

The Link

The magazine for Rode, Tellisford, Woolverton and
Farleigh Hungerford, part of Hardington Vale



FEBRUARY 2023

Rode Playing Field Pavilion Latest

Link Subscription Time – No Price Increase!

A Possible Community Project...

and much more local news and info too...

£1

PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE

RECTOR

Rev Caroline Walker
The Rectory, Vicarage Lane,
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Day off: - Friday

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ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Ros Clarke

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(with specific responsibilities in brackets)
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Christopher Todd (strategy) 01373-834856
Geoff Banwell (finance) 01373 831139
Chris Cloke (buildings) 01373 834917

CHAPEL WARDEN

Farleigh Hungerford:
Guy Hungerford 01249 701211
Tellisford:
Rachel Fielden 01373 830322

DEPUTY WARDEN

Rode:
Sally Pickett 01373 831796

ELECTED PCC MEMBERS

Andrew Morrison ¹, Barbara Day ¹, Robin Finlay, ¹
Sharman Flindall ¹, Andy Filkins, Susie Filkins,
Rachel Feilden ³, John Flindall, Francis Green ⁴,
Rachel Stewart, Anne Harkness, Ros Lockley,
Sally Pickett ³, Michael Walker

¹ Deanery Synod Representatives

² Safeguarding Officer currently vacant

³ Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh
Hungerford, Rode and Tellisford.

⁴ with specific responsibility for Hemington
churchyard

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

TBA

THE LINK MAGAZINE : is published by the
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to edit any material submitted for publication.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of
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Hemington and Hardington are in the care of the
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RODE CHAPEL

METHODIST BAPTIST

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Secretary: Valerie Parker 01373-831012
rodechapel@btinternet.com

Key Holder: Alison Hughes 01373 830244
rodechapel@btinternet.com

USEFUL COMMUNITY CONTACT DETAILS

Organisation	Contact Name	Contact Number
Allotments - Rode Rode Gardens Association	Tracey Gardener (Chair)	831803/tracey_mayled@hotmail.com
Buddy Scheme (Rode)	Mike Salmon	831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com
Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
Cricknet Club (Rode) Seniors	Andy Pickett	andypickett2013@gmail.com/07775 805546
Cricknet Club (NSP) Youth & Seniors	Mark Finch	07876 191100
Friends of Rode and Norton Schools (FRANS)	Jilly Clay	07766127218 /friendsrodenorton@gmail.com
Gardening- Rode & District Club	Averil Morrow	830686/averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk
Lunch Club	Alex Sing	Asing_homeandgardens@hotmail.com/830836
Memorial Hall (Rode)	Bookings: Kate Robinson	rodehall@bananasoft.net www.rodevillagehall.co.uk
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Old School Room Farleigh H'ford	Dilys McKechnie	01225 754925
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Post Office (Rode)	Demi Ward	830321
RANS Running & Walking Club www.facebook.com/TeamRANS	Brandon Quentin-Hicks	brandon@bambooohouse.co.uk 07867 545720
Rode & NSP First School Federation	Headteacher: Georgina Muxworthy	830523
Rode Parent/Carer/ Toddler Group	Ros Jackson	rosjackson@btinternet.com
Rodevillage.com Website & Twitter Feed	George Berry	info@rodevillage.com http://twitter.com/rodevillage
1 st Rode Scout Group Beavers Wed 4.45-5.45pm Cubs Thu 6-7.30pm Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm NB During school terms only	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussell01@gmail.com 830640/07736 739680
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Walking Group	Liz Dinnis	elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com/07788 656337
Community Transport / Local Government / Closest GP		
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NHS 111 24 hour medical care help	Contact 111 if you have an urgent T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk	medical problem and you are unsure what to do
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from The Link Team

We're back, it's February already and our new Subscription Year is fast approaching! Hello everyone, do hope you had a good Christmas and 2023 has been kind to you so far.

I'd like to thank all our readers for your support this past year and thanks also to all those who took the time and made the effort (many on a monthly basis) to contribute content to the magazine – without you there would be no Link! A HUGE THANK YOU too to all in our wonderful Link Distribution Team for their dedication in getting the magazine to our readers doors. My thanks also to Sam and her Team at Rode Post Office for handling direct sales of the magazine for another year and for their assistance in collecting our annual subscriptions.

The Link is above all a magazine for our local community and so details of local news, events and activities (and more) that will be of interest to our readers are welcomed. Please do forward any content you feel we could/should include to me – and any ideas you may have for improving the magazine, Any help to spread the word about The Link to encourage new readers and contributors and widen our audience and our content is also very much appreciated,

Now on to The Link subscriptions - our **new subscriptions year starts 1st April 2023**, and I'm pleased to confirm that there will again be **no increase, the annual subscription will remain at £8.00**, and the price of an individually purchased magazine will remain at £1.00. **So, organising an annual subscription will again offer a saving of £3 - in addition to the convenience of having the magazine delivered to your door!**

An annual subscription covers the delivery to your address of 11 issues of the The Link. The magazine will be delivered monthly to your address (except January when we have a combined December/January issue) commencing April 2023 through to March 2024 inclusive. A subscription envelope is enclosed in this copy of the magazine for your convenience and its use and details of the subscription payment procedure are on the following page.

If you are one of our much valued current subscribers I do hope you'll be renewing your subscription and we will be delighted to welcome new subscribers. Thank you.

Gill Leonard

Editor

E: gillhleonard@aol.com T: 831072

from The Link Team

“THE LINK” ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024 IS NOW DUE...

Please use the enclosed subscription envelope to secure yours.

Fill in your name and address in the space provided and drop off or send the completed envelope to Rode Post Office so that we know you have paid. Please ensure you complete full details on your method of payment.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid this subscription by ticking the box on the envelope, signing your name and making sure your address includes your postcode.

Your subscription money is **due by 25th March 2023 at the latest**, to ensure continuity of subscription and delivery of your April 2023 issue. We would appreciate payment by **cheque or bank transfer**, if possible.

Cheques should be made payable to **HARDINGTON VALE PCC**.

The completed subscription envelope should be dropped in or posted to Rode Post Office - if posted, please attach a stamp and **do not include cash**.

If you pay by bank transfer, it is important that you include “LINK” and your surname and initials as the payment reference so that we can identify your payment.

When paying by bank transfer you MUST still complete and hand in the subscription envelope to Rode Post Office, so that we can link the payment to your address.

Further subscription envelopes are available from Rode Post Office.

In order to help avoid any interruption to delivery, payment and submission of your completed envelope at the earliest opportunity will be most welcome.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Caroline Williams

Link Subscriptions and Distribution Co-Ordinator
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Hardington Vale Parochial Church Council Registered Charity Number 1128078

Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION

The year 2022 was problematic to say the least. I don't think I need spell it all out, but it felt overwhelming at times, with the future feeling very uncertain.

At a Church of England reader's conference earlier in the year this prayer was presented to us. It felt very relevant to our present times and I find it very encouraging.

I am sure that there are thoughts in it that many of us can identify with whatever our faith, or none. I offer it to our readers as a new year gift.

Saviour Christ,
in whose way of love lies the secret of all life and the hope of all people,
we pray for quiet courage to match this hour.
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age:
but let its problems challenge us,
its discoveries exhilarate us,
its injustices anger us,
its possibilities inspire us,
and its vigour renew us
for your kingdom's sake
Amen

Have a hopeful and brave new year.

Barbara Day

(Reader in Hardington Vale Parish)



 **Last Sunday of the Month**
CrossYoga @Norton St Philip Church

Gentle yoga with Christian meditation to deepen your experience of God.
ALL are welcome.

Bring a mat and blanket.
Wear comfy clothes.

Jan 29
Feb 26
March 26

5-6pm
Optional donation £5

Sign up:
carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

Happy New Year! What a busy couple of months we've had at St Lawrence, as it should be with Christmas being in the middle of it all. We were delighted to welcome so many people from the community along with their extended families and friends to our Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The church looked beautiful (many people remarked on this during our Christmas Services) with all the flowers, candles and Christmas tree (kindly donated by the Osborne family).



Our Family Carol Concert on the Saturday a week before Christmas was very well attended, it was great to be singing all the traditional carols by candlelight.



Julia, Steve and baby
Robin Whitehead with the

Our Outdoor Nativity the previous weekend also attracted a lot of people who enjoyed what is fast becoming a Rode Christmas tradition and this year we even had snow on the ground which definitely added a very Christmassy feel to the proceedings. Thanks to everyone who participated – all the musicians, animals, actors and fantastic children who dressed as shepherds, innkeepers and angels. We had a 'pop up' wardrobe in the back of Jo the vicar's car so many children quickly found an outfit and joined in with the action.

Since Christmas we have also had a busy Breakfast Church in January and our next Breakfast Church will be on the second Sunday in February, the 12th at 9am, so do please come and join us if you'd like to see what it's all about.

We are about to launch a very big fundraising project at St Lawrence – funds for a new roof. A letter will be coming out shortly to every house in the parish outlining our project and suggesting what people can do to help.

Obviously money is required but we will also be suggesting other ways in which people can help. We are the custodians of our village church and we want to do all we can to make sure it is here in Rode for many many generations to come. We hope you will help us to reach our target.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

Church Reflection, News & Events

HARDINGTON VALE CHARITIES

A big **Thank You** to everyone who contributed to the collections during the various Christmas Services around the Parish. In total £1,594.97 was collected and will be shared between the three charities we are supporting this year. These are:-



Asha is our international charity meaning 'hope' in Hindi, Asha has been helping the slum dwellers of Delhi since 1988, when Dr Kiran Martin started treating cholera victims who were too poor or culturally constrained to seek help elsewhere. Now over 700,000 residents in 95 slum colonies have access to essential medical care and treatment with Asha, as well as a wide range of other support and benefits to help improve peoples' lives and bring them 'hope'. asha-india.org



Our national charity is Safe Passage. Every year thousands of unaccompanied child refugees arrive in Europe in search of safety. They find themselves stuck in squalid camps or sleeping rough on city streets unaware of their legal right to travel safely through Europe. Safe Passage is there to help child refugees access their rights. The headquarters of Safe Passage are in London. safepassage.org.uk



Focus Frome is our local charity. Focus Frome works with GP surgeries, drugs and alcohol agencies, churches, housing associations, schools, universities, the police, social services and other counselling agencies. They offer counselling to all and have funding available for those who are on a low income. focusbath.com

THE DIFFERENCE COURSE

Navigating a divided and complex world can be hard. We encounter this in our relationships, in our communities and in our wider systems and structures. Many of us long to make a difference, but we often don't know how to respond or where to start. Difference equips you to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world. The Deanery is offering this course to everyone in the deanery to participate in as a Lent course starting on the 21st February 7.30pm and to be held at Holy Trinity Frome and running for 5 consecutive weeks.

For further details please contact me.

Reverend Caroline Walker

E: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM SAFE PASSAGE UK, HV'S NATIONAL CHARITY

Hardington Vale Parochial Church Council supports Safe Passage UK, a charity helping child refugees access legal routes to safety. During the period of this support, news channels have brought us information from Afghanistan, Libya, Italy, France, Greece, Ukraine, Poland and the Kent coast about displaced persons trying to reach a place of greater safety. Safe Passage concentrates on child refugees. (For more information refer to www.safepassage.org.uk/how-we-work.)



In January 2021, the Government closed refugee family reunion from Europe, leaving only the 'entry clearance immigration rules' which are so restrictive that many child refugees no longer qualify. However, three groups led by 26 young refugees and asylum seekers have been working together as Young Leaders. They are working to protect and defend human rights, and be a voice for the voiceless. They believe that the Government needs to make fundamental changes in policy to ensure that people fleeing war and persecution can access safe routes to sanctuary. Through workshops and discussions they have agreed on eight recommendations:-

- Act fast to save lives, by providing more safe routes to sanctuary for refugees.
- Offer the same protection to people fleeing war and persecution regardless of how they travelled to the UK.
- Agree a deal with the EU to strengthen family reunion. The UK should work closely with countries in the EU to ensure the process is faster and smoother.
- Make urgent changes to refugee family reunion under the UK's Immigration Rules. Ensure that all refugees have the right to be reunited with family members, no matter how they entered the UK.
- Expand the proposed resettlement scheme to other countries beyond the Middle East, including Africa and Europe.
- Introduce a new route to the UK specifically for unaccompanied children from Europe.
- Listen to those directly affected before taking decisions that have an impact on so many lives.
- We invite the Government to meet with us and others with lived experience of these issues to discuss our recommendations.

Rachel Feilden

Chapel Warden, All Saints' Church, Tellisford, member of HV PCC

Parish News

LAND AT CHURCH LANE - APPEAL HEARING

The Hearing in relation to the proposed development on Barbara's Field took place on 24th and 25th January. It was initially scheduled for one day, but the extent of the issues required nearly two full days.

The main parties to the Hearing were Waddeton Park (the promoter of the scheme, acting on behalf of the landowners) and Mendip District Council. Rode Parish Council was an "interested party".

Given the very significant level of opposition from villagers, the Parish Council believed it was appropriate to make the strongest possible representations to the Hearing, and therefore commissioned a local planning consultancy (Context Planning) to assist - both in the preparation of our "Statement of Case" and also to attend the Hearing and represent our views. This was essential, given the significant resources available to the Appellant (who employed a leading barrister and multiple experts). A number of Parish Councillors attended the hearing, as did Barbi Lund, our District Councillor, who made valuable contributions, and to whom we are very grateful.

Both our advisors and the Parish Council believe we have done as much as we can to make the case for rejection of the appeal. The Inspector will make a site visit, sometime in the first half of February, and will hopefully publish her decision by the end of the month, or early in March.

Jim McAuliffe

RODE CHAPEL WINDOWS

Thank you to all who have already donated in response to our appeal for support funding.

The work is scheduled to begin in the first week of April and will begin with the large windows behind the altar, which are the ones in the most critical condition.

We will fund the remainder of the work somehow... so please consider donating something to the effort if you can. Thank you.

Bill Jackson



A NEW POSSIBILITY FOR RODE...

The Rode Community Project is an initiative by three Rode organisations: Rode Memorial Hall, Rode Scouts and Rode Playing Field.

RODE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Each organisation has two representatives on the Project team. The Parish Council is also involved and has a representative on the team too.

Their task is to explore the feasibility of creating a new community building for Rode to be located on the Playing Field that will provide much improved facilities for each of the three organisations and hence better serve the residents of Rode.

It is a medium-term project that if successful might see a new building being completed in 2 or 3 years' time.

In the meantime, each organisation will continue to maintain their existing buildings and ensure they continue to provide the same services/venues and facilities for village residents.

An example is the Playing Field Pavilion where work will start shortly with the expectation of bringing the Pavilion back into full use in the next month or so.

Peter Travis

Member of the Rode Community Project Team

SCOUTS

Just a big thank you to all who joined in the Carol Singing around the village in December, especially the youngsters, and to all those villagers who contributed.



Thanks also to Steves Rhodes who helped to lead us and Peter Barnes and Ros Jackson who provided the music to keep us in key.

We raised £182 for Julia's House, Devizes.

Howard Russell

Group Scout Leader

Parish News

1ST RODE MAJOR SCOUT GROUP 200 CLUB

February sees the start of the New 200 Club year.

We are on the look out for new members.



1st Rode (Scout Group)

- For just £10 a year you will be given your own number, this will be included in 12 monthly draws.
- Each month we draw 2 prizes, £50 and £25, in November we have the Christmas draw which is 3 prizes, £100, £50 and £25.
- You must be over 16 years of age to join.
- You don't have to be a member of the Group to join, anyone can join.

Forms are available at Rode Post Office, from Scout Leaders or contact me directly Janet Jupp, Merfield Lodge, High Street, Rode, BA11 6NZ - T: 01373 830938.

We are very lucky in Rode to have an amazing Scout Group with all of the Leaders who volunteer and give up their time to keep this going, but we do need funds. I know things are difficult for many at the moment, but if you could support us we would really appreciate it. Thank you

Janet Jupp

RODE CHAPEL'S "A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS"

We were sorry to hear of the winding up of Rode Ladies, who for so many years had organised the above event in early December at Rode Chapel... and with Covid so fresh in mind with all the postponements and cancellations that entailed, the Chapel decided to take it on.

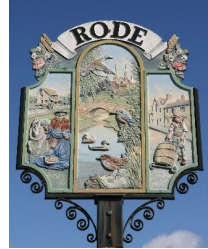
Alison Hughes did an absolutely excellent job of choosing a balance of Carols, Poems and Readings, some serious and some...well not... and was well supported by the Readers.

There was mulled wine and mince pies (all generously donated) to follow and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. There was a big raffle draw taking place at the Cross Keys at the same time, sadly, and it was a jolly cold evening, but despite these factors attendance was good and the collection raised a worthwhile sum for Fair Frome.

Bill Jackson

NEW RODE PARISH COUNCILLOR WANTED

Rode Parish Council is looking for a new Councillor following the resignation of Elaine Butler. Elaine has had to give up being a Councillor due to family reasons and will be missed by the Parish Council for all the work she did, she will probably best remembered by villagers for her work in the 'Village Hoedowns' that cleaned up the village.



A new Councillor is sought to join the other seven Councillors to help on a range of issues that are of importance to the local community. These range across many issues such as: planning, traffic issues, trees and green spaces, footpaths and transport etc. and influence how local taxes are spent. Meetings are held once a month and training for the new Councillor is available.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk, Hugh Williams either by phone 01373 831046 or email clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com before 28th February

RODE PANTOMIME GROUP ANNOUNCE - "OUT OF THE BLUE!"

The pace is hotting up! 'Out of the Blue!' is an original story rooted in our Village history, but it is also most certainly a classic Panto. There is a Dame, an idiot (well several actually), a fairy, goodies, baddies, talking animals, slapstick, audience participation, bad jokes and no doubt some unscripted moments to boot.

Scripts are scheduled for the end of February and we are keen to recruit thespians old and new, young and not so young to our team.



The requirements to be a part of the troop, are enthusiasm a sense of fun and a commitment to making the magic happen. If you are interested you can contact me via Facebook or register your interest via the Rode Pantomime Group page on the very same platform.

Look forward to hearing from you soon...

Gary Holloway

Parish News

EMERGING FROM HIBERNATION

Winter is truly a time for hibernation. Having battled a virus since December 11th I have found it so much easier to rest during the cold spells. But there are flickers of spring, which is wonderful. I know daffodils are coming out earlier every year, so I look forward to seeing a splash of yellow in the next month or so, emerging from the mulch, and providing positive inspiration for all aspects of life.

Due to my illness, it has been a very quiet couple of months for me, but there is always a lot going on at the Council.



We have less than 50 working days until Vesting Day (when the Somerset County Council becomes the New Somerset Council). Along with reorganisation, amalgamation of the tech, appointment of new staff members and ensuring services are delivered without a hitch, there are matters of finance and budgeting to consider. The budget is going to full council in February, but will include cuts to local services and an increase in council tax. There are some disappointments ahead, but as a community, we can no doubt get through whatever is thrown at us.

As always, there is so much to celebrate. It is easy to allow the negativity of the media to dampen our spirits when we do live in a country with so many more positives than negatives.

Bus users in Somerset can now travel on most routes in the county for just £2 until 31st March, when the central government funding will be reassessed. It is hoped that this funding will boost bus use and help passengers during the cost-of-living crisis. And as the High Street brand says, “Every penny helps”. The initiative will apply to most routes in Somerset, but do keep an eye on the Somerset Bus Partnership website for more info: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>

A little reminder that if you are 50 and over, a frontline health or social care worker, pregnant, have a long-term health condition, or are a paid or unpaid carer, you are eligible for the free flu vaccine, and you can likely get the Covid-19 seasonal booster. Children aged 2-15 years old are also eligible for a free flu vaccination, which is delivered through either the GP for pre-school, or school for school age children. Parents do need to sign a consent form. If you are eligible, you can book your seasonal Covid-19 vaccine using <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119.

Parish News

Stay safe on the roads during the cold weather – only 20% of Somerset roads are gritted. This doesn't mean they are fully safe, only marginally safer than not being gritter. All information about gritting is available online, which also includes a map (you need to zoom into the map to get the necessary information about gritted roads): <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting/>

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or if you are struggling to access any Somerset services.

Warm wishes

Dawn Denton

Somerset County Councillor for Frome North

dawndentonfrome@gmail.com

Diary of a Councillor: <https://dawndenton.wordpress.com/>

200 PINTS OF BLOOD!

On Friday 3rd November, two Rode village residents, Keith Sharman and Hugh Williams were at Bath Racecourse with thirty other blood donors for a prtation ceremony.



The donors had all given 100 pints of blood in total, apart from a few who had given 250 plasma donations. They were all presented with certificates, medals and badges and were treated to lunch along with their partners.



Caroline Williams

Parish News

200 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

November Xmas Draw winners:
1st prize - £100 Heidi Blanchett
2nd Prize - £50 Pat Applegate
3rd Prize - £25 Gill Lynch

Drawn by Jean Wheeler, Jane Penny and Chris Lowe

December Draw winners:
1st Prize £50 - Mel Richards
2nd Prize £285 - Wendy Gould

Drawn by Christine Lowe and Lynne Rogers

Jan Jupp

RODE PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Playing Field Lottery winners in November 2022, drawn by staff and customers in the Cross Keys:

1st - £50.00 ... Sophie Baker, Rode.

2nd - £25.00 ... Dale Weeks, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 ... Sarah Barry, Rode.

Cross Keys Sunday Roast for two, courtesy of Mark and Hannah:
Pat and Alan Batcheldor.

Playing Field Lottery winners in December 2022, drawn by staff and customers in the Cross Keys:

1st - £50.00 Graham Noad, Rode.

2nd - £25.00 Liz Osborne, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 David & Elaine Walsh, Rode.

Cross Keys Sunday Roast for two, courtesy of Mark and Hannah:
Paul and Lynne Rogers.

If you'd like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets are available, and a share of £100 and two Sunday roasts, all possible for £1.00 per ticket! And remember you are supporting the Playing Field - which needs all the help it can get right now - when you buy your ticket. Tickets on sale at the P. O or directly from Jane and I, T: 830408. Next draw Tuesday 28th February.

Keith Sharman

R.P.F. PAVILION DECEMBER FUNDRAISER

Our thanks to all who came to the Christmas Bazaar on December 11th and helped to raise the sum of £319 towards the Rode Playing Field Pavilion works.

Ann Edney and Pat Restorick

LAVERTON NEWS

Happy new year everyone! I think it's fair to say we've had a bit of a wet start to 2023 - resulting in a huge flood in the centre of Laverton! An enormous thank you to the 'shovellers and rodders' - no not a new Laverton pop group but a fantastic team of village folk who came to the rescue in the pouring rain and worked so hard to get the water flowing again. Tremendous work and very much appreciated.



Laverton Defibrillator - I'm delighted to announce the Laverton defibrillator has finally been installed. It's situated in the porch of St Mary's Church in Laverton with a sign by the gate pointing you in the right direction. Very many thanks to The Friends of Frome Hospital and especially Richard Lines who worked so hard to get us the unit.

Christmas 2022 Events - It seems a bit of a distant memory but we had a fun and very successful Christmas Bazaar in the Egg House at the end of November which raised the magnificent sum of £477.60 for church funds. Thanks to everyone who helped, donated, attended and bought raffle tickets and special thanks to Gilli and Norma for all their hard work.

Laverton Carol Service - Nearly 60 of us crowded into the little church to hear the Christmas story and join in singing carols. Michael Harrison led the service and as well as 97 year young Mhairi reciting her favourite poem "I sing of a maiden", 2 even younger stars shone out: 7 year old Indy Bass singing his song about the Three Kings and 13 year old Yvaine Su playing "The First Noel" and "Ding Dong Merrily On High" on her harp – a first for Laverton and what a treat – the perfect way to begin our Christmas preparations. *Debby Hill*

Book Exchange - I think the all Laverton had a clear out pre Christmas - so many donations! I've had a sort out and donated to Dorothy House but please feel free to take any books you'd like – don't feel you need to donate in return!

Jackie Moss

Parish Health & Wellbeing

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BECKINGTON FAMILY PRACTICE

The team at Beckington Family Practice were overwhelmed by the number of gifts and cards received from patients during the Christmas period and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to express their appreciation. All of this means a great deal to our team.

We will continue to keep our patients updated via the practice website and the newly formed 'Beckington Family Practice' Facebook group which provides bulletins to practice news, local health initiatives and public health advice which we hope patients will benefit from.

Dr John Beaven Retirement

I would like to share the news that our Senior Partner, Dr John Beaven, will be retiring in April 2023. His hard work, commitment and dedication to the Beckington Family Practice patient population has been profound. In addition to his clinical duties Dr Beaven has, over many years, trained and inspired new members of staff at the practice. He will be greatly missed by patients and staff alike and we wish him well for his retirement.

Dr Kate Wooding
GP Partner , Beckington Family Practice



S4L
Stronger4Longer

“ We all trip...
but not all of us fall ”

Helping people to build strength through everyday movement in order to stay well, feel younger and protect their future health

Starting to be more active in your 50s can be daunting, especially if you haven't done much exercise before or you're out of practice.

Explore the videos and resources on our website to start your journey towards a stronger, healthier you.

www.sasp.co.uk/stronger4longer healthenquiries@sasp.co.uk

The graphic is a rectangular box with a white top section and a red bottom section. It features the 'S4L Stronger4Longer' logo, a quote, a QR code, and contact information.

As we get older, muscle strength is reduced and some movements, such as leaning sideways or turning quickly, can cause a loss of balance. The good news is, you don't have to start weightlifting to build strength - hill-walking, yoga, team sports like tennis and cricket, or even just climbing the stairs can all help to build muscle strength and prevent falls and injuries later in life.

Stronger 4 Longer is a new campaign encouraging adults over 50 to build muscle strength to protect their future health. To find out how to get started, and to find resources and exercises you can try at home and or out and about, visit the **Stronger 4 Longer** website at www.sasp.co.uk/stronger4longer .

Parish Health & Wellbeing

OUR VILLAGE AGENT IS HERE TO HELP & INFORM

Spring flowers may be nodding their heads, bringing with them the hope of warmer days, but we still have a month or two of winter ahead and the cost-of-living crisis isn't going away quietly! Below are some practical solutions that can make a big difference, or call me and I can connect you to the right services for you and help make this winter a little less harsh.



somerset **village** &
community agents
part of CCS

Petrol Costs - There are some great resources to find the nearest, cheapest fuel prices e.g. petrolprices.com/ - has a handy downloadable app as well.

Community Larders/Fridges - These are popping up all over the county where you pick up free food and household items, with no appointment or referral needed and there is one in Frome visit hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge.

Somerset County Council Household Support Fund - This fund offers short-term urgent financial help to people in Somerset struggling to afford essentials such as buying food, paying for utility bills, or other items such as beds and white goods. It is an online application that I can help with if needed: somerset.gov.uk/somerset-household-support-fund/

Somerset Warm Spaces - These are local community hubs open in the day providing a warm place to be, company and often tea and biscuits! We are delighted that nearly all our 30 Talking Cafes are warm spaces. The website sparksomerset.org.uk/find-warm-welcome has a full map where you can find your local 'Warm Space' or call me to find out where your nearest one is.

Community Building or Community Group Support - CCS (The Community Council for Somerset) has dedicated professionals who help community/charitable groups and hubs such as Village Halls to cope with increased overheads/grant finding/sustainability. Visit the website ccslovesomerset.org or call 01823 331222 to be connected to a team member.

Emotional Support - More than winter blues? Mind in Somerset has a free 24/7 number you can call if you are worried about anything or are struggling with your mental health. Call 01823 276 892 or 0800 138 1692

**Just remember – if in doubt, give your Village Agent a shout!
We are here to help Somerset thrive!**

Nic Edwards

Village Agent

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

T: 01823 331 222 E: info@somersetccc.org.uk Web: www.somersetagents.org

Parish Ecology

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY CHALLENGE – 2023

As January ends and the days are getting longer, the post-Christmas slump is (hopefully) over and we can start to properly look forward to 2023. And what better time to re-calibrate those New Year Resolutions?!

Climate-related actions are especially relevant this year, given the precarious state of the planet...as the UN Secretary General said at COP27 in November “We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator”.

Here in Rode many villagers expressed a wide range of very positive intentions when completing the Climate Change Survey back in March last year, with nearly 50% of respondents aiming to reduce meat consumption, for example (the table below shows those intentions):

If you did plan to take steps to reduce your carbon footprint, now would be a great time to assess how you fared.



REDUCE MY MEAT CONSUMPTION	47%
BUY MORE LOCALLY GROWN FOOD	42%
PLANT A TREE	41%
MAKE MORE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT	31%
RECYCLE MORE	31%
GROW MORE OF MY OWN FOOD	23%
WALK AND/OR CYCLE MORE	23%
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS I TAKE	22%
RE-WILD PART OF MY GARDEN	19%
IMPROVE THE INSULATION IN MY HOME	17%
BUY AN ELECTRIC CAR	11%
CHANGE MY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO A RENEWABLE SOURCE	5%

But, looking ahead, what can we do individually to keep up the good work? There are numerous sources of advice on the internet, and some excellent resources for checking your own carbon footprint. One of the best I've seen is Carbon Savvy (<https://carbonsavvy.uk>)

Parish Ecology

Here are three Rode-related suggestions for your 2023 Resolutions:

- 1. Take the bus!!** Not only is this a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, it will also help sustain our vital local bus services. And for the next two months single journeys are only £2.
- 2. Buy more locally-produced products from local outlets.** We are extremely lucky to have some great local producers – whether that be Fussell’s, the Village Baking Company, Louisebees, Ping Coombes, Bianco Piz, Choc-on-Choc...I could go on - the list is a long one! We also have wonderful local outlets (the Post Office and Village Store, The Cross Keys, The Mill, Somerset Foodie, White Row Farm, and so on). Buying locally reduces food-miles, keeps our hard-earned cash in the local community, and helps support local jobs.
- 3. Seek out Rode’s sustainability pioneers.** We have a bunch of local electric vehicle and e-bike owners, houses with solar panels and heat pumps, retrofitters, re-wilders, etc, etc. If you’re thinking of starting your own journey towards carbon neutrality it will be worth seeking them out (drop me a line for contact details).

Thinking collectively, the Climate Emergency Group met at the beginning of November to consider (amongst other things) our plans for 2023. We agreed the following objectives:

- 1. Support local bus services.** The results of the Climate Change Survey we conducted back in March showed that the provision of good public transport was by far the biggest single issue that villagers wanted to see prioritised. This autumn and winter local bus services are much improved – but there is a real danger that this could be very temporary, with government funding likely to be withdrawn at the end of March. Once again it is a case of “use it or lose it”, and we will work with other groups to help increase local utilisation of bus services (in particular, the D2).
- 2. Work to deliver public EV charging points in Rode, Norton St Philip and Beckington** (and generally support the transition to low carbon transport). Rural villages like Rode/NSP/Beckington have a higher than average proportion of homes without access to off-street parking, and hence public EV charging points are vital to encourage the transition to lower carbon transport in such communities. The costs and infrastructure issues are significant, however, meaning we almost certainly have to work with Somerset County Council to achieve our goal.

Parish Ecology

- 3. Continue to inspire change through community events.** We held a successful first “Big Green Weekend” event in September, and we are tentatively planning something similar for 2023. We also plan to hold a series of public talks on some key environmental issues (topics initially being explored include: recycling, insulation, electric vehicles, and waste water treatment).
- 4. Support the provision of safe walking/cycling routes.** We will work with Beckington PC to support their project to better link Rudge/Beckington to Frome and investigate the best way to incorporate Rode (and potentially Norton St Philip) in this link.
- 5. Improve communication.** Look to better communicate the opportunities for carbon-reduction in our local communities (e.g.: showcasing best practice, highlighting initiatives, publicising events, etc). We hope to have a new website in 2023, which will be a huge help....but we’ll also aim to use existing channels such as The Link, other local parish magazines, Facebook, Instagram, The Leveller, etc.

Plus – we now have a monthly newsletter – drop me a line (email address below) if you’d like to be on the distribution list, or go to:
mailchi.mp/4b503eoba20c/initial-sign-up and fill in your details.

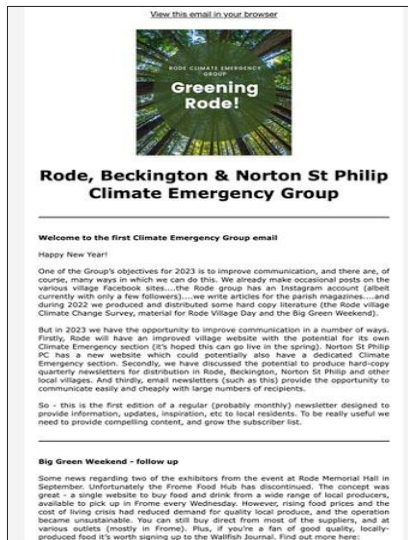
We are a small group, and therefore the capacity to deliver projects on our own is limited.

Primarily we aim to “initiate, inform, educate, encourage...”

But we can also act as a focal point for residents to come together to deliver projects as a community.

If you have an idea that could be worth exploring, please get in contact. And – if you’d like to join the Climate Emergency Group, you will be very welcome!

Jim McAuliffe
jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



Parish Gardening

For some of us, an interest in plants, or maybe a particular plant, can become, shall we say, become a bit of an obsession? Some of us may recognise a certain glazed look that crosses the face of friends and family as we enthuse about a newly-discovered variety that seems to have been bred specifically for our delight. Plantaholics...we are many in number. But Galanthophiles are in a league of their own. They are properly nuts! I'm not one of them...yet.

I've just ordered another delivery of snowdrops "in the green" - absolutely the best way to plant large numbers of the earliest of spring bulbs. They'll arrive in early February to be planted out as soon as they arrive. I tend to buy mine from Clare Bulbs in Suffolk after a tip off from Sara Jocelyn, Laverton gardening guru. Placing an order always entails a long chatty telephone conversation with Andy the owner. And very helpfully, he offers only the singles and doubles - no endless humming and hawing needed. Just singles and doubles of perfect white snowdrops. But if you suspect the early signs of Galanthophilia, local supplier Avon Bulbs has more than 100 varieties available to order from mid-January and a website with lots of advice including a whole glossary of terms specific to the snowdrop genus!



As the years go by, if they're happy, most small groups of snowdrops will bulk into larger clumps and then you have the pleasure of dividing and spreading your stock further and further. Last year I benefited from clumps divided by my neighbour Diane Rossiter and hope I can start dividing and spreading my own stock next year. Marvellous.

However I've just been reminded of a very local and specific danger: the annual Snowdrop Festival 13-19 February in Shepton Mallet, once home of the 'Snowdrop King', master breeder James Allen. On my first visit a few years ago, I was enchanted by the names given by breeders to their different varieties, quite apart from being drawn to the delicacy of the flowers and their exquisite markings. Reader, I bought lots and lots. Luckily the prices in Shepton Mallet are generally quite modest and don't require a government health warning, but the danger of getting carried away is real. In February 2022 a true Galanthophile spent a world record £1850 on a single bulb. Clearly once you're hooked, you're truly hooked.

So I to plan go to Shepton Mallet Snowdrop festival this year, taking limited cash and endless will power with me. I shall not get hooked. I shall not.

Muddy fingernails

F.Y.I. websites: clare-bulbs.co.uk avonbulbs.co.uk sheptonsnowdrops.org.uk

Parish Youth News & Events

RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

OUTSTANDING!

We had a very busy end of the Autumn term in our 2 schools which was topped off by a surprise December visit from Ofsted. What a treat!

They were inspecting the Norton St. Philip school children since last visiting in 2017. Achieving an 'outstanding' under the new 2019 Ofsted Framework is very rare so we were extremely pleased to be graded 'Outstanding' for children's personal development and 'good' in all other areas.

In the report the Inspectors noted that we are a 'welcoming, caring school. The school's ethos, 'Small Schools, Thinking Big', comes alive here. Leaders provide an exciting rich curriculum... Pupils love showcasing their talents when they perform in theatre productions... Pupils are wonderful ambassadors for the school. Parents typically comment that 'children are encouraged to flourish and grow'. Pastoral support for pupils is strong. Staff care deeply about pupils and forge supportive relationships with them...Leaders have designed a rich, well-sequenced curriculum...Leaders inspire pupils to develop a love of reading...The curriculum for pupils' personal development is exceptional."

We waved the Inspectors farewell at 5pm on the second day of the inspection and then rushed over to St. James Church, ready for our Christmas Nativity Concert at 6pm.

The following week, the older children took centre stage in the church singing carols and performing the winning entries in our 'Song for Christmas' competition. The winning song 'Crazy Christmas', by Mostyn, featured Zak on drums and his dad Simon on guitar. Twelve lucky children have been enjoying guitar lessons with our new teacher Danny Green so hopefully we will have our own guitarist in the future!



Parish Youth News & Events

Our focus on music, drama, dance, art and film has led to us being awarded the very prestigious 'Gold Artsmark Award' for both our schools from the Arts Council.

We recently displayed a piece of artwork in the 44AD Artspace gallery in Bath as part of the 'Heroes of the Commonwealth' exhibition. Every child in school contributed to the piece which was then put together by our Art Lead Natalie Duncan. Children were very proud to visit the gallery and see their exhibit.

We ended the term with an explosive Science Fair.



The older children set up tests and experiments for the younger children and parents to try including slime-making, magnetic Santa, colour-changing liquids and stepping through a piece of A4 paper!

Early figures indicate that our Reception class is oversubscribed for September 2023 so as we start the new year, we have lots to celebrate in our federation!



www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk

Or call us on 01373 830523 or 01373 834327

COME AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Parish Youth News & Events

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Mondays during term time

9.30-11.30pm

Rode Chapel



TOTS and TOYS



Our baby and toddler group is open Wednesdays 9.00 am - 10.45 am at St Philip and St James Church Norton St Philip, No booking needed.



If you have just dropped your child at pre-school or school and you are on your own, you are welcome to pop in for a coffee and a chat with friends even for a few minutes. £2.00 per adult to include coffee and cake. Please bring your own refreshments for your child.

DANCE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

We've got a class for your little princess (and your little prince!)

Let them dance to their own tune with our classes for age 3 upwards.



REGISTERED
ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE
TEACHER

FOR FURTHER INFO: CONTACT:
07526 922863

"A DANCING CHILD IS A HAPPY CHILD"
Welcoming all students to explore their passion for dance.



Open term time from 8:45am

Beckington Pre-school

Children aged 2-4 welcome
30 hours funding accepted



Beckington Baptist Church Hall
www.beckington-pre-school.co.uk
01373 831492
info@beckington-pre-school.co.uk
Find us on 

Charity no. 1035832

Parish Groups

RODE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

We are looking forward to starting our year by welcoming Terry Baker from the Botanic Nursery and Garden at Atworth, Wiltshire. Terry and Mary have exhibited and won medals at many RHS shows and hold the National Collection of Digitalis (Foxgloves)



Come and join us on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.30pm in Rode Village Hall. Terry will talk about his favourite plants and there will be plants for sale.

Subscriptions are now due (£20) and if you can pay by BACS that would be a great help, - Rode & District Gardening Club 40 09 19, 02428482.

This year we are planning 4 garden visits, a coach trip to RHS Rosemoor in Devon and a varied programme of talks.

Averil Morrow

RODE WALKING GROUP - 2ND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

For the first time since this group was founded we had to cancel our monthly walk!

The January walk was unable to go ahead and I'm sure that no-one will be surprised that the persistent rain, combined with the state of the ground, was the cause of the cancellation.



We will attempt this walk again in February, hopefully the BoA river paths will be drier by Tuesday 14th of that month. Meeting as before in the Tithe Barn car park at 10 am we will be ascending via Newtown to St Mary's Chapel Tors and then back down to the town centre to visit the Saxon Church of St Laurence. After a coffee stop we will retrace our steps to the Tithe Barn.

If any new members wish to join us please contact me regarding transport, communication channels etc. The earlier details for this walk were published in December's copy of the Link.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T: 07788 656337

Parish Groups

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB 🍷🍴

Looking forward to our first get together for this year on **6th February!!**

We look forward to seeing all our regulars and new members at The Village Hall, 12.15pm... £5 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal, bring your own wine if you fancy a drink with it (the Hall is Licensed) - so, don't sit at home on your own - come and meet new friends and have a great meal at the same time!! And of course we have the pleasure of being served by our Year 4's from Rode School who do such a great job - as well as calling out the raffle numbers!!

Please let me know well in advance if you'd like to come - just give me a ring! If you need help with getting to the Hall please let me know and we can arrange transport. Please bring cash as we have no facility for card payments.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team

T: 01373 830836/07828 600095

N.B. Next meeting 6th March 2023- make a note in by your diary!



Above a happy memory of our fantastic Christmas Lunch Feast!! We had the most wonderful raffle gifts - many thanks again to The Cross Keys, The Mill, Choc on Choc, Fussells Fine Foods - and everyone else who so generously donated.



Together with our home grown village entertainment from the wonderful Rode School Year 4 children who also excelled with their hospitality skills! A very happy occasion much enjoyed by our members!

Parish Groups

RODE CRAFT CLUB



We each bring long whatever we are working on, share ideas and skills and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and biscuits. Weekly on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm at Rode Chapel. There is no need to book or to commit to coming every week. We have knitters, embroiderers, crocheters, card makers, leather workers and cross stitchers. The list goes on! All abilities too, from 'new to' crafters to the experienced. We all help each other.

Val Parker

RODE OVER 60'S - CHRISTMAS '22 & JANUARY 13TH MEETINGS

On 2nd December, we held our Annual Christmas Carols by Candlelight afternoon. After the long enforced break in activities due to Covid restrictions, it was a real treat to gather together and hear the students from Monkton Combe School entertain us with both traditional and lively arrangements of seasonal music and carols.

The school has a long history with our club, providing a choir to help us celebrate the season. Mr. Richard Mainwaring, the current head of music brought a band this year which brought a new dimension to the performances. This was followed by a festive afternoon tea, much enjoyed by everyone. The afternoon concluded with the raffle.

13th January, Poetry Reading - An afternoon of poetry. Some of which was written by the reader - Mr. Terence Bryant, with others he had come across over the years. A talented club member sometimes known as "Tel" he was a RAF Police Officer and also served with International Air Police Units. His preference is for rhyming poems. His readings were well received by all. In fact a member named him "The bard of Southwick" which amused both Mr. Bryant and us all! Our well renowned afternoon tea was served and the raffle concluded the afternoon.

February Birthdays: 11th Mrs. S. Beaven, 11th Mrs. P. Windsor, 20th Mr. J. Osborne. 25th Mrs. R. Sanderson. Many Happy Returns to you all.

Next meeting Friday 10th February, 2.30pm, Rode Memorial Hall - "Sahara Sisters" - Rachel Terry. Some members may remember them, a not to be missed experience!

Gail Stinton

Parish Friends & Family Notices



JENNIFER RUTH ARNEY

1930 - 2022

Jennifer was born at Chatley Farm, Norton St Philip on 10th September 1930. Her family moved to Chickwell Farm, Hemington during the 1930s.

Jenny attended Laverton school and then went to Frome Grammar school.

William and Jenny were married in September 1958 and moved to Langham Farm. Jenny was a full time mum as well as a farmer's wife, helping with egg collection, haymaking, milking as well as running errands and fetching spare parts.

Jenny was an excellent cook and baker and always had a fresh sponge or fruit cake to go with a cup of tea if anyone called. Her shortbread, profiteroles and puddings were a delight.

When the children were of school age Jenny became involved with fundraising for Rode school. Every school fair saw her behind the cake stall with many of the items for sale made by her - she always made an eye-catching showstopper to draw the crowds in!

Every year the village of Rode held a fete with competitions; Jenny loved entering these and encouraged Sue and Helen to take part. Rode also had a carnival and for several years she put together a float on a farm trailer.

Once a month there was a baby clinic in Rode village hall and Jenny helped Nora Sparey and Jan Fleigel run this for many years, weighing babies and listening to the new mothers' problems. Their combined experience was a Godsend for many of the young mothers.

Another monthly event that she loved was Rode W.I., she was Secretary and Social Secretary for many years.

Jenny was one of the women in the village who would always volunteer to help, they never needed to be asked. Rode has lost many of these ladies in the past few years.

While the children were still at Rode school she was persuaded to do cookery classes for the children at the school.

Parish Friends & Family Notices

When Jenny found that she had a bit more time for herself she got a job at Woolverton House Hotel, welcoming guests and general duties. But she really enjoyed being involved in weddings at the hotel, throwing herself into flower arranging, setting up tables and generally overseeing everything.

She loved her flower garden and could often be found out there 'just doing a bit of deadheading, pruning or planting'. Many of these flowers and shrubs were used in flower arrangements for Tellisford church, family occasions or just in the house.

She was always keen to help out in the village and for many years organised the delivery of the parish magazine 'The Link'. She only gave up delivering her 'area' about 2 1/2 years ago.

In 1995 at the age of 65 Jenny had open heart surgery for a hereditary condition. She recovered well from her heart op and Jenny, true to form, was for many years a committed volunteer fundraiser for the British Heart Foundation organising fundraising events and standing outside supermarkets with her collection box.

Soon after this William and Jenny retired from the farm and moved to Rode. She absolutely loved being there, she had great neighbours, a large garden and could walk to the post office, shop and village hall.

Jenny has always had great affection for Tellisford church; her parents had been married there in 1926, she had been christened there and all her children had been christened there. Both she and William attended the Sunday Service when it was held there and she was also part of the monthly flower arranging rota. William bought a flower arranging pedestal for her to use, which has now been donated to the church.



Parish Friends & Family Notices

BILL FERNIE

thank you

Rose and the Fernie family would like to thank everybody for all the letters of condolence following Bill's death in December - your messages have been very much appreciated.

Rose and Bill had been married for 63 years; well over half of those years were spent living at Manor Farm in Tellisford, then latterly in Rode, and over the years Bill was involved in many aspects of local Parish and community life.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Monday 6th March at 11am at St. Lawrence Church, Rode.



Dear families

Thank you so much for my leaving presents and kind wishes from you all.

Tots and Toys gave me a Candle bridge which shone out brightly from my sitting room window during Christmas and a card full of kind thoughts. Thank you Aria and Luna for my special Christmas Angel.

I actually finished working in the parish with the Christingle Service at St. Philip and St. James church in Norton St. Philip and again was so touched by the gifts. I received a rose and beautiful pot to plant it in and £250 in cash, so generous of everyone.

It has been a wonderful five years for me working with you all and I shall miss you all but I know I can pop back at any time.

God Bless

Sue Rodford

A REMINDER

The Link is here if you would like to remember the life of a family member or friend or to celebrate and mark other events such as births, birthdays, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and more. There is no charge for this...

Forthcoming Parish Events

2ND FEBRUARY

NSP LUNCHTIME CONCERTS FEBRUARY TO JULY 2023

The programme for the first half of 2023 has now been confirmed. As you will see it offers a wide range of musical styles to suit all tastes alongside presenting some outstanding musicians. All of the concerts have been scheduled for the first Thursday of the month and will start at 1pm. Tickets are £5 and are available on the door.

The aim for 2023 is to increase the audience numbers for these concerts so please do spread the word to your friends and colleagues. I look forward to welcoming you to these wonderful events.

Nick Sorensen

2nd February Concert: D G Solaris

DG Solaris is the project of musician Danny Green. He was raised in the wilds of West Yorkshire and began writing songs at 13.

He moved to Rode in late 2021, where he lives with his wife and two young sons.

Between 2008-2018, he released music under the name Laish, delivering four albums of wry, eccentric guitar pop. In 2020, he released his first as DG Solaris, with a more psychedelic sound called, 'Spirit Glow'. 2021 saw a host of new singles released and a new Youtube series of intimate live recordings and collaborations with musical friends called, 'Songs from the Blue Room'.

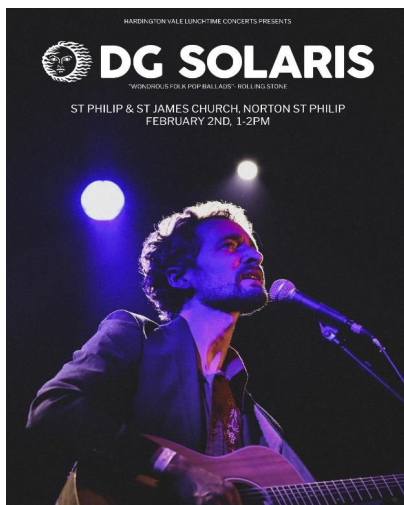
As a performer, Danny is a rakish front man, making the audience laugh in one song, reducing them to bittersweet tears the next.

Rolling Stone: *'Wondrous folk pop ballads'*

The Line Of Best Fit: *'Green's infectiously charismatic delivery make it a wholly uplifting experience.'*

MOJO: *'Beguiling songs of love'*

For Folks Sake: *'There is a vitality to the songs that is characteristic of Green's songwriting which makes them unpredictable and alive.'*



Forthcoming Parish Events

Future NSP Lunchtime Concerts Details and Dates For Your Diary:

2nd March: The Corsley Ensemble A piano trio performing music from the classical and romantic repertoire.

6th April: Young Waters Theo Passingham (guitar) and Kerry Ann Jangle (vocals and percussion). Haunting harmonies, toe-tapping rhythm and twisted folk from the winners of the Bath Folk Festival New Shoots Competition in 2016. Since then they have gone from strength to strength: “Energetic, original ... excellent stage presence and varied, enchanting material.”

4th May: Iain Ballamy (saxophone) and Rebecca Nash (piano) The internationally acclaimed ECM recording artist Iain Ballamy has been described variously as urbane, original, melodic, freethinking and uncompromising. He is joined for this concert by pianist Rebecca Nash who has established herself as one of the brightest and boldest jazz talents in the UK. This concert will provide a unique opportunity to see two of the best contemporary jazz musicians in an intimate setting.

1st June: Band of Pilgrims A return gig by popular request of the amazing Band of Pilgrims: “more or less an acoustic band that have been together for several years now and have played in churches, pubs and cathedrals”. Their repertoire includes old blues numbers and gospel tunes alongside original songs.

6th July: Poetry and Music with Josephine Corcoran and guests Josephine Corcoran is a writer, originally from the northwest of England and now based in west Wiltshire. Her professional credits include two poetry collections, radio plays and stories have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4. She will read from her new poetry pamphlet *Love and Stones*. Nick Sorensen and guests will be providing musical interludes between the poems.

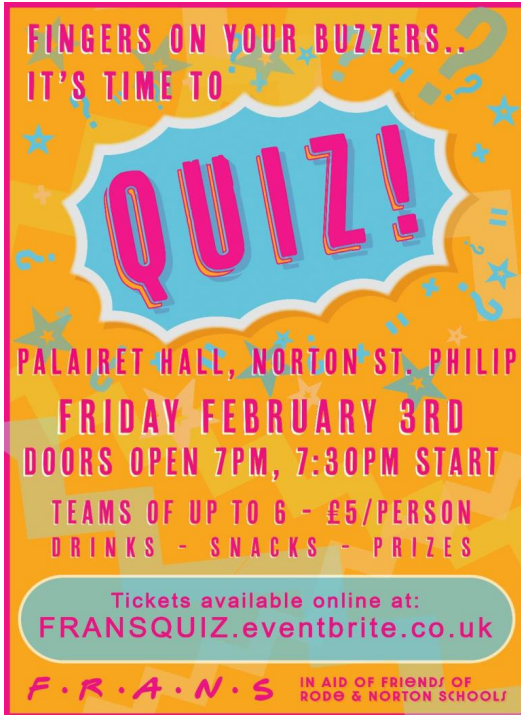


Forthcoming Parish Events

3RD FEBRUARY & 12TH MARCH FRANS EVENTS UPDATE

FRANS will be hosting a couple of events over the next few weeks.

First up is our fun Friday quiz night on February 3rd.



**FINGERS ON YOUR BUZZERS..
IT'S TIME TO**

QUIZ!

PALAIRET HALL, NORTON ST. PHILIP
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3RD
DOORS OPEN 7PM, 7:30PM START
TEAMS OF UP TO 6 - £5/PERSON
DRINKS - SNACKS - PRIZES

Tickets available online at:
[FRANSQUIZ.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

F.R.A.N.S IN AID OF FRIENDS OF
RODE & NORTON SCHOOLS

It's time to get your fingers poised and grey matter polished in the first FRANS quiz of the year.

Who will come out victorious and take home the grand prize? Teams of up to 6, £5 per person and a fully stocked bar, what better way to start a weekend?

We are holding this event in PalaiRET Hall, Norton St. Philip and welcome all.

Doors will open at 7pm with the quiz starting at 7:30pm. Tickets can be found at: [FRANSQUIZ.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Following this we have the FRANS COLOUR RUN on Sunday March 12th.

This is a family friendly fun run with the added bonus of colour to brighten the day as we welcome spring.

More details will be coming out over the next couple of weeks so keep your eyes open for the posters around the village.

We hope to see many of you at these events which are raising money for the village school enabling the children of Rode and Norton St Philip to have the best equipment and experiences as possible.

FRANS Team



Forthcoming Parish Events

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

7.30 pm Memorial Hall

In 2012, having been lost for over 500 years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a carpark in Leicester. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian, Philippa Langley (Sally Hawkins), whose unrelenting research had been met with incomprehension by her friends and family and with scepticism by experts and academics. This is the life-affirming story of the woman who, helped by the King's apparition, took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

"Hawkins breathes tremulously vulnerable life into a character who overcomes apparently insurmountable obstacles to prove to the world that she deserves to be taken seriously – the true heart of the piece. Whatever its inconsistencies, The Lost King is an underdog story that proves a perfect vehicle for Hawkins's reliably winning screen presence." The Guardian

Tickets: £ 6.00 in advance from Rode Post Office - £ 6.50 on the door

• Doors open 7pm • Licensed Bar • Raffle •

•7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall •
 • Doors open 7pm • Raffle • Licensed Bar •
 Tickets £6.00 at the Post Office • £6.50 on the door

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday
February 18th

We will be holding a special Village Hall quiz fundraiser at **Rode Memorial Hall in the evening.**

The evening is guaranteed to raise your spirits and dispel the Jan/Feb blues!

Multiple Choice
Prizes Galore
Stunning Raffle
Bar

More details to follow.

Lindsey McLennan

Forget-me-not Café

When? - 20th February 2.30 -4pm
(THIRD Monday of every month)

Where? - St Philip and St James Church, NSP

Come and enjoy a cuppa and friendly people to chat with. Some of us may have memory challenges but we have a great café team who are all Dementia Friends!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contact Jo for more information
 321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381

Forthcoming Parish Events

MARCH 4TH

SOS: ABBA TRIBUTE BAND GIG!

Yes, a fantastic night of Abba-tastic tunes, fun and frolics is coming to the Village Hall on March 4th.

SOS are a fantastic tribute band headed by our very own Richard Churchyard (better known as Toad) and they have kindly agreed to fit us into their busy touring schedule.

Fans of the Swedish superstars of all ages are welcome to strut their stuff from 7.30pm, and there will be a bar to ensure you can refuel after demonstrating your best moves on the dance floor. 70's and ABBA inspired dress is strongly encouraged.

Tickets are available via the link on the Rode Pantomime Group Facebook page, or from Rode P.O. or from Raves from the Grave in Frome.

Early bird and group tickets are available at £10 a head, but after that the ticket price will be £12.

The money raised will go to helping us to fund the next Panto production scheduled for October and the money raised from that will be going to village organisations and local charities.

Time for me to find my sequins!

Gary Holloway



*HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE LOCAL GROUPS ACTIVITIES TOO?
THERE ARE SOME DETAILS IN THE MAGAZINE AND IN THE BACK PAGE
DIARY... WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE AND HELP PROMOTE MORE ...
JUST SEND IN THE DETAILS...*

Forthcoming Parish Events

MARCH 25TH

WHO KILLED THE CARETAKER...?

Saturday March 25th 2023
at 7.30pm, Rode Memorial
Hall.

For one night only we ask the residents of Rode to be the super sleuths of the Southwest and work out who killed the Caretaker. Yes, we are back again in March with another murder mystery play. This is our follow on from our successful one night only 'Who Killed The Holiday Rep?', staged in February 2022.

You can guarantee that there'll be many familiar faces amongst the cast and we do require some audience participation to work out 'Who Killed The Caretaker?'.

This is a family event and everyone can join in the fun.

Tickets are available from Rode P.O. and come at the very reasonable price of:

£10 per adult including a glass of wine and cheese and biscuits
£5 per child including a soft drink and cheese and biscuits.

Profits from this year's Murder Mystery play will be going to The Heart Of Rode (see our News from St Lawrence on page 5 with details of our new fundraising project).

Please come and support us.

Sally Pickett

Who Killed the Caretaker...?

A return of the Murder Mystery Evening:

Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30pm

in the Memorial Hall



Tickets available from the Post Office:

£10 per adult including a glass of wine and cheese and biscuits

£5 per child including a soft drink and cheese and biscuits

Profits to The Heart of Rode

Parish Food & Drink



Farleigh Road FARM SHOP & CAFÉ



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You don't have to eat meat every day, but when you do, make sure you know where it comes from..



Introducing Kieran & Cath

We couldn't be luckier to have 2 amazing butchers! They are on hand every day to help you 'meat' your carnivorous needs!

Pop in today and see what's they have!



Have you tried our cafe yet?

We serve a great selection of Winter Warmers! Perfect for this time of year.

Sunday Roast that are unrivaled!

We know, we know... everyone claims to do the best roast, but trust us, we do!

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Cafe Opening Times

Breakfast: 9:00-11.30

Lunch 12:00-3.30

Afternoon Tea Served Until 4:00

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Parish Food & Drink



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Tuesday	9.00-17.30
Wednesday	9.00-13.00
Thursday	9.00-17.30
Friday	9.00-17.30
Saturday	9.00-13.00

THE VILLAGE



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WHOLESALE BAKERY

Rode, Somerset

www.thevillagebakingco.co.uk

info@thevillagebakingco.co.uk

07486 059985

Do you have a favourite recipe that you'd like to share with our readers?

If you do, please send it in... you'll receive a bottle of Fussels' Rape Seed Oil courtesy of Fussels' Fine Foods for your trouble!

If you have a photograph of the finished dish, please do forward a copy of that too.

E: gillhllleonard@aol.com



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“The Link”?**



It's a really economic advertising option and a great way of reaching the residents of Hardington Vale.

**For more information on costs and options please call Gill on
01373 831072
or email gillhleonard@aol.com**

Noticeboard



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Friends of St George

**VALENTINE'S
TEA**



Saturday 11th February
Beckington Memorial Hall
3:00pm – 5:00pm
With Music from Wayne Kelly

Tickets: £10

*For tickets and details please contact either
Jenny Ayrton 830208 or Jo Casey 830885*

Noticeboard

SUFFERING FROM THE RURAL COST OF LIVING?

MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN IN OUR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY



Research commissioned by the RSN last year shows rural areas are suffering more acutely from the rise in the cost of living compared to urban areas. The purpose of the survey is to understand more about rural household budgets at, what is, a very difficult time for many. The survey is being held in partnership with the Citizens Advice Rural Issues Group.

To complete the survey visit: rsnonline.org.uk/suffering-from-the-rural-cost-of-living-make-your-thoughts-known-in-household-survey

Results from the survey will help us to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers.

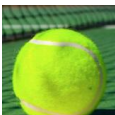
BRADFORD ON AVON FLOWER CLUB

Happy New Year from Bradford on Avon Flower Club! The first demonstration of the year is on **Thursday 2nd February**, which will be led by Club Members, it promises to be a great start to the year. As usual the demonstration/activities will be held at Holt Village Hall at 7.30pm, there'll be refreshments available on the evening and a raffle for the flowers. Visitors are very welcome, price £7.50.

The following week will be the Club's Practice session on Thursday 9th February, 7.30pm in the Holt Village Hall, if you wish to attend please contact our Club Chair, Sharon, on the number below, for more details.

Hi-Fi Not Working? Record Player Skipping? Can No Longer Play Your Cassettes?

Contact Martin in Laverton who has been repairing audio equipment and Hi-Fi full time for over 40 years
Free local collection and a free estimate
Martin Moss 07831 836615
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I also buy old and unwanted Hi-Fi etc



BECKINGTON TENNIS - BEGINNERS/IMPROVERS TENNIS
TUESDAY'S 6PM STARTING 7TH MARCH, TO JOIN VISIT:
clubspark.lta.org.uk/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/BookCourse/af0d73ea-0874-4519-9d20-fc140ee3c21e

Untold Tales

Another of Anthony Battersby's occasional articles about his over 30 years working on the operational development of child immunisation programmes in remote and difficult parts of the world...

FISHING AFGHAN STYLE

In 1990 I went to Afghanistan to help organise a cross border immunisation programme that was to help children avoid catching diseases like diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, measles and TB.

Afghanistan was at war at the time and I had to have a party of fighters to protect me.

We crossed the border from Pakistan in the very early morning before it was light.

I had to be hidden under a burqa, that is the costume that women wear and which completely hides your appearance (see photograph on the right, mine was also blue).

Once we were across the border I could take it off, which was a relief because they are really hot and stuffy.

The only way to see out is through a sort of screen which goes over your eyes. Afghan women have to wear these things all the time. This is what they look like – see photograph on the right, mine was also blue.

We travelled for 13 hours until we reached somewhere safe to stop for the night. It was near a lake and had natural hot springs.

I cannot tell you how lovely it was to get into that hot water and wash off the dust and dirt of the journey. I had been sitting in the back of a Land Cruiser sitting sideways with all the windows covered and closed. I was exhausted and very very hot.



Untold Tales

After a couple of days we reached a place called Chak. This used to have a hydro electric plant which had been installed by the Germans before World War II.

My Afghan guards said, "When we get to Chak we will be able to have fresh trout". I was very surprised because the land there is very dry and dusty and the streams are very small.

Nonetheless when we found the old hydro station, which had long since stopped working, there was a big pool of beautiful cool green water with lots of fish swimming in it.



Chak and the castle if the 40 virgins

"How do you catch them?" I said. "Do you use a fly or a worm?" They laughed, "Neither" they said, "We use gun-cotton." I did not think this was very sporting, but there were about 20 of us to feed including our hosts and they seemed to have a plan.

The plan involved taking a large block of gun-cotton which had a hole in the middle of and stuffing the hole with a detonator that could be fired by electricity.

Once the detonator was stuffed into the hole they connected it to a long wire and chucked the gun-cotton into the water; there was a big splash and it sank to the bottom.



Here they are making a hole in the gun cotton

Untold Tales

They then connected the wire to a battery, bingo, nothing happened, no bang, no dead fish, no supper. So the gun-cotton was pulled out of the water and the detonator was examined and every one around and there were about 30 gave an opinion about why it had failed. After a bit they removed the detonator and began hitting it with a rock.

This is a very very bad idea and I removed myself from the vicinity in case the detonator exploded, but it did not and so was reconnected and again chucked in to the water, again nothing happened.

Then they thought maybe the battery is flat, it was a big battery out of a truck so this seemed to me unlikely. But they were keen to try something else. How about we hook the wires up to a bicycle dynamo? A small boy on a bike with a dynamo came cycling by and was immediately stopped and the wires connected to his dynamo. The boy had a Chinese bike stand that allows the back wheel to lift completely off the ground; my old bike had such a stand. The bike was put on its stand and the gun-cotton we again chucked into the water. The boy got on his bike a peddled like crazy, but no bang no nothing and so after more detailed discussion they decided that the gun-cotton technique was not going to work.



With all my guards (Mujahideen)

The only other idea was to shoot the fish with their AK47s. The pool was about 20m wide and surrounded by concrete walls about 4m high. All my guards stood on top of the wall and blazed away into the water below. This made a great deal of noise and churned up the water but did not result in any fish being killed.

So I never did get any fresh trout. Supper was the usual tough goat stew.

Anthony Battersby

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 pm

CONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon – Chair (MS), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), and Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM).

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 5 parishioners.

1. Public Participation: There were problems with the playing field pavilion and a company had come to inspect the subsidence and quoted a cost of £12 - 15k to repair it; a builder had turned down the job and a further company had quoted £12k+ to repair the subsidence but warned that the repair could upset the balance and result in further work. However, a builder had been found who could do temporary repairs for £3 -4k but these would probably only last for between 3 and 5 years. As a result of this a long-term solution was to be investigated with the playing field, memorial hall and scouts to look for a single hall solution to replace the current pavilion/Memorial Hall/Scouts hut. The Playing Field Committee had approved this; the Memorial Hall had agreed that a single hall in the right place was the way forward. The Scouts had met and also voted in favour of a joint project. The Parish Council were asked for their permission to explore this possibility and to also put someone forward to be on this group. It was agreed that any new building would need to be sustainable (unlike the current buildings) and therefore JM agreed to join the group to also bring his environmental knowledge to the group.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr J Bowler, Cllr A Pickett, Cllr A Boyden (County Councillor) and Cllr D Denton (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Presentation on Speed Watch: Ashley Reay (AR) and Rex Eastment were welcomed to the meeting. AR, the Mendip Co-ordinator for Speedwatch, said that Rode had been one of the founder members of Speedwatch and continued to supply good data. Currently Rode used SIDs to gather data on traffic and speeds and the police do not accept data unless there is a community Speedwatch in that area. New equipment is now becoming available – AutoSpeedWatch which captures numberplates and speeds of vehicles and is able to spot repeat offenders without anyone being present at the roadside. This enables repeat speeding offenders to be caught and can result in the police writing or visiting offenders. Somerset police have now agreed to the use of AutoSpeedWatch. A trial is currently in operation to evaluate AutoSpeedWatch and this will continue until around September 2023. This equipment is solar

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

powered and therefore only works in daylight but as it is permanently located in a single place it can gather continuous data of speeding vehicles (limit for speeding set by equipment and does not gather any information on vehicles within the set speed limit) for that location. The cost of the equipment is around £550, with extra solar boost panel at £95 and ongoing cost of about £150/year (first year free). A permanent location post has to be agreed by Somerset Highways prior to installation. Additionally, a Code of Conduct for the use of and use of data from the AutoSpeedWatch has to be agreed.

The meeting considered the benefit to Rode with two locations being identified – Rode Hill and Bradford Road. It was agreed to purchase an initial AutoSpeedWatch device for Rode. Cllr Bowler would be asked to take this forward with Malcolm Wood (Rode Speedwatch Co-ordinator).

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported Mendip car parks would be free from 17 December up to Christmas. Somerset Waste Partnership had circulated collection dates for the Christmas period. It was also noted that Mendip Council was winding down its business and had cancelled a number of meetings due to lack of business.

7. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Denton had sent in a report which highlighted the following information: Somerset was on course to overspend by £22.5million this year; a unified council tax scheme was to come into force for next year to help those on low income/pay; Somerset was looking for landlords to take in Ukrainian refugees and a business survey to discover current business challenges was being conducted.

8. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** Cllr Lund said that she still had not heard from Bo Walsh and she agreed to write to David James on this issue copying in Bo Walsh. The meeting thanked her taking this action.
- ii. Slip road onto A36:** Cllr Denton had received the stills and was to progress with Sara Davis on how SCC could support an approach to National Highways.
- iii. Ultrafast broadband:** Limited information was available although Gigaclear had indicated it would start work in Rode in mid-January.
- iv. Footpaths to Church Farm:** The Clerk was still to progress.

9. Climate Change Group: The rewinding of the area by the Memorial Hall was held over to the January meeting.

10. Highways:

- i. Drainage:** JM had tried to find a start date for the work but still awaited a response. [Note: following the meeting JM has been informed work will start on 24 February, after the Beckington work.]
- ii. Street Lighting:** The process for turning street lights off overnight had been circulated and lights could be turned off from midnight (or other agreed time) until dusk at a cost to the Parish Council. Certain lights at junctions would have to be kept on. Consultation with parishioners and the police would need to

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

be carried out prior to any action by Somerset. The meeting agreed that this should start and the Clerk was requested to get a map of all lights in Rode.

11. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/2303/TCA: Magnolia tree remove rotten branch and reduce crown by 1.5m – 9 High Street. No objections

ii. Mendip decisions:

2022/1846/TCA: Fell birch tree – 1 Hughes Court, High Street. Approved

2022/2921/HSE: Conversion of existing garage to form extension – 69A High Street. Approved

iii. Other:

2021/0071/OTS: Appeal ref: 3292838: Development of Barbara's Field off Church Lane to build up to 49 dwellings. It was reported that PT, JM and Cllr Lund had had a useful call with Nikki White at Mendip regarding the appeal and had managed to get an extension to 12th January for comments. A recommendation had been made for Rode PC to contact Context Planning for their help in fighting the development.

JM had made contact with Context Planning and a quote for their work had been received and accepted (by email) by the PC. Context had visited the site to help gain an understanding for their work. It had become clear that the planned access road had to use some of Brown's Ground which was a designated Local Green Space which is equivalent to the Green Belt with regard to planning. It was also seen that there would be some visual impact from the proposed development. Context had agreed to produce a statement for the PC for submission to the Inspectorate. It was agreed to have another call with Nikki White before the next PC meeting at which the Context statement would be agreed prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate. The Hearing date had been set for 24th January.

12. Playing Field Constitution: Discussions on the invoice were held over to the January meeting.

13. Buses: PT reported that the bus company had agreed to adjust the timetable for the D2 to take into account the extra time buses required to come through Rode. A new timetable would start on 22nd January. This would require the printing of a new timetable and the meeting agreed to fund this. No gritting had taken place through Beckington and Rode and currently buses were unable to go through Beckington due to an icy hill. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Boyden on the lack of gritting of the bus route for him to take forward to the appropriate authorities.

The meeting agreed to sign a letter to the Transport Minister to request an extension to the Bus Recovery Grant.

14. Website: An invoice for the start of the work had been raised and once this was paid work on the new site would commence.

15. Financial matters:

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

i) Annual Donations: The following donations were agreed to be paid in January:

Hardington Vale £650, The Chapel £350, Mendip Community Transport £150, Citizens Advice Mendip £100 and Tim Lynch (Christmas lights electricity £50)

ii) Precept: The Clerk had received the form for completion; there was some discussion whether a further increase should be requested with Somerset cutting service due to financial problems. It was agreed to keep the increase to that agreed last month but to seriously consider the 2024 figure in early autumn 2023.

ii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Contribution to buss fighting fund	£250.00
Zonkey Solutions (new website)	£1,197.00
Clerk Salary (Including back pay)	£388.05
HMRC PAYE	£95.00

16. Any other business: The grit bin at the foot of Church Lane had become depleted following the snow and it was agreed to ask James Osborne if he could get extra grit to fill it.

17. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at Memorial Hall on:

Tuesday 10th January at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon – Chair (MS), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP) and Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB)

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 2 parishioners.

1. Public Participation: Concerns were expressed over the drains along Crooked Lane which were blocked, this was resulting in water creating potholes in the road. The Clerk was asked to report this to County Roads.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr A Boyden (County Councillor) and Cllr D Denton (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th December were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported Mendip was winding down its operations before it ceased to exist from 1st April. Many meetings had not taken place.

6. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Denton had sent a report indicating Somerset had an overspend of over £23million for the year. There was good news that the £2 flat rate bus fare had now started on all local buses.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

i. **Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** Cllr Lund apologised for not sending a letter to Mr James but she would do so.

ii. **Slip road onto A36:** Cllr Denton had reported that SCC would nudge National Highways on this issue.

iii. **Ultrafast broadband:** No further updates had been received.

iv. **Footpaths to and from Church Farm:** The recent rains had highlighted the poor quality of the ‘rural’ path connecting the estate with the village. Autograph Homes were keen to hand over the running of the estate, which included this path, to a Church Farm management company. However, the current path would require costly improvements to make it suitable for all weathers and any management company would be reluctant to take this on. JM pointed out there was a travel plan as part of the agreement to build Church Farm and he had been trying to find out if the Council had approved this yet. It was agreed JM and Cllr Lund would discuss this further and try and progress with Mendip. The PC had not been party to the S106 agreement and therefore had difficulty in resolving this issue. There was a suggestion that the PC could become an agent on behalf of Mendip and consider starting arbitration proceedings on this issue.

It was agreed that JM would report back in a couple of weeks to see if any progress had been made with Mendip before any further action is taken.

The condition of this path through the playing field land was also in very poor condition but it was agreed to take no action until the main part of the path was sorted. The use of bark chippings might be considered to improve this section.

8. Climate Change Group: AP had tried to make contact with Adam Woods regarding the rewilding of the area by the Memorial Hall but not had any response. Cllr Lund was seeing him this week and would try and chase him up.

9. Highways:

i. **Speedwatch:** JB had tried to contact Malcolm Wood and agreed to try again to progress.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

ii. The Sportsman: Somerset Council had sent an email saying the site would be adopted in the Spring. However, concern was expressed that the issue of drainage on Clay Lane which was thought to be covered by the S106 agreement for this development had not been carried out. This was an old agreement probably around 2007 and the PC did not have a copy of the S106. Cllr Lund agreed to see if she could find the relevant documents from Mendip.

iii. Street Lighting: Following the last meeting it had been determined that Rode had 70 street lights, of these around 16 were at road junctions and would probably have to be left on after midnight. There were ecological reasons for improving darkness and also climate reasons for reducing energy use and therefore consideration for turning off some street lights was favoured. It was agreed the village would initially be consulted over turning off 30 street lights and if supported and successfully carried out the remaining 20 could be considered for turning off. This would also reduce the initial costs to the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to draw up a list of lights proposed for turning off.

10. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/2374/FUL: Erection of 3 dwellings and associated access – The Bell Inn, 13 Frome Road. The meeting agreed this should be objected to on the same grounds as the previous proposal to build 4 dwellings (2021/2297). The refusal would be amended to reflect the Inspector's ruling regarding the Mendip housing plan.

ii. Mendip decisions:

None

iii. Other:

2021/0071/OTS: Appeal ref: 3292838: Development of Barbara's Field off Church Lane – erection of 49 dwellings and associated access. The case prepared by Context Planning objecting to the proposal to develop this site had been circulated prior to the meeting and was endorsed by the meeting as a very good document. This would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as the Parish Council's objection to the planning application. JM was thanked for organising this and liaising with Context. The meeting agreed that Context had done a very good job and agreed they should also attend the Hearing (24th January) to help put the PC case. The funding of Context at the Hearing was agreed.

Discussion was held over a possible S106 agreement should the appeal go in favour of the developer. It was agreed that the PC must this time be involved in any S106 agreement to ensure the possible 'donation' of Brown's Ground did not become a financial burden to the PC and that certain work was carried out on this land by the developer as part of any S106.

2021/2297/FUL: Appeal ref: 3305951: Erection of four dwellings and creation of access – The Bell Inn, 13 Frome Road. The developer had appealed to Mendip as no decision on the planning application had been made within the set timeframe. It was agreed to resubmit the PC objection to the original

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

proposal to the Planning Inspectorate with amendments made to the 5-year housing supply.

11. Playing Field Constitution: AP had spoken briefly to Steve Eyles regarding the invoice and he agreed to follow this up.

12. Buses: PT reported that the new timetables should start on 22 January with most times of buses changing to reflect the requirement for time to be allowed on the D2 route for it to come through Rode. It was noted that apart from Saturdays there were no evening buses back from Frome to Rode.

The PC had sent a letter to the Minister for Roads, Buses and Places to request an extension to the Bus Recovery Grant. PT said that he was more hopeful that an extension to this grant could be made.

13. Website: Zonkey had acknowledged receipt of the initial payment and were working on the new website. It was agreed that the village sign should be the Rode logo and it was possible art work already existed for this.

14. Councillor Resignation: The meeting noted the resignation of Elaine Butler from the Parish Council due to family reasons. It was agreed the Clerk would let Mendip know and to advertise the vacancy on the noticeboard and put an article in The Link. The vacancy would also be put onto the village Facebook site.

15. Financial matters:

Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Hardington Vale	£650.00
Rode Chapel	£350.00
Mendip Community Transport	£150.00
Citizens Advice Mendip	£100.00
Tim Lynch (electricity for lights)	£50.00
Clerk Salary	£241.85
HMRC PAYE	£60.40

16. Any other business: A concern had been expressed that the tree on PC land on Halfpenny Lane was interfering with overhead cables. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate, although it was thought the survey last year had not identified any problems, and if necessary, get a quote for work.

17. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at Memorial Hall on:

Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council

...and finally

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Did you recognise the view in last month's photograph?

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Sudoku

5		9	1			3	4	
			4			1	6	8
				6				
		1			3	6	8	
	2			8			3	
	3	4	6			7		
				3				
6	8	5			4			
	4	2			1	9		6

Last Month's Sudoku

7	5	6	4	3	8	9	2	1
2	1	3	9	6	7	8	4	5
8	9	4	5	1	2	6	3	7
6	7	1	2	4	3	5	9	8
4	8	5	7	9	6	2	1	3
3	2	9	8	5	1	4	7	6
1	4	8	3	2	5	7	6	9
5	3	2	6	7	9	1	8	4
9	6	7	1	8	4	3	5	2

POEM OF THE MONTH

The season's anguish, crashing whirlwind, ice,
 Have passed, and cleansed the trodden paths,
 That silent gardeners have strewn with ash.
 The iron circles of the sky,
 Are worn away by tempest;
 Yet in this garden there is no more strife:
 The Winter's knife is buried in the earth.
 Pure music is the cry that tears
 The birdless branches in the wind.
 No blossom is reborn. The blue
 Stare of the pond is blind.
 And no one sees
 A restless stranger through the morning stray
 Across the sodden lawn, whose eyes
 Are tired of weeping, in whose breast
 A savage sun consumes its hidden day.
David Gascoyne, 'Winter Garden'





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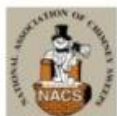
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HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2023

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Wednesday 1 February	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 2 February	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 5 February	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion Laverton , Holy Communion Rode , Chapel, Meeting Place	B Day M Harrison/C Walker J Robinson
Monday 6 February	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 7 February	9.45 am 5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 8 February	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 9 February	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 12 February	9.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Tellisford , Matins Rode St Lawrence , Informal Breakfast Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins	B Day J Robinson/S Kivett
Monday 13 February	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 14 February	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 15 February	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 16 February	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 19 February	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Laverton , Matins	J Robinson J Robinson R Stewart/C Walker
Monday 20 February	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 21 February	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday	8.30 am 5.00 pm 7.30 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Norton St Philip , Holy Communion & ashing	J Robinson/C Walker
Thursday 23 February	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 26 February Lent	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion Rode St Lawrence , Informal Worship Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins	C Walker/B Day J Robinson/N Jacobs C Walker/B Day
Monday 27 February	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 28 February	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	

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Sunday 05.02.23 (10.30) Rev Tina Swire (Covenant Service)
 (18.00) The Meeting Place (Ecumenical Music led Worship)
 Sunday 12.02.23 (10.30) Rev Ian Souter (Holy Communion)
 Sunday 19.02.23 (10.30) Mr. David Parker
 Sunday 25.02.23 (10.30) Mrs. Jean Fraser

FEBRUARY 2023 DIARY

Thu 2 Feb	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 31 for details 7 for 7.30pm FRANS Quiz see page 33 for details
Mon 6 Feb	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club see page 26 for details
Tue 7 Feb	7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 53 for details
Fri 10 Feb	2.30pm Rode Over 60s see page 27 for details
Mon 13 Feb	7.30pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 25 for details
Tue 14 Feb	Shrove Tuesday 10am Rode Walking Group see page 25 for details
Wed 14 Feb	Valentine's Day
Fri 17 Feb	11.15 – 11.45am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode 7 for 7.30pm Rode Roxy see page 34 for details
Sat 18 Feb	Memorial Hall Quiz Night see page 34 for details
Mon 20 Feb	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 34 for details
Tue 21 Feb	MARCH LINK COPY DEADLINE
Tue 28 Feb	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see pages 10 & 14 for details

YEAR PLANNER

Thu 2 Mar	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 32 for details
Sat 4 Mar	7.30pm SOS Abba Tribute Band see page 35 for details
Mon 6 Mar	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club see page 26 for details
Sun 12 Mar	FRANS Colour Run see page 33 for details
Sat 25 Mar	7.30pm Murder Mystery see page 36 for details
Thu 6 April	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 32 for details
Fri 7 April	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday
Sun 9 April	Easter Sunday
Mon 10 April	BANK HOLIDAY – Easter Monday
Mon 1 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Early May Bank Holiday
Mon 8 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Coronation of Kings Charles !!
Mon 29 May	BANK HOLIDAY - Spring Bank Holiday
Mon 28 Aug	BANK HOLIDAY – Summer Bank Holiday



Feb 2023

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	REFUSE	RECYCLING	GARDEN		

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- 🔥 2 loads (2 Cubic meters) £200
- 🔥 Dumpy Bag of Oak Sawmill offcuts £140
- 🔥 Bagged logs (Approx 12 logs per bag) £6
- 🔥 kindling £6
- 🔥 Natural Firelighters (40 in a box) £6



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01373 830571

**Please send copy for the March 2023 issue of 'The Link'
via email to gillhleonard@aol.com latest Tuesday 21st February 2023**

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