



# **RUNWELL ROUNDABOUT**

## **SPRING EDITION 2017**

RUNWELL ROUNDABOUT is sponsored by Runwell Parish Council:

Keeping you informed about issues affecting Runwell Residents.

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**WELCOME to this Spring Edition of the Runwell Roundabout, now in its fifteenth year. It seems like only yesterday we were tucking into Mince Pies and Christmas Pudding, in a couple of weeks it will be the turn of Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs. Hope you enjoy this edition and find something of interest on the following pages.**

After 15 years of editing the Runwell Roundabout we are sorry to say goodbye to Kathy Racher. She has decided to pass the mantle to a new editor. Although it will be hard to replace the attention to detail and especially the jokes. The new editor will be trying hard to follow in such valued footsteps. No doubt that Kath's expertise will be called on for future editions. A **BIG** thank you from Runwell Residents.

### **The Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 8pm**

**Will be held in the Village Hall, Church End Lane SS11 7JE.**

The Chairman calls this meeting once a year, it is the opportunity for any issue to be raised by you the residents and to meet your local councillors.

There will be a talk by Steve Lagden one of our local Bee keepers. We will discuss local Highways issues and the future of Runwell Park, followed by question time and some light refreshments.

### **Report from the Chair of Runwell Parish Council**

As the day light gets longer and we all look forward to the time when we can wear tee shirts again this is the period when the work of your Parish Council reaches a peak with budgets to finalise and perhaps an opportunity to shine a light behind the scenes at the work necessary to maintain a smoothly run ship.

Financially one of our functions is to declare the parish rate (now known as the precept) and advise Chelmsford City Council (CCC) who act as collectors (along with lion's share of the 'Council Tax' for Essex County Council (ECC). The precept is charged on each property in the parish to fund all the activities your parish council undertakes for the benefit of your community.

We as a small organisation pride ourselves for getting far more 'bang for your buck' than City and County and generally we achieve this. We are entering a period of rapid expansion with St Luke's Park housing development, many new properties coming onto the market and new residents moving in. Facilities on site are still in development and the needs of new parishioners will gradually unfold. Coping with unknown financial requirements this year has proved more of a challenge than normal.

Runwell has received no support from the St Luke's Park building levy administered by CCC known as the S106. It was reasonable to assume a substantial amount would be given directly to the Parish, we are currently enquiring further as to why this did not happen despite our request for funding at the time the S106 agreement was made.

Any work that has been proposed by Runwell Parish Council both new and ongoing, has to be prepared and tenders agreed in line with our budget. Much of this work has to fall on the shoulders of the Clerk, once the broader issues have been agreed by the full Council. Bill Lansdale (Chairman)

### **New Parish Councillors**

In the Autumn and Winter Edition of the Roundabout an urgent appeal was made for Parish Councillors, to replace the Parish Councillors that had stood down for various reasons. We are pleased to report we now have three new councillors Mr P Hennessey, Mrs J Wolf and Mrs E Young, we wish them well.

### **The 42<sup>nd</sup> Boxing Day Walk 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

My Son and I arrived at Runwell Park about 10.15 am, some walkers were already there and still more were arriving. It was a bright, dry, sunny day with a chilly NW breeze. At about 10.15 am 67 of us started off across the park to Footpath [FP] no. 7 to Runwell Road next to the Quart Pot pub. Here we turned left and walked along Runwell Road to the start of FP no. 10, on our left is Warren Road. Just here the bushes had been cut down and it was difficult to walk over. Once past this part the path was clear. We walked on past Heathfield to the old hospital site, went over the footbridge and stopped, I asked if anyone noticed anything different, yes the boiler house and chimney had gone. Now the path turns left and goes between two hedges around the old hospital site to Warren Road. At the bottom of the slope where the stream passes under path I noticed it was blocked, so I have reported it.

We carried on up to the wooded area known as Pitfield Shaw on our right, where we waited for everyone to catch up. We went on down past the end of the wood and up the next hill where we all had a rest. This part of the walk is about the highest, some photos were taken here. With the hedge on the left we continued along to Warren Road. Here we turned left again and stopped a little later on the grass verge so all could catch up, we are now in Rettendon parish. Carrying on we turned left again at FP no. 7, this is between the pond on the left and Giffords Farm House on right. The track goes down to Poplars Farm House.

Walking some 300 yards the path goes round to the left of Poplars Farm between two hedges. At the far end, the end of Poplars Garden, FP nos. 4 and 5 start. We used FP5 on the left and walked across to the Running Well.

Where the path passes through the hedge into the next field a Pussy Willow tree had fallen over so my son and I cut off the two branches that blocked the path, then all walked up to the Running Well on our left just up from the corner of the field. Again photos were taken down at the Well and **Matt** and his family had a quick picnic in the sun. After about 20 minutes we walked back to FP no. 7 and down to FP no. 4 towards Brockhill and FP no. 2. The field was rough ploughed but we arrived at the bottom alright.

We walked along the hedge on our left to FP no 2. This footpath runs from South Hanningfield Way to Warren Road. We turned left and went over the stile and footbridge and followed the hedge on our left with the farm track under our feet. Keeping the hedge on our left, crossed the stream from Moorgarden Woods, this is the stream in Churchend Lane; now only two more fields to go to the end of our walk. At South Hanningfield Way we went over the stile and on down to Churchend Lane and back to the park.

A very good walk. A total of £177-06p was collected for the Brain Tumour Charity via the Sarah Kitchener Perrow Fund. A big thank you to you all. David De'ath (Walk Leader)

### **Allotment Update**

Having just spent a lovely day on the allotment, with a temperature reaching 17 degrees centigrade and its only February, WOW!!!! The plot is looking good, already for planting soon. I am still picking cabbages and leeks Looking forward to having a good crop of vegetable this year (I hope). Any enquiries regarding allotments contact Linda on 01268 732033

**Runwell Indoor Short Mat Bowls Club** -are looking for members, so if you have moved into the area, and want to join us on a Monday afternoon at 12:30-3:30 and Thursday evenings 7:30 -10:30 at Runwell Village Hall, bowls and tuition available. We have in-house competitions, friendly matches with other clubs and many social events. For more information please contact Ron Shoesmith 07853 911643

**Memorial Park Bowls Club**- a small friendly club which until a few years ago was known as the Royal British Legion Bowls Club; because we are a small club members can be confident that they will get all the games they want. We are looking to welcome new members for the 2017 season. Free tuition given and bowls

can be borrowed. For more information ring 01268 781226 mobile 07802 814249 or 07772 262937

### **I Another New Year and Runwell Horticultural Association needs YOU!**

After enjoying the fruits of our labours in the form of the chutneys and preserves we made to accompany all the festive food, it is time to start all over again!

Whilst the freezing temperatures are delaying the opportunity to get out into the garden or plant seeds, the icy conditions do have a benefit in helping garlic corms to form and (hopefully) reducing the number of garden pests. Despite the cold and frost some of the bulbs we were given for the 'Chairman's Daffodil' category in the Spring Show have started to emerge. Our Schedule for 2017 is complete and this Autumn we have a new Chairman's challenge – biggest crop from ONE seed potato, grown in a bag or pot.

Don't forget that all members can enter the shows which aren't just about plants, flowers vegetables or fruit. For example there are classes for handicrafts (such as knitting, sewing, painting, wood / metalworking), cooking, baking and preserve making so if you want to try your luck in any of the categories for adults or children just have a look at the website (via the Parish Council site) or speak to any of the committee if you aren't sure how to go about it, beginners have just as much chance of winning as anyone else!

We are pleased that the cold weather did not deter our loyal members from attending our January meeting where, in a departure from the usual speaker, we were entertained, and challenged, by a light-hearted quiz hosted by one of our members, Alun Evans. Alun struck just the right note in compiling a quiz that everyone enjoyed and for which you did not need to be a horticultural genius – in fact I don't really remember any horticultural questions at all.

We are always looking for new members so if you have just moved into the area and want to get to know a few people or are interested in growing, baking or making 'stuff' come and join us for an evening to see what we are about. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall in Church End Lane and look forward to seeing you there. You may be wondering how much this will cost – well,

If you're proud of your delightful daffodils, colorful crocuses or blooming borders, then enter for the chance to win a £50 voucher to spend at Abercorn Plant & Garden Centre! Entry is free: all you need to do is submit up to four photos of your garden or planter, online or by post, and tell judges about its best features.

Entries must reach us by Friday 26 May. Finalists will be invited to a presentation evening in July, where the winners of the First, Second and Third Place prizes will be announced.

**For more information, please call the Council's Neighbourhood Improvement & Community Engagement (NICE) Team on 01245 615800 or visit [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/frontgardencompetition](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/frontgardencompetition)**

**Action for Families and Carers-** are no longer meeting in Wickford. If you need help or support they can be contacted on the following telephone numbers 01621 851640 - Mobile 07896107189 or on their website: [www.affc.org.uk](http://www.affc.org.uk)

## **BBC 2 Ricochet TV Programme**

**Do You Own Something Broken** that you would love restored? In the new Ricochet TV programme a team of Britain's most passionate skilled craftspeople will rescue broken and beloved objects and restore them to their former glory.

If you have any damaged heirlooms, loved ones treasured possession, a prized antique or anything else that needs restoring or repairing get in touch now 01273 224 829 or email [repair@richochet.co.uk](mailto:repair@richochet.co.uk)

## **Beware of Bogus Callers**

They are on the prowl again! Did they ever go away, NO, just changed their tactics. BE SAFE BE ALERT protect yourself from bogus callers who come in all guises. They are now posing as Police Officers with authentic looking Identification Cards. So far they seem to be concentrating on elderly women, but everyone is at risk. If anyone calls at your property, posing as a Police Officer do not let them in, but phone 101 to verify they are authentic. Sometimes callers say they are from the Gas, Electric or Water Companies, once again IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT . Always attach the safety chain, if you have one, before opening the door. Also do not give bank details over the phone or at the door.

### **Who to call:**

If you suspect you, or someone you know has been visited by a bogus caller please call the Police as soon as possible - you may well prevent other crimes occurring. In an emergency dial 999, otherwise report incidents to Essex Police on 101. You can also report any crimes or incidents free and anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If you have been sold shoddy products or bought overpriced goods at the door you can report this to Consumer Direct on 03454 04 05 06.

*A minister was asked to dinner by one of his parishioners who was known for being a poor housekeeper . When he sat down at the table , he noticed that the dishes were the dirtiest that he had ever seen in his life. “ Have these dishes been washed ?” he asked running his fingers over the grit and grime His host replied They are as clean as soap and water could get them . He felt a bit apprehensive, but blessed the food anyway and started eating. It was really delicious and he said so despite the dirty dishes . When dinner was over, the host took the dishes outside, whistled and yelled, “Here Soap Hear Water!”*



**ITV IS LOOKING FOR BRITAIN'S LONGEST REIGNING DRIVERS!**

**Are you over 90 years of age AND still driving – we would love to hear from you!**

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**If this sounds like you or someone you know please call us on 0207 013 4411 or by email at**

**[drivers@rdftelevision.com](mailto:drivers@rdftelevision.com)**



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