

# The Reydon Robin

The quarterly, complimentary  
news magazine, for Reydon



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2023 - 2024

Throughout December	Oaklands House is offering a hot Lunch for £5.00 A main course, dessert and a drink available, maximum 2 persons Please order a week before: 01502 724955
Friday 8th December	Chinwag & Cuppa, Reydon Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 9th December	Reydon Lights Christmas Bazaar: Christmas shopping at Reydon Village Hall, 10am - 12.30pm
Saturday 9th Dec & Sat 16th December	Southwold Miniature Railway, Santa Specials 16.00 - 19.30 Booking essential: 01502 725422
Saturday 9th December	Kids' Christmas Disco at Reydon Village Hall For Blyth Valley Rotary's Sightbox Appeal 4-8-year-olds: 2.00 - 3.45pm 9-14-year-olds: 4.00 - 6pm £3 per child (incl refreshments) Book: 01502 722519 or online: <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/suffolklibraries">www.ticketsource.co.uk/suffolklibraries</a>
Monday 25th December	Christmas Day Swim, Gun Hill Beach, Southwold. 10.30am. Register: <a href="http://www.blythvalleyrotary.co.uk">www.blythvalleyrotary.co.uk</a>
Monday 8th January	Re-launch of the new-look Reydon Website. Please visit <a href="https://reydonvillage.org">https://reydonvillage.org</a> for the full Reydon experience!
Friday 12th January	Chinwag & Cuppa, Reydon Village Hall, 2 pm - 4pm
Wed 17th January	Orbit Housing Copperwheat drop-in consultation 4pm - 8pm, Reydon Village Hall. Open to all
Friday 9th February	Chinwag & Cuppa, Reydon Village Hall, 2 pm - 4pm

## INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME



Pamela Cyprien, Chair,  
Reydon Parish Council

Welcome to this festive edition of The Reydon Robin, the complimentary news magazine, unique to Reydon, which has been going for two years now!

The Reydon Robin would not be viable without the valiant volunteers who deliver it to all the homes in Reydon, and beyond - some 2,800 people. On behalf of our community, a sincere thank you to you all!

Volunteers are so valuable at every level of society, but there are fewer individuals coming forward. In this issue The Reydon Robin asks why, and what the benefits are to both a volunteer and the community. The Reydon Robin has also begun a brief Register of available local opportunities (see p4). This will be added to in future editions and on the Reydon Website.

I hope as many as possible were able to see the magnificent Christmas Tree lighting on Jubilee Green on Saturday 2nd December. Thank you to Blyth Valley Rotary for organising this much-loved annual event, and the Reydon Lights Committee for their year-long, tireless work, raising the funds to provide such a very heart-lifting display around the Village. (see p8) Thank you as well to Chris and his team at Southwold Autos for generously sponsoring this edition of The Reydon Robin.

Despite a wide variety of daily pressures, we all remain thankful to live in a clean and attractive place! On behalf of Reydon Parish Council, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, with peace and good-will in the New Year!

*With best wishes, Pam Cyprien*

**Cover:** Crocus planting at Reydon Village Hall by Blyth Valley Rotary: A team led by John and Gillian Warren, ably assisted by The Wiggle & Giggle Youth Theatre group and others, planted over 4000 purple crocus bulbs to mark Rotary's worldwide 'End Polio Now' campaign. *Photo: Dr Cathy Ryan. MBE*

The Spring edition of The Reydon Robin will be published on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, and will be sponsored by Durrants Estate Agents, Southwold. If you'd like to contribute to the Reydon Robin, please email your article to: [reyonrobin@gmail.com](mailto:reyonrobin@gmail.com) by Friday 15th March. **Thank you.**

## VOLUNTEERING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Imagine a community without volunteers - it's a very bleak prospect! Volunteering brings immense benefits, not only to the individual, but also to the community they serve. But since the Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis fewer volunteers are able to step forward.

According to Janet Perry from 'Volunteer Suffolk' almost 10% fewer volunteers are available, due to competing priorities: e.g. all kinds of people are having to work longer hours to make ends meet, and families need more help with raising children. Without question - grandparenting is more demanding than ever before.

To illustrate the great advantages of volunteering to the individual and the inestimable benefits to our community, The Reydon Robin asked a number of local people, most of them very active volunteers themselves. Sadly we don't have space to include all their comments:

*"Helping other people is very rewarding, and a human helping hand is very welcome in these days of impersonal on-line communication."*

*"I find volunteering gives me a huge buzz because of the fascinating people you meet, and being able to help those in need, for one reason or another".*

*"Aristotle spoke of 'eudaemonia' - the happiness that comes from having purpose - and research points to it being the most sustainable and healthy form of happiness that people can have. Added to which, belonging and purpose are often connected to a longer healthy life."*

*"Communities like ours are often powered by a myriad of small, specific voluntary groups doing wonderful things to improve people's lives. Volunteers have every reason to be very proud of themselves and their achievements."*

*"Volunteering is both fun and rewarding. It is such a good feeling to give something back to your local area. Everything you do as a volunteer, no matter how small or trivial it may seem, makes a real difference."*

*"The Christian Church has always relied on volunteers. Volunteering enables people to feel valued by the community and the organisation they serve; also volunteering enables them to feel a part of something bigger than themselves."*

*“You can meet new friends, be part of the wider community, learn new skills, improve your confidence and reduce stress and anxiety. If you are older it really helps reduce social isolation and loneliness.”*

*“Volunteering is essential to the life of the community. Whether planting bulbs or driving others to hospital, it makes a real difference to so many people’s lives.”*

Grateful thanks to: David Beavan, Charlotte Clark, Erika Clegg DL, Pam Cyprien, Simon Flunder, Paula Goldsmith, Patrick Huggins, Philip O’Hear, Rev. Alan Perry, Dr Cathy Ryan MBE and Fiona Taylor.

## **THE REYDON ROBIN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ‘REGISTER’**

A myriad of opportunities face potential volunteers in our local community, and the choice can often be baffling, even off putting.

The Reydon Robin has put together a small variety of local opportunities, which will be updated both on the Reydon Website, and in the next edition of The Reydon Robin in March ‘24. If you would like an opening listed, contact: [reydonrobin@gmail.com](mailto:reydonrobin@gmail.com)

**Reydon Parish Council:** Join an effective and dedicated team, working on behalf of the community. One vacancy available for a Councillor. Please apply by 19th January: [reydon.pc@gmail.com](mailto:reydon.pc@gmail.com)

**Southwold Girl Guides:** 2 women urgently needed to keep the Southwold Guides running. No experience necessary. Please contact: Jenny Allen, District Commissioner: 01502 478314 [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com)

**Reydon & Southwold Pantry:** Drivers needed to collect donated food and materials from local supermarkets. Mileage paid. Please contact: Linda Coe: 07909 567818 [reydonandsouthwoldpantry@gmail.com](mailto:reydonandsouthwoldpantry@gmail.com)

**The Pitstop Café:** Please help re-decorate Southwold’s oldest, continually owned café, in January for the new season. Contact: [apitstop@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:apitstop@tiscali.co.uk); Tel: 07887 01027

**The Excelsior Trust:** Help with the winter refit of a 102yr old traditional, wooden, Lowestoft sailing trawler. A rare opportunity in Oulton Broad. Please contact: [volunteer@excelsiortrust.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@excelsiortrust.co.uk)

*This edition of The Reydon Robin is sponsored by Southwold Autos*

**Voluntary Help Centre, Southwold:** Please make a difference to those in our community who are unable to get out. Drivers needed to take folk to medical appts, vital shopping etc. Mileage paid. Contact: 01502 724549

**Samaritans:** Train to be a national Listening Volunteer in Lowestoft. Callers need Samaritans to listen to them, all the time. Get in touch: [www.samaritans.org/volunteer](http://www.samaritans.org/volunteer) For more info: [www.samaritans.org/](http://www.samaritans.org/)

**Reydon Village Hall:** Please join our Golden Anniversary Fundraising group to help re-furbish and re-equip this much-loved community facility: [reydonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:reydonvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Please also look at [www.volunteersuffolk.co.uk](http://www.volunteersuffolk.co.uk)**

## **REYDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Over the course of 2023 we have had some incredible support at all our fundraising events. From Quizzes to family Bingo evenings; our Open Garden event, Treasure Hunt and Wine Tasting evening, to name a few. Whether you have joined us or bought a raffle ticket or sponsored a bulb, every penny counts and we are very grateful.

The Committee hopes you all had a fantastic time at the Switch-On event on Jubilee Green on Saturday. All the lights are looking beautiful around the village and we hope you enjoy them. Our final event of the year is our Christmas Bazaar at Reydon Village Hall, Saturday 9th December, between 10am - 12.30pm.

We have lots of local makers joining us to sell their soaps, cushions and soft furnishings, cards, Christmas wreaths as well as aromatherapy skin care, wooden bird boxes and other wooden crafts. We will also have refreshments available - a cake stall, books, various Christmas goodies and a raffle.

We would like to wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you as we start our fundraising journey all over again in January! [facebook.com/reytonchristmaslights/](https://facebook.com/reytonchristmaslights/) **Fiona Cooper**

***This edition of The Reydon Robin is sponsored by Southwold Autos***

## LIONLINK - THE PUBLIC MEETING

The Autumn Reydon Robin reported on the consultation held at Reydon Village Hall on Friday 22nd September. On display were National Grid Ventures' (NGV) 'LionLink' proposals, to bring electricity cables ashore from Holland to a new interconnector site north of Southwold Pier. The cables would then be carried in motorway-wide trenches, either across the top of Reydon and around Henham, the 'northern route', or underneath the Blyth Estuary and then, in both options, on to the proposed substation Friston, near Aldeburgh.

Not surprisingly, this has provoked huge local concerns, especially as the glossy proposals put forward by NGV did not account for the full impact on the local wildlife sites and AONBs; nor did they provide any comparative costs for an alternative under-sea network.



Photo Credit: Jon Hadgraft

Over 170 residents turned out on Friday 27th Oct. to hear the cogent arguments against 'LionLink' from Marc Vlessing, a Reydon resident and founder of R.A.I.D. (Reydon Against Invasive Destruction) and Fiona Gilmore from SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) [www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk](http://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)

SEAS is campaigning, on our behalf, at all potentially threatened coastal locations, e.g. Walberswick, Aldeburgh, Friston and Saxmundham, and Fiona Gilmore not only encouraged everyone to write letters of objection to NGV and Andrew Bowie, The Energy Minister, she also presented their arguments against the proposals and highlighting the flaws in NGV's case. SEAS is campaigning for an under-sea network, which has been built so successfully in Belgium and Holland, which will take the UK power cables to a brownfield site, such as Bradwell in Essex.

The Parish Council objection to NGV's 'LionLink', compiled by Philip O'Hear, can be found on the Reydon Website:

[reydonvillage.org/reydon-parish-council-response-to-lionlink-consultation-october-2023/](http://reydonvillage.org/reydon-parish-council-response-to-lionlink-consultation-october-2023/)

## REYDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

On a distinctly freezing, but dry evening the Village's much anticipated Christmas Tree was lit on Jubilee Green. Once again, this year's well attended gathering was a heart-warming, community occasion, with blessings led by Rev. Alan Perry accompanied by Pam Cyprien, Chair of Reydon Parish Council, and a certain bearded, red suited gentleman with a donkey.



The tree itself is a 25 ft (7.6 metres) tall Nordman Fir, approx. 28 years old, provided by The Reydon Christmas Lights Committee, who have been fundraising all year to bring the Village's famous Christmas decorations to life. A sincere Reydon thank you to all of the Committee! Stunning displays can also be seen at Reydon Corner, The Village Hall, The Drive and other places. Thank you too to the tireless Blyth Valley Rotary for organising this exceptional family evening, which included Christmas carols supported by The Leiston Royal British Legion Band and The Sole Bay Singers, with everyone suitably fortified by mulled wine and hot soup. What could Reydon do without you all!



*Photos: Jon Hadgraft*



## REMARKABLE TREES IN REYDON

Most homes will have a Christmas Tree this year, either cut specially for Christmas or even a pre-lit artificial tree. The tradition of a decorated Christmas tree began, not with Prince Albert, but much earlier by Lutheran Christians in the 16th Century.

Amongst cut trees, the Nordmann Fir has become a popular choice because it holds on to its needles, more so than the traditional Norwegian Spruce. The icy blue needles of the Blue Spruce offer a distinctly different coloured tree, whilst the upright branches and long needles of a Lodgepole Pine make a decidedly elegant (if more difficult to decorate) tree. The Norwegian Spruce has the best Christmassy scent.

If sustainability is your choice, be sure to buy pot grown trees if you are able. Some trees labelled 'potted' will have been recently dug up, and their survival beyond Xmas will be compromised by the inevitable damage to their roots. Living trees should ideally be kept in a cooler room and the soil should be kept moist.

*Denise Faulkner is Reydon's Tree Warden*

## SUFFOLK LIBRARY SERVICES

Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation encouraging Suffolk Residents to let the County Council know what they want from their Library services in the future.

Suffolk County Council's contract with *Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited*, the independent charity that runs the Library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025, with a new contract set to begin in June 2025.

The 13-week consultation, will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the new contract is awarded in November 2024.

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from those who currently use library services and those who do not, to better understand the needs across the county. Residents can have their say by visiting: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation)

The consultation is open until **Friday 26 January 2024**.

*Cllr. MICHAEL LADD, Suffolk County Council*

## POTTERS BRIDGE - B1127 Lowestoft Road

The Potters Bridge flooding saga continues . . . after being obstructed by the landowners, Mr and Mrs Jones for more than a year, The Environment Agency finally got a Court Warrant to access their land to get a digger on to it, to clear the outfall last month so that Easton Broad could drain into the sea.



Photo Credit: Jon Hadgraft

Unfortunately, the surge tide of Friday, November 24th broke over the beach and filled the Broad again with sea water. This caused a dangerous depth on the Lowestoft Road of 0.75m at high water overnight. Two cars were swamped as they hit the flood in the dark. Luckily no-one was hurt. This is a sign of things to come as the road is below high water and will flood at each tide if the beach is permanently breached by the increasing number of surge tides and onshore storms.

The other problem is that rainfall running down the road gets trapped because the drains have been blocked for over a year. There are weeds growing out of them. We bombarded the Suffolk Highways reporting tool and they have now promised to unblock them as soon as the flooding allows. They will also inspect the road which appears to be sinking into the marsh.

Our depth meter sits over the broad, not the road, where it would get run over, so it can read a low level whilst there is still flooding on the road. You can find this at: <https://reydonvillage.org>

Wolsey Bridge is also below high water and the only high road into Reydon is through Wangford. We need a long-term solution to anticipate sea level rise, rather than dealing with emergencies and risking lives.

**David Beavan, Cllr. East Suffolk Council**

## NATURE NOTES

Beware when putting on your gardening gloves, or wellies, just in case there's a spider inside! Spiders are predators, and with the same venom they use to disable their prey, some spiders - e.g. a false widow spider, will bite, but only if threatened and cannot escape.



The resulting bite can be extremely painful note the bite marks at the base of the little finger. No British spiders' bites are fatal, but do turn your gloves inside out or shake your boots - I will in future! Is our seasonal Winter weather a distant memory? Now it is more like the merging of Autumn and Spring, with the occasional cold snap or a beastly Easterly. Still we do get the occasional treat:



Several years ago on a cold snowy morning, to the delight of many birders, these Smew put in an appearance

on Southwold Model Yacht Pond, on their winter migration. The handsome black and white males arrived together with the red tufted females, fondly know as Redheads (not shown).

These scarce diving ducks are the smallest of the so-called Sawbill ducks; Smews have small serrations along the inside of their bills, which are very helpful allowing them to catch and hold small fish. The males court the females throughout winter and pairs are formed by spring when they nest in tree and rock cavities.



A Robin fluffs up in Winter, helping him to keep warm.

*Seasons greetings to one and all, from **Bill!***

## LETTER FROM SOUTHWOLD

I have now been in my Mayoral Year for six months and the time has flown. What has stood out for me, attending many civic functions in Suffolk, have been the messages of encouragement and goodwill to maintain the traditions of the Mayoral office.

I have hosted Southwold Primary School in the Town Hall, organised meetings with businesses in Southwold and Reydon, and supported Community Action Suffolk in their Volunteering initiatives for Southwold and Reydon. Southwold Town Council (STC) have been closely managing the development at Station Yard, and we look forward to opening the facility during 2024.

I would like to thank Reydon Parish Council, SEAS and R.A.I.D. for their tremendous work, campaigning against the National Grid Ventures LionLink proposals. STC also objected to the plans and we look forward to working with other local councils and pressure groups to challenge National Grid Ventures' onshore infrastructure projects.

I was delighted to see so many people turning out at the Southwold Christmas Lights switch-on celebrations, and I congratulate the 'Light Up Southwold' Committee on their hard work organising the event.

I wish all the residents in Southwold and Reydon a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I look forward to working with all communities in 2024.

*Cllr. Simon Flunder, Town Mayor*

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you all this year, to remember the day that Jesus Christ was born.

Rev. Alan enjoyed taking part in the Reydon Christmas Lights Switch-On on Saturday 2 December. Many congratulations to the organisers and it was wonderful that so many people were present on Jubilee Green.

Our Christmas Celebrations begin on Sunday 17 December with a Carol Service by Candlelight at 4pm and then on Christmas Eve, we will be holding our popular Crib and Christingle Service at 4pm (St Margaret's Church cont.) where the Christmas story will be retold by the animals in the stable. This service will be suitable for people of all ages, especially families.

There will also be Holy Communion Services at 11pm on Christmas Eve to welcome in Christmas, and on Christmas Day at 9.30am. You are warmly

invited to join us for any of our services over the Christmas period. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and joyful New year!

*Rev. Alan Perry*

## **REYDON AND SOUTHWOLD COMMUNITY PANTRY**

The Reydon and Southwold Community Pantry continues to help those in the local area, offering short date food which would otherwise be thrown away. There are no restrictions as to who can use the Pantry, although we do ask for only one person per household to come. We accept donations from supermarkets, shops and individuals and offer them to anyone free of charge. We are also fortunate to receive donations from the RSPCA and from The Waveney Hygiene Bank: [www.thehygienebank.com/](http://www.thehygienebank.com/)

As autumn gives way to winter, we have altered our opening times to 9.00am through to 3pm every Friday, hopefully, saving our visitors from coming out in the cold and dark.

[reydonandsouthwoldpantry@gmail.com](mailto:reydonandsouthwoldpantry@gmail.com)

## **A FOODBANK IN SOUTHWOLD**

The Trussell Trust network are expecting to provide more than one million emergency food parcels between December 2023 and February 2024 - the most parcels ever provided across this period. A Foodbank is open in Southwold on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons, for referrals.

*Rev. Martin Keenan*

## **SOLE BAY HEALTH CENTRE**

I am pleased to report that both Sole Bay and Bungay practices performed extremely well, exceeding both the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS) and national targets comfortably, with Sole Bay receiving the best figures for any practice in the area. This reflects both the hard work of all of those in the surgeries, but also the tremendous support we receive from our patients, for which we thank you.

The practice has managed to vaccinate over 1600 patients, including more than 100 housebound individuals, in just three weeks.

*Rigby Whittaker, Practice Manager*

## THE COPPERWHEAT DEVELOPMENT

### GOOD NEWS AT LAST!

The long-awaited development at Copperwheat Avenue has finally been green-lit in Reydon. The not-for-profit developer Orbit Housing has bought the site and is finalising details of the scheme, ready to apply for full Planning Permission.

At a recent meeting with Reydon Parish Council's Planning team, Orbit confirmed that the development will provide 220 houses made up of 44 affordable rented homes (at 80% of local market rent) and 74 shared ownership homes, including 30 properties developed with new funding from Homes England.

With a limit of 80% 'staircasing' - the process allowing shared owners to build up shares in their homes - Orbit will retain 20% of the equity of the shared ownership houses which should ensure that these houses stay as shared ownership as they change hands.

The scheme will also provide 84 open market houses, 11 plots for self-build/custom builds, and 7 plots to enable East Suffolk Council to offer replacement sites for owners of houses lost to coastal erosion.

There will be a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses but no 4 bedroom houses in affordable or shared ownership tenure. Reydon Parish Council is asking East Suffolk Council to confirm that there is no need for 4 bedroom affordable houses as we think there are some larger families locally who need these.

Construction access will be via Copperwheat Avenue and the Crescents, which are to be the main accesses to the development. The boundaries on all sides will retain the existing trees and be further landscaped. The houses will have a plain design (not unlike those in Barbrook Green) but will include weatherboarding on properties near the boundaries facing the countryside.

Orbit Housing will be holding a drop-in information event at Reydon Village Hall on **Wednesday 17th January between 4pm and 8pm**, to ensure Reydon residents are fully informed about the plans, and are made aware of the timelines for construction and letting.

*Philip O'Hear, Chair of Planning, Reydon Parish Council*

# Reydon Village Hall

. . . at the heart of the community.

Reydon Village Hall held a successful Annual General Meeting on October 31st. A good turnout heard Simon Loftus OBE launch The Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund, to help refurbish and reequip the Hall in time for its Golden Anniversary in 2027.

Thank you to all those members of the original, historic Reydon Village Hall Fundraising Committee, who attended . . . it was a pleasure to see them back in the Hall on that evening. Thank you, as well to the Village Hall's Management Committee for providing some very generous refreshments.

Simon, who opened the Village Hall back in April 1977 after a long and difficult fundraising campaign, told us that it was his Grandfather P C Loftus who donated land to Reydon (Loftus Avenue) to stop the then Southwold Corporation building new houses on The Common.



Simon Loftus OBE  
*Photo: Jon Hadgraft*

It was Simon's Father Nicholas Loftus (Nicholas Drive) who donated the plot of land to Reydon Parish where Reydon Village Hall now stands. The Village Hall Management Committee thanked Simon very much for his inspiring, historical account.

Reydon Village Hall are very pleased to announce that the Noise Abatement Order, which was imposed on the Hall many years ago by the Hall's neighbours, has been declared 'null and void' by East Suffolk Council. The Village Hall will continue to be a considerate neighbour.

Next month The Village Hall's heating system will be upgraded throughout, replacing the original heaters (almost 50 years old) with infra red units. This has been funded by the Reydon Trust.

For more details of how to donate to The Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund and for Bookings please contact:

[reydonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:reydonvillagehall@gmail.com)

Tel: 07508 510732

*This edition is sponsored by:*

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Chris and the team would like to wish all  
our customers a very happy festive season,  
and a healthy and prosperous 2024!

