

The Reydon Robin

The quarterly, complimentary news magazine, for Reydon



The opening of the new Reydon and Southwold Community Fridge and Pantry



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June - September

- Fri. June 23rd Quiz for Reydon Christmas Lights, Reydon Village Hall; doors open at 19.00, quiz at 19.30 Quiz Master Kalvyn.
- Sat. June 24th Southwold Arts Festival, through to Sat. 1st July
An eclectic mix of events: southwoldartsfestival.co.uk
- Sun. July 9th Brass on the Grass, Jubilee Green 12.00 - 16.00
(music from 14.00)
- Fri. July 14th CommuniTEA Chinwag, Reydon Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
A social group for over 60s, free refreshments and chat.
- Weds. July 26th Model Yacht Regattas, Southwold, continuing on 29th July,
1st, 5th, 9th 15th Aug., with Final Regatta on Weds. 23rd Aug.
- Weds. July 26th Southwold Summer Theatre (through until 9th Sept.)
- Sat. Aug 5th Reydon Show 2023 - Crafts and Produce (see back cover)
- Fri. Aug 11th CommuniTEA Chinwag, Reydon Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
A group for over 60s, free refreshments + entertainment
- Mon. Aug. 28th Family Fun Day at The Randolph Hotel, not to be missed.
Live music, BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting and more.
If you'd like a stall please call Jenny on (01502) 723603
- Fri. Sept 8th CommuniTEA Chinwag, Reydon Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
A social group for over 60s, free refreshments + chat.

FIRE SAFETY - FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

After a record-breaking number of wildfires last year, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is asking everyone to be fire-safety aware as the weather gets warmer.

Firefighters from the service responded to more than 500 fires in the open in July and August 2022 alone. To help avoid a similar spike in demand this year, the service is asking everyone to play their part in reducing the risk of fires. During hot and dry weather, people are encouraged to:

- Avoid barbecues and campfires in public open spaces.
- Ensure that any cigarettes are totally put out and disposed of properly.
- Pick up all litter, especially any glass items - instead of leaving them lying around after a picnic.
- Report any fires in the countryside immediately by calling 999.

Cllr. Michael Ladd

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Welcome to the new, mid-summer edition of The Reydon Robin, distributed free to all the homes in Reydon, with a collective readership of more than 2500.



Pamela Cyprien, Chair,
Reydon Parish Council

A friend of mine was chatting to a new neighbour recently, who'd just bought a home in Reydon for his family. The new neighbour said, enthusiastically: "We're very pleased to be here. Southwold is so charming . . . but Reydon is a bit dull!"

Which got me thinking. Reydon gets overshadowed by our seaside neighbour, but there's a surprising amount of history in our village which needs exploring. In this edition we look at the origins of Reydon (p8&9) including the intriguing evidence that Reydon may have been a settlement before the community in Southwold.

May 4th saw the election of the new Reydon Parish Council, and I was delighted to be nominated as Chair for a further term. Fiona Taylor was elected Deputy Chair. My review of 2022/3 can be found on p13. However we're still short of three Councillors, and as we have a lot to get on with in the community, we would like to fill those vacant positions as soon as we can. If you'd like to know more about what a Parish Councillor does, please email: reydon.pc@gmail.com

It is great work, and you'll be made very welcome!

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April we presented the first of The Reydon Stars, the Parish Council's new, annual awards to mark outstanding contributions to the local community. You can see the list of the inaugural, very deserving recipients and their citations on p6&7.

This summer edition of The Reydon Robin has been sponsored, very generously, by a resident who prefers to remain anonymous. Our sponsor has also set us a local quiz called: How well do you know your village? This can be found on p.15. To you, thank you very much!

With best wishes, Pam Cyprien

The autumn edition of The Reydon Robin will be published on 5th October, and will be sponsored by The Randolph Hotel. If you'd like to contribute to The Robin, or suggest a local topic please email: reydonrobin@gmail.com

The copy deadline is **Friday 22nd September.**

THE REYDON & SOUTHWOLD COMMUNITY FRIDGE & PANTRY

(front cover photographs by Gary Broughton)

The Reydon and Southwold Community Fridge and Pantry was opened on the 26th May by Cllr. Pam Cyprien, Chair of Reydon Parish Council, and Cllr. Simon Flunder, Mayor of Southwold, accompanied by many of the volunteers who have got this project off to such a flying start.

Situated at Reydon Village Hall it is a place to catch up with neighbours, chat to volunteers, and ensure that no good short-date food goes to waste. The ambition is to provide a sustainable outlet for food (and other groceries) which can be collected free of charge, to alleviate the squeeze on everyone's pockets during this tough economic period. Please bring your own shopping bag.

To date The Pantry has collected 822kg of food from local businesses, provided the equivalent of 1,957 meals (equivalent), saving 2631kg of CO₂. Support for this project from the local community has been overwhelming, and we wanted to thank everyone for their contributions - either as a supporter or a donor, many of which include:

Reydon and Southwold Schools, The Reydon Trust, Reydon Parish Council and Southwold Town Council, Suffolk County and East Suffolk District Councils, Tesco, The Co-op, Adnams and Little Gems, in Southwold, Barbrook's and Boyden's in Reydon, Booker, Lowestoft, The North Suffolk RSPCA, Emmerdale Farm Shop in Darsham, and Sole Bay Waste and Recycling Services.

We can't forget special thanks to our amazing volunteers, and we say to our visitors who collect: 'You are most welcome'. If you want to help, donate or visit The Pantry please email: reydonandsouthwoldpantry@gmail.com

Jess Gregson and Maddy Senior

REYDON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: 07508 510732 or email: reydonvillagehall@gmail.com

The journey to bring The Village Hall back up to scratch has begun. The long overdue exterior decorating got under way last week, and we are well into the process of researching and getting quotes for the next generation heating and lighting + digital audio-visual equipment, all in time for the Hall's Golden Anniversary in 2027.

However we would welcome several more volunteers to join our Committee to see this essential work through, to assist with i.e. social media, crowd funding and more, otherwise we may have to face up to losing this much loved facility 'at the heart of the village'. Please get in touch with us on 07768 395465 if you are able to help.

Laurence Vulliamy

‘LETTER FROM SOUTHWOLD’

“I am very pleased to have been asked to contribute a ‘Letter from Southwold’ to The Reydon Robin since my appointment as Southwold Town Mayor. One of our first actions has been to set up a joint working group to



investigate how Reydon Parish Council and Southwold Town Council can work more closely together. One of my first duties as Town Mayor was to join Pam Cyprien, the Chair of Reydon Parish Council, to open the Reydon and Southwold Community Pantry.

My theme for my Mayoral term is to encourage and publicise Volunteering. I know that involvement as a volunteer is a great way to foster local community spirit and social wellbeing. We have so many wonderful organisations, which will have my support during my term as Town Mayor.” *Simon Flunder, June 2023*

Pam Cyprien writes: *“Thank you Simon, and many congratulations on your election as Town Mayor. After several years of suggesting a closer collaboration between the two councils, we are delighted to receive your news about our working together. Inevitably there are a number of issues which affect both parishes and a joint, neighbourly approach can only be of great benefit to both our communities.”*

THE VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE

The VHC has been working in Southwold and Reydon for over 30 years, providing a valuable car service, and holding a fortnightly Lunch Club, both of which require volunteers. The car service is not solely for transport to hospitals or other medical appointments; we are able to assist with many requests for shorter journeys around the neighborhood for e.g. shopping trips and hairdressing. Volunteering with the VHC does not commit anyone to a regular schedule. Our volunteers decide for themselves when and how often they wish to drive, making volunteering as flexible as they are. Volunteer drivers also receive 45p per mile on each assignment.

Come and talk to us at the Stella Peskett Millennium Hall and see how you can help, or please phone us on (01502) 724549.

THE REYDON STAR AWARDS 2023

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April, Reydon Parish Council presented The Reydon Star Awards, a new, annual initiative to recognise and encourage outstanding contributions to the local community. The Awards were presented by Pam Cyprien and Rev. Alan Perry. Here are some of the citations:

The Reydon Lights Committee: Christmas lights have been a constant feature every year since, we think 1978. It all began at Reydon Corner and since then the fundraising committee have been responsible for heart-warming and dazzling displays all over the village, not just at Reydon Corner, but at Jubilee Green where the huge village Christmas Tree stands, at The Village Hall, outside Boyden's, Barbrook's, and The Randolph and on the Halesworth Road at The Drive. Reydon's Christmas lights are envied by many local towns and villages. To give you an idea of how much money is raised, each year there's not much change from £10,000!



*The Reydon
Lights
Committee*

David Woods

David Woods has been tending Reydon Corner since 2002. He says he began putting out floral tubs, and planting trees and bulbs in the grass just as soon as he moved to Reydon. Asked if anyone objected, David replied: *"I just did it, whether they liked it or not!"* In each season of every year the floral displays on Reydon Corner inspire everyone who passes by. Reydon corner has become one of the most cherished landmarks of the village. David says *"I always like to leave a little colour behind me, wherever I go."* Thank you very much David for brightening up our lives!



Brian Bailey moved to Reydon in 2003, and soon became very involved with the Reydon community. He has been on the Parish Council since 2006 and was Chairman of the Planning Committee for many of those years. With his speed gun Brian organised and marshalled the local Speedwatch team

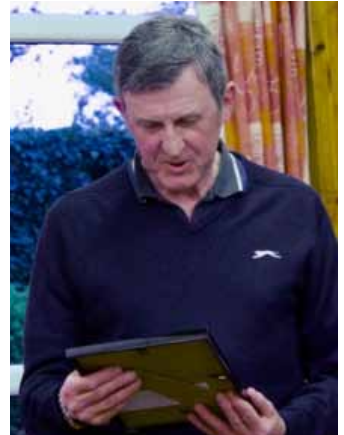
for 11 years, and still volunteers today. Brian also continues to be a tireless driver for The Voluntary Help Centre, taking people who need transport to medical appointments, shopping or to see relatives, and he volunteers at Steam Works, the Southwold Railway project.



Charlottle Clark

Charlotte Clark is best known as the Executive Manager of our wonderful new Library in The Old Hospital, Southwold. But Charlotte devotes her time to a lot more in the community. A member of the Village Hall Management Committee since 2016, she helps with organising the annual Reydon Craft and Produce Show, and the celebrated Scarecrow Trail and Treasure Hunt to raise funding for the Reydon Lights. Every Monday afternoon Charlotte can be seen at The Village Hall surrounded by Rainbows - the youngest division of girl guiding, for girls 5-7. Charlotte is the very volunteer's volunteer!

Anita Barbrook was the Secretary of Reydon Village Hall through the mid 1970s whilst the fundraising campaign to build a new Hall was in full steam. Together with her husband Ken they both ran the village store, Barbrook's. Anita worked very closely with Phyllis Martin, Sonia Cooper, Vivienne Clifford, Christine Thompson, Ann Hambling, Doreen Hammett and Ronnie Leach. In 1977 the new Hall was opened by Simon Loftus, and there is no doubt that without Anita and her colleagues' fortitude and perseverance, Reydon would not be enjoying the special facility at the heart of the village! Anita's award was received by her son, David Barbrook.



David Barbrook

Other Reydon Star Awards were presented to **Roger Cracknell** for his huge contribution to Reydon Parish Council as Deputy Chair, and to **Anita Freeman** for her management of Reydon Village Hall until recently. Neither Roger or Anita were able to attend the presentations.

(Photographs: Jonathan Hadgraft)

A SHORT HISTORY OF REYDON SINCE 1066

We get our first glimpse of Reydon in Domesday Book, which tells us that in 1066 the estate was owned by a Saxon called Thorth, who held the manor of Wangford as well as land in Frostenden. The bulk of Thorth's estate however, about 800 acres, lay within what is now the village of Reydon.

However in 1086 the Domesday Book, or 'Grand Survey of England and Wales' recorded that Reydon had passed into the hands of a feudal Baron from Essex called Ralph Baynard, one of William the Conqueror's companions at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, who was well rewarded for his royal support. At this time Reydon was substantially bigger than Southwold, which appears to have been a small outpost of fishermen, a hamlet within the ecclesiastical parish of Reydon. In 1086 Reydon boasted 55 homes, making it one of the region's more substantial villages.

In 1160 the Cluniac Priory at Wangford was founded as an outpost of Thetford Priory, one of the most powerful monastic houses in East Anglia. Wangford Priory was granted land, known as Le Reye, now Reydon Grange. The name Reydon probably derives from upland pasture, growing rye and wheat, though Thomas Gardiner, the eminent 18C historian, refers to Reydon as 'Rissemere'.

The pattern of settlement in Reydon was one of dispersed farms so the centre of the village was not always obvious, a characteristic of East Anglia. The church lay on high ground and the principal manor house (Reydon Old Hall) was closer to the river. Substantial parts of Reydon were common land, where Freeman had rights of pasture and to take turf and wood for fuel. It is on the common land that much of modern Reydon village has developed.

The medieval demise of Reydon is shared by many of its inland neighbours, one of steadily diminishing importance compared to the dramatic rise of fishing ports such as Dunwich. From the early 14th Century Reydon did profit from the rise in fishing, as tax returns from 1254 and 1327 demonstrate.

In 1310 Reydon was granted the right to a Market and Fair. The present Reydon church also dates from this period, established by the Thetford monks. However by the late 15th Century the balance had tilted heavily in Southwold's favour. As a trading port, the town received a Royal Charter from Henry VII in 1489 and its great church, built by wealthy merchants and dedicated to St Edmund, was completed at about the same time. Despite its grandeur Southwold's church was designated a Chapel of Ease to Reydon's Mother church.

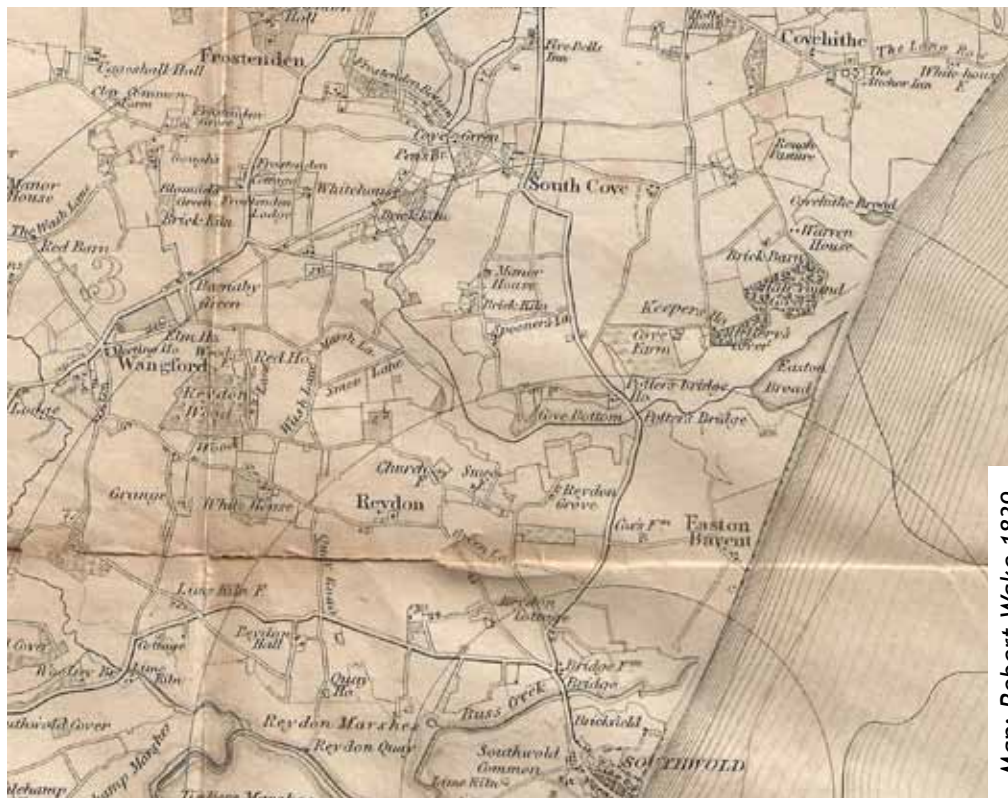
Worse was to come. By 1740, when Thomas Gardner wrote his history of the area, Reydon was in decline, having lost its market, its old hall and its

park. Due to the Acts of Enclosure much of medieval Reydon had disappeared and almost half the parish was in the hands of the Stradbrokes of Henham, the Barnes of Sotterley, the Blois of Cockfield and the Gooches of Benacre. The Ewens of Reydon Hall, owned a sizeable chunk of the balance - which would grow to about a third of the acreage and housing in the parish by the 1900s.

By 1801 Reydon's population was around 300, spread across some 70 inhabited houses and slowly increased to 355 inhabitants by 1891. Over the same period Southwold boomed, doubling from 1,000 residents to over 2,000. (It would peak at 3,000 in 1921). The impetus for this was the arrival of the railway in 1879 and the sale of Southwold's Town Farm land in 1899, for new houses to be built in the Pier Avenue area by the Coast Development Company. Southwold Pier was built in 1900 as a landing stage for the Belle steamers.

The sale of Southwold's Town Farm also included land for development in Reydon, just north of Might's Bridge. The impact was immediate, resulting in Reydon's population doubling in the next 10 years, reaching almost 1,000 by 1911. In 1948 the Ewen estate - land, houses and cottages - was also sold for development. By 1951 Reydon's population was 1,447, a fourfold growth in just 60 years, and Reydon has continued to expand into the 21st Century and now comprises 2,500 residents and 1,457 dwellings.

James Winterbotham



Map: Robert Wake 1839

FUN FOR ALL AT THE CORONATION 'BIG PICNIC'

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Coronation 'Big Picnic' on Jubilee Green on 7th May enjoying the stalls, activities and even sunshine!

From learning new skills at Archery and the Circus Workshop, throwing coconuts or trying to 'Splat the Rat', to marveling at the beautiful Birds of Prey (who knew there was such a thing as a black barn owl?!)



Everyone was having a really good time.



A huge thank you to everyone who took part on the day, and who helped to make it so enjoyable. Special thanks to Charlotte and her team from the Library for the Coronation Crafts, to Bojangles for their lovely performances and to Winston for providing the music throughout the afternoon.



Jubilee Green has not seen such a great turnout before.
Fiona Taylor

(Photographs: Jonathan Hadgraft)



NEW LEAF REYDON AND SOUTHWOLD

New Leaf Reydon and Southwold was formed this year to bring the local community together to restore pride in our beautiful coastal town and village, by cleaning up some of the neglected or unsafe areas. We started at the central point, Might's Bridge and its verges each side. Our team consists of approx. 20 volunteers, with a regular working number of 12, however we do need more folk.

Not all supporters can help physically, so those generous people who cannot work have donated almost £3000.00 through our Just Giving page. We will use this budget once the verges are cleared, to provide native plants to encourage wildlife. We will also purchase self-watering planters, to be put in place once land ownership is established.

We have secured £800 worth of paint and tools from Southwold Council, with Michael Ladd's help, for use by The Community Payback team who will be working on Might's Bridge. Reydon Parish Council have provided for 6 members of the New Leaf team to be trained in Bury St Edmunds on the 24th July, to assist with safety and traffic management.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Patrick Huggins on 07881 503529, or alternatively you can donate. Thank you all for your support.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/newleafreydonandsouthwold

REMARKABLE TREES IN REYDON - THE ENGLISH OAK

Have you ever wondered why there are so many standard English oak trees growing in the hedgerows, along our by-roads and around the fields? Historically such hedgerow oaks offered farmers a source of income through sale of the timber. Most were first planted during the first half of the 19th Century to supply the wood for shipbuilding. Some 5500 oak trees were used to build HMS Victory, Nelson's famous warship. Perhaps a surprising number, until we consider that Victory's hull was up to two feet thick to stop cannonballs.

Closer to home the oak was used to build drifters and smacks at Lowestoft, selected from trees carefully sourced from up to 20 miles away, brought to the shipyards by horse drawn carts or steam traction engines. Sourcing the timber meant scouring the hedgerows for oak trees that had the best curved branches that were ideal in shape to make the vessels' ribs and knees. I wonder how many oaks they used from Reydon?

Denise Faulkner is a freelance Gardener and Reydon's Tree Warden

NATURE NOTES

Summer surprises - not a King but an Emperor - a rare sighting of one of Britain's most spectacular moths, the **Emperor Moth** recently caught in a local trap. This is most unusual as they rarely



come to light. Her sole aim is to mate and multiply the species, even though she has no mouth parts and cannot even feed!



This female was busy laying eggs, so will nurture the eggs and wait for the caterpillars.



Six weeks later the caterpillars are doing well. There are 21 altogether, feeding on Hawthorn - one of their favoured host plants. We hope to follow them through their life cycle and release them back to where they originated. They are the only British moth that spins its cocoon from a silken thread, in fact they are related to silk moths.

Other summer surprises, we were briefly treated to 3 **Black Winged Stilt** that graced the Buss Creek Flashes for a few days. These elegant birds rarely nest in the UK and we were lucky to see pair or two. An ideal nesting habitat but too much disturbance from dogs.



A 'Red Listed Birds of Conservation Concern' is the **House Sparrow** which is doing well at a local farm. She is feeding her chicks in a nest under the ridge tile, and is just checking no threat exists before diving into the opening. The collective noun is a 'Host of Sparrows' but as they are so entertaining should it be a 'Gang of Sparrows'?

Enjoy your summer, Bill

CHAIR'S ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2022/3 (abridged)

First, my thanks to those councillors who will not be standing for election this year. Brian Bailey and Roger Cracknell have made invaluable and lasting contributions to the work of The Parish Council. Many thanks also to Leigh Turner and Perry Djahit, who left the Council last year for family and work reasons.

In June '22 we celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Jubilee Green in some style, but I think even more people would have come if the weather had been kinder. Linked to the Platinum Jubilee, Fiona Taylor and I attended Reydon Primary School's final assembly before the 2022 Summer break, to present The Parish Council's commemorative gift of nearly 200 Jubilee Coins to the children.

Because of safety concerns we installed two street lights on Jubilee Green in time for last year's 'switch on' of the communal Christmas tree. This makes a big difference to safety in an otherwise dark area.

This year, Jess Gregson and Maddy Senior put together The Parish Council's leaflet 'Better Together', providing information about help that is readily available to those who are struggling with the cost of living. This has been very well received. The Parish Council's Community Pantry and Fridge at the Village Hall is also up and running (see p.4).

Reydon Village Hall is owned by The Parish Council. As our representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, Laurence Vulliamy has worked tirelessly to set up a new Management Committee after the retirement of Anita Freeman. This new team is by no means complete, and the Committee are looking for more volunteers to secure the Hall's complete refurbishment and modernization.

The Reydon Robin is proving a success throughout the wider community and is going from strength to strength. Our thanks must go to all those who have sponsored an issue, to those who have contributed to it, and those councilors who put it all together . . . not to forget those volunteers who distribute it.

Apart from all the projects we have in mind for the coming year, the two main foci will be renovating The Village Hall in time for its 50th anniversary in 2027 and making the Recreation Ground more user-friendly for a wider age range.

REYDON PARISH CHURCH

As a church community we have been reducing our carbon footprint, and most recently we have replaced our old floodlights with LEDs which are more efficient in all respects.

Our Coronation Weekend was a great success. We were able to show the BBC Television coverage on the large screen in Church, to ensure that no one needed to watch the service alone, and then were treated to a wonderful celebratory lunch with bubbly. What could be better! On Sunday we celebrated a Communion Service with special prayers for The King and The Royal Family. On Jubilee Green, as part of the Coronation Big Picnic, Ray and Dorcas Rogers manned their preserves and drinks stall in aid of Church funds, which was very successful.

On 14th May we held a special service to mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week and on the Tuesday we showed a film called 'Thank You for the Rain', which explored the story of a Kenyan farmer Kisilu, and his fight against Climate Change and his determination to raise awareness of its dangers on a global stage. Donations were given to Christian Aid.

On 22nd May Reverend Alan was invited to say a few words at the opening of the new Bird Hide in the wooded area at Reydon Primary School, built in memory of teaching assistant Leanne Wentworth. The school's Eco Committee did themselves proud.

On 20th August Bishop Mike will be coming to The Church to consecrate the new Ashes Interment Area which will provide a resting place for loved ones of residents of The Parish for many years to come. *Rev. Alan Perry*



The newly built bird hide in Wentworth Woods at Reydon Primary School

SAINT FELIX SCHOOL

Exciting changes are happening at Saint Felix. As part of a five-stage development plan, Saint Felix School is updating its sports facilities to benefit its students and the local community. The updates will commence during the school's summer break and are expected to complete in Spring 2024. The exciting changes will improve the swimming pool, gym, sports hall and changing facilities.

From September 2023, Saint Felix School will also have a new Head; Mr Matthew Oakman will assume the role following a 25-year career at Wellington College. Mr Oakman is excited about the school's updated sports provision, as well as welcoming the local community back into the school. Please follow Saint Felix School's social media channels for updates.

Chris Trigg

THE REYDON QUIZ

How well do you know your village?

- 1) What does the name 'Reydon' tell us about the village's origins?
- 2) Which eminent Victorian writer and historian lived at Reydon Hall?
- 3) Barbrook's Stores: What were Mr and Mrs Barbrook's first names and where was their first shop?
- 4) Boyden's Stores: Approximately when did the store open and where is the store still situated?
- 5) What was the name of the butcher's shop in Mount Pleasant?
- 6) Belcher Green: What was Mr Belcher's business and where was it?
- 7) Wangford Road used to be called by a different name. What was it?
- 8) The Randolph Hotel had a different name, for a short time. What was it?
- 9) What is the name of the saint the Parish Church is dedicated to?
- 10) The Sole Bay Health Centre is the main NHS Surgery, but where was the previous Doctors' surgery?

(Answers on back cover)

THE REYDON SHOW

5th AUGUST 2023

IN THE
VILLAGE
HALL

Why not join in
and enter your
Produce?

Sow your seeds
in
Good time for :-

5th. August
2023



CLASSES
FOR:-

Adult Art
Children's Art
Confectionary
Flowers
Fruit
Handicrafts
Photographs
Preserves
Vegetables



WITH EXTRA CLASSES FOR CHILDREN THIS YEAR

ANSWERS to the REYDON QUIZ:

1) A hill (don) where wheat or rye is grown 2) Agnes Strickland 3) Ken and Anita, in Stradbroke Road* 4) 1910 in Mount Pleasant 5) Ladds Butchers 6) Mr Belcher had a garage in Station Road* 7) Loam Street 8) The Cricketers, because it was near Eversley School cricket ground. The area now has The Sole Bay Health centre, homes and Jubilee Green 9) St Margaret of Antioch 10) York Road, Southwold.

* for more information about historic businesses in Southwold, please see the website 'Southwold and Son' www.southwoldandson.co.uk/