

Highlights

Welcome to the October 2024 Quarndon Newsletter.

This newsletter has been written in the season of mellow fruitfulness, that is the late summer/early autumn with apples weighing heavily on their trees, the farmers harvesting from their fields, and Quarndon's several beekeepers bringing in a surprisingly good honey harvest (given the often dismal summer) as they prepare their colonies for winter.

We have a major feature in this edition that discusses management of wildflower verges. These can be a contentious subject – attractive and bountiful in the forage and habitat they provide for wildlife to some or an untidy eyesore to others. We try and dispel some of the misunderstandings.

We also, once again, have a bumper 'What's On' listing, so have your diaries ready!



Community Orchard apples – September 2024

This Newsletter, in addition to 'What's On' and our local councillor updates, includes:

- Quarndon Events conclusions from the recent survey and future plans
- Recent Quarndon Community Speedwatch results
- The How and Why of Wildflower Verge Management
- Turnditch and Windley Show report and photos
- Quarndon Swift Group update and Plans for 2025
- A delicious cake recipe from the Quarndon Repair Café

Please get in touch if you wish to contribute to the Newsletter or publicise any events or activities in the Newsletter and the Quarndon website. Contact Keith or Clare via QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

What's On

St Paul's October 2024 Sunday church services

- Sunday 6th 10am Holy Communion in Church
- Sunday 13th 10am Said Service in Church
- Sunday 20th 10am Holy Communion in Church
- Sunday 27th 10am Morning Praise in Church

Once the weather turns cooler the Services will be in the Hall whilst there is no heating in the church. Please keep a lookout when you arrive at Church in case the decision to use the Hall is last minute. Thank you for your understanding. More information about the church is [here](#).



If you can help with the church heating appeal, please donate by cheque payable to: St. Paul's Quarndon PCC Appeal Account and send c/o 9 Woodlands Lane, Quarndon, Derby, DE22 5JU; or by BACS to: **St. Paul's Quarndon PCC Appeal Account**, Sort Code: **05-04-07**, Account Number: **70035285**. Thank you.

28 September 2024 - Quarndon Repair Café - 10am to 12noon

Come along to see if our team of volunteer repairers can fix your broken items - if you can bring it, we will have a go at fixing it. We have computer whizzes, so if you have any IT problems give us a try.

You don't have to book in but if you want advice, or have a specialist problem email Isobel isobeljshorrock@gmail.com



COFFEE AND CAKE ALWAYS AVAILABLE – so come for a chat even if you have nothing to fix.

Nicola Yeoman of Harris-Rose, who provides various plastic-free, refills will be at the Café again. You can contact Nicola by email at: hello@harris-rose.com

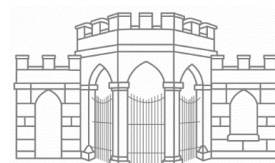
We are still collecting bikes, suitcases and educational materials including dictionaries and textbooks for Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity.

We look forward to seeing you at the Café.

30 September 2024 - Quarndon Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm at the Village Hall

The Quarndon Parish Council meets monthly in the meeting room at the Village Hall. The agenda is published in advance on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Hall and on the Quarndon website [here](#).

All are welcome to attend. 'Public speaking' is at the start of each meeting if you have an issue to draw to the attention of the Parish Council.



2 October 2024 – Brailsford Ploughing Match



The 2024 Brailsford Ploughing Match will be held at Middleton Park Farm, Alkmonton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 3DH on Wednesday 2 Oct. Full details on their website: <https://brailsfordmatch.uk>

The Match opens for visitors from 9:00am and will feature horse & tractor ploughing, crafts and working exhibitions, vintage tractors, hedge cutting competitions, livestock judging, ladies & children's classes, and trade stands.

19 October 2024 – Derby Choral Union's Concert in Allestree

7:30pm at St Nicholas Church, Allestree, DE22 2PE, featuring several Quarndon residents. The programme will include Mozart's Solemn Vespers, Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Darke's As the Leaves Fall. Tickets £20 from www.dcu.org.uk with limited availability at the door.

19 October 2024 – Derwent Valley Wind Band – A Night at the Musicals

Local wind band featuring players from Quarndon and the Chameleon Choir 7:30pm at St. Peter's Church Belper. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/derwent-valley-wind-band

26 October 2024 - Quarndon Repair Café - 10am to 12noon

Details as for the 28 September 2024 Repair Café above.

28 October 2024 - Quarndon Parish Council – 7:30pm at the Village Hall

Quarndon Parish Council meeting details as for the 30 September 2024 meeting above.

23 November 2024 - Quarndon Events Christmas Quiz **Save the Date!**

At Quarndon Village Hall. Please save the date and look out for further details in the next few weeks.

Quarndon Events

Once again, a big thank you to all those who took the time to fill out our survey. A chart showing the results of which categories people would most likely attend was included in the September Newsletter.



The main findings from the survey were:

- The top category was Open gardens, followed by Wine tasting
- Trails, Family picnic and Craft workshops were also popular for households with children

As a result of the survey plans are now underway for the next few events to include:

- A Christmas quiz night, which will be on Saturday 23 November 2024 – see 'What's On'
- A wine tasting evening early next year
- A family event in the spring
- An open gardens event next summer

We also noted that there were some comments about walking. Please go to the walking page on the village website to find details of Quarndon Walking Group plus lots of great suggestions for local walks. <https://www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk/walking-around-quarndon>

FAMILY EVENTS

We need help to put on family events. None of the committee have children at home and a group of younger volunteers with children would be an enormous help. We are not asking for a massive commitment of time, but a small (or large!) band of volunteers would enable us to provide so much more than we can do on our own.

OPEN GARDENS

This is at the early stages of planning. We would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

Please contact us at quardonevents@gmail.com if you would like to get involved in any way.

Also, note that the QE AGM is on Saturday 26th October at 11.30am in the Village Hall (during the Repair Cafe). Anyone from the village is invited to attend.

Quarndon Community Speedwatch

From 22 Jul to 6 Sep your Speedwatch teams recorded 113 vehicles exceeding the 30 limit by 6mph or more in Quarndon. 99 received first letters from the police; 10 received second letters (meaning they had been caught for the second time within the wider Derbyshire Speedwatch area); 3 received third letters hand delivered by police; and 1 received a fourth letter. Only 11 were Quarndon locals.

The aim of Speedwatch is to provide a visible presence, supported by the police, to encourage safe driving speeds. The police also use the data to help them decide where their enforcement teams need to run checks, resulting in prosecution of those caught speeding.

From our Local Councillors:

Accessing Council Services

We're aware that many people are unclear which level of local government has responsibility for which public services and aren't always sure where to take an issue.

Quarndon has three levels of local government:

- Quarndon Parish Council;
- Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC); and
- Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

Quarndon Parish Council

Its website www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk has a tab titled 'A-Z of Services' which takes you directly to the relevant webpage for any local government issue. It's an excellent resource and we'd encourage you to use it to find information and report issues. It also includes links when responsibility lies with other bodies, such as Severn Trent Water.

The Parish Council meets in Quarndon Village Hall at 7:30pm, usually on the last Monday of the month, but meeting dates can be checked here: <https://www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings> Residents can attend these meetings and raise issues. The Parish Council works closely with the current borough and county councillors and will forward issues to the relevant councillor.

The Parish Council's clerk can be contacted by email at: clerk@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Amber Valley Borough Council

Its website www.ambervalley.gov.uk has a list of the council's most common enquiries at the bottom of the home page. Or you can search through the Menu tab which opens a list of headings; Benefits; Business; Community; Council; Council Tax; Councillors and Elections; Environment; Housing; Licensing; Planning; Roads (road/pavement cleaning & verge mowing); Rubbish and Waste.

The Borough Council's switchboard can be contacted on 01773 570222 on Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri from 9am to 4:30pm and on Wed from 10am to 4:30pm.

Quarndon is represented by two borough councillors:

Cllr. Alison McDermott - Green Party. Email: Alison.mcdermott@ambervalley.gov.uk

Cllr. Eva Long - Green Party. Email: Eva.long@ambervalley.gov.uk

Please contact Alison or Eva if you need support with an issue that you haven't been able to resolve with AVBC staff or if there are matters you feel your borough councillors should be aware of.

Derbyshire County Council

Its website www.derbyshire.gov.uk has a list of the council's most common enquiries at the bottom of the home page. Or you can search through the Menu tab which opens a list of headings; Business and economy; Community and living; Education and learning; Environment; Leisure and Culture; Social Care and Health; Transport and Roads (potholes & safety issues); Working for us; Your council.

The county council's switchboard can be contacted on 01629 533190 or text 86555, and is open Mon - Fri 8am to 6pm and Sat 9:30pm to 4pm

Quarndon is represented by one county councillor:

Cllr. Gez Kinsella - Green Party. Email: gez.kinsella@derbyshire.gov.uk

Please contact Gez if you need support with an issue that you haven't been able to resolve with DCC staff or if there are matters you feel your county councillor should be aware of.



Alison, Gez and Eva

The How and Why of Wildflower Verge Management

In Quarndon, the Community Group, Parish Council, Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC), Derbyshire County Council, and local residents all contribute to how our roadsides throughout the Parish look. We focus here on wildflower verges; one element of this.

When managed well, road verges can sustain astonishing amounts of wildlife: more pollinators are found on well-managed verges than in the neighbouring countryside and nearly 45% of our total flora is found on verges.

We have lost 97% of the UK's species rich grassland since the 1930s. 24% of our pollinators have disappeared since 1987 and distribution of butterfly species has declined by 68% since the 1970s.

Wildflower verges therefore play an increasingly important role in maintaining our biodiversity.

Road verges are particularly important during spring and summer, when a huge range of wildflowers and grasses provide a rich habitat for insects, spiders, snails, small mammals and birds.

For good management timing is everything. The wild plant conservation charity Plantlife explains:

It is vital that wildflowers are able to complete their full lifecycle – i.e. grow, flower and set seed. This replenishes the seed bank and allows populations to be maintained cost-free and indefinitely. Cutting too early and too frequently swiftly eliminates many species, reducing diversity and the value of the road verge. Cutting after flowers have set seed in late summer allows visually striking displays of wildflowers and a rich source of pollen and nectar for pollinators. Wildflowers take roughly six to eight weeks from flowering to setting seed. [Managing-grassland-road-verges 2020.pdf \(plantlife.org.uk\)](#)

In Quarndon we are doing our bit for biodiversity. Many of you will have noticed the wildflower verges we have established on Montpelier. These have received many accolades when in bloom during the summer. They were seeded with a mix of 27 different annual and perennial wildflowers, (all native species) and are being managed in accordance with this best practice. The longer grass may look untidy for a few weeks, especially after a wet summer, but it is very important not to cut too early.



Montpelier Wildflowers, summer 2024



Montpelier Wildflowers, summer 2024

Apart from the benefits of this late cut for pollinators, it also avoids the expense of having to re-seed every year. Year on year different wildflowers become dominant, in response to variations in the weather.

The wildflower verges are maintained with a mown edge to neaten appearance and also to prevent the wildflowers from seeding beyond the verges. The kerbsides adjacent to the wildflowers are also strimmed. This has been successful; inspection of weeds growing on the opposite side of the road found that they are NOT the same species as used in the wildflower mix. Their presence is due to AVBC stopping the expensive and environmentally unfriendly spraying of the road margins and pavement edges with weedkillers. Our thanks go to residents who are weeding the roadside beside their property.

In other places, the verges are maintained by AVBC, who simply mow them five times a year. In some areas, adjacent residents regularly mow, resulting in a tidier appearance but these closely mown areas may unfortunately be a 'green desert' for wildlife.

Turnditch and Windley Show 2024

The 2024 Turnditch and Windley Show took place on Saturday 7 September 2024 at the 'showground' off the B5023 just north of Duffield.

Sadly the blue sky and warm sunshine that we basked in on Friday the 6th did not last to the show day and instead we had very grey conditions that thankfully stopped short of providing anything worse than an occasional very light drizzle. This didn't put off an excellent crowd, who enjoyed a wide variety of events. In the main ring, there was a diverse variety of events ranging from traditional countryside classes to 'Pomfit' and the stunning low-level displays of the Barlow Red Barrows!



In the marquee, the produce, art, flower, baking and craft classes produced many impressive entries with the silverware presented at the end of the Show by Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill, CBE the Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, who had clearly been impressed by the Show and its upholding of the traditional rural values of the area.



Quarndon Swift Group (QSG)



As previously reported, the 2024 season was very successful for QSG - we attracted swifts, and they've definitely located some of the 40 artificial nest sites in the village. We also learned how effective the swift-caller systems are, some members reporting that they were able to bring high-flying birds down to roof level by switching on their caller.

Sightings of juveniles looking for nests for future years reached a peak in late July, when they were providing low-level aerobatic displays at all times of the day. This should result in nesting pairs in the village over the next couple of years.

For next season, starting in May 2025, QSG aims to:

- double the number of nest units/callers to around 80; and
- get the support of around 10 locally active builders/roofers/ soffit/ window companies - who are prepared to promote swifts to their customers.

QSG is grateful to Quarndon Parish Council and the charity Birds on the Brink for funds which will enable QSG to mitigate the costs of new members buying nest units/callers and getting them installed. These funds will also buy promotional literature we can leave with supportive builders, etc.

But we also need residents' help in:

- joining us and fitting additional nests, and
- suggesting locally active tradesmen that might be approached to potentially support QSG's cause.

For more information on getting involved, or to obtain free literature, email John Farnsworth of QSG at jpfnsworth4@gmail.com

Quarndon Repair Cafe

The July and August Quarndon Repair Cafés were well attended with a wide variety of items brought along to challenge our fixers and many useful donations for Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity.

Coffee, cake and chat were enjoyed in abundance, with this delicious recipe from Jane featuring in August:

Sticky ginger loaf cake

This is one of those rare recipes where you can use gluten-free flour instead of regular plain flour, and it works perfectly.

Prep **5 min**

Cook **1 hr 20 min**, plus cooling time

Makes **1 x 1kg loaf, to serve 8**

250g dates, pitted and roughly chopped

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

75g molasses

75g golden syrup

100g soft light brown sugar

80g rapeseed oil, plus extra for greasing

200g plain flour - gluten-free, if you like

1 tbsp ground ginger

1 tbsp ground cinnamon

2 tsp baking powder

½ tsp fine sea salt

20g stem ginger in syrup, very finely diced, plus 2 tbsp of the syrup

Heat the oven to 190C (170C fan)/375F/gas 5, grease/line a 1kg loaf tin with baking paper.

Put the dates and bicarb in a heatproof bowl, cover with 200ml just-boiled water and leave to soften for 10 mins. Tip the dates and the water into a blender (or leave them in the bowl and use a stick blender), add the molasses, golden syrup, sugar and oil, and blitz smooth.

In a second large bowl, combine the flour, spices, baking powder and salt, then fold in the puréed date mixture until the batter is well combined. Spoon into the prepared tin and bake for 50 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean. Take the cake out of the oven and, while it's still in the tin, brush the stem ginger

syrup all over the top. Scatter over the chopped stem ginger, leave to cool completely, then remove from the tin, slice and serve.

The Quarndon Village Website

In addition to regular newsletters, Quarndon Parish Council and Quarndon Community Group post information on the Quarndon Village website:

www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk alias www.quarndon-village.org.uk

This site brings you information about local groups and services, up-to-date news about planning issues and applications, plus Parish Council documents to keep you au fait with events affecting all of us in the village.



Not only is the website a source of current and future events, but it is also a record of village activities, in particular through its photo gallery page. If you have any photos of village life that you would like to be considered for inclusion on the website, please email them, with background information about the image and the permission of any people seen in the photo, to web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Information, suggestions, ideas, photographs, drawings about village events; in fact, all contributions from residents - of all ages - are warmly welcomed. Contact us at web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Quarndon News and Events

If you are organising an event in Quarndon, or wish to publicise some news, please email details to Clare at web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk for inclusion on the website www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcome – please email Keith at: QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

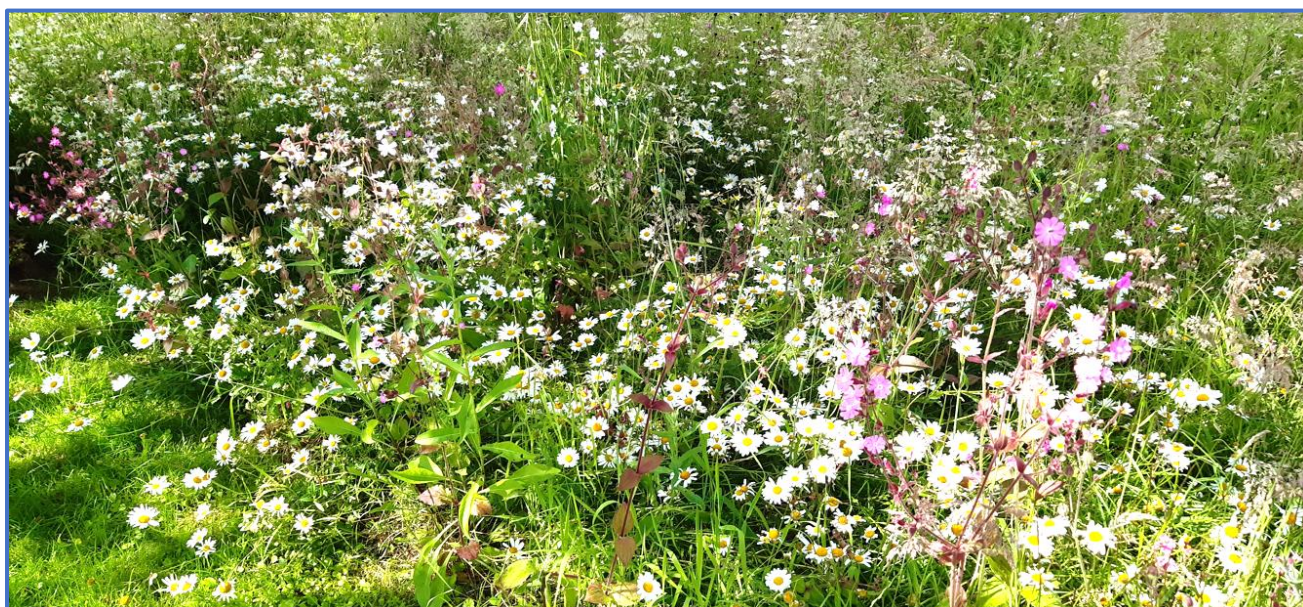
Contacts:

Website: www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk (alias www.quarndon-village.org.uk)

web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - information for the website

QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk - contact the Quarndon Community Group

clerk@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - contact the Quarndon Parish Council



Wildflowers and grasses on Montpellier Roundabout – Summer 2024