

The Reydon Robin

The quarterly, complimentary news magazine, for Reydon



(Picture: Fiona Cooper)

Winter 2024

ISSUE 13

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 2024 - February 2025

- Fri. 13th Dec.** Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch, Reydon Village Hall, 9am–1pm (see pp.8 and 11).
- Sun. 15th Dec.** Father Christmas comes to Southwold Library, 11am–2pm, £4.50 per child with gift and robin crafts.
- Tue. 24th Dec.** Crib and Christingle Service, St. Margaret's Church, Reydon, 4pm (see p.6).
- Wed. 25th Dec.** Christmas Day Swim, Gun Hill Beach, Southwold, 10.30am. Raising funds for the RNLI, Little Princes Trust and Sole Bay Care Fund. More details or register: <https://blythvalleyrotary.co.uk/christmas-day-swim/>.
- Tue. 21st Jan.** Lighthouse Ladies Quiz Evening, Reydon Village Hall, 7.30pm (see p.10).
- Fri. 24th Jan.** Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch, Reydon Village Hall, 9am–1pm (see pp.8 and 11).
- Fri. 24th Jan.** Reydon Christmas Lights Family Bingo Night, Reydon Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down 7pm.
- Sat. 25th Jan.** Friends of Southwold Library Quiz Night, Cardinal Newman Hall (Old Postal Sorting Office), 7pm. £3 per person. Teams of four. Contact Southwold Library to book.
- Fri. 31st Jan.** Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Quiz Night, Reydon Village Hall, 7pm. £5 per person. Teams up to six (see p.11).
- Fri. 21st Feb.** Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch, Reydon Village Hall, 9am–1pm (see pp.8 and 11).
- Fri. 28th Feb.** Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Ceilidh with the Once Bittern Ceilidh band in Reydon Village Hall (see p.11).

WANTED!

Volunteers to help distribute *The Reydon Robin*. Every quarter, this is distributed to all households in Reydon by our wonderful and dedicated team of volunteers.

We are looking for more people to join them.

So, can you spare a few hours in the open air every few months to help out? Please get in contact with us for more details (e-mail: reydonrobin@gmail.com).

Every little bit of help will be greatly appreciated!

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME



Pamela Cyprien, Chair,
Reydon Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter edition of *The Reydon Robin*. A time for reflection: another year gone, another to come. On behalf of Reydon Parish Council, I would like to thank all those who work so hard for our community throughout the year.

The Reydon Lights Committee and the Blyth Valley Rotary Club for once again giving us a lovely Christmas display at Reydon Corner and Jubilee Green, which we are all enjoying. I imagine that the Lights Committee must already be arranging their first fund-raising event for next year.

Gillian our official Litter Picker and the others who help keep the village tidy, those who take out strimmers and secateurs, thus helping to keep our footpaths navigable.

A big thank you to David and his daughter Clare, helped by Wills, for ensuring that Reydon Corner always looks beautiful with the spring daffodils and imaginatively planted tubs of flowers. Reydon Corner is much appreciated and gets complimented by residents and visitors alike, and is a real asset to our village.

Our thanks to Stephen Westlake for planting over 200 daffodil and bluebell bulbs under the trees at the corner of The Drive and Halesworth Road.

We also thank Brian and Andrew who continue to charge the batteries and deploy the SIDs (speed indicator devices), whatever the weather, around the village to deter speeding.

A big thank you to all the drivers who take it in turns to go out every evening to collect food from our local supermarkets and from Lowestoft. These foodstuffs are on a short date, but are perfectly edible and would be thrown away if not taken by The Pantry.

Thanks also to those teams of volunteers who man the Pantry every Friday, giving away what has been collected during the week and helping many in the village and beyond. Such commitment is very much appreciated.

Our heart-felt thanks also go out to Rev. Alan Perry, who retires this month, for all he has done for our community over the years. There will be more to say in the next, Spring edition.

A final thank you goes to Laura, Clive and their team at Southwold Boating Lake for their generosity in sponsoring this edition of *The Reydon Robin*.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Pam Cyprien

We are already thinking about Spring, and the next edition of *The Reydon Robin* will be out on Thursday, 3rd April 2025. If you'd like to contribute to it or there is something you would like *The Robin* to cover, please e-mail: reydonrobin@gmail.com.

The copy deadline will be Friday, 21st March. Thank you.

VERY GOOD!

This is the resounding answer to the question we posed in the previous edition of *The Robin*: 'How Good is Your Memory?' We wanted to know more about this photograph. Both Alison Peel and Michael Ladd were able to help.

Alison writes: 'This photograph is on page 55 in the book *Southwold Town Football Club, A History of the First 100 Years*. I think

this team is Reydon? Back row: Joe Steadman, Hub Clifford, Dick Clifford, Ernie Foyster, Jack Richardson, H. Ladd, Frank Palmer, Sid Edwards. Middle row: . . .? John Neller, Mop Smith, Ben Hurr, Chivvy Moore (Robert Chitty, my Dad). Front row: ? Stannard, Ray Clifford.'

Michael adds: 'Interesting old photo of Southwold Town FC and it's one I have also as my father and my wife's father are in the photo and I have tried to name as many as I can below. Back Row (Left to Right): Third in row Dick Clifford. Jack Richardson in the coat and hat. My father Herbert Ladd fifth in back row and then Frank Palmer in the black suit. Middle Row: Second in my wife's father John Neller. Fifth in row is Mr Chitty who lived next door to John Neller in Foster Close. Front Row: Second in row is Ray Clifford (Trevor Clifford's father).'

Thank you both! If there are any other local mysteries readers might want clearing up, please contact us at *The Reydon Robin* (e-mail: reydonrobin@gmail.com).



CATS PROTECTION

Reydon Christmas Fair on 9th November raised funds for our local branch of Cats Protection Framlingham & Saxmundham. We raised a magnificent amount of over £1,470, and we would like to thank all the local people who so generously supported us. Special thanks to all our volunteers and the people and businesses who donated items for the raffle and tombola, including The Randolph Hotel, Wangford Farm Shop, Boydens, Bridgefoot Stores, Mills and Sons, and the staff and patients of Beccles Hospital.

Our branch of Cats Protection is entirely run by volunteers and the charity is funded solely by donations from the general public. Our work includes the fostering and homing of cats and kittens, neutering and microchipping support and advice, cat welfare education, and TNR (Trapping, Neutering and Return) in feral cat colonies. All the cats that come into our care for adoption are: given health checks, treated for fleas and worms, vaccinated, neutered and microchipped.

If you are interested in becoming a member or gifting a membership for someone, the fee is £15 a year, for which you will receive three newsletters and a membership card. Please contact Chris Dixon (Membership Secretary) on 01502 723867.

LETTER FROM SOUTHWOLD

By the time you read this article, Southwold will have enjoyed the 30th November Southwold Christmas Switch-on. I would like to thank the Switch-on Lights Committee that have been organising the event from the start of the year for their hard work and commitment. The Blyth Valley Rotary are organising this year's Christmas Day Swim, and I hope this is well supported. Thanks must go to all the tireless efforts of the volunteers behind the scenes. My mayoral charity this year is the Southwold Music Trust and there is a New Year's Day concert at St. Edmund's Church.

Following on from the successful opening of the Klondyke skatepark, the Community Group led by Carl Hurr has won this year's ESC Community 'Quality of Place' award. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication of the Group and all their supporters. There was a successful 'Clean Up Southwold' event in October, and the town is looking clean and tidy. In addition, Suffolk Highways has carried out resurfacing work on York Road, Pier Avenue, Park Lane and East Street.

STC Councillors have hosted surgeries at the Craftco Tourist Information Centre over November and December, which has given residents the opportunity to have their say. Councillors are keeping up to date with information about the LionLink and Sizewell C projects. It is expected the DCO for LionLink will be launched next year, and the implications are concerning for the whole area. STC has also been monitoring the activity of the Harbour Management Committee, which oversees the operation of the Harbour.

I wish all the residents in Southwold and Reydon a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to working with all the communities in 2025.

Cllr. Simon Flunder, Town Mayor

FROM OUR MP

As Christmas approaches and 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible privilege of being elected to serve as your Member of Parliament. It's been a remarkable year, and I've been truly moved by the spirit of community across our constituency.

This time of year reminds us of the importance of looking out for one another, and I'm especially grateful to our local charities and army of local volunteers whose dedication brings hope and light to so many lives. Since I was elected, I've had the privilege of visiting so many charities and organisations supporting our communities – and I'm both appreciative and inspired by your work and service to provide support to those in need.

I'm deeply thankful for the trust you've placed in me, and I look forward to working hard for you and representing Suffolk Coastal in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

NEWS FROM 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.

Our Christmas Celebrations begin on Sunday, 15th December with a Carol Service by Candlelight at 4pm, and then on Tuesday, 24th December, Christmas Eve, we will be holding our popular Crib and Christingle Service at 4pm, where the Christmas story will be retold with a feel of the hit detective series, *Line of Duty*. This service will be suitable for people of all ages, and especially families.

There will also be Holy Communion Services at 11pm on Christmas Eve to welcome in Christmas and another celebration 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 to all a very Happy Christmas and joyful New year!

As I will be retiring at the end of December, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and kindness to both Sue and myself over the past eight years. It has been a pleasure and honour to serve you all as your parish priest.

Rev. Alan Perry

Christingle & Crib Service



St Margaret's
Church,
Reydon
Christmas Eve
at 4pm



A service for
all the family.
Come and join us
for our Christingle
on Christmas Eve,
with a 'Line of Duty'
feel as we tell the
story of the first
Christmas.

Every child will
receive a Christingle
during the service.
There will also be a
collection for the
Children's Society

This edition of The Reydon Robin is sponsored by Southwold Boating Lake

COPPERWHEAT - RIGHT DEVELOPMENT, WRONG PLACE?

No question – there is a housing crisis in Britain, in particular affecting young families, unable to find a home they can afford to rent. The new government has set a target of building 1.5-million new homes over the next five years, to boost – they say – economic growth. Local planners all over the country are busy meeting their own housing targets, but there is a shortage of suitable land. In some cases, planners are shoe-horning new developments into unlikely spaces with impunity.

The planners do not appear to have direct responsibility for the additional infrastructure required to support new communities – additional public transport, new school places or increased capacity at doctors' surgeries etc, not forgetting the sewage disposal requirements or the guarantee of fresh water; nor is any consideration made for the integration of newly arrived residents into an established community.

The Copperwheat proposals in Reydon are for a new community of 220 homes, the equivalent size of an average rural village, to be plonked down in a green-field site on the edge of the village. It is worrying, however, that the only access to the new site will be via two small cul-de-sacs, which open out onto the Wangford Road. Two-hundred-and-twenty new households could have over 350 extra cars using those narrow roads. Was this not taken into consideration by the planners?

The developers Orbit Homes, a large company which specialises in affordable housing and shared ownership homes, have also been struggling with access to the development site itself, for the many hundreds of heavy vehicles that will be required to deliver machinery, hardcore, all building materials and ready mixed concrete. . . which will all have to be driven through the backstreets of Wangford to Reydon, causing the residents to experience huge disruption and pollution. Was this poor access not considered before planning permission was granted?

And when the Copperwheat development is complete, what can be done to ensure that the 220 new households are fully integrated into the village? Communities need focal points where new neighbours can meet each other and form a strong, thriving neighbourhood, where folk know each other and help each other – a primary school, a shop, café or even a play area or village green. The outline plans show no such facility.

Indeed when Reydon Parish Council met the planners last April to discuss the need for, e.g., a shop or a re-fuelling station (Reydon needs one), they were told that the 'ship had sailed on that one'. Unless special efforts are made to create a welcoming neighbourhood at Copperwheat, East Suffolk Council might have an isolated, disengaged community on its hands.

Laurence Vulliamy

REYDON & SOUTHWOLD COMMUNITY PANTRY AND FRIDGE

The Reydon Community Pantry continues to provide free foodstuff, hygiene items and some animal feed to anyone who cares to call in between 9am and 3pm every Friday. We are situated at the rear of the Village Hall if you haven't found us yet. Local shops are very generous in donating their short-life food to the Pantry and we are very pleased that the Cornish Bakery, Southwold has also committed to giving us produce one day per week. Our grateful thanks to them. Because of Christmas holidays, the Pantry will only be open for the morning (9am–12pm) on 27th December, but then back to full Fridays after that.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. **Linda Coe**

Some interesting facts

Since the Pantry started:

- there have been 721 collections of 18,522kg of food,
- the equivalent of 44,101 meals,
- saving 53,512kg of CO₂

(Thanks to Sarah Jerman for supplying this information.)

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

The first Community Coffee Morning took place on Friday, 15th November at Reydon Village Hall. This was a collaboration between the Village Hall Management Committee and the Reydon and Southwold Community Fridge and Pantry. Pastries and toast provided by the Pantry were served with a warm drink for free to local residents and Pantry customers whilst providing a warm space for people to socialise. The event was well attended.

The plan is for these to be held once a month for six months to see how they go.

The next Community Coffee Morning is at the Village Hall on Friday, 13th December between 9am and 1pm.

9–11am will see pastries/toast served, and between 11am and 1pm, soup and bread will be served. However, do bring a container if you'd like to take some soup home for your lunch.

The Village Hall and Community Pantry team look forward to welcoming you all. Make sure you let friends and families know too.

Kim Harvey

A SEASONAL MESSAGE

I want to extend my season's greetings to readers of *The Robin*. I will be publishing a comprehensive feedback newsletter in the New Year. It has all been a bit mad since we took over the council last year!

You can keep up to date through Beavan4Suffolk on Facebook, email me at david.beavan@eastssuffolk.gov.uk or leave a message on 01502 724904. **David Beavan**

NATURE NOTES

Winter time welcomes migrant birds along our coastline escaping from colder climes. I stumbled across this Lapland Bunting (right), also known as the Lapland Longspur, whilst on a local coastal walk. Both sexes look similar in their winter plumage. It breeds in the Arctic/sub-Arctic and prefers coastal regions.



So lucky to catch sight of this stunning Snow Bunting (left). They pair up and mate for life. Its song is seldom heard in winter, but is said to be brief but quite musical unlike any of our resident buntings. A fitting warble for a fabulous bird.



Although this is a resident British finch (right), it is extremely shy and today quite uncommon, so rarely seen. However, there was a recent influx along the east coast from the continent, so, just in case you missed out as I did, here is a male bird that I saw in 2018. Quite an intimidating bill which caused so much damage in the orchards and gardens of yesteryear. This inevitably led to its demise as it was classified a pest bird.



Expectations are always satisfied when the Waxwings (left) put in an appearance plundering the berries on the Rowan trees along The Drive. They are quite acrobatic as they gorge themselves on nature's bounty. The Bohemian Chatterer has a soft silvery trill, which no doubt gives it its alternative name seldom used these days. **Bill**



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SOUTHWOLD FOODBANK

I thought I would write to let you all know what has been happening in the Foodbank over the last few months. We celebrated our first anniversary on 7th November. Hard to believe we have been open that long. Our numbers have not been astronomical – we have fed around 75 households. But that is still 75 too many. I have banned political comments on our Facebook page: Southwold Christian Centre with Foodbank and School Uniform Bank. The title has become very long because we are a satellite of Lowestoft Foodbank, so I can't call it Southwold Foodbank. But, as you can see from the title, we now have School Uniform Bank, with mostly Reydon Primary School uniforms. Call in when we are open, or send me an e-mail to southwold@lowestoffoodbank.org.uk if you would like anything from us. Everything is free!

In December, we are having a Christmas party for our regulars and then in January everything is changing. The Methodist Church has been renovating over the last few months. We are having a new kitchen fitted in January and then the Foodbank will only be open on Fridays, with extended time: 2–4:30pm.

We will be opening late January on a Monday for a Warm Space Drop-in. This will develop as the year progresses.

We are having an event on 20th January 2025, when the President of the Methodist Conference will be coming to Southwold. You probably don't know what the President of Conference is or does, but it's a major event in the Methodist Church when a visit takes place. The presidency only lasts a year and this current President: Rev. Helen Cameron (who you may have seen at the Coronation Service last year) is the person who requested that I come and develop something in the Southwold Methodist Church. If you are free that afternoon, please come.

Have a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rev. Martin Keenan

LIGHTHOUSE LADIES

The Lighthouse Ladies, who meet on the third Tuesday of every month in Reydon Village Hall, continue to go from strength to strength. We have recently welcomed some new members, who are enjoying the mix of speakers, demonstrations and general conversation, washed down with tea, coffee and cake. We were hugely saddened, however, to report the sad demise of our previous Chairman, Christine Cook, who passed away in James Paget Hospital. Many of her friends from Lighthouse Ladies attended her funeral at Ellough Crematorium. She will be sorely missed.

Our January meeting, to be held on 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm, will be our traditional Quiz Evening, carefully put together by Carol Horton. Thinking caps on, Ladies. New members are always welcome.

Linda Coe (Chairman)

Reydon Village Hall

... at the heart of the community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from Reydon Village Hall Management Committee! Thanks to everyone's support of our fundraising events, the Reydon Trust and Reydon Parish Council, our big refurbishment works begin in January, with a fully refitted disabled toilet with baby change, new Hall lighting, new curtains and blinds plus the interior redecoration of the Hall. This means we are closed for a couple of weeks in January – but it will all be worth it!

We will continue to fundraise into 2025 because there's lots more to do – and a lot of our fundraising activities are good fun too! So save the dates – on Friday, 31st January at 7pm we will have another Quiz Night, £5 per person with nibbles provided. Teams up to six, bring your own drink/more food, but soft drinks and snacks available to buy. Book your team in with Charlotte (tel: 07715 388916; e-mail: frogclock@hotmail.com; or online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall). We are then following this in February with another of the brilliant Ceilidhs with the Once Bittern Ceilidh band on Friday, 28th February and a Bingo Night in March – watch this space.

Plus we have teamed up with the Reydon and Southwold Pantry to have a Free Community Coffee Morning and Lunch once a month. The next one is on Friday, 13th December, 9am–1pm. Tea/coffee and toast (pastries when available) are served 9–11am and then soup and bread 11am–1pm (if you want to takeaway soup, bring a suitable container). The January date will be Friday, 24th January and then Friday 21st, February.

And don't forget you can hire Reydon Village Hall for anything you want to do – with lots of availability over the weekends. We have a wide range of activities going on, including work-training courses, kids' clubs, exercise classes, music nights, performances, social groups, adult and kids' parties, dancing groups and much more. To check out availability, visit reydonvillage.org/about-reydon/amenities, e-mail reydonvillagehall@gmail.com or phone 07508 510732.

Charlotte Clark, Chairman

CHILDREN IN NEED

For Children in Need 2024, Reydon Primary School raised £152.90. A big thank you to parents and carers for their generous donations and support.

Adele Coleman



THE REST

Have you ever wondered about the four cottages in Covert Road called The Rest? Some people assume they are connected with the church. One man once told me he thought nuns lived there – which amused the current residents. They are in fact almshouses, charitable dwellings for older people able to live independently.

They were built in 1908 by Andrew Matthews, a London-based antiques dealer, who had a second home in Southwold. Like many entrepreneurs at that time, he was a philanthropist. He and his family had enjoyed holidaying in Southwold but at the same time were aware of the poverty of many of its residents and decided to provide homes for some of those most in need. He spared no expense in doing so, employing the renowned architect, Frank Jennings, to design them in the Arts & Crafts style, and having them built to such a high standard that they have required little major maintenance ever since. They were also furnished with items Mr Matthews had acquired through his business. Although the residents had to abide by rules, which seem Dickensian these days, the cottages had, and still have, a living room, a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom (now a shower room) and a garden.

In 1910, The Rest was transferred to the Southwold Borough Council which subsequently set up the Andrew Matthews Trust, which has managed the almshouses ever since. There are eight trustees – the Town Mayor of Southwold, the incumbent of St. Edmund's and six others, from the Southwold and Reydon community, and an Honorary Clerk.

The Rest is non-profit-making. Whilst donations are always welcome, 99% of its income derives from the residents' monthly payments called maintenance contributions rather than rents, an amount considerably less than people might expect to pay for a two-bedroomed, rented home in this area. However, residents have to meet certain criteria: they must be over 60, have strong local connections and not own property. Vacancies are advertised locally but anyone interested in being considered in the future is welcome to contact me.

Jenny Hursell, 1, Fairfield Villas, Fairfield Road, Reydon IP18 6QR, tel: 01502 724699, e-mail: jennyhursell@hotmail.com

REYDON WI

We are a small, friendly group who meet in Reydon Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. Our programme consists of a variety of speakers and craft activities. Unfortunately, there will not be meeting in January as the first Wednesday is New Year's Day. Our 2025 programme kicks off in February with a talk by the Voluntary Help Centre.

For further details, please contact the Secretary Amanda Priestley at amanda.priestley@btinternet.com.



NEWS FROM SOLE BAY SURGERY

Welcome to a new GP

We are very pleased to announce that Dr Karen Blades has recently joined the Practice as a salaried GP. Dr Blades is an excellent and extremely experienced GP and Trainer, we look forward to learning a lot from her.

Flu and COVID Campaign

The vaccination campaign is going well with nearly 2,000 patients being vaccinated, including 100 housebound patients.

A reminder regarding life-threatening emergencies

Over the past few months, there has been an increase in medical emergencies attending the GP Practice. Please may we remind you that patients with chest pain should call 999 and attend A&E rather than come to the Surgery, as you could be significantly delaying your treatment. Emergencies such as chest pain, breathing difficulties or stroke-type illness need further urgent medical tests and hospital intervention, which cannot be administered at the Practice.

Christmas wishes

Finally, we would just like to thank you for all the tremendous support we receive from our patients and local community. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas from all of the team at the Surgery.

Rigby Whittaker

1ST SOUTHWOLD AND REYDON SCOUTS

The Group has had a very busy few months.

Beavers have been doing experiments and working on their Chief Scout Bronze Award and team building, along with welcoming lots of new members into the scouting family.



The Cub Section had a very informative visit to Southwold Railway. They also visited the Electric Picture Palace for a screening of *The Jungle Book*. Both evenings were amazing and the Cubs would like to thank both the Southwold Railway and The Electric Picture Palace for the visits.

The Scout Section has been volunteering in the community with the British Legion. You may have seen us on Southwold High Street selling poppies on the two Saturdays leading up to Remembrance Sunday. A big thank you to The Crown, who provided a warm drink for our amazing Scouts and Lead Volunteers who braved the cold.

All our sections attended Remembrance Day with a nice turn out, with both adults and young people looking smart and being well behaved.

If you would like you child to try Beavers (6–8), Cubs (8–10) or Scouts (10–14), contact us to arrange a free taster – Facebook 1st Southwold and Reydon Scout Group; e-mail glv@southwoldandreydonscouts.org; or by phone: Group Lead Volunteer Luke Winter on 07900 982836.

BLYTH ROTARY ROUND UP

The new woodland walk at Oaklands House

It's been wonderful to work with young people like Lily and Dexter, who helped build bug hotels for the opening of the Oaklands Woodland Project. This initiative is fantastic for residents, local people, and school children to enjoy together. A big thanks to Blyth Valley Rotary, Sole Bay Care Fund, and the amazing staff at Oaklands for making this project happen. The viewing platform is dedicated to Dr Cathy Ryan MBE.



Planting Crocuses for Rotary's End Polio Project

Members of New Leaf Reydon and Blyth Valley Rotary united to plant over 4,000 crocuses and 25kg of daffodils along the verges of Mights Bridge. This year, we chose the beautiful *Crocus tommasinianus*, Ruby Giant, with its deep purple blooms. A heartfelt thank you to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers who made this

remarkable effort possible. Together, we look forward to the vibrant colours of spring! Today's inspiring helpers included Alan, Colin, Andy, Claire, Sue, Dominic, Nikki, and Patrick.

Rota Kids in Southwold and Reydon

Saint Felix Prep School was happy to welcome members of the Blyth Valley Rotary for the exciting launch of the Blyth Valley and Saint Felix RotaKids Club! Students from Year 3 to Year 6 have been spending their weekly lessons learning about the value of service and how it can make a positive impact on our school and the world around us. During the RotaKids assembly, the children enthusiastically shared their thoughtful ideas on how to help others with our lovely guests. Hugo, one of our Year 6 stars, has been elected as the Saint Felix RotaKids President! He'll be leading our half-termly meetings to help turn these fantastic ideas into reality. Find out more at: www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/rotakids/



Do you have any gently loved soft toys that could bring joy to someone new? Blyth Valley Rotary is seeking soft toys in good condition for our fundraising efforts. If you're able to help, please reach out to us at info@blythvalleyrotary.co.uk. Thank you for considering sharing the love!

Claire Guppy

SOUTHWOLD BOATING LAKE

It's been a busy year so far at the Southwold Boating Lake! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the local residents and visitors that love to visit. It's a privilege to be custodians of this beautiful place in the town.



The lakes have been in existence since the late 19th century and the model yacht regattas have been held annually since 1894, except during the war years. A place for everyone to enjoy – relaxing and soaking up the sound of the sea and watching the wildlife and surroundings. To celebrate the rich history and heritage of the

Southwold Boating Lake, we are inviting you to share with us your own photos, pictures and stories past and present at the lakes and the Southwold Model Yacht Pond. It is lovely to hear so many visitors' and residents' fond memories as well as learning about new ones at this special place that so many of us feel a connection to.



We would love to be able to share your experiences and will create place for these that can be viewed at the Boating Lake with a dedicated space in 2025.

We would love you to please send us your own memories – copies of photos and pictures with a brief description or story with the date and your name/s. They can be dropped in to us at the Boating Lake, by e-mail or by post (details on the next page). We are happy to arrange to make copies of original photos.



Laura's grandparents – Ken and Anita Barbrook – on the lakes in the 1950s

The Boating Lake and Tearooms are now open daily from 9am all year round, including New Year's Day.

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Laura, Clive and the Boating Lake team

This edition is sponsored by:

SOUTHWOLD BOATING LAKE



Open daily and all year round

E-mail: hello@southwoldboatinglake.co.uk

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram for latest updates and news



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