



Runwell Roundabout

Summer 2023



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>

Parish Council Report

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Parish newsletter.

The election for the Parish Council in May this year was uncontested, and we welcomed back 12 members to represent the East and West Wards in Runwell and St. Luke's, this left us with one vacancy, and we have now co-opted a new member Cllr Richard Crossley. Thank you to all the members for volunteering to make a difference in the community.



Due to fence damage, illegal trespass and anti-social behaviour in the park, it was necessary to postpone the project to build public toilets. The council agreed that the security of the park needed to be prioritised. To cut a long story short and after much deliberation the Parish Council were on the verge of returning the management of the park to Chelmsford City Council but have decided to carry on maintaining the park within the terms of the lease from Chelmsford City Council (CCC). I am very disappointed that we have received no help from CCC in respect of the costs for a new fence adjacent to Meadow Lane or towards securing the entrance to the park at that location. These costs will be met by the Parish Council – more to the point you and me as residents – through the council tax contribution we pay. The choice was clear, either we give it back and accept that the standards of maintenance would be less than present or carry on! The burden seems to fall on the Parish Councils everywhere in Chelmsford in these situations. While residents in the City Centre get all the benefits of recreation and leisure facilities from CCC, we do not (but we still contribute to both through the Council Tax, a very unfair system).

As soon as the park is made secure from the antisocial activities currently taking place, we will be installing the much-needed toilets. There is currently a police investigation into these incidents, so I cannot comment further.

I have been asked to mention parking at Runwell Primary School. There are parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines at the junction of Church End Lane/Runwell Gardens. This had the effect of making it safer at this point, but unfortunately pushed the problem elsewhere. The Highway Code advises not to park within a distance of 10 metres from a junction. So, although it is not an offence you may still be liable to a fine if causing an obstruction or restricting a clear view of pedestrians or cyclists. It is not acceptable to park outside Homeholly House, particularly as the bend is very tight and children are crossing the road nearby. Please be responsible, otherwise more restrictions are likely.

Kind regards

Cllr Paul Clark
Chairman

Runwell Parish Council

News from St Mary's Church, Runwell

The first thing to report, following our last edition, is that St Mary's has achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award, a scheme which is run by A Rocha UK, which is 'a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment'. We are very proud of this achievement and have already installed our plaque (made of recycled wood) in the church. We have a long way to go before the next award but we won't stop there.

A Quiet Day was held in the church in May, celebrating 'Creation'. We had some time reflecting in the church itself, and fortunately the weather was fine enough to go out into the churchyards and see what we could identify. Old burial grounds are a haven for wildlife because they are unique spaces where the land has not been cultivated, where often ancient trees grow and ground movement offers numerous nooks and crannies for creepy crawlies to thrive in. It is hoped that next year we might join in the 'Love Your Burial Ground' week run by the charity 'Caring for God's Acre'. In the meantime if there are any budding naturalists out there we would welcome help to survey the wildlife in our patch. I managed to identify a few species on our Quiet Day, including the common daisy(!) and the Grey Cushioned Grimmia. I was more delighted to find a Yellow Archangel in the vicarage garden though.

My ginger cat 'Dooky' has recently expanded his territory to the north churchyard, probably in search of small rodents. He watched from a distance as we held a Pet Blessing Service on June 11th, probably the hottest day of the year to date - at the time. Thankfully the old oak tree provided welcome shade and none of the (few) attendees fell out with each other. Hopefully next year will see more able to come and join us.

I have recently found out the right way to manage the area of 'nature managed' grass so that we get more wildflowers next year. So if there is anyone who is a dab hand with a scythe, and has one, we'd be interested in your expertise.

Apart from that we held a fun Murder Mystery Evening, with some very dodgy characters and accents. We look forward to our Patronal Festival in August and pray that the weather is fine for our Afternoon Tea (all welcome - August 13th, 3pm - in the vicarage garden) and outdoor service, and other planned Quiet Days. Of course, among these events we continue our pattern of Sunday services and have seen a slight rise on numbers recently. In the hot weather the cool of the church is a great place to be.

Find us on Facebook 'St Mary's Church Runwell' and

www.wickfordandrunevellparish.org.uk

Blessings from *Revd Sue*

Allotment update



I have been watering at 6am each morning for the last few weeks. Crops are really coming on after the rain this weekend – very welcome! Fingers crossed for a good harvest.

Enquires for the availability of plots please ring **01268 732033**

Linda



Become a community governor at:

Runwell Community Primary School

We are looking for governors to join our governing board!

It's an opportunity to support our school and the children and young people in our community.

Governors have 3 core functions:

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing financial performance of the school
- Holding the head teacher or school leadership to account

For further information contact:

Chair of Governors: dawn.hutson@btinternet.com

Play in the Park



Join us for lots of
fun, games & activities

Runwell Park
Tuesday 15th August
Extra – Skateboarding and scooter lessons
Inflatable Pirate Galleon
Arts and Crafts Workshops
10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

FREE – booking required

E csaw@chelmsford.gov.uk
T 01245 606569
f /playchelmsford
www.chelmsford.gov.uk/play



Runwell Art Club

Our new venue in Downham Village Hall has been a successful move. It has allowed us to expand our membership. We are still open for new people to join as the hall can comfortably take more.

We recently had a successful workshop with Carole Massey, depicting a flower meadow in watercolour which taught everyone new and interesting techniques. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

We have a further workshop due in September with Mike Rollins in pastel, this time learning skills in that medium. The subject is a cityscape in the rain.

Members, although we don't do our own exhibition, are taking part in the Flower Exhibition at St Catherine's on the 14th to 17th July. Everyone is welcome to view as I am sure the event will draw a wide audience and is to raise funds for a new church roof.

Although we do not host our own exhibition members are entering open exhibitions such as Danbury and East Hanningfield in order to show the talent within our club.

Follow us on Facebook to see members work and get updates on what we are doing as a club.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=runwell%20art%20club>



Dust off your cowboy hat and pull on your dancin' boots!



BARN DANCE

Come along and have a fun night at a Barn Dance to help raise funds for...

'The Spotlight Radiotherapy Appeal'
(aiming to raise £600,000 to fund ultra-precise, state of the art radiotherapy positioning devices which provide set-up and motion management during radiotherapy to patients at the Mid and South Essex Cancer Centre, Southend Hospital)

Music by 'The Manor Hoose Ceilidh Band'

Caller: SIBBY

Saturday 28th October 2023 at
Runwell Village Hall
Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford, SS11 7JE

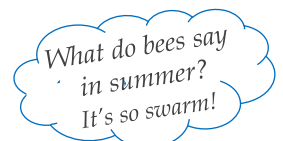
Doors open 7.15pm, Start 7.30pm-11.00pm

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Tickets £10.00 each

For tickets or more information please contact Gerry on 07957 482005 or David on 07785 914054

Southend Hospital Charitable Foundation
spotlight
radiotherapy appeal
RNH 1073001



Please be mindful of other users of pavements. We all love our vehicles but walkers also need to use the paths so please park considerately. Give extra room for prams, buggies and wheelchairs and please do not push them into the road – the road is for cars and not pedestrians and the footway is for pedestrians not cars!

Runwell Hospital Bowls Club



We had a very successful TRY BOWLS DAY on 21st May with 28 people attending many of whom are now attending free training sessions.

If you are interested in joining our friendly club please contact Graham on 01268 571249 or 07954 821046



Runwell Village Hall



Available for hire, Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford SS11 7JE
Contact Jo Pharez 01268 735152 or email runwell.parish.council@gmail.com



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 big and small



For information, bookings and availability
telephone 01268 735152 ask for Jo
website www.runwellpc.org

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	Mike Rogers, Steve Davis			
Councillors	Richard Crossley	Linda Payne	Angie Ellis	Geoff Redway
	Chris Evans	Jim Sloane	Gerry Gould	Ken Tarplett
	Dawn Hutson		Bill Lansdale	

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

Ian Grundy email cllr.ian.grundy@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 September 2023 or to Jo Pharez at the Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7JE

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