

Quendon and Rickling Annual Report 2012

As with many villages both local and national we have had a busy year.

Church

We continue with the legal paperwork to become one Parish, we have had one PCC and one treasurer for some time. The Church Commissioners have approved and 'The Parish of Quendon and Rickling' will come into operation on May 1st 2013.

Quendon Church Tower Appeal.



Our wooden bell tower is rotting and requires extensive work to renovate. Faculties have been approved and funding applied for. The total cost is £50,000, a large amount to find. Funding has been granted from Stansted Airport, Virador, Friend of Essex Churches and the Parish Council. Local fund raising has included, Quiz with Fish and Chip super, a 100 club, a Flower Festival in April and a Photographic exhibition and competition.

Rickling Church had a burglary in 2011. In February 2012 some copper downpipe was replaced; the Diocese insist that replacements are like for like. This was taken again within 48 hours! It has been replaced this time in plastic!

We had a wonderful Rogation Ramble, on May 20th starting from Manuden, then to Berden and on to Rickling and Quendon. After a short tea break, back to Manuden. Cars were available for those who could not manage the whole distance.

Both churches have continued to help Harlow Food Bank, with many villagers leaving food for collection at the two churches.

School

A busy year with many changes.

A much loved Midday assistant Mrs Nelson retired after 18 years and a new teacher Mr Lee has taken over Maple class.

The school had their own **Jubilee** celebrations, with a posh picnic where they all wore red, white and blue. They held their own **Olympic** games and made their own torches. Each child was presented with a commemorative coin, funded by Friends of Rickling School

Headmistress Mrs Helen O'Brian retired in July after 20 years. Interviews were held on April 26th and Mrs Gillian Napier was duly appointed as replacement

Mrs Helen O'Brian was given a wonderful send off on July 20th. She was treated to a flight in a light aircraft over the school, whilst the children, staff and parents gathered on the school field to form a giant 'H' for her to see. This was followed by a farewell assembly and tea party for past pupils, parents, governors and colleagues. She said in her memoirs that she started teaching in 1992 when there were only 2 classes and 40 children in the school, now we have 4 classes and 100 children. She took over as Head in 1996 and recalled the fire at the school on November 15th 1993 and the temporary school that had to be held in the Village hall for a few months. She also mentioned the 70th Birthday celebrations for Dick Barratt. The children walked to the Village Hall where Dick held court and was given many cards and gifts, and tears ran down the dirt on his face. The new School hall was built and opened in 2002 during Helens time, a great achievement. She will be well remembered and greatly missed.

Helen (in red dress) with the wonderful quilt, where each child had made a square, one of many gifts.



Jubilee Celebrations

Celebrations were held on the green on June 4th. Traditional games were played and the best crown competition judged. This was well attended by the village.



Jubilee Torch

A group of children from school went to Newport to watch the torch go through and see Jamie Oliver take part. Quendon and Rickling were well represented in the pouring rain, it was great to be part of history.



Parish Council

Our first Defibrillator was installed at the Village Hall during May and 12 volunteers attended a training session on June 13th. The Parish Council have distributed and collected the questionnaires regarding the village plan; and are collating and acting on the answers. From this we are to have a village sign and designs have been submitted.

Postman

In October our much loved postman Peter Elsey retired after 18 years. The village collected over £800 and presented him with gifts at the village hall on November 18th 2012. Over 100 people came to say farewell.



The Golf Society

An excellent band of keen golfers who had several outings to a variety of courses and social gatherings. with the money raised going to the upkeep of the two churches.

The Buffy bus continues to visit on Wednesday morning.

History

I continue to collect information and photos and struggle with storage.

Christine Osbourn

Local History Recorder, Quendon & Rickling

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