



Runwell Roundabout

Winter 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 Winter 2023 edition of the newsletter.



The Parish Council has been very busy with improvements to the Village Hall and Runwell Park.

At the hall, new windows have been installed and this has already made a difference with the heating as we approach the winter months. Further energy saving improvements are planned for the new year.

At the Park we have installed a new fence (which was vandalised shortly afterwards!) and cleared a significant amount of fly tipping. In addition to this we had to add restrictions to the park entrances, to prevent the anti-social use of horses and motor cycles. You would hope this would not be necessary but unfortunately despite various warnings of prosecution we had to protect users of the park and do this. The cost to us as taxpayers meant the toilets will now be a project for 2024. In my opinion, it's a real shame so much of the money earmarked to make improvements has to be spent on protecting what we already have. With no help at all from the City Council who own the park and lease it to the Parish Council, or Essex Police. We are about to calculate the budget for next year, having frozen the precept for the last 2 years, and will be trying to keep any increase to a minimum.

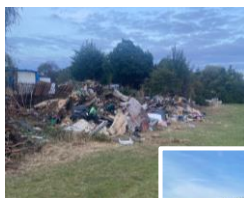
At St Luke's Park, I have asked for an update from the planning officers at Chelmsford City Council on the Curry Hill footbridge and new footpath residents will be able to use.

There have been cases of Covid reported locally, please keep an eye on our vulnerable neighbours who may be in need of help. So far, the weather has not been that demanding but we all know how that can change.

On behalf of all at the Parish Council may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

Cllr Paul Clark, Chair



New weekly clubs at Runwell Village Hall

Wednesday

Singing Mamas	1.15pm-2.45pm	£8 first taster session
Beginners line dance class	7.00pm-8.00pm	£5

Thursday (starts 4 Jan)

Strollercise	TBA
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Singing Mamas

RECHARGE | NOURISH | CONNECT

Wednesdays - Runwell Village Hall, Wickford 13:15 - 14:45 pm

Come and find your voice...

A space for women, WITH or WITHOUT children, to sing beautiful, simple and uplifting songs in rounds and in harmonies. Children can join in singing too!

All songs are taught by ear, no previous experience needed. Come for magical singing and end with a cuppa and some refreshments - all included!

First taster session £8
Contact: mamas@nightingaletunes.com
www.singingmamas.org

Line Dance Classes in Wickford

Line Dance Club

Every Wednesday at Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell. SS11 7JE	Beginners 7.00pm - 8.00pm £5 per person
Every Friday at Runwell S&SC, St Lukes Way, Runwell. SS11 7QA	Beginners 1.30pm - 2.30pm £6 per person

Led by
CCN Line Dance
Instructor of the Year 2019
Richard Munden

thesupertroupersldc@gmail.com

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 £800,000 to fund ultra-... state of the art radiotherapy... which provide set... during... and (outend Hospital)

Event raised £922

...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

Can you help us to keep Runwell Free from litter?

Hi everyone, it's the *Runwell Womble* here doing a follow up article.

I drive around Essex quite a lot and it always makes me realise just how lucky we are to live in a county with so many green fields lined with various trees and hedgerows and with some fields having a bridle path running alongside or through them. All this beauty of nature is being marred everywhere by the 'dreaded litter'.

Another of my concerns is that our children and grandchildren are growing up seeing all this litter wherever they go and will come to accept that this is 'the normal'. Where will it all end? I know many people say 'that it is the Council's responsibility to clean the streets and we pay for this in our Council Tax', and this is true; they will clean the streets but with all the Council cut-backs, it will not be as frequent as is needed.

For a few years now I have been going around the whole of Runwell, when possible, picking up the varied array of discarded litter that has been thrown on the ground or into the bushes. It really is amazing how many beer cans, empty vodka/gin and wine bottles, McDonalds food bags, Costa Coffee paper cups plus sweet wrappers that are thrown out by uncaring people who have no regard for Runwell residents or the local environment and wild life. I would add that I fully appreciate that some of the rubbish blows or falls off of some lorries.

Amongst all the above mentioned litter items are the large pressurised metal canisters that are full of nitrous oxide or laughing gas, a colourless gas that is used by some people to induce euphoria or hallucinogenic states when inhaled, usually with a balloon. In my last article I wrote about the small silver capsules that were littering our streets but now it is these larger ones that I am finding. Excessive use of nitrous oxide can cause health issues. It makes me wonder how many people are driving around intoxicated in some way.

Runwell Parish Council members care about Runwell in many ways and if you think you could help to 'Keep Runwell free from litter' then please give us a call on 01268 735152 or leave your name and phone number and I will call you back. Perhaps you would be willing to keep an eye on the litter in your road or a couple of roads near you.

What do you call an elf that just won the lottery? Welfy

HUGE SUCCESS

look out for 2024

...um - 2 pm

... refreshments, soft play bus, crafts, stalls, professional christmas photographer and much more.

CHARITY NUMBER: 114996



News from St Mary's Church, Runwell

As we write this the last vestiges of summer seem to be disappearing, as the nights draw in, the rain threatens more often (thankfully) and Harvest Festival is only a week away. We were lucky with the August weather for two major events. Our outdoor Messy Church in the vicarage garden was able to go ahead for the children, with lots of watery activities



as we celebrated 'Messy Fishermen'. The following day we held our annual Patronal Festival Afternoon Tea, including our service of Holy Communion, round the corner of the house, to avoid the high winds that decided to arrive. At least that kept most of the wasps at bay, though some decided they liked the look of the lemon cake, and I saw at least two fly away with pieces held tight in their legs(?). The cake was very good.

The wet weather earlier in the year meant that the hedges went rather wild. There were so many cuttings to get rid of that it took ages for the guys to chop them up small enough for the bins to be taken.



In other news there had been a beautiful display of smooth hawksbeard in the churchyard, more than I've ever seen. Unfortunately they were mown down with the grass the day before I decided to use them as a sermon illustration. Such is life! Luckily the vicarage gardens still had some to show.

We have continued to find ways of becoming more eco-friendly, aiming to gain the Eco-Church silver award to follow our bronze. 'The Vicarage Cat', a poem with illustrations which was printed locally, was sold to help all our churches. At St Mary's we are happy to say that we raised enough to change the church hall lights to LED. Watch out for what we do next. (I really do need a man with a scythe!!)



As we come to the Autumn, our sights are already set on Christmas, with plans for our joint bazaar in hand. This will be on 25th November, in St Andrew's church, London Road, Wickford, 10am-1pm. This year our 'Blue Christmas' service will be held on Longest Night, 22nd December at 6.30pm. This is a carol service for those who are missing a loved one and want a gentler, more reflective service and the chance to light a candle. We will have the usual two Crib Services on Christmas Eve, at 2.00pm and 3.30pm. I am praying that I do NOT get COVID again this year and miss the whole of the celebrations. Midnight Mass will follow at 11.30pm. As Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year the clergy are likely to be even more exhausted than usual. The Christmas Day service will be at 9.30am, then I will be going to sleep and hoping that dinner happens somehow.

Blessings from *Revd Sue (Team Vicar)*

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

RUNWELL
GAMES CLUB

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We meet every Wednesday in
Runwell Parish Hall
Church End Lane from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

We are a sociable group who enjoy getting together to chat and play cards, darts and other games every Wednesday afternoon over a cup of tea and biscuits

No joining fee for our club, just £1.50 subscription each week
Contact Sue 07746 795296

RUNWELL ART CLUB

Downham Village Hall
50 School Road
Downham, CM11 1QN

We are a group of talented, friendly amateur artists working in various mediums, from Acrylics, Pencils, Pastels, to Water-mixable Oils, and Watercolours

We meet every Friday 10am to 1pm
New members are welcome
Contact: Carole Wellby – 01268 560005
www.facebook.com/runwellartclub

Green Dog Walkers

leave only pawprints...

Do you have a short joke or anecdote you would like to see in print? Please submit to runwell.parish.council@gmail.com

DATE FOR DIARY...

Boxing Day Walk 2023

49th Boxing Day Walk
Tuesday 26th December 2023

Assemble Runwell Park car park from 10.15am for a 10.30am start

Annual collection for the Brain Tumour Charity via the Sarah Kitchener Perrow Fund.

Everyone is welcome. Weather appropriate clothing and wellies if wet and muddy. All dogs on leads.

The walk will take approximately 2 to 2½ hours with the usual stop at 'The Running Well'.

See you on the day.

Wishing you all good health, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David De'Ath

Essex Highways advising Autumn preparation



Essex Highways is urging landowners to clear ditches and trim back hedges this autumn. This helps keep roads and pavements safe for residents.

The wetter weather over the autumn and winter brings more incidents relating to flooding. Local floods are preventable if landowners keep on top of ditch and hedge maintenance.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land. This applies even if they are close or next to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent, or reduce, the risk of injury or damage.

Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners. This includes district councils, city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners.

Landowners should:

- cut back overhanging branches, which reduce the width of or block the view of the road
- cut back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles
- remove or trim a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement
- trim overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights
- clear ditches located on private land to avoid flooding during heavy rain

Runwell Village Hall

Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford SS11 7JE

For information, bookings and availability
Contact Jo Pharez 01268 735152 / or 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	Mike Rogers, Steve Davis			
Councillors	Richard Crossley	Linda Payne	Angie Ellis	Geoff Redway
	Chris Evans	Jim Sloane	Gerry Gould	Ken Parplett
	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

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Articles for the editor; if you have any articles for publication please send them to runwell.parish.council@gmail.com by 28 February 2024 or to Jo Pharez at the Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7JE

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