

RENDLESHAM 2022

Recorder's Report for the year 2022



JANUARY

The Rendlesham Good Neighbour Scheme collected the village's Christmas trees and took two trailer loads down to Deben Community Farm to feed the animals.

The January litter pick collected 36.4 kg of litter. The Parish Council set a target of 200kg to be collected over the year, although some felt that the target should more properly be zero!

The Senior Youth Group started up again on 11th January, and the Juniors on 12th January. A vacancy for a youth worker to work on the Junior sessions was advertised.

Roquefort appeared at the Social Club on Saturday 15th, Three Eyed Fiiish on Sunday 16th, and The Albion Mills on Saturday 29th (members night). Meanwhile, the Social Club was awarded a certificate for having raised £832.52 for St. Elizabeth Hospice at a Race Night in November. On the first Friday of every month, the Club offered free pool.

Another yoga group – Just Yoga Suffolk with Mair Potter – started at Bentwaters on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Every Tuesday morning at St Felix from 18th January, Rachel Parsons ran "Song Time" sessions, including rhyme, songs, movement and story time: bumps and babies from 9 until 9.30, Toddlers from 9.35 to 10.15, and Pre-school from 10.20 until 11 a.m.

The Tavern closed from 10th to 27th January as a result of Covid affecting numbers. They took the opportunity "to give it a lick of paint." Live acoustic music welcomed patrons back on 27th.

On Burns Night, the Scouts held a Highland Games evening, attended by Rendlesham resident David Gillingwater in full Scots rig on the bagpipes.

On Sunday 30th, St Felix introduced a new initiative, "Café Church", with everyone seated around tables instead of in the pews, and enjoying coffee and pastries.

Two new councillors have joined the Parish Council – Victoria Waring and Mandy Small. Meanwhile, Ali Gibbs and Peter Wyartt have resigned from the council, so there remain two

vacancies, and a call went out for people to volunteer. Peter Wyartt was the village Tree Warden, so the Council is looking for a volunteer to take on this role for Rendlesham.

The Council advertised for an Events Co-ordinator, 25 hours per week, to co-ordinate RPC events, to replace Leanda who was leaving after two years in the role. They also continued to advertise for a Youth Worker to run the Junior Youth Group sessions on Wednesday nights (the advert in the magazine incorrectly said Thursdays).

FEBRUARY

There were some amazing sunsets over Rendlesham during the first days of February – this was taken on 2nd at 4.52pm.



Village resident Ben Alder has submitted a new Lego set design to Lego Ideas, and asked for people to support his design on social media; if it receives 10k 'likes', it would mean that Lego may take it to mass production (Mr. Alder has had success before, with his design for a Winne the Pooh set). His design features a red barn, several farm vehicles, and characters based on his own family – his wife Louisa, and their children Joshua and Elsie.



Sudbourne and Tunstall Baptist Church has been holding its services at Rendlesham School since 2019 and have now decided to change their name to Grace Church Rendlesham. They meet every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Bingo at the Social Club started up again on 3rd February. Sharon and Jenna performed “Through the Decades” at the Social Club on 5th February, Midnight Road appeared at the Boardwalk on 12th February, while there was a Valentine’s Family Disco at the Social Club on the same evening.

A “Bounce” group, run by Lauren Dagnell, now meets at the Community Centre on Mondays at 9.45am and 7pm, Wednesdays at 6.30pm and 7.45pm, and Fridays at 9.45am. On Thursdays at 7.15pm there is a Zumba group at the School.

Explorers (14-18 years) went to the Brecon Beacons for a Mountain Activities Team Training weekend. The Scouts were challenged to demonstrate some of the first aid they had been taught the week before by being taken into Rendlesham Forest after dark to “discover” an incident. Some parents volunteered to be “casualties”. A member of Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue came along to help.



During early February, Swann’s Nursery planted a mixture of 70 trees along the paths in Jubilee Park, including fruit trees, ornamental cherries and acers. On Sunday 13th, people who had sponsored “a tree for the jubilee” were invited to plant spring bulbs around the base of their tree at Jubilee Park. The ceremony was followed by glasses of prosecco in the Pavilion. This is a picture of your Recorder and his wife, Valerie Edwards, with their tree, a James Grieve apple. The plaques were made by P & R Locksmiths at Martlesham. Rendlesham is now listed on the Queens Green Canopy website.



The February Litter Pick gathered 8.87kg of litter.

On Monday 7th, Ryder-Davies & Partners re-opened their veterinary practice after the enforced closure of the pandemic, Mon – Fri 2.00 – 6.00.

On 7th February East Suffolk Council formally approved the planning application by Capital Community Developments to build 75 homes on the land to the north west of Gardenia Close and Garden Square. This 5.19 hectare plot of land had been allocated for housing for more than 20 years, the oldest outstanding housing site earmarked for development in East Suffolk. 25 homes would be affordable, including 13 discounted market sales units and 12 affordable rent units. There would be 184 parking spaces and include a public open space. The Parish Council had previously objected to this application on a number of grounds (see report for 2021) and two earlier applications had been rejected. The East Suffolk Council felt that the latest application had benefitted from a fresh take on the layout and design of the site, and previous objections no longer applied. Concern regarding the possible “closed” nature of the community for whom the housing was being built (the Maharishi community) was rejected on the basis that “this planning permission goes with the land and not the applicant. It is not for the Local Planning Authority to dictate or control how properties may or not be marketed.” A number of conditions were attached, including provision for nesting plots for skylarks. One of the conditions was that Garden Square – currently not adopted – should be raised to an adoptable standard before work commences. Adequate provision for electric vehicle charging points has to be made. Full details of the conditions can be found in the public access section of the East Suffolk Council website, publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Storm Dudley on Thursday 17th gave way to Storm Eunice on 18th, bringing very strong winds to Rendlesham from the west. UK Power Network issued advice to people to stay away from power lines, and gave instructions as to who to contact in an emergency caused by the storms. Power to Rendlesham did go off for a while during the late morning on Friday 18th. Following Met Office advice, the school was shut on the 18th, prior to the week’s half term holiday. Online learning was made available. Despite advance comparisons to the great storm of October 1987, while there was some damage around the village and surrounding fields, and some trees were indeed uprooted in the gales, it was nowhere near as bad as it was in ‘87, when over a million trees were uprooted in Rendlesham Forest. In the village, several garden fence panels came down, the marquee in the Community Centre was blown over, and the roof of Costcutters was damaged.





On Saturday 19th, the Parish Council held a public vote to decide on the allocation of the year's £5,000 participatory budget. The top 5 suggestions from residents were:

- A scout hut
- Improved play areas
- Jubilee Park perimeter path
- Men's shed
- Community

The majority voted for the Scout Hut, and the Parish Council undertook to work with the 1st Rendlesham Scouts to look at opportunities to take this project forward.

Overnight Sunday 20th into Monday 21st, a third storm, Storm Franklin, hit Rendlesham, with again very strong winds.

In the February magazine, Vicki Waring wrote about the importance of keeping dogs under control. The Wickham Market and Rendlesham Surgery Patient Group asked for surgery users to contact them with views as to how it could improve its service. The opening times for the surgery in Rendlesham, post pandemic, are now:

- Monday 15.30 – 18.30
- Tuesday 08.30 – 12.00
- Wednesday 15.30 – 18.30
- Thursday 08.30 – 12.00
- Friday 14.30 – 17.30
- Saturday 08.30 – 11.45 (pre-booked appointments only, one Sat per month)

The Council advertised for an Administration Assistant, to work 16 hours per week (£17,364-£18,795 pa pro rata) to assist with the running of the parish office.

On Saturday 26th, Annika Rands performed 'songs from across the decades' at the Social Club, The Tavern screened the Six Nations – Scotland v France, then England v Wales – selling their real ale Scrum Down at £3 a pint. The following day, The Tavern screened the Carabao Cup Final (Liverpool v Chelsea).

On Sunday 27th, the Taizé worship at St Gregory's remembered the people of Ukraine and Russia, following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24th.

East Suffolk Council made a grant of £1443.17 to Rendlesham Community Radio from their Community Partnership Grant Scheme, which supports the delivery of projects aimed at addressing local priorities and benefitting the wider community. The grant will be put towards further supporting its work around youth engagement, community cohesion, work-related learning and social isolation.

50 Acer Road applied for planning permission to build a two-storey extension.

On Friday 25th, 7-year old Faith Parkes had 18 inches of her hair cut off at the Hair Sanctuary, donated to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for young cancer sufferers. She raised over £1600.

MARCH

Signs of Spring: daffodils are blooming around the village sign, and crocuses are out in Suffolk Drive.

The March edition of the Rendlesham Magazine included a double-page spread article about the role and work of the Village Recorder, written and submitted by myself.

In Parish Council news, they revealed that the Precept for 2022-2023 had been set at £155,214.12, an increase on the previous year of 1.49%. The increase had been zero in the previous year.

The Rendlesham Good Neighbour Scheme started a *Turn Up Tuesday* event at Jars of Clay, to take place every first Tuesday in the month. "Friendly chat for people from Eyke, Rendlesham and Tunstall area."

On 1st March, the Rendlesham Climate Emergency Working Group held an online meeting at 7.00pm, with an update on the tree planting, litter pick schedule, air pollution project, update on the electric vehicles charging point, and how some of the verges around the village could be managed differently.

Song Time moves to Fridays from 4th March, with Toddlers on Tuesdays 8.45 am – 10.30 am. Local Vocals continues on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm, this month learning a Russian melody "as we sing in solidarity with innocents caught up in war."

On 4th, the World Day of Prayer was held at St Felix, with a display created by Gill Nicholls.

On 5th and 6th there was an opportunity to "drive an American truck" on a Driving Experiences Day at Bentwaters.

On 5th March, Harry Isaac Presley and the Hip Operation performed at the Social Club.

Every Saturday at 9.00 am there is a 5k community event, the Rendlesham Forest parkrun.

Following his successful securing last year of planning permission to convert 47 Knight Road (aka Lotus House) into a children's home, Catalin Condurat advertised for a Deputy Manager, Senior Support workers and support workers for the new home.

On Friday 11th, James Rudge announced on Facebook that he had bought a large portion – c 2.5 acres – of the field opposite Tower Field Road, which he intended to use as the Rendlesham Community Food Garden. This field had been occupied by nissen-type huts during the US occupation of Bentwaters, and although they had been demolished, it had long been assumed that the land was contaminated, which is why it had lain unused for so long. Mr. Rudge however said

that he had done the necessary local authority searches, and had two independent environmental checks, and while “currently it resembles a poorly managed scrapyards”, it is not contaminated land; one of the conditions of sale had been that all buildings and rubble be removed from the site. His aim was that the Food Garden “will be available for people to use for free”, the one caveat being that you only take what you feel you have earned. Any surplus would be sold or gifted to those in need. Large expenditure such as poly tunnels would hopefully be crowdfunded. There would be a small apple orchard at one end, and Mr Rudge planned to plant more, as well as provide some bee hives. A day later, he reported that clearance had begun and posted these photos, thanking Clayton Woolnough and Stephen White for their help with transport. Three



banners were subsequently erected along the roadside advertising the project. Mr. Rudge also allowed the land to be used by the Scouts.



In later posts, he announced that they were ready to dig vegetable patches, which would be 4ft wide and 30ft long.

On Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th March, 10am to 12.30 and 1.30pm to 4pm, there was an Art Quilt Workshop at Wooden Roots on the Base.

J & B Florists were nominated for the Suffolk Retail Business Awards in the category of Best Florist.

Rachel Parsons “paused” her song-time activities at the church “whilst we take stock about the way forward.”

On Saturday 19th, a loud noise was heard above Rendlesham. It turned out to be at Bentwaters, where museum staff were warming up the museum’s Jaguar XX741. The event, open for a maximum of 28 people, was sold out. Residents who were around during the USAF occupation of the base said that the noise was very reminiscent of those days.



St Felix Church held a Lent Lunch on Sunday 20th of soup, bread and cheese.

The 1st Rendlesham Scouts cycled to a camp at Hallowtree Campsite. Rendlesham bicycle expert Craig Lister ran a cycle maintenance evening for the Explorers, and checked everyone's bikes before the journey. Craig later announced that he was giving up his cycle maintenance business.

A meeting was held at St Felix Church on Wednesday 23rd when Peter Marett gave a talk called "Square Foot Gardening."

A 2-bedroomed first floor flat on Spencer Road went on the market for £165,000.

The painted stones that appeared in snakes around the streets of the village during the 2020 lockdown were set in resin to form a permanent display called The Lockdown Stone Circle, outside the Community Centre, officially unveiled on 24th March to mark the end of covid restrictions. The installation was designed and constructed by Simon Allin of Allin Woodcrafts and incorporates an acer and some other plants.



On Saturday 26th March, Rock Solid Alibi played at the Social Club. On Tuesday 29th, The Tavern held an Open Mic night for "musicians of any ability"!

On Mothering Sunday 27th March, St Felix Church held a Mothering Sunday Service at which posies were distributed.

At the end of the month, Ellie Hutchinson joined the Parish Council team as Events Co-ordinator.

APRIL

As an April Fool joke, someone posted on Facebook a mock advertisement for Rendlesham Heritage Railway, with a mockup picture of a steam train emerging on the tracks through Ivy Lodge.

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service reported that over the previous four months, volunteers have cleaned, marked, recorded and packed over 20kg of material excavated from Rendlesham last summer, part of the Rendlesham Revealed community project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Rendlesham Shed launched its own group on Facebook.

On Saturday 2nd St Felix Church hosted “Saturday Morning Breakfast” with guest speaker Marie who works with a group who rescue injured seals.

On Tuesday 5th, the Community Centre Charity held its AGM. It was reported that the Centre had upgraded their lights to work on sensors, and installed new fire alarm sensors. The meeting failed to obtain enough elected Trustees to continue in line with Charity Commission regulations, and a revised model was agreed upon; they passed a resolution to pass the charity to the Parish Council. Thanks were given to Roy Ince (Treasurer) and Dave Smith (Chairman) for all their work for the charity.

The Social Club held their own AGM on Friday 8th. Free Pool Fridays are offered at the Social Club on the first Friday each month.

Rendlesham Youth Group sessions swapped, with seniors meeting on Tuesday (years 7 & 8) and Wednesday (years 9+) evenings, Juniors on Thursdays.

Suffolk County Council installed an electric car charging point for two cars outside the Community Centre, charging 35p per kwh. A notice on Facebook thanked Green Suffolk and Anglia Car Charging “for making Plug In Suffolk come to Rendlesham”. The two points cost £12,435, funded by the “Plug in Suffolk Scheme”.



The annual Easter Egg Hunt started on Friday 8th April; 11 “egg”-shaped signs appeared around the village – children were invited to collect all 11 letters contained within the eggs to make a word, and submit their answers to the parish council office. The competition was also available digitally via the PC website. 116 correct entries were received and Zee and Danny from Costcutters donated 268 eggs delivered to children across the village by the Easter Bunny (Roger Messenger, the park keeper, who also plays Santa at Christmas!).

From 9th to 24th, the School held a family book hunt, to help raise money for St Elizabeth Hospice. Pictures of book covers were posted in windows around the village for children to find and record; all entries, to be returned by 29th April, had the chance of

winning a prize. £3 per entry.

An outbreak of Avian Influenza in East Anglia led to letters being sent to all residents from DEFRA, so that susceptible stock could be registered, and advice given as to what to do if anyone found any dead wild birds.

County Broadband of Old Bouchiers Hall, Aldham, Essex contacted residents with news that Rendlesham had been selected “as the next area to receive our brand new, full fibre broadband network” and asking people to sign up for further information. They promised broadband speeds of up to 900Mbps and low tariffs from £28 per month.

Parish councillor Vickie Waring on behalf of parents of teenage students in Rendlesham started negotiating with Suffolk County Council regarding transport for students to the colleges in Ipswich, for which there is no current fit-for-purpose provision.

On 16th, there was a table top sale/Easter Market in the Village Square, with table fees going towards the skate park project.

Easter was marked with the annual Easter Bunny Parade on Sunday 17th. From 1pm to 5pm the Social Club held a Children’s Easter Party with entertainer Steve Sausage.

Bentwaters Cold War Museum re-opened at Easter, with a new café/shop formed of two 40-foot containers supplied by BYE Engineering at Melton. Their latest exhibit is a Bristol Bloodhound, a ramjet powered surface-to-air missile developed during the 1950s which served as the UK’s main air defence weapon until 1991.

During April, residents found issues with regard to postal deliveries, as there was a backlog at the Woodbridge sorting office who were not keeping up with demand.

From Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd, Grace Church held a Holiday Bible Club at the Tunstall Baptist Chapel, 2 – 4 pm.

The April Litter Pick took place on 24th April, and was followed by a “Spring Wildlife Walk” with fun nature-based activities provided at Jubilee Park, including animal yoga, bug hunting, beginner hedgehog rescue and nature weaving. A nightingale was heard in the wildlife area, and the first version of a ‘List’ was created, identifying species of birds, mammals and plants in the wildlife area, identified by Paul Stevenson and Heather Carroll. Birds included nightingales, blue tits, goldfinch, dunnocks, black cap, wood pigeon, robins, blackbirds, long-tailed tits, chiffchaff and red kite. Orange tip, small white and comma butterflies were seen, and amongst the plants garlic mustard, wild service tree, germander speedwell and ground ivy.

CLLr Alexander Nicoll has funded a new BBQ for the scouts to use at camp. The whole of the Scout Group (ages 6 – 17) went to the Vauxhall Campsite in Great Wenham for a weekend of camping.

The Tavern hosted an Open Mic on Tuesday 26th.

MAY

Bruce Aldred performed at the Social Club on 1st May.

On the bank holiday, the Scout Group went on to the water in kayaks and canoes.

On Saturday 7th, Country Road played live at the Tavern.

The Litter Pick on the 8th included a very successful Plant Sale in the Village Square, along with a seed exchange. Donations from teas and cakes went to Sam Barstow, who is raising funds to go to

the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea. And it was reported that swifts are back! 38.5kg of litter was collected.

Police were called to an incident at Jubilee Park involving a young person from Lotus House, the recently opened children's home on Knight Road. Several people reported incidents of bad behaviour in the vicinity. An article in June's magazine explained some of the background to the home, and gave telephone numbers that people could call if they came across any further incidents.

Starting on 10th May, Felixstowe-based charity BASIC (*Business And Service In Christ*) Life along with local volunteers began a weekly 'pop-up shop' at St Felix every Tuesday at 11 a.m., to supplement the Porch Pantry. Food donated by supermarkets is sold at £2 per reuseable jute bag. "No questions asked, no judgements made." Fresh fruit and vegetables are available

Friends of Rendlesham School (FORS) held their annual Bag2school textile drive to raise funds. Pooley Removals at the Base once again took in dropped-off donations. £252 was raised, allocated to the Play Equipment Fund. Meanwhile, KS2 children from the school replanted the planters in the village square with geraniums, lobelia and petunias.

Week commencing 16th May was "Walk to School Week"; if parents had to drive, they were encouraged to park five minutes' walk away.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 16th. A summary of the Chairman's report is published in the June issue of the Rendlesham Magazine. He welcomed Carrie Broad as the new Administration Assistant.

On 17th and 25th, the Primary School held a Nursery Open Morning from 9.30 to 10.30 am.

On Friday 20th May, the Care Centre held a Bake Sale in aid of dementia awareness.

Man in the Hat appeared at the Social Club on 28th May.

It was announced that street lights in Rendlesham are to be upgraded with LED lanterns as part of a county-wide project, thought to be saving the council £1.7 million a year.

12 Fountain Road applied for planning permission for a single storey extension. 65 Mayhew Road applied for permission to turn the double garage into a gym.



On Monday 30th, Ozzy Rayner, who lives with Prada Willi Syndrome, carried the Festival of Suffolk torch as part of the county-wide relay, from The Tavern to the Community Centre.

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all took part in the Jubilee Pageant at the Suffolk Show.

JUNE

On Thursday 2nd, there was an all-day party at Jubilee Park, dubbed “Purple Reign” Festival, with live music by Loose Change, Jacklin & Smith, L.T.P. (Less Than Perfect) and The Eleventh Hour performing on a specially erected stage (from Epic Sound and Lighting), with fairground rides (run by William Stocks), running from 3pm, culminating with a playing of the Jubilee tune *Diu Regnare* by Rachel Parsons on Northumbrian pipes, followed by Sir Michael Bunbury – Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk - lighting the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm. The Leiston Band of the Royal British Legion provided two buglers to play a fanfare, called *Majesty*, specially composed and played across the nation. This was followed by a firework display run by Fully Fused. The Scouts ran a BBQ. 255 children were given a free Platinum Jubilee Mug.



The event raised £1,270.78 which will go towards the proposed Skate Park.

The beacon was fabricated by Steve Jacobs and team at E Jacobs & Sons Ltd of Kirton, and filled with a tonne bag of poplar and oak mix.

On Saturday, 4th, the Social Club held a ‘Jubilee BBQ’ with live music from Country Road. There was to have been a Cream Tea at St Felix Church to celebrate the Jubilee, but following a fall in her garden, resulting in a broken arm and wrist, Rev Mandy was out of action and unable to ‘pick up the pieces’.

Street parties were planned for Sunday 5th, with the Parish Council providing 180 metres of bunting, 64 flags, balloons and 420 plates and napkins etc. for 17 of them. Residents were encouraged to “decorate” their houses. The planters in Jubilee Park (opened on the occasion of the Queen’s diamond jubilee) were decorated in purple ribbons.



The theme of this year's Rendlesham Show on 10th and 11th June was "By Royal Command". On Saturday at 3.00pm, it included "The Rendlesham Dog Show." The music line-up for Friday 10th included Adelija + Eclipse, Jenna Oxbury, Silversin, Breeze Redwine and Ikarus, while Saturday included The Band of the Royal British Legion, Rendlesham Primary School, Pop Chorus, Chloe Kinrade School, Vicky Anne School, Poloz Majorettes, Country Road, Rabble Chorus, Jack & Smith and the Lockerbillies. The live music was broadcast on Community Radio. Stevie Brown appeared at the Social Club on the 11th, singing hits from the Beatles and the Rat Pack.

A Tug-o-War, with teams of up to 8, took place at 5.30 on the Saturday. Members and volunteers from Sutton Hoo

brought the *vicus regius* (royal settlement) to life, and there was an exhibition of artefacts discovered during the Community Archaeological Project.

Rockford opened their car park for free parking for visitors, and a shuttle bus was provided that apparently travelled 50 miles in the course of the Saturday. Because it was free entry, it is not possible to say how many people attended the Show, but organisers felt that there were around 4,000 visitors over the whole of the weekend.

The weekend finished on Sunday 12th with a co-celebration between St Felix and Grace Church "Praise in the Park".





The Litter Pick on Sunday 12th involved sprucing up after the Show. 3.5kg of litter and 1.5kg of recycling were collected by the Cubs.

Once again the Scouts were able to use the land on Rendlesham Community Garden, building pizza ovens out of donated bricks and slabs, chopping wood for fuel and making pizzas.

The pop-up shop in the church continued on Tuesdays; on 21st, Rachel Parsons reported 29 customers.

On 25th June, 10am – 2 pm, FORS organised a village-wide Yard Sale (£5 donation). Stall holders reported a quiet day, but FORS raised £286.07 towards the school's play equipment fund. The Social Club held an 80s Disco – fancy dress optional. On 28th, The Tavern held another Open Mic night, now scheduled on the last Tuesday of each month.

Planning: An application was submitted for 55 car park spaces to be provided at Bentwaters as a Park and Ride for workers on the creation of a wetland habitat for wildlife on land in the vicinity of Lower Abbey Farm, Leiston. This was later withdrawn.

Sarah-Jane Quick, Admin Officer at the Parish Council, has taken on the role of Tree Warden.

Rendlesham Community Radio announced plans to run a Rock School in the new studios at Jubilee Park, providing opportunities for young people at weekly sessions to set up bands, work on setlist planning and performance as well as expanding their musical skills, culminating in public performance. The initiative is funded by the Parish Council, East Suffolk Council (Community Partnership Funding) and the National Lottery.

The Boardwalk regrettably announced that they would be closed from 29th June to 21st July “due to a family holiday and staff shortages”.



The outdoor table tennis table was reinstated near the 5-a-side pitch and outdoor gym, following the installation of a concrete plinth, provided by D Sharpe Landscapes.

Mark Thomas of Melton Mowers donated a package of equipment for the Youth Group, including a 50” UHD TV, a Playstation 4, Xbox One, Xbox Connect with games and controllers.

Rendlesham Community Radio have been working with *Playlist for Life* and the Alzheimer’s Society to produce a new show called “Old Friend”, especially for those living with dementia.

On the last day of June, drillers arrived at the Community Garden to drill and line a borehole, prior to the installation of a pump, filters and other pipework.

JULY

From Friday 1st to 1st September, the MUGA Court at Jubilee Park was set up exclusively for tennis, available from 9am to 8pm for £5 for a one-hour session (play until 9pm).

On Saturday 2nd, The Tavern hosted Billy Hunt’s new band, ‘The Modern Classics’, playing “an eclectic mix of originals and covers” from 4pm.

On 9th, Rendlesham Social Club presented “Three Steps to Heaven”, an evening of Rock ‘n’ Roll from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

The Litter Pick on 10th July, planned to include a Multi-Coloured Clothes Swap, was cancelled.

On 12th, Transition Streets held a launch event. “Transition Streets helps us connect with our neighbours, support each other to reduce living costs and cut our carbon footprint by taking practical action.” A first group was formed, and a commitment made to follow through with the *Transition Streets* programme. On the same evening, Eddie Bathgate from Save our Suffolk Swifts hosted a Swift Walk Wildlife Night, meeting at the Community Centre.

The Parish Council advertised for a Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator following the retirement of Nigel Harding. They also announced their support for three ‘Quiet Lanes’ in Rendlesham – Ash

Road, School Lane and Rendlesham Lane. Notices accordingly were posted outside the School, with the request for representations to be received by 7 August.

On 21st, the Over-60s Club held a coffee morning in aid of Help for Heroes. Meanwhile, 21st was the last day of the Youth Group for the summer, re-opening in September.

On Saturday 23rd, The Tavern presented an afternoon of music with Three Eyed Fiiish, from 4pm to 7pm.

The regular Tuesday Pop-up shop at the church offered a free picnic lunch on 26th, from 11.30 to 12.30.

On Saturday 30th, Amarinth – a world-leading company specialising in the design, application and manufacture of centrifugal pumps - held an open event at their premises at Bentwaters Parks to promote the launch of their Apprenticeship Scheme.

That evening, ReHash played at the Social Club from 8.30pm.

Sunday 31st saw “Café Church” at St Felix.

Along with most of the rest of the country, July saw record-breaking temperatures, and no rain to speak of. It was noticed that a couple of the village’s ancient oaks were suffering.



On 28th July, the East Anglian Daily Times reported that back in May, Lotus House – the children’s home on Knight Road – had received an Ofsted report describing the home as “inadequate”, reporting “serious and/or widespread failures that mean children are not protected”. There had been incidents in the home of “highly volatile situations” in which staff and children had been injured, and extensive damage. Although police were called, no charges were brought. It was further noted that the registered manager had left in late December 2021, and the owner of the company, Catalin Condurat, was acting as manager, although at present there were no children living there.

Following several anti-social behaviour incidents in the village square, the Community Centre Charity Committee is seeking to replace the CCTV with an improved system that will offer audio as well as video.

Planning permission was granted for an additional building on the Bentwaters site.

AUGUST

The archaeological excavations at Rendlesham – the “Rendlesham Revealed” project - recommenced for a second season, taking place throughout August and September, investigating an area where there is evidence of a major timber hall and settlement dating back to the later 6th century, said to be the most extensive and materially wealthy settlement of its date in England. The excavations and Finds Processing were opened to the public to volunteer, and sold out, more than 250 volunteers, including primary school children from Rendlesham, cleaning trenches and hand digging a rubbish dump and boundary ditch, with support from Cotswold Archaeology. Volunteers included students from the Primary School.

The church of St Felix has begun a 5-year plan to save the church building on Walnut Street Avenue. There is a fear that without further funds, the land may have to be sold off for further development, and a Friends of Saint Felix subscription has been set up, asking for a regular £5 per month donation. On Saturday 6th, St Felix held a barbecue in the church grounds, with entertainment from the Shingle Street Singers, as the first fund-raiser.

Some vandalism was reported at Jubilee Park; the kiddies’ picnic table was trashed, and flagstones near the pavilion ripped up by attempts to move one of the picnic tables. Graffiti was scrawled on the post of the Jubilee Beacon, glass bottles shattered on the five-a-side pitch and some hanging baskets destroyed. All incidents were reported to the police, and the Parish Council actively discussed with them what further steps to take.

The Tavern hosted J.S and The Lockerbillies Duo on Friday 12th, and held a Jamaican Barbecue on Saturday 13th, while Blackjack '59 played 1950s-style rock'n'roll at the Social Club.

The Litter Pick Sunday included a Toy Swap at the Teddy Bears Picnic on 14th August. Around 500 people attended the Teddy Bears Picnic, organised by the Parish Council, with bouncy castle (sponsored by Rendlesham Day Nursery) and rides, garden games, spacehopper races, tractor rides (courtesy of Heather Heelis), balloon modelling, face painting, an appearance by The Gruffalo, and a range of mobile catering outlets. A Gruffalo-themed trail for children was organised along the woodland walk on the other side of the Park, with permission from the publisher Macmillan Books. Over 53 children took part in following clues to find three of the book’s famous characters - Fox, Owl and Snake. Park Keeper Roger Messenger created the props, and also dressed up as the Gruffalo. Karen Colbear and Samantha Beadle dressed up as teddy bears, despite the hot day. Meanwhile, PC Projects Officer Sarah-Jane Quick took to the stage to read aloud the book, *The Gruffalo*. 1st Rendlesham Scout Group provided a BBQ, and there were also other outlets including Wagyu Burgers and Street Food, and The Tavern provided the bar.



(above: animal homes created along the woodland walk)



Sue Goward had a stall raising funds for hedgehogs, and Piotr Wroblewski a stall selling flowers, bug hotels and bird houses. 14-year old Daniel Atkinson was raising funds so that he could attend Camps International (“ethical journeys with impact”) in Kenya in 2023. Entertainment was provided by Jacklin & Smith and LTP, compered by Glenn Knights of the Community Radio team who also provided the stage and sound system, assisted by Team Audio (Mark Ibiston and Steve Calver), who are based at Bentwaters, and have recently been in great demand, providing communications systems for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Over £500 was raised, which will go towards the Skatepark.

In the middle of the month, 30 of the First Rendlesham Scouts and Explorers plus leaders went to Hallowtree Activity Centre for an action-packed five days of camping and activities, including a range of water-based activities on the River Deben.

On Sunday 21st, the Cold War Museum held an Anglo-American day, when the usual displays were augmented by collections of classic British and American vehicles, military re-enactment groups, birds of prey, scale aircraft models, food stalls etc. Representatives of USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron based at RAF Mildenhall were present, and a plaque unveiled in the new café honouring their 70th anniversary.

The bakers, Harvey & Co opened a coffee bar at the base, with outside pink tables and umbrellas.

County Broadband continued to install hyperfast fibre broadband to Rendlesham, offering introductory free connection.

The community radio rebranded themselves as Rendlesham Radio. The radio launched a Tea and Tech session at the Cabin every Monday, 2pm to 4pm, to offer technical IT support for the community. They have worked with the Good Neighbour Scheme to bring this service into people's homes.

Friday 26th, The Tavern held a Spiced Rum Night, serving 30 different spiced rums at £3.50 for rum and a mixer. On the same night, Jars of Clay held a Paint and Prosecco evening from 7.00 pm.

On 27th, Midnight Road appeared at the Boardwalk.

August was an extremely dry month – the last serious rainfall was in June, as a result of which all the grassed areas throughout the village were very parched and yellow.

SEPTEMBER

On Saturday 3rd, a Danceathon took place in the village square, from 9 am to 7 pm, for Macmillan Cancer Trust, with Victoria Shortley and Nicola Phillips dancing the day away. Harry Isaac Presley sang them out for their last hour. £776 was raised.

Youth Club started up again, with a slight change to the days; Years 7 and 8 now meet on Tuesdays from 6.45 to 9.15, Years 4, 5 and 6 on Wednesdays from 6.30 to 8.00, and Years 9+ on Thursdays from 6.45 to 9.15.

As the school reopened after the summer break, someone covered the top of the village square postbox with knitted items reflecting the school.



Turn Up Tuesdays, organised by the Rendlesham Good Neighbour Scheme, recommenced at Jars of Clay - meeting on the first Tuesday on each month from 10.30 to midday, they provide an opportunity for a friendly chat for people otherwise on their own.

There was a mighty thunderstorm on 8th September, bringing the first substantial rain to Rendlesham since June. It is believed that there was a lightning strike at 11.42pm, and power went off for a short time.

HM Queen Elizabeth II died on 8th September. The Chairman of the Parish Council posted a message of condolence on behalf of the PC. The Social Club cancelled their Bingo night. Rachel Parsons, who organises Local Vocals on Fridays during term time, organised a “Singing out our grief” session at St Felix on Wednesday 14th from 7.00 to 8.30. Donations after church expenses went to St Elizabeth Hospice.

Following the success of the Pop-Up shop, the Porch Pantry closed on 9th September; instead, it was turned into a ‘prayerful space’ where people could just come and sit and pray or reflect quietly. The Tuesday Pop-Up Shop continues to open on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. On Wednesdays, the church was open between 11am and 1 pm for people to come in and meet the vicar.

Handle With Care at the Social Club went ahead on Saturday 10th. St Felix held a garden working party to start getting the church garden into shape for the autumn.

Litter Pick Sunday on 11th included a Local Produce Market, organised by Parish Councillor Victoria Proctor. Rendlesham Radio were there, along with soloists Kirk – Ambassador of Rock ‘n’ Roll and Sam Hughes. Paul Stevenson had a stall selling his dinosaur cards, the Rendlesham Shed (Dave Moore and Douglas Burness) were selling bird house kits; Simply Cakes sold cupcakes, brownies and much more and sold out; Otis Breeding supplied coffee and toasties; the Barstow family continued to raise money selling jams and honey in aid of Sam’s Scout Jamboree trip; other stalls included The Guilt Free Soapery, Kats Creations (Kathryn Stark), Aime K Studio, Brimwood Farm and free range eggs. There was also a seed exchange.

On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th, the archaeological team held a series of sold-out public tours of the trenches they have been working on over the summer.

Ant Macandrew played at The Tavern from 4pm on the 17th, while the Social Club ran a Charity Race Night from 8pm, with proceeds going to 1st Rendlesham Scouts. Over £500 was raised.

Monday 19th was the day of the Queen’s funeral, and a public holiday. Costcutter closed from 10 until 1. The Social Club opened to screen the final procession of Her Majesty’s funeral from 1pm to 4pm. The Tavern opened from 4 to 9, but the White Gold Fish and Chip van decided not to operate its usual Monday service. The Community Centre and Parish Council Office closed for the day.

Suffolk Coastal MP Therese Coffey referenced Rendlesham Parish Council in her tribute to her late Majesty in the House of Commons, when she joked that the Rendlesham PC always scheduled their ‘parish fete’ (*sic*) to coincide with the Trooping of the Colour, in order that we could benefit from the fly-past, free of charge. Her comments generated laughter in the chamber.

On Saturday 24th, the Social Club presented Flashdance 80s Band – classic female hits of the 1980s. The last Tuesday of the month saw the return of the monthly Open Mic night at The Tavern.

Thursday 29th was World Heart Day, and the World Heart Federation challenged communities to “draw a heart” across some of their local roads and get people to walk this route; the PC drafted a route around the village centre and encouraged residents to take up the challenge.

OCTOBER

Further reports came through following the end of the 2022 archaeological excavations. Further evidence had been found of the hall, which was recorded in the writings of the Venerable Bede in the 8th century AD. Bede identified Rendlesham as the place where King Aethelwold stood sponsor at the baptism of King Swithelm of the East Saxons between the years 655 and 663 AD. For 150

years, between 570 and 720, Rendlesham was the centre from which a major province of the East Anglian kingdom was ruled. The excavations showed that the hall was 23m long and 10m wide (75ft x 33ft), set within a larger settlement of more than 124 acres. Professor Scull, the project's principal academic advisor, said "Only at Rendlesham do we have the wider settlement and landscape context of an early English royal centre, together with an assemblage of metalwork that illuminates the lives and activities of its inhabitants across the social range." The excavations also revealed remains of food preparation and feasting with evidence of the consumption of vast quantities of meat, mainly beef and pork, and dress jewellery, fragments of glass and pottery and personal items. Also found were traces of earlier settlements from the Roman period (1st century AD) and the early neolithic period (4th millennium BC). Further fieldwork is planned for summer 2024.

On 2nd October, local resident Helen Finlinson ran in the London Marathon, in aid of Zest, a charity providing palliative care for young people. Her progress was checked at the Community Centre on the big screen, and various fund-raising activities also took place to help her, including a raffle, a tombola etc. Over £800 was raised.

Other activities at the Social Club during October included a Band Night – Rude and Reckless – on the 1st, a charity night with John Finlinson and The Mavericks on the 16th, and a Hallowe'en Party on the 29th.

The Cold War museum at Bentwaters opened on the 2nd and 16th, before closing for the winter.

Planning: The Bungalow in Friday Street applied for a single storey extension comprising entrance hall, wet room and living area.

Every Tuesday starting on 4th, Rendlesham Pop-Up Shop at St Felix offered a warm lunch of homemade soup and bread, in return for a donation 'of what you can afford'. They continued to offer hessian bags at £2 which can be filled with a variety of food, toiletries and household items. The shop is open from 11am to 11.45am, with lunch served from 12 to 1.00.

White Gold Fish and Chips, who bring their van to the village every Monday, announced that they would provide free meals to several of the staff at the Care Home and the Surgery, saying "It's important for us here to try and make a very small gesture to the village as a thanks for all the kindness we receive from villagers at Rendlesham".

On Wednesday 12th, The Tavern held a Pub Quiz, the winners receiving a £50 bar voucher.

FORS – Friends of Rendlesham School – organised another 'Bag2School Textile Drive' for Tuesday 18th. Pooleys on the Base once again took drop-off donations, and there was a kerbside collection on the 17th.

The weekend of the 15/16th unfortunately saw more burglaries at Rendlesham Mews, The Tavern and the hairdressers being targeted.



Starting on 20th October, a community library opened at the former children's centre at the school on Thursday afternoons from between 1.00 and 4.00 during term time. The library is staffed by Laura Oliver, and it will be run on a trust basis.

On 22nd, the Boardwalk hosted Simply Jackson, a tribute to Michael Jackson.

On Saturday 29th, St Felix held a Light Party from 3-5pm, with apple bobbing, pumpkin carving, party games, crafts and refreshments.

On the last Sunday in the month, St Felix held an All Saints Day Café Church, tea and coffee followed by an informal service.

Rachel Parsons put a call out for volunteers to undertake training to assist with the running of a Stay & Play pre-school group, which they hoped to run on a Tuesday morning in the Community Centre from next January.

Swarm Explorers attended the Scout National Shooting Championship at Bisley, competing in five disciplines. Josh Barstow came in the top 16 in the senior knockout competition.

On Sunday 30th, BBC1 screened the first episode of a new series, *SAS Rogue Heroes*, which had been partially filmed at Bentwaters. This photo by Karen Haynes shows one of the planes that were brought on to the site for filming.



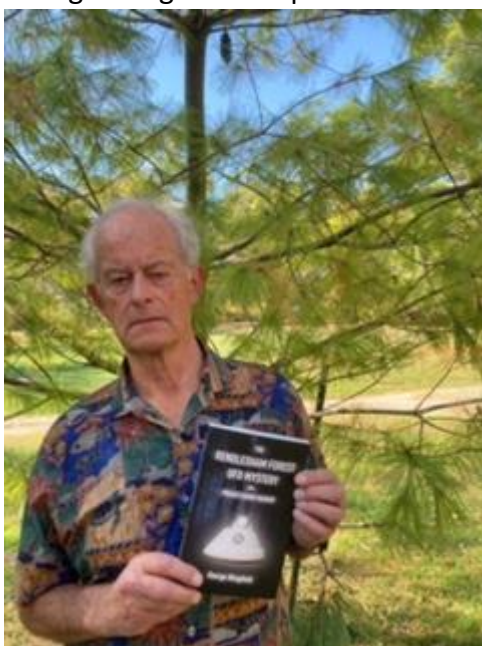
On 31st, Stephanie Clark started a Mums and Tots session at the Social Club on Mondays at 10am, called Steph's Symphonies.

Adnams Community Trust have awarded the 1st Rendlesham Scouts a grant towards the cost of the purchase of a shipping container in which to store all their equipment. (The Scouts are still looking for adult volunteers, they currently have 20 young people on their waiting list.)

Long-standing plans (over 9 years) to convert the vacant former military police building near the entrance to Bentwaters Base (Building 8) into a 15-bed hotel have been dropped, and the building is now to be converted into offices. In other planning news, 57 Redwald Road applied to raise the height of their rear garden fence from 3ft to 6ft to increase privacy.

Rendlesham UFO Incident

George Wingfield has published a new book, *The Rendlesham Forest UFO Mystery and Project Honey Badger* in which he claims to have 'cracked the code' of the supposed UFO incident that was observed in the Forest on the night of 25/26th December 1980. He believes that what was seen was a test version of the Apollo Lunar Mission Command Module that had been specially adapted for use by US Special Ops Forces, dubbed *Project Honey Badger*. The project was developed in an attempt to bring back the 52 US hostages that were being held in Tehran without further casualties; it would be a non-lethal directed energy weapon that could be deployed in such a way as to create a diversion while the hostages were to be rescued by US Special Forces units. In the event, a change of president in the US led to the release of the hostages, so the equipment was never put into use, but hushed up in case it was ever needed to be used in the future. Wingfield acknowledges the help given to him by Graham Haines, the director of Bentwaters Cold War Museum, who had discovered that two independent witnesses had seen a USAF helicopter flying out of RAF Woodbridge on the night of the sighting carrying a large conical load. (Photo from East Anglian Daily Times, 30 October 2022)



NOVEMBER

The month began with a lot of rain, alternating with unseasonably warm temperatures.

In the November Magazine, the Parish Council announced that they had secured, as part of the development off Redwald Road, land for 13 plots to be used as allotments. Each plot will be 75 square metres, and there will be water, individual sheds, and car parking. To carry out the day to day running, an Allotment Association will be formed.

Sarah-Jane Quick, the village tree warden, arranged a meeting at the oak tree at the junction of Acer Road and Sycamore Drive, which is showing signs of decay, "to give it a hug, some sacred water and a whole lot of love."

There were signs of work starting at the new development off Redwald Road, with Heras fencing erected and the start of earthworks. A sign was erected. The site is to be called 'Honours Meadow', recognising the honours awarded to the late Capt Robin Sheepshanks CBE and Liliias

Sheepshanks OBE, from whom the land was purchased for development. On their website, dated 8 November, the developers Persimmon Homes say that of the 75 homes to be built on the site, a third will be transferred to a housing association, to provide a mix of rented, shared ownership and discount market value properties. £600,000 will be contributed to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

On 4th, years 3 and 4 at the school dressed up as WW2 evacuees for Evacuation Day.

17.71 kg of rubbish was collected at the monthly litter pick.



The annual fireworks display took place at Jubilee Park on Sunday 6th. It had rained heavily for most of the day, but by 6.30pm the skies had cleared, and despite the muddiness under foot in the park, a very large crowd turned up for an excellent display, provided by Fully Fused Fireworks. There were a number of rides for the children, and a large bar was provided by The Tavern, and there were various food options, including Suffolk Fried Chicken, Wagyu Burgers and Streetfood, and Wok n Roll, together with a hog roast from

Hoggies, and a barbecue provided by the Scouts. £1,711.22 was collected in buckets at the end of the event, and leftover food from the Scouts BBQ was donated to Helping Hands Suffolk, who support the homeless in and around Ipswich.

Various events were held to commemorate Remembrance Day. On Wednesday 9th, Carolyn Verbrugge held a Poppy Coffee Morning at her home in Knight Road. St Felix held a Remembrance-themed messy church with lunch on Saturday 12th from 11am to 1.00pm. On Sunday 13th, a Remembrance Day Memorial Service was held at St Gregory's, while Grace Church held a service around the oak tree outside the Community Centre. Meanwhile, from 7th November, a Rendlesham Veterans Lunch Club started, from 12 noon to 2.00pm on the first Monday of each month, to be held at St Felix. Crosses with the names of men from Rendlesham, Eyke and Bromeswell who had fallen during the two world wars were planted around the village sign. Last year's poppy waterfall was re-created outside the Community Centre.



Also on the 12th, at 8.00pm, there was live music at the Social Club with Jukebox Money.

On Friday 18th an unpleasant incident occurred outside the Boardwalk, when Chris Burness, the manager of The Tavern, was assaulted, without provocation. Three people came to his defence, and were also injured, although fortunately none seriously. The aggressor has been banned from every pub in the local area for life.

On 19th and 20th, the British Siberian Husky Racing Association held a Husky Race in the forest, from 8am to 3.30pm on both days.

The UEFA World Cup began in Qatar, and the Social Club screened the England vs USA match on Friday 25th with Carlsberg lager at £2.50 a pint.

On Saturday 26th, The Howling featuring Rev from The Prodigy appeared at The Tavern.

Green Print Forum have given the PC a 'Nature First' grant to run a project encouraging residents to create Hedgehog Highways in their gardens. Hedgehog champion Sue Goward, who works tirelessly looking after distressed hogs and raising money, will also receive help from this grant.

Avian Flu has hit East Anglia hard, and the farm that services the egg-man who has a hut on Acer Road selling eggs that are not sent on to supermarkets, has had to shut down his barns.

DECEMBER

It was reported that Carolyn Grace, the owner of the Spitfire based at Bentwaters that for several years flew overhead, and features on the village sign, had died in a car accident in New South Wales on 2nd December at the age of 70.

Sunday 4th saw the Christmas Lights Switch On. A Christmas market started at 2.30pm, with Chloe Kinrade's dancers performing at 3.15pm, followed at 3.30pm by Rendlesham Primary School Choir. Also singing were members of Aldeburgh Voices and Suffolk Singers who live in the village (including yours truly). Mince pies were donated once again by Zee and Danny of Costcutter, and non-alcoholic mulled wine, spiced apple juice and squash was served by the PC team. Santa's Grotto took place in the Community Centre, attracting a large queue of children and their parents.

First frost of the winter greeted residents on 7th December, and the icy conditions made pavements and roads very slippery, lasting until around 19th.

The Social Club held a Children's Christmas Party on Saturday 10th from 5pm to 7pm, with children's entertainer Abra Ca David, followed by a Family Disco. On Sunday 18th, Country Road entertained.

The Tavern screened the World Cup match from Qatar between England and France.

Planning applications: 11 Suffolk Drive applied for permission to demolish their attached garage, and replace it with a two-storey attached annexe.

Grace Church held a Carols by Candlelight service in the hall at the School on Saturday 17th at 6.30pm. Santa's Grand Tour of the village took place on Sunday 18th. Meanwhile, a parade of some 30 decorated and illuminated tractors set off from Campsea Ash and travelled through Rendlesham and other local villages, raising over £1700 for EEA Community First Responders.

Wooden Roots, the community organisation based at Bentwaters, announced that they had received funding from Arts Council England and would be bringing free drumming classes to Rendlesham Community Centre for students at Rendlesham and Eyke Primary Schools.



Following Rendlesham's involvement in the Platinum Jubilee tree-planting scheme, the village has been donated a silver birch, which had been part of the Tree of Trees display in the Mall at the time of the jubilee celebrations in London. It has been planted near to the beacon, and a celebration was held on the Winter Solstice at its planting.

The Social Club announced that there would be free pool every Thursday until the end of January, in lieu of Bingo.

On Friday 23rd, Grace Church and St Felix came together to sing carols outside Costcutter at 6.30 pm, followed by a warm drink and a mince pie at St. Felix. On Christmas Day, St Felix held a service at 11 am, followed at 12.45 by a free Christmas lunch. The Social Club was open on Christmas Day and Boxing Day from 12 noon to 2pm, and on New Year's Eve, the Social Club held a New Year's Eve Party.

The Tavern was open from 12 until 3 on Christmas Day and from 12 until 9 pm on Boxing Day. On the 27th (a bank holiday), it held its regular Open Mic evening.

During the December postal strikes, there were fewer deliveries than usual, meaning that many Christmas cards remained stuck at the Woodbridge sorting office, not to be delivered until January.

Heavy rain and winds overnight 27/28 December brought down a tree blocking the main road between Tunstall and the Bentwaters Roundabout. The car park beside Costcutter became flooded, probably due to the drains being blocked with autumn leaves. The flood remained for several days.



On New Year's Eve, The Tavern was open from 4pm until 9 pm, and on New Year's Day from 1.00 pm until 9 pm.

Review of House Prices in Rendlesham at the end of December

At the turn of the year, the following properties were available for sale in the village:

- 5 bedroom detached house on Sycamore Drive: £440,000
- 4 bedroom detached house on Knight Road: £525,000 (asking price)
- 4 bedroom extended detached house on Mayhew Road £400,000
- 3 bedroom semi-detached house on Hercules Road: £260,000
- 3 bedroom semi-detached house on Wackerfield Road: £300,000
- 2 bedroom semi-detached house on Tower Field Road: £250,000
- 2 bedroom first floor maisonette on Sparrows Croft Road: £170,000
- 2 bedroom first floor flat on Thelluson Road: £165,000
- 2 bedroom apartment in Aspen Court: £150,000
- 1 bedroom ground floor flat on Avocet Mews: £100,000

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR 2022

2022 was the year that everyone emerged from the enforced lockdown of the pandemic, but instead of covid dominating the news, the big issues of the year were climate change, and the cost of living crisis, including the huge increase in the price of energy following the war in Ukraine. The church and other groups stepped forward to help those most in need, while the parish council's climate action strategy continued its initiatives to save the planet a step at a time. The parish council continued to garner special praise for the activities it arranged for the community, including the celebrations for the royal jubilee. The Social Club and The Tavern had a very active entertainment programme, and the Scouts and the Youth Groups offered activities for Rendlesham's young people. There was further inspiring news from the archaeological dig about Rendlesham's royal heritage, and more light shed on the 1980 UFO incident. On social media, residents continued to say how much they enjoyed living in Rendlesham, and interest in living in the village kept property prices buoyant.

David Edwards
Rendlesham Village Recorder
January 2023