

The Link

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



DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

Santa Dash, Christmas Markets, Carols, Nativities... 2022

2023... A New Panto, Return of Loved Fundraisers, ABBA?

Rode Housing Development Appeal Latest

and much more local news and info too...

£1

PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE

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Rachel Feiden ³, John Flindall, Francis Green ⁴,
Rachel Stewart, Anne Harkness, Ros Lockley,
Sally Pickett ³, Michael Walker
¹ Deanery Synod Representatives
² Safeguarding Officer currently vacant
³ Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh
Hungerford, Rode and Tellisford.
⁴ with specific responsibility for Hemington
churchyard

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Sue Rodford (kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk)

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Hemington and Hardington are in the care of the
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Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
Cricket Club (Rode) Seniors	Andy Pickett	andypickett2013@gmail.com/07775 805546
Cricket Club (NSP) Youth & Seniors	Mark Finch	07876 191100
Friends of Rode and Norton Schools (FRANS)	Jilly Clay	07766127218 /friendsrodenorton@gmail.com
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Playing Field/Pavilion (Rode)	Bookings	rodepfbookings@gmail.com
Post Office (Rode)	Demi Ward	830321
RANS Running & Walking Club www.facebook.com/TeamRANS	Brandon Quentin-Hicks	brandon@bambooohouse.co.uk 07867 545720
Rode & NSP First School Federation	Headteacher: Georgina Muxworthy	830523
Rode Parent/Carer/ Toddler Group	Ros Jackson	rosjackson@btinternet.com
Rodevillage.com Website & Twitter Feed	George Berry	info@rodevillage.com http://twitter.com/rodevillage
1 st Rode Scout Group Beavers Wed 4.45-5.45pm Cubs Thu 6-7.30pm Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm NB During school terms only	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussell01@gmail.com 830640/07736 739680
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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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Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION



Follow the Star!

As we get to the end of this year and look back, we realise it has been quite a year in the parish, in the country and in the world!

In February, Russia invaded Ukraine and since then 80+ Ukrainians have joined our community - and how they have enriched our lives!

In June we had wonderful village celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, and then in September, just four months later, we mourned her loss - and we gained a new King.

In October we got our third Prime Minister and fourth Chancellor of the year.

So that's...one Russian invasion, two sovereign monarchs, three prime ministers, four chancellors and as I write this at the end of November, we are now travelling full speed towards Christmas... five flu-free turkeys?

I wonder what is on your Christmas wish-list? Integrity in public life and politics? An easing of the economic crisis? A faster response to the climate emergency? A better resourced NHS? We live in difficult times.

The first Christmas, in the year zero, was a dark time for Israel. Ordinary Jewish people had to work extra hard to pay the taxes demanded by the occupying Roman forces – you could say they had a cost-of-living crisis – the future looked bleak. Into this darkness a new light appeared in the sky.

Wise men - scientists, who lived in the east saw the star and searched their writings for an answer to this sign - they may have read the Jewish scriptures and found the verse in Micah 5:2 which talked about a new king – *‘out of Bethlehem...will come a ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.’*

So, they followed the star to Jerusalem and asked King Herod *‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’*

The wise men from the east saw the sign in the sky and interpreted it as a sign of the times.

Church Reflection, News & Events

How do we interpret the signs of the times? Who do we listen to for guidance, for truth? I know I have a tendency to check my BCC News app several times during the day and then sometimes, just when I should be thinking of getting ready for bed, I find myself checking in just one more time. Do we listen non-stop to social media? Do we get overdosed on news and the opinions of politicians and influencers?

The Christmas message is that there is hope – in the cacophony of fake news and noise there is a message of truth that we can believe in - in the middle of the darkness and despair there is a light that we can follow.

As we travel through the Christmas story we see how all kinds of people - from the unmarried teenager to the humble carpenter, from the wild and woolly shepherds to the wise and wealthy scientists – how they listened to the angels, searched the scriptures, followed the star and found themselves in front of a baby.

'In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' John 1:4-5

I pray you enjoy this Christmas season, that you listen out for the good news of the angels, that you follow the sign of the star, and that you receive the gift of the baby who became man – Jesus Christ - God made flesh. I pray that you can begin 2023 with hope. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jo Robinson

Curate

Last Sunday of the Month

CrossYoga @Norton St Philip Church

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

Bring a mat and blanket. Wear comfy clothes.

Jan 29
Feb 26
March 26

5-6pm
Optional donation £5

Sign up:
carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

It was lovely to see so many people turn out on Remembrance Sunday for the parade and the service on the Green and weren't we lucky with the weather?!

It was very encouraging to see so many members of all the 1st Rode Major Scout Group out on parade and we were very fortunate to be joined by the army from Stanton St Quintin (based near Chippenham).



We didn't hold Breakfast Church in November due to it falling on Remembrance Day and it will return on the 8th January at 9am. Everybody is welcome to come and join in with our delicious breakfast and informal worship.



No doubt December will be a busy month at St Lawrence as we look forward to all of the various Services during Advent and at Christmas.

We have our Family Carol Service at 3 pm on the 18th December and our Outdoor Nativity starting at the top of Marsh Road on Sunday 11th December, also at 3pm.

If you would like to play a more active role in the Outdoor Nativity, either musically or playing a part, then please do contact me (Sally 831796), there's something for everyone – adults, children and animals!

There will be Midnight Mass at St Lawrence at 11pm, and then our Family Service on Christmas Day at 10.30am – please bring along any visiting family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our Services. We are looking forward to having our Christmas Services in church again this year as we were not able to do this last year.

Geoff Banwell and Sally Pickett

N.B. Please see our Christmas Section commencing on page 39 for details of Church Christmas Events and Services. Details of all December and January Services can be found at the back of the magazine.

A Message from The Link Team

Another year is almost over - another year of unexpected events. Thankfully we are able to return to more traditional and social Christmas and New Year celebrations this year with Covid being less of a threat .

2022 has brought many new residents to Hardington Vale and we do hope you've enjoyed your first months here and will enjoy your first H.V. Christmas. Sadly, this year we have seen the passing of a number of Hardington Vale's long standing residents and characters who will be missed and remembered at this special time of year.

. A huge thank you to all our Contributors and Distributors for your invaluable help and participation in compiling and delivering The Link (whatever the weather). Our thanks also to all our Subscribers and advertisers for your contributions to funding the magazine.

It seems 2023 will be another year of challenges, not least the threat of recession and soaring utility bills. It remains to be seen what the year will bring. Given the last few years who knows what surprises 2023 holds, we shall see...

This, our last issue of 2022, also covers January 2023
- our next issue being February 2023.

Wishing you and your families,
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2023.

Gill Leonard

Parish News

POTENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN RODE – LAND AT CHURCH LANE

In January 2021 an application was made to Mendip District Council (MDC) to build 49 houses on land abutting Clay Lane and Church Lane (known as “Barbara’s Field”). The application was unanimously opposed by Rode Parish Council (RPC), and over 160 villagers wrote to MDC objecting to the development. There were no letters of support.



Above: Applicant’s design drawing, showing both Barbara’s Field and the adjacent Brown’s Ground land, which is proposed to be the site of an orchard, allotments and open space.

In August last year MDC, the local planning authority, turned down the application, citing several material reasons for refusal, which can be summarised as follows:

- The site is in open countryside, would result in an excessive quantum of development, and the harm caused by the development would demonstrably outweigh the benefits;
- The proposal would result in an unacceptable degree of visual encroachment into the countryside and harm the rural character of the site;
- Public benefits that would outweigh the harm to nearby listed buildings and the Rode Conservation Area have not been demonstrated.

Additional reasons for refusal related to the absence of an adequate surface water drainage strategy, and no legal mechanism to secure contributions to local services, etc.

Parish News

Earlier this year the applicant decided to appeal that decision and has submitted a revised application. This is substantially the same as the original, albeit the proportion of affordable homes has been increased from 30% (15 houses) to 40% (20 houses). The applicant believes that the development has a number of merits (providing affordable and age-restricted homes; much of the existing Brown's Ground would be open to the public, offering health and wellbeing benefits for the community; enhancing biodiversity). They also believe that the benefits of the proposal would outweigh the impact on the landscape and nearby heritage assets.

The appeal process has now commenced, and the Planning Inspectorate is holding an Informal Hearing as part of this process. The Inspector will automatically receive all the documentation submitted in relation to the original application – so any letter you wrote last year, together with the Parish Council's submission, etc, etc, will be seen and read by the Inspector.

However, if you wish to make additional comments, or modify/withdraw any previous representation, you can do so online at aop.planninginspectorate.gov.uk. You will need to log in (or register) on the site before you can add your comments, and enter the Case Number (which is **3292838**). Alternatively, you can send your comments to: The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3D Eagle, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN quoting the appeal reference number **APP/Q3305/W/22/3292838**.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to 12th January 2023. All the documentation is now available on the MDC website - (go to the section "view and comment on planning applications" and search for application ref 2021/0071/OTS).

Any objection to (or support for) the application should ideally be based on issues of planning law. It is probable that the Inspector will also want to understand all the "on the ground" issues – be that traffic, visual intrusion, impact on rural character, or any other matter residents feel strongly about.

The Parish Council's original submission (accessible on the Mendip website using the same reference as above) lists out many such issues. The applicant's "Statement of Case" sets out alternative views and argues that the development should be allowed to go ahead.

Both Mendip District Council and Rode Parish Council remain opposed to the development and will argue strongly that the original decision to refuse the application was correct. In addition, both MDC and RPC are planning to attend the hearing, which is likely to take place in February.

Jim McAuliffe, Rode Parish Council

Parish News

RODE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE...

As confirmed last month Osborne's are again kindly donating and erecting one of their trees on the Green – sadly there have been some complications so no photo for the magazine this year.



Latest update from James as we go to print is that it should be in place by the beginning of December.

Gill Leonard
Editor

PLAYING FIELD PAVILION IS SHUTTERED

Following a structural survey of the Playing Field Pavilion, the Playing Field Committee has been advised that the Pavilion is in such a perilous state that it should be closed to everyone.

An engineer is set to visit and review the situation. A report is expected in early Decembers advising on what repairs would be needed to allow the Pavilion to be opened again. It will advise on the nature of the work needed, an estimate of costs and will suggest a timeframe for the work.

In the meantime, the front area of the Pavilion, including the front porch and main reception area, will remain closed to everyone. The toilets along the side of the building are still accessible from the rear of the Pavilion.



Supports in place propping up the roof. Daylight can be seen between the window frame and the wall which indicates the extent of the subsidence...

Substantial funding is likely to be required to fund the remedial work so please do come and support the Christmas Bazaar which will be raising funds for the Playing Field. It is to be held on Saturday, December 11th at Rode Memorial Hall and is being organised by Ann Edney and Pat Restorick, see page 45 for details.

Peter Travis
Rode Playing Field Committee

FRANS NEWS

On Sunday 20th November FRANS held a children's preloved sale which was a great success. Thanks to all who donated or came along to support this event.

On Sunday 11th December we will be hosting the annual Rode Santa Dash once again. It's a really popular event for a lot of the families linked to the school but we welcome everyone from the community to join in.



The event will start at Rode school around 10:30 with number pinning and the pre-run warm up then shortly after those who want to will take to the course which runs from the school down Lower street, up to the Memorial Hall then along the High Street toward the village green. From there the festive fun-runners will head past Choc-on-choc up Church Lane, through the brewery and back to school.

The route will be clearly marked and we welcome non-runners and reindeer riders to line the streets to help the runners along.

We also welcome everyone back to the school where we'll be serving hot baps, hot drinks and of course mince pies. There will also be the much anticipated Tombola, which had some amazing prizes last year.

We are always on the lookout for marshals to line the route so if you would like to help out in this way please get in touch with FRANS at friendsrodenorton@gmail.com.

Tickets for those who would like to run can be found at:
<https://RodeSantaDash2022.eventbrite.co.uk>.

You can also just make a donation to FRANS on this site (click get tickets and there is a donations option) if you are wanting to support the school without doing the dash!

Fancy dress is not compulsory but usually there is a plethora of Christmas wear on show, as a rule - Santa hats, the more the merrier!

We also have a few events on the boil for the new year but no set dates as of yet so watch this space, there may be something for you if running round the village dressed as an elf is not.

Jilly Clay

Parish News

AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

For many years Rode Ladies organised and ran an early Christmas Celebration consisting of favourite Carols, Readings and Poems culminating with mulled wine and mince pies. This event was held in Rode Chapel on an evening in midweek and was very popular.

With the closure of Rode Ladies, it seems a great pity to just drop this splendid item from our village calendar, so we are pleased to announce a similar Christmas Celebration to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th December in Rode Chapel consisting of an eclectic mix of favourite Carols, seasonal poems, reflections and anecdotes, followed by seasonal refreshments.



IF YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE please contact one of the Chapel team on 830244, 830411 or 831012

Rode Chapel

JUST AN OCCASIONAL HOUR OF YOUR TIME...

Despite requests in The Link and on Facebook sadly no new volunteers have come forward for Speedwatch.

The Speedwatch Team needs more volunteers - just two or three!

Very little of your time is required – one hour at a time.

One of the present team does just one hour every six weeks or so, another does about six months of the year.

Be assured there is no fixed obligation.

Do you wish to help reduce speeding traffic within the village? If so please do contact me.

Malcolm Wood

T: 830301 E: mwood17@uwclub.net

SCOUTS FUN FUNDRAISERS ARE BACK!



Carol Singing around the village Tuesday 20th December 6.00pm. Starting from Rode Scout Hut and ending on Rode Village Green. Please come and join us. We are raising money for a local children's charity.

and after a gap of 2 years...

“Bangers & Bingo” on Saturday 28th January 2023, see page 52 for full details.

Howard Russell
Group Scout Leader



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS IN NORTON ST PHILIP CHURCH

The 2023 programme is currently being booked – we kick off the new year on Thursday 5th January with The Nick Sorensen / John Law Duo.

I am looking forward to being able to team up with John Law “one of the UKs most imaginative and versatile jazz pianists” (International Piano Magazine).



If you haven't come to any of the concerts yet do come and join us and if you have been to them spread the word and invite a friend. Please see page 46 for details of the December concert.

Nick Sorensen

200 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

Please find detailed below the winners of the October draw:
1st Prize £50 - Chris Russell
2nd Prize £25 - Annie Percy

Drawn by Jean Wheeler and Jane Penny

Jan Jupp



Parish News

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT... FROM RODE VILLAGE PANTO GROUP!

We are pleased to announce that we are in the early planning stages for a Rode Panto for October 2023. It will have all the classic elements: a 'beautiful' Dame, magical fairy, nasty baddies, comedy characters, talented kids, terrible jokes with enthusiastic singing and dancingplus lots of audience humiliation and participation. What could be better?

Many of the cast and crew from the Toad of Rode are already excited about the new show, but we are always looking for some fresh faces to join us. Absolutely no experience is required just lots of enthusiasm and a sense of fun.

We would love to hear from families with children aged 7/8 -12 years (approximately) as we have places for four and usually, they steal the show. Grownups of any age are sure of a warm welcome, but it would be great to bring the average age of the cast down with the addition of some teenagers and younger adults.

Over the years, I have listened to people explaining 'It's not for me'.....'I couldn't get on stage in front of an audience ', 'I don't have the time' etc and yet many of them went on to tread the boards and to then decide that next year they want more lines!

This is a terrific opportunity to make new memories, lasting friends and to be part of Rode village history. When you put on a costume, get under the lights and hear the audience laugh and applaud, you will feel ten feet tall I promise you, so don't be shygive it a try.

If you would like to be considered for a part or to get involved, do please contact me (Gary Holloway) on Facebook or at home and we can have a chat. Alternatively, if you know Mike Salmon, Richard Churchyard, Sue Shannon, Barbara Holmes or Anne Sawtell have a word with them.

In the meantime, we are also planning a fund raiser extravaganza with the music of ABBA performed by **SOS**, the best tribute band in the West country by far, for March next year. Keep your eyes peeled for updates!

There is also a Rode Village Pantomime Group page on Facebook, so you can keep up with all the news in the weeks ahead....please find it and follow us.

Gary Holloway

ABBA EXTRAVAGANZA - MEMORIAL HALL 4TH MARCH 2023

Rode Panto Group need to raise funds towards the next show due in October 2023. All profits from these performances go to help local organisations and charities.

I am delighted to announce that we are going to have a dance night and it should be a lot of fun as the band SOS have agreed to entertain us. SOS are a fantastic six piece Abba Tribute band Anne, Claudia, Darren, Richard, Graham and Al. Richard enthusiastically played Toad in our last production and is the keyboard player.



SOS capture all the magic and excitement of the challenging vocal harmonies and complex musical arrangements that are the music of Abba and they are a very entertaining live band which will create a perfect party night for all. Dance the night away and join in as we actively encourage dressing up in any Abba related finery spandex, frills and flounces the more outrageous the better but this is not compulsory. Just come and enjoy the joy of the music and have a great time,

This is an all age group evening and we will be happy to see families, there will be a bar and soft drinks available.

Early bird Tickets are available on line with: -
www.Ticketebo.co.uk search Rode Village or Facebook Rode Village Pantomime Group and click on the link

Hope to see you there.

Sue Shannon

Organiser on behalf of Rode Village Pantomime Group

DELAYED MDC RODE DRAINAGE PROJECT WORKS

At the time of going to press the latest news was that Mendip are still in discussions with Montel (the contractor) around some last minute insurance/legal issues.



The programme will obviously slip, but it is still hoped to complete the work by the end of January.

Parish News

“WHAT WOULD A WISE PERSON DO?”

Philosophy is my life guide. I have done quite a lot of studying recently looking at wisdom, reason, and the nature of justice. A good question to prompt ideas and action is, “What would a wise person do?”



I have found this to be incredibly powerful. It does not imply that I am wise and know the answers, or even that my wisdom is another person’s wisdom. But the very act of pausing to consider the question, in itself, is wise. Keeping this concept, front of mind in my personal life, when I am working or writing, and in my role as a Councillor, has given me clarity and helped me remove the emotional attachment that can often hinder progress and growth.

On to Council matters....

Top of the Somerset Council’s to-do list at the moment is to focus on the less than 100 working days left before the County Council and the District Councils become the Unitary Authority of the New Somerset Council. It is an interesting time as there is still so much to do. The Local Community Networks (LCNs) are still taking shape. The public consultation and the pilot schemes are now being reviewed and we await the outcome – the size, population, roles, and responsibilities. I know there is concern about how they will function, if they will get funding and their organisational structure, but I also know that nothing will be ‘set in stone’. There will be a chance to put a local stamp on any LCN initiative and make each network as relevant to the community as needed – no matter how large or small. I share so many of your concerns about these LCNs, but I believe this is also an exciting time for possibilities and opportunities that can come from creating something new. Let’s optimistically wait and see.

The CEO of the Somerset Chamber of Commerce, Emma Rawlings, knows that the County Chamber has neglected our corner of the county for a while. She is looking for opportunities to connect the county supply chains and networks with more businesses here. Introducing Emma to local businesses, entrepreneurs and the self-employed has opened the conversation for many more connections.

The Frome Chamber of Commerce is ‘rising from the ashes’ of the pandemic too and has some brilliant events and plans for 2023. Please sign up to their newsletter on their website: fromechamber.com/

The Frome Town Council, too, has a wide range of connection opportunities, training, and support for businesses of all sizes. Sign up for their newsletter for continued engagement: frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-business/

Parish News

As the winter sets in, the Council has fully stocked the Salt Barns and has our 23 Somerset gritters on standby. They have already carried out a trial run across the county's network. The team is prepared to treat 900 miles of road. But this year a call is going out to farmers across Somerset to support the Council's winter services with snow ploughing duties should conditions become challenging. Farmers are paid for any of this work they undertake.. If you can help, please contact somerset.winter@milestoneinfra.co.uk. Last year Somerset's fleet of gritters went out on 59 occasions covering 45,000 miles to help prevent ice from forming.

As the festive lights bring some sparkle to the darkest of the winter months, I reflect on the journey I have been on this year. It has been challenging, painful, happy, and wonderful, all at the same time. I have loved, laughed, and learned. But most importantly I have got to meet so many in the Frome North area. I have shared the amazing things that are happening in our communities. And it has been an utter privilege to support your parish councils and represent you in the council chamber in Taunton.

May 2023 bring you as much 'gold, frankincense, and myrrh' along with the joy and wisdom that the magi can muster.

Dawn Denton

County Councillor for Frome North

Facebook: facebook.com/dawn4frome/ Blog: dawndenton.wordpress.com/

Podcast: on Spotify, Apple, Google, Amazon and MixCloud: mixcloud.com/RadioFrome/tracks/

RODE VILLAGE QUIZ – SAVE THE DATE!

Just a brief alert that we will be holding a special Village Hall quiz fundraiser at **Rode Memorial Hall on the evening of Saturday February 18th** - the first Hall Quiz since before Covid!

Please do save the date in your diary.

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

Multiple Choice – Prizes Galore – Stunning Raffle - Bar

Lindsey McLennan

Parish News

REMEMBRANCE

The weather was very kind to us again, warmest that we can ever remember.



What a fabulous turnout once again from all our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers led by all our dedicated leaders.

We were also supported by, I think, the largest contingent of soldiers from 9 Regiment Stanton St Quinton, thanks to them all.



Of course the whole parade would not be successful without the person who puts up the chain link memorial garden, the one who makes sure cars are moved from our side of the memorial (and they are very willing to do so - thankyou) and secures the wreaths to the memorial after the parade. Someone who reads the names of the fallen, and members of Rode Chapel and St Lawrence who organise the Service and this year a new person to play the bugle wonderfully. Also the 3 villagers who advise traffic that a parade is taking place and keep us all safe.

You know who you are so thank you.

Lastly, all the villagers who come and pay their respects.

Howard Russell
Group Scout Leader



2023 RODE PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY.

A new year, a new chance to support the Playing Field...

By buying lottery tickets to perhaps win one of three cash prizes (£50.00/£25.00/£25.00), plus Sunday Roast lunch for two at the Cross Keys (courtesy of Mark & Hannah), every month.



Only 200 tickets are available, drawn in the Cross Keys on the last day of every month. Tickets are only £1.00 each.

If you would like to subscribe for the year, let Jane or Keith Sharman have the appropriate amount for how many tickets you would like (£1.00 per ticket per month).

Cash, or cheque (made out to *Rode Playing Field*), either in person, to 9, Langham Place (T: 830408), or to the Post Office, in a *clearly marked envelope by the end of January at the latest please.*

Thank you for your support.

PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY RESULTS

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

1st - £50.00 Richard Livingstone, Rode.

2nd - £25.00 Kevin Southam, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 Graham Noad, Rode.

Sunday Roast for two, Timmy Moore

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action possible all for £1.00 per ticket! And remember you are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket. For non-subscribers tickets are on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I.

Next draws Friday 30th of December and Tuesday 31st January. If anyone would like to do the draw or witness it, then please feel free to do so. Just ask.

Keith Sharman

T: 830408

Parish News

UKRAINIANS IN H.V. – FINAL UPDATE AND REFLECTION

Well, another month has passed and things are moving on for our Ukrainian visitors living in the Hardington Vale parish. The community group established back in the spring in order to facilitate the arrival of so many Ukrainians into people's houses and families in the local villages has run its course now.

So from the end of this year we will no longer be the point of call for organising and overseeing things in the way we have done up till now. It has been a fascinating, rewarding and at times challenging experience for all four of the committee members, and an experience which none of us will forget, nor want to. And it has produced a tremendous display of community togetherness in so many ways, reminding me somewhat of the feeling of community that was engendered during the pandemic.

Looking back - In the spring it seemed an almost insurmountable mountain of bureaucracy we had to overcome to get the first fleeing refugees into the community, and this caused quite a lot of moans and gripes at the time. But looking back at it all now, I have a certain sympathy for the authorities, being suddenly thrown into this totally unforeseen situation of dealing with thousands of new arrivals spread across the country. And for us, after the first few applications had been navigated, the system became easier to understand. We quickly developed our own approach, meaning for instance that a visa application for a new potential guest now took maybe 2 hours instead of the initial 15-16 hours.

That does seem so long ago now, though it is in reality just nine months. In the meantime, our guests all successfully arrived and settled in with their hosts in this initially strange unknown country where people speak a language only a few could cope with.

Since then, a few have returned to Ukraine, more and more have moved, or are in the process of moving, into their own accommodation in the locality. Many have managed to find employment in a variety of positions in the area. The children have on the whole settled into their new schools and have quickly learned to speak English in the way that children do and are quite comfortable with it now. In the meantime their parents and grandparents, with the aid of the intensive series of English classes that were established early on, have increased their language skills steadily, up to the point in most cases where they can carry on a conversation without the aid of Google Translate! Those who are still not very confident or arrived later in the process, continue to have lessons, twice a week in Frome and Norton St Philip.

Parish News

My own Ukrainian guests here in Rode continue to enjoy and marvel at the welcome they receive everywhere in the community. For example they spent a lovely evening attending the Rode Roxy screening of Downton Abbey, a show they already knew back in Ukraine. They even collared themselves a raffle prize! It is a film that so many people in other countries regard as a view of how life in Britain really is. So they asked me afterwards, 'Where are all the aristocrats in Rode?' I'm not sure the film gave them a true picture of life in Britain these days!

Fundraising - Whilst we are not at present actively fundraising, we are continuing to receive donations to help those who will be moving into rental accommodation which will need to be furnished and equipped. One weekend in November, the Arts and Crafts exhibition took place in Norton St Philip. One of the exhibitors, Alan Carter decided to donate the proceeds of work sold to the local fund for Ukraine. He and we would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the great generosity of villagers who between them donated £655.

Also, with regard to employment, a small number of Ukrainians have been finding employment helping local villagers in their homes/gardens. They still have some availability, for more information please get in contact with Mary Morrison (07717 473884 or dmarymorrison@btinternet.com).

I should at this point give a warm thank you to the other three committee members, Andréa Dawson-Shepherd, Mary Morrison and Dave Walsh, for the immense amount of hard work they have all put in over the past nine months (not to mention their support given me at occasional times of high stress!). We will all certainly be continuing to help in the future, though more in the background now that local authorities have set up systems to help Ukrainians, employing a couple from their own community to manage and coordinate this.

In Conclusion - So, as the year draws to a close, we can look back on 2022 with a certain amount of satisfaction that we were able to achieve our initial goal of offering help to those who were thrown into sudden turmoil by Russia's invasion of their country in February. Most of the Ukrainians I speak to are desperate to return to their country, but that is not a possibility at the moment, and it is difficult to see when it might be. So for the time being they will make their lives here in the UK, and dream of one day being back in their homeland reunited with family and friends left behind there, and of helping to put the country back together again.

Good luck to them all!

Ali Smith

Rode

Parish News

RODE RBL POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal this year made £1735. Thank you to everyone that donated and supported this worthwhile cause.

The door to door collectors did a great job, as they do every year, come rain or shine. I would like to thank them all and congratulate them for collecting such a large amount in a difficult financial climate. A special thanks to Geoff and Pat Banwell for giving up their Saturday afternoon to help count the money.

Jacqui Rottenbury

Rode British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser

EXPLORER SCOUTS FROME FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Below is an exert from a letter received from Frome Food Bank:

“A huge thank you to you and all the scouts for an amazing collection of food donations - it weighed in at a whopping 353kg.

This has really boosted our stocks in preparation for the increasing demand as we go into winter and people experience increased costs in their homes. Thank you so much”



Many thanks from Explorer Scouts to all in the village who contributed to our collection in November.

Clare Le Page

Explorer Scouts



PRE LOVED CLOTHES SALE

Thank you to everyone that supported the clothes sale. We raised £350 towards the World Scout Jamboree for Sam and Juliet.



We had a lovely evening and hope that lots of you got some bargains.

Jacqui Rottenbury and Sally Pickett

Parish News

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND CHAPEL WINDOWS APPEAL

THANKYOU to all who contributed to the success of our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 19th November.

Once again we were quite overcome by the generosity of donors and quality and variety of goods offered for sale from our stallholders.

We were blessed with good weather and a steady flow of supporters throughout our four busy hours.



The energetic assistance of our army of helpers, the generous loan of furniture by Rode Scouts, the terrific creations of the Rode Craft group, the Christmas Cards, donated cakes, mince pies and the Cubs' wonderful sweets helped to raise well over £800 towards our Window restoration appeal.

Private donations and promises have already topped £1100, so we are already in sight of £2000...thank you everyone.

Rode Chapel

ASHA EVENING

The bring and share curry supper evening in Norton St Philip in November was well attended and raised £695 for Asha, Hardington Vale's recently appointed international charity.

All enjoyed the food and the opportunity to meet the founders husband Freddy and a young lad who has benefited from the charity and learn more about the work of the charity.

New ideas to support Asha were discussed – we will keep you informed.

If you would like to know more about the charity please do get in touch.

Mark Baines

T: 07860 799426 E: mark@mar-com.net

Parish News

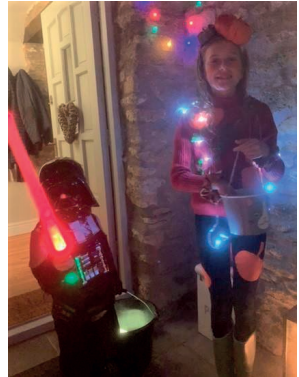
LAVERTON NEWS

Farewell and Good Luck - To our Ukrainian friends - We bid farewell to Sasha, Macks and their lovely family - not forgetting Bruce the beagle, as they move into their own home. It's a little over six months since they arrived in Laverton from Ukraine and they have settled in really well to English life, joining in with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June and tolling the bell for her passing, as well as helping with the celebrations on 5th November. They have become a big part of our community and we wish them every good fortune as they move to Frome. *Debby Hill*



Also moving to Frome in early December is Anastasia and her family who have been hosted by Peter and Suzanne in Laverton over the past six months. Good luck to you all and keep in touch!

Halloween Fun - The children of Laverton braved the lashing rain and howling wind to 'scare' us all in their fancy dress costumes! Very well done everyone (including parents!) you all looked fantastic!



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Rose – The rose, which Martin and I were kindly presented with at the Jubilee celebrations and told would be arriving in the autumn is here. We've planted it in a pot until we decide the best place to put it. We'll do our best to look after it!

Wishing all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year.

Jackie Moss

Parish Health & Wellbeing

STRONGER 4LONGER



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

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



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



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

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

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

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

Parish Health & Wellbeing



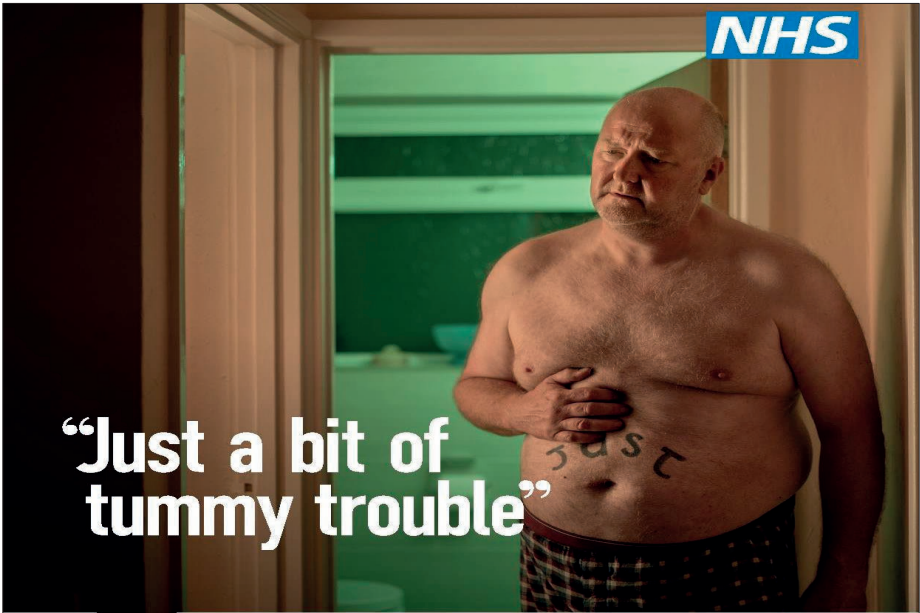
HM Government

NHS

Get to the help you need

111.nhs.uk

Use 111 online Help us help you



NHS

“Just a bit of tummy trouble”

Contact your GP practice

If you've had **tummy trouble** such as **discomfort** or **diarrhoea for three weeks or more**, or seen **blood in your pee – even just once**, it could be a sign of cancer. It's probably nothing serious, but finding cancer early makes it more treatable.

Your NHS wants to see you.
[nhs.uk/cancersymptoms](https://www.nhs.uk/cancersymptoms)

Clear on
cancer

Help us
help you

Parish Buses

SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP WELCOMES FLAT RATE FARE PROPOSALS

Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes the Government's plan to provide up to £60 million, to enable bus operators to cap single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare comes in from the beginning of January and will continue through to the end of March 2023. Most bus operators are expected to adopt the scheme.



This means millions of people across England will save money, at a time when many households are suffering massive pressures from the rising cost of living. The move will help people travel for work, education, shopping and medical treatments and provide a much-needed saving in daily expenditure.

The current average single fare for a 3-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

In addition, Somerset County Council currently plans to introduce a £1 single/£2 return bus fare in Taunton, as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes this initiative but emphasises the need to procure further funding to enable this flat rate fare to be extended across all of Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership Co-Chair, Peter Travis, said, “Bus usage declined in Somerset in the last decade, and even more so during the pandemic. We need initiatives like these to restore and improve passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars helps to reduce carbon emissions. It is estimated that the Government's £60 million will reduce car journeys by at least 2 million and cut pollution and congestion for all of us.”

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work closely with Somerset County Council to encourage bus use and ensure implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan across the county.

Contact us at: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com
<http://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827>

Peter Travis
Co-Chair Somerset Bus Partnership

Parish Buses

BUS WALKS!

For the first time in many years Rode now has pretty decent bus services – in particular, the new D2 timetable offers hourly services to Bath and Frome for most of the day during the week, around a dozen services on a Saturday, and even a sprinkling of buses on a Sunday. Going towards Frome, these are supplemented with the Faresaver X34, meaning a total of nearly two dozen buses to Frome on a weekday!

This may, however, be only a temporary phenomenon, as without government support (which could be withdrawn at the end of March) many of these frequencies are at risk. Once again, it really is a case of “use it or lose it”.

As we head up to Christmas there are countless opportunities to let the bus take the strain, save money, and enable everyone to enter fully into the Festive spirit! The Bath Christmas market runs until 11th December, Bath Rugby are at home on three dates in December, and there are countless other events in Bath and Frome, all easily accessible by bus - check out www.welcometobath.co.uk and www.discoverfrome.co.uk

And the bus is a great way to explore the beautiful countryside beyond Rode. We recently checked out two easy walks, using Midford as the start point. In each case, take the D2 towards Bath and alight at the Hope & Anchor pub....

Walk 1: Midford to Wellow, and on to Norton St Philip. The full walk is just over 5 miles and should take no more than a couple of hours. It also offers the opportunity for a pub stop at the halfway point in Wellow (the Fox & Badger, which sells Butcombe, plus decent guest ales, and has a great food menu).

You can probably do this walk without wellies or walking boots as it follows firstly National Cycle Path 24 almost all the way to Wellow, and then Norton Lane and Wellow Lane to Norton St Philip. There’s a small stretch on the road into Wellow where you need to take care, but otherwise it’s very easy. Once in Norton you can pick up the bus back to Rode – and if you have time, grab a drink in either The George or the Fleur de Lys....both very handily placed close to the bus stop! [NB: The first mile or so of the cycle path section from Midford is closed on some Saturdays in December and January, and is also out of bounds for dogs]

Walk 2: Midford to Bath. This takes in the Two Tunnels route – you can either do the whole route, which finishes in Twerton, or opt for a slightly shorter walk, leaving the route after the first tunnel and heading into the centre of Bath (from where you can catch a bus back to Rode). The latter option makes a walk

Parish Buses

of approximately 4 miles and should easily be accomplished in around an hour and a half.

The start point again is the bus stop at the Hope & Anchor in Midford. Exit the pub car park at the back and you'll see the disused Midford platform on the old Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway (which featured in the classic 1950s film "The Titfield Thunderbolt"). The route follows the "Two Tunnels" path of the old railway line most of the way into Bath, and is initially part of National Cycle Route 24, before becoming route 244. The first mile or so takes you along a wide, leafy path, with views up to Midfield Castle on your left, and across towards Monkton Combe on your right. Soon you reach the viaduct at Tucking Mill, where there are numerous options to explore different routes (a gate on your right, just before crossing the viaduct, leads down to the reservoir, from which there are footpaths to Monkton Combe, Combe Down, and points further north and west).



View across the reservoir at Tucking Mill
(from the viaduct)

Keeping on the Two Tunnels route you shortly reach Combe Down Tunnel - the first and longest of the tunnels. At 1,672 metres it is the longest traffic-free tunnel in Europe! It's reasonably well lit, but a torch can come in handy.

Once you're out of the tunnel you have a couple of options – keep on the Two Tunnels track to the end (in Twerton), or take a path on your right shortly after exiting Combe Down Tunnel, and make your way to Widcombe via Lyncombe Vale Road and Lyncombe Hill. There are several decent coffee shops and pubs in Widcombe and the area around the station – which make for great places to rest whilst waiting for the bus back to Rode (the Forum Coffee House is excellent and literally a minute's walk from the bus station. Both The Ring of Bells and The White Hart in Widcombe always seem friendly, and serve great food).

There are, of course, many variations to these routes. One such is to take a slight right turn shortly after starting Walk 2. Here you follow National Cycle Path 24 towards Monkton Combe, past the school playing fields, under the viaduct, and soon thereafter link up with the Kennet & Avon tow path (National Cycle Route 4). You can either turn right and head towards Bradford on Avon, or carry on towards Bath – eventually reaching the city at Sydney Gardens (and if you continue along the tow path you'll reach Widcombe, just behind the bus station).

Parish Buses

PRACTICAL ADVICE

Pubs opening times: it's worth checking before setting out. For example, both the Fleur de Lys in Norton and the Fox & Badger in Wellow have restricted opening hours in the early part of the week.

Bus Times: Again, worth doing a little planning before setting out. But best of all, download the Firstbus app...you can then check both bus times and the real time location of the next bus by clicking on the "Plan" option at the foot of the home page...then go to the map and click on the bus stop you want to use. You will then get a list of the next buses and can also track where the bus is, as it approaches your stop. This can be very handy if you're waiting in the pub by the stop!

Jim McAuliffe

Rode Parish Council

THE BENEFITS (AND JOYS) OF USING OUR BUS SERVICES

Living in a village, I really appreciate having a good bus service. Not only for the convenience but it's also economical, plus it's better for the environment- can't be beaten!

Although I am a driver, I would not want to drive into Bath. Car parking is not only expensive, but spaces are limited due to the redevelopment of the multi storey car park in Avon Street. Just think of all the single occupied cars going into Bath, congestion could be vastly reduced by people using the bus instead! There is no better way to "do your thing" for the environment than by using the bus.

I live on a pension and need to budget carefully, so going into Bath on the D2 Is good for my wellbeing. Meeting up with friends and family and shopping is important, not to mention access to the RUH and other medical help.

I've always loved visiting art galleries, museums and the theatre. Meeting up with a friend for a special treat, maybe a meal knowing I can get the late bus home! I'm really looking forward to visiting this year's Christmas Market, always a treat.

It's more important than ever to make our cities air quality as clean as possible and the way we can all help with this is - "Take the Bus". By the way, an added bonus - you can meet some super people whilst travelling!

Gail Stinton

Parish Gardening



The holly and the ivy... so familiar, especially at Christmas time, that we rather take them for granted. In fact if we think about them at all, it's likely to be coupled with a grim determination to rip out the infuriating tendrils of ivy that



creep out from tiny hiding places, matched only by even greater efforts at prising it off our walls and fences. It's just everywhere, isn't it? And when it comes to the holly, well it's fine when it can be appreciated from a distance, although even then it can feel a bit overpowering and Gothic when it gets out of hand (which it does, frequently). How we curse the holly prickles as we work it into a Christmas wreath. So I'm guessing neither would probably rank in most people's top 5 favourite plants. Cue this little plea: can we give the holly and the ivy a little bit more appreciation beyond their moment of glory in the Christmas wreath?

Here's the science (sorry-not sorry): holly seeds require morphophysiological dormancy in order to germinate. Translation: the seed needs a period of chilling temperatures before it can germinate later in spring, generally it needs up to 3 years of this temperature pattern before germination can happen. And as we all know, each year the birds will probably have stripped the tree of its berries well before any strays might fall to the ground, so it's a minor miracle that any berries hang around long enough to germinate in 2-3 years' time. One of the best places to see them en masse is at Kew Gardens - there are more than 30 different species growing in the Holly Walk. Planted in 1874 it is one of Europe's most comprehensive holly collections. It's a (surprisingly) interesting exercise comparing different types of holly leaf and berry as you wander through the Walk and (in my humble opinion) it can hold its own against the more showy parts of Kew Gardens and its collections, although nothing beats diving into the Palm House on a cold winter's day. I urge you to visit. I love watching birds darting in and out of my holly tree - I'd not be without it in the winter months.

As for the maddening ivy...I've a terrific book called, you guessed it, "Ivies" by Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall. It is a real eye-opener in terms of the sheer variety /attractiveness of ivies, she easily makes the case for them deserving more respect/ appreciation and to be used far more extensively in the garden than we generally think possible or desirable. So many tones of green/lime/yellow/white, they work brilliantly as ground cover, trailing from pots/planters, climbing up obelisks, disguising unsightly structures and generally look very chic in a Parisian courtyard garden kind of way - if used in sufficient quantities and the necessary bravado/commitment to that elegantly restrained look. But most of all, ivy provides a brilliant habitat for all kinds of wildlife and is a vital source of nectar for the pollinators, long into the dark, cold months of scarcity. So ivy is a hero plant after all. And then there's the wreath-making, which neatly brings me full circle. Happy Christmas!

Muddy Fingernails

Parish Youth News & Events

RODE & NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION LATEST

Remembrance - We have been talking about Remembrance Day in school and why people wear poppies. A group of children in Elmer Class at Norton St Philip laid a wreath outside the church.

In Rode, our nine art ambassadors, Mrs Duncan and Mrs Muxworthy represented the school at the “Heroes of the Commonwealth’ commemorative service in Bath Abbey on Friday 11th.



In the afternoon, the group visited an artwork display in 44AD Gallery where artwork designed by Mrs. Duncan and completed by all the children in both schools was displayed.

The children had been learning about Nancy Wake, who became a member of the escape network in WW11, helping the allied airman evade capture and escape to neutral Spain.

On Monday the whole of Paddington Class went to 44AD Gallery to view their artwork. Their highlights included playing ‘Eye Spy’ in the gallery, Mrs Morgan driving the minibus and the music in Jill’s car!

Cracking Christmas Science Fair - Prepare to be wowed with our Cracking Christmas Science Showcase! Photos to follow next month.

On Friday the 2nd December the children from year 2,3,4 will be sharing their science learning this term in a science showcase at Rode school. We have thrown in a few challenges and investigations for all parents and the children from Gruffalo and Elmer Class

Gold Artsmark Awarded to RNSF! - We are thrilled to announce that both our schools have been awarded the prestigious ‘Gold Artsmark Award’ making us one of only a handful of schools in the local area to hold this award.

This reflects our ongoing commitment over the last four years to arts education and the learning opportunities that we do, due to the talents and generosity of our staff and parents in sharing their skills.

Parish Youth News & Events



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Thank you to everyone in our community who has supported us on our journey, whether it was paying for costumes, making costumes, signing up for clubs, helping us to film and photograph events, building willow sculptures, sharing engineering knowledge, decorating eggs at midnight, reading to our children and encouraging them to write poetry, encouraging beginner instrument players, transporting children to venues the list goes on. Below is a quote from the Artsmark Council feedback. This is part of the feedback we received from our assessors.

“You have evidently maintained your firm commitment throughout your Artsmark journey to including children in an exceptional and imaginative, art-rich curriculum which promotes your educational philosophy of ‘inspire, discover, explore, create, flourish’. Your work in the Arts continues to go from strength to strengths as you plan and create increasingly ambitious projects. Performance Arts is clearly a strength of your curriculum, with expertise amongst staff on delivering high-quality productions, including costume, set design and lighting, with opportunities for children to work alongside industry professionals and partners. Pupils have frequent opportunities to showcase their considerable artistic and creative talents both within the schools’ communities and the local community, including for example, your Samba Carnival; Trashion Show film; Poetry Slam; Ukulele Concert; Macbeth Performance; and, not least, your whole school show ‘On Her Majesty’s Secret Service.’ These performances have supported the development of your schools’ reputation within the local community as outstanding providers of arts education, which is further attracting pupils from families with careers within creative industries. You are judiciously capitalising on the artistic and creative skills of your stakeholders, who play an active role in shaping your arts curriculum; in supporting teachers’ professional development in the Arts; and in promoting the Arts as career opportunities for children.”

Kim Slade



Rode & Norton St Philip
School Federation

Small Schools, Thinking Big

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Mondays during term time

9.30-11.30pm

Rode Chapel



Parish Youth News & Events

H.V. CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER UPDATE

Tots and Toys will break up for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 14 December and re-open on Wednesday 4 January.



Please wear something 'Christmassy' for the last Wednesday!

Our baby and toddler group is open on Wednesdays 9.00-10.45am at St Philip and St James Church Norton St Philip, no booking needed. £2.00 per adult to include coffee and cake. Please bring your own refreshments for your child.

For details of Christmas Events and Children's Church Services please see the Christmas pages starting on page 39.

Sue Rodford

H.V. Family's and Children Worker

Editor's Note: Please see page 34 for another message from Sue

DANCE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

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



REGISTERED ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE TEACHER

FOR FURTHER INFO: CONTACT: 07526 922863

"A DANCING CHILD IS A HAPPY CHILD"

Welcoming all students to explore their passion for dance.



Open term time from 8:45am

Beckington Pre-School

Children aged 2-4 welcome

30 hours funding accepted



Beckington Baptist Church Hall

www.beckingtonpre-school.co.uk

01373 831492

info@beckingtonpre-school.co.uk

Find us on 

Charity no. 1035832

Parish Friends & Family Notices

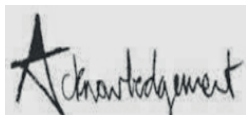
William and all the Arney family would like to thank everyone for all the letters of condolence that we have received following the death of Jenny.



Thank You

William and Jenny had been married for 64 years and had lived at Langham Farm and Langham Place for all of their married life.

Sue Fear



For very many years Jenny Arney worked tirelessly to organise and coordinate the subscriptions and distribution of The Link.

When she finally stood down from the role she still continued to deliver copies of the magazine for several more years.

Jenny's contribution and dedication to The Link and its readers is fondly and gratefully remembered and not forgotten.

Gill Leonard
Editor

JULIA NAISMITH

It was with the greatest sadness that we learned of the loss of our dear friend Julia on the 26th October.

Julia had been part of the community of Laverton for over thirty years moving here from Berkshire in 1986. Even after her move to Frome she continued to support the Church and village taking services and assisting with all local events.



Julia was a lady of great talent and culture and her long service in the Foreign Office took her all over the world.

She was kind and generous to us all supporting her friends and neighbours unstintingly. Julia will be sorely missed by her many friends in the Parish and the local community.

Gilli Weeks

Parish Friends & Family Notices



William Arney, the blind man of Langham Place, Rode wishes to send Seasonal Greetings and thanks to all who see and speak to him while he is out on his daily walks with his carer.

Please continue to speak to him and introduce yourself by name so that he knows who he has met.

Thank you.

Sue Fear

William's Daughter

Dear families a very happy Christmas to you all.

This will be my last message in The Link as the H.V. Children's Worker as I will be finishing my post with Hardington Vale on Sunday 18th December at the Christingle Service.



I have had a very wonderful 5 1/4 years with you all and I thank you for your love, kindness, and support over these years.

Maria Flemming will be the new Children's Leader for Tots and Toys and Maria has been meeting our Tots families over the past few weeks. I know you will make her very welcome.

God Bless and with much love

Sue Rodford

Editor's Note: Our thanks go to Sue for her work and collaboration with The Link through the years and she will be missed.

A REMINDER

The Link is here if you would like to remember the life of a family member or friend or to celebrate and mark other events such as births, birthdays, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and more.

There is no charge for this...

Parish Groups

RODE OVER SIXTIES CLUB

Our November meeting changed a bit at the last minute since Gareth Wasp from Cooper and Tanner, whom we were expecting, couldn't come but sent a delightful young lady named Rachel who gave a very interesting, illustrated talk entitled "A Brief History of Gemstones".

Rachel, a qualified diamond grader studying to be a gemologist, is obviously fascinated by gemstones and turned out to be a mine of information, if you'll pardon the expression.

For instance, who knew the zircon is the oldest stone and is one of the key minerals used by geologists to determine the age of rocks?

Gail Stinton thanked Rachel for a really enjoyable afternoon.

Before her talk, Rachel looked at a number of items we had brought to be valued or identified and this was so popular she examined some more while we enjoyed our usual splendid tea.

Birthday greetings in December go to:

Mr Graham Noad (6th), Mr Stephen Gilbert (11th) and Mrs Pat Arnold (16th).

Birthday greetings in January 2023 go to:

Mr Peter Harris (10th), Mrs Ros Dymond (14th), Mrs Sari Gilbert (18th), Mrs Pat Smith (24th), and Mrs Angela Harper (25th).

We wish each of you a very happy day.

Our next meeting on Friday 2nd December will be our Candlelight Carols.

We are delighted to be hosting once again a choir from Monkton Combe School.

This is always a special occasion enjoyed by both the young and the more mature!



Our meeting in January, on Friday the 13th, will feature "Poetry - Terry Bryant".

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2023.

Ros Dymond

Parish Groups

RODE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

For our November meeting Nicholas Wray, the Curator at the University of Bristol Botanic Garden came to talk to us about the Landscape and Gardens of Sicily. He has visited Sicily many times and his interest started because he was keen to add some of the 3000 varieties of olive to the Botanic Garden's collection.



Olives originate from the Caucasus mountains along with vines and pomegranates but have been grown in Sicily by Arab and Greek invaders for centuries. As pomegranates ripen they split and turn inside out to make the seeds available for dispersal often by birds. Citrus medica or citron has been grown since 300BC and produces large thick-skinned fruits, the more usual citrus plants followed much later, both originate in India. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean with a population of 11 million and grows half of Italy's winter salad in polytunnels, swapping to melons in the summer.

Nicholas recommended visiting in spring or autumn as summers are brutally hot. Much of the landscape is covered in 'macchia', thorny, bitter herbs and shrubs and succulents that can survive the hot temperatures and lack of water. Visiting the continuously active Mount Etna takes one through the various kinds of vegetation, fruit trees, deciduous trees, shrubs, grasses as one ascends to the ski pull used in winter when snow is common at the higher levels.

Zisa Castle in Palermo on the north coast, created by Arab labour for the Crusaders of the Middle Ages showed how they were able to use water to cool buildings and a modern garden has used a range of plants from around the world. Sugar cane was grown and was so valuable that Turkish pirates would raid the area to steal the crop and the locals fortified their houses to withstand the pirates.

The Botanic Garden was founded in 1779 and had connections with Kew from the earliest days. Seeds for new plants that would struggle in the English climate would be passed to Palermo to be grown on. The False Kapok with large, brilliantly coloured flowers came from South America and the Moreton Bay Fig from Australia.

Villa Malfitano and its English style garden was built for the Whitaker family who had made a fortune importing Marsala to Britain from Sicily. Villa Borghese stood on the edge of a large freshwater lake, but the area was plagued with malaria which Mussolini promised he would cure. He drained the lake and malaria disappeared but so did the fish which had been the villagers' source of

Parish Groups

food. After the war a garden was created on the lakebed to provide work for the local population by the English owners of the villa. Nicholas was thanked for giving us a vivid and informative evening which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Bristol Botanic Garden in Stoke Bishop is open on weekdays throughout the year.



In December (Monday 12th at 7.00pm) we will have our Christmas party, bring food for yourself and any guests and your own choice of drink. Welcome drink on arrival.

The first meeting of the New Year will be Monday 9th January.

Averil Morrow

RODE WALKING GROUP (2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH)

Our November walk around the canal and river paths near Bradford on Avon was successful despite heavy rain towards the end. However the staff at The Lock Inn were understanding when we dripped rainwater over their floor and hot drinks were very welcome.



The next walk falls on Tuesday 13th December starting at the later time of 10.30 am from Rode village green. We are doing the Tellisford Loop, which can be extended for the faster walkers, returning to the Cross Keys for a social walking group Christmas lunch. If any walkers who have joined our walks previously would like to join us for lunch please contact me in advance of the day.

In January, on Tuesday 10th, the walk will be along some of the quieter byways of Bradford on Avon. Meet in the carpark by the Tithe Barn at the usual time of 10 am.

We will walk mainly on paved paths from the Tithe Barn across the river footbridge and railway level crossing, along Barton Orchard to Newtown, up to St. Mary's Chapel Tory and then back down to the town centre via the Saxon church. After coffee we will return along the riverside path to the Tithe Barn.

Please contact me for further details.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T: 07788 656337

Parish Groups



MONDAY LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS BASH 5TH DECEMBER

Very much looking forward to our Christmas get-together, always a real feast and great fun with our in-house entertainment with our fab Year 4 children from Rode School - much missed last year but can't wait to see their performance this year!!

Notes for the New Year:

- no lunch club in January
- first meeting will be Monday 6th February
- and then Monday 6th March.

Don't forget if you're new to the village you'll be most welcome - just give me a ring!

Hope to see you all there!

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team

T: 01373 830836 / 07828600095



RODE CRAFT CLUB

We each bring long whatever we are working on, share ideas and skills and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and biscuits. Weekly on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm at Rode Chapel.

There is no need to book or to commit to coming every week. We have knitters, embroiderers, crocheters, card makers, leather workers and cross stitchers. The list goes on! We have all abilities too, from 'new to' crafters to the experienced. We all help each other.



Val Parker

N.B. OTHER CLUBS NEWS WELCOME...

If you'd like us to include details of a club you are involved with, please do contact us: gillhleonard@aol.com.



Parish Christmas – Food & Events



**RODE GENERAL STORE,
CAFE & POST OFFICE**

More than just stamps

Normal Opening Hours

Monday	9am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	9am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	9am – 1pm
Thursday	9am – 5.30pm
Friday	9am – 5.30pm
Saturday	9am – 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Christmas Ordering

A selection of delicious, locally sourced products are available to order.

Last date for ordering, Friday 9th December. £10 deposit required.

Orders will be ready for collection between 11am and 2pm on Friday 23rd December. Order forms are available in the shop.

Christmas Opening Hours Will Be As Follows:



Christmas Eve	Saturday 24th December	9am - 1pm
Christmas Day	Sunday 25th December	Closed
Boxing Day	Monday 26th December	Closed
Bank Holiday	Tuesday 27th December	Closed
	Wednesday 28th December	9am - 1pm
	Thursday 29th December	9am - 5.30pm
	Friday 30th December	9am – 5.30pm
New Year's Eve	Saturday 31 st December	9am - 1pm
New Year's Day	Sunday 1st January	Closed
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd January	Closed
	Tuesday 3 rd January	9am-5.30pm

Our thanks to all our customers for your continued support.
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

Parish Christmas – Food & Events

**We are now taking
Christmas Orders**



Farleigh Road

FARM SHOP & CAFÉ



**Last Order Date
15th December
01225 720006**

**Book a Work or Family
Christmas Meal
Call for information.**



Have you tried our cafe yet?

We are serving a great selection
of Winter Warmers!

Perfect for this time of year.

Cafe Opening Times

Breakfast 9:00-11:30

Lunch 12:00-3:30

Afternoon Tea Served Until 4:00

 Farleigh Road Farm Shop  @Farleighroadfarmshop  farleighrdfarmshop

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



Christmas Shopping Event

Independent & Local - Christmas Gifts, Foodie Tasting & Sampling

Thursday 8th December 9am -7pm

CHURCH FARM, RODE BALL 6AA

(just off the A361 by the Beckington roundabout)

Fussels Rapeseed ♦ Somerset Foodie

The Village Baking Co ♦ Dovetail Vintage Furniture

Napo Lemon Vodka ♦ Kicking Goat Cider ♦ What Knot

Osborne's Christmas Trees ♦ Trominii Games



Charity raffle in aid of



THE MILL *At Rode*

RECENTLY RE-OPENED UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



Now taking booking for **Christmas Parties** from small groups up to 100 guests in our private function space. Please visit our website for sample menus and email for more information.

01373 673112 | info@themillatode.com | themillatode.com |  

Parish Christmas – Food & Events

Chatley Farm Christmas Chocolate Brownie Hampers!

Make Christmas easy this year by sending friends and family an Award Winning Chocolate Brownie Hamper!

Our **Mini Hamper** consists of 2 packets of your choice for £20, the **Luxury Hamper** has 4 packets at £35, plus postage.

Choose the flavours, let us know your personal message and we'll send them out on 16th December in plenty of time for Christmas Day!

www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk

Remember you can order your Christmas Brownies from us and collect from the farm at Norton St Phillip, simply use the code COLLECT and let us know when you'd like to pop in.



Parish Christmas – Food & Events

OSBORNE'S CHRISTMAS TREES

Hillview Farm, Marsh Road, Rode BA11 6PE

OPEN DAILY FROM SATURDAY 26th November

9am - 5.30pm

Traditional Norway spruce, Nordman & Frazer fir

Potted trees

Large trees up to 15ft

A variety of stands

Holly & Mistletoe

Wreaths

Loads and bags of logs and Kindling

Don't Forget your FREE Reindeer dust!!



Any latest updates and news will be listed via our facebook page and our website

www.o-christmas.co.uk

[01373 830571](tel:01373830571)

[07494 015440](tel:07494015440)

**Winter
Concert**

Sat 3 December

7.30 pm

Mendip Male Voice Choir

St Philip & St James Church, Norton St Philip

Tickets £10 available from
The George, The Fleur de Lys or tel: 01373-834414
Licensed Bar
(proceeds for church funds)

The choir of choice for audiences, charities and as performance partners for other choirs

 www.mendipmen.co.uk  Reg Charity No. 1154605

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!



MONDAY LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS BASH 5TH DECEMBER

See Page 38 for details...



Christmas Fayre
Saturday
10th December
10.00am till 12 noon
In the Norton Church

There will stalls including
Craft work
Coffee/tea
Mulled wine
Mince pies and cake stall

Rode Santa Dash 2022



SUN 11TH DECEMBER 2022
10:30AM

START/FINISH - RODE FIRST SCHOOL
1KM FESTIVE FAMILY FUN RUN

ADULTS/ £8
CHILDREN (3+) £5
FAMILY OPTION AVAILABLE
DOG/ RUN FREE!

FANCY DRESS
NOT COMPULSORY
BUT STRONGLY
ENCOURAGED!

RODESANTADASH2022.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

F.R.A.N.S

IN AID OF FRIENDS OF
RODE & NORTON SCHOOLS



NORTON ST PHILIP CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 11 December

6.00 pm in St Philip & St James church

Join us, our choir and organist to sing some of your favourite carols, and enjoy a glass of mulled

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



CHRISTMAS MARKET

@ RODE VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER
11AM – 3PM

CRAFTS, FOOD, GIFTS ETC.
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
RAFFLE AND LOTS MORE.

RAISING FUNDS TOWARDS REPAIRS TO RPF PAVILION

Hardington Vale invite you to join our

Outdoor Nativity

Sunday 11th December 3pm

meet at - top of Marsh Road, Rode

- Hear and see the Christmas story
- Join in the Carol Singing
- Live cast, including a donkey



MULLED
WINE &
mince pies

If anyone would like to dress up and take a part in our annual Outdoor Nativity at 3pm on Sunday 11th December, please get in touch; adults, children, animals and musicians are all very welcome! Sally Pickett T: 831796 (One short 30-minute rehearsal the day before is all that is required!)

Parish Christmas – Food & Events

A Christmas Celebration
7.30pm
Wednesday 14th December
Rode Chapel



An eclectic mix of favourite Carols, seasonal poems, reflections and anecdotes, followed by seasonal refreshments. See page 10. **IF YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE** please contact one of the Chapel team on 830244, 830411 or 831

LUNCHTIME CONCERT IN NSP CHURCH



The final lunchtime concert of 2022 takes place on Thursday 15th December and features the wonderful saxophone quartet Saxophony.



They will be presenting a programme of Christmas music. Join us at 12.30 for tea or coffee and mince pies: the concert starts at 1pm, tickets are £5, available on the door. See page 11 for details of 2023 concerts.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 18 December - 10.30 am
St Philip & St James Church, Norton St Philip

A lovely festive service for children of all ages - and a chance to say 'Goodbye and Thank you' to Sue Rodford who is leaving after 5 years as our Children and Family Worker. There will be a Christingle orange for all the children attending and a chance to make a giant Christingle orange with Sue to explain the tradition behind the Christingle!

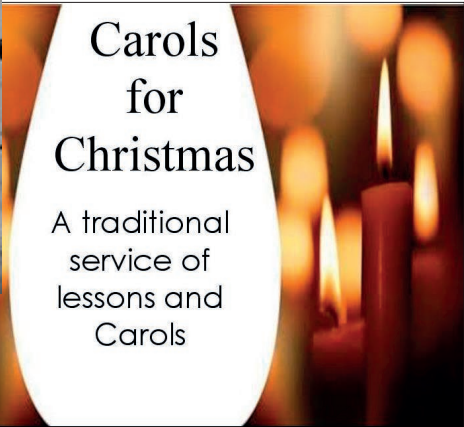


St Mary's Church
Laverton
Sunday 18th December
at 11am
Followed by mulled wine
and mince pies

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



EXPERIENCE
◆ THE HOPE OF
CHRISTMAS
Using Crossyoga and
Christian meditation
Mulled wine & mince pies after
◆ SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH 5-6PM
NORTON ST PHILLIP CHURCH
BA2 7LY
Bring a mat and blanket
Basic fitness required
Free event.
Hosted by Olivia Shone & Caroline Walker
RSVP: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com




Carols for Christmas

A traditional
service of
lessons and
Carols

18th December 2022 at 18:00
St Leonard's, Farleigh Hungerford

Mince pies and mulled wine served in The Old
Schoolroom opposite the church at 17.30.



(Donations to support the upkeep of the Church and Old
School Room: Reg. Charities. Nos. 287097 and 1050991)

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

St Lawrence Church

18th December at 3 pm

**FATHER CHRISTMAS
WILL BE PAYING HIS
ANNUAL VISIT TO
RODE ON MONDAY
20TH DECEMBER**



Starting at 6pm his route through the village will be as follows: Church Street, Orneage Close, Old Brewery, Nutts Close,, Marsh Road, Main Road, High Street, Fairfield, The Mead, Lower Street, Walnut Close, Trowbridge Road, Bradford Road, Churchfields.

You can track his progress at www.SleighTracker.co.uk

Handwritten letters to Father Christmas will be accepted this year - make sure to include your address so that his response can be sent.

Parish Christmas – Food & Events

...PLEASE COME AND JOIN US
CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 6.00PM



Starting from Rode Scout Hut
and ending on Rode Village Green.



We are raising money for a local children's
charity.



Nativity Service



All Saints' Church, Tellisford
on Friday 23rd December
at 5 pm

The Nativity in poems and carols:
if you would like a part in telling this
story, email Rachel: **fba@fbatm.biz**

Parish Christmas – Food & Events



CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 December

3.00pm The Chapel Rode

5.00 pm St Philip & St James Church NSP

A short service specially designed for young children and their families. Retelling the Christmas story, singing carols and welcoming the Posada into church.

Children, please come dressed as a character (animals included) from the nativity story. All welcome – bring your family and friends. A lovely way to begin Christmas.



Let Dorothy House collect your real Christmas tree from your door and we will take it to be recycled for a donation.

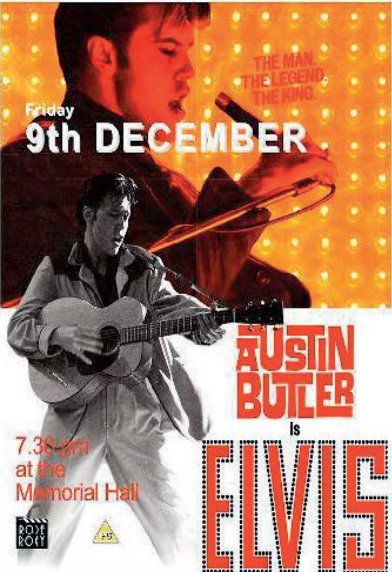
We will be out and about collecting trees over the weekend of 13/14/15 January 2023, supported by our teams of amazing volunteers.

Your tree will be taken away, chipped, shredded and recycled and put to good use in various locations across Somerset, BANES and Wiltshire.

You can book a slot from the end of November when the collection website goes live, visit www.dorothyhouse.org.uk and search for 'tree collection' for updates and the booking page.



Forthcoming Parish Events



Friday 9th DECEMBER

7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall

AUSTIN BUTLER is **ELVIS**


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

COME AND SEE HOW ELVIS BECAME THE KING! JIVE THE EVENING AWAY!

(at the back of the Hall)

Tremendous Songs, Tremendous Performances by Austin Butler as Elvis and Tom Hanks as his manager the wily Col. Tom Parker, in this highly praised film.

TIME TO GET IN A DANCING MOOD!



Forget-me-not Café

When? - THIRD Monday of every month 2.30-4pm

Where? - St Philip and St James Church, NSP



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

19th December

16th January

Forthcoming Parish Events

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS NSP CHURCH

Thursday 5th January:
The Nick Sorensen / John Law Duo

See page 11 for details



Bangers & Mash Evening

Saturday 28th January 2023

Rode Memorial Hall

Doors open - 6:45pm, Eyes down - 7:15pm

Menu

*Local Bangers & Mash (vegetarian option available)
Caramelised onion gravy and peas*

Followed by a selection of desserts

Licensed Bar

Entrance Ticket price Adults £8.00

Children/Smaller portion £4.00

Tickets available from the Post Office January 2023



SAVE THE DATE
18TH FEBRUARY 2023
MEMORIAL HALL QUIZ
SEE PAGE 15...

SAVE THE DATE
4TH MARCH 2023
SOS
ABBA TRIBUTE
BAND
SEE PAGE 13...

Noticeboard

DONATE YOUR OLD LAPTOPS AND SMARTPHONES

The local paper has carried news of an opportunity to pass on unwanted tech items to DonateIT in Frome, on Saturday 3rd December. This effort is supported by Frome Town Council and Frome Medical Practice.

DonateIT will securely wipe any data from your laptop or phone, which if suitable will be distributed among local individuals or groups who need the equipment.

If it's not suitable for further use it will be stripped and sold with proceeds fed back into the campaign. DonateIT have received over 2,500 devices since they started in 2021, diverting 5.5 tonnes of IT from ending up in landfill.

Every year that one laptop is kept working by extending its life saves 300kg of CO₂e (embedded carbon).

The organizers will be running this event from **10am until 1pm on Saturday 3rd December** in the car park behind Frome Town Hall.

For more information refer to frometowncouncil.gov.uk/donate-your-devices-to-the-frome-tech-amnesty/ and to donateit.co.uk/ which has special information about Apple products.

Rachel Feilden




DOLCE SINGERS
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: DANIEL ROBERT CUSHING

**CHRISTMAS BY
CANDLELIGHT**
for all the family

Saturday 3rd
December, 7:30pm
St. Margaret's Church
Corsley

Tickets - £15 | Under 18 - £5
dolcesingers.co.uk


 



**Indian Head Massage
and Shamanic Reiki**

•

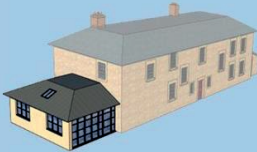
**Time out for your
mind and body**

07831 904 948
dragonflytreatments@gmail.com
 **Dragonfly Treatments**

Noticeboard

DESIGN & PLANNING WORKS Ltd

Complete Design & Planning Application Process



- Imaginative designs that exceed expectations
- All plans, elevations & drawings
- Planning Application & Change of Use
- Listed Building Consent Application
- Building Regulations Specification
- Liaison & consultation with the Planning Officer
- info@theplanningworks.co.uk
- www.theplanningworks.co.uk

TAKE THE STRESS OUT OF COMPLEX FORM FILLING - WE DO IT ALL

NUTRITION FOR JOY

Personalised nutrition and lifestyle plans designed to meet you where you are.

Hi, I'm Amy! I'm a Nutritional Therapist & Health Coach based in Norton St Philip and I work with people who would like to improve their health and wellbeing.

Examples of things I can help with include:

- Support with digestive issues
- Support with managing existing health conditions through nutrition
- Advice on healthy and sustainable weight loss
- Hormone health
- General health and wellbeing advice



Email amy@nutritionforjoy.co.uk for more information and to book a free call to discuss your health goals, I'd love to hear from you.

mBANT, CNHC Registered Professional

Noticeboard

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

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

BECKINGTON TENNIS

Christmas courses for juniors,
beginners and those who can
already play.

All courses can be found on
Beckington tennis clubspark.

The beginner's course is £34.99
to include racket, 3 balls, t shirt
and 6 lessons see link below
[clubspark.lta.org.uk/Beckington
TennisAssociation/BookCourse/
119dde5f-9a61-424b-ac41-
0e2e8a251a37](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/BookCourse/119dde5f-9a61-424b-ac41-0e2e8a251a37)



Avon and Somerset Police

Please take a few moments to read the below alert:

A resident received a call from someone who claimed to be a London police officer working in Paddington station (which closed some time ago). Fortunately, the resident became suspicious and hung up, but we want to remind you to be wary of callers who claim to be a police officer

working in a serious crime fraud unit in London or from another force. They claim that your bank account has been compromised or that the bank card has been cloned. The purpose of these calls is to get people's bank account details. The offenders may also say that they are investigating your bank and need help to test the cash for counterfeit money. Victims are asked to withdraw a considerable amount of cash which will then be collected by a courier for "testing".

These criminals can be very convincing and will sometimes pass your call to another "department" which is another fraudster. They may also ask you to contact 101 or 999 to confirm their identity. In this case the culprit doesn't hang up, so the line remains connected at their end, any other call you make is answered by them. If asked to do this, hang up and wait at least 5 minutes before making a call or use another phone i

Visit the following for much more information on courier fraud and safely shopping online:

avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32960263/courier-fraud-information.pdf

avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32960264/safely-shopping-nline.pdfAttachments

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Cllr Adam Boyden, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 7 parishioners.

1. Public Participation: The Remembrance Day service on Sunday had gone well with a good attendance by the various Scout groups, the Army and a bugler; it was suggested letters of thanks were sent to the army and the bugler. This was agreed. A question was raised as to whether next year the service should be held outside again and it was generally agreed it should be (weather permitting). The Parish Council (PC) thanked Howard Russell for organising the event.

Thanks were given for the PC in getting the hedge overhanging the pavement cut.

Concerns were raised over the appeal by the developers to reverse Mendip's decision to refuse planning application to build 49 dwellings on Barbara's Field. The PC was encouraged to continue to oppose the development and residents asked what they should do to oppose the housing. Question was asked how comments should be made.

Concern was expressed over bright street lighting on all night. (This was carried over to the December meeting due to lack of time).

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

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th October were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Planning: It was agreed to take the planning appeal (Appeal reference: APP/Q3305/W/22/3292838 – Barbara's Field) item first as requested by the Parishioners. The Chair said that there was some surprise that the developers had not raised anything substantially new in their appeal apart for challenging Mendip over its decision. It was agreed JM would double check the appeal documents to confirm this. As all the current comments would be taken forward to the informal hearing there was no requirement for anyone to resend their comments and only if they had new points or information should they make comments to the Planning Inspectorate. There was some confusion on how any extra comments should be made. [Clerk's Note: Comments should be made through the website: acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk and after registering/logging on put the number 32922838 in the 'Search' box and then

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

click on 'Make Representation' to get to the comment section. Or send comments in writing.]

Mendip was going to robustly defend its refusal and the PC would continue to reject the planning application as it reflects the views of Rode residents. It was agreed that JM, AP, PT and Cllr Lund would take part in a 'Teams/Zoom' call with Nikki White at Mendip next week to agree the best way forward for the PC on the appeal. It was noted that it was expected the hearing could take place in February 2023.

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported the judicial review of the housing development in Norton had been completed and the judgement was due before Christmas. Mendip was looking for tree wardens and if anyone was interested they should contact Mendip. Mendip had a Greenspace consultation ongoing which ended on 25th November, this had all the green spaces for each town and village shown but it appeared not to include the S106 land by the playing field. It was agreed the PC would review this and comment as necessary.

7. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Boyden reported that there had been 600 responses to the LCN survey but the consultation had not been conclusive with regard to the make-up of the individual LCNs. Further work on this would be done in January. Each LCN would be given a budget to help it operate but it was confirmed planning would not be transferred to the LCNs. There were moves to try and form purely rural LCNs, with the aim of having a rural 'view' which did not include Frome, it was agreed there were pros and cons to this.

Unfortunately, First Bus (including the D2) had not updated its website for the new bus timetables or put them up in bus stops, this should be resolved this week.

He said that he and Dawn Denton were still trying to meet with Sara Davis at Somerset to discuss road issues including the Bradford Road/Rode Hill crossroads.

There were a number of initiatives to help people with the cost-of-living crisis and energy costs. A new Scrutiny Committee for the Environment had been set up with a wide remit covering most climate and environmental matters.

8. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** Cllr Lund agreed to chase up Bo Walsh to see if the letter had been sent to the owners of Merfield.
- ii. Books of condolence:** It was agreed to ask Frome Museum to store the two books of condolence books.
- iii. Slip road onto A36:** The videos had been sent to Cllr Denton who is to approach Sara Davis on the best way to proceed.
- iv. Ultrafast broadband:** The base and box had been fitted by Gigaclear and the box has now been wired up. PT reported he had received an email which indicated that Voneus were still interested in bringing full fibre to

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Rode and Tellisford and other small villages and this indicated Gigaclear might not proceed. This was noted and Gigaclear would be asked for an update. [Clerk's Note: I have had email which says Gigaclear will start with offering people the chance to order in January with a small number being connected each month – with a note this is subject to change!]

- v. **Grass cutting:** It was agreed that the grass at the end of the High Street opposite the Memorial Hall should be included in the contracted grass cutting area. Thanks were given to John Griffiths for having cut it for many years.

9. Climate Change Group: JM reported that the Group had held a good meeting on 1st November, with concerns raised over buses in the villages and what could be done to help their use. The need for safe walking and cycling routes to help minimise car use were discussed. The Big Green Weekend was considered a success, in particular the visits to showcase good climate initiatives. The Group would look at holding a future weekend event with showcases and talks; also, occasional evening talks would be considered.

AP had spoken to the Flindalls and they had agreed the rewilding area should continue. Whether the area should be covered to kill the grass or the top removed prior to seed sowing in the Spring would be explored.

10. Highways: The drainage work had been delayed due to an aspect of the contract needing to be resolved. This had only come to light just prior to work starting. Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future.

11. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/2164/HSE: Erection of rear conservatory – 15 Marsh Road. No objection.

ii. Mendip decisions:

2022/0932/VCR: Variation of conditions 9 (roads), 13 (land access), 17 (drainage), 20 (trees), 24 (noise), 25 (environmental management), 29 (land parking), 34 (refuse and recycling), 35 (ecology), 38 (land materials) and 49 (housing land sample panel) of permission 2011/3124 – Church Farm. Refused. It was reported Autograph would probably appeal this decision.

2022/1753/TCA: Fell magnolia tree – 31 Lower Street. Approved

2022/1877/TCA: Reduce apple tree by 2.5m and spread by 2m; reduce magnolia by 3m and spread by 1m – 17 High Street. Approved

ENF/2022/0168: Outbuilding in garden of 14 Nutts Lane. No enforcement action to be taken.

iii. Other:

Planning Forum: Each village had a page showing information on it under the Mendip Plan. It was noted that the information on Rode's buses was incorrect and the number of houses needed to be checked and the Chapel referenced. The Clerk agreed to comment.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

12. Playing Field:

a) Constitution: The constitution had not been finalised. However, a legal bill had been sent to the PC which was far higher than expected. It covered some work which the Solicitor had carried out which was considered unnecessary. It was agreed AP would speak to Steve Eyles about the bill and look to reduce it and also split it with the playing field.

b) Pavilion: A surveyor had inspected the building and declared it unsafe. Therefore, it could no longer be used. Discussions were held over the possible future of all the halls in Rode and whether all could be combined, but this would be a long-term option. However, the main current concern is what could be done to get the pavilion open again and the Playing Field Committee would investigate options.

13. Church Farm: Information had been received regarding a blocked footpath from Church Farm and investigations revealed that the new path had also not been designated as a footpath. Footpath FR13/1 should also be rerouted as part of the S106 agreement and it was agreed Autograph Homes would be approached to get this done and the 'new' path designated.

14. SALC survey: The meeting had no comments to make on the Health and Wellbeing survey.

15. Buses: With many buses coming through the village it was reported that bus drivers were complaining that the extra 9 minutes it takes to go through Rode had not been added to the timetables so buses arrived late at each end of their journeys. There was concern that once the Government subsidy was withdrawn the D2 service would end. PT reported that Frome, Beckington, Rode, Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse had set up a fighting fund to promote the D2 route. This group would try and get businesses and entertainment places to promote what can be done on the D2 route. He asked for Rode PC to help with this by giving some funding. The meeting unanimously agreed to donate £250 to the fighting fund.

16. Allotments: No update, awaiting for Allotment Chair to come back to MS.

17. Website: JM had circulated an outline proposal for a new website for village, groups, parish council and businesses to the PC. It was agreed this should now be progressed with Zonkey to start work on developing a new website. This would help as the current one was experiencing problems with many virus software programmes warning that the site was unsafe and people should not go on it.

18. Financial matters:

i) Account update: The Clerk had circulated an update of the accounts to the beginning of November which currently indicated the Parish Council should break even or make a small profit this financial year.

ii) Precept: Discussion was held over the level for next year, the PC had to balance the cost-of-living crisis against inflation and the possible need to build

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

up a reserve for any major project. It was agreed to raise the Precept to £24,990 for 2023/24.

iii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Frome Printing (bus timetables)	£160.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£777.40
Cross Keys Rode (Remembrance Day food)	£100.00
Wreath (Remembrance Day)	£25.00
SALC (training)	£50.00
Clerk Salary	£224.58
HMRC PAYE	£56.00
J McAuliffe (Big Green Weekend)*	£240.00

*(£160 to be refunded to PC by Beckington and Norton St Philip)

19. Any other business: A request had been made to either find space on PC land for a bench or a bench on which a plaque could be placed in remembrance of Duncan McLennan the past chair of the Memorial Hall Committee. It was agreed that probably the best solution would be a new bench undercover outside the Memorial Hall as there was space there.

20. Date of next meeting:

It was agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of the month next year and the Parish Council would move back into the Committee Room in the Memorial Hall unless Covid flared up again.

The next meeting would be held in the main hall of Memorial Hall on:

Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council

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 gate into the field at the front of Merfield.



Sudoku

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

Last month's Codeword

7	E	X	H	A	U	S	T	18	I	S	L	E								
14	O	2	Y	21	N	18	I	18	I	26	W	17	S							
8	C	A	20	L	Y	X	12	D	3	U	C	9	H	7	E	17	S			
3	U	7	E	18	I	18	I	14	O	7	E	6	A							
20	L	A	11	P	14	O	14	21	N	21	N	A	22	T	2	2	Y			
6	A			3	U	24	G					7	E							
26	R	A	12	D	18	S	H	10	Q	3	U	18	I	21	N	8	7	E		
		25	R					8	C	1	P						20	L		
13	J	14	O	18	I	21	N	22	T	26	7	17	S	22	T	14	O	25	7	E
6	A		16	Z	14	O		7	E			22	T		20	L		15	V	
4	B	A	16	Z	O	O	K	A	6	A	25	18	17	7	7	E				
14	O		20	L	19	K		22	T	24	G	16	V		21	N				
22	T	H	E	M	11			25	7	E	5	F	7	E	25	7	7	E		

POEM OF THE MONTH

The leaves drift toward the earth like ships to land,
 A voyage launched from timbers' great lofty berths,
 Toward harbours safe, concealed from raider bands,
 Of icy galleons coursing wintry dearth.
 Squirrels don thick coats against Wind's numbing dare,
 Mount last determined searches 'long the ground.
 Brown grass conceals the season's paltry fare,
 As hopeful birds scratch for what may be found.
 Through frosted windows glow the hearth's warm light,
 As fading day casts shadows 'cross the lawn,
 And grey meets grey as winter gathers might,
 Undaunted as the chimney starts to yawn.
 Farewell brave day as twilight draweth nigh.
 Perchance on morrow sun will gather high.

Dan Young "The End of a Winter Day"





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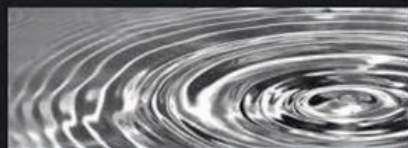
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DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Thursday 1 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 4 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast	A & S Filkins
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	J Robinson/F Stewart
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	C Walker
	6.00 pm	Rode , Chapel, Meeting Place	
Monday 5 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 6 Dec	9.45 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 7 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Sunday 11 Dec	9.00 am	Tellisford , Matins	C Walker/M Harrison A Dawson-Shepherd J Robinson C Walker
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	3.00 pm	Rode , Outdoor Nativity	
	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Carol Service	
Monday 12 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 13 Dec	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 14 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 15 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 18 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , said Holy Communion	C Walker
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Christingle	C Walker/S Rodford
	11.00 am	Laverton , Carol Service	M Harrison
	3.00 pm	Rode St Lawrence , Carol Service	J Robinson
	6.00 pm	Farleigh Hungerford , Carol Service	R Hungerford
Monday 19 Dec	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 20 Dec	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 21 Dec	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 22 Dec	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Friday 23 Dec	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Nativity	
Saturday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	3.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Crib Service	C Walker/J Robinson
	5.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Crib service	J Robinson/C Walker
	11.00 pm	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	J Robinson/B Day
	11.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	M Harrison/C Walker
Sunday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion	J Robinson/B Day
	9.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	C Walker
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Family Service	C Walker/F Stewart
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Family Service	M Harrison/J Robinson

RODE CHAPEL DECEMBER 2022 SERVICES

Sunday 04.12.22 10.30am Jacqueline Cobb

Sunday 11.12.22 10.30am Rev. Michael White (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 14.12.22 7.30pm - Christmas Celebration - see separate announcement page 10

Sunday 18.12.22 10.30am Rev Jonathan Pye (Chair of Bristol District) Carol Service

Sunday 25.12.22 10.30am Locally Resourced Worship

HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – JANUARY 2023

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Sunday 1 January	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion	J Robinson/S Kivett
Tuesday 3 January	9.45 am 5.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Holy Communion Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 4 January	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	C Walker
Thursday 5 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 8 January	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	F and R Stewart J Robinson/C Walker
Monday 9 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 10 January	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 11 January	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 12 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 15 January	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	M Harrison C Walker/B Day M Walker/M Harrison
Monday 16 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 17 January	5.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 18 January	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 19 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 22 January	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 M Harrison J Robinson
Monday 23 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 24 January	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 25 January	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 26 January	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 29 January	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, United Parish Holy Communion	C Walker/F Stewart
Monday 30 January	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 31 January	5.00 pm	Tellisford Evening Prayer	

RODE CHAPEL JANUARY 2023 SERVICES

Sunday 01.01.23 Local Arrangement (10.30 am) & The Meeting Place (6.00pm)

Sunday 08.01.23 10.30am Barry Speddings

Sunday 15.01.23 10.30am Mike Evans

Sunday 22.01.23 10.30am Barry Speddings

Sunday 29.01.23 10.30am Rev. Michael White (Holy Communion)

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023 DIARY

Fri 2 Dec	Rode Over 60s see page 35 for details
Sat 3 Dec	7.30pm Mendip Male Voice Choir Winter Concert see page 43 for details
Mon 7 Dec	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club Christmas Lunch see page 38 for details
Sat 10 Dec	10am-12noon NSP Christmas Fayre see page 44 for details
Fri 9 Dec	11.25-11.55am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode 7 for 7.30pm Rode Roxy see pages 51 for details
Sun 11 Dec	10.30am FRANS Rode Santa Dash for details see pages 9 & 44 11am -3pm Christmas Market see page 45 for details 3pm Rode Outdoor Nativity see page 45 for details
Mon 12 Dec	7.30pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 36 for details
Tue 13 Dec	10am Rode Walking Group see page 37 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 56 for details
Wed 14 Dec	7.30pm Christmas Celebration see page 10
Thu 15 Dec	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 46 for details
Sun 18 Dec	10.30am Christingle see page 46 for details
Mon 19 Dec	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 51 for details
Tue 20 Dec	Begins 6pm Rotary Santa and his sleigh visit Rode see page 48 Begins 6pm Scouts Rode Carols see page 49
Fri 23 Dec	5pm Nativity Church Nativity see page 49 for details
Sat 24 Dec	Crib Service see page 50 for times and locations
Sun 25 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY Christmas Day
Mon 26 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY Boxing Day
Tue 27 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY in lieu of Christmas Day falling on Sunday 25 th December
Fri 30 Dec	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 17 for details
Sat 31 Dec	New Year's Eve
Sun 1 Jan	New Year's Day
Mon 2 Jan	BANK HOLIDAY in lieu of New Years Day falling on Sunday 1 st January
Thu 5 Jan	1pm-2pm NSP Lunchtime Concert see page 11 for details
Mon 9 Jan	7.30pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 36 NB No Lunch Club
Tue 10 Jan	10am Rode Walking Group see page 38 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 56 for details
Fri 13 Jan	Rode Over 60s see page 35 for details
Mon 16 Jan	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 51 for details
Sat 28 Jan	6.45 for 7.15pm Bingo, Bangers & Mash see page 52 for details
Tue 31 Jan	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 17 for details

Jan 2023				Dec 2022			
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31

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 ● RECYCLING
 ● GARDEN

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Seasoned barn dried logs!

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- 🔥 Natural Firelighters (40 in a box) £6



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Please send copy for the February 2023 issue of 'The Link'

via email to gillhlleonard@aol.com latest Tuesday 22nd January 2023

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