The Link S

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



APRIL 2021

H.V. Campaign To Raise Money For Unicef Covid Fund

Find Out All About Rode Hoedown

Somerset Waste Partnership Update

Thank You To All Our Advertisers & Subscribers

...and so very much more local news and info inside!

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	• •				
Community	Mendip Community Transport	01749 880613/			
Transport	Oli alea Pere Perelaine	www.menfopcommunitytransport.co.uk			
	Slinky Bus Bookings	01749 880482			
Mandin D.C	Frome Community Cars General Enquiries	07596 591391			
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County Councillor	Linda Oliver (Conservative)	0300 123 2224 loliver@somerset.gov.uk/834210			
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Family Practice	Results 9.30-13.00/14.00-16.00 T: 8679	1 0 0 0			
NHS 111 24 hour	Contact if you have an urgent med				
medical care help					
Frome Rural Beat PCSO 9011 Russell Ford Russell.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk/07547 658018					
Neighbourhood	PCAO 9800 John McNally	John.mcnally@avonandsomerset.police.uk			
Police Team	Beat Mgr PC 2673 David Cohen	David.Cohen@avonandsomerset.police.uk			
	Deat 1181 1 C 20/3 David Conell	5			

Useful Community Contact Details

e serui e	ommunity	Contact Details
Organisation	Contact Name	Contact Number
Allotments - Rode	Lucy Travis	831726/Lucy travis@hotmail.com
Rode Gardens Association	(Chair)	- , , ,
Buddy Scheme (Rode)	Mike Salmon	831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com
Choir - One Voice	Lee Ingram	825058/07766 244321
Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
Crafts Group - Meet Mondays	Alison Hughes	830244
2.30pm @ Rode Chapel		-0-11
Cricket Club (NSP)	Mark Finch	07876 191100
Youth & Senior		0,0,00
Friends of Rode and Norton	George Muxworthy	GMuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk.
Schools (FRANS)	(Chair)	834327
Gardening: Rode & District	Averil Morrow	830686
Gardening Club Meet 2nd Monday		averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk
@ Rode Hall		
Ladies Group (Rode) Meet 4th	Pat Banwell	831139
Thursday 7.30pm @ Rode Hall		-007
Lunch Club (Over 60's)	Alex Sing	Asing_homeandgardens@hotmail.com
Meet 1st Monday @ Rode Hall		830836
Memorial Hall (Rode)	Bookings:	rodehall@bananasoft.net
incinoral rum (reduc)	Kate Robinson	evenings only 830202 www.rodevillagehall.co.uk
NSP Pre-School	Dawn Strand	admin@nortonpreschool.co.uk/834791
Old School Room	Dilys McKechnie	01225 754925
Farleigh Hungerford	,	
Over 60's	Pat Smith	830559
Meet 2nd Thursday		-0-00)
Parish Council - Rode	Hugh Williams	Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com
Meet 1st Tuesday	(Parish Clerk)	rodeparishcouncil.webs.com
Parish Paths Liaison Officer	Caro Smith	caro.a.smith@gmail.com/830911
Photography Club (NSP)	Tony Day	01373 834438/tonyjday22@gmail.com
Meet bimonthly 2 nd Tuesday	Tony Day	013/3 034430/101133443==@81141110011
Playing Field/Pavilion (Rode)	Bookings:	rodepfbookings@gmail.com
,,, ()	Chair: Nigel Clarke	biz.nibex@btinternet.com
Post Office (Rode)	Demi Ward	
RANS Running & Walking Club	Brandon Ouentin-	830321 brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk
www.facebook.com/TeamRANS	Hicks	
Rode & NSP First School	Headteacher:	07867 545720
Federation	Georgina Muxworthy	830523
Rodevillage.com	George Berry	info@rodevillage.com
Website & Twitter Feed	George Berry	http://twitter.com/rodevillage
Rotary Gift Shoeboxes	Sarah Gurr	07801 286997/sarahgurr26@hotmail.com
Rotary Gift Shoeboxes	Nicky Robinson-Moore	0/801 28099//sarangurt20@notmail.com 07734 110353
1st Rode Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs	Group Scout Leader:	hdrussello1@gmail.com
	Howard Russell	
& Beavers) Mon/Wed in term time Scouts Edor Explorer Unit	Marcus Bradshaw	830640 explorers@rodevillage.com
	Marcus Bradshaw	
Every other Tuesday in term time Sewing Group (NSP)	Lillam: Podgan	07713 165312
	Hilary Bodger	834444
Ukulele Group	Ray Floyd	07847 051245
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Church Reflection & News

REFLECTION - HOPE

"Things can look dark, and then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed, sometimes rather suddenly......Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day." (E.B.White)

We have all been living in hope, although some have had a harder time of it than others. In this third lock down, soon to be over (hopefully!) the weather has been cold and wet and things have felt pretty glum. When will we escape this wretched pandemic?

But spring is nearly here. We have had some warm days. The occasional lunch and coffee in the garden, if we've got one. The birds are singing again with signs of nest building, and the early plants are beginning to bud and poke through the ground. And we have a vaccine!

Easter, a season of hope and new life will soon arrive. But before the hope of Easter Day, we revisit the despair of Good Friday. Jesus' friends and disciples must have felt such disappointment and misery. Their hopes and dreams in a new society - Jesus used to call it the Kingdom of God- when wrongs would be righted and justice would be for all, a kingdom that was founded on love and peace, not hatred and bitterness and pride, were all crushed when the Jewish leaders connived with the Roman authorities to nail him to an execution cross of shame. It was such a terrible let down. And then the gospels tell us of the amazing but quiet meetings Jesus had with his friends three days later. In some extraordinary way he was alive again.

He had walked through death and conquered it, vindicating his life and his teaching and his way of being. His kingdom, different to this world's idea of kingship, was moving on. A kingdom of forgiveness restoration, humility and service. Tomorrow was indeed another day fully realized in the day of Pentecost when Jesus' spirit felt present in them giving them new courage andHope. A new day. And this is a new day available for us, with new paths to follow and hopes and dreams of a better life for us and the world. Truly good news.

The Covid 19 vaccine is also Good News. Many speak of the relief they have felt on receiving the first dose, soon to be followed by the booster. It represents an eventual way of escape from the lockdowns and a hope that some kind of normal life might resume, although the reality is that unless the WHOLE WORLD is vaccinated we are still going to be held in the virus' hold.

We are fantastically fortunate in our country with a rapid roll out of vaccines for free, but those living in the world's poorest countries might never get one.

Church Reflection & News

To show our gratitude there is a Just Giving campaign for those who have had a vaccine to fund at least one vaccine for the world's poorest through the UNICEF Covax programme.

The parish of Curry Rivel launched a Twin My Vaccine programme hoping to raise £1000. So far they have reached £57,000.



Can we do better? Look out for more information on this on page 5.

Happy Easter.

Barbara Day

UPDATE ON SERVICES IN CHURCH

You will see from this magazine (inside back cover) that services are beginning to happen again in our churches. But obviously these are with restricted numbers, socially distanced, wearing masks and no singing!

Whilst some folk really treasure the opportunity to meet in person, some are still shielding and at home. So we are continuing to offer a mixed mode of what is available. Services in church are still being recorded and the link released as soon as possible afterwards.

For Easter Day we are recording in advance so you can watch the Service at home at a time that works for you or even tune into our live Zoom on the day for 10.30am at St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip (details on our website www.hardingtonvale.org.uk).

I am concerned that people should not feel excluded, if you can't use Zoom or would like to but need help to access recordings/meetings please don't suffer in silence. If you ring me on 834258, I can link you with someone who can help, and we will try to meet your needs one way or another. Another really helpful link is the telephone services offered by the Church of England 0800 804 8044 and also Services on the Diocese Facebook page facebook.com/bathandwells/. There is a huge selection out there. In the meantime, I pray that you may know something of the Hope and Peace of Jesus in your home this Easter.

Caroline Walker

E: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

Church Reflection & News

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE



We are delighted to report that we have been back in church in March. Two Services have been held on the first and third Sundays of the month, adhering to all Covid 19 restrictions.

It was so lovely to meet back in church and despite having to wear masks in the building and sit two metres apart, it was evident that people were very pleased to see familiar faces and have the opportunity to once again worship in our beautiful village church.

We are able to hold an Easter Sunday Service in the church and numbers are limited to 30 in order to abide by social distancing rules.

At the time of going to press there are just a handful of tickets remaining so please contact Geoff or I should you wish to have one of the few remaining spaces.

The Service is also being pre-recorded so if you are not able to come to St Lawrence you will still be able to watch online.

Services at the moment will continue every other week at St Lawrence for the time being. Some of the new ideas which have sprung up in our online Services during Lockdown have also infiltrated our Services in church.

One new idea has been a 'Noticing God' slot where someone from the parish is interviewed about where they have noticed God in the previous week. This is pre-recorded and shown on the big screen as part of the Service in church.

We have also benefited from the beautiful music recorded by Steve and Becky Rhodes. Recently they have recorded themselves in church and then we have the benefit of listening to their recording as part of the Service.

You may have heard us tolling the tenor bell at the end of February. The bell was tolled one hundred times to commemorate the life of Sir Captain Tom Moore at midday on Saturday the 27th February to coincide with his funeral which took place that day. Andy (my husband) rang the bell, and I had the easier job of checking he tolled it the right amount of times!

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

THE PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE CAMPAIGN TO HELP GET THE COVID VACCINE TO THE WORLD'S POOREST



Revd Scott Patterson, a vicar in Curry Rivel and his wife Rowan have launched 'Twin My Vaccine', a campaign to help raise funds for communities across the world who are struggling to vaccinate their population against Covid 19 and whose infrastructure in places may not even include basic refrigeration.

We think this is a brilliant idea, so we have set up a JustGiving page to direct funds to UNICEF's COVAX programme.

Curry Rivel set a target of £1000 but by 1st March they have already passed £57,000. Let's see what we can do.

Rowan and Scott said: "We're delighted that our parents and friends are beginning to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and it's great that in the UK this is freely available on the NHS. But many of us could have afforded to buy the vaccine if we'd needed to and there are countries which cannot afford to vaccinate their people at all. UNICEF's coronavirus/COVAX campaign will deliver vaccines to some of the poorest countries in the world."

Two doses of vaccine (depending on which kind you have) might be worth between £4 and £30, plus the time and expertise needed to administer it. People are so delighted that they or their family and friends have received it that the idea to help others seems to have resonated. Many have donated through the JustGiving page and have shared the idea with friends, work colleagues and their extended family.



The Parish of Hardington Vale are backing the idea and invite you to support this initiative.

If you have the financial resources and would like to donate, you can do so on: justgiving.com/fundraising/hardington-vale

Find out more about how UNICEF is working with the World Health Organisation to distribute vaccines to the very poorest in the world through the COVAX programme. www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covax



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The consultation on proposals for unitary local government in Somerset was launched by the government on 22 February 2021. The consultation period runs until Monday 19 April. A few local residents have asked me for my views - below is a summary of my reasons for supporting Stronger Somerset.

There is a logic to a having a unitary authority. The current two-tier system means roads and planning working separately, waste disposal and collection being the responsibility of separate councils, likewise street parking and car parks, social services and housing. But the problem with One Somerset is the sheer scale of Somerset, with 550,000 people spread over a huge area. Local government works best where common interests are shared, where communities that logically relate to each other can be joined together to supply high-quality services. At a local level it should be about supporting local people and local communities.

The model set out in Stronger Somerset proposes two Unitary authorities in contrast to the County Council's "One Somerset" plan. It will mean that Mendip District Council and South Somerset District Council will work together to form a single authority. This can achieve both financial savings and the improvements to services that can best serve their communities.

I believe that the creation of 2 Unitary Authorities on either side of the M5 corridor is more logical and more accountable. It avoids stretching services from Porlock in the West to Frome in the East. As someone who commuted to Taunton for several years, I am aware that the even the approximately 45 mile journey from north east Mendip to Taunton is substantial, taking close to an hour and a half on our rural roads. Currently, the existing road, bus and rail links run more efficiently from north to south, rather than east to west.

Stronger Somerset argue that the multi-million pound savings promised in "One Somerset" will not materialise and that instead the proposal will see higher local precepts charged by our parishes where they will have little choice but to increase their local expenditures.

I therefore support the proposal set out by Stronger Somerset: it relates to a defined geographic area that make logical sense and will enable services to be funded equitably and transparently and stay within local reach.

Barbi Lund MDC Councillor for the ward of Rode and Norton St Philip



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ACTION - RODE HOEDOWN

Because of environmental concerns, Mendip has now ended the use of Round Up on our roads and pavements.

But that's meant weeds have been allowed to flourish throughout our village.

Clive Harrington with his teams, along with Ben Vowles, dealt very effectively with a huge backlog of weed control and roadway sweeping earlier this year. Subsequently, Rode Parish Council has appointed Ben as the Village Lengthsman (initially on a 6-month trial base for 26 days a year).

Whilst that's very good news, there is so much more to be done.

Inspired by Frome's Hoedowns, a small group of volunteers want to introduce Hoedowns here in Rode, looking to support and extend the work Ben is doing.



The aim is to ensure our village is looked after for all to enjoy. This could be planting flowers, weeding, sweeping a pavement or picking up litter along one of our country lanes - whatever needs doing....

Our first Hoedown will be on SUNDAY APRIL 25th @ 2pm meeting on the Village Green.

We would like to invite you to come and join us.

Everyone is welcome.

All you need to do is contact Mike Salmon, either on 01373 831257 or via his email on mikesalmon123@icloud.com if you would like to join the Rode Hoedown Group.

After 4 months of Lockdown, Hoedowns will provide a great opportunity for us to come together with others in the village, albeit whilst still maintaining appropriate distance!

We will provide tea and cakes afterwards on the Village Green.

We look forward to seeing you on the 25th.

Mike Salmon, Peter Travis, Hugh Williams and Elaine Butler

THE YOUNGSTERS OF THE COMMUNITY NEED YOU

We are the largest youth movement in the area with our own Scout hut, mini-bus, and a large volume of camping equipment together with a wonderful team of adult volunteers supported by another team who look after the hut, finances and support the Section Leaders. We also get tremendous support from the villages.



We are aiming to re-start our meetings for the whole Scout Group soon. With all the new restrictions needed we are very short of adult support in helping the incredible work being put on by our present leadership teams.

If you think you could help by joining us would love to hear from you. Help is needed in all sections for:

Beavers 6-8 years of age
Cubs 8-11 years of age
Scout 11-14 years of age
Explorers 14-18 years of age
Group Executive Trustees Members also if you could help here.

No experience necessary, full training will be given.

Please contact me initially.

Howard Russell Group Scout Leader

E: hdrussello1@gmail.com T: 07736739680 / 01373 830640

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Not much change since last month's message I'm afraid other than Lunch club will remain closed until further notice in line with Government restrictions - although with the roll out of the vaccines things are looking a little more hopeful.



As soon as we feel it is safe to do so we will be back - we just have to be patient!!

With love and best wishes,

Alex Sing and the Team

RODE GROWS AND SHARES

Our giant sunflower competition is now fully subscribed, and I have given out all of the special giant seed packets.

I am so happy that there has been such a great interest, and I can't wait to see all of the sunflowers!

Collaboration - I have been in conversation with Averil Morrow (representing Rode and District Gardening Club) and Lucy Travis (representing Rode Allotment Society) about all things green and growing, and we are planning on collaborating more together on future events, which is very exciting.

Keep your eyes peeled for updates in The Link, and on both the Rode Village and Rode Grows and Shares Facebook page.

Upcoming Happenings:

Seedling Share - We will be having a surplus seedling share event around mid-May on a weekend day outside of my house, No. 25 High Street - I will confirm the exact date and timings in the May edition of The Link and on Facebook.

So, if you have any surplus vegetable/ herb/ flower seedlings, it would be fantastic if you could bring them along (clearly labelled) for the event, and I hope that you can pick up something that you would like too.





Seedlings will be free to take, but we will have a donations pot for those who would like to donate to the new Scout Hut.

Rode in Bloom - We will be co-organising a 'Rode in Bloom' event and competition which will culminate towards the end of July. More information will be shared in due course.

If you would like to be involved in organising, have some ideas or would like to donate a prize for the competition winners, then do get in touch with me, I would love to hear from you.



Julia Robb

E: juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk. T: 07527 918314

SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Positive Recycle More performance - Recycle More has already made an impressive impact after just 12 weeks, with much more recycling and far less rubbish, despite recent Covid-related disruption to kerbside collections.



Got a garden waste subscription? Avoid a gap in collections - there is no amnesty or grace period this year - by renewing your collection subscription as soon as your letter or email reminder arrives. Always best to follow the instructions to pay online. Not got a subscription? Buy garden waste sacks and order collections to suit you via the My Waste Services menu on somersetwaste.gov.uk. For more details of garden waste subscriptions: somersetwaste.gov.uk/garden-waste-collections/

Your recycling stays close to home - Nearly all Somerset recycling stays in the UK latest SWP figures show. 98% of 103,000 tonnes collected kerbside or at recycle sites in the first 8 months of this financial year stayed in the UK compared to just under 90% in all of last year. Plastic performance was even better - less than 1% of 3,135 tonnes collected going overseas. Impressive figures thanks to you and other residents sorting recycling, plus plenty of hard work by SWP's new collections contractor, SUEZ finding more domestic reprocessors.



Trials start of electric trucks - In its efforts to tackle climate change and protect the environment, SWP is to trial electric collection and support vehicles with its contractor SUEZ. A purpose-built electric rubbish collection truck has already been driven around Somerset to check its performance and handling, as well as its lifting and compaction

equipment. There are also plans to trial a retro-fitted rubbish truck - a traditional diesel truck converted to electric - later in the year. These are still developing technologies that will be tough to introduce in a large rural county with limited supporting infrastructure where vehicles need a long range. Any investment will be subject to Somerset Waste Board approval of a business case.

Spring forward and check your detectors - A great reminder to stay safe by checking smoke and gas detectors, plus clock batteries and light bulbs, and to recycle anything that needs replacing. All recycle sites take batteries and non-working but unbroken bulbs. Broken bulb? Wrap carefully and place in rubbish. Mendip Recycle More collections take household batteries in small bag - freezer, sandwich bag etc, not black sack - with weekly recycling.

All change summer recycle sites - From Thursday 1 April, while the days when sites are open are unchanged, all recycle sites switch to weekday summer hours of 9am-6pm.

Weekends remain 9am-4pm with all 16 sites open on Saturdays and Sundays. Winter weekday hours start on Friday 1 October.

Monday	9am - 6pm
Tuesday	9am - 6pm
Wednesday	9am - 6pm
Thursday	9am - 6pm
Friday	9am - 6pm
Saturday	9am - 4pm
Sunday	9am - 4pm

One-day-later Easter collections - Easter Friday on 2 April means that day's collections take place on Saturday 3 April, and Easter Monday on 5 April means one-day-later pick-ups all that week, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 10 April.



SCAMS / LOCAL NUMBERS!

We are hearing several reports of members receiving scam calls from local numbers, these are where scammers are trying to trick you into believing they MUST be real as they are near by. One such example has been received from a member in Martock who had a call claiming to be from Ebay security on a local number,



very handy if there was indeed a problem with Ebay as we may be able to visit them to fix the problem (After Lockdown)! but quite clearly a scam. Several others have been reported since from various companies and again the ploy is to instil a sense of trust in the recipient.

Do please remain alert to any calls you receive advising for example you have a slow broadband connection, your loft insulation does not meet current regulations, you have post from Royal Mail that has not been fully paid, your Amazon Prime has expired or has been hacked, these will almost certainly be scams and if in doubt hang up, let the phone line clear for at least 5 minutes and then call the company back on a number you know, preferably on a different phone. And please never press 1 on your keypad when asked.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Covid 19: As of 18th March, data is showing the case rates in Somerset decreasing but plateauing which is also reflected nationally and across the South West. Somerset's rates are still comparably higher than our counterparts further South but less



than some of our neighbouring areas further North. The number of patients in hospital with Covid-19 has decreased dramatically and our death rate for this time of year is far lower than we would usually see – aside from Covid-19. Somerset's seven-day infection rate has increased very slightly on last week's rate of 38.8 and now stands at 39.3 new cases per 100,000.

National Day of Reflection is coming up on 23 March where we will reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. It is really important also to remind ourselves how far we have come and how hard we have collectively worked to get us to this position — but let's not spoil it by doing too much too soon and allowing infection rates to creep back up again; whilst Lockdown is set to be officially lifted on 29 March, there will still be guidance to follow within this easing of restrictions that will need to be adhered to. The following link shows the Somerset Dashboard which tracks our local epidemic from the start in March, to the current time: www.somerset.gov.uk/covid-19-dashboard/

'Remember, everyone can catch it, anyone can spread it'.

All our help and information is available in a single place on the SCC website: www.somerset.gov.uk/latest-coronavirus-updates/ This page is refreshed throughout the day so please check in regularly to keep across developments and news.

Community Testing using lateral flow devices — expansion of eligible groups: Even though case numbers nationally and locally are reducing, we are still seeing cases and regular testing helps to break the chain of transmission. In Somerset, targeted community testing has already been in place for workers who care for vulnerable groups such as the elderly in their own homes. This testing sits alongside the multitude of national testing programmes. Somerset County Council's Public Health has now expanded the offer and free, rapid lateral flow Covid-19 tests are now being offered to:

- Anyone whose job or volunteering work requires them to leave the house and be in contact with others
- Anyone who cares for others, either paid or voluntary

To book your test, please click here: https://somerset.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/ If you are a parent, or part of household, childcare bubble or

support bubble of school staff or a pupil – you can collect testing kits for you to do on yourself. Free 'lateral flow' test kits are available to collect from test sites across Somerset between set times. To find your nearest Somerset test collection site, please click https://somerset.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/ and enter your postcode. For more information about Coronavirus testing, please Coronavirus – Getting tested (somerset.gov.uk)

Support for Somerset Residents: Help is available for anyone in Somerset who may need additional support. The five councils in Somerset have been working together since the first lockdown to provide a single phone number for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. Residents are reminded they can call 0300 790 6275 if they need any help themselves or are concerned about relatives or neighbours. Lines are open seven days a week between 8am and 6pm.

The Future of Local Government in Somerset: The Government is considering changes to the system of local councils in Somerset. This is an opportunity to replace the outdated structure of five councils with a new single, unitary council. This One Somerset approach would put an end to confusion for residents, give greater powers to local communities, and free up millions of pounds that can be reinvested in frontline services. You can find out more about the case for One Somerset at: onesomerset.org.uk.

Linda Oliver

County Councillor Linda Oliver (Frome North Division)
T: 01373 834210 E: loliver@somerset.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/councillorlindaoliver/

SCOUT EUROPEAN JAMBOREE

As expected, the Scout European Jamboree in Poland that was postponed from last year has been cancelled.



We would like to thank everyone for their support and donations, and we wanted to let everyone know what was happening to the funds raised.

In line with the Charity Commission regulations, all sponsorships from other charities or businesses are being returned if required or put into the Scout Group Account. All other money from events, raffles, anonymous donations will be put in the Scout Account for any scout trips or camps in the future.

Jacqui Rottenbury

MEMORIAL HALL REOPENING OVERVIEW

Amongst the recent Government sprinklings of hope was some rather woolly wording about community centres being able to open soon.

After delving a little deeper, we understand that, from 12 April, the Hall can accommodate certain supervised indoor children's activities e.g. dance classes.



Most other activities can restart from 17 May in accordance with the household and social distancing guidelines, at up to half the Hall's normal capacity (=40 people). These permitted activities include exercise classes, children's parties, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, film shows, weddings/wakes up to 30 people, music events ... but no dancing!

Finally, from 21 June, larger weddings/wakes can take place and you'll be able to dance your hearts out.

Strangely, singing has not been mentioned so far.

Parish Council and other groups' AGMs due in the spring are subject to the above rules, so it would depend on potential group size.

The local authority will ensure that the local election on 6 May in the Hall is held in a Covid-secure manner.

Of course, all the above is subject to change by the Government, but it is the overview of what we are working towards. Please note, the kitchen will not open before 17 May.

If you would like to use your marvellous Hall for any type of event please contact the Bookings Secretary, Kate Robinson, at rodehall@bananasoft.net or by phone (evenings only) on 01373 830202.

We will provide full, helpful guidelines for holding a safe event in accordance with the Government rules in force.

Helen Flooks Hall Secretary

PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Finally, it seems that we will be able to do the draw in the Cross Keys garden as of April but until then, it is still being done by an independent neighbour.



Playing Field Lottery winners in February 2021:

1st £50.00 Gill Lynch, Rode.

 2^{nd} £25.00 & 3^{rd} £25.00 Mr. Gordon Roberts, Rode - it doesn't happen often!!

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 (when the Cross Keys is back to normal) possible all for £1.00 per ticket! And remember you are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket.

Tickets on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I.

Next draw, Wednesday 31^{st} March and then Friday 30^{th} of April in the Pub garden! If anyone would like to do the draw or witness it from a suitable social distance, then please feel free to do so - just ask.

Keith Sharman T: 830408

LAVERTON ON TELLY!

Well did you spot it? Laverton House in all its glory, bathed in autumn sunshine! In the second episode of McDonald and Dodds (still available on ITV hub for those who didn't catch it) it looked wonderful.



The production team had cleverly managed to relocate the house next to Box Tunnel and turn it in to a party house! My husband Martin (a bit of a secret model railway enthusiast) was very impressed with the model railway layout and asks if it's ever looking for a new home to please consider him!

Jackie Moss Laverton Newsletter Editor

NORTON ST PHILIP PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE



This term at Pre-school we have been looking at where in the world our fruit comes from.

We have explored some exotic locations by taking the stickers off of the items in our lunch boxes and finding the countries named on them on our world map.

We have enjoyed looking at symmetry and have painted beautiful butterflies with symmetric patterns on their wings.





We have also focused on starting to recognise and write numbers this term.

We loved playing in the snow at the start of the year but are now watching out for signs of Spring all around us.





We have been starting to plant our raised beds with carrots, peas, strawberries, runner beans and sunflowers, we also hope to attempt a pumpkin!

We have potatoes already started in a potato bag and have plans to grow some beautiful flowers too.

Our green fingers have already been put to good use, for Mother's Day we planted herb seeds in egg boxes that we had carefully decorated to give to our Mums.

Tom and Charlotte Wheeler of The Wheeler Family Produce very kindly removed our old broken sandpit during Half Term.

This has allowed us to reorganise our outside space, ready for the arrival of some very exciting new resources that we have ordered, using funds generously donated by the community and Co-op. More on these next time!

Lastly, our Committee are sad not to be able to hold our traditional Easter egg hunt event this year and are grateful for everyone's continued support via remote means such as Amazon Smile.

Happy Easter from all at Norton St Philip Pre-School!

AVON & SOMERSET POLICE - CHILDRENS SAFETY ONLINE

Avon and Somerset Police have been running hugely popular and oversubscribed parents webinars. They are now able to offer a recorded session on YouTube for people to watch in their own time. Visit: www.youtube.com/channel/UCf41oqLODZCDKOmdj6ulSDg

The 3 videos for parents cover topics including:

- Exploitation of children online
- Technical protective and safety measures available
- Tips on starting a conversation with children about the internet and how to use it safely.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER NEWS

I am still on part time furlough, but it has been wonderful to be able to resume going into Norton St. Philip First School on a Thursday afternoon to teach Religious Education to Gruffalo and Elmer Class. The children have been very enthusiastic learners!



More good news, Caroline, Jo and I will be holding weekly assemblies in both Rode and Norton St. Philip Schools after the Easter holidays. We'll still be working with a 'bubble class' on a weekly rota (looking forward to when we can meet with the whole school on each site). Meanwhile we've been pre-recording weekly assemblies (different Christian Values for our theme each term).

Also, we have been live on Zoom, holding 'Bif Club' (Bible is Fun), on a Thursday lunchtime and this has worked well. We are so lucky to have the I.T. to be able to keep in touch with each other and all our families. Mini Breakfast church has gone from strength to strength and we now have 14 families who regularly join in on the second Sunday of the month via Zoom. The next Mini Breakfast Church will be on Sunday 11th April on zoom 9.30am-10.00am. Please register with Caroline for your zoom invitation. Our theme will be 'Lost and Found'.

Do keep looking at the Children and Family Worker news section on the parish website for up-to-date information on activities in our parish and in the Diocese: hardingtonvale.org.uk

Sue Rodford

T: 01373 812766 E: kidschurch@hardingtonvale.co.uk Revd. Caroline Walker T: 01373834258 E: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com.

Parish Family & Friends Notices

AUDREY HARRIES

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Audrey Harries. The last fifty of her ninety-five years were spent living in Rode, where she worked tirelessly for people with learning disabilities.

Her funeral cortège will pass through Rode on Wednesday, 31st March at about 12:40.



As has become customary, if you would like to pay your respects by standing on the pavement for Audrey's last journey, she will travel through the village via Rode Hill, High Street and Church Lane, ending at St. Lawrence Church.

Please wear BRIGHT colours if you wish.

Donations in memory of Audrey can be made to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, The Woodland Trust and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

These may be made online at https://audreyharries.muchloved.com. Cheques also welcome c/o Elizabeth Snell and Family Independent Funeral Directors at the address below. Elizabeth Snell & Family Independent Funeral Directors Cote House, 51 Timbrell Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8PN

Ros and Bill Jackson

VIVIENNE HOLMAN

Pre Lockdown Vivienne attended many of our local Contact The Elderly Sunday afternoon teas hosted by residents of local villages which she greatly enjoyed.

To all who may have known her I write to advise that Vivienne, a resident of Norton St Philip, sadly passed away on 24th March 2021.



Glenys Brown

Parish Gardening

GARDENING IN APRIL

I'm really enjoying the spring flowers and blossom that have burst into life, it won't be long until the majestic magnolias will be in full bloom! I'm a big fan of the bright colours and fragrance of spring flowers, just the tonic we need after winter.







I've been enjoying seeing the bees buzzing around which makes me realise how quiet the gardens have been without them and other insects over winter. I can't wait for the butterflies and moths to emerge!

With the temperature increase and the longer days of light, everything is shooting, leaf buds swelling and bursting, hedges starting to green up, the grass is growing, and also means that weeds are growing too! The (hopefully) better and brighter weather is so inviting and encourages us to get outside and to feel the warmth on your face! Gardening jobs to do this month include the following:



- Dead heading spring bulbs and plants it it best to remove spent flowers on daffodils, tulips and hyacinths etc but leave the leaves to die back naturally and the energy will go back into the bulb for next year. Also pinch out and remove spent flowers on primroses, primulas and violas to keep encouraging them to produce more flowers.
- Cutting back remove any dead foliage and spent flower heads of perennials, and also prune ornamental grasses too, to make way for this years new growth.
- Mulching give your beds a good mulch with peat free compost, this keeps
 the moisture in the beds and gives the plants good feed as they are coming
 into growth.
- Grass cutting and edging lawns cutting and edging your lawn makes a big difference to how the whole garden looks, seemingly despite how much time you spend in the borders! Cutting your lawn regularly in the growing season is one of the best things you can do for your lawn.
- Spring lawn treatment as the temperature is rising, you can now give your lawn some TLC with scarifying, aerating, top dressing and over seeding any patches.

Parish Gardening

- Summer bedding plants they will now be available to buy from garden centres and plant nurseries, however they are not frost hardy, so if you do buy them I would recomment storing them under cover until the end of May when the risk of frost has gone.
- Seed sowing and potting on April is one of the main months for sowing many types of vegetables, herbs and flowers, including your giant sunflowers for the Rode Grows and Shares competition! Some seeds can germinate quickly and may be ready for potting on within a few weeks.
- Greenhouse spring clean if you have a greenhouse, is a good idea to clean the glazing now to allow as much light as possible to get in to help your seedlings and plants grow well, and to reduce the risk of pests and disease. I know it's not the most exciting job, but it will be so worth it and is the best time to do it now before the greenhouse gets full of plants
- .Feeding the birds they will soon be raising their new broods, and so would definately appreciate any food and/or clean water you can put out for them to drink and also another to bathe in, if possible. We had some goldfinches on the feeder recently for the first time, which I was very excited about.

Shared Gardens: Do you have a patch of garden that you don't use any more or is too much work? Would you be interested to share your garden with others? Or would you like to have more space to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers? If so, I would love to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved in the Garden Share scheme across the parish.

We've been busy at our shared garden plot at weekends preparing r growing beds and greenhouses. It's taking a bit longer than hoped, but we're definitely getting there. We've now got both beds constructed and one of two greenhouses fully installed. We've put the staging in with the first few trays of seedlings (including my sweet peas!), filled the two new raised beds with



spare top soil that fellow locals kindly gave us and we'll be topping them up with mushroom compost/working in chicken manure pellets too for extra goodness. We've been collecting pallets - we'll be making a series of compost bays - a great resource. We've also got our indoor seed sowing underway - seed trays germinating on windowsills and then moved into the greenhouse when ready.

Julia Robb

E: juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk. T: 07527 918314

N.B. See page 9 for Rode Grows and Shares latest news...

Parish Cricket

England's winter tour of India isn't going well!



They lost the test series 3-1 and at the time of writing have just lost the T20 series 3-2. England haven't lifted the spirits on the rugby field either losing to Scotland, Wales and Ireland, in the 6 nations, for the first time since the 70's.

But do not fear! The winning mentality will resume normal service when the mighty NSP Pitchforkers take to the field again with the new season now only a month away.

We have a very full fixture list for the 2021 season including a few more Sunday afternoon (30 and 40 over a side) matches.

If Covid restrictions are lifted we may even see the return of afternoon tea!

May Fixtures (Wednesday evenings unless stated):

30th April (Fri)	NSP v NSP	Home
5th May	Poplars	Home
12th May	Hinton Charterhouse	Away
19th May	Bradford On Avon	Home
26th May	Monkton Cavaliers	Home
2nd June	Babington	Home

(Junior matches will also be played on a Monday and Tuesday evening on Churchmead. Details will be in next month's edition)

Social Membership:

We have a great support in the community and all visiting teams are impressed with the atmosphere that is created on a Wednesday evening.

If you would like to become a social member and help support the club for a mere £10, then please contact me or see one of the committee members on a match night.

Parish Cricket

Sponsorship:

Like all clubs and organisations, it's hard to cover running costs by subscriptions alone. Ageing mowers, rollers, scarifiers etc. all eat up funds.

If you would like to sponsor a match for £25 again please contact me. We are happy to promote any business or cause (Non Political).

Norton St Philip CC is a one team, very friendly and very social, village club that play midweek matches.

The club captain this year is Rupert Foster (T: 07793 440534) so if you would like a game then please contact Rupert or myself.

Mark Finch, T: 07876 191100

Beckington, Rode and Norton St Philip Junior Cricket 2021 Season

Junior cricket training and matches is available for boys and girls of all ability and covers all age groups from All Stars (Reception) through U9s, 11s & 13s, 15s up to U19s.

Training is on a Thursday evening and starts on 8th April at: Beckington Recreation Ground Beckington BA11 6SJ

For more information please contact: Mark Finch, Junior Chairman T: 07876 191100 E: marknfinch@gmail.com

Come along, have fun and play cricket!









JACKDAWS' LEEK AND CHEESE PIE RECIPE

Jackdaws is a musical educational charity based at Great Elm, just outside Frome - it is an amazing organisation that delivers a musical experience to schools throughout Somerset and Wiltshire in various outreach projects, as well as offering musical weekends in their wonderful newly built music studio at Great Elm; I'm very fortunate and proud to be one of their cooks providing food over their weekend courses - this is one of my favourite lunchtime meals! It is delicious! Totally perfect for a hearty meal with a salad and crusty bread or baked potato - just the job after an invigorating walk in our chilly early spring weather. I LOVE this pie! Alex Sing

Ingredients:

Sheet of puff pastry & Sheet of short crust pastry 500gms Leeks, washed and sliced (quite chunky) or to thickness of choice 200-250 grated cheddar or cheese of choice Beaten egg for glazing Salt and pepper to taste Olive oil glug or knob of butter Baking tray 11" x 9" or 10" flan dish

Method: So, firstly thoroughly wash the leeks to rid any grit and dirt. Drain and pat dry. Put glug of oil in non-stick pan and gently fry for 10-15 mins until softened, add salt and pepper to taste, allow to cool.

Meanwhile grease baking tray/flan dish. Lay out shortcrust pastry on the tray with 1/4" pastry overlapping the edge of dish. Fill the dish with cooked leeks and scatter the grated cheese over the top of leeks, mix the two until evenly mixed together. Sprinkle salt and pepper dusting and some mixed herbs if desired.

Next - take sheet of puff pastry and cover the leeks and cheese and tuck the edge into the bottom of the pie - you may need to trim excess pastry at this stage but use some scissors to trim it to size - much easier than trying to do it with a knife...! Once you have a snug fit brush the beaten egg on the edge of bottom pastry and top pastry, fold the excess of the bottom sheet to the top pastry, press the two together and with a fork go around the edge to make sure you have a secure seal and the top and bottom are bonded - you should be left with a perfect parcel! Brush the top of the pie with remaining egg wash.

Put oven middle shelf at 170 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown.

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share for others to enjoy too please do send it in, email it to link@rodevillage.com. and you will receive a bottle of Fussels Rape Seed Oil courtesy of Fussels Fine Foods when your recipe is printed.





32a High Street, Rode, BA11 6PA Telephone 01373 830321

Sam and the team would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the shop, cafe takeaway and Post Office.

Opening hours over the Easter holidays will be:

Good Friday (2nd April) 9am to 1pm

Saturday (3rd April) 9am to 1pm
Easter Sunday Closed

Easter Sunday Closed
Easter Monday (5th April) 9am to 1pm

In line with Government guidelines we anticipate opening the cafe, serving at our outside tables, from 12th April.

We will be serving breakfasts, lunches and we will continue with takeaways too. Fingers crossed for some good weather.

Usual opening hours for the shop, café and Post Office...

Monday 09:00 – 17:30

Tuesday 09:00 - 17:30

Wednesday 09:00 - 13:00

Thursday 09:00 - 17:30

Friday 09:00 – 17:30

Saturday 09:00 - 13:00



Everyone at **The Mill at Rode** are really looking forward to welcoming you all back into our wonderful gardens on April 12 for our new outside table service.

We have been working with ICRTOUCH to bring you easy outdoor ordering! You will now be able to order and pay from your table or seat on a personal device which allows us to keep all our lovely customers and staff safe.

We are also introducing a new and improved menu, which we are very excited for you all to see!

To book a table for April 12 onwards, please call 01373 831100

See you all very soon, John and the team.
@rodemillofficial
http://www.rodemill.co.uk

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With FREE Click & Collect. simply order online and collect from our shop at Church Farm, Rode (BA11 6AA).



Delivery and Same Day Collection Service

We are trying to help those in our community that may have trouble getting out to get supplies by offering a delivery and a collection service.

If you would like an order then please check our website, email your order to us or give us a call and we will deliver to your door within a day or two or if you would like it that day you can just drive into the car park and we will load it straight into your boot. No need for you to even get out of the car.

This applies to everything we sell in the shop including our lovely ready meals, meat from the butcher, fresh fruit and veg as well as bread and milk.



Phone 01225 720006 www.farleighroadfarmshop.co.uk

FOOD BANKS

Many of us in our communities are so fortunate.

We are able to access good food and have roomy, cosy, houses to live in. Even though we are locked down we are still remarkably comfortable.

It just isn't the case for others in our wider community as we hear regularly from the news. Families and individuals through no fault of their own are living in food poverty and are unable to adequately feed themselves or their families.

A group of us feel it is important to respond to this need, and we are sure many others reading this will agree.

From our enquiries the local food banks seem to be well organised but they may need more volunteers, but money is always needed to stock them with appropriate food items.

Trussell Trust is the national umbrella organisation that supports local food banks. FairFrome do the same in Frome. The Somer Valley Food Bank is one such group that supports venues at churches in Paulton, Peasedown and Radstock.

If you feel like sending a donation or volunteering some contact details are below:

- Trussell Trust have a very good website: <u>trusselltrust.org</u> where you can also donate directly.
- Fair Frome, Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB. T: 01373 488578 / 07714 587129. Open Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-1.00 pm. Website: fairfrome.org/fair-frome-food-bank/
- Somer Valley Food Bank, C/o The Vicarage, Church Road, Peasedown St John, Bath BA2 8AA. Website: somervalley.foodbank.org.uk

Alternatively, if you are shopping at the supermarkets, how about putting some extra food items from your trolley into the local food bank collection box. There is usually guidance as to which food items are the most useful.

It seems so unfair that in our country some of us live in plenty, while others really struggle. This is just one way of helping to redress the balance.

Barbara Day and Myra Miller



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ACTION

RODE HOEDOWN DAY

SUNDAY APRIL 25TH @2PM

COME JOIN US ON RODE HOEDOWN

We're a group of volunteers willing to give a few hours a month to help look after our village. This could be weeding, planting flowers, sweeping a pavement or picking up litter along a country lane.

TEA & CAKE AFTERWARDS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

TO FIND OUT MORE GET IN TOUCH WITH MIKE SALMON 01373 831257
MIKESALMON123@ICLOUD.COM



Noticeboard

GET BACK INTO TENNIS AT EASTER

We have lessons to suit everyone as a gentle introduction back into sport and then from April 10th (juniors) and April 20th (Adults) classes will resume at the weekends and Tuesday evenings.



Saturday April 3rd Adult lessons in groups of 4 cost per hour £7.50 (£7.00 for members).

April 6th, 12th and 13th junior lessons for 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

Bookings can be made at: clubspark.lta.org.uk/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/Coaching

Alternatively contact me on donna.tennis@hotmail.com for more details.

Donna West Head Coach, Beckington Tennis Association

BRADFORD ON AVON & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Hello again from Bradford on Avon & District Flower Club, we hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and sunshine of March.

Following the news of the roadmap from the government, we are continuing to hold all our meetings online via Zoom.

The next club meeting will be on Thursday 1st April at 7.30pm when we welcome Denise Jones who will be demonstrating some wonderful ideas and arrangements.

The following meeting is Thursday 6th May at 7.30pm with area demonstrator and club member Cath Brown.

Please look at the Bradford on Avon & District Flower Club's Facebook page for details on how to join meetings plus lots of ideas about arranging flowers, including a monthly theme to create yourself and share on the page!

For any enquiries, please contact Club Chairman Sharon Ecob on 01225 309208.

Noticeboard



SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST

LAUNCHES 2021 SOMERSET NATURE RESERVES FUND Fund unveiled to ensure nature reserves continue to play their role in reversing nature's decline and provide resilient, connected landscapes for wildlife and people in the future

SOMERSET

Somerset Wildlife Trust is pleased to unveil its **2021 Somerset Nature Reserves Fund**. Launched in 2016, the Fund exists to ensure the Trust can deliver the year round maintenance needed to safeguard the health of its nature reserves across the county, which costs about £2,000 a day. The Fund has inspired many people who care about the county's precious landscapes and wildlife to donate, which makes a vital difference to the Trust's ability to protect these precious and fragile habitats.

This year the Fund is particularly important as the Trust navigates its way through the uncertain economic climate, and after a year when its conservation volunteer teams have not be out to help manage its reserves as usual but many more local people have been visiting its reserves.

Katie Arber, Director of Fundraising & Marketing explains, "Our nature reserves provide a safe refuge for an enormous range of wildlife, including some exceptionally rare species. They are also really important wildlife habitats within Somerset's nature recovery network — a matrix of connected healthy habitats across the county through which species can move and spread. They are so important as we look to tackle the decline in biodiversity and the continued impacts of climate change. It's absolutely essential that we continue to raise funds to keep our nature reserves in good health."

The Trust's Reserve Managers are now starting another season's habitat work without having been able to complete much of the work from the previous year, and this backlog doesn't even include the vast amount of work required to manage the tragic effects of Ash Dieback. For most of the last year they have been without the support of their volunteers who they rely on to help manage our reserves, so the Trust has had to bring in contractors at considerable expense to help them keep on top of things.

Noticeboard

Graeme Mitchell, Chair of Trustees, Somerset Wildlife Trust adds, "There's never been a year where donations to our Somerset Nature Reserves Fund have been more vital. Our planned reserve management budgets simply weren't designed to support the amount of additional costs we're facing. Visitor numbers have almost doubled on our nature reserves during lockdown and, whilst it's brilliant to see so many people out enjoying nature locally, of course more visitors mean more maintenance work, with wear and tear on paths, boardwalks, stiles and hides needing constant repair. We have also had to repair damage and deal with fly-tipping as a result of those few who don't treat our reserves with respect. We're playing a massive game of catch up.

"We want to thank all our supporters for everything they've done to help the Trust in recent times. It's hard to ask for help again but we need people to get behind us and support the Fund this year. We are committed to doing our best to maintain our nature reserves — for the wildlife that call them home, the wider ecology of the county, but also for everyone who lives, works and visits Somerset".

To make a donation please go to:

somersetwildlife.org/naturereservesfund You can also donate securely by card by telephoning 01823 652429.



Follow us on Twitter at SomersetWT or Facebook on @Somersetwildlifetrust. Find out more about Somerset Wildlife Trust by visiting: www.somersetwildlife.org

Noticeboard



Is your child living with another family?

Have you been looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more?

Do you know a child that's being looked after outside their close family?

If so, the child may be living in a private fostering arrangement.

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements. This is so we can make sure the children are well looked after and to give support to their carers.



Call Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224 or email: childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Noticeboard

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old - or under 18 if they have a disability - lives with someone for 28 days or more who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. A close relative would be a parent, step-parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They might be a friend of the child's family. They could be someone who is willing to look after a child they do not know, for example if that child is on an exchange trip or have parents who live overseas.

If Children's Social Care has made the arrangement, or the person who is caring for the child is and approved foster carer, this is not private fostering.

What to do if you know of a private fostering arrangement

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements.

If you think you are privately fostering a child or know about a child who is being privately fostered, then don't worry, it is allowed. But you do need to tell us - we have a legal duty to ensure that all children who are privately fostered are cared for in a safe and suitable environment.

To report a private fostering arrangement, please call our Contact Centre in confidence on **0300 123 2224** or email **childrens@somerset.gov.uk**

For general enquiries please email: **PrivateFostering@somerset.gov.uk**



Untold Tales

A slightly different slant from Anthony Battersby this month...

CROSS BORDER: BEIRUT

This story comes from before the time I worked on child immunisation, and the border I crossed was an invisible one separating the area controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from the rest of the city.

In 1974 I was working as a hospital architect. The firm which employed me had a number of contracts in the Near and Middle East and had an office at Ain Saadeh above Beirut. I and a colleague were bound for Manama hospital in Bahrain but had to call in to the Beirut office on the way.

We arrived at Beirut airport and got a taxi to take us to the Phoenicia Hotel in the middle of the city. As we got into the taxi the driver said, "We have big trouble in the city, lots of shooting." I laughed "There is always lots of shooting in Beirut. I was here when Nasser died and there was lots of shooting then." "No not like that" he said, "The army is attacking the Palestinians." He assured us that he could get through, but we would have to go on a circuitous route. The direct route went right through Sabra and the Shatila refugee camp, at that time under the control of the PLO, where some years later there was a terrible massacre perpetrated by the Phalange militia under the eyes of the Israeli Defence Force.

So, we set off. In those days, just after leaving the airport there was an extensive area of Mediterranean pines before you reached the built-up area. We were about halfway through these trees when suddenly a tank swung up into the middle of the road, stopped and swung its turret to point directly at our taxi.

There is something quite disquieting about seeing a tank point its main armament at you, even more when you hear the rattle of 30 calibre machine gun fire. Our driver's reaction was to accelerate into a side road and keep accelerating until a T junction loomed ahead. He will slow down now, I thought, but no he just kept going. If he does not slow down now, we will not make the turn. At this moment he slammed on the brakes flung the car through 90 degrees and started to accelerate again. I turned to my colleague and said, "Wind down your window and get on the floor." "Why?" he asked. "To stop you being blinded by flying glass if we are hit," I replied. "Is that supposed to reassure me?" he asked. "Not really but it is the lesser of two evils."

By now we could see that the whole road, which was full of vehicles and people, was blocked by a barricade. Undeterred and without slowing down the driver mounted the pavement scattering the produce of a greengrocer's shop and

Untold Tales

swung past the barricade. Beyond, the street was completely empty and dead straight to the point where a machine gun was mounted firing down the road.

By now we were going about 60mph and weaving from side to side. I remembered my Royal Marine training for gauging the closeness of enemy fire: crack and thump. The crack is the bullet passing you and the thump is the sound of the explosion: the former is travelling at two to three times the speed of sound, the latter is at the speed, of sound so the time between the two indicates the distance from the incoming fire, one second indicates about 500m. Hearing both is reassuring as it means you have not been hit. By the time I had remembered all this, the car was past the machine gun and we were heading for quieter times. The driver slowed to a reasonable Beirut speed and we began to see other vehicles on the road.

My colleague was still flat on the floor. Eventually we pulled up outside the Phoenicia Hotel unscathed. A journey that should have taken no more that twenty minutes took us over 2 hours. The hotel staff told us that there was a curfew in place and we would not be able to leave the hotel.

Two days later we were still in the hotel and were wondering how we would get out because the airport was closed, when we spotted a Pan Am flight crew.

They told us that they were from Pan Am 001, the west bound round- the-world service, and they were leaving that evening for Istanbul; did we want to join them? And so we joined the Pan Am flight, had a stop-over in Istanbul and arrived back in London two days later.



Lebanese army armoured vehicle passing in front of the Phoenicia Hotel

The next time we went to Bahrain we flew direct on Singapore Airlines. Just over a year later Lebanon descended into all-out civil war our little experience with the tank and the machine guns seemed very tame but was a precursor of horrors to come.

Anthony Battersby

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via ZOOM) MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Peter Travis – Chair (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Elaine Butler (EB), Cllr Steve Eyles (SE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr Mike Salmon (MS)

In attendance: Cllr B Lund, Cllr L Oliver, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 7 members of the public

1. Public Participation:

Comment was made that the weed clearance had improved the appearance of the village; however, it had revealed the poor state of the pavements in many areas. The Chair said a full assessment of pavements would be carried out.

It was said that currently the Mendip planning site did not have all the comments submitted on the Barbara's Field application on its site.

It had been reported that fibre internet was to be installed throughout the village and an update was asked for. It was reported that Voneus were planning to install this before the end of this year, but confirmation was still awaited. It was noted that Truespeed required customer commitment before they would proceed and that currently they had no plans for Rode for at least 3 years.

Concern was expressed that during a recent accident on the A361 it was noted that a number of over-weight lorries had been using Rode Bridge to avoid the delays.

Following the Inspector's deletion of Merfield/The Mead site from the list of sites to accommodate the required extra housing it was asked if this would impact on the current application. In response it was said that the application would still proceed. It was thought that the reasons for this deletion by the Inspector would be given once the final Hearing's Report was issued.

It was asked whether the annual Parish meeting would take place this year; in response it was said it would and that it would probably be a remote (Zoom) meeting.

- **2. Apologies for absence**: None. The Chair expressed his thanks to all Councillors and also to the District and County Councillors for their continued attendance at all meetings.
- **3. Approval of the minutes**: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2021 and of the Special Parish Council meeting held on 9th February were approved.

4.Declarations of interest: SE and AP declared an interest in planning application 2021/0071/OTS, however as the vote on the Parish Council (PC) decision had been made they had been given dispensation to provide limited information to help with the compilation of the full PC response.

5. Report from County Councillor: The PC wished to pass on its congratulations to SCC for its excellent roll out of the Covid19 vaccinations.

Cllr Oliver reported that she had forwarded designs for the village gateway signs to the Chair and these would be circulated for selection. It was hoped these would be installed in the next financial year. At the same time the 30mph and 40mph limits would be extended on the A361.

Sha asked for all the photos on worn street markings be forwarded to her in a single file which she would then pass onto SCC.

The speed and volume data for the A361 had raised questions from members of the PC and she advised these be sent to Traffic Management as soon as possible and before full evaluation of the data took place. This was agreed and it was explained that members of the PC had been busy with the planning application on Barbara's Field and not had time to evaluate the data.

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported that Mendip had agreed to implement a trial of the universal basic income and to pay the real living wage to all its employees. Mendip was also giving a £40,000 investment to the arts; this money had come from travel savings by staff during the Covid19 lockdowns.

7. Actions from the previous meeting:

- i) Weed control: It was agreed the PC would present Clive Harrington with an aerial view of Rode to thank him for all the work he had done. AP had arranged for photos to be taken and he would be circulating a selection for PC to choose an appropriate one to donate.
 - It was agreed that other photos should be offered to residents and that a small percentage of each sale given to the PC as it had funded the taking of them.
 - AP was thanked for arranging this.
- ii) **Lengthsman:** Ben Vowles would be employed as the village lengthsman. There was some discussion over the number of days he would be needed during the year, with questions raised as to whether he would be needed for 26 days per annum as the bulk of the work had been done and little work would be needed in the winter months. It was agreed that he would be initially given a six-month trial which would be for a minimum of 13 days work to be reviewed monthly by EB and the PC would decide if extra days were needed during this trial period. The rate of pay was set at £120/day. The wording of the draft contract was agreed with the deletion of clauses 3 and 6 as these were covered by clause 7. Discussion was held as to whether

any money could come from MDC or SCC as this was work that would have been done in the past by them. Cllrs Oliver and Lund agreed to investigate what the sequence of road sweeping etc. should be. Additionally, AP agreed to check what responsibility landowners had for keeping footpaths clear.

- iii) **Surface Water Clay Lane:** Cllr Oliver had written to SCC regarding this issue and was awaiting a response. This issue was part of the adoption of The Sportsman development which still had to be done. A bond was in place to ensure drainage and other issues were sorted prior to adoption by SCC. It was agreed the PC should write to Somerset once details of the S106 or S278 were determined as these should cover this issue.
- iv) **Calm Engineering:** JM reported that an initial survey had been conducted but the full drainage survey had been delayed to mid-March due to delays in getting road closures in place. Affected residents would be notified prior to work starting. He said seven letters had been sent back on flooding issues, especially on the 2000 flood, and these had been passed onto Calm.
- v) **Riverside walk:** Three new signs had been prepared and installation of these was now with the landowner; a request to move the sign near Scutts Bridge to the other side of the path had been made.
- vi) **Marsh Road:** Photographs had been sent to Mendip and an engineer was due to visit the road. It had also been agreed once Covid19 restrictions were lifted a site visit by Mendip with AE, EB and the Clerk would take place.
- vii) **Lower Street:** The PC agreed that the current bench would be replaced and it was agreed to pay Grant Slade £190 for a replacement. It was also agreed that the pump would be repaired and repainted by Ben Vowles at a cost of £100.
- viii) **The Bell:** Contact with the owners was still to be made. PT reported he had been contacted by a resident interested in operating a take-away service from part of the building but would require other businesses to take on part of the space to make this viable.
- **8.** Climate Emergency: JM reported that he had put an article in The Link to get volunteers to form a Working Group (WG) but to date had had little interest. It was agreed getting this off the ground during the current restrictions was difficult.
- **9. Highways:** It was agreed the working group would look at the A361 speed and volume data with Patrick Moss this month.

PT agreed to collate the worn road marking photographs and send them to Cllr Oliver who was co-ordinating a response.

The issue of large vehicles using Lower Street was discussed, it was agreed not to make the narrow southern end one way. The PC would also highlight the issue of HGVs using this narrow stretch of road to Somerset Traffic Management (with copy to Cllr Oliver) and ask for their recommendations for a solution to avoid the problem of damage to people's property.

It was agreed to approach Traffic Management at SCC asking for their advice on installation of either repeater signs or roundels on Rode Hill, this would be supported by speed-watch data.

10. Planning matters

a. New applications:

2021/0178/HSE: Insertion of garage door to existing car port and erection of a garden room for home office – 16 St Lawrence Lane. No objections.

2021/0293/TCA: Goat willow – re-pollard at previous pruning points – Cheap Street. No objections.

- b. Mendip decisions: None
- c. Other planning matters:

2021/0071/OTS: Application for outline planning permission for the erection of up to 49 dwellings etc. off Church Lane. The PC had at its Special Meeting on 9th February agreed to oppose this development. The draft response had been circulated to all members of the PC and there were no comments. It was agreed this was a comprehensive objection and JM in particular was thanked for preparing it. It was considered about 80-90% complete and agreed the final draft would be circulated to the PC for email approval before being submitted by the Clerk as the PC response. The transport assessment prepared by Patrick Moss should also be submitted as a separate response.

It was also agreed that 'without prejudice' a separate document should be prepared outlining the minimum requirements of a Section 106 (S106) that the PC wanted should the development get approval. Discussions agreed that the requirements would include installation of a 20mph speed limit throughout Rode village, commitment that the developer did install on Brown's Ground: allotments, a water supply, proper paths and flood abatement measures for Nutts Lane along with other water/flood measures. PT, EB and Cllr Oliver agreed to draft this document.

11. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: The trees had now been cut back near the Playing Field and fencing could start; however, the path from Church Farm was yet to start and this probably would not do so until further housing was completed.

AP had prepared a letter of agreement regarding the boundary fence and actual S106 land boundary, this required approval prior to being sent to Andy Fussell.

- **12. Inspector's Hearing:** No update, the final report was awaited.
- **13.** Cycling and Walking: This was moving forward slowly, a consultant had been appointed for the initial work in Frome. The villages would be consulted at a later stage. EB said that the path 13/1 would require a formal diversion to go through the Church Farm site, this would need to be applied for.

- **14. Police Beat Manager:** Toni-Marie Lines was now back after long term sick leave.
- **15. Transport action plan for Bath:** A joint response from Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip had been submitted along with a response from Frome.
- **16. Face-to-face meetings:** Currently virtual meetings were only possible until 7th May which meant that face-to-face meetings would have to start in June. If this was the case, the large room in the village hall would need to be used to maintain social distancing. It was noted that this was being challenged by the NALC as it was not in line with other Government guidance.

17. Financial matters:

- i) The Clerk reported that he had now re-submitted (electronically) forms to add EB and MS as signatories to the NatWest bank account, the first submission having been rejected by the bank.
- ii) The following payments were agreed:

Dale Weeks (hedge cutting) £50.00
Drone Aerialpixs (aerial photos) £317.90
Vistaprint (Riverwalk signs) £49.71
Clerk salary £228.74
HMRC PAYE £55.00
Peter Travis (Zoom subscription) £14.39

17. Other items:

Lower Street development: PT said it had been reported to him that there had been two land falls from gardens on the High Street onto the site. The second being more serious in that a digger driver could have been badly injured. It was suggested that the HSE and the site owner along with possibly someone within Mendip Building Control be alerted to these incidents. This was not a PC issue but appropriate authorities should be informed.

Book of condolence: A book had been bought should it be needed for either the Duke of Edinburgh or The Queen.

The Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Date of Next Meeting (virtual via Zoom):

Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.30 pm

Website: rodeparishcouncil.webs.com

...and finally

WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where, in Hardington Vale, would you see this view? Did you recognise the milestone in last month's photograph? It is on Rode Hill, between Marsh Rd and the High St.

If you have a photograph of a part of Hardington Vale that you would like us to feature, email it to link@rodevillage.com, or drop it into 30 High St, Rode with the location.



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POEM OF THE MONTH

"Awake, thou wintry earth -Fling off thy sadness! Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth Your ancient gladness!"

Thomas Blackburn, An Easter Hymn



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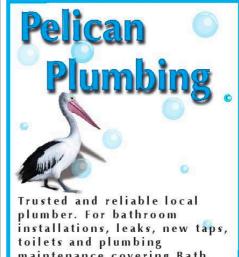
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PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE - CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

DATE	TIME	SERVICE SERVICES IN ATT	LEADER/INFO	
Thursday 1 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30 pm	Passover Meal	Zoom	
Friday 2 April GOOD FRIDAY	2.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Hour at the Cross	Pre-recorded or in church	
Sunday 4 April EASTER SUNDAY	9.00 am	Sunrise Vigil Informal Breakfast Tellisford, Holy Communion* Farleigh Hungerford, Holy Communion* Laverton, Holy Communion* Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion*	Pre-recorded Zoom Pre-recorded available from website Zoom	
Monday 5 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion* Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
Tuesday 6 April	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	Zoom	
Wednesday 7 April	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer	Zoom Zoom	
Thursday 9 April	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	Zoom	
Thursday 8 April Sunday 11 April	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion	C Walker/	
Sunuay 11 April	10.30 am	Notion St 1 mmp, 1101y Communion	S Kivett	
Monday 12 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
Wednesday 14 April	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom	
Thursday 15 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	Zoom	
Sunday 18 April	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion	C Walker	
Monday 19 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
Tuesday 20 April	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	Zoom	
Wednesday 21 April	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom	
Thursday 22 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	Zoom	
Sunday 25 April	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion	C Walker/J	
			Robinson	
Monday 26 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
Wednesday 28 April	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	Zoom	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom	
Thursday 29 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	Zoom	

^{*}These services are entry by pre-ordered ticket only

Zoom invitations may be obtained from Rev Caroline Walker Email: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com Tel: 01373-834258

^{**}For all services in church buildings social distancing and mask-wearing must be observed.

APRIL 2021 DIARY & 2021 YEAR PLANNER					
Fri Apr 2	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday				
Sun Apr 4	Easter Sunday				
Mon Apr 5	BANK HOLIDAY – Easter Monday				
Tue Apr 6	7.30pm Rode Parish Council Monthly Meeting via Zoom				
Mon Apr 19	11am-12pm Mobile Library, Memorial Hall				
Fri Apr 23	MAY LINK COPY DEADLINE				
Sun Apr 25	Rode Hoedown see pages 7 & 32 for info				
Fri Apr 30	Rode Playing Field Draw see page 15 for info.				
Mon 3 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Early Spring Bank Holiday				
Mon 31 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Spring Bank Holiday				
Sun 20 Jun	Father's Day				



Please send copy for the May 2021 issue of 'The Link'
via email to gillhlleonard@aol.com or deliver to 1 Lower Street, Rode BA11 6PU
latest Friday 23rd April 2021.

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