



Runwell Roundabout

Spring 2025



RUNWELL ROUNDABOUT is 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 Parish Council.



<https://www.runwellpc.org>



Runwell

PARISH COUNCIL

<https://www.runwellpc.org>

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.00pm

Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, SS11 7JE

All residents welcome



Meet your Councillors

Runwell Parish Council
100th Anniversary

Talk by Wickford
Community Archive

Please email questions to
runwell.pariah.council@gmail.com
by Friday 4th April 2025

There will be a presentation at the start of the meeting by Geoff Whiter of Wickford Community Archive followed by reports from local groups to be followed by refreshments and a chance to mingle and chat with the Councillors and other representatives

Meeting convened by Paul Clark, Chairman of RPC

Parish Council Report

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Runwell Roundabout.

This month marks 100 years since a small group of residents met at the Old School House on the corner of Church End Lane, opposite St. Mary's Church, to form a Parish Council. It has stood the test of time and significant events that have changed all our lives. We are hoping to hold events during the year to celebrate this historic milestone.



Most of you will have read about the Local Government Review. Proposals that will bring about once-in-a-generation changes to the way Essex is governed. There will be much more information available as this moves forward. But, for the time being, we know our Local Authority at Chelmsford City Council is likely to merge with one or more other neighbouring authorities to form a Unitary Authority. This will be responsible for providing all the services we currently pay for to Essex County and Chelmsford City Councils. There will be elections for a Mayor of Essex who will have many responsibilities including the county's Police force and the Fire and Rescue Service. The role of Police Fire and Crime Commissioner will be abolished. How Runwell will be represented within the Unitary Authority is still to be decided. The proposed timeline for this change is by May 2027 and to be up and running by May 2028. The Parish Council is unaffected by this change and will remain the most localised tier of governance in our Village.

Finally, it looks like Spring is here, I hope you enjoy the warmer weather.

Kindest regards

Cllr Paul Clark, Chair

Photos from the first of our 100th Anniversary Celebrations held on 16th March 2025.

Full article in next edition.



Mayor of Chelmsford Cllr Janette Potter, Roy Dockerill, Mayoress Jackie Galley and Paul Clark RPC Chairman



Unfurling the new flag



Thanks for the entertainment by the 'Ladybirds'

The 50th Boxing day Walk Report

26th December 2024

48 of us met at Runwell Park car park. The Attendance Book and Charity Box went round and at 10.40am we set off across the park to FP No 7 to Runwell Rd. We then turned left and walked along to FP.No.10 to Warren Rd. Along the path were three areas that were very muddy. At Warren Rd. we turned left and along to the pond at the top end of FP.No.7 walking down to Poplars Farm. We walked to the end of garden to the start of FP.No.5 on our left to the Running Well, walked down to the bridge and then turned left up to the 'Well' on the left. I then went down to the 'Well' where I had my usual four handfuls of water, others then did the same. After a short stop we walked back along FP No.5 to FP No.7 turned left walking down 'The Old Green Lane' (that it is said a Robert Durden rode up in 1602 to check on the condition of the 'Well of St. Mary's by St. Paul's in London) and on down to the north end of Meadow Lane, and on to the North East corner of the Park and back to the car park.

A total of £234.60 was donated to 'The Brain Tumour Charity', via The Sarah Kitchener Perrow Fund. A Big 'thank you' to all.

This year celebrates 50 years of Boxing Day walks 1975-2025, hope to see you then.

Walk leader David De'Ath

Runwell Hospital Bowls Club

(Meets at Runwell Sports & Social Club at St. Luke's)

During the closed season the Club has held a Race Night and a Quiz Night to raise much needed funds to cover the maintenance of our green and surrounding buildings, 2 of which need urgent roof repairs. We have also competed in a few friendly matches played at local Indoor Clubs.

The green reopens on 19th April 2025 and the games begin.

We will be holding a Try Bowls Day on 28th May where anyone can come along and try a game of bowls!

Anyone needing further information please contact [Graham](#) on 07954 821046



News from St Mary's Church, Runwell



As I write this, the sun is shining and it is two days since we had the first little bit of snow this year. Who knows how much we will have had by the time you read this? The daylight hours are starting to lengthen and there are signs of Spring in the vicarage flowerbeds, the ones that aren't flooded that is.

There are even more trees gone from our view, as we had to get rid of several dead elms and hawthorns in the north churchyard. The once beautiful Copper Beech by the church is now no more, as it was completely dead and rotting inside, so we had no choice. We do aim to do some tree replanting soon.

We are pleased to say that the church received the Eco Church Silver Award towards the end of last year. This was just in time for them to change the survey, which is now a lot more complex, so I don't think Gold will come any time soon. The yellow rattle has now been planted in the wildflower patch with the hope that it controls the grasses enough to allow the flowers to grow.

We had some lovely Christmas services again, though the numbers at Christmas itself were a little down on the last year. Once again I had to call on our local gravedigger to take a part in the Crib Service nativity scene. Last year he was a



shepherd, this year he was a donkey, which many said was a move downwards rather than upwards. The Crib service is often described as 'organised chaos', which is exactly my aim, as everyone can join in and the children love the musical instruments that we get out. Not so much the adults!



We did wonder whether people were wary of coming to the church in the dark, given that the street lights at the end of the path and at our end of Church End Lane are not working. One of our parishioners did manage to shed extra light on the path for Midnight Mass, with a temporary set of spotlights. The church

looked really inviting when they were on. Hopefully this will all get fixed soon (our Parish Council member is on the case) as it is a health and safety issue all round. We have also reopened the south door for easier disability access during the bigger services. We just need to get the path extended to it now.

And finally, for those who missed out, we have some small poetry books, beautifully illustrated by a friend's daughter. 'The Vicarage Cat' and



'The Other Vicarage Cat' which were produced to raise money for the parish eco-projects, and there are still some available – for a small donation. Just let me know if you would like one, they are very suitable for children of all ages, especially if you love cats, like me.

Today I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and when this reaches you, a lovely sunny and warm Spring.

Blessings from *Revd Sue (Team Vicar)*

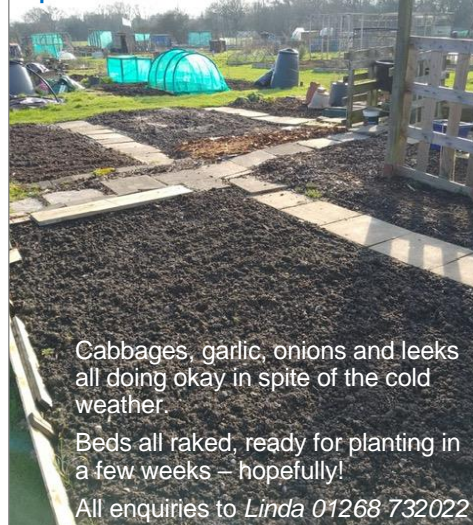
Find us on Facebook 'St Mary's Church Runwell' and www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk

New clothes bin in Runwell Park



What did the flower say when he found out it was allergy season again? You've got to be pollen my legs!

Runwell allotments update



Cabbages, garlic, onions and leeks all doing okay in spite of the cold weather.

Beds all raked, ready for planting in a few weeks – hopefully!

All enquiries to *Linda 01268 732022*



HM Government

PUT GREATER ESSEX'S FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE

There are plans to create a mayoral combined county authority for Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW THIS COULD WORK IN YOUR AREA

Visit: gov.uk/greater-essex-devolution



The UK Government has this week launched a consultation on proposals to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Greater Essex. The consultation follows the successful application earlier this year by Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council to join the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.

The consultation seeks views from those who live, work or study in Essex on the benefits of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Greater Essex. This is your chance to have your say on plans that will affect you.

It's easy to take part. Simply follow the link below and complete the online form which will guide you through specific topics the Government is interested in hearing your views on.

The consultation, which runs until 11:59pm on 13 April can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution/greater-essex-devolution-consultation>

March 2025 update from Essex County Cllr Sue Dobson



Lots going on this month in ECC and I'm also able to give you an update on the reorganisation plans and Devolution. At the time of writing, the Deputy Leader, Cllr McKinley, launches her business event in Westminster, showing how we work with partners to ensure there are skills and jobs for young people in the future – the event is called Essex: County of Growth and Opportunity.

Following on from the two previous initiatives, the Essex 'Year of Opportunity' is launched which follows the hugely successful 'Year of Reading' and 'Year of Numbers', the idea being that it highlights what people can achieve.

Another piece of good news is that we have had our 'Outstanding' ranking for Childrens' Services reaffirmed.

Devolution is moving at a pace and while there are some differences on the make up of the proposed Unitary Authorities and numbers, all the Council leaders have agreed the draft proposal, and the resultant work will be led by evidence and data rather than emotion. It is never easy to get 15 different Councils of all political makeups to agree, but we believe this has been done and a draft document will be presented to Cabinet on 18th March prior to being submitted to the Government on 21st March. All other Councils will be having similar meetings to agree it also.

The work on a Mayor for Essex is a separate issue although linked to the reorganisation, and there is a cross-party partnership group making up a Steering Group to work towards a Mayoral election in May next year. More news on these two topics next month.

Highways issues still dominate the enquiries I receive and if there is a particular pothole or other defect that needs sorting, do please email me and I will see what I can get done as a priority – I can't promise to do everything, but I will certainly try my best. The crucial thing is to ensure it is reported on the Essex Highways website as the reference number you receive is helpful to me to be able to chase up the repair.

In the meantime, if any resident has an issue, they would like me to look into, please email me on cldr.sue.dobson@essex.gov.uk.

Cllr Sue Dobson

Runwell Village Hall

Available for hire, Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford SS11 7JE

*For information, bookings and availability
Contact Jo Pharez/Jurgita Norinkeviciute
01268 735152 mobile 07895 234650 /
email runwell.parish.council@gmail.com
Website <https://www.runwellpc.org>*

Well fitted kitchen
Large main hall
Separate Committee Room
Large Car Park
Seated functions 80-150 persons
Conferences max 250 persons
Great for children's parties and all social events



Runwell Parish Council

Comprises of 13 members representing 3 Wards of Runwell – East, West & St. Luke's.
email runwell.parish.council@gmail.com

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Chair | Paul Clark | | | |
| Vice Chairs | Steve Davis | | | |
| Councillors | Linda Payne | Angie Ellis | Geoff Redway | Chris Evans |
| | Jim Sloane | Gerry Gould | Ken Tarplett | Dawn Hutson |
| | Bill Lansdale | Rachel Voller | | |

Chelmsford City Council Representatives for Rettendon & Runwell

Paul Clark email paul.clark@chelmsford.gov.uk Steve Davis email steve.davis@chelmsford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Representative for Stock

Sue Dobson email cldr.sue.dobson@essex.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Maldon

Rt. Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP john.whittingdale.mp@parliament.uk

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 3557 or

Maldon Conservative Offices 19 High Street, Maldon CM3 5PE. Tel: 01621 855663

Follow Runwell Parish Council on

Articles for the editor; if you have any articles for publication please send them to runwell.parish.council@gmail.com by 30 June 2025 or to Jo Pharez/Jurgita Norinkeviciute at the Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7JE

Printed by Activ8 Creative, 11 Runwell Road, Wickford SS11 7PS