



RUNWELL ROUNDABOUT SUMMER EDITION 2016

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 Runwell Parish Council.

WELCOME to this Summer Edition of the Runwell Roundabout, oh the joys of English weather having recovered from local flooding a few weeks ago we are now suffering from high temperatures but it is lovely to see the sun and finally have a summer! Anyway we hope that you will find something of interest in this edition, or perhaps something to make you smile.

INAUGURATION OF RUNWELL VILLAGE SIGN: WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY AT 10.00AM.



In a short ceremony in front of Chelmsford City Councillors Ray Ride and Lance Millane, Chairman of the Parish Council Bill Lansdale and some Councillors past and present; children from the Runwell School and Pre School plus several residents were welcomed by Father Jo who led the singing of the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful.' This was followed by the unveiling of the new village sign by one of the pupils from the Runwell School, and a prayer and blessing by Father Jo. This is the second Village Sign, the first was installed in October 2001 by the then Chairman of Runwell Parish Council, Cllr Norman Simmons and Cllr Jim Sloane, made of wood and after almost 15 years had to be replaced. The new sign is made of glass fibre reinforced plastic (also known as Fibre Glass or Composite Plastic) and should be everlasting.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH APRIL 2016 in the Runwell Village Hall at 8.00pm. Present Mr. Bill Lansdale Chairman Parish Council; Clerk Mrs Jo Pharez; 6 Members of Runwell Parish Council; CCC Ward Representative Ray Ride; Representatives of Village Groups and members of the public. (Approximately 50 in attendance in total) Apologies CCC Representative Lance Millane; Runwell Parish Council - Mr M Rogers, Mrs V Varney; WPCSO Hilary Willmot; Mrs J Dockerill Runwell Patchers; Mr K Peckover Runwell Sports & Social; Father Jo Delfgou St. Mary's Church.

The meeting opened with a presentation and slide show from Roy Hart of the River Crouch Conservation Trust. Roy gave an interesting talk on the work of the River Crouch Conservation Trust explaining how the group had spent many hours of hard work clearing rubbish from the river and monitoring the condition of the river in general. The cleanliness of the river and the abundance of wildlife now present in the river and around the banks is a testament to this dedicated group of volunteers.

If you are interested in the Trust and the work that they do, and would like to join them go to:

<http://www.rivercrouchconservationtrust.org.uk>

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Here is a summary of the Chairmans report....

This is the time when I am required by Law to report to you on the activities of your council and listen to any issues you wish to raise regarding local matters. We have direct responsibilities such as the Hall, Park and Allotments; the year has been busy and operated within Budget under the day to day stewardship of Mrs Jo Pharez who has to juggle numerous balls in her function as Clerk to the Council. The precept (formerly known as the Parish Rate) for this coming financial year is in line with national guidelines and we can be pleased with the high value for money Parish Councils can offer their communities. With the rapid increase in the housing in the Village we anticipate problems with claiming the Parish Rate as we may be capped while having a significantly larger population we will need to approach the City Council to investigate circumstances where demands on a local Council is rapidly expanded.

- Hall - During the past year problems have arisen in our hall, which has given excellent service with the main structure dating back to the 1930s. Poor wiring sufficient to be a serious fire risk; rising damp in the south wall poor drain water drainage. Remedial work was carried out plus improved low energy lighting and a general wash and brush up; improved the insulation above the curtains and we will be replacing the old curtains later this year (These must comply with the Fire Regulations) the overall result will once again bring this building up to the highest of standards.
Earlier in the year the village was given a defibrillator for the community provided we installed it in the correct manner at our cost, which we did, 3 weeks later it was stolen, such a brainless act. We now have to consider whether it should be replaced, and where, as its usefulness decreases if access is restricted.
- Park – At the park, a “Flood Alleviation Scheme” or more simply a new drainage system is being installed to hopefully control the Brock Hill runoff from the start at Meadow Lane to the back of the Quart Pot which should prevent the flooding Church End Lane. If the winters continue to be wet we might have to improve the drainage of the football pitches however this is not in the 2016/17 budget.
- Allotments are provided by and funded by the Parish Council. For all matters on ‘site’ there is a hard working committee who are making many improvements for all the plottolders. We welcome a new allotment Chairman - Judy Fernley who will report later.
- General - With regard to our consultation and representation function this is a very grey area as we need to influence rather than make decisions. We are frustrated with the bureaucracy of Essex County Council (ECC). They control so much of our day to day lives. It would be much easier if they would at least allow the parish council access to the people dealing with our local issues. I recall my Grandmother's saying; “easier to gift wrap live eels” which I think sums up our relationship with and their support to Parish Councils. Our on-going work with Chelmsford City Council (CCC) is on the whole a great deal more constructive and I would be more than happy if the day to day responsibility of Highway Matters was passed back to CCC from Essex County Council In my opinion ECC is simply too large, too remote and too disinterested to be effectively organised to satisfactorily support local people on a day to day basis.
- Highways - the speed control measures on Brock Hill are an ECC Highways initiative (similar to Other schemes locally) that quite simply does not work effectively, repairs are slow and there have been numerous accidents, yet nothing of consequence is done to improve matters.

I would like to thank the 11 other councillors who I work with and represent YOU (the members of our community) they give up their time for free. There are many other people behind the scenes always willing to help out when needed. We continue to provide our free newsletter “The Runwell Roundabout” and more

information is available on our website. We have an active Public Rights of Way Officer David De'ath, who many of you know.

The following local groups gave reports: Allotments Assoc. - Judy Fearnley; Runwell Indoor Bowls - Roy Dockerill; Runwell Sports and Social Club - The Chairman read out a report; Runwell Cubs and Scouts - Dave Spooner; Runwell Brownies/Guides and Rainbows - Janet Nelson; Runwell Horticultural Assoc. - Marianne Smith; St. Mary's Church - Revd. Sue Wise; Runwell Community Primary School - Headteacher Louise Hoskyns; Runwell Dance Club - Alan Ford; Runwell Games Club - The Chairman read out a report; Public Rights of Way/Local History - David De'ath; Chelmsford City Council - Ray Ride; Welcome Club - Mrs Marlene Hutchins. The Chairman thanked all the groups for their reports.

Runwell is a thriving parish with a close community spirit, set to grow and develop.

IN FILL - Panting and perspiring, two men on a tandem bicycle at last got to the top of a steep hill. "That was a stiff climb," said the first man. "It certainly was," replied the second man. "And if I hadn't kept the brake on, we would have slid down backwards"

IN THE SPRING EDITION OF THE ROUNDABOUT WE ASKED IF ANYONE HAD A PHOTO OF WANTZ CORNER, WE HAVEN'T AS YET RECEIVED A PHOTO BUT THIS ACCOUNT FROM BOB CROOT - The meaning of Wantz according to some research is a corruption of "Wents" an old common name for a four way junction or crossroads in Essex and Kent. Wantz corner is the junction of Swan Lane, Lower Brock Hill and Church End Lane and used to be very wide and during the war years Swan Lane was blocked off with tank traps (cone shaped concrete blocks) that let cyclists and pedestrians through but not traffic. As a child I saw many Army convoys come down Church End Lane round Wantz Corner and up Brock Hill. At that time Wantz Corner had an island in the middle of it with a sign standing in a grass triangle facing North (Brock Hill) saying Chelmsford & Stock, Swan Lane said Wickford, Basildon wasn't heard of then. Church End Lane said Maldon & Burnham on Crouch above the sign was another sign saying Wantz Corner. At times local youths would turn the sign round to confuse strangers. Buses and all traffic came through Runwell. Brock Hill was known as Chelmsford Road and there was a sign saying Lower Brock Hill. The road around to Church End Lane is too narrow for today's traffic after Home Holly House was built, subsequent councils never checked road widths. The Basildon sign should not be where it is, it should be on the West side of Wantz corner, Basildon does not start until Athelstan Gardens., another misdemeanor by someone. Opposite Wantz corner during the war years is the area of Moreland Road and Richmond Road, was the plant depot for the Ministry of Agriculture machinery, as they managed all the fields in Runwell of which there were many (not much housing in those days.)

The Village Hall had given a two piece suite, consisting of a two seater settee and an arm chair. My Uncle said "we don't need transport for this we can carry it home to Waverley Crescent" Ha Ha! Midnight found us on the grass island at Wantz corner me and my dad sitting on the settee and Uncle on the armchair, we were about half way home, good job it wasn't raining. Me and Dad we must have been crazy carrying a solid, well made settee on our shoulders and Uncle with the solid, well made armchair on his.....

Thank you Bob, but surely in 1952 you were a mere lad full of vigour!!!!!!!

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER - read on - We all sometimes have pre-conceived ideas and often form opinions without actually knowing anything at all about some things and it is fair to say that it applies to how people think about us. Despite our rather grand title we don't know the Latin names of plants or everything about horticulture, we are simply a group of people interested in gardening, growing things, crafts, cooking and baking who are willing to learn from and share with each other.

We meet second Monday in the month at 8.00pm in the Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, Runwell where we are usually entertained and sometimes educated by a variety of speakers on a range of subjects. We have a couple of coach trips a year to interesting places, an inter-society quiz and an inter-society 'grow and taste' evening once a year. We have two main competitive shows a year where any of us can demonstrate our varied abilities to grow, make and bake 'stuff.' Everyone is welcome to come to our **Autumn Show at 2.00pm on Saturday 3rd September in the Runwell Village Hall, FREE** entry, come and see what we can do, refreshments available. Membership is only £5 per household, at that price it is worth joining even if you don't come every time. *Oh, yes, WHO are we?? We are 'Runwell Horticultural Association'* (told you it sounded

grand.) To join us contact Marianne Smith 01268 765368.

INFILL - A man and his wife were sitting in the living room discussing a 'Living Will'. "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens to me just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all the beer.

THE J's HOSPICE ANNUAL CHELMSFORD MARATHON + NEW 5K RUN

Sunday 23rd October 2016.

These events are organised by The 'J's Hospice charity which supports young adults with life-limiting conditions and their families across Essex. Sign up now, contact www.chelmsfordmarathon.org.uk For more information on the J's Hospice contact:-Heather Baldwin, Communications Manager, Alexandra House,36A Church Street, Great Baddow,Chelmsford,Essex,CM27 7HY. Tel: 01245 475474 ext. 3103.

[Email:Heather.Baldwin@thejshospice.org.uk](mailto:Heather.Baldwin@thejshospice.org.uk)

www.thejshospice.org.uk find us on Facebook follow us on Twitter.

PLAY IN THE PARK - ON THURSDAY 4TH AUGUST IN RUNWELL PARK 1.30PM - 3.30PM. FREE EVENT organised by Chelmsford City Council and paid for by Runwell Parish Council

Sports, arts, crafts, games and free-play. So calling all children, come and join Chelmsford City Council Play Workers for fun and games in the Park. Experienced staff that have a CRB check will supervise this event, all children must register at the beginning of the session. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult who will support the child's participation. Children under 8 must be dropped off and picked up by an adult and a password will be required. Children should wear suitable clothing for playing games and be prepared for any weather, and bring a drink with them, and enjoy themselves.

ALLOTMENT UPDATE - Lots of vegetables planted and the harvest will begin - beans, carrots, parsnips, swede, chilli, sweet corn, peppers, squash, pumpkin, aubergines, melons and tomatoes to name but a few. There was no need to water earlier in the year, so much rain but now we have sunshine and the ground is like concrete!! Four plots available to rent, if interested contact Linda 01268 732033.

RUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL – 3 Parish Councillor Vacancies

If you are interested in becoming a councillor then please contact the parish clerk. Your time will be well spent and there are no real barriers to becoming a councillor. The council meet usually on the first Monday of the month, and occasionally extra committee meetings if you want to get involved with the Village Hall or Park for approximately two hours depending on what needs to be discussed and council meetings are open to the public. A parish, town or community council is the closest level of local government to the community. It is a local authority in its own right that makes decisions on behalf of the residents in its "parish" and has Chelmsford City and Essex County Council authority hierarchy that sits above it. Councillors are elected but are unpaid for their time. Becoming a parish, town or community councillor is a rewarding experience and often described by those that get involved as a way of giving something back to their community.

Qualifications - any person can be elected as a councillor if they are

1. A British national, commonwealth citizen or a euro-national on the day they are nominated **and**
2. 18 years of age or over **and**
- 3 a) on the day they are nominated and thereafter they continue to be a local government elector for the area of the authority **or**
- 3 b) has during the whole of the twelve months preceding that day occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in that area **or**
- 3 c) their principal or only place of work during that twelve months has been in that area **or**
- 3 d) during the whole of those twelve months has resided in that area **or**
- 3 e) in the case of a member of a parish, town or community council has during the whole of those twelve months resided either in the parish or community or within three miles of it.

Disqualification

A person is however disqualified from being elected or being a councillor if they a) hold any paid employment or office in the authority that they seek election; b) are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or other interim order; c) have within five years before the day of election or since their election been convicted of any offence and has had passed on them a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or

not) without the option of a fine; d) has been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices or responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure and the court ordered their disqualification.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Council Clerk Mrs Jo Pharez 01268 735152;

email jo@runwellpc.wanadoo.co.uk or

write a letter of interest to Runwell Parish Council c/o 124 Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford, Essex SS11
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