



The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

QUENDON & RICKLING



Location: 3 miles north of Stansted Mountfitchet. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL5030.
Postcode: CB11 3XJ. **Access:** B1383. National Cycle Route 11. Regional Cycle Route 60.
Bus: 301 (Mon-Sat, hourly): Saffron Walden – Quendon – Bishop’s Stortford.
County: Essex. **District:** Uttlesford. **Population:** 587 in 2011.

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. Twenty five of those that are listed predate the year 1700 AD. One of these – Quendon Hall - is pictured as it was 100 years ago. Situated in the northeast of the parish, it is surrounded by Quendon Park, a private estate. The Hall has a Grade-I listing and nowadays is a popular wedding venue.



The parish has an abundance of good public paths, some of which are used on the two Hundred Parishes walks noted 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 – 01799 543210 - www.thecricketersarmsricklinggreen.co.uk

Included in Hundred Parishes walks:

4: Between Stansted Mountfitchet and Newport stations (7 miles).

11: Between Newport and Audley End stations (10 miles).

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

Links:

Parish Council: www.quendonandrickling.co.uk

Further reading:

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

This page was last updated 02 June 2017.