

The Link



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The Link

Quendon & Rickling Parish NEWS and Church

September 2026

In this issue

2 Church Contacts	10 From the Editor	18 What's On
2 Vicar's Letter	11 U3A	19 Publication Details
3 Church Services	11 Flower Club	19 Emergency Life-saving
3 100 Club	12 Quendon Bowling Club	
5 Useful Contacts	13 Maces Farm	
6 District Council	15 S.W. Museum	
6 Parish Council	17 Information	
9 Hundred Parishes	Commissioner	



Priest in Charge of the parish of Quendon and Rickling,

The Rev'd. Peter Allen, The Vicarage, 5, Meadowford, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3QL
Telephone: L: 01799 732059; M: 07878176551 Working days Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday

Curate: The Revd Gavin Sunshine Mobile: 07379299845

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.

As I begin to type on my keyboard the letter for September, we remain in this part of the world locked into an extremely dry season of weather which is affecting everything arounds us as well as ourselves. Not wishing to get into the climate change debate or the competence of the water companies, this period highlights the delicate balance that exists in our climate and the potential for any change in it to have far reaching and long-lasting consequences, something that those who work on the land know better than most. I recognise that by the time you are reading this letter we may have been deluged by heavy rain and bemoaning flooding. Yet, the effects of a period without rain that we have experienced will not be instantly eradicated even if that is the case and there will be a time to come when in our shops the availability, size, price, and perhaps quality of certain food items will be affected. In the meantime, those of us who enjoy our gardens or vegetable patches may be tending muted floral displays and vegetables for some time too.

On the whole living in these islands, we have been blessed with a green and pleasant land and provided with a perennial topic of conversation in the form of our weather which acts as a-go to opener in many a conversation with stranger and friend alike.

Our local Harvest celebration service will be Sunday October 11.15am at Quendon church, and perhaps this year our sense of God's good provision and our response of thanksgiving might be heightened because of our recent experience? In some places, and even perhaps in our own lives, the inexorable march of technology and the latest wonder it brings to us via our phones, iPad, and laptops can limit our vision as we do so many things in our life through this medium. These include how we shop, communicate, get a weather forecast, look for love, plan home decorations, entertain ourselves, manage our finances, and more. All this can create a bubble around us that mutes in us the notion of the grace and bounty of God for the very fundamentals of what gives us and sustains life on this planet, our only home.

I said I didn't want to get into the climate change debate, but it does seem clear that as humankind we have exploited and abused our home to such an extent that its delicate balance has been and continues to be tipped more and more from the kind of life that we known, threatening its stability and that can no longer be ignored.

It's interesting that in the opening chapters of the Bible, the Genesis story that God bestows a harmonious creation, or home, and a duty of care to look after this

wonderful gift we have been given. It’s worth noting that the word ‘subdue’ in its original meaning describes an act of bringing something under control rather than lord it over, as the word might have come to mean in our minds today.

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

The creator God of the Bible is the kind of God that invites and encourages us, his offspring, to share with him in managing all that he has given to humankind as our environment in which to live and be. This says a lot about the desire of God to attribute to us dignity, trust, and opportunity as we work in relationship with him in such a glorious and wonderful creation.

I hope that this Harvest we may be able to renew our thanksgiving to God for his provision of all we need for life, recognise the dignity and shared responsibility that is given to humans by being able to have a relationship with Him, and commit to playing our part in seeking to ensure God’s original plan can survive and be a motivator for us in our own lives.

Every best wish, Rev Pete

Church Services in the Benefice

Sunday 6th September

Newport: Café Church, breakfast being served from 9am, service start 9.30am

11.15am Widdington: Communion

Sunday 13th September

9.30am Newport: Pet service

11.15am Quendon: Communion

Sunday 20th September

9.30am Newport: Communion includes Kids Club

11.15am Widdington: Communion

Sunday 27th September

9.30am Newport: Morning Worship

11.15am Rickling: Morning Worship with Baptism

3.30 pm Newport: Messy Church with Baptisms

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the latest winners

August 2026

1st Prize	A Merritt	£26
2nd Prize	C Osbourn	£15
3rd Prize	M Tissot	£ 5

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.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWPORT

Alpha

Curious **about faith?**

Explore life.

Faith.

Meaning.

Alpha

You're invited.



A chance
to explore the
Christian faith
in a friendly,
open and
honest space.

STARTS

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

EVERY TUESDAY FOR 11 WEEKS

7.00 – 9.00 PM

**CHURCH HOUSE,
NEWPORT**

Each evening includes:



A cooked meal



A short talk & video



Good conversation

*Come when you can.
All welcome.*



LET US KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME ALONG

Scan the QR code
or email church.jo@yahoo.com



alpha.org | [#TryAlpha](https://twitter.com/TryAlpha) | www.stmarynewport.org.uk



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 ("Chas" 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: cllremmanuel@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**

From the Parish Council Chair

As I write, the mercury has dropped to a chilly +23c which under 'normal circumstances' would be a perfect English summer's day!

The recent weather has taken its toll on many things; melting tarmac on Green Road adjacent to the current gas work road closure and the sad sight of the village green turning from emerald green to straw gold! That said, in spite of the very dry and testing conditions, the local cricket team were making a good fist of their performance a week or so ago. Whilst watching the match, it was great to see the pavilion set up to provide traditional tea for the players and meeting some new residents of the village.

Speaking of the road closures around the village, a rogue lorry driver 'missed' the signs and had to reverse up the pathway to the pub, taking out two of the recently restored posts. I had mentioned this on the village WhatsApp page but so far no door camera or CCTV evidence of the guilty party. I am aware that many of you reading the Link do not use WhatsApp or other Social Media but if you were interested in doing so, please let us know.

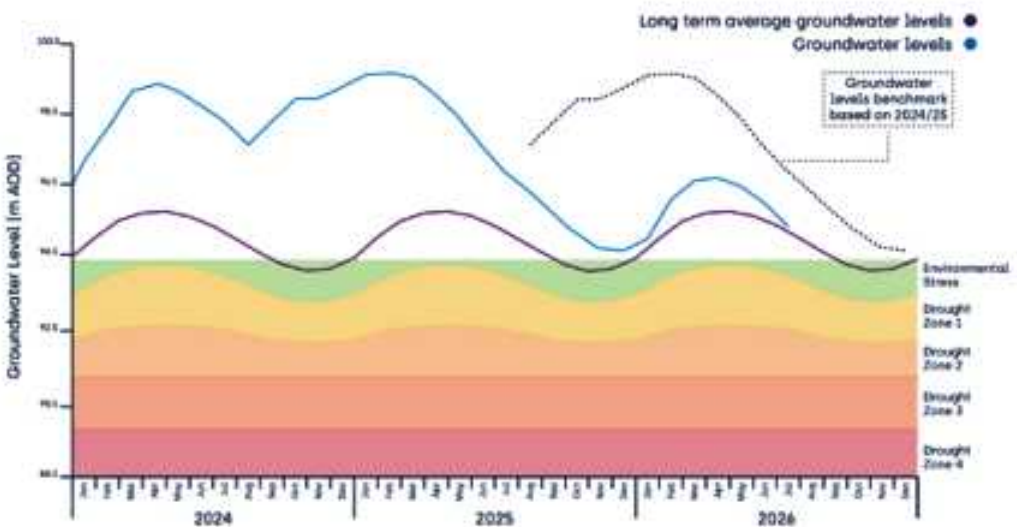
We have become aware that the company who submitted plans to develop 110 rental properties on the Belcham's lane site have submitted over 50 documents relating to issues with their original application. We will continue to monitor the process and review UDC's planning committee agenda for when the decision will be discussed. Any updates will be posted on social media and the Link.

All for now.

Gari Spearpoint

District Councillors' Report

Aquifer Levels and Local Plan Policy



The Affinity Water website shows that in 2024 and 2025 the aquifers which supply most of our water were well filled. But in the Autumn of last year and through to January when levels would be expected to rise, they fell. The reason some of our streams are just about still running is therefore because of good rains up to two years ago. The photo with the dog paddling is the Cam in Newport 29th July this year. The dry one is 13th July 2020 further downstream below the confluence of the Cam, Debden Water and Wicken Water all of which were dry.



Affinity say: ‘Groundwater levels are just above average and have declined through July, more steeply than the Long Term Average (LTA). Although above average, levels are lower than at this time in 2025. Levels are forecast to drop below LTA in August and remain below LTA for the next seven months with less than 120% LTA rainfall scenario month on month. Under 100% rainfall scenario or drier, levels are forecast to drop into Environmental Stress in early Autumn and remain there for at least the rest of the calendar year.’

I think the 2020 picture is what ‘Environmental Stress’ means and that even with rain, unless heavy, the streams will dry out.

Local Plan Core Policy 34: Water Supply and Protection of Water Resources

This includes ‘Development must not lead to a reduction in groundwater levels or reduced flows in any watercourses including the chalk streams.’ and ‘All new residential development should achieve at least a water efficiency standard of 90 litres per person per day.’ Use therefore of about 200 litres per house per day x 365 days = 73,000 litres. That is 73 tonnes of water per year per house even at high water efficiency. It is implausible that development will not reduce groundwater levels or flows in watercourses. However on the applications I am familiar with since the Plan

came into force this policy is being ignored.

Affinity Water's plan is that by 2033 it will be using the Grand Union Canal to bring water here from Atherstone which is just the far side of Birmingham. Alongside Severn Trent and the Rivers and Canals Trust the company is 'developing the Grand Union Canal Transfer scheme to move up to 115 million litres of recycled water daily over 163km from the Midlands to the Southeast, targeting full operation by 2033 to combat regional water shortages. ' A flow of 115,000 tonnes a day on a canal only a few feet deep sounds an awful lot, but as moving water around is what they do, no doubt the plan has been fully considered.

Unauthorised airport parking site near Stansted.

This has been much in the media. The land is owned by the people running the parking. The planning system is hugely weighted in favour of wrong doers, who will be able to string this out for years, with likely all actions to bring compliance with planning rules done at cost to council tax-payers. UDCs enforcement to close the site was taken to appeal. The Planning Inspectorate, which sets strict deadlines for others but not itself, may take months to decide. If the appeal is dismissed the owner can raise a retrospective planning application, which must go through months of process. If that is refused they can appeal to the Inspectorate again, which will take as long as it likes to decide. After which the owners could make a different retrospective application. During all this time while any planning process is open councils have no power of enforcement.

What is needed is new legislation giving councils power to declare a breach of planning to be of a scale and severity requiring immediate restoration to original condition regardless of retrospective applications and appeals. It would stop all such schemes. As of course would people considering why the parking is cheap and checking out reports of damage to vehicles.

Councillor Surgeries

These are in Dorringtons every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30.

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.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

We always encourage people to visit parish churches; they are usually the oldest building in any community and their interiors have great variety. Here, I will discuss one particular feature – the screen which forms a partition, both physically and symbolically, between the laity or congregation in the nave, the main part of the church, and the clergy in the chancel.



Finchingfield

The screen, sometimes referred to as a chancel screen, often has a lattice design to allow people worshipping in the nave to see through into the chancel. Chancel comes from a Latin word meaning lattice.

Several of our churches have finely-carved 15th-century wooden screens including Albury, Finchingfield, Henham, Manuden and Wendens Ambo.

Some screens are called rood screens. Above these screens is a “rood” - a representation of Christ’s crucifixion, usually flanked by two saints, most often Mary and St John. Rood is a Saxon word meaning cross.



Henham

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of rood screens. They are usually carved in wood but in Stebbing and Great Bardfield parish churches (both dedicated to St. Mary) the 14th-century screens are carved in stone. This is a really rare feature.

Little Canfield’s wooden rood screen is believed to date from the 14th-century.

A carved 15th-century wooden screen can be found in Sawbridgeworth’s Church of Great St Mary with a depiction above it of the risen Christ installed as recently as 2000 AD.

The Church of Holy Trinity at Takeley has a relatively modern rood screen, installed around 1910 and featuring a wooden carving of Christ on the cross with a saint on each side.



Albury



Stebbing Stone Rood



Great Bardfield

I have named just some examples around The Hundred Parishes. Please explore our local churches, perhaps while following one of the walk descriptions that can be downloaded from

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Little Canfield

Ken McDonald, Secretary



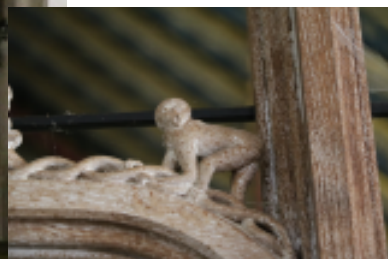
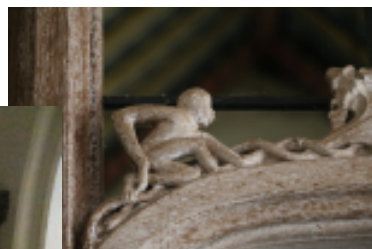
Sawbridgeworth



Takeley

From the Editor

Some detail from the screen in Quendon Church.



Stansted Mountfitchet U3A**Pearls and other gems**

What do Henry VIII and Audrey Hepburn have in common? Well pearls of course! Picture the famous portrait/photograph of each and there are the pearls, emphasising their renown. On a hot July afternoon a large audience turned out, some with makeshift fans, to hear James Middleton's presentation on Pearls. In his wide-ranging talk he charted the biology and history of pearls, the retrieval of pearls from freshwater and oceans, the amazing breath-holding physical feats of pearl divers over the centuries as well as the astonishing amounts people have paid for such gems over time. An unforgettable example being the thousands Richard Burton paid to gift the famous La Peregrina pearl to Elizabeth Taylor in 1969!

Another talk not to be missed on 17th September is that by Andy Strange on the role of the RAF and Special Operations Executive in supporting the Resistance during World War Two, a subject that promises to be enlightening and affecting like many of the stories that come out of that War.

Do you ever get irritated or overwhelmed by the expectations of IT? A silly question for me that is for sure! The u3a does run a gem of a class that might be just the way to help you over some of those IT bumps. The class is held once a month and part of its approach is to demonstrate the usefulness of many of the facets of our digital world. So far, some of the topics covered include the digital letterbox of emails, the helpful librarian of AI and shopping and banking online. Check the website and go to 'groups' to find further information.

Remember membership of the u3a costs only £14 for a year and that gives you so many possibilities for further learning and lots of fun. Check the website www.stansted.u3asite.uk or call 07874 385541.

Julia Cook

**Newport and District Flower Club**

The sun is still shining and our gardens are scorching. Trees and plants are suffering now despite our efforts to try and water as best we can with hosepipe bans in force. Some of you may have been lucky enough to visit the RHS Sandringham Flower Show and it must have been a task keeping all the show gardens and displays looking good. As I write this article I am in Suffolk watching the plumes of smoke rise as Dunwich Heath burns. Despite all of this going on around us and in the wider world, the club enjoyed a wonderful July evening with demonstrator Debbie Bull and her title 'Forget me Not'. The hall was hot but Debbie still created some beautiful arrangements depicting many of her lifetime memories. As is usual at our meetings,

her displays were raffled and many of us went home with some lovely colour to brighten our homes. Debbie currently lives in Cambridgeshire but spent many years living in the local area so it was a pleasure to welcome her back. Our next meeting is in the evening of Wednesday 16th September with Lorraine Gagen and her title 'Into the Wardrobe'. Please come and join us for an evening of flowers, friendship and fun. You will be made very welcome.



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

Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR

Sandra Honour – Programme Secretary

Email: ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com Facebook : Ugley Bunch Flower Club

Quendon Bowling Club News

Bowling

Well, still no rain!!! As of writing this (18th August) we have had no rain of any consequence for over a month and the green has suffered, we are now bowling on only 4 of our 6 rinks and have switched direction of play to save what is left of the end areas that get the most punishment when playing. Although watering continues it is only to save what we have, most of the green is now straw colour and it is watered in the hope that we can save the root system so that it can be revived for next season.

The season is nearing its close, by the time you receive this we will only have one match left to play which will be a seniors match against Epping. We are hoping to finish in the top half of the table and will be hosting the League AGM and Gala on the 10th September.

The N W Essex league is still proving more difficult and we remain in the lower third of the league; we have played all our games but our final position is yet to be confirmed as some other clubs have to catch up on games that were re scheduled due to the World Cup and also extreme heat.

We are continuing to hold our position in the Steeple Bumpseed League and are as of writing are second in the league but only a few points behind the leaders with a game in hand and only two to play.

Our Gala Day was again a great success with 72 bowlers competing for the Richard Walters Cup and a cash prize. There was fierce competition with Clavering winning the Final against Epping (last year's winners). It is an important day in our club calendar as it raises much needed funds for our small club, our last month's water bill was nearly £400. Although we do apply for a retrospective rebate it is a big hit.

As the summer season ends, we will again enter a team in the Thursday afternoon

winter indoor league at Turpin's facility in Saffron Walden, behind the Lord Butler Centre. We will also soon restart our Wednesday afternoon carpet bowls in the clubhouse. This is a game played, not surprisingly, on a long mat laid out in the clubhouse and is played with small bowls about the size of an orange, a very friendly and lighthearted afternoon with tea, biscuits and sometimes cake. If you are interested in either of the above, please contact me (details below)

Social Members / Evenings

We have a strong social side with various events throughout the year. As we have home games some Fridays you can watch the match as well as enjoying a drink in our grounds. We are usually open on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, and our "specials" are advertised on the Parish notice boards and various WhatsApp pages and Facebook or call Ray Hart (number below). Coming up we will be having another Quiz night and our "Family fortunes" take off evening. Look out for the posters.

Our bar prices are very competitive and apart from various board games we also offer a pool table and darts board and of course good friendly company for those dark evenings that are coming.

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 a year. You do not need to bowl to become a social member.

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.

Maces Farms Update

Well, what a strange season it has been on the farm so far.

The southern half of the UK has experienced some of the poorest arable yields in modern farming history, with comparisons being made to the drought year of 1976, and Maces Farms has certainly been no exception.



The main reason has, of course, been the drought, combined with the five or six heatwaves we have experienced. Overall, our yields were around 15% below budget. To put that into perspective, we had an entire 1,000-tonne grain store that we didn't need to use this harvest. In an average year, we usually have the opposite problem and can't quite squeeze everything into the stores!



After a near-perfect start to the 2026 season, we had sold 1,000 tonnes of wheat earlier in the year to make room for what we hoped would be a half-decent harvest. Unfortunately, that harvest never quite came to fruition.

Although harvest was finished by the end of July, August still brought plenty of activity as we started preparing for the autumn planting programme.

The farm took delivery of a new Horsch Terrano cultivator, which was put to work straight away. Conditions were

extremely dry, but because there was so little moisture in the surface, the machine broke the soil up very well and left a lovely crumbly finish.

We will now wait for some rain to help break the soil down further and encourage weeds and volunteer plants to chit before the next stage. The dry conditions have also given us a good opportunity to leave some blocks uncultivated, using low-disturbance subsoiling and a rake instead. This reduces the cost of establishing the next crop and the thinking behind it is simple: if the soil biology is healthy and the soil structure is good, sometimes less really is more.

Grain movements during August have been a mixture of wheat heading to Weetabix in



Kettering, while 1,000 tonnes of new-crop wheat made the much longer journey to a mill in Wrexham. It's not often our grain travels halfway across the country, but on this occasion it did!

The one real winner from the 2026 harvest was oilseed rape. It yielded above budget, and we have also managed to achieve a better price for it than we had expected.

Uncertainty over world oil supplies, partly due to the conflict involving Iran, has helped push local oilseed markets



upwards. Grain prices have also strengthened with the continuing unrest in Ukraine, which is such an important exporter of grain. Much of Europe has experienced even hotter weather than we have, reducing food production there too and adding further support to markets. Higher prices are at least a small mercy in a year when our yields have been so disappointing.

Looking ahead, the forecast is finally showing some signs of rain, and we certainly need it. Oilseed rape is the first crop we need to get planted, and this time last year it was already a foot high.

It's not too late yet – but we're certainly starting to get close! Cereal planting will not start until end of the month or start of October. As they say let's hope next year's crop is a better one.

Mark Gemmill

Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk



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

Our next exhibition, Languages of Faith, will explore how people across cultures have used objects, words, and art to express belief, seek meaning, and make sense of the universe. From the personal to the powerful, the exhibition looks at faith not as a single answer, but as a shared human attempt to understand our place in the world.

Through Bibles, Hebrew scrolls, Quranic boards, canoes, icons, hats, and other objects from across the collection, the exhibition asks how belief is passed on, spoken,

written, heard, embodied, and imagined. Organised around four themes
— The Written Word, Words of Power, The Unwritten Word, and the Heard Word
— it reveals the many ways people have used language, ritual, and creativity to connect with worlds seen and unseen.

Bringing together remarkable objects from around the world and across our collections, Languages of Faith offers a thought- provoking journey through belief, imagination, and human curiosity — and may just leave you seeing the world a little differently.

Object of the Month

venus' flower basket.

Euplectella aspergillum



The Venus' flower basket is a species of glass sponge found in the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean, usually at depths below 500 m. They build their skeletons out of silica, the same material which glass is made from.

In 2012 Sir David Attenborough chose the 10 species he would save from extinction in his "Attenborough's Ark". One of the species was the Venus flower basket because it represents one of the natural world's greatest marvels of structural engineering and evolutionary ingenuity.

The sponge builds its delicate, lattice-like skeletal tube out of silica extracted from seawater without needing a red-hot furnace. Its geometric, cross-hatched design is so strong and functional it has actually inspired human engineering, such as the architectural design of Norman Foster's "Gherkin" skyscraper in London.

From the Information Commissioner's Office

New research reveals growing gap between parental confidence and children's digital reality

Over a third of children talk or play online with people they have never met.

91% of parents use monitoring tools — but 41% of children have tried to get around them.

Our action boosts online protections for children, strategy update shows.

Our new research reveals a significant gap between how much control parents believe they have over their children's online experiences and the reality of their children's digital lives.

Three new studies, published today (August 19th 2026), paint a picture of children living deeply digital lives from a young age, parents feeling overwhelmed, and children's digital lives becoming more complex as they get older.

The findings and update follow the launch of our Switched on to privacy campaign earlier this year, which offers parents the practical tools and guidance they need to start the conversation before risky habits take hold.

The scale of the challenge

An online survey of more than 4,000 children aged eight to 17 and their parents found that over a third (36%) of children talk or play with people they only know online, or do not know at all — a figure that rises to 40% among 14–16 year-olds.

Over half of children (52%) said they would find a way to bypass age checks if they wanted to access a platform or service. That figure rises to 64% among children whose parent has previously helped them circumvent an age limit — and nearly a third (31%) of parents said they had done exactly that.

Even engaged parents may be missing the full picture.

The research into parental use of controls adds an urgent note of caution for parents who believe they have already taken action. While 91% of parents reported using controls or monitoring tools, 41% of children said they had tried to circumvent them — and nearly half (49%) of those found it easy to do so.

The findings suggest that setting parental controls is an important step, but not a substitute for regular check-ins. The digital landscape children navigate shifts constantly, and the picture can change quickly.

The emotional reality for families

Many parents described feeling resigned rather than empowered — caught between wanting to give their children independence and a growing reliance on constant digital visibility for peace of mind.

The research found that location sharing has become something many families see as a "digital umbilical cord" - with data collection as a necessary trade-off for reassurance.

Most parents found maintaining controls challenging, particularly as children grew

older, more independent, and discovered new methods of circumvention.

Starting the conversation early

For parents of younger children, the statistics relating to older age groups carry an important message: the habits and norms children develop in their early years could shape how they navigate the internet as they get older. Waiting until secondary school to talk about online privacy may mean the conversation comes too late.

Katie Searle, ICO Director of Children's Strategy, said:

“Children today are growing up in an extraordinary digital world, and it's completely understandable that many parents feel like they're one step behind.

“The findings are clear: children who discuss online privacy with their parents on a weekly basis are more likely to feel that privacy settings keep them safe. Frequent, open conversation works.

“Our Switched on to privacy campaign is here to help families find their footing - not by switching everything off, but by staying curious, staying connected, and checking in regularly.”

Our Switched on to privacy campaign offers parents a simple framework to get started: chat, choose, check - talk openly with your child about their online life, choose the right settings together, and check back in regularly as things change.

Our continued work to protect children

The research findings come as we update on the impact of our wider children's code strategy, which continues to drive improvements in how online services protect children's personal information.

Recent progress includes gaining commitments from Snapchat to strengthen age assurance measures to help prevent underage access; securing improvements to Snapchat and Instagram's interactive map features so children can more clearly understand when they are sharing their location; and continuing scrutiny of popular mobile games.

Our work with EdTech providers has also led to significant improvements, with 98% of the 596 recommendations made to 28 providers acted upon.

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	<i>1st Monday/month</i>	20.00-22.00	Q&R Village Hall	
Dance Exercise	<i>Tuesdays</i>	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
U3A Choir	<i>2nd/4th Wednesdays</i>	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Pilates	<i>Tuesdays</i>	18.30 -19.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Pilates	<i>Thursdays</i>	09.00-10.00	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465

What's On (cont.)

Pilates	Thursdays	18.30-19.30	Q&R Village Hall Vikki 07810 826465
Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	pm	Quendon Bowling Club John Pampling 07724071959
Social Evening	2nd & 4th Fridays	19.00-23.00	Quendon Bowling Club
Communion	13th Spetember	11.15	Quendon Church
Morning Worship	27th September	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.



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.

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

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