bowls Club	John Pampling 07724071959
Social Evening	2nd & 4th Fridays	19.00-23.00	Quendon Bowling Club	
Communion	8th February	11.15	Quendon Church	
Pancakes and Quiz	17th February	18.30-20.00	Church House Newport	
Service of Ashing	18th February	19.30	Newport Church	
Communion	22nd February	11.15	Quendon 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.



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
Sue Joannou	07805 037586	Rickling Green
Jacolin Lampon	07710 281382	Southern End - Cambridge Road

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

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

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