

RUNWELL ROUNABOUT



AUTUMN/WINTER EDITION 2012

RUNWELL ROUNABOUT sponsored by Runwell Parish Council
Keeping you informed about issues affecting Runwell Residents



Every effort is made to ensure the information in this newsletter is correct. The Parish Council cannot accept any liability for errors or omissions. Views and opinions expressed in this edition are not necessarily those of the Runwell Parish Council.

NEWS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS - Once again it has come to the time when we tidy the plot and dig it over, ready for next spring. This has been a difficult year; we have had lots to contend with. The extreme weather conditions, enormous slugs and snails, and rampant weeds that grew overnight. However, we carried on, and whilst some crops did not do too well, we had lots that did. The asparagus, beetroot, courgettes, grapes, leeks, onions, marrows and spinach all did fantastic. Already we have planted the onions and garlic, with the cabbage and cauliflowers ready to plant soon. We all look forward to a "good growing year" in 2013. Now I am off to find a recipe for those weeds!!! Enquiries: Linda 01268 732033.

THE BOXING DAY WALK - HOW IT GOT STARTED:

After the 1975 December Parish Council meeting I was talking to Joe Mason, Jim Thompson and other Parish Councillors about what we did over the Christmas Holiday. I said "usually eat too much on Christmas Day, so on Boxing Day, my brother Ken and I go out and walk along some of the Parish public footpaths and often go to the 'Running Well.'" Joe Mason then asked if I would let him and some of his relations come along with us. Jim Thompson then asked if he could come along as well with some of his relations. I said okay, let's meet at the Quart Pot car park at 10.30am, it would take about two hours from start to finish. Now the 'Annual Boxing Day Walk' had started.

On the first walk 12 of us met at the Quart Pot car park and walked Footpath No.7 up to Poplars Farm, turned sharp right and walked along Footpath No.5 to the Running Well. When we got there I did a quick talk about the history of the Parish, we then walked back along Footpath No.5 to Footpath No.7 turned sharp right and continued along the Footpath past Poplars Farm House to Warren Road where we turned right again and walked down to Footpath No.10 on the right (the footpath that follows the Runwell Hospital fence) and back to the Runwell Road turned right and back to the Quart Pot car park. They all enjoyed the walk and asked if I would do it again next year, I said okay. This year, 2012, is the 38th walk. The time is still 10.30am and we now meet at the car park in Runwell Park in Church End Lane and finish about 12.30pm and always visit the 'Running Well' At the start I have a collection for Charity. Hope to see you this Boxing Day. **David De'Ath Walk Leader.**

MEMORIAL PARK BOWLS CLUB - Memorial Park Bowls Club is a small friendly club which until a few years ago was better known as the Wickford Royal British Legion Bowls Club. Because it has never grown too large the members can be confident that they will get all the games that they want, be it friendlies, League games or inter-club games. We are looking forward to welcoming new members for the 2013 Season. Free tuition given and bowls can be borrowed. For more information ring 01268 733578, 07802 814249, 07772 262937.

JUST A THOUGHT - Time, like a snowflake, disappears while we're trying to decide what to do with it.

INFORMATION FROM JOHN PEART YOUR VILLAGE AGENT

Preparing for Winter - a few tips:-

- Have your heating system serviced and your chimney swept.
- If you have wood-burning, coal or gas heaters, make sure that you have adequate ventilation.
- Fix draught excluder strips on ill-fitting window and door frames.
- Check that your water stopcock is working properly.
- Make sure your smoke alarm is working, and consider installing a carbon monoxide detector, in case air vents become blocked.
- Keep a mixture of salt and sand handy to put on steps or paths in icy weather.
- Don't forget your 'flu jab, and make sure you have sufficient supplies of prescribed medication and simple cold, and sore throat remedies in the house, and something for that cough.
- Stock up with store cupboard foods that will keep you going - long-life milk, pasta, baked beans and canned fish.
- Dress in plenty of layers and make sure that you have some warm shoes or boots with non-slip soles.
- Consider installing extra lighting to brighten dark areas in your home to reduce the risk of a trip or fall and be aware of any other hazards.

FREE ELECTRICAL PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING is available if you are over 65 years old for kettles, toasters, fan heaters, electric blankets etc. Don't forget the Christmas lights!

John Peart Village Agent, Freephone: 0800 977 5858. Mob: 07540720611 www.villageagentssex.org.uk

Want to get fit, have fun and feel fab?

Our fun, friendly, easy to follow healthy eating and fitness class will help you to get fitter, increase your energy levels, lose weight and tone up at your pace.

Suits ages 18 to 80+ - come and join the fun!

Monday 10am - 11.30am diet & exercise (exercise 10.30-11.30am)

Class includes 1 hour exercise and optional weigh in and health/fitness related talk

Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, Wickford, SS11 7JE

Class fee just £5 per week

For more information or to book your space contact Kate West

Fully qualified & insured instructor 10+ years experience

Tel: 01277 651185 Mob: 07932 691419 E-mail: kate1.west@talktalk.net

Facebook at **Get in Shape with Kate.**

RUNWELL VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7JE for Weddings, Dinner Dances, Dances, Parties, Quiz nights, Bazaars or Meetings All Enquiries & Bookings to: - Mrs Jo Pharez Clerk to the Council Tel: 01268 735152 or email jo@runwellpc.wanadoo.co.uk

INFILL TIME - Dull and morose people, says a medical writer, seldom resist disease as easily as those with a cheerful disposition. The surly bird catches the germ.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES...DOWNHAM ROAD FIELD - Runwell Action Group, *Supported by Councillors Ray Ride and Lance Millane,* is continuing to work on behalf of concerned residents to stop development on the Downham Road Field.

The development of 68 houses was undemocratically approved by Basildon District Council and threatens the quality of life in Runwell due to increased traffic congestion and increased demands on the already overstretched schools and medical services.

The Group endeavoured to bring this situation to the attention of the Secretary of State for Communities, Eric Pickles MP, but our efforts were frustrated by his officers who insisted that he had no jurisdiction on such matters raised by local communities. The Group initially considered a Judicial Review but the legal advice was that, although there were merits in the case, and that the Judge could find in our favour, the final ruling was likely to be disappointing as there would be no guarantee that the approval would be quashed. Furthermore, court costs at some £20,000 per day were clearly prohibitively expensive for our small community. Accordingly, we are not proceeding with this option. We have, therefore, raised a formal complaint against Basildon Council with the Local Government Ombudsman, a free service, who has been investigating the case to determine whether maladministration has occurred. It is a lengthy process which commenced in May, with the Group submitting documents that supported our complaint. From these documents, the Ombudsman's investigator generated a questionnaire which was put to Basildon Council. Following receipt of Basildon's response, the investigator formed the initial view that while our complaint had merit, he felt that it would not be cost effective to continue his investigation. Amazed Group representative John Field and Juliet Daniels, supported by Councillors Ray Ride and Lance Millane, then met the investigator to express disappointment with his position, strengthen the complaint and encourage further investigation. The meeting had a positive outcome and the complaint continues to be investigated. It should be noted that while the Ombudsman cannot adjudicate on the merits of planning approval, if maladministration is found and injustice found to have occurred as a result; the Ombudsman could require Basildon Council to hear the application again. Whilst the investigations have been underway, and in order not to compromise the process, the Group has put its plans for a media campaign on hold. In the meantime of course, approval for building remains, with the developers seeking to start work as soon as preliminary conditions are met. However, apparently some delay is being experienced due to vandalism of the plastic barrier erected around the field for the reptile survey. To meet the current legal expenses of £2100, Runwell Parish Council has kindly pledged to match the donations made by residents (up to a maximum contribution of £1050). To date £685 has been generously donated by residents and therefore a further £365 needs to be raised by the community. If you want to donate, or feel able to lead fundraising events, please contact John Field (john.field1@virgin.net on 01268 761658) or Juliet Daniels (juliet.daniels@btinternet.com on 0774 324 0520)

RUNWELL HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT - Your Parish Council has carefully reviewed the outline planning application for the proposed development at Runwell Hospital. The Parish Council in the main is satisfied and in many cases very satisfied with the findings and recommendations in the supporting documents but some areas of concern (matters raised at previous consultations) do not seem to have been adequately dealt with. The residents of Runwell Chase, Lynfords Avenue and Lynfords Drive are those that will be most affected by this development and careful consideration should be given to their needs to mitigate the effect of the Proposed Development. The Parish Council's response to this outline planning has been sent to Chelmsford City Council.

AGE UK ESSEX PROSE AND POETRY WRITING COMPETITION

Entrants should have been born or now reside in Essex. All entries stored for posterity at the Essex Record Office. Titles for both Prose and Poetry are IT'S NOT FAIR, SWINGING SIXTIES and BOUNCING BACK. Entry Forms available from LIBRARIES and AGE UK ESSEX on 01245 346106 or by logging on to www.ageukessex.org.uk
CLOSING DATE: 28th Feb.2013.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Neighbourhood watch publish a newsletter about four times a year. The editor is Geoff Whiter, you can contact him at Wickford Library on Fridays by visiting between 10am and 12noon. We do not think everyone in the Parish get a copy of this, so here are a few important items from the Summer edition. The first concern is if you have one of the new style double glazed front doors, then you must push the handle up and lock it internally at night. The second is about trusting your instincts. If something appears to be too true then it probably is. If you get a letter telling you that you've won a lottery prize that you've never entered think **CON**. If some Cold calls and the salesman offers you a substantial discount if you "buy today", then think **CON**. If someone Cold calls you on the phone and offers you a free home alarm system think **CON**. These and many more are being acted upon you and your neighbours on a regular basis.

ST.MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2012 at 2.00PM

**RUNWELL VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH END LANE, RUNWELL SS11
7JE**

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN

Entertainment from the local school choirs:

*Runwell Pre-School; Runwell School; Wickford Infants School and
Wickford Junior School.*

Various stalls; Christmas Accessories, Christmas Gifts, Cakes, Raffles, Games and a Bottle Stall. Why not treat yourself to tea/coffee and tasty cakes, and Father Christmas will be joining us as well!

RUNWELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Meet in the Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell. Forthcoming talks:

- 10th December 'Remus Horse Sanctuary' talk no.2,
- 14th January 2013 'A Gardener's Year',
- 11th February 'Step into Spring
- 11th March AGM.

*Dear God my prayer for 2013 is for a fat bank account and a thin body.
Please don't mix them up like you did this year.*

**THE SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU
AND A HEALTHY 2013**