

The Link

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



MAY 2023

Parish Coronation Events

A Solar Farm Locally?

Rode Housing Development Appeal Decision

St Lawrence Roof Appeal Latest

and much more local news and details inside...

£1

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¹ Deanery Synod Representatives
² Safeguarding Officer
³ Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh Hungerford,
Rode and Tellisford.
⁴ with specific responsibility for Hemington
churchyard

CHILDRENS' AND FAMILIES WORKER

Vacant

HARDINGTON VALE WEBSITE

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

Hemington and Hardington

are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust
Keyholder Peter Simper 01373 834315

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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
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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

Here we are already in the month of May 2023, and a very different May it is this year with a Coronation and no less than three Bank Holidays!

Much has happened in the last year, the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 in June 2022, her death and the end of her 70 year reign in September 2022 and now this month the Coronation of her son King Charles 111.

A Coronation is a historic event. His Majesty will be crowned on the 5th May 2023. May he rule well and live long. God save the King.

Listen out for the bells of St Lawrence Church as they “Ring for the King”.



In this issue we have details of three events in the parish to celebrate and mark King Charles 111 Coronation, they are:
5th May FRANS Party in the Park – see pages 29 & 42
6th May The Mill at Rode Coronation Day Extravaganza – see pages 13 & 43
7th May Coronation Breakfast Church – see page 42

I am sure much else will be going on in the parish too!

As ever we welcome contributions for the content of the magazine, we rely on them – your photos and stories from the Coronation Weekend would be great!

If you have something you feel would be of interest in a future issue do please get in touch:
E: gillhleonard@aol.com T: 01373 831072.



Photograph courtesy of
Rode Craft Group

Whilst writing I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all who have taken a subscription to The Link for 2023/2024, your support is greatly appreciated... and it is still not too late to organise a subscription if you have not got round to it (and you would still make a saving on the year!). Just pop in to Rode Post Office for a subscription envelope. Do remember to return the completed envelope to the P.O. to ensure delivery of your future magazines.

Here's hoping the weather is kind on all three of our May Bank Holiday Weekends, particularly the Coronation Weekend and the day of the Coronation. Enjoy and Celebrate!!

Gill Leonard
Editor

Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION

“Count your blessings” - When a child and grumpy about something, my parents might say “Count your blessings!” It sounded rather like a rebuke, the close relative of “pull yourself together”. Maybe as a result, the whole idea of “counting blessings” wasn’t something I’ve ever properly unpacked/ understood – the phrase remains like a single word, a rebuke when applied to me.

The other day we took one of our grandchildren for a special outing to an animal farm near Chew Magna. We followed our satnav (never wise!) which, near our destination, told us to turn left into a road which was actually signed as not suitable for motor vehicles (but I didn’t notice this at the time!). The road was very narrow, with no room for turning, and wound down a steep hill. At the bottom of the hill a ford presented itself which we had little option but to cross... and we have had quite a bit of rain recently! The stream was very swollen and as we crossed it, the bottom of our car became partially disconnected. We continued to our destination dragging something noisily with us. Even more noisy in our heads was the fear our day was now going to be dominated by worries about getting the car repaired, spoiling special time with our grandson.

As we drove into the animal farm two of the farm workers turned and looked at the noisy car approaching them. As soon as we stopped they came up to point out the problems they could see. However, they were not just head-shaking, teeth-sucking observers – they then immediately offered help. They were able to jack the car up, they disconnected the offending item, and secured the rest of the car. We did not have to ask for help, it was freely offered to us, and they asked for no recompense.

We had a lovely day with our grandson and he enjoyed the whole thing – the action of those men, a real blessing, had helped make our day. When we got home there was a letter telling me that I had strayed into the non-congestion zone in Bristol last month and I had to pay a fine – which made me realise I’d just done it again that same day!. But at least I could pay all those debts at once and it still felt like a day of real blessings!

St Paul, writing to the Romans, said, “... when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ” (Romans 15:29). These are powerful and encouraging words. The challenge to me is not only to become more aware of and to count my own blessings, but also, like Paul, to seek how to bless others. While I may feel that the chances of this are limited by my human nature, anything becomes possible through a relationship with Christ.

Michael Harrison

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

We wanted to say how grateful we are to the flower arrangers who created beautiful arrangements for Easter and the church looked stunning.

It was lovely to have so many people celebrating Easter Sunday with us.



Our Walk of Witness around the village on Good Friday was well attended and we were blessed with beautiful weather as we made our way from St Lawrence around the village stopping to hear readings and prayers as we went and finishing up at the chapel for a short reflection.

Please see separately (page 11) our update on how our appeal for the church roof is progressing!

You may have heard the bells ringing quite regularly recently as we have an enthusiastic band of learners and we are currently planning our ringing for the Coronation week-end.



We are running a bottle tombola at the Coronation Celebration at The Mill on Saturday 6th May so if anyone has any cans or bottles of any sort they can donate please drop them off to me at 18, Bradford Road or ring me (831796) and I can collect from you.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell



Sunday 7th May

Breakfast Church - Delicious food
St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip
celebrating the Coronation of King Charles 111
Crown making and activities for children
9.00am onwards...
Everyone very welcome

Church Reflection, News & Events

MARCH/APRIL UPDATE FROM BETHANY BOWERMAN

As explained previously I receive news from Bethany, the daughter of our former Associate Priest, Andy. Her latest news, see below, will I hope, be both heart warming and of interest to those who knew them. *Caroline Walker*

Hi all! Sorry it's been a bit of a while since my last update. We've been in South Korea for just over 2 weeks now and it's all been pretty busy. The last few weeks of the lecture phase in Kona were amazing, with my mum coming for 10 days to visit me.

We had a week of teaching on Biblical Worldview which was probably my favourite of the whole 3 months. It was philosophy focused and their teaching style was different to the others we'd had, with group discussion and Q + A after each lecture. The topics discussed included: communicating with Christ, origin, destiny, meaning and morality. One of the main skills they were teaching on was how best to ask questions in order to have conversations beyond a surface level.

We also had our Love Feast which is a meal you have all together as students and staff to celebrate the end of lecture phase and I had a last supper with my roomies/room staff.

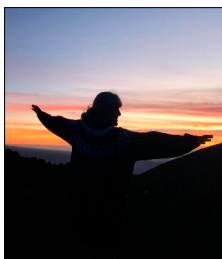
Last Supper with the Roomies



My friends from England did a three legged race in Kona to raise funds for Outreach.



Mum's Visit - While my mum was in Kona she was able to come to some of my classes, meet my teammates and just spend time with me. It was a great way to prepare before outreach and fully experience the Hawaiian island.



Church Reflection, News & Events

It was so good to see her and get to explore the island together, going to the beach and seeing the sunset on top of Mauna Kea as well as the incredible stars.



Cherry Blossoms, Seoul - We arrived in Seoul at the end of March just in time for the last cherry blossoms - so beautiful to see, especially by the Han River. Since coming to Seoul we have focused on educating ourselves on South Korea's history, both in terms of religion and politics. We went to visit the Yanghwajin Foreign Missionary Cemetery. This was one of the more poignant experiences, which allowed us to prayerfully remember the work of the



missionaries who came before us and the sacrifices they made. I was surprised by how many British missionaries had come and pioneered ministries here.

Regular Week - The layout of our week is made up of a variation of ministries. We get one day off a week which is a great way to explore and get to know the city of Seoul. The rest of the week is spent working with the local YWAM base specifically on their Campus Ministry. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we go to different Universities to evangelise on the campuses and join with the Christian Union worship nights, helping to lead them and to meet/get to know the students. We are also partnering with a Church whilst we are in Seoul, joining their Sunday Young Adults service and leading their weekly youth nights. Our main vision is to encourage local believers and empower GenZ in wholehearted love for God and the Great Commission. Another ministry we are partnering with is Dwell House, a church focused on meeting in worship nights and prayer with the aim of revival in Korea and the empowerment of Women (Brave Love).

Already in these first few weeks God has been moving so radically amongst the Korean people. On our second night here we were at a University worship night with Dwell House and the Spirit was so present that we ended up worshipping for 3 hours straight. During this time young people gave their life to Jesus, said yes to the Great Commission and people were physically healed. This is particularly significant because in Korean Churches they are afraid of praying for healing because they are worried that it won't happen. It is also unusual for worship nights to be led without some sort of specific structure and to be a mix of denominations and ages.

Our team wasn't aware of any of this before the gathering; only after the night did our contact explain how amazing that night truly was.

Church Reflection, News & Events

This has been a running theme of our ministry nights so far in Korea. As a team we have been continually told that we have a breaker anointing over our time here, that we are to step out in boldness and faith in ways that go against the trend in Korean Churches in order to bring wholehearted faith, joyful repentance and revival.

Prayer requests:

- Pray that no performance or striving enters into our team during ministry
- Prayer for continued unity and boldness as a team to go against the culture here to allow for God to enter in and cause change
- Prayer that the hearts of those we are talking to are open to what we have to say and that we have the right words to say
- Prayer for the youth of Korea - specifically in terms of mental health and suicide rates
- Thanks to God for the miracles we have already seen with 2 people healed!!

Thank you for your continued prayer and support. With blessings.

Bethany Bowerman

Hardington Vale Rogation Walking The Parish 2023 Sunday 4 June



Laverton - Hemington

(3.8 miles - easy/moderate)

2.00 pm set off from the church at Laverton - via Hardington

3.00 pm onwards ... arrive at Hardington - short talk

Hardington - Hemington

(1.3 miles easy)

4.00 pm onwards ... arrive at Hemington for tea
- contributions (£5) to CCT

for more information please contact Michael Fowler on 01373 834925

Everyone is welcome including non-walkers and well-behaved dogs

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEW WAY OF RECEIVING HARDINGTON VALE SERMONS

As a Ministry Team we have decided that rather than sending out a film of the service going forward we are simply sending out the audio recording. This is being uploaded to a Podcast! We shall endeavour to put up the talk from every Sunday's main Holy Communion service in the Benefice of Hardington Vale each week.

We are asking you to opt into this if you wish to receive it! So I will wait to receive an email from you if you would like a weekly link sent - or even saying what else you might find helpful - or even to simply confirm that you can access the podcast. Hope that makes sense!!! Any queries do come back to me please!

Check out my podcast, Hardington Vale, on Spotify for Podcasters! <https://anchor.fm/caroline-walker96>

Rev'd Caroline Walker

E: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com



#PLEDGE2PRAY

**On Wednesday 24th May
as part of the National prayer initiative
'Thy Kingdom Come'
the Christians together in Rode and across the
villages of Hardington Vale invite YOU....**

**To The Chapel at Rode
from 9am on Wednesday 24th May through
to 9am on Thursday 25th May**

There will be someone there praying for the whole 24hours - if you would like to be on that rota please contact either:

Caroline Walker carolinehwalker@btinternet.com 01373 834258 or

Bill Jackson billjackson54@btinternet.com 01373 830411.

If you'd like to simply drop in for a time of prayer that is fine too, you will be very welcome. There will be a creative and interactive prayer area set aside in the Chapel, or just come and enjoy time apart to commune with God Himself.

This could be the opportunity that you have been longing for *"Prayer moves us closer not only to God, but to one another. It connects us with those whom we otherwise cannot see. Prayer breaks down division, in prayer we take each other's hands and find our safe stronghold"*
Archbishop Justin Welby



LAND AT CHURCH LANE – APPEAL DECISION

As most will be aware, around 18 months ago Mendip District Council (MDC) turned down an application to build 49 houses on land adjacent to Church Lane (Barbara’s Field, and part of Brown’s Ground). Last year the applicant lodged an appeal against that decision, and an appeal hearing took place in January this year. The result of the appeal was published on Friday 21st April, with the Inspector **dismissing the appeal**. The grounds for dismissal are fairly wide-ranging, and are supportive of both MDC’s original refusal, and Rode Parish Council’s submissions.

In particular, the Inspector found that:

- The proposal would result in an excessive amount of unplanned development in Rode.
- It would conflict with MDC’s spatial strategy, and would be contrary to several critical MDC planning policies (e.g.: Core Policies 1, 2 and 4)
- The proposed development would adversely harm the existing openness of the site and would represent an intrusive form of development into an undeveloped rural site, resulting in the permanent erosion of open countryside.
- It would harm the setting of a heritage asset (The Old Rectory on Bradford Road).

The Inspector acknowledges that the development would bring a number of benefits but concludes that “the accumulation of harm significantly and demonstrably outweighs the benefits of the proposal.” The full decision document is available on the Planning Inspectorate website (search for Appeal Reference 3292838), and on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/> (go to “view and comment on a planning application”, then search for the original application reference: 2021/0071/OTS).

Jim McAuliffe

RODE PARISH COUNCIL APRIL MINUTES...

For those who like to keep up to date with Rode Parish Council (RPC) Meetings via The Link I’m afraid the April Minutes were not available as we went to print. FYI May RPC Meeting - 7.30pm at Rode Memorial Hall on Tuesday 9th May.

Gill Leonard

Editor

Parish News

BLUEBELL WOOD SOLAR FARM

An Invitation to our public consultation, running Tuesday, 2 May through to Thursday, 25 May 2023.



Low Carbon is consulting on emerging proposals for a new solar farm with battery storage, to be known as Bluebell Wood Solar Farm located on land adjacent to the A361, east of Rode. The project will produce enough clean renewable energy to cover the annual electrical consumption of over 16,000 homes each year.

- **Wednesday, 10 May 2023 7:30pm to 8.30pm**
Webinar, followed by your questions. Zoom (please pre-register via www.bluebellwoodsolarfarm.co.uk)
- **Wednesday, 17 May 2023 2:30pm to 7:30pm.**
Village Hall Event, Rode & District Memorial Hall

If you have any questions or to chat with us:

E: info@bluebellwoodsolarfarm.co.uk

T: 0800 458 3979, Monday-Friday, 9am—5pm

www.bluebellwoodsolarfarm.co.uk



Editor's Note: Please see page 18 for more information regarding this.

NEW COUNCILLOR CO-OPTED ON TO RODE PARISH COUNCIL

Rode Parish Council is up to full strength again following the co-option of Moira Punt who was voted onto the Council at the meeting on 11th April.

There had been a vacancy caused by the resignation of Elaine Butler due to family reasons.

Hugh Williams

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

ST LAWRENCE ROOF APPEAL UPDATE

When we reported the position in the April edition of the Link, we had heard from 29 households. At that stage this had produced (including Gift Aid) £9,395 plus a matched donation of £9,395 making £18,790 in total.



Another month has gone by and the number of respondents has increased to 64 and the total contributions including Gift Aid and matched funding are up to £41,037. This is fantastic, however, we have much further to go.

We have heard from some people whom we suspect may never have been inside the church, and for which we are very grateful. However there remains plenty of scope for others to help so that the total can be pushed past £50,000 by the time we are writing a submission for the June Link.

We are also hoping to hear from any musicians who would like to take up Andy Hooker's generous offer of his venue at Christchurch House for an event.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

RODE PANTO 2023



The first rehearsals for 'Out of the Blue', this year's traditional pantomime began mid-April in the village Chapel.

We have a lovely mix of experienced 'thesps' and first timers and the new team quickly bonded over hobnobs and jelly babies. There was a lot of laughter and smiley faces all round, which is always a good sign...especially for the nervous author.

We may have been putting on shows for over 30 years, but we are always keen to explore new ideas, which is why for the first time we will have an original music track and songs. Richard (..AKA Toad) is working hard on writing and composing the tracks with a bit of help from a few others, including Debbie (Aka...Mrs Churchyard) , and Steve (Aka the Otter Rhodes).

There will be an update next month by which time we should be using scripts only as an occasional prop.....who am I kidding!!!

Gary Holloway

Parish News

RODE STREET LIGHT QUESTIONNAIRE – RESULTS

The Questionnaire circulated to all the residents of Rode was “Rode Parish Council are seeking approval for streetlights going off at midnight and back on at 5.30am”. Results:

In favour: 128

Against: 11

Undecided: 4

Total returns: 143

This indicates that residents are strongly in favour of the proposal to turn off about half of the streetlights in Rode.

A number of comments were received, but strangely there were very few comments by those wanting to keep the lights on. Two of those wanting to keep the lights on indicated that their objection only applied to, in one case, 3 lights on The Mead and in the other case to a light in The Old Brewery. The main reason for opposition to the proposal was possible increase in crime. Another reason was to protect women out after midnight.

There was hope amongst those in favour of a return to ‘dark skies’ over Rode, although this is still unlikely until all lights go off. Many replies were very supportive of the proposal and even went as far as saying this was the best thing the Parish Council has done.

A couple of replies requested an 11.00pm turn off and there were requests for less bright lights (Somerset has indicated that the lights have to meet a certain specification which includes brightness, however, shielding could be available for those shining directly into houses).

Interest in this applying to the Church Farm site were expressed but these lights are still the responsibility of Autograph Homes so no action can currently be taken.

Further information from Somerset on accidents is awaited and then the Parish Council need to liaise with the Police with the final list (which will include some amendments from the list circulated, taking into account comments made) before going ahead with Somerset to get this actioned.

Hugh Williams

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

THE MILL AT RODE KING CHARLES III CORONATION PARTY

A Coronation Party Extravaganza at The Mill at Rode – enjoy local stalls, kids' entertainment, face painting and street food, along with the Coronation showing live in our Wheelhouse. Our main Eating House and bar will also be open as usual! Dress code is red and blue! Join us and bring down the whole family, even your furry friends! See you there! see page 43 for more details.

Sam & Rachael
The Mill at Rode

RODE CRICKET

As this is being written we are less than a day away from the first match of the new season! We will be playing Batcombe away on 23rd April, although our first home game will not be until late May.



We are hoping to complete some quite extensive changes to the pitch this year, so will be holding fundraising events over the summer. As always, we will be keeping the village up to date with our progress on and off the field, so keep watching this space! Any new players, young or old, male or female, always welcome - please contact Julian Wootton on 07775 598429 or julianwootton@hotmail.com.

Andy Pickett

HOSTED MONTHLY SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS TO RESTART

Before Covid I organised monthly group Sunday Afternoon Teas for single older residents in our area. I'm pleased to say that we are going to be restarting them soon, hopefully before the end of May. Previously the Teas were under the auspices of "Reengage", in future the teas will be under the auspices of "Active and in Touch Frome", a well known local charity.

The Teas are aimed at people living alone and are individually hosted by one of our amazing local host volunteers at their home – a different venue each month. Attendees are collected from their home and driven to the venue by one of our great team of volunteer drivers who will then stay and join in with the Tea before taking attendees back home.

If you are interested in finding out more – be it as a host or an attendee – I would love to hear from you. I am away until 5th May but am available via email in the meantime at gillhleonard@aol.com. From 5th May I can also be reached on 01373 831072.

Gill Leonard

Parish News

‘DAISY A DAY’

The concept of ‘Daisy a Day’ has been brewing for a long time. When I became a County Councillor in May 2022, I set out to meet local charities and not-for-profit organisations who are doing amazing things in our community to find out how I can support them.



You may remember that during the election, one of my flyers that may have dropped onto your mat had the following phrases:

- “My focus is on being part of the team that is you, the Parish and Somerset Council, and other relevant organisations.”
- “Ensure communities are connected.”
- “My commitment to community will ensure that conversations become actions.”

Over the past year, I have met with about 20 different local organisations, charities and not-for-profits, to find out what I can do to help.

Small change and community - I often look at the change that my other half takes out of his pockets. It can be up to £5 which I put into a money box (‘finders, keepers’). I realised that odd amounts of money could be incredibly useful to community groups, especially at this difficult time. And ‘Daisy a Day’ was born.

How much can you give to charity? Imagine if everyone in a village of 500 people, gave £1 per month to a charity. That would be £500! They could even employ someone and make even more of an impact on the community. A little bit from everyone can go so far. Most of us can donate something. If you could choose 5 of your favourite local charities or community groups and give them each £1 or £2 per month, collectively, we could have an incredibly big impact on the work they do. Or imagine how £10 per month could support 5 local groups with £2 each. And the same for £20. Charities can do so much more planning if they know how much they are getting in every month.

It will take a bit of time to set up, but once it is done, you will be making a difference across your community and in a range of community groups. Times are tough, but a ‘daisy a day’ could be the difference you want to see in the world.

Dawn Denton

Somerset County Councillor for Frome North

200 CLUB

The 200 club results for March are as follows:

1st prize £50 - Heidi Blanchett

2nd prize £25 - Philip Pobjoy

Drawn by Jamie at Rode Post Office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two previous winners who kindly donated their winnings back to the group, this is gratefully appreciated.

Jan Jupp



PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Playing Field Lottery winners in March 2023,
drawn by staff and customers in the Cross Keys:



1st - £50.00 Nick Russell, Rode.

2nd - £25.00 Nigel Hellier, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 The Jupp Family, Rode.

Cross Keys Sunday Roast for two, courtesy of Mark and Hannah ... Richard Holdway, Woolverton.

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 and two Sunday roasts, possible all 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 Post Office, or directly from Jane and I.

Next draw Wednesday 31st May.

If you would like to do the draw or witness it, then please just turn up at the Cross Keys on draw night at 8pm.

Keith Sharman

T: 01373 830408

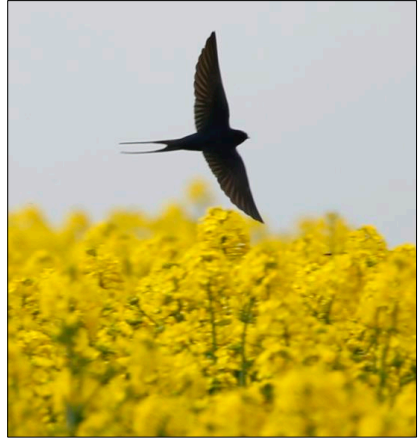
Parish News

LAVERTON NEWS

I would like to start by thanking all of you who kindly sent messages after we announced we were moving from Laverton - Martin and I were very touched. We'll miss you - but we're not going far!

Swallows at Manor Farm - The warmer weather we are so looking forward to still hasn't arrived but our feathered friends don't seem to mind.

Gilli from Manor Farm was delighted to announce that the swallows had returned to the barn on Easter Sunday - only a couple at the moment but we're sure there will be more arriving soon! Martin hot footed it down to the farm and managed to get some gorgeous photos (one of which is above) with the rape fields as a backdrop.



The things people say.... I was chatting to someone in the village who mentioned they had spotted a weasel. Having never seen one for myself I mentioned this to my mother in law who came up with the following saying: "Weasels are weaselly identified but stoats are stoatally different!" I'd never heard the saying before but thought it was rather amusing!

To coincide with the King's Volunteering Day Laverton Book Exchange is holding a Grand Book Sale with coffee and cake Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 2023 10.30am- 12.30pm - As I mentioned last month - we've lots of lovely books in the Exchange to find new homes for - so to coincide with the Coronation Weekend we're holding a Grand Book Sale with coffee and cake on the morning of Monday 8th May - all proceeds to Dorothy House. If wet, we'll be under the gazebo and barn.

We'll be closing the Book Exchange for good after the sale in readiness for our move, thanks to everyone who has supported it over the past couple of years. Pop along for coffee and cake and buy a few books - suggested donation 10p a book! Also CD's DVD's and Jigsaws. All proceeds to Dorothy House.

A date for your diary: St Mary's Laverton Summer Fete - Saturday 22 July 2023 10am - 12.30pm. Further details to follow. All very welcome.

Jackie Moss

Parish Health & Wellbeing

Asking the same question over and over again. over and over again. over and over again. over and over again. over and over again.

It's not called getting old, it's called getting ill.

If you or a loved one are experiencing memory loss, it could be a sign of dementia.

Help and support is just a phone call or click away.

alzheimers.org.uk
0333 150 3456



Alzheimer's Society

Together we are help & hope for everyone living with dementia

Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered charity No 295645

DAW23014

Deaf Awareness Week 2023



MAY 1-7



Deafness is not spoken. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals may feel misunderstood, unheard, invisible and isolated.

Deaf Awareness Week will focus on raising awareness of the communication needs and advocating for greater access to communication tools and services. Its aim is to encourage individuals, organizations, and governments to work together to create a more inclusive society where deaf individuals have the same access to communication as their hearing counterparts. Through education and advocacy, we can break down the communication barriers and create a world where access to communication is a fundamental human right for everyone, regardless of their hearing ability.

Follow us on social media or visit our website



www.ukcod.org

@UKCouncilonDeafness

#DeafAwarenessWeek

Stay Safe in the Sun



- Apply Sunscreen
- Wear Sunglasses
- Put on a hat
- Seek Shade
- Cover Up
- Stay Hydrated

Parish Environment

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

“**Bluebell Wood**” **Solar Park** - The Parish Council was recently contacted by a company called Low Carbon, who intend to develop a solar farm on land in Rode. The farm is intended to generate just under 50 megawatts of electricity (equivalent to powering around 16,000 homes). Details of consultation events are on page 10.

The farm will cover just under 200 acres of land (the land in question is red-lined on the map on page 23). The proposal is subject to receipt of planning permission, and Low Carbon will shortly be conducting a consultation exercise, which will include presentations in the Memorial Hall, leaflets and feedback forms delivered to all local residents, a project website, and a dedicated project email for queries. Low Carbon will be publicising the consultation events very soon.

No Mow May - It's that time of year when the lawnmowers emerge from sheds and garages around the country. However, that early cut is definitely NOT rewarding for wildlife - in particular bees and other pollinators which are critical to food production (around a third of all the crops we eat rely on invertebrates for pollination).

These creatures rely almost entirely on wildflowers to survive. However, in the UK we have lost over 97% of species-rich flower meadows since the 1930s. So, ignoring your mower over the month of May will provide a much-needed boost for wildlife throughout the summer.....whilst private gardens cannot substitute ancient wild meadows, we can do a huge amount on a small scale to reverse critical habitat loss.

And the good news is we can do this with little or no effort, saving energy (and money) in the process....because one of the best ways to encourage wildflowers in the garden is simply to forget the lawnmower and just let your grass grow!

Leave a patch of lawn to its own devices during spring and summer, and the chances are that at least some wildflowers will appear in your new mini-meadow. Not only will it attract wildlife into your garden, but it will look lovely too – a powerful reminder that we should value what's left and support all efforts to restore wildflower meadows.

Ideally, try to resist cutting until at least the middle of July – or even into early September if you can. This gives the wildflowers a chance to complete their cycle of growing, flowering and setting seed. The exact timing of the first cut depends on the year and the weather, but a later cut will help species like knapweed and

Parish Environment

orchids to spread, while earlier cuts can help control competitive species, such as common hogweed. If you get more invasive plants like nettle or dock, it's best to pull these up by hand.

PS: A small patch of land adjacent to the Memorial Hall will shortly be seeded to provide a "wild area" – the Parish Council will monitor how well the wildflowers grow....hopefully this will be a further contribution to sustaining the biodiversity of the village.

Great Big Green Week (10th – 18th June) - Plans for the Great Big Green Week are progressing. The programme of events will include the following:

- A series of talks in Rode Memorial Hall on Saturday 17th June. We're delighted that the headline speaker this year is Sarah Dyke, lead member for Environment & Climate Change on Somerset Council.
- A repeat of the "Green Open Doors" event held last year, on Sunday 18th June.
- "Veggie Week" – local pubs will be promoting their vegetarian and vegan meal options during Great Big Green Week, and some will be offering a few extra special veggie treats! Pubs taking part include the Cross Keys, The Mill at Rode, The Foresters (Beckington), The Woolpack (Beckington) and the Full Moon at Rudge.

More details will be available in the June edition of The Link, on the village Facebook site, in the Climate Emergency Group newsletter, and elsewhere!



Climate Change & Civil Disobedience talk and discussion - There was an excellent turn-out for the talk provided by Di Bligh in the village hall last month. Di's presentation was both fascinating and emotional and was certainly a "call to action" for many. If you missed the talk but are interested to learn more about using non-violent civil disobedience to stop future fossil fuel exploration, then Just Stop Oil run similar talks every week, on-line. You can book a place (for free) at: <https://juststopoil.org/zoom/>

More sewage in the River Frome - The Rivers Trust publishes the data on sewage overflows for nearly all "Combined Sewer Overflows" (CSOs) and water treatment works in England & Wales. The data for 2022 has recently become available, and unfortunately it appears that the figures for the treatment works in Rode are the worst on record.

In total, according to the data published by the Rivers Trust, the facility overflowed 82 times last year, for a total of 1,248 hours.

Parish Environment

Having contacted Wessex Water, I have been assured that the figures are not as bad as this, due to a change in the way the data is collected. The revised numbers supplied by Wessex Water are 61 spills, for a total of 775 hours.

The river can look idyllic, but unfortunately - based on the figures above (using either the Rivers Trust data, or the revised numbers from Wessex Water) - there is a serious risk of nasty objects floating around...in addition to any agricultural run-off or other forms of pollution.

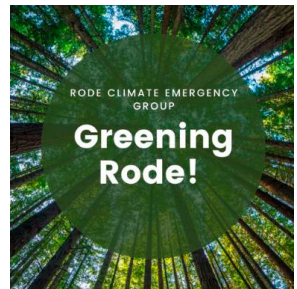
Wessex Water has, however, been undertaking various upgrades to the treatment works at Rode, which are due to complete in 2024.

They advise that the upgrade works carried out during 2022 have significantly improved the site's performance and it is currently outperforming its Environment Agency effluent quality consent limits. This performance and resilience will be further improved during 2023 with the installation of additional biological treatment units, providing treatment capacity to meet 2040 targets for catchment growth.

We're hopeful Wessex Water will host a site visit this year to enable residents to view the upgrade works and question local management. NB: The data itself is available on The Rivers Trust website: theriverstrust.org/sewage-map Wessex Water's sewage overflow improvement plan details (includes upgrade of Rode facility) here: wessexwater.co.uk/.../sewageage/storm-overflows

Get involved/keep in touch - The Climate Emergency Group now has a monthly newsletter, which now reaches more than 50 subscribers!

If you'd like to join them, drop me a line at the email address below or use this link in your browser: mailchi.mp/4b503eoba20c/initial-sign-up (sorry for the rather unfriendly web address!)

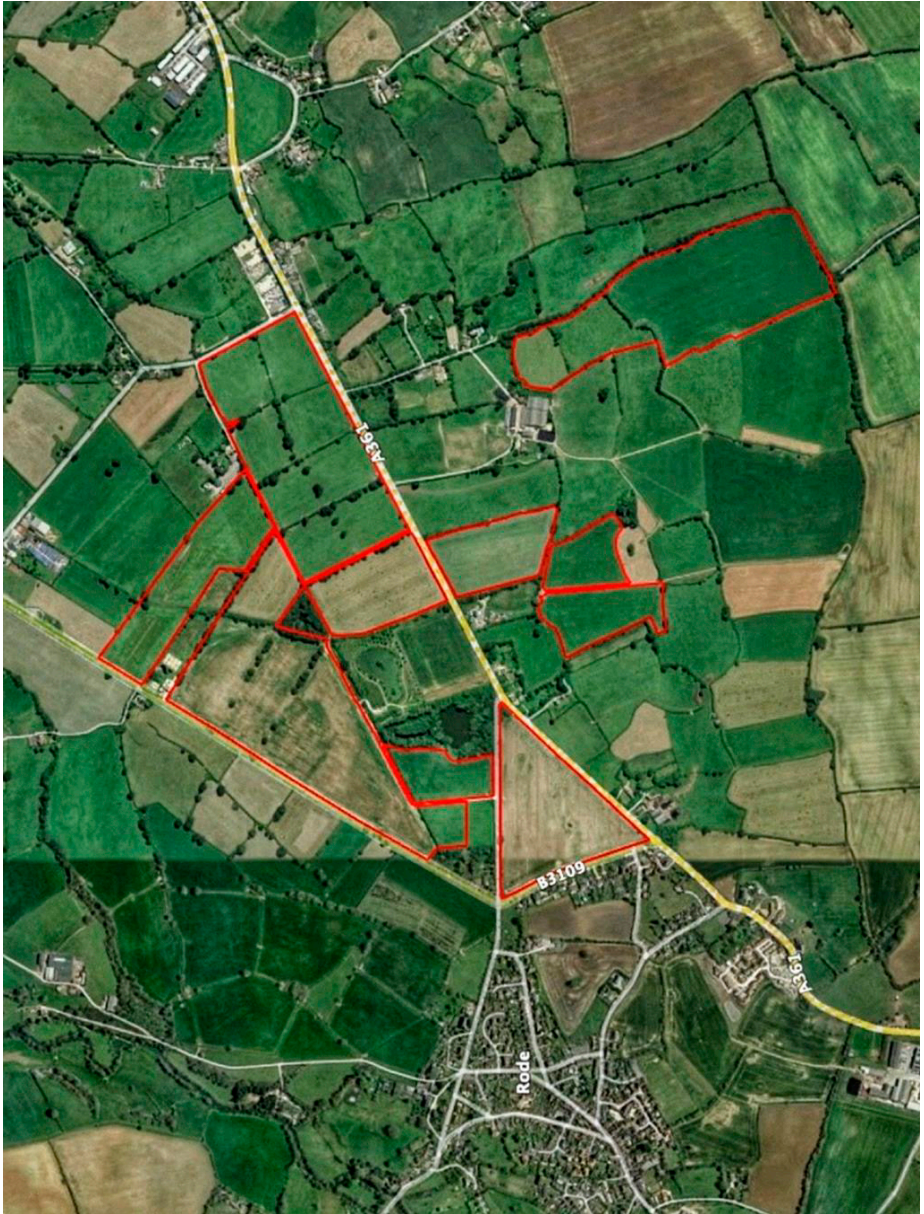


The Climate Emergency Group is still small, and therefore the capacity to deliver projects on our own is limited. Primarily we aim to “initiate, inform, educate, encourage...” But we can also act as a focal point for residents to come together to deliver projects as a community. If you have an idea that 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

E: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

Parish Environment



Parish Environment

THE RODE HOEDOWN IS BACK UP AND RUNNING!

Before getting into the ‘whats’ and ‘whys’ of the Rode Hoedown, I’d like to thank Elaine Butler for being the focal point for the Hoedown until recently, building interest in the event, organising volunteers, collecting a variety of materials for the various works and generally ‘encouraging’ participation. Elaine has, understandably, decided that the time has come for someone else to take on this task and, for some reason that is probably related to my absence from a recent Parish Council meeting, it has fallen to me.



Frome has been running a ‘Hoedown’ for a few years. It started there as a way to get volunteers to clear weeds around Frome (with hoes, amongst other implements) and reduce the need to spray chemicals to maintain paths and other public spaces. In Rode, there was a feeling that we could do something similar leading to the imaginatively titled ‘Rode Hoedown’ (I’m providing this background, because I’ve been asked why it’s called the ‘Hoedown’ and whether we should give it a new name – all ideas/suggestions are welcome.....).

The Rode Hoedown is run, mostly, on every last Sunday of the month and, during 2023, is likely to run every month from March until October – basically while the weather is good.

However, by kicking off in March, most weeds have not had time to get established in the village. This was despite the fact that weeds had already formed a fairly sizeable ‘advance party’ in my small garden in preparation for the inevitable late spring assault. The absence of an obvious biological foe left me looking for something else that the first Rode Hoedown ‘23 volunteers could tackle and I settled on litter picking.



Sadly, as with much of the UK, we do have quite a quantity of litter in and around the village. A number of us pick litter along Straight and Crooked Lanes where litter can be a mix of decades old or recent, habitual (quick beer on the way home) waste. But, given the numbers of people volunteering for the March event, I felt that we’d get the ‘biggest bang for our buck’ along the stretch of Rode Hill between the Bradford Road junction and A361.

Parish Environment

With hindsight, although I think that the end result was good, a few of the volunteers did point out that it was quite a way from the collection point and I think that they were absolutely right. I had borrowed a wheelbarrow to move some of the full sacks around. But I must really thank Sue Shannon and Jonathan Smith who allowed their cars to be filled with the 'fragrant' rubbish. Without their kind offer, I doubt that this location would have really worked.



Before getting started, people who had selflessly volunteered to give up a couple of hours of their Sunday gathered in front of the Memorial Hall to listen to me drone on about health and safety (watch for traffic, don't lift stuff that looks unhealthy or heavy etc.), adding insult to some level of potential injury.

We quickly got started and, even before we got to the intended litter pick area, people were collecting quite a lot of litter from Rode Hill between the junction with the High Street and the Bradford Road junction. It was clear that there was enough there, alone, to occupy a few of the volunteers.

In spite of my wonderfully delivered health and safety briefing that included warnings to avoid entering the ditches where there may be a risk of trips, falls, ankle injury and like, it seemed that a number of us found the ditches most interesting with a rich seam of litter to be 'mined'.

Perhaps the most enthusiastic in this respect were Jonathan Smith and Howard and Diana Russell. Moira busily kept to the 'high road' and cleared the verges.

Parish Environment

It was also great to catch up with Dario Nucci who has recently moved to Rode and has immediately got stuck in. Thanks also to Cathy and Nick, Gill and Jeremy, Jim McAuliffe and the inestimable Mr. Salmon for their great combined efforts.

Dubious 'highlights' of the litter pick included four worn tyres found in the lay-by (just over a week later, another four were donated, but these were rapidly collected by Mendip), a powder fire extinguisher that collapsed when I tried to lift it due to corrosion, a broken Dyson vacuum cleaner, a museum piece of a TV/Video player and enough spare car parts to construct a Vauxhall/VW/Toyota 'Frankenstein' car.



In the end, we collected some 40 bags of litter plus assorted bits and pieces.



Mendip DC's waste contractor (iVerde) collected the litter from in front of the Memorial Hall the following day and also provided the litter pickers, hi-vis vests and industrial strength plastic bags.

By the time that this article is published in The Link, the next Rode Hoedown should have taken place (30th April).

It would be great to have even more volunteers for future Rode Hoedowns – the May Hoedown will be on Sunday 28th - so please do contact Mike Salmon (mikesalmon123@icloud.com) or myself (jbowlerii@icloud.com), if you'd like to volunteer or if you have ideas of work that can be done by the Rode Hoedown.

Jonathan Bowler.

Parish Environment

ACTION FOR NATURE...

Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) is encouraging the public to see their gardens and outdoor community spaces as potential habitats for wildlife. There are an estimated 124,500 gardens in Somerset — as well as ancient churchyards, school grounds, allotments, and other outdoor spaces — and they can all be hugely important for nature. We are currently facing a global climate and nature emergency, with many of our species in a significant state of decline. However, by making a **few simple changes to our gardens and community spaces**, we can create vital steppingstones for wildlife and allow them to play a necessary part in **restoring and reconnecting habitats as part of a much bigger Nature Recovery Network**.



Making our outdoor spaces more beneficial for wildlife can be simple. Suggestions from SWT include adding hedgehog holes to fences, building swift boxes, creating pollinator-friendly window boxes, and leaving patches of your grass to grow wild. There are so many ways you can make an impact in your garden or community space, and as

Bryony Slaymaker, Wilder Communities Manager at SWT, explains, every small action can add up: “Evidence has proven that if we can get 1 in 4 people taking visible action for nature, we will reach a social ‘tipping point’, and the majority will be encouraged to do the same. This means that by doing something great for nature and then telling someone else about it, you can help put nature back into recovery. Together we have the power to change, and we call this ‘Team Wilder’”.

To encourage more people to make a difference for the wildlife in their gardens and outdoor spaces, SWT is hosting a number of initiatives and campaigns that you can get involved in this year:

- **Wilder Gardening Awards:** Your garden, whether big or small, can be a safe place for nature to thrive. Welcome wildlife into your garden by providing food, shelter, and water, and by following the advice on the SWT website. You can then join other Somerset gardeners by signing up for a free ‘This is a Wildlife Garden’ plaque that you can show off to your friends, family, and neighbours! See if your garden is eligible here: www.somersetwildlife.org/garden
- **Working Together for Wildlife Awards:** This year, SWT is pleased to launch a new series of awards which recognise the importance of working together to reach that critical mass of 1 in 4 people, and connect up our gardens, parks, allotments, and churchyards to Somerset’s Nature Recovery Network. If your community is able to work together for wildlife and take action for nature across your gardens and outdoor communal spaces, you can

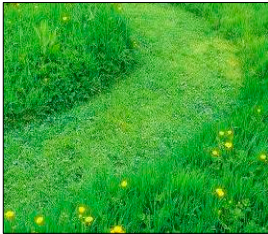
Parish Environment

now apply for an award for your street, village, or town! Find out more about what's involved here: www.somersetwildlife.org/team-wilder/wilder-communities

- **Wilder Open Gardens:** If you already have a wildlife-friendly garden, you can help inspire others to make room for wildlife by hosting a Wilder Open Garden. This is a chance to show off the amazing things you've been doing for nature to your friends, family, and neighbours, while also raising vital funds for wildlife at the same time. Find out more: www.somersetwildlife.org/wilder-open-gardens
- **Going Peat-Free:** Peatlands are vital habitats for wildlife, and it's important they remain intact to help tackle climate change. Unfortunately, peat extraction is still taking place in Somerset, and a vast amount of extracted peat is turned into compost. SWT urges the public to go peat-free in their gardens by opting for peat-free compost or making their own compost at home!



- **Wilder Lawns:** This year, the Wildlife Trusts have partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to call on gardeners to reimagine their lawns. When left to grow long, lawns can help mitigate flooding, capture pollutants, and provide important shelter for wildlife. Gardeners can help by reducing the frequency of mowing to once every 3-4 weeks, allowing small patches of their lawn to grow wild, and planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers. More advice can be found here: www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk



Our gardens can have an extremely positive impact on Somerset's wildlife when managed with nature in mind.

SWT are asking the public to look at their gardens in a new way this spring, and whether it's by adding a bug hotel to your garden, making your own DIY pond, or by getting involved in one of their initiatives, they are **urging everyone to start taking action for nature this year.**



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Parish Environment

SOMERSET COUNCIL WASTE SERVICES

New council, new website - Somerset Council is now up and running, replacing the 5 previous councils and taking on responsibility for all your waste services. Because each authority had been working together as the Somerset Waste Partnership, little has changed – except our online info has moved to the new council website - you'll find all at somerset.gov.uk/waste - you can still find and do everything you could before.



The familiar 'My Waste Services' feature, for online waste-related tasks such as ordering containers/ subscribing to the garden waste service/reporting missed collections is on the landing page. The 'Check my collection days' feature's there too, whether you want to check online, download to print or download to the calendar on your laptop/mobile device. We'll be developing content in the coming months to make it as helpful as possible. Our @SomersetWaste social media Facebook/Twitter accounts continue as before, as do our contractors: making collections (SUEZ), managing recycling sites (Biffa).

King's Coronation - Lots of you'll be involved in celebrations over the Coronation weekend. We love parties but hate waste and ask party/event organisers to do their best to keep waste to a minimum and recycle as much as possible. Recycling's great, but reducing's even better. You can find a whole host of tips and ideas for how to cut waste/recycle more at somerset.gov.uk/waste-coronation. Say 'No' to single use and reduce food waste - it's one of the best ways of cutting your carbon footprint. Make sure your catering doesn't end in a mountain of wasted food - know numbers/encourage everyone to 'bring a dish'. The Love Food Hate Waste website has lots of ideas. Know what can be recycled in your weekly kerbside collections (see back cover for changes to collections).

Batteries: do the right thing - please don't put them in your refuse bin/leave loose in your recycling boxes/bags. They can cause fires in the trucks or at the depot when crushed, this can be very dangerous and effect the running of depots and collections. Please remove batteries from gadgets/toys/devices and put out for recycling in a clear, tied plastic bag placed on top of one of your recycling boxes. If batteries can't be removed put the whole item out for recycling as a small electrical item in an untied carrier bag on top of a recycling box.

Summertime recycling site opening - when your local site is open on a weekday, it will be in business from 9am to 6pm from now until 1 October. The year-round Saturday and Sunday hours remain 9am-4pm at all sites. Opening days vary from site to site. For information about your local sites, when they are open and what materials they take, please visit the new council website.

Parish Youth News & Events



Open term time
from 8:45am

Beckington Pre-school

Children aged 2-4
welcome
30 hours funding accepted

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

Charity no. 1035832

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.



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.

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Mondays during term time
9.30-11.30pm
Rode Chapel



Parish Youth News & Events

FRANS LATEST

This month FRANS will be busy getting ready for the summer term where there is always a jam packed schedule!

On May 5th we are hosting a Coronation Party in the park after school at Rode playing field.

The bouncy castle has been booked and the playlist is being compiled, there is sure to be some Kings of Leon and perhaps some Queen. sadly Ray Charles was busy but our resident DJ will be just as good. There will be a BBQ and a bar, crafts, games and most importantly a disco tent.



We expect to be running from 4pm until approximately 7pm and welcome anyone from the village who would like to come along. All the proceeds will go towards the school to help provide for many essential items.

Recently our fundraising has gone towards new books, the new orchard at Rode and the amazing tarmac paths that circumnavigate the playing field in Norton St. Philip. The children love to scoot/bike and run around this path which is a joy to see.

We have also just agreed to pay for new computers which I'm sure will also be much appreciated. As I'm sure you are all too aware price increases can cripple smaller establishments and village schools are no exception so our fundraising really does help provide for the essentials as well as the extras. Thank you for your continued support.



[Sunday 7th May](#)



Breakfast Church - *Delicious food*
St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip
celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III
Crown making and activities for children
9.00am onwards...
Everyone very welcome

Parish Youth News & Events

CALLING ALL NEW FOOTBALLERS - BOYS AND GIRLS

Freshford United Youth F.C. is nearing the end of a very good season with more and more new faces joining all age groups. We are already planning for next season and are looking for new players in all ages and will open the door to children who are starting Primary school in September 2023 to start the next age group with training every Sunday Mornings. We will have a team in every age group from Under 5's to Under 15's (Minus Under 12's unfortunately) plus our Adult team. Every team trains weekly, with most age groups playing regular games in the Mid Norton & District Youth League.

All teams are looking for more players of all ages, abilities, boys and girls and if you want to test it out and not commit, we can offer a free tester session for 2 weeks to see how your child gets on before you have to commit to anything.

The season will finish at the end of May and we start again late August. The rough plan so far for training is as follows...

- Under 5's – Sunday Mornings at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 6's – Sunday Mornings at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 7's – Sunday Mornings at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 8's – Sunday Mornings & Tuesday Evenings at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 9's – Sunday Mornings at Rode Playing Field
- Under 10's – Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings - Rode Playing Field
- Under 11's – Saturday Mornings & Sunday Mornings at Rode Playing Field
- Under 13's – Saturday Mornings & Sunday Afternoons at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 14's – Saturday Mornings & Tuesday Evenings at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford
- Under 15's – Saturday Mornings & Sunday Afternoons at Browns Park, Abbey Lane, Freshford

If you have a building project happening soon, we're after any soil of different grades at our pitches in Freshford - we would accept these (save on skip hire) if you want to discuss this more please speak to me on the number below.

As always, we welcome any support and if you want to keep up to date with us information is always available on our website.

Chris Birleson

Club Manager

T: 07738 741477 E: cb@dentons.net www.freshfordunitedfc.com



Parish Groups

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Please make a note of the dates for May, June and July Lunch club:

- Monday 15th May
- Monday 5th June
- Monday 3rd July

So you may ask - what exactly is Monday Lunch Club?? Well - Lunch Club is a very friendly gathering for Rode villagers who have reached the slightly mature age of 60/70/80 years old - and my goodness some are 90 years! - it's great to get out, have a healthy, home cooked meal (£5 per person) and have a natter with your pals and neighbours!!

It's held once a month usually on the first Monday of the month. We have the added bonus of the Year 4 children from Rode School who come and help us with their impressive service skills and raffle calling - what's not to like?!

So, don't sit at home on your own - come and meet new friends and have a great meal at the same time!! Please let me know well in advance if you'd like to come - just give me a ring.

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team

T: 01373 830836 / 07828 600095

RODE OVER 60'S

AGM held on Thursday 14th April, 2.30pm, Rode Memorial Hall - Mrs. Pat Smith, our Chairperson, welcomed everyone, old and new members alike. Subscriptions were renewed and our outings for this summer were revealed!

If any residents would like to join us, please ring Pat Smith on 830 559. You will be very welcome, non members £20.

- May 11th. - Outing to Portland Bill and the Emporium at Wardon Hill
- June 8th. - Outing to Sidmouth
- July 13th. - Outing to Poole

Afternoon tea followed along with the raffle. The following members have birthdays in May, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday:

May 1st - Mr. J. Thomas / May 1st - Mrs. A. Edney / May 10th - Mrs. H. Harris / May 11th - Mrs. E. Byrne / May 28th - Mr. T. Ryan

Gail Stinton

Parish Groups

RODE WALKING GROUP - 2ND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

April Walk - Sadly Liz couldn't make it so Penny and I said we'd map read on her behalf.

We were a small group as the weather was very iffy but had a super walk ably assisted by map apps on John's phone and in Peter's mind.



We had lovely views down towards Horningsham then back up to Heavens Gate.

A very pleasant and varied walk, relatively short which was just as well as the rain came in torrents half an hour after we got back.

Belinda Graham

The next walk on 9 May takes us to Westwood for a circular route via Stowford and Farleigh Hungerford.

Meeting at 10 am in the National Trust car park by the Manor House in Lower Westwood we walk a public footpath across fields to Stowford Farm on the A366. Crossing this road we follow a permissive footpath along the riverbank to cross the double road bridges and climb up towards Farleigh Castle and finally return to Westwood along the lanes.

Please contact me for further details or transport arrangements.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T:07788 656337

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.



There is no need to book or to commit to coming every week. All abilities too, we all help each other.

Weekly on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm at Rode Chapel.

Val Parker

Parish Groups

RODE GARDENING CLUB - APRIL REVIEW & FUTURE VISITS

On the first Monday in April we welcomed Dominic Hamilton from Painswick Garden Trust to the last of our meetings in the Hall for several months.



He explained that rococo style was both flamboyant and frivolous and in the short time between 1700 to 1750 was very fashionable. This time also coincided

with a change in the use of gardens by wealthy landowners. They became a space where the family could play, dine, entertain and party. It was a way to demonstrate wealth and impress neighbours. Benjamin Wyatt, a wealthy solicitor moved from Cheltenham to the country for his health and built a garden squeezed into a valley, with deceptive vistas juxtaposed with serpentine paths, and peppered with charming follies to surprise and delight his guests.



In 1748 he engaged a local painter Thomas Robbins to paint the garden. This was fortunate as in the 1760s landscape gardens became more fashionable. Over the next 200 years the garden altered, and buildings were lost or hidden so by 1980 it was a jungle but with the potential to be restored. Over the last 40 years this has happened. Today the gardens are famous for the displays of snowdrops early in the year, but the buildings, kitchen garden, woodland and herbaceous borders mean the garden has much to see all year. Members were encouraged to visit.

Visits - During the summer months the club organises visits on Mondays, mostly in the evening:

Monday 15th May - The first visit to a garden, meeting at 6:30 pm at 1 South View, Devizes; 'a long town garden with planting surprises'. Visits are free for members and £10 for guests. Please advise Averil 830686 or Helen 831228 or contact our new email address (see below) if you are coming so the organisers can inform garden owners of numbers.

Monday 10th July - Day trip to Rosemoor RHS Garden, Great Torrington. We have booked a coach leaving at 9:00am from Rode returning around teatime. The cost of the trip is £15 for members and £20 for guests to cover the costs of the coach. The trip is open to anyone from the villages who fancies a day in this lovely garden. Please call Averil 830686 to confirm a place is available or use the new email address below. Payment required in May.

Sharman Flindall

Club email: rodeanddistrictgardeningclub@outlook.org

Parish Gardening

Even the most dedicated gardeners need the occasional break from their own little patch of heaven, to get inspiration from other gardens which offer a different sense of scale, planting and a sense of place that will give fresh inspiration.

I've been away on tour, visiting two iconic gardens: Sissinghurst and Great Dixter which between them inspire tens of thousands of visitors each year.

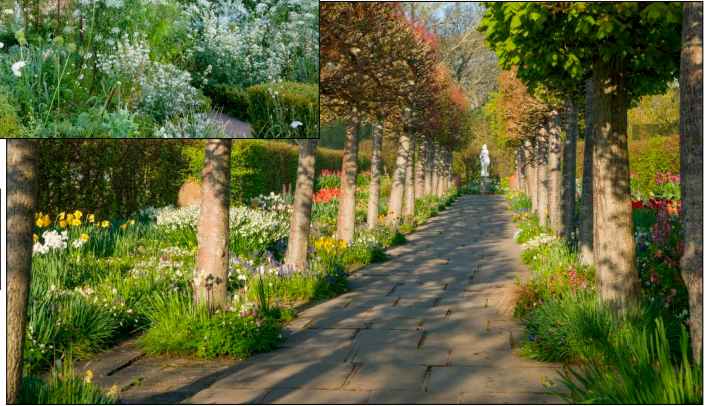
When I went to see them just after Easter weekend, they had both just re-opened for the new season and visitors were pretty thin on the ground on the rather blustery, showery days when I was there. So although the April weather was true to form, it couldn't interfere with the sheer joy of being immersed in the amazing planting, the fabulous architecture and stunning wider landscapes of both gardens.

I think it's fair to say these gardens represent the pinnacle of British planting and obviously they require very significant amounts of professional and volunteer gardener support to keep the show going throughout the long visitor season. A mere mortal like me can't hope to create or copy the same style of intensive planting at home, or at least, not on the same scale.



And I'll also say right now that words cannot convey just how beautiful these gardens are. Muddy Fingernails is stumped for words!

Sissinghurst
Castle
Gardens



The best thing I can do is urge you to visit them, at any time of the year, so you can experience for yourself the very special atmosphere they both have.

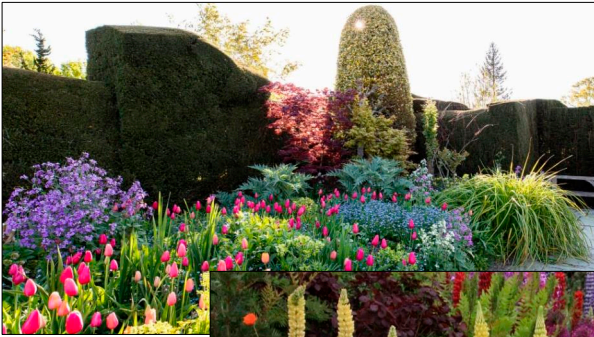
Parish Gardening

If you need any further encouragement, both gardens have very enthusiastic volunteers keen to chat with visitors and explain the history and identify the lesser-known plants (essential info!).

There's also good food on offer for refuelling at coffee/lunch/afternoon teatime, although I would say that Great Dixter is somewhat rustic with tables and benches set under an open-sided barn - just a bit exposed during the April showers last week!



My final word of advice is to save your pocket money for visiting the nursery at Great Dixter - they appear to do all the propagating on site and sell many of the fascinating and unusual plants you'll see in the garden as well as lots of more familiar favourites.



The range is significantly better than the surprisingly limited offerings at Sissinghurst, which does however offer a fine range of tea towels and biscuits...

Great
Dixter
House
Gardens



So gird your loins for the long cross-country drive, maybe allow yourself a couple of days to soak up all the inspiration and come back home loaded with great plants and tons of ideas to try out at home...

Muddy Fingernails

N.B. Editor's Note: See pages 25 and 26 to read about Somerset Wildlife's environmentally friendly ideas for gardens and outdoor spaces.

Parish Business

I am an author and a professional private Chef hosting Persian Supper Club events mainly in London - featured in The Evening Standard (London's Best Supper Clubs) - and around the world with the intention to build community around one table and highlight the joy and power of togetherness.

My mission is to create and share food that pays homage to the beautiful tastes and philosophies of my culture, yet is also explorative, new and healthy.

It's not that long ago that I moved from London to my new home in beautiful Rode and am now running a pop-up in Rode and the nearby villages - Persian Food Pop-up Delivery (Fridays).



A new menu is announced every Monday. Should you wish to receive weekly menus each Monday please text on 07944 70882. Please send your orders by the end of Wednesday.

Your freshly made food, prepared in my home kitchen, will be delivered to your door nice and warm on Friday between 5.00 - 8.00pm.



I have also started hosting my Persian Supper Club events in beautiful Somerset - so far in Babington House and The Talbot Inn.

If you wish to receive invitations for the future events and sit around a table of love and sumptuous food, please feel free to send me your email address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cook with passion!

Bita Fallah

T: 07944708821

E: bita@bitafallah.com

www.bitafallah.com

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USUAL OPENING HOURS

Monday	9.00-17.30
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

MAY BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday	1 st May
Monday	8 th May
Monday	29 th May

01373 830321

Open Monday - Saturday

32a High Street, Rode, BA11 6PA



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CAFE & POST OFFICE**

Parish Food & Drink



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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

01225 720006

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with recipes to show you how to use them!

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Factory tour • Cooking demo & tasting
All for £18 per person

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Forthcoming Parish Events

IAIN BALLAMY
SAXOPHONIST | COMPOSER

HUW WARREN
PIANIST | COMPOSER

JAZZ at St Philip & St James Church
Norton St Philip BA2 7LY
Thursday 4 May 1pm-2pm

Tickets on the door **£10**

or at www.wegotickets.com/event/574987 NSP Lunchtime Concerts

NORTON ST PHILIP CHURCH CONCERTS DETAILS & DATES

Lunchtime Concerts - These take place on the first Thursday of the month, 1pm to 2pm. Tickets are £5 available on the door.

- **4 May: Iain Ballamy (saxophone) and Huw Warren (piano)** - Internationally acclaimed ECM recording artists Iain Ballamy and Huw Warren.
- **1 June: Band of Pilgrims** - Back by popular demand... but this time it's the full band!
- **6 July: Poetry and Music with Josephine Corcoran and Guests**

Evening Concerts:

- **Saturday 7 October - Hungrytown** Americana/celtic singer-songwriters
- **Saturday 25 November - The Magnificent AKs.** The singing blokes of Ashton Keynes who can lower the tone, be supremely silly and move you to tears in one evening.

Saturday Afternoon Concert: Saturday 20 May at 3pm

- **Night River Presents: DG Solaris** - DG Solaris is a fantastic and widely celebrated singer songwriter based in Frome who will be performing a rare afternoon concert in the church. Expect fine songwriting, a beautiful voice and unique guitar playing in our most acoustically stunning church. This concert is open to all ages. Tickets available at:
wegottickets.com/event/572312



Talking cafes are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a community sign poster about activities, support groups and services in your community.

...and coming to Rode!

Sadly the date for first "Talking Café" is still to be confirmed – if it is confirmed for May details will be in Rode Post Office and other venues and on Rode Facebook.

Forthcoming Parish Events



come and join us for a

CORONATION
of King Charles III

PARTY IN THE PARK

RODE PLAYING FIELD
FRIDAY 5TH MAY
4-7 pm

BAR - BBQ - BOUNCY CASTLE
DISCO - CRAFTS - GAMES

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



Sunday 7th May

Breakfast Church - *Delicious food*
St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip
celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III
Crown making and activities for children
9.00am onwards...
Everyone very welcome

Forthcoming Parish Events



Saturday 6th May, the Mill at Rode

CORONATION DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

FOOD & BAR HORSE BOXES
THE MILL KITCHEN & BAR OPEN
ALL DAY

FAIR GAMES
JUMPING CASTLES
DONKEY RIDES
MARKET STALLS
FACE PAINTING



LIVE ACOUSTIC SET WITH
CHARLOTTE MOORE

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE FROM
IGGLEPIGGLE & UPSY DAISY

WATCH THE CORONATION LIVE IN
THE WHEEL HOUSE FROM 15H00



**FREE
ENTRY**

FROM 11H00 - 17H00



Forthcoming Parish Events

LAVERTON BOOK EXCHANGE
AT ROW BARN, ROW LANE, LAVERTON BA2 7RA



GRAND BOOK SALE
WITH COFFEE AND CAKE.



BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 8TH MAY 2023
10.30AM- 12.30PM

ALSO CD'S DVD'S AND JIGSAWS
ALL PROCEEDS TO DOROTHY HOUSE



Forget-me-not Café



When? May 15th 2.30 – 4 pm (3rd Mon of every month)

Where? St Philip and St James Church, NSP

Come and enjoy a cuppa and friendly people to chat with

**NEW: we now have puzzles and
board/card games too!**



We have a great café team who are
looking forward to meeting you!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contact Jo for more information

321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381

Tellisford Parish Meeting

The Villages of Tellisford and Woolverton

Monday 15th May 2023 at 19:00pm

The AGM of Tellisford Parish Meeting
will be held on Monday, 15th May 2023
at 19.00, venue The House Woolverton.

The agenda will be circulated 14 days before the meeting.

All residents of Tellisford and Woolverton who are over the age of 18 are entitled to
attend, speak and vote.

AGM for Baker Crabb and Boucher Trust (Tellisford only) will convene immediately afterwards

Forthcoming Parish Events

RODE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND AGM

The Rode Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on

Monday 15th May at 7.00pm

in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall

All welcome

Hugh Williams

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

RODE MEMORIAL HALL A.G.M.

6PM TUESDAY 16TH MAY

At Rode Memorial Hall

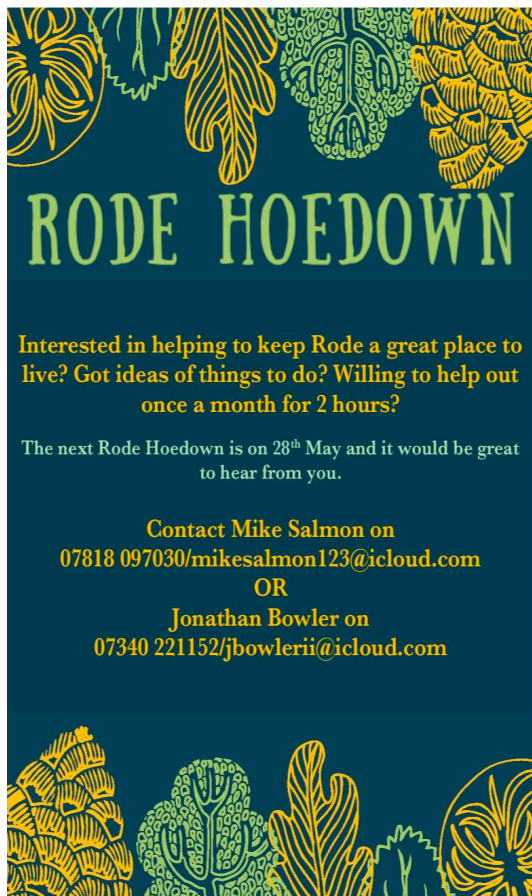
Invitation to a meeting to discuss Rode Village Hall: 16th May, 6.30pm

At this meeting the following Resolution will be proposed: *“this Resolution seeks the agreement of the inhabitants of the age of 18 years or upwards of the Parishes of Rode, Woolverton and Tellisford to explore the viability of the project to co-locate the Hall, Pavilion and (as a separate space but co-located) the Scout groups and, if it proceeds, to discontinue the use of the Hall in its current location when the new facility is ready, to dispose of its assets to contribute to the new project and to continue the charitable objects of the Hall in its new location.”*

The meeting will be held in the Village Hall 16th May at 6.30pm, immediately following the Village Hall AGM which will begin at 6pm (please note the earlier starting times than previously advised for these meetings).

*Kate Robinson and Mark Dymond
on behalf of the Rode Village Hall Committee*

Forthcoming Parish Events



RODE HOEDOWN

Interested in helping to keep Rode a great place to live? Got ideas of things to do? Willing to help out once a month for 2 hours?

The next Rode Hoedown is on 28th May and it would be great to hear from you.

Contact Mike Salmon on
07818 097030/mikesalmon123@icloud.com
OR
Jonathan Bowler on
07340 221152/jbowlerii@icloud.com



A date for your diary
St Mary's Laverton



Is on Saturday 22 July 2023 from 10am - 12.30pm
Further details to follow at a later date
All very welcome

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE LOCAL GROUPS ACTIVITIES TOO?

*THERE ARE DETAILS IN THE GROUPS PAGES OF THE MAGAZINE AND
IN THE BACK PAGE DIARY...*

WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE AND HELP PROMOTE MORE GROUPS...

JUST SEND IN THE DETAILS TO gillhllleonard@aol.com

Noticeboard

BRADFORD ON AVON FLOWER CLUB

The next Club demonstration will be on **Thursday 4th May**, Holt Village Hall, all welcome from 7.15pm with the evening starting at 7.30pm, there will be refreshments available on the evening and a raffle for the flowers. Visitors are very welcome, price £7.50. Come along and give it a try! On Thursday 11th May there is a Club Practice session, all welcome to join this session where you can have a go at flower arranging yourself, 7.30pm Holt Village Hall, if you wish to attend please contact our Club Chair, Sharon, on number below for more details.

Upcoming events - Flower Demonstration - 1st June, 7.30pm Holt Village Hall. June practice night 8th June, Holt Village Hall. More details on Club Facebook page (Bradford on Avon Flower Club). Any enquiries contact Sharon Ecob, Club Chair on 01225 309208.

CAN YOU LEND US A HAND?

To mark His Majesty The King's Coronation thousands of organisations across the country are getting together to give us all the chance to help out in our own local communities.

Starting on Monday 8th May there will be opportunities for everyone to join in. No matter what you are good at, there'll be something to suit helping hands of all shapes and sizes! From checking in on someone who'd like a bit of company or volunteering for a charity the more of us who join in, the bigger help we will be.

If you can spare an hour...fantastic. The day?...amazing.

If it becomes a regular thing, so much the better. If we all do a bit, it will help a lot.



Help us to do something amazing.
Join in, Lend a hand.
Make a change.

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Noticeboard

The Beckington Branch of the Royal British Legion

THE BECKINGTON BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

PRESENTS

CORONATION CAVALLCADE

*A Celebration of the Coronation of Their Majesties
King Charles III & Queen Camilla*



BECKINGTON MEMORIAL HALL

Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Ploughman's Supper

Bar & Raffle

*Tickets £12 from RBL committee members or
message the secretary (Barry Davies) on the
Beckington Facebook page or on
bandkdavies@msn.com or 01373 831344*



Having staged a concert to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II last June, none of us expected to be preparing for a Coronation less than a year later. Nevertheless, that is so and we must do our best to mark the occasion and celebrate our new monarch's accession to the throne. The Beckington Branch of the Royal British Legion will hold a celebratory concert to mark the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 in the Beckington Memorial Hall.

Tickets will cost £12 each including a Ploughman's Supper. Details of how to obtain tickets are set out in the poster on the left.

All proceeds will be used in support of serving members of the armed forces, veterans and their families in the Somerset area. I do hope you will be able to join us.

Sponsored Walk - The Secretary of the Beckington Branch has entered the challenge to walk 100 miles in April in support of the work of the RBL in Somerset. If you'd like to support his efforts, cheques should be made payable to "Royal British Legion" he can be contacted on bandkdavies@msn.com or 01373 831344



Barry Davies
Secretary

Dorothy House Trek Vietnam 2024

Dorothy House is embarking on only its second international trek, this time heading to Vietnam in April 2024. The Hospice is looking for a group of intrepid adventurers looking for their next major challenge! With a project at a rural community hospital and a trek through the Pu Luong Natural Reserve, this is an opportunity to cross something incredible off the bucket list whilst also raising vital funds for Dorothy House.



Participants have to raise £3,900, with at least half going directly to Dorothy House Hospice to allow staff and volunteers to continue to deliver outstanding end of life care to patients and their families. It costs £202.95 to fund a compassionate, skilled and experienced Hospice at Home Carer to provide care overnight, enabling a patient to stay at home at the end of their life, meaning someone taking on Trek Vietnam could fund overnight care for several patients and their families.

Terry, whose wife was cared for by Dorothy House in 2020 and received care from our Hospice at Home Carers, and is already signed up to take on Trek Vietnam, had this to say about his decision: *"Apart from thinking Dorothy House was a place where people go to die, I knew little of the organisation. All that was to dramatically change when in 2020 my wife was diagnosed with MND. Struggling to cope and to take on board the inevitable consequence of this illness, plus dealing with the challenges of looking after a terminally ill and increasingly frail wife, it was recommended I approach Dorothy House Hospice Care. The support they provided, on a mental and physical level, cannot be overstated. I will never forget their outstanding care, helping me to accept that my wife would not be with me for much longer. We then had what became daily visits from their carers, which enabled her to remain at home until the end. She finally died in January of 2022, but their support continues, and will do so for as long as I need it."*

Leaving the UK on 20th April you'll fly to Hanoi, spending some time there before heading out to Mai Chau to a community hospital. Once there, you'll take on a project within the palliative care unit of the hospital working alongside the local team to improve facilities. Tasks could include activities such as repainting, gardening, decorating and other hands-on refurbishment type tasks. After a few days with the staff and villagers around the community hospital, you'll head off to the Pu Luong Natural Reserve where the trek begins. With 4 days of trekking ahead, you will cross various terrain, staying in local villages in traditional stilt houses, and getting to meet the local people of the region. You will then head back to Hanoi for a free day in the city and a farewell dinner before heading back to the UK and landing on April 30th.

The trek is graded moderate to challenging. You will be trekking for 5 consecutive days, over varying and sometimes challenging terrain. You will cover approximately 15-20km per day which will take around 6-7 hours. Those wanting to take part should get training, walking as much as possible, but it will be very achievable for anyone thinking about it.

To find out more and get registered for Trek Vietnam, head to the Dorothy House website: <https://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/> For any questions, please contact Community and Events Fundraiser Dan Varley on dan.varley@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk or give him a call on 01225 721388.



...and finally

WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where in Hardington Vale, would you see this scene? Did you recognise the view in last month's photograph? It was the house in Lower Street opposite the bottom of Farthing Row.



Codeword

7	1	2	9	11	1	12	7	8	3	10	11		
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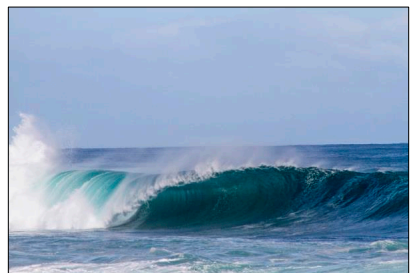
Last month's Codeword

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POEM OF THE MONTH

Winds of May, that dance on the sea,
 Dancing a ring-around in glee
 From furrow to furrow, while overhead
 The foam flies up to be garlanded,
 In silvery arches spanning the air,
 Saw you my true love anywhere?
 Welladay! Welladay!
 For the winds of May!
 Love is unhappy when love is away!



James Joyce, 'Winds of May'



Live Zoom Yoga classes with Stephanie – Rode's Yoga Teacher.

Choose to attend in person at Rode Memorial Hall (£10 per class)

Or in the comfort of your own home via Zoom (£8 per class).

Every Friday 9.00am.

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HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – MAY 2023

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Tuesday 2 May	9.45 am 5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 3 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 4 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 7 May	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 C Walker/M Harrison J Robinson
Tuesday 9 May	9.45 am 5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 10 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 11 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 14 May Rogation	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	J Robinson C Walker/M Harrison
Monday 15 May	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 16 May	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 17 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 18 May Ascension Day	8.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	C Walker
Sunday 21 May	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Laverton , Matins	F Stewart C Walker R Stewart/F Stewart
Monday 22 May	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 23 May	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 24 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 25 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 28 May	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	J Robinson/S Kivett N Jacobs J Robinson/S Kivett
Tuesday 30 May	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 31 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	

RODE CHAPEL MAY 2023 SUNDAY SERVICES – 10.30 a.m.
Sunday 7th Rev Margaret Crawshaw
Sunday 14th Reader's Service
Sunday 21st Jacqueline Cobb
Sunday 28th Barry Speddings

MAY 2023 DIARY	
Mon 1 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Early May Bank Holiday
Thu 4 May	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 41 for details
Fri 5 May	4-7pm Coronation Party in the Park see pages 29 & 42 for details
Sat 6 May	Coronation of Kings Charles 111 11am The Mill Coronation Day Extravaganza see pages 13 & 43 for details
Sun 7 May	9am Coronation Breakfast Church see page 42 for details
Mon 8 May	BANK HOLIDAY – King Charles 111 Coronation Weekend 10.30am-12.30pm Laverton Book Exchange Grand Sale see pages 16 & 44 for info
Tue 9 May	10am Rode Walking Group see page 32 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 9 for details
Wed 10 May	7.30pm Bluebell Wood Solar Farm Webinar see pages 10 & 18 for details
Thu 11 May	Rode Over 60s Trip (guests welcome) see page 31 for info
Fri 12 May	11.15 – 11.45am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode
Mon 15 May	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club see page 31 for details 2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 44 for details 6.30pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 30 for details 7pm Tellisford Parish Meeting see page 44 for details 7pm Rode Annual Parish Council Meeting & AGM see page 45 for details
Tue 16 May	6pm Rode Memorial Hall AGM see page 45 for details 6.30pm Rode Memorial Hall Meeting see page 45 for details
Wed 17 May	2.30-7.30pm Bluebell Wood Solar Farm Meeting see pages 10 & 18 for details
Sun 21 May	COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE LINK
Sun 28 May	1.55pm Rode Hoedown see pages 22 & 46 for details
Mon 29 May	BANK HOLIDAY - Spring Bank Holiday
Wed 31 May	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 15 for details
YEAR PLANNER	
Mon 5 Jun	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club see page 31 for details
Thu 8 Jun	Rode Over 60s Trip (guests welcome) see page 31 for info
Fri 9 Jun	11.15 – 11.45am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode
10 – 18 Jun	“The Great Big Green Week” see page 19 for info
Sun Jun 18	Father’s Day
Sat 22 Jul	10.30am-12.30pm Laverton Summer Fete see page 16 for info
Mon 28 Aug	BANK HOLIDAY – Summer Bank Holiday

WASTE COLLECTIONS		May 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		
29	30	31	REFUSE	RECYCLING	GARDEN			

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Content for 'The Link' always welcome - email gillhleonard@aol.com

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