



Runwell Roundabout

Spring 2026



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.



[runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Runwell

PARISH COUNCIL

<https://www.runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 27th April 2026 at 7.00pm

Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, SS11 7JE

All residents welcome



Meet your Councillors

Runwell Parish Council

Time Capsule Burial

Talk by Brockfield House

Please email questions to
clerk@runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk
by Friday 17th April 2026

There will be a presentation at the start of the meeting by representatives of Brockfield House 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 Angie Ellis, Chairman of RPC

Parish Council Report

Dear Residents, welcome to the spring edition of the Roundabout.

In March 2025 we celebrated 100 years of the Parish Council with an afternoon tea and cakes celebration with entertainment from the lovely Ladybirds Song Group. It was decided after this that the Council would do a time capsule looking at life in the village now, to be buried in the village hall garden and to be opened in 50 years 2075. On the 22nd March 2026 marking the end of the Parish Council's 100 years we held a small celebration at the hall and buried the time capsule.

A project that has been in the pipeline for a couple of years is about to come to fruition this year. Being the construction of a new MUGA (multi-use games area) court, replacing the old ugly hard court currently in the park. The court will be marked out for netball, basketball and football. We hope to see various teams using the court in the future maybe even wheelchair activities and walking football. There is also going to be a table tennis table for the public to use at any time (paddles and balls not supplied). Pathways in the park are being widened for easier access. Details for using the new court will be available soon.

It was announced on the 25th March 2026 that the UK government has approved a 5-tier unitary council model for Essex, splitting the current two-tier system into five distinct unitary authorities to provide all the local services directly. This reorganisation aims to create more local accountability and efficient service delivery. *Timeline:* Shadow authorities are planned for 2027, with the new unitary authorities launching in April 2028.

West Essex council: Harlow, Epping Forest, and Uttlesford

North East Essex Council: Braintree, Colchester and Tendring

Mid Essex Council: Brentwood, Chelmsford and Maldon

South West Essex Council: Basildon and Thurrock

South East Essex Council: Castle Point, Rochford and Southend on Sea

I have visited the allotments recently, how lovely to see all the plots coming to life after what feels like the wettest January and February we've had for several years. To add to my joy on visiting, I left with an armful of rhubarb.

The Council undertook an ATC (Automatic Traffic Count) survey earlier this year. One either end of Church End Lane and a third on Runwell Road in the dip at Southlands Cottages. We are now looking at the report to find a way forward. This is something we need to work with Essex County – Highways to see what can be done moving forward i.e. speed limit changes in the village or speed cameras.

So now with the clocks having gone forward and the daylight hours are increasing enjoy the spring time and we look forward to summer.

Stay safe, kind regards

Cllr Angie Ellis (madam Chairman)



Play in the Park 2026

Monday 10th August 2026

Morning and afternoon sessions

Times to be confirmed

Follow the news on our website or

Facebook page

Time capsule

22nd March 2026 marked the last of our centenary anniversary celebrations of the Runwell Parish Council. A Time Capsule was specially commissioned and filled with contributions from our schools, pre-school, clubs, residents, care homes and the Parish Council itself. Each entry captured and recorded a snapshot of the people, activities and life as it is now along with some lovely accounts of life in Runwell Village over the last 100 years. The capsule is to remain sealed and buried until 2075.

A ceremony was held to bury the capsule at the Village Hall attended by contributors, Parish councillors, St Mary's Church and local residents. The ceremony was led by Angie Ellis, Chair of the Parish Council with a guest speech from Jo Pharez who served as the Parish Clerk for 27 years. The first fill of earth was made by Jim Sloane, a local resident and former Parish Councillor who served for over 40 years. The ceremony ended with refreshments and celebratory cake.

A video of the contents of the capsule will be available to view in the next few weeks on the Parish Council website.

The burial site will be marked with a stone granite bird bath in the Village Hall garden.

Our thanks go to our contributors and those that attended.

Runwell Pre School	Strollercise Wickford
Runwell Primary School	Runwell Men's Shed
St Luke's Primary School	David De'Ath Boxing Day Ramble
Runwell Rainbows	Sylvia Dally – Resident
Runwell Art Club	Geraldine Gould – Resident
Ladybirds Song Group	Hollymede Cottage, Runwell
St Mary's Church	Runwell Parish Council
Super Troupers Line	Jo Pharez – Resident and former
Dancing Runwell	Parish Clerk



News from St Mary's Church, Runwell

Here we are in another new year and the weather is as chaotic as ever, though at the point of writing we have yet to have 'proper' snow. Maybe it is just as well, because St Mary's is not the warmest of churches, being so old. I can report that we are looking into upgrading the heating which may be a long-term project due to costs. In the meantime we are making use of some no longer used long kneelers to act as draft excluders for the main doors to try to keep the heat in. It's working for those who sit in the areas near the doors too!



Despite the cold we had an amazing turnout for Midnight Mass at Christmas. We were back to standing room only, which it hasn't been since before COVID hit us. The Crib Services (where we heard the story of the 'Quiet Stable' starring Grumpy Cat and the Little Angel) and our Blue Christmas Carol Service were also well attended. Thank you to all who supported us.

There are a number of repairs needed to our North Porch in the coming months. This will be a challenge because we have to retain as much as possible of the original timbers and brickwork, not least because the porches are considered by historians to be two of the finer points of the building. With this long history in mind, our neighbouring parish, has recently set in motion the creation of a '3Rs' history trail, to explore the beautiful and historic churches of Rawreth, Rettendon and Runwell. This will be launched on 16th May, with the three churches being open from 10am to 4pm, and our history displays will be out again for people look at. If you missed the last Open Day here is another chance.

The lovely atmosphere, and interior, of our old church is also to star in a film, being made at the end of January. This is a project backed by London Metropolitan University for an ex-student and director who was baptised at St Mary's. Her short film 'Portrait of an Ordinary Life' uses the interior of the church as the stage for an entire human life. We will be given a copy of the film and will be showing it in the parish at some point – something to look forward to!



Our weekly Coffee Morning continues on a Wednesday, between 10am and 12pm in the church hall. Our regulars are a mix of community and congregation, but all good friends now. We have good chats and sometimes a laugh – like when we held our Fairtrade Coffee Morning in September and the rep from the Co-op had us decorating bananas. All are welcome!

Blessings from [Revd Sue \(Team Vicar\)](#)

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

Allotment update

Picked first new crop of rhubarb today (17.03.2025), you can't buy this in Sainsbury's!

Plot all ready for planting in next few weeks, hopefully, weather will be good.

Enquiries [Linda 01268 732033](mailto:Linda.01268.732033)



VACANCY FOR A RUNWELL PARISH COUNCILLOR

- Do you want to help make the parish of Runwell a better place to live?
- Do you want to serve your Community?
- Do you have time or expertise which could benefit your Community?
- Do you want to make a difference to all those around you?
- Are you concerned about your local area?
- Do you want to represent the views of local people?

If you would like to make a difference, and be involved in shaping the future of your local Community, why not step forward and apply to become a Runwell Parish Councillor?

Runwell Parish Council is looking for a new Parish Councillor – to request an application form or to get more details, please contact the clerk, clerk@runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

In writing: Runwell Village Hall
Church End Lane,
Runwell, Wickford
SS11 7JE

Memories by Fred Williams

I have lived in Runwell all my life. I was born in 1942 at 48 Egbert Gardens, which is still there to this day. The lady who lived there at the time was Mrs Pedder, and her husband, Mr Ernest Pedder, sadly died while serving on the battlecruiser *HMS Hood*. It was sunk by the German battleship *Bismarck*. His name is on the Wickford Memorial at the Runwell Memorial Park.

Later, my parents moved to number 28. Back then it was called 'Ireen Bungalow'. There was no electricity – only gas for lighting. I can remember my father used to go to the vicarage opposite the Quart Pot pub, where he would take a battery to be charged so we could listen to the radio. Many houses and bungalows back then were on unmade roads, and across the road another lifelong friend lived – Barry Stone.

I went to Wickford Infants School, where I met my lifelong friends David De'Ath and Colin Draper. Sadly, Colin passed away in 2024. David used to live up Meadow Lane – back then it was all fields.

We moved to Church End Lane in 1956, to a house called Kemble Villas, as it was known back then. I used to walk up Meadow Lane to David's house and across the fields – no caravans back then! David and I used to walk for miles across the fields, exploring. It was a real adventure to us.

Can anyone remember the general store on the corner of Hanningfield Way and Church End Lane, run by Harry Hodgson and his wife? But that's another story.

Parking concerns in Brock Hill and Church End Lane

The Parish Council is aware of ongoing concerns regarding parking in the Brock Hill and Church End Lane areas. Residents have reported issues such as vehicles parking on pavements, restricted access for pedestrians and general congestion, which can create safety risks particularly for those with pushchairs or mobility needs.

We would like to reassure the community that these concerns have been noted and are being raised with the appropriate authorities. Responsibility for parking enforcement, including pavement parking and obstruction, generally sits with the local highways authority and, in some cases, the police, depending on the nature of the issue.

In the meantime, we kindly encourage all drivers to park considerately, ensuring that pavements remain accessible and that access for emergency vehicles is not impeded.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as more information becomes available.



Runwell Village Pre-School provides ...

A happy environment for your child to develop socially as well as educationally

An opportunity of fun and friendship with children and other adults

Qualified, dedicated and caring staff

We take children from 2.5 years to 5 years

Opening times:

Monday to Friday 09.00 – 12.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Lunch Club available Tuesday and Thursday 12.00 – 1.00pm

We have spaces available from September 2026

Government funding accepted

Excellent premises, play equipment and much, much more ...

For an informal chat or to arrange a time for you to meet us and bring your child to play, *please contact*

Lynn or Hayley on 01268 768748 / 07909834546

or visit www.runwellpreschool.co.uk

Runwell Village Parish Hall, Church End Lane,
Runwell, Essex SS11 7JE

Registered Charity No. 1144996

Runwell Village Hall

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

For information, bookings and availability

Contact Jurgita Norinkeviciute

01268 735152 mobile 07895 234650 / or

email hall.bookings@runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

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 clerk@runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chair	Angie Ellis			
Vice Chair	Steve Davis			
Councillors	Linda Payne	Geoff Redway	Dawn Hutson	(3 vacancies)
	Gerry Gould	Ken Tarplett	Keith Tyrrell	
	Rachel Voller	Chris Evans		

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 clr.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

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Articles for the editor; if you have any articles for publication please email newsletter@runwellparishcouncil.gov.uk by 30 June 2026 or to Jurgita Norinkeviciute at the Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7JE

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