



The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

QUENDON & RICKLING



Location: 3 miles north of Stansted Mountfitchet. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL5030.

Postcode: CB11 3XJ. **County:** Essex. **District:** Uttlesford.

Access: B1383. National Cycle Route 11. Regional Cycle Route 60.

Bus: 301 (Mon-Sat) between Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford.

Population: 514 in 2001, 587 in 2011, 690 in 2021.

Quendon and Rickling were individual parishes for centuries, but in the 1940s they merged to form the single parish of Quendon and Rickling. In the Domesday Book of 1086 they were recorded separately as Kuenadana and Richelinga. The latter came under the direct ownership of King William whilst Quendon's lord was Richard of Sackville. One theory is that the name Quendon derives from Old English words meaning a valley owned by the queen, whilst Rickling may come from Ricula, the wife of Sledd, a 6th-century king of Essex.

Most residents live either along Cambridge Road that runs through Quendon, or around Rickling Green which is situated just west of the main road.

Cambridge Road, now a 30mph stretch of the B1383, was once a turnpike or toll road. Beside it stand a drinking fountain and cattle trough that were donated in 1887 in memory of Mrs Cranmer-Byng of Quendon Hall.

Quendon and Rickling each have a parish church that dates from the 13th century but they are quite different in appearance.



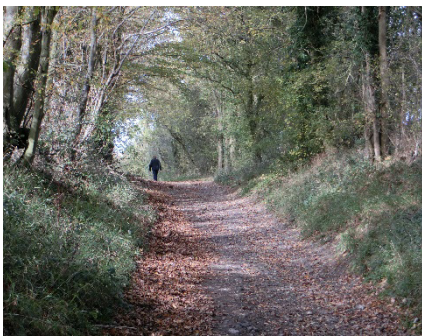
Rickling's Church of All Saints, pictured on the left with its spring carpet of daffodils, is listed as Grade I for its architectural and historic value. Much of the building is 14th century. The church is situated a mile to the northwest of the village. It is thought that this was originally the centre of Rickling and that the population relocated to its present centre around Rickling Green some time during the Middle Ages, possibly following an outbreak of fire or disease.

Quendon Church, dedicated to St Simon and St Jude, was considerably renovated in Victorian times. It is situated on elevated ground up a narrow lane to the east of Cambridge Road. Its distinctive white bell tower and cupola are visible from distant parts of the parish.

Quendon and Rickling parish is typical of the Hundred Parishes in that it has a rich heritage of ancient buildings. 25 of those that are listed predate the year 1700 AD. One of these – Quendon Hall - is situated in the northeast of the parish, surrounded by Quendon Park, a private estate. The Hall has a Grade-I listing and nowadays is a popular wedding venue, Parklands.



The parish has an abundance of good public paths, some of which are used on the Hundred Parishes walks suggested below. The Harcamlow Way passes Rickling Hall, whose red brick wing and northern gateway, shown here, date from around 1500 AD. The Hall was probably built in the bailey of a Norman motte and bailey castle. The castle mound is to the south of the Hall, which now serves as a farmhouse.



This photo shows where Harcamlow Way climbs Hanging Hill. It was once common practice to site a gallows at a crossroads, and at the top of this hill there is a cross-roads of paths, so this might be the origin of the name.

Several footpaths pass through the woodland between Rickling Green and Quendon and these routes are particularly attractive in springtime when the bluebells are in bloom.

The parish has been home to a number of notable people including the singer-songwriter Roger Whittaker, show-jumper Robert Smith (son of Harvey Smith) and, in the 17th century, William Winstanley whose writings helped to revive joyful Christmas celebrations after their suppression by the Puritans in Cromwell's time.

Quendon and Rickling village hall, on Cambridge Road, is well used for community activities that include choir practice, dancing, bowls and pilates plus art classes, dog training and coffee mornings. Rickling Green itself is well maintained and cricket has been played here since at least 1862. In a two-day game in June 1865, Rickling Green beat visiting Marylebone Cricket Club, the MCC. Former Essex and England players come regularly to play in an annual tournament. The Green is overlooked by the appropriately-named Cricketers Arms public house and restaurant.

Hospitality:

The Cricketers Arms, CB11 3YG - 01799 619260 - <https://thecricketersarmspub.co.uk/>

Hundred Parishes Society walks include . . .

Circular walk 148 - starts from Rickling Green and covers either 6.8 or 4.9 miles.

Circular walk 169 - starts from Rickling Church and covers 4.4 miles.

Circular walk 183 - starts from Rickling Green, covering 2 miles including bluebell woods
In addition, two Station walks pass through Quendon & Rickling; the descriptions could be joined from part way, followed through to the finish, where catch the train to the start and complete the route back to where you started . . .

4: From Stansted Mountfitchet to Newport stations (7.5 miles) – join in Rickling on page 2.

11: From Newport to Audley End stations (10.5 miles) – join at Rickling Church on page 3.

Adjacent parishes: Berden, Clavering, Wicken Bonhunt, Newport, Widdington, Ugley.

Links:

Parish Council: www.quendonandrickling.co.uk

Further reading:

The Ingenious William Winstanley, Alison Barnes, 1998, Uttlesford District Council.

William Winstanley, The Man who saved Christmas, Alison Barnes, 2007, Poppyland Publishing.

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