

# THE QUARTERLY RUNTONIAN

Issue 48 March 2024



**RUNTON PARISH COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY IN THE WEST WARD.** The Council is very pro-active and needs an enthusiastic person to be involved in the many aspects of Council activities, from delivering newsletters to helping with management of allotments and commons and making decisions on behalf of the electorate.

Please apply to the Clerk (details on page 2) in the first instance  
**Come along to a meeting and see what goes on!**

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And dates for your diary.

Parish Council Website:

[www.runtoneastandwest.co.uk](http://www.runtoneastandwest.co.uk)

Telephone: 01263 512214

Email: [runtonpc@aol.com](mailto:runtonpc@aol.com)



The Runtonian is so named after the "Runtonian" magazine produced by the school in 1924.

**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

Vacancy

Mrs. Beverly Memish

Mr. M. Lerego

Ms. A. Debacker

### **East Runton Ward:**

#### **Vice Chair**

Mr. Stephen Gurney

#### **Councillors**

Mr. Phil Nichols

Ms. T. Edwards

Mr. Kevin Jonas .

Mr. Gerry Baker

Mr. Chris Hawkins

The local District Councillor is 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 above is a non emergency service to help with minor instances in the home, perhaps just assistance with mobility etc.

**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. Alternating at East Runton Reading Room and West Runton Church Hall**

**Next meeting is 26th March at West Runton and on April 23rd is the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING—your opportunity to question the Parish Council and air your views.**

**Full calendar 2024 is now on the website.**

## **WEST RUNTON TRAFFIC CALMING**

Update on the safety measures planned for West Runton.

The legalities do have to be overcome first which is now hopefully in the initial stages as £8000 has been paid by the Parish Council to further it.

We are told that this will start the process and are indeed hoping that this is the case.

Rest assured that the Parish Council will keep on top of this and communicate as much as we can to the community.

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## **WORK ON THE COMMONS**

With the weather warming up, frogs and toads are on the move to their breeding ponds, but this puts them in danger! Emerging from their wintering areas, toads in particular, migrate back to their ancestral breeding ponds following the same route regardless of what's in the way. Nationally each year, thousands of frogs and toads are killed by vehicles while crossing roads on the way to ponds. Toad patrols are doing their bit to help these species which are in decline from loss of habitat and disease.

In West Runton, the annual toad patrol has been saving frogs, toads and the odd newt for many years. Patrollers, wearing high-vis clothing, patrol along Sandy Lane collect the migrating amphibians in buckets, then carry them safely to the pond. Taking part in the patrol, which can last for several weeks from February to April depending on the weather, is a chance to experience a spectacle of nature that goes largely unseen. From scooping up a slow crawling female toad burdened with a male clinging to her back from the middle of the road, to delivering them to the pond where the air is filled with sound – the low thrumming of male frogs calling and the higher pitched peeps of the toads. It's an unusual, but special experience.

If you're interested in volunteering with the West Runton Toad patrol, contact Carole at [cgd1959@gmail.com](mailto:cgd1959@gmail.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### TELEPHONE LINES GOING DIGITAL

Some of you may have heard about analogue telephone lines being switched off by the end of 2025.

The old system will be switched off and land-lines will use broadband to make calls.

You will get letters to inform you that your home phone is moving to Digital Voice. It will be upgraded to a broadband-based connection at no charge.

### FLOODING IN EAST RUNTON

Many will have seen the water cascading down Greens Lane towards the Top Common pond. It has gone on for a considerable length of time and is a cause for concern for the Parish Council and has been continuous for at least four months. Efforts to get NCC Highways to alleviate the problem had not been rewarded. Cllr. Gurney with MP Duncan Baker looked at it in December 2023 and Mr. Baker has pushed Highways to do some work. Owing to this two blockages have been cleared but tree roots had caused a third. Further work took place and the Parish Council hope that this matter is resolved soon and reoccurring can be prevented.

### BLUE FLAG TO RETURN TO EAST RUNTON

After recent testing, we are told that the water quality in East Runton is now “excellent”, which means that the Blue Flag should return to our beach. The reason a flag is lost is not because the water quality is poor. It has to reach the criteria for “excellent” and was only in the “good” category. There are many things which can affect this on the testing day. Heavy rain for instance which we all experienced in October last year and continuing. We hope that the flag will be installed soon. In time for the summer would be good.

## WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS DONE IN 2023

Coronation events took place and another successful allotment show was held on the Hurn with a sunflower competition this time. Councillors surgeries are being held monthly, a new plan for the commons is underway and a new bench was installed on Top Common. Other things provided was a large display TV in the Reading Room, some trees planted on the Playing Field, cctv being trialled in the Reading Room and the new path between the viaducts in East Runton.

Future projects involve more tree planting on a cleared area at Moyes Close allotment land and extra notice boards for both villages.



Both villages held successful and well attended Christmas events with tree lights switched on. Held on The Hurn at West Runton with a brass band.

At East Runton on the space outside Bernies with Santa attending.



## ALLOTMENTS

Inspections are ongoing and plots will be monitored this spring. A reminder too that bonfires will come under the summer ban after the end of February and will continue until 1st November unless there is any change and if there is, then everyone will be informed.

## BIODIVERSITY

Runton Parish Council have signed up to a Biodiversity Policy to promote wildlife in our parish. We would encourage our parishioners and allotment tenants to be mindful of the way they use their gardens and plots to include managed wild areas.

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

### CENTENARY OF A SCHOOL OUTING

Since it's inauguration the Runton Parish History Society has received numerous interesting pieces of Runton history, and a few years ago the son of long term resident Harry Barker, who some will remember working at Crowe's Garage, brought in a fascinating piece of memorabilia of East Runton School. It was a copy of "The Runtonian", a magazine published annually by the pupils and what this Newsletter is named after. This particular edition of the Runtonian issued in 1924 was extra special however, for the edition included a supplement describing a visit to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley in May 1924. This year marking the centenary of that visit. The sum of £30 had been raised by a jumble sale and auction which covered the cost of taking nineteen pupils, one of those chosen was Harry Barker, by train to London. This included three days accommodation in a Hostel and admission to the exhibition.

Upon their return the pupils wrote items for the magazine describing their experiences, which must have been magical for them as many had probably never ventured beyond the borders of Norfolk. The essays vividly describe the thrill they experienced; one being excited by the Dodgems at the amusement park, describing them as "*specially constructed cars with a steering wheel working by overhead electrified wire netting*". Phyllis Perfect was enthralled by The Queen's doll's house. For some, the highlight of the trip was the journey by train.

Elsie Jonas remembered arriving at the Hostel "*Quite worn out with the day's excitement and the exertion of travelling and the first few hours in the Exhibition*". Elsie went on to say "*We were greeted by the Matron who seemed quite cheerful, showing the girls their dormitories and giving us the rules, which were,*

1. *No talking allowed between 10.30pm and 6.30 am.*
2. *No girl was to touch any other girl's blanket or bed.*

3. *In the morning each girl was to leave her bed as she found it*".

4. Another girl reported on their fund raising activities, which initially consisted of a Jumble Sale with refreshments. The children gathered the jumble together themselves on a hand cart going round the houses. She reports "*Barbara had the antique stall, David Leake sold iron goods, Mrs. Perfect and Mrs Frostick had the clothes stall, Mrs Weights had the fancy stall, Mrs. Abbs sold teas and penny buns. Mrs. Boyce sold fruit and jam. Harry Barker and Jimmy Tuck on Hoopla, Walter Jonas raised 12s2d (61p) at Darts. Marjorie Lusher sold sweets and Phyllis and I enjoyed ourselves at the toystall.. The afternoon was a great success and we raised £16 clear profit*".

There was also a whist drive, a dance and some subscriptions. Queenie Leeder was not chosen to go, but instead of feeling left out and miserable, she says "*The children left behind were all very pleased to see the train going. On their return home they had a lot of interesting things to tell us. I hope that when I get old I shall be able to have a treat like that*".

There was an element of sadness however, as one of the pupils who should have gone on the trip, Cecil Balls, contracted measles and sadly died on June 3rd. One of his school mates wrote a poignant obituary to him in the magazine.

### **“D”DAY LANDINGS**

We are looking for people's memories of their families involvement with D Day. We are hoping that we can gather some stories and photographs that we can display and honour them at the church in West Runton. It's the 80th anniversary this year of the D Day landings, the invasion of Normandy, where many personnel lost their lives from many countries serving in the allied troops.

The commemoration will be on 6th June and there will be some events across the parish, to remember this historic day.

If you have any stories or memorabilia you would be willing to share or lend please let us know via the Clerk. Details page 2.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **RUNTON CHURCHES**

Holy Trinity and St Andrew's East Runton Services:

Every Sunday in both churches (see notice board for times especially for Easter Services. The **Lent Lunches** are taking place each Friday until 23rd March 12 noon—1:15pm Church Hall West Runton. Homemade soup, bread rolls, tea, coffee. £3.00 per person

**St Andrew's East Runton Coffee Mornings at the church:**

**Saturday 23rd March—Hot Cross Buns**

**May 25th "Springtime". Later on, August 10th "Summertime"**

**Everyone is welcome to all events and services.**

**History Coffee Mornings "Mingle and Mardle"** continue on first Thursday in each month. **Next ones at East Runton Reading Room March 5th, April 2nd, May 5th at 10.30. Admission free.**

**"D"DAY EVENTS 6TH JUNE. LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS**

### **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

**West Runton Church Hall 22nd March during coffee morning. East Runton Reading Room 23rd April. Both from 10AM for approximately an hour. Come and air your views.**

### **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**

**West Runton are operating as follows.**

**Correct at the time of printing.**

West Runton Church Close 15:50-16:05

West Runton Renwick Pk 16:10-16:25

West Runton Golf Close 16:30-16:40

Routes are subject to change.

**For enquiries about the routes please**

**Tel: 01603 222303**

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Views expressed are not necessarily the views of the editor or the Parish Council members