RAMSEY AND PARKESTON NEWS

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council

ISSUE 3 AUTUMN 2026

Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council Projects Update

Letters to Heaven postbox at Parkeston Cemetery

Back on 12th December 2025, we shared with you a beautiful idea that had touched so many hearts – the Letters to Heaven post box.

We are delighted to say that, after a little time and a lot of care, it is now permanently in place at Parkeston Cemetery, where we hope it will offer comfort to anyone who needs it.

This beautiful idea was inspired by a young girl named Matilda, who simply wanted to write to her grandparents. Her heartfelt wish led to the very first Letters to Heaven post box being installed at Gedling Crematorium, bringing comfort to countless families.

Our post box now offers that same quiet place for reflection, remembrance and love.

- For all ages: Writing a letter can be a gentle way to express thoughts, share memories, send birthday wishes, or simply tell someone who has passed how much they are still loved and missed.

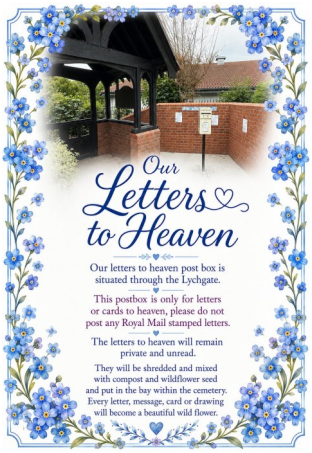
- Private and respectful: Every letter remains confidential and unread. They are later collected, composted and blended with wildflower seeds, allowing those precious words to return to nature as beautiful flowers.

Grief is different for everyone, and there is no right or wrong way to remember someone. We hope this simple post box provides a small measure of comfort and a peaceful place to pause, reflect and feel close to those we carry in our hearts.

A simple letter… a lasting connection.









Parkeston Welfare Park Can collection



A message from the Welfare Park Association by Cllr Bill Davidson

The Welfare Park in Parkeston is operated by volunteers, who not only keep the park open, but keep it safe.

To achieve this the park has to be maintained, insured and Inspected. As a team we have to raise the finances to be able to keep the park open.

We raise the majority of our much needed funds by collecting cans, processing them, taking then to a recycling centre and making it a fun day.

Walking around the village I do notice cans being putting out with the rubbish and recycling, some of which by people that use the park.

All we ask is that the food cans are washed and separated from the drinks cans and where possible the drinks cans should be crushed.

Please then drop the cans to the far right hand corner of the railway club car park, outside the Community Hub.

Please help to keep the Welfare Park going.

Captain Fryatt Memorial



Councillors paid a fitting tribute to one of Parkeston's greatest heroes, Captain Charles Fryatt, whose courage and sacrifice continue to inspire more than a century later.



Captain Fryatt was Master of the Great Eastern Railway steamer Brussels, which regularly sailed from Parkeston Quay to the Hook of Holland. In March 1915, when confronted by a German U-boat, he bravely attempted to ram the submarine rather than surrender his passengers and crew. Although they escaped, Captain Fryatt was later captured by the Germans, put on trial and executed on 27th July 1916, condemned not as a soldier, but as a civilian who had dared to defend those in his care. His execution caused international outrage, and he remains one of Harwich and Parkeston's most respected sons.



A special thank you must go to Ramsey and Parkeston parish Councillor Tanya Ferguson, whose passion, commitment and countless hours of work and energy have ensured Captain Fryatt's memory continues to be honoured with the dignity it deserves. Alongside her partner Tony, Tanya travelled to St George's Memorial Church in Ypres for the dedication of a plaque on the church lectern by Alex Fryatt, the great-great-grandson of Captain Fryatt's brother. Tanya also had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council.



On the anniversary of Captain Fryatt's execution, 27th July Councillors from Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council and Harwich Town Council gathered at the Captain Fryatt Memorial at All Saints Church for a minute's silence. It was a privilege, as Chairman of Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council, to read a beautiful poem chosen by Cllr Ferguson, before our fellow parish councillor and Harwich Mayor, Cllr Sean Fay, laid the Parish Council wreath.

Alongside the wreath stood a cutting from the Captain Fryatt Rose, commissioned by Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council in 2016. It was lovely that former Parish Clerk Lin Keating, who over-saw the commissioning of the rose ten years ago, was able to join us for this special occasion. We were also pleased to be joined by Harwich Town Councillors Gary Calver, Pam Morrison and Alan Todd.

And finally… after such a meaningful day, it would have been almost impossible to walk past the Trafalgar Pub without raising a glass to Captain Charles Fryatt. Although, judging by the smiles, I'm not entirely convinced Cllr Sean Fay realised he was buying the first round!

Lest we forget.

Parkeston Cemetery Chapel Concert











What a wonderful couple of hours at the Parish Chapel – Parkeston Cemetery!

I think everyone who joined us will agree that Dan Turner did us proud!

Dan treated us to a brilliant array of songs, and wow… the acoustics inside our beautiful little chapel were absolutely incredible. It was actually a first for Dan too, as he'd never entertained inside a chapel before — and by all accounts he thoroughly enjoyed it! Well, that's what he told us anyway… and surely in a chapel it has to be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!

It was also a lovely opportunity for people to come inside and see the chapel for themselves. Some who joined us have lived locally for many years but had never been inside, remembering it only as the derelict building it once was. To now be able to welcome people through the doors and see it refurbished, cared for and looking so quaint really is something quite special.

Of course, no community afternoon would be complete without a good cup of tea or coffee and some delicious homemade savouries and cakes, thanks to Cllr Davidson's wife Tracey for organising

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the afternoon so enjoyable. It was lovely to see people sitting together, chatting, enjoying the music and simply making the most of a lazy Sunday afternoon

Always great to see fellow Parish Councillors supporting and enjoying the afternoon, Council Chairman Bill Davidson, Cllr Tanya Ferguson, Cllr Dave Priestnall , Cllr Maureen Norgan and Cllr Matt Ladkin, along with our Clerk Teresa Le-Blanc.

A wonderful few hours of music, sing along, conversation and community — and a lovely way to bring our Parish Chapel at Parkeston Cemetery to life once again.



my Other life

Live your other life

Volunteer as a Community Special Constable in Ramsey and Parkeston

Make a real difference in your town by volunteering as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe. Find out more at the link below:

www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

Harwich Indoor Bowls Club

OPEN DAY

All Welcome

Come and try

Free Coaching

Saturday 26th September

10am - 3pm





Just turn up

Stour Close, Harwich CO12 4TL

www.harwichindoorbowlsclub.com

email: contacts@harwichindoorbowlsclub.com


Parkeston Welfare Park
The Welfare Park
CHRISTMAS PARTY
A MAGICAL DAY FOR OUR LITTLE ONES!
FUN GAMES
MUSIC
AND LOTS OF
SURPRISES!
SANTA
MRS CLAUS
AND THE
CHEEKY ELVES
WILL BE THERE!
LEGENDARY
SNOW BALL
FIGHT!
SANTA'S
GROTTO
THIS TIME
NEXT NEXT
CHRISTMAS
WE'LL BE
MILLIONAIRES!
SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2026
12PM - 4PM
TOTALLY
FREE!
AGE 0 - 11
CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
100
CHILDREN
PLACES ONLY!
CONTACT BILL ON 07506 212377 TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE
PARTY ADDRESS: Parkeston Hub (Behind Railway Club)
Hamilton Street, Parkeston.
HAPPY FACES
SPECIAL MEMORIES
A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY EVENT

Meeting dates for the Municipal Year 2026-27 of the Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council

Date	Venue	Meeting Time
Monday, 11th May '26	Parkeston Community Centre, Hamilton Street, Parkeston	Annual Council Meeting at 7.15 p.m. followed by meeting
Monday, 15th June '26		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 13th July '26		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 14th September '26		7.15 p.m.
Monday 12th October '26		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 16th November '26		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 11th January '27		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 15th February '27		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 15th March '27		7.15 p.m.
Monday, 12th April '27		Annual public meeting at 6.45 p.m. followed by Council meeting

VENUES:

Additional Meetings relating to specific issues within either ward will be held in:

Ramsey: **The Ramsey War Memorial Hall, Ramsey**

Parkeston: **Parkeston Community Centre, Hamilton Street, Parkeston**

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS.

Exclusion of the public: In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt and confidential information (for example confidential personal or tender issues) can be considered by the council.

The Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council endeavour to keep to the advertised dates, however withhold the right to change the date, time or venue if deemed necessary.

Should a special meeting to address any issue raised during the year, arrangements made will be advertised to the public via noticeboards, the Council's website and the local press.

For general enquiries please contact:
Teresa Le-Blanc, Clerk to the Council on 01255 502616 / 07507 638895
email: clerk@ramseyparkeston-pc.gov.uk
www.ramseyparkeston-pc.gov.uk

In an emergency please call 999 for Police/Ambulance/Fire.

For non-emergency reports please call 101 or report on 101 online

Other emergency numbers:

Essex Flood and Water Management Flood Warden – investigation only not for response **0345 988 1188** flood.essex.gov.uk

Environment Agency Report flooding https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-incident Incident Hotline: **0800 80 7060**

National Highways Strategic road network (A120) Info@nationalhighways.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000**