

The Reydon Robin

The quarterly, complimentary news magazine, for Reydon



Reydon Christmas Lights Switch On (Picture: Jon Hadcraft)

Winter 2025

ISSUE 16

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 2025 - May 2026

Sat. 13th Dec. Southwold Railway Steamworks Santa Special, Blyth Road, 4–7.30pm. £7 adults and £10 children. Pre-booking essential 01502 725422.

Wed. 24th Dec. Christingle Service, St. Margaret's, Reydon, 4pm and Midnight Communion 11pm.

Christmas Day Christmas Day Swim, Gun Hill Beach, Southwold, 10.30am. More details or register: <https://blythvalleyrotary.co.uk/swim/>. Holy Communion (11am St. Peter & St. Paul, Wangford).

2026

Fri. 9th Jan. Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch, Reydon Village Hall, 9am–12.30pm.

Quiz Night, Reydon Village Hall, 7pm. £5 per person, teams of up to 6. Bring your own drink and snacks.

Sun. 11th Jan. Re-Cycle Your Bike, Southwold Café & Putting Green near the Pier, 10am–12 noon. Drop off unwanted bikes.

Fri. 6th Feb. Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch, Reydon Village Hall, 9am–12.30pm.

Sat. 7th Feb. Music event with The Optics, Reydon Village Hall, 7pm. Funk, Soul and Motown covers band. Tickets £12. More at www.theopticssuffolk.com.

Fri. 6th Mar. Women Who Inspire, Halesworth Golf Club, 6:30pm.

Sat. 9th May Starlight 10K Walk, Old Hall, Southwold Café and Walks.

ENJOY A WALK AROUND REYDON?

Why not turn your next stroll into a good deed? We are currently seeking helpers to assist with the distribution of *The Reydon Robin*.

The Robin is published every six months, meaning we only need your time a couple of times a year. It's a great excuse to get some fresh air while supporting the village!

To lend a hand, please contact us at: reydon.robin@reydonvillage.org.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME



Linda Coe, Chair,
Reydon Parish Council

Welcome to this festive Winter edition of *The Reydon Robin*, a time for reflection as another year draws to a close.

On behalf of Reydon Parish Council, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all those valiant individuals who work so hard for our community throughout the year. Our magazine would not be viable without the volunteers who deliver it to all the homes in Reydon and beyond.

Thank you once again to the Reydon Lights Committee and the Blyth Valley Rotary Club for their tireless work in giving us such a lovely, heart-lifting Christmas display at Reydon Corner, Jubilee Green and all around the village, which we are all enjoying. A big thank you also to the teams who collect food from local supermarkets and run the Pantry on Tuesdays and Fridays, helping many in the village and beyond.

We have some truly fascinating articles in this issue. Don't miss the piece on the development of our village over the centuries on Pages 4–5. For nature lovers, you'll enjoy reading Bill Hancock's Nature Notes on Page 7. For anyone interested in local history and preservation, there is an update on the World War One 'pillbox' at Might's Bridge on Page 6. And for something completely different, turn to Page 9 for beautiful photos and interesting facts about astrophotography and our local area and wildlife.

A final, big thank you goes to Sole Bay Bowls Club for their generosity in sponsoring this edition of *The Reydon Robin*.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Linda Coe

We are looking ahead to the warmer months of 2026 and are starting the planning for the next edition of *The Reydon Robin*. We would love your stories and ideas! Please send all submissions to us by **Friday, 20th March 2026**. The finished newsletter will be coming out on **Thursday, 2nd April 2026**. Please get in touch with us directly at reydon.robin@reydonvillage.org.

WHY DOES HISTORY MATTER?

At a very local level, this was illustrated by something I found when reading through the 2019 Copperwheat development papers written by the Principal Design and Heritage Officer at East Suffolk Council:

‘St Margaret’s Church. . . now stands semi-isolated from Reydon which appears to have migrated from it some time ago. What is interesting to me is how the village is creeping back towards the church. Modern development along Wangford Road is having an encroaching effect which could be styled as a reclaiming effect, such that the church may yet end up being part of the village, once again.’

This is historical nonsense – as I wrote in the broad overview of Reydon since Domesday Book in *The Robin* last year, there never was a nucleated village around the Church. Ben Woolnough (Head of Planning and Building Control) assures me that this is not the current thinking within East Suffolk Council as they start to develop the new Local Plan, but it is vital that this sort of fantasy thinking does not take root. Hence an understanding of how the village actually developed is so important.



Hodgkinson's map of Reydon in 1783

Following last year's article, I thought it might interest residents to look a little more deeply into that history. This is made very challenging by there being at least three Reydens in Suffolk – ours, a Reydon or Roydon on the Essex border, and a third near Diss. All perhaps reflect the importance of growing rye in the region. The confusion persists since National Grid were convinced for a long time that our house rather than Roydon Hall was in the path of the planned Norwich–Tilbury pylons.

Archivists and historians have been equally confused – manorial documents for Reydon and Roydon are catalogued as one, and much of the medieval history conflated. There are plenty of distinct records for our village – lists of taxpayers from the 14th Century onwards, wills and other documents – but unpicking the different manors and connecting the evidence to our village is a real challenge. So the advice of a local historian was to work backwards from the turn of the 19th–20th Century.

The layout of Reydon by 1900 is clear from the first Ordnance Survey map of the area – published in 1884. This shows the principal farms, a dozen houses along Wangford Road,

the first plots being laid out at Mount Pleasant, a hamlet at Bridgefoot and a scattering of other cottages. This is reflected in the 1901 Census data for Reydon, which allows us to put names to addresses of the 453 people who lived in the village.

Going back a little further, the government in 1837 commissioned a survey of the whole country to determine who owned the land, and specifically what tithes were due (these were payments towards the parish church). The Reydon Tithe Map was drawn up in 1847, and meticulously lists each plot of land (some 400 named fields), its use, the owner and the occupier or tenant. This gives us an excellent picture of the village.

- The village was predominantly an arable farming economy – as it still is, with over 70% under the plough.
- There was precious little pasture (just over 5%), about 20% marsh and only 2% woodland.
- Half the land was in the hands of the Barnes, Stradbrokes, Gooches and Ewens, with significant farms owned by Samuel Hingston and Thomas Diver, each farming 8%.
- Twelve farms in total are listed, with a further 25 cottages.

We also know from Poor Law returns that the population of the village in 1851 was 337, with a total of 71 inhabited houses – just under five people to a household.

The next fixed point back in time is the Enclosure Map of 1801. Enclosure was a process undertaken between the 16th and 19th Centuries to gather in all Common Land ('heaths, fen ground, commons and waste land' – a survival from medieval farming practices) and re-apportion it to create more nuclear and efficient farms, very often to the benefit of the largest landholders. Enclosure required an Act of Parliament and Reydon was enclosed quite late in 1798. Commissioners were appointed, decisions made, and a full report and map submitted for Royal Assent. The land in question runs broadly between Wangford Road and the boundary with Southwold, and marks houses and fields with ownership reaching back to manorial times.

A few years earlier is a coloured map in the Southwold Museum showing land in Reydon owned by Miles Barne. The Barne family promoted the development of Reydon Quay in competition with the burgesses of Southwold, and there are some charming illustrations of ships sailing up the river and at the quayside.



*Reydon lands owned by Miles Barne in 1791
(by kind permission of the Southwold Museum)*

Hodgkinson's pre-Enclosure 1783 map of Suffolk shows the rudimentary layout Reydon village, but with little detail, and to go back any further, we leave mapped Reydon and rely on documentary evidence – wills, legal disputes and criminal court records. This will be the subject of another article, but, in the meantime, I hope to be able to get copies of the Ordnance Survey, Tithe Map and Enclosure Map made for display in Reydon Village Hall.

James Winterbotham

FUNDING BOOST FOR A LOCAL HERITAGE ASSET

The World War One 'pillbox' on the A1095 at Might's Bridge has been sitting in our midst for over a century, yet few remember how significant this monument was, or consider how special it has become. After the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, there was the real threat of invasion by a foreign power. Small defensive positions – nicknamed pillboxes – were thrown up over the country, but especially in the east, where enemy landings were most likely.

This particular building was no afterthought. Its positioning alongside Might's Bridge was strategic for two reasons: not only could a garrison force keep watch over Buss Creek, the marshes and the sea, they could also monitor (and defend if necessary) the only road to Southwold, and its important harbour.

This building is rare. It was constructed of cast concentric concrete bricks, with a reinforced roof designed to resist blast. Few pillboxes remain, and it is unusual because – luckily – it happens to be where two public footpaths meet, so it is easy and safe to visit.

Reydon Parish Council took over the care last year, and a Steering Group was formed to organise the monument's repair and to consider its future use. A full structural survey was carried out early in 2024 by Geoff and Ben Cooper of Cooper & Denny, and an estimate was prepared for remedial works. The Steering Group suggested, when fully restored, the building can be used as a 'Living History' exhibit. Supported by regular public engagement and on-site information, this project would aim to provide local schools and visitors with salient details about the dangers of enemy invasion (in both World Wars) and the threat of living under a foreign dictator.

In addition, the Group would like to see a local heritage trail set up to engage both residents and visitors with little known but significant aspects of Reydon's history.

Work is underway. The Steering Group has been given help by the Community Payback Team, who organise unpaid work in the community. The Team visit, and move soil to better use outside the Men's Shed on the Millennium Car Park. Their enthusiasm is both infectious and encouraging, and without them, we would struggle to get this work done.

At its November meeting, Reydon Parish Council voted to grant the Pillbox Steering Group £10,000 to get their fundraising underway. This grant is taken from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund, raised from new housing developments in the village. This is approximately a quarter of the money to be found and is a very encouraging start. Thank you!

If you would like to be part of the Steering Group or to help with fundraising, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@reydonvillage.org or call 07768 395465. Your help will be most appreciated!

Laurence Vulliamy

This edition of The Reydon Robin is sponsored by Sole Bay Bowls Club

NATURE NOTES

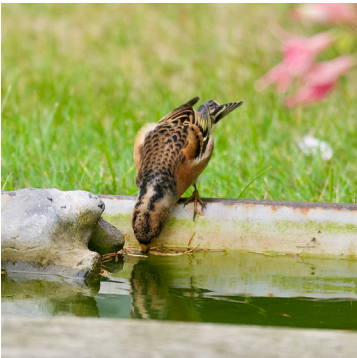
This summer and autumn, I welcomed a few unexpected garden visitors. Last year, a pair of lesser black-backed gulls nested on my roof and raised three chicks. Gardening became quite a challenge, so did the removal of copious amounts of whitewash over the car and paving, not to mention the noise and aerial mobbing received during trips to the bin. We survived and so did they.



Gull spikes on the roof deterred them from nesting this year, so they moved over the road and raised two chicks on a neighbour's roof. I did take pity on the chicks during our hot, dry summer and they quite enjoyed taking turns in cooling off in a bowl of water, but, first, a welcome drink.

It's been a hard day's night for Reynard. This is a dog fox known as a Charlie in fox-hunting circles, and up north is known as a Tod. He wandered into my back garden and selected this chair from several others and promptly had a quick nap.

Skulk is the collective noun for several foxes; hardly a fair noun for our countryside apex predator, which is designed to spring on its prey, a good hunting strategy when lying in wait for mice and rats.



All the way from Northern Europe, this tired brambling dropped in for a drink. A close relative to our own chaffinch, they spend winters here, but there is no record of them staying to breed (as far as I know). Small flocks arrive during October and November. It's always a pleasure to see them. Both these finches enjoy beech mast, which is their favourite seed. They also clear up many injurious insects.

Season's greetings.

Bill

SOUTHWOLD BEACH HUT OWNER'S ASSOCIATION



The colourful beach huts on the Southwold promenade are iconic. They have been part of the local landscape for more than a century.



In Victorian times, huts on the beach provided accommodation for the fishermen and their families as well as a place to store and process their catch. By the 1920s, recreation began to overtake fishing as the main activity on the beach and the huts evolved accordingly.

Today, the famous Southwold beach huts provide places to fully enjoy being by the seaside, even with the unpredictability of English weather. With winter now upon us, those huts north of the Pier have been moved onto the Car Park. This is done every autumn to protect them from the ravages of winter storms. They go back onto the Prom around Easter.

Like all treasures, the huts and the beach need constant care and attention. The Southwold Beach Hut Owners' Association was formed with this intent. Not only do we act on behalf of hut owners, we also help to maintain the amenity of the Promenade, beach and surrounding areas. We work closely with East Suffolk Council to maintain and improve the Seafront and Prom for Reydon and Southwold residents as well as for visitors.

This past spring saw emergency repairs to the Prom north of the Pier and there will be further work on sea defences in the future. Budgeting and planning approval is expected in 2026, with works probably being carried out in 2027.

Working with East Suffolk Council, we now have a shower in place by the beach and action has been taken on pest control. Looking forward into the new year, our priorities will be to look at planting on the cliff, dealing with erosion, seawall repairs and antisocial behaviour. These affect the enjoyment of the beach and Promenade for all of us, residents, visitors and hut owners alike.

To find out more about us or if you are interested in renting a beach hut, visit our website at www.southwoldhuts.co.uk.

If you are a beach-hut owner and wish to join the Association,
e-mail info@southwoldhuts.co.uk.

Happy Christmas!

Simon MacDowall, Southwold Beach Hut Owners' Association

HEAVENS ABOVE

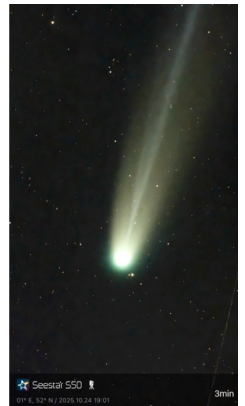
Nearly every day, I walk north above Buss Creek into Easton Bavents, the easternmost part of Reydon. Early in the morning, I get to exercise, observe nature and take photographs. Recently, I captured some barnacle geese flying south in the early sun. They migrate in the autumn and winter months from Greenland and Svalbard, and the local ones can often be seen feeding on Reydon Marshes.



About 15 years ago, I bought a drone. On its maiden flight, it took off over the North Sea, never to be seen again. More modern drones have much better return-to-home software and I reinvested a couple of years ago. This is a recent shot of the coast looking north.

I learnt recently from Natural England that it is hoped to start work, north of Southwold, on the King Charles III Footpath this winter, with a view to its opening next summer. Hopefully, it will be possible to walk this interesting part of the coastline soon.

A more recent interest has been astrophotography. The developments in technology have made smart scopes relatively cheap. They are not good for planets, but are designed primarily to observe deep-sky objects. The 'smart scope' collected sequential ten-second images for three minutes and stacked them to produce this image of comet C/2025 A6 Lemmon. It is now moving away from us and will not reappear for 1,160 years. At its closest, it was 55 million miles from us.



Another recent target was the Silver Slither galaxy. It is 27 million light years away. The light started its travel to be picked up by my scope during the Oligocene epoch, a period of significant global cooling that saw the expansion of grasslands and the evolution of many modern mammals.

This image took four hours to capture on a particularly clear night, and its shape must be how it got its name. There is another comet coming into view in December, which I hope to capture and many more deep-sky objects to find.

Jonathan Hadgraft

NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Making space

When we moved to this area four years ago, we came from quite a large vicarage to a small terraced house – so downsizing was the order of the day! There is no shortage of advice these days on the Internet as to how you should set about this project, and the first thing you should do, apparently, is start decluttering. Like many people, we hadn't moved for many years, and so we discovered all sorts of things that we had forgotten we had, or couldn't remember why we kept! We had a 'garage sale' and my wife sold my boyhood fishing rod without me knowing! However, if you can find the time to do it, it is a strangely satisfying process, as you are forced to make decisions about whether you need something that you haven't used for years, or whether there are things that are just cluttering up your life and getting in the way.

This is physical clutter, but there can be spiritual and emotional clutter too. Things that can get in the way of what we would like to believe and how we would like to think and behave. So, it is good to have times, just like preparing to move house, when we can do some spiritual spring cleaning and the Church season of Advent, which runs through December is one of those times.

Advent can be a time for weeding our spiritual paths, levelling the lumps and bumps in our attitudes and reactions, and sweeping the highways of our lives; generally getting spiritually in tune for Christmas and the startling news of God coming into the world.

It is good to have an Advent wreath in the house and to light a candle for each of the four weeks in the run up to Christmas. As we light each candle, we can think about what needs to be done to de-clutter our spiritual lives, whether it is a relationship that needs to be mended or renewed or emotional baggage that needs to be put out in the rubbish for good.

De-cluttering our house can enable us to move on to new physical surroundings and new horizons. De-cluttering our spiritual lives can enable us to move on to new horizons too, and the Christmas message is that God comes and shares our lives. Why not clear some space during Advent and welcome him in?

Rev. Philip Tarris

Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, 14th December	Holy Communion	9.30am Reydon
	Carol Service	6.00pm Reydon
Sunday, 21st December	Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am Reydon
	Carol Service	11.15am Wangford
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service	4.00pm Reydon
	Midnight Communion	11.00pm Reydon
Christmas Day	Holy Communion	11.00am Wangford
Sunday, 28th December	Holy Communion	9.30am Reydon

REYDON SINGING FOR LUNG HEALTH GROUP

The Reydon Singing for Lung Health group meets at Reydon Sports and Community Centre every Tuesday, 10–11.30am. Join us for singing, deep breathing and relaxation led by an Asthma and Lung UK-accredited qualified leader. It's free to come along, refreshments are provided and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Helen on 07917 790456.

REYDON & SOUTHWOLD COMMUNITY FRIDGE & PANTRY

The Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry is open Tuesdays, 12.30 to 3pm and Fridays, 9am to 3pm, located at the back of Reydon Village Hall. Our volunteers support this project either by driving to pick up fresh and frozen groceries or opening and manning the Pantry to serve customers. Both days have a steady flow of customers, many of whom have supported us since 2022, but we also see new faces most weeks.

We are lucky to receive food items from The Co-op & Tesco in Southwold, Bookers at Oulton Broad and KFC in Lowestoft, and because of close work with Saxmundham Community Pantry, we often receive items from local farms and Waitrose – so thank you to all of them for supplying us. The Hygiene Bank continues to supply toiletries, sanitary and continence products, which are appreciated by customers. During the growing season, residents and allotment holders bring the most amazing fresh produce. Donations of any food, unopened toiletries, and dog and cat food will be gratefully received as Christmas is coming. We probably all have unwanted items in our pantries/cupboards, so please drop them off for redistribution.

Since winter 2024, we have collaborated with the Reydon Village Hall Management Committee to hold a monthly free Community Breakfast and, in winter months, a Soup and Bread Lunch, with pastries and bread supplied by the Pantry and delicious homemade soup made by Dorcas Rogers. Thank you, Dorcas. It has been lovely seeing people from Reydon and Southwold attending, and enjoying their food and socialising.

Even though we have had new volunteers this year, we are always looking for more. If you can spare a couple of hours to cover a shift, please pop into the Pantry and leave your details with one of the volunteers.

Our opening hours over the Festive period will be slightly different and will be as follows:

- Tuesday, 23rd December – open 12.30pm–3pm.
- Friday, 26th December (Boxing Day) – closed.
- Saturday, 27th December – open 9am–3pm.

Normal opening hours will resume the week commencing Monday, 29th December.

So, a BIG Thank You to our suppliers, our volunteers and the Village Hall Management Committee, but, most of all, to our lovely customers, who continue to support our great community project, with us all doing our bit to reduce landfill.

Happy Christmas to you all and may you have a peaceful New Year.

Kim Harvey

CATS PROTECTION

Reydon Christmas Fair, 8th November (in aid of Cats Protection)

I would like to say a big Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers and the local businesses in Reydon, Southwold and Wangford who kindly donated prizes for our raffle. With their support, the Christmas Fair this year raised £1,116.45. This money goes towards the work we do, which includes fostering running costs, finding safe homes for adoption and neutering the feral cats in our area to reduce their numbers. Thank you to all the people who came to support us and we hope people will support us next year.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Chris Dixon (Membership Secretary)

NEWS FROM SOLE BAY HEALTH CENTRE

Practice news

The Health Centre is fully staffed, having completed its recruitment of another excellent GP. The practice staffing has diversified. Patients have direct access to a range of appropriate experts such as: pharmacist; physiotherapists; a social prescriber; and specialist nurses as well as GPs.

Ordering your repeat medication

We would encourage patients to sign up for the online services and the NHS app as there are a large number of things you can use them for. This includes ordering your repeat medication, which can be done quickly and easily at a time of your choosing without having to ring the surgery. You can ask at Reception if you require assistance to set this up for you.

Covid-19 and flu vaccination campaign

The vaccination campaigns are well underway, and we have been offering both Covid-19 booster vaccinations and seasonal flu vaccinations to eligible patients.

Covid-19 booster

The eligible groups for this year's autumn Covid-19 booster have changed compared to previous years. Only the following patients are being invited:

- People aged 75 years and over.
- Patients who are immunocompromised.

Seasonal flu vaccine

The flu vaccine is being offered to: • People aged 65 years and over. • Patients at clinical risk, for example: those with chronic respiratory conditions such as COPD or severe asthma/people with diabetes/those with weakened immune systems due to illness or treatment.

Clinics and appointment invitations

Eligible patients will be contacted by text message or by letter to book their appointment. Please do not contact the practice to request a booking before you receive your invitation.

Housebound patients

If you are housebound and eligible for either the Covid-19 or flu vaccination, we will contact you directly to advise of the date of your visit. There is no need to call us – we will be in touch.

Protect yourself this winter

Both Covid-19 and flu can cause serious illness, especially in older adults and those with certain health conditions. Vaccination remains the best protection.

Rigs Whittaker

LIGHTHOUSE LADIES

The Lighthouse Ladies have welcomed a variety of visitors over the past year, talking on many different subjects, such as the Coastguard Service, Pigeons, the Next Loaf Bakery School set up by Rebecca Bishop, Blythburgh Church and Carlton Marshes. We have also had demonstrations such as that led by Diane Wolton, a local artist, and therapies by Southwold Treatment Rooms.

Enjoying not just the talks and demonstrations, but also meeting up with old and new friends, the number of Ladies assembling at Reydon Village Hall every month continues to rise, and it is a pleasure to see what benefit the club is bringing to the local female community.

In December, it's time for the Annual Christmas Party, where fun and games will take place whilst enjoying a very special festive buffet. Funds raised through our monthly raffle are distributed at each Annual General Meeting, with local and national charities, nominated by our members, being supported. Our Secretary is Jan Batten, who can be contacted on janbatten@btinternet.com.

Linda Coe (Chairman)

SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY



First of all, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone from Southwold Library! We've got a few festive things on at Southwold Library in December. Starting off with our fourth annual Christmas Tree Festival, which runs throughout December during opening hours. This year's theme is 'Christmas Creatures', so come and check out all our little trees – and with huge thanks to all the groups, clubs and organisations that decorated them this year. Also the big man himself – Santa – will be at the Library on Saturdays, 13th & 20th December, 10am–1pm. Kids can meet and have photos with him, plus receive a gift, and, in addition, there will be Santa crafts to make, £4.50 per child. Then on Sunday, 21st December at 11am and 2pm, we have free Snowman Crafts at the Library. There's no need to book and we have a wide variety of snowman-themed Christmas crafts.

Also in December, we kick off two new offers at Southwold Library. As part of East Suffolk Warm Welcomes, Southwold Library is going to offer Activity Afternoons throughout winter on weekdays from 2.15pm. These involve card games every Tuesday, crochet and craft every Wednesday, Rummikub first Thursday, Scrabble second Thursday, board games third and fourth Thursdays, poetry first Friday, and Mah-Jong second and fourth Fridays – with the ongoing jigsaw all other afternoons. There will also be hot drinks, soup and fruit on offer during these groups and throughout the day. So come and enjoy our very Warm Welcome. We are especially keen to get Rummikub Klub off the ground, as it is something we have been asked for, so the second group will take place on Thursday, 5th January at 2.15pm. And the other new offer is that you can weigh your baby at Southwold Library throughout our opening hours! No booking required – just ask at the desk for the baby scales.

Charlotte Clark



REYDON W.I.

Reydon WI are a small friendly group of 15 members who meet at Reydon Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month (not August) at 2.30pm. We have a varied programme of talks and craft activities. Recent events include talks about looking after lion cubs at Africa Alive, showing dogs at Crufts and the antics of an intrepid lady balloonist. We have also had talks from the charities Tools With A Mission and Emmaus. We have also done flower arranging and made Christmas tree decorations.

New members most welcome. If further details are required, please contact the Secretary Amanda Priestley by e-mail on amanda.priestley@btinternet.com.

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Reydon Village Hall

... at the heart of the community.

The improvements at the Hall continue and our next task over Christmas is to restore the Hall's Granwood floor to the condition it was in 1977. All of this ongoing work is only possible thanks to the Reydon Trust and Reydon Parish Council, and the community supporting the Committee in our fundraising events. We have some fundraising events upcoming: on Friday, 9th January, we are having another Quiz Night. It starts at 7pm, is £5 per person and teams of up to six people. You can bring your own drinks and snacks; there will be a raffle. Book your tickets with Charlotte at Southwold Library - tel: 07715388916; e-mail: frogclock@hotmail.com.

Then on Saturday, 7th February, we have a music event with The Optics from 7pm. The Optics are a local high-energy funk, soul and Motown covers band, bringing timeless classics to life. From dance-floor classics to powerhouse vocals and irresistible grooves, if you love a live band, come and see one of the best. Check them out at www.theopticsuffolk.com/. Tickets are £12 per person and there will be a bar. Tickets will be available to book soon from Charlotte (contact details above) or online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall.

Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry also continue to facilitate our monthly Free Community Coffee Morning. The next one is Friday, 9th January, 9am - 12.30pm at Reydon Village Hall. There's tea, coffee and toast (pastries when available) 9 - 11am, and then soup and bread 11am - 12.30pm, including takeaway soup - bring your own container! Remember, if you have a party, event, course, group, meeting or activity coming up, you can hire either the Hall space or the Loftus Room.

E-mail reydonvillagehall@gmail.com or phone 07508 510732.

Charlotte Clark, Chairman

LETTER FROM SOUTHWOLD



Greetings,

I stepped into the role of Mayor unexpectedly in July due to Simon stepping down for health reasons. Luckily, he is now recovering well, but made the decision to step down as Mayor formally in September. However, we are fortunate that he remains on the Town Council.

I feel very honoured that my fellow councillors had the confidence to select me and I will do my utmost to fulfil the post with honour and integrity (following in the footsteps of my Godfather, Dusso).

It has been a busy couple of months, hitting the ground running with Remembrance Services, St. Edmunds Day, other 'away' civic events and, by the time you read this, the fantastic Light Up Southwold event on 29th November, and the Reydon Christmas Lights switch-on on 6th December. I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to these two organisations who tirelessly fundraise throughout the year to make our village and town look so wonderfully festive for us all to enjoy.

Thank you to all who have passed on messages of encouragement and congratulations - it means a great deal to have your support and I look forward to working with both communities in the near future on a wide range of projects.

I wish all of you in Reydon and Southwold a very Merry Christmas and look forward to all that 2026 will bring.

Cllr. Paula Goldsmith, Town Mayor

FROM OUR MP



These parish newsletters are an important opportunity for me to share the work I'm doing in Parliament and, most importantly, to update you on how I'm campaigning for change on issues that matter to us in Suffolk Coastal.

Over the past few months, I've been focusing on rural road safety, particularly around our primary schools. On almost every school

visit, I hear the same concerns – from teachers, parents, and pupils – about the dangers children face getting to and from school each day.

From speeding traffic on 60mph roads outside school gates to unsafe crossing points and roads never designed with children in mind, these are everyday realities that simply aren't good enough. Since starting this campaign, I've been determined that road safety – and children getting to school safely – should be a basic right.

In September, children from Bucklesham Primary School joined me in presenting our constituency petition to No.10 Downing Street. This was just the beginning of a campaign that I'll be taking forward nationally.

In November, I presented my own 'Ten-Minute Rule Bill' to Parliament, which has started a national campaign to call on government to introduce measures that make roads safer around schools. Young students, parents, teachers and communities see these dangers daily. Yet their concerns are too often met with shrugging shoulders or excuses – that we're a county that puts road users first or that it's parental responsibility.

I also raised this directly with the Prime Minister in November during PMQs, asking what more can be done to drive change in areas where safety concerns are being overlooked.

Like many, I worry that action will only come after the most unimaginable tragedy. Road safety – or rather, people's and children's safety – is something that we should all be able to demand action on. It shouldn't be Party Political.

Over the coming months, you'll hear more from me about this. If you have any experiences to share that could help shape my campaign, please get in touch via jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

This edition of The Reydon Robin is sponsored by Sole Bay Bowls Club

Sole Bay Bowls Club



A Local Gem!

Sole Bay Bowls Club is a friendly club and a real gem! It was founded in 1968 by W.G. Denny. Situated just off the Halesworth Road, it unusually boasts both indoor and outdoor facilities. It has provided our local community with not only the opportunity to play bowls all the year round, but also able to meet regularly in the Clubhouse, which promotes a wonderful social atmosphere and sense of wellbeing.

With now over 120 indoor and 50 outdoor members, we realised that to sustain this facility for the future, a considerable amount of investment was required.

Over the past two years, working with Beaulieu Homes, we have been able to build a fantastic new outdoor green (just voted 'Best Green 2025' by Saxmundham League), completely refurbished our Indoor Arena externally while internally installing a more efficient and eco-friendly ventilation/heating system, and we have also created a large well-lit car park for our members and guests.

During the summer months, the outdoor green hosts regular Club roll ups and a programme of league and friendly matches during the afternoon and evening. Our indoor bowling arena is used all year round. In the mornings many members gather for a friendly game of bowls and refreshments/chat – the basis of a roll up. Various competitions/leagues are run in the afternoon/evening for the more serious bowler.

As Beaulieu Homes still have work to do around their site, it will be spring 2026 before we have a proper vehicular entrance to the Club. It will be at this point we will hold a couple of open days for everyone to visit in order to see the improvements we have made and perhaps even experience a game of bowls indoor and outside.

Please look out for the open day dates, and if you need any more information, please contact:

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