

# THE QUARTERLY RUNTONIAN

Issue 46 September 2023



## ***RUNTON ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS ONCE AGAIN*** *page 4*

Read about a new footpath being installed under the viaducts in East Runton linking to the path over the common on *page 3*

*Follow the intended work for the village ponds inside.*

Website:



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Pg. 8. Local information and dates for your diary.

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The Runtonian is so named after the “Runtonian” magazine produced by the school in 1924. Copy of the original publication held at the Reading Room.

**Follow us on Twitter @runtonparish and Runton History on Facebook**

## **PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION—**

Your Councillor details are as follows.

### **West Runton Ward:**

#### **Chair**

Ms. Carole Davidson

#### **Councillors**

Mr. Richard. Annis

Mr. Ralph Smith

Mrs. Beverly Memish

Mr. Mark Lerego

Ms. Alex Debacker

### **East Runton Ward:**

#### **Councillors**

#### **Vice Chair**

Mr. Stephen Gurney

Mr. Phil Nichols

Ms. T. Edwards

Mr. Kevin Jonas .

Mr. Gerry Baker

Mr. Chris Hawkins

The local District Councillor is now Kim Toye

The Norfolk County Councillor is Eric Vardy.

POLICE: Non emergency police free number—101

**Norfolk Swift Response Team—for assistance 0344 800 8020**

**The Clerk to the Council is:** Mrs. Barbara Emery.

**The Office is at:** The Reading Room, Felbrigg Road, East Runton  
Cromer NR27 9PE. Tel: **01263 512214.** or mobile **07422 665978**

**Email:** [runtonpc@aol.com](mailto:runtonpc@aol.com) — **twitter** [@RuntonParish](https://twitter.com/RuntonParish)

**PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE** open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
10.30am to 3.30pm with a lunch break from 1pm—2pm. The Clerk will  
normally be there to help in any way connected with Parish business.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**—usually held on the fourth  
Tuesday of each month.

**Meeting at West Runton Church Hall, followed by the ordinary meeting.**

**Next meeting is September 26th at West Runton Church Hall  
7:15PM. Onwards: October 24th at East Runton Reading  
Room.**

**November 28th West Runton Church Hall.**

**Meetings usually on Tuesdays. Full calendar on the website**

## WEST RUNTON PONDS

West Runton currently has two ponds. Spring Pond, at the south end of the village has had issues in the last few years with drying up, often during the time that there is both frog and toad spawn in it.

This problem has been caused by the sinking of a borehole by Anglian Water to meet the needs of the growing population of Sheringham. Anglian Water, after some discussion with the Parish Council, have recognised their responsibility to protect the pond's water supply and this autumn will be carrying out work to ensure that Spring Pond is once again fed with a regular supply of water.

## EAST RUNTON PONDS

Both ponds are being monitored

There was a concern about the water flow into the pond on Lower Common having higher than is desirable levels of ammonia. This was checked by the Environment Agency and some remedial work was done under the viaduct by Anglian Water. We were not given details, but the pond water was soon flowing through as normal.

## **NEW FOOTPATH UNDER THE VIADUCT EAST RUNTON**

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that a 50% grant was secured under the Parish Partnership Bid for a footpath linking the path along the edge of the Lower Common under the bridges and connecting to the corner of Buxton Close. To be done soon.

The Retting Pond (next to the railway station) has become very overgrown with vegetation in the last few years. Unfortunately it also has a small amount of New Zealand Pygmy weed growing in it. This is a very invasive plant that can cause ponds to become completely matted with vegetation. It has also become quite silted up since it was last cleared out in 2014. This autumn the pond will once again be cleared out by contractors appointed by the Parish Council. This will result in the pond, and the area around it, looking a little unsightly for a few months, but it will all soon recover. As they say, you can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs!

## **RUNTON ALLOTMENT & GARDEN SHOW (RAGS)**

The Runton Allotment and Garden Produce Show affectionately known as RAGS was held on Saturday 29th July in a marquee on The Hurn at West Runton. The event saw 18 entries displaying fruit, vegetables, flowers and preserves, all of exemplary quality.

Once the judging was completed members of the public were welcomed to view the entries and take part in a raffle and tombola raising valuable funds for local charities. We had 7 competition categories with 26 sub sections.

The overall show winner coming from the preserves category was Lily Richards from West Runton. Both judges enthusiastically endorsed her strawberry jam entry as being the best they had ever tasted.



Lily with her prize accompanied by Carole Davidson, volunteer and Chair to the Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to thank the Tea Rooms at the Corner House for their support and all our volunteers who helped on the day and to erect and take down the marquee.

## **CHRISTMAS**

It's never too early to mention our Christmas Tree and Carols Events.

These will take place early in December so watch out for the posters nearer the time.

## **RAGS SUNFLOWER COMPETITION**

The Sunflower Competition was also held on the 29th July We asked for photo's of your tallest sunflowers grown from seeds given out in respect of the Coronation of King Charles III. You did not disappoint. The King was keen that people should distribute wild flower seeds instead of mugs or coins in commemoration.

The winner was Maureen Jarvis of West Runton. Her entry was a whopping 9'10in 299.7cm. We extend grateful thanks to all businesses and volunteers who distributed the seeds for us.



Maureen with her winning entry

## **News from St. Andrew's East Runton**

It's been so good to have our seasonal visitors with us once more, swelling our congregation, joining in our services and chatter over coffee afterwards. Also the weekday Benefice Eucharist has crept up to fifteen some Wednesday's.

The Summertime Coffee Morning, held in church on the 12th August, raised a wonderful £531! A huge "Thank You "to evryone who contributed to it, and to those who supported it. The next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>, when we shall be celebrating harvest, with fruit pies etc.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 3pm in St.Andrew's, there will be a Memorial Service for the late Alison Binns, who died earlier this year aged 100. Her family extend a warm invitation to those who remember the lovely Alison to join them for this celebration of her life.

Follow and like our facebook page **Runton History**

## **Notable Buildings in Runton**

**Our Reading Room East Runton** was given to the Parish Council in 1936 by Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton with a piece of land to the north which was sold to the owner of Elder Cottage in 1988 for £300.00.

Village reading rooms were mostly built between the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They were provided by upper class benefactors, mainly local landowners or the Church, as an alternative to the public houses, where the men of the house were spending many hours and considerable amounts of their wages on alcohol. Newspapers and magazines would be provided, and because many men of that time were illiterate, sometimes a local person who was more educated would read to them, probably being paid about a ha'penny a time.

The Reading Room was built in two stages, the first being that part adjacent to Felbrigg Road, which now serves as a parish office and contact point for enquiries. An extension was later built which in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century became home to Runton Snooker Club, and remained as such until the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, when the club was disbanded.

**Runton Café** situated in High Street East Runton on the left hand side of what is now Sammy's was owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Wright. They did delicious frothy milkshakes made with ice-cream. It was the place to hang out for children and play the juke box. Hazel Kemp (nee Love) recalls, "*I used to help at the Café after I'd biked home from Cromer School and Mrs. Wright once bought me some strawberries for my tea on my 15th birthday*". *I also helped to take tea trays to the beach from the Beach Café*".

### **The Links Hotel and West Runton railway station**

The station was built in 1892 as the railways were extended and still sports it's original sign, albeit at sometime renovated. This gave local land owner James Renwick Abbs the idea to build an

hotel in the village. The site he chose was only 200 yards from the new station. It's nine-hole golf course opened in 1903. In 1906 it was extended to 18 holes which circled around nearby Inceborough Hill. Now a nine hole course again. In 1979, the hotel pulled off a major coup by appointing legendary South African golfer Gary Player as playing professional and director of golf. It was the first time he had agreed to represent a British hotel in this way.

**Runton House**, on the site of a large cottage called the Rivulet. It belonged to Favell Lee Mortimer, a writer, whose adopted son Lethbridge Moore was Vicar of Sheringham and who commissioned a famous Victorian architect, Temple Moore, his nephew, to re-build The Rivulet/Runton House in 1893. It was subsequently bought by James Abbs mentioned above.

**Railway Viaducts East Runton.** Magnificent pieces of engineering, built a few years apart over the turn of 19th century and carrying two lines of passenger and freight on the MGN lines.

The skewed bridge line only carried freight in the fifties and then closed, with the other line remaining very much in use today.

**Runton Old Hall.** Once belonging to the Buxtons, built on the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and having been remodeled in part in early 1900s. Nestling in the corner of the Top common, with the Hall Cottage nearby which was once a Montessori school which opened in 1914 just before the 1<sup>st</sup> world war broke out.

**East Runton School.** Known as "The School that Sang" eventually becoming St. Andrews church, was also built by the Buxtons who took a great interest in the school and visited regularly. Sadly it closed in 1958, presumably because of dwindling numbers.

**The West Runton Pavilion** (once behind the Village Inn) having been a dance hall for many years became more famous in 1970s-80s as being the venue to go to, for top bands such as: Led Zepplin, T Rex, Iron Maiden, singer Chuck Berry, Dwane Eddy, David Bowie, and with many local bands also playing. Slade with Noddy Holder played there and Slade Court is named after them.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Runton Parish History Mingle & Mardle** coffee mornings continue, with the next ones on October 5th, November 2nd and December 7th. Local history talks with screen shows will now take place regularly, so watch out for the posters.

St Andrews Church coffee morning Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>, when we shall be celebrating harvest, with fruit pies etc.

Posters will be up in November advertising our Christmas events both held at East and West Runton on separate days early in December. There will be a brass band this year at West Runton.

**The Parish Council are extremely grateful to all our distributors. This is a very much appreciated effort by you all.**

### LIBRARIES Cromer Library opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10.30am-7pm.

Wednesday: Closed. Open Library access only from 8am-7pm

Thursday: 10am-2pm. Friday: 10am-6pm Saturday 12-4pm

Sunday: Closed. Out of hours "Open Library Access" see website.

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

**Many mobile library routes have been axed owing to lack of use. East Runton has fallen under this axe. Routes left in West Runton at least up until December are as follows. ALL ON THURSDAYS**

West Runton 14:20 14:40 Renwick Park

West Runton 15:15 15:25 Golf Close

West Runton 15:30 15:50 Church Close

Dates as follows:

7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 30th November.

There should be one on 28th December, but this is not guaranteed.

We hope there will be more information to give in our January issue of this publication.

Routes are subject to change.

Correct at time of printing

**For enquiries about the above routes please telephone 01603 222303**