

The Link

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Rode Water Management Review To Start

It's Subscription Renewal Time – Details Inside

Details About Seed Share Event & An Online Dog Show

Community Transport for Vaccination Trips

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

£1

The Link

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The Parish Of Hardington Vale

Rode, Tellisford, Farleigh Hungerford, Hemington, Laverton and Norton St Philip

Rector	Rev Caroline Walker (Day Off: Friday) The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, NSP	carolinehwalker@btinternet.com/ 834258
Associate Priest & Rode Rural Pioneer	Rev Alex Holmes The Old Rectory, 38 Church Lane, Rode	revalexholmes@gmail.com/01373 830647
Curate	Jo Robinson 3 Manor Barn, NSP	321jorobinson@gmail.com/01373 834643
Children's Worker	Sue Rodford	kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk/812766
Chapel Warden	Farleigh Hungerford – Guy Hungerford	01249 701211
Deputy Warden	Rode - lly Pickett	831796
Deputy Warden	Norton St Philip – Glenys Brown	834226
Chapel Warden	Tellisford - Rachel Feilden	830322
Electoral Roll	Ros Clarke	admin@hardingtonvale.org.uk/ 834488
Organist	Dr David Thomas	830515
Parish Administrator	Ros Clarke (Office open Mon, Tues & Weds 8.30am - 12.30pm)	admin@hardingtonvale.org.uk 834488
Parish Wardens (Specific responsibilities in brackets)	David Lockley (pastoral and outreach) Christopher Todd (strategy) Geoff Banwell (finance) John Flindall *(buildings)	834414 834856 831139 830456
PCC Secretary	Tony Day	secretary@hardingtonvale.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Nick Brown	treasurer@hardingtonvale.org.uk/834488

Rode Chapel – Baptist - Methodist

Minister	Rev Tina Swire	01749 595759
Secretary	Bill Jackson	rode.chapel@btinternet.com/830411

Keyholders

All Saints Tellisford	Helen Curwen	831228
Rode Chapel	Alison Hughes	rode.chapel@btinternet.com/830244
St Lawrence, Rode	Wardens and Peter Barnes	-

Community Transport & Local Government

Community Transport	Mendip Community Transport	01749 880613/ www.menfopcommunitytransport.co.uk
	Slinky Bus Bookings	01749 880482
	Frome Community Cars	07596 591391
Mendip D C	General Enquiries	0300 303 8588
Somerset C C	General Enquiries	0300 123 2224
County Councillor	Linda Oliver (Conservative)	loliver@somerset.gov.uk/834210
District Councillor	Barbi Lund (Green Party)	Cllr.lund@mendip.gov.uk/07846 335636

Other Useful Contacts Details

Beckington Family Practice	Appointments T: 830006 Results 9.30-13.00/14.00-16.00 T: 867986	Enquiries and Emergencies T: 830316 Dispensary 8.30-13.00/15.00-18.30 T: 867987
NHS 111 24 hour medical care help	Contact if you have an urgent medical problem and are unsure what to do	T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk
Frome Rural Beat Neighbourhood Police Team	PCSO 9011 Russell Ford PCAO 9800 John McNally Beat Mgr PC 2673 David Cohen	Russell.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk/07547 658018 John.mcnally@avonandsomerset.police.uk David.Cohen@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Useful Community Contact Details

Organisation	Contact Name	Contact Number
Allotments - Rode Rode Gardens Association	Lucy Travis (Chair)	831726/Lucy_travis@hotmail.com
Buddy Scheme (Rode)	Steve Salmon	831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com
Choir - One Voice	Lee Ingram	825058/07766 244321
Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
Crafts Group – Meet Mondays 2.30pm @ Rode Chapel	Alison Hughes	830244
Cricket Club (NSP) Youth & Senior	Mark Finch	07876 191100
Friends of Rode and Norton Schools (FRANS)	George Muxworthy (Chair)	GMuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk. 834327
Gardening: Rode & District Gardening Club Meet 2nd Monday @ Rode Hall	Averil Morrow	830686 averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk
Ladies Group (Rode) Meet 4th Thursday 7.30pm @ Rode Hall	Pat Banwell	831139
Lunch Club (Over 60's) Meet 1st Monday @ Rode Hall	Alex Sing	Asing_homeandgardens@hotmail.com 830836
Memorial Hall (Rode)	Bookings: Duncan McLennan	bookings@showtech.co.uk/07850 930745 www.rodevillagehall.co.uk
NSP Pre-School	Dawn Strand	admin@nortonpreschool.co.uk/834791
Old School Room Farleigh Hungerford	Dilys McKechnie	01225 754925
Over 60's Meet 2nd Thursday	Pat Smith	830559
Parish Council - Rode Meet 1st Tuesday	Hugh Williams (Parish Clerk)	Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com rodeparishcouncil.webs.com
Parish Paths Liaison Officer	Caro Smith	caro.a.smith@gmail.com/830911
Photography Club (NSP) Meet bimonthly 2 nd Tuesday	Tony Day	01373 834438/tonyjday22@gmail.com
Playing Field/Pavilion (Rode)	Bookings: Chair: Nigel Clarke	rodepfbookings@gmail.com biz.nibex@btinternet.com
Post Office (Rode)	Demi Ward	830321
RANS Running & Walking Club www.facebook.com/TeamRANS	Brandon Quentin-Hicks	brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk 07867 545720
Rode & NSP First School Federation	Headteacher: Georgina Muxworthy	830523
Rodevillage.com Website & Twitter Feed	George Berry	info@rodevillage.com http://twitter.com/rodevillage
Rotary Gift Shoeboxes	Sarah Gurr Nicky Robinson-Moore	07801 286997/sarahgurr26@hotmail.com 07734 110353
1 st Rode Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs & Beavers) Mon/Wed in term time	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussello1@gmail.com 830640
Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday in term time	Marcus Bradshaw	explorers@rodevillage.com 07713 165312
Sewing Group (NSP)	Hilary Bodger	834444
Ukulele Group	Ray Floyd	07847 051245
Village Agent	Nic Edwards	07946 461468/ nicolae@somersetrec.org.uk
Walking Group	Liz Dinnis	elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com/07788 656337
THE LINK		
Copy for the magazine & adverts Distribution/Subscriptions	Gill Leonard Caroline Williams	831072/link@rodevillage.com 831046/link@rodevillage.com

Link Team Message

Dear Readers

The Link Team would like to thank you for your support throughout 2020/21.

Our content had to change somewhat due to Covid-19 and its effect on events and local groups and we look forward to the time when these can resume, and we will again be including more on these.

We have endeavoured to offer a wider range of content and our thanks go to all those who have contributed and helped in this and we do hope that you have been enjoying the magazine.

Any help to spread the word about The Link to encourage new readers and contributors and widen our audience and our content is always very much appreciated. Details of local news, events and activities that will be of interest to our readers are welcome - and we would remind you that there is no charge for advertising fund-raising events in the magazine or "Friends and Family" announcements.

The Link is a magazine for our local community, please send contributions to link@rodevillage.com - and any ideas you may have for improving it!

Our **new subscriptions year starts 1st April 2021**, and we are pleased to confirm that there will be **no increase in the cost of the subscription** which will remain at **£8.00** for the year, and the price of an individually purchased magazine will remain £1.00. Organising an annual subscription therefore offers a saving of £3 - in addition to the convenience of having the magazine delivered to your door!

A subscription envelope is enclosed in this copy of the magazine for your convenience and use and details of the subscription payment procedure are on the following page.

An annual subscription covers the delivery to your address of 11 issues of the The Link. The magazine will be delivered monthly to your address (except January when we have a combined December/January issue) commencing April 2021 through to March 2022 inclusive.

We do hope our much-valued current subscribers will be renewing their subscription and we will be delighted to welcome new subscribers.

Link Team Message

“THE LINK” ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022 IS NOW DUE...

Please use the enclosed subscription envelope to secure yours.

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

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

Your subscription money is **due by 25th March 2021 at the latest**, to ensure continuity of subscription and delivery of your April 2021 issue. We would appreciate payment by **cheque or bank transfer**, if possible.

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

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

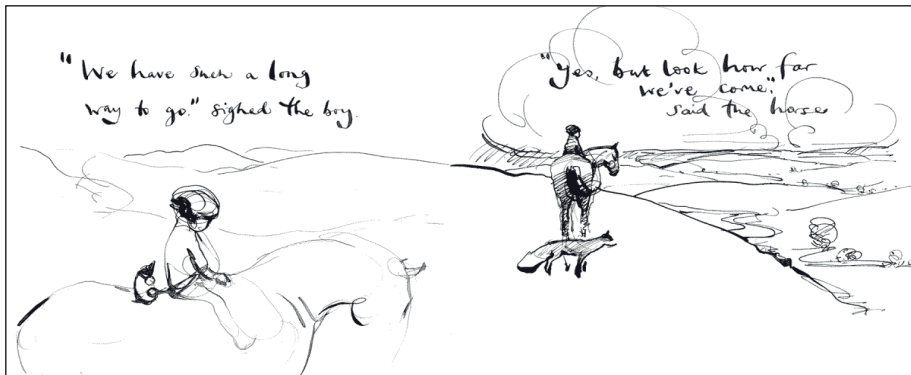
If you pay by bank transfer, it is important that you include “LINK” and your surname and initials as the payment reference so that we can identify your payment. When paying by this method you should still complete and submit the subscription envelope to Rode Post Office. Further Subscription envelopes are available from Rode Post Office.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Church Reflection & News

REFLECTION



As we enter 2021 this picture by the artist and writer Charlie Mackesy seems very appropriate. His book —‘The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse’— was a popular Christmas gift in 2019 and sold over 1.4 million copies spending 55 weeks on the Sunday Times Bestsellers List. I wonder how many of you gave or received it? I’m sure that when Charlie wrote it, he had no idea just how relevant it would be for the unprecedented events of 2020 and indeed 2021!

The book is full of simple cartoons which illustrate profound conversations between four friends – a boy, a mole a fox and a horse. They remind me of the stories and pictures of Winnie the Pooh although Charlie’s book is less of a story and more of a conversation – little tender exchanges where the characters are vulnerable and kind to each other showing what love and true friendship is about. Anyhow, this isn’t meant to be a book review and I don’t want to give too many spoilers! But I’d like to share a little bit about what I have found out about Charlie.

Charlie is primarily an artist. His pictures hang in the homes of the rich and famous including Whoopi Goldberg and Sting, but they also hang in hospital wards around our country. You may have seen him on the BBC News* which showed how he has been encouraging front line workers with drawings and special messages.

*‘When have you been at your strongest?’ asked the boy.
‘When I have dared show my weakness.’ said the horse.
‘The bravest thing you can do is to ask for help.’*

*‘if this storm is making you tired...
...storms get tired too...
...so hold on.’*

*‘Sometimes your mind
plays tricks on you. It can
tell you you’re no good,
that it’s all hopeless. But
remember this; you are
loved, and important and
you bring things to the
world no-one else can.’*

Church Reflection & News

But Charlie is not only a talented artist he is evidently quite a sought-after speaker too. What makes him so enjoyable to listen to is the way he doesn't take himself too seriously — he's very self-effacing.

I watched him give a Ted Talk** about art —wearing flipflops, with unkempt hair and his two dogs wandering up on the stage — and he talked about how he gives art classes to those living with Alzheimer's. Charlie explained that it isn't the artistic results that are important, but rather; 'my intention was for them to enjoy each other, the process, connection, shared vulnerability, ... it's one of the greatest privileges I've ever had in my life...to encourage someone that it's okay to make a mess... and to help people find their voice...vulnerability begins with making a mess together, what you get is connection, then you get communication, then you get belonging, you get all these things that society seems to be losing.' Charlie is more about accepting people and helping them build community in the mess of life than he is about producing masterpieces.

This reminds me of art therapy classes we did with abused girls in Asia. They were asked to draw a memory from childhood, and I remember one girl drew herself and then holding the paintbrush in a tight fist scrubbed over her picture with black paint. She couldn't put her experiences into words, but she was starting to express them, and she did that in a group —which was very brave thing to do. The acceptance and support of the group was so important in her process of healing.

Charlie's art is an expression of God's presence in his life. One of his paintings is simply entitled *Known*, and it came out of an experience he had of God: "There was one day when I was on my bike crossing a bridge in London, and it lasted about 11 seconds," he remembered. "But it was this kind of; 'You're known, you're loved, God exists and He loves you, He knows you, you're known, you're fully known, you're fully known.'""***

So, as we find ourselves in this challenging time, remember how far we have come, reach out and encourage others, be brave and ask for help and most of all remember that you are loved.

Rev Jo Robinson

(Quotes are from Charlie's above mentioned book or from his Facebook page. The rest of the material you can find if you google: * Charlie Mackesy Ted Talk ** Charlie Mackesy BBC news 16th December ***Charlie Mackesy CBN News. More talks at – Charlie Mackesy HTB and new drawings and quotes are regularly posted on his Facebook page.)

Church Reflection & News

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

We'd like to begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year and sincerely hope that before too long we will be able to meet again in church and around our parish during 2021.

We hope you were able to enjoy some of the online Services during the Christmas period.



There were Services to replace all the normal Services we would hold in church during this time and it was so nice to see lots of different people from the parish participating in the recording of these Services.

All of our current Services are still being held online and will continue to do so until the situation changes. Breakfast Church continues to be held via Zoom and this is on the first Sunday of each month and a separate Young Families Breakfast Church is also held via Zoom on the second Sunday of the month.

Readers will no doubt be pleased to have seen that the wall has now been repaired. We regret any inconvenience this has caused and hope that drivers will take more care in the future.

As the days begin to lengthen and people are out having their daily exercise it is always good to see people walking around the village and we hope the situation will improve over the next few months so that we can see more of you.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell



ANOTHER FIRST FOR 2020

Rode's Christmas Tree was brought down by Mother Nature...



It has never happened before; it was the result of the 70mph wind we had! It fell over at 2.00am in the morning of 27th December with an almighty crack as heard by residents on The Green.

Thanks to a few village people we took the lights off and cleared the tree away at first light! Luckily, it survived over the big day!

James Osborne

STRANGE HAPPENINGS AT RODE MEMORIAL HALL

Can you help solve a mystery at the village hall? Recently, two of the large tables have gone missing from the Hall. Also, rubbish has been appearing in the Hall bins. Both of these are very strange, given how rarely the Hall has been used throughout the pandemic.



Money for new tables and bin emptying must come from the charity's funds, so if any of you super-sleuths can help us you will get hero status and a virtual medal!

Please contact me on 07766 710562 with any clues...

Helen Flooks
Secretary



For February edition of
THE LINK

Rode - Survey Works Newsletter

You might be aware from the recent publications in The Link that **Mendip District Council (MDC)** has secured funding from the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) to carry out a review of water management within the Rode Parish. We will assess the watercourses and storm drainage and develop a programme to make changes where necessary to better manage the flow of surface water.



We are pleased to announce that we have appointed a contractor, **Dando Surveying Ltd**. They will carry out a survey of the culverted watercourses and highway drainage in the village. The purpose of this work is important for assessing the condition and capacity of the watercourses and relevant drainage. This work is

anticipated to start **mid February 2021** and is estimated to take up to 4 weeks. The programme is driven by the need to work in the vicinity of the school outside term time to minimise contact and disruption.



Regrettably, it is inevitable that some areas of village will require traffic management,

including temporary road closures. Whilst this will create some disruption, it will provide a safer environment for everyone while the jetting tanker and surveying vehicles are in operation.

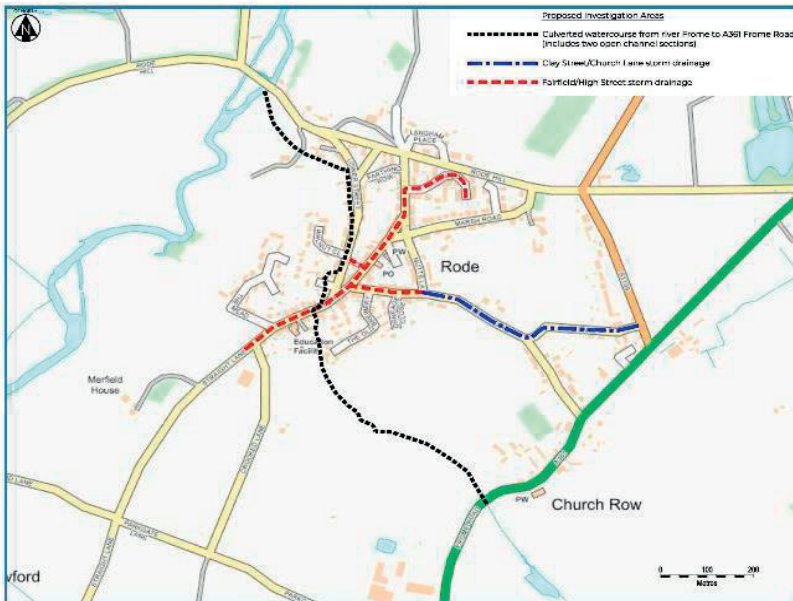
The contractor will need access to manholes and culvert entrances in order to allow for the CCTV camera to be inserted. The majority of these are in the highway, however access to outside spaces on private property may be required on occasion. Where this applies, we will contact specific occupiers/owners directly to ensure that we have permission prior to the

Parish News

With the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), our primary concern is the well-being of the community and our colleagues carrying out the surveying work. Our contractor will strictly avoid any direct contact with anyone. They will take necessary measures to ensure that they do not pose any additional risk to the community.

To ensure that the survey runs smoothly and is completed as quickly as possible: **Please help us by avoiding parking near access points (manholes & highway drains) and in the roads being surveyed once the work begins.** This will ensure the tanker and surveying vehicles can gain access and equipment can be safely set up. For more information about the area to be surveyed, please refer to the plan provided overleaf.

We apologise for any inconvenience which might be caused during the survey and thank you in advance for your understanding and appreciate



This project is led by Calm Engineering on behalf of Mendip District Council and partners:

CALM Engineering
60 Dovers Park
Bathford, BA1 7UD

Calm
ENGINEERING

MENDIP
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Somerset
Rivers Authority

If you have any queries or would like to contact us, please e-mail us at calmengineering@outlook.com quoting **Rode** and we will get in touch.

Parish News

RODE ONLINE DOG SHOW

Calling all dog-lovers in Rode – and there seem to be quite a few! As a way of brightening up a dreary February we're holding an online dog show during half-term from Mon 15th to Sat 20th February. So, start looking your favourite photos of your pooch out, or get snapping, now! There's even a class for non-canine pets! There will be 10 classes:

- 1) Handsomest boy
- 2) Prettiest girl
- 3) Cutest puppy (up to 6 months)
- 4) Best rescue
- 5) Golden oldie (8+ years)
- 6) Silliest pose
- 7) Funniest fancy dress
- 8) Best trick (a video class)
- 9) Best action shot
- 10) Best non-canine pet



We'll upload photos for two classes per day on to our Facebook page (search for Rode Online Dog Show) and the photo in each category with most likes/loves will be declared the winner. The daily winners will then all be put through for the title of supreme champion on Saturday 19th! It's just for fun but there will be specially designed certificates for the winners of each class.

Entries:

By email: send 1 photo/video per class with the corresponding class number as the email subject to rodedogshow@gmail.com. Include dog's name/age/breed/any other info you think we'd like!

By hand: drop photos, info and class numbers in to: The Rectory, 38 Church Lane, Rode (photos will be returned if you include your address).

Sorry, but we're only able to accept entries from Rode residents this time.

Closing date for entries: Friday 12th February

Fees: Free to enter but donations in aid of the Dogs Trust and Ruksak45218 will be gratefully received via the fundraising link on the Facebook page.

Looking forward to seeing all of your animal pics!

Alex Holmes

1ST RODE MAJOR SCOUT GROUP

200 Club Monthly draw.

The renewal letters for the 200 Club have been deferred. These will be delivered mid-end February 2021. At the end of March two draws will be made, the February and March one, this will catch us up.

The Club is a vital source of fundraising for the group particularly now as all fundraising is postponed in the light of the pandemic. However, new members are welcome to join, application forms will be available in the Post Office from February.

The draw consists of 12 monthly draws, 2 prizes paid monthly, £50 and £25, in November we hold the Christmas draw paying £100, £50 and £25. For a one off payment of £10 you will be given a registration number, this number goes into the draw each month. When the year ends a renewal letter will be sent requesting your annual fee once more, you can opt out at this stage if you no longer wish to take part.

Although the Scouts meetings are temporarily closed at the moment we do need to think ahead and get the fundraising up and running.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support, take care and please stay safe!!!

Results for the Christmas Draw in November are as follows:

1st prize £100 Mal Bertenshaw
2nd Prize £50 Angela Gilroy
3rd Prize £25 Mitzi Harrington

Results of the December Draw are as follows:

1st prize £50 - Wendy Gould
2nd prize £25 - Wendy Gould

A very lucky lady!!

The draw was made by Sam Rottenbury

Jan Jupp



Parish News

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Covid-19-Vaccine Fraud: Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS. The vaccine is free, and the NHS will never ask for payment, your bank details, arrive unannounced at your home or ask for proof of identity by requesting you send copies of personal documents.



Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm, offering a range of support – from help accessing food or medicines, to emotional and financial support, and employment, housing and business advice.

Somerset COVID Cases: From this web address below, you will be able to access the Somerset Covid Dashboard which tracks our local epidemic from the start in March, to the current time: www.somerset.gov.uk/covid-19-dashboard/

Vaccination Programme Roll-out: Somerset residents identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as the highest priority are being invited for Covid-19 vaccinations first, including people aged over 80, more recently over 70 and health and care staff.

Residents should not contact their local NHS services for vaccination, they will be contacted when it's their turn and given the information that they need for their appointment.

For more information visit: somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset

SCC Support - More than 700 County Council staff are being redeployed to support the NHS challenge of rolling out the county's biggest ever vaccination programme. The first community GP-led sites have begun vaccinations and follow the launch of the programme in hospital hubs.

Further plans are being drawn up to ensure vaccination in other locations across the county. Operating seven days a week which will require a considerable staffing resource and whilst every effort is being made to avoid disruption to SCC services some impact will undoubtedly be felt in areas outside of vulnerable people services.

Parish News

High Speed Broadband: Three companies have been selected to rollout the next phase of full fibre network on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding.

Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next four years.

One Somerset Pledges: Somerset County Council has set out ten clear One Somerset pledges in the proposed move to a single Unitary authority:

1. No disruption to local services as we change, and a promise to keep you fully informed.
2. We will protect those front-line staff working with vulnerable people across the county.
3. Council tax will not increase because of moving to a single unitary council.
4. Physical, face-to-face council contact points across the county.
5. One telephone number and one website to access ALL council services.
6. Improved services for our vulnerable residents including housing, adults' and children's services.
7. Improved services for our children and young people, including education, training, jobs and transport.
8. More local decision making by our town and parish councils and new local community networks.
9. Closer relationships with partners including the NHS, police, education, and the voluntary sector to deliver better services.
10. We will not split Somerset in half, divide communities, lose our proud identity, or weaken our standing on a local, regional and national level.

It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

Cllr. Linda Oliver

E: loliver@somerset.gov.uk

T: 01373 834210

Parish News

RODE & NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

FAREWELL MRS TOMMEY!



The end of the Christmas term at our village schools heralded the end of an era. Mrs. Carolyn Tommey retired from teaching after 19 years as Head Teacher at Rode First School and for the last seven years Norton St. Philip First School as well. Over that time, she has led the school with creative vision keeping the arts at the heart of the curriculum and developing a rich range of opportunities for the children including filming and recording,

samba drumming, theatre shows and technology. It is incredible to think that the youngest pupils when she started are now the 24-year-olds of Rode!



Carolyn and her husband Glenn are setting off on new adventures as they leave Bath to renovate a property in Ross-on-Wye. Although we were not able to give her the grand send-off we had planned, she was showered with gifts from staff, parents and children. In turn, Carolyn gifted the school with 19 carefully chosen hardback story books for our school libraries, one to represent each year of her reign!

Carolyn had originally planned to begin her retirement in July 2020 but kindly agreed to stay on for an extra term to steer the ship through the stormy Covid waters. And what choppy waters we are navigating!

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS : On January 1st Mrs Tommey handed over the Head Teacher baton to Mrs Georgina Muxworthy who was previously Assistant Head at our Norton St. Philip site. She has a wealth of leadership experience from a number of settings including primary schools, nurseries and special school. She has sprayed the baton with hand sanitizer and picks up where Carolyn left off, focusing on creativity, the arts and 'doing things differently'. Both schools are currently open to around 40% of our children who meet the government criteria with the rest of the school receiving remote learning at home. Teachers are working harder than ever, and staff are in school every day.

Parish News

We currently have spaces available in several year groups so please get in touch if you know anyone who would like to visit and spread the word via our Open Day film 'Best School in the World Open Day' film. The video can be found on our website and here: <https://youtu.be/Khb41TceZfw>.

COME AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk
Or call us on 01373 830523 or 01373 834327.



CENSUS 2021 - A SNAPSHOT OF MODERN SOCIETY

Households across Mendip will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

census
2021

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

Parish News

PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

As the November 2020 draw could not be in the Cross Keys again, it was done independently and witnessed by our neighbours.



November 2020 Playing Field Lottery winners:

1st - £50.00Jean Byrne, Rode.

2nd - £25.00Gill Lynch, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 Carolyn Tommey, Head, Rode School.

And courtesy of Hannah and Mark, Sunday lunch for two at the Cross Keys was won by Helen Flocks, Rode.

As once again, the draw could not be in the Cross Keys as it should be, the December 2020 was done and witnessed independently, for the last time in this bizarre year,

December 2020 Playing Field Lottery winners:

1st - £50.00Diana Russell, Rode.

2nd - £25.00Alice Sharman, Warwickshire.

3rd - £25.00 Jessica Sharman, Bucks, ex Rode.

And yes, that is my daughter and daughter in law - but please see above.

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 and two meals (when the Cross Keys is back to normal) all possible for £1.00 per ticket! And remember you are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket.

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

It starts all over again on Sunday 31st of January 2021 but sadly not back in the Keys! If anyone would like to do the draw or witness it from a suitable social distance, then please feel free to do so. Just ask.

Maybe we will do the draw on February 28th in the right place (The Cross Keys) or will we have to wait 'till March? Who knows?

Keith Sharman

T: 830408

VILLAGE AGENTS UPDATE

Christmas really brought out the best in everyone following a challenging year. We had so many donations to our 'Gift of Small Things Christmas Appeal' that we were able to deliver well over 300 boxes absolutely STUFFED with presents for those most in need in Somerset. A HUGE thank you to all those people who donated - it made such a difference!

The colder weather brings challenges to our less fortunate clients. Often the choice is between food and heating, which is a heart-breaking position to be in! There are many ways to help people in crisis or fuel poverty:

- You can donate your winter fuel allowance to the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) here: somersetcf.org.uk/winter. SCF then work with us to allocate donations as needed. This year, many people will be staying at home to keep themselves safe; cut off from family/friends and will be facing higher heating costs. Your donations will help us make sure around 500 vulnerable older people in Somerset have support to get through the winter.
- Our #LoveSomerset Crisis Fund: ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/ has proved to be an enormously valuable extra "tool in the bag" for Village Agents to help people facing personal and family crises. At this time of hardship for many in our communities, we desperately require donations, all support, no matter how small, makes a huge difference! You can donate online via: localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/ or by contacting us directly –
- You can join our Community Oil Buying Scheme to ensure you benefit from the best bulk buying discounts on heating oil. You can find out more here: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/oil/>. We receive 50% of the small annual membership fee, which goes into our Crisis Fund!

Village Agent TOP TIPS for staying warm and well this winter. Check out the energy (& money!) saving advice here: energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/heating-your-home/ Contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy who can help find a better rate: cse.org.uk/. If you haven't changed energy supplier in over a year you are guaranteed to save money by changing! CSE can help you with this.

Don't forget to tune in to our LIVE Talking Cafes - 11am weekdays on Facebook: www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset and afterwards on YouTube. They cover a wide variety of subjects visit: Wishing you a healthy and warm start to 2021!



Nic Edwards

T: 07946 461468 E: nicolae@somersetccc.org.uk

Parish News

RODE GROW AND SHARE DECEMBER 2020 EVENT

We were so fortunate for Lockdown to be lifted just in time for the Foraged Christmas Wreath Making Workshops on Saturday 6 December 2020. It meant we could meet face to face (with Covid safe measures in place) for the Christmas Wreath Making Workshops on Sunday 6 December, at Rode Pavilion and Playing Fields. It was so wonderful to be amongst fellow villagers and get creative, or in my case get inspired by all the beautiful wreaths made, which were all so different.



We hosted 17 people at the workshops and delivered 7 wreath kits to those signed up unable to make the event, to make at home. Running 5 workshops throughout the day was only possible with the incredible support of Alex Holmes co-hosting, and my husband Steve, my family and our shared garden owner supporting me and the event. Thanks also to Nigel Clarke for the hire of the Pavilion and Playing Fields, we are incredibly lucky to have such a great village resource.

I hugely over foraged and collected materials for the workshops, as I wanted to make sure we had enough and a good selection. I put everything leftover outside our house for a few days after the event and was so happy to see so much get taken, and to hear what decorations were made with it.



Workshop attendees were keen for this to become an annual event, and hopefully we could cater for more people with more workshops next time. Before we get to next December there are other new things afoot see page 27...

Julia Robb

LAVERTON NEWS

May I begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year in the hope that 2021 will bring brighter times for us all and the opportunity to get together for some good old Laverton socials!

BBC Local Radio Carols - A few of us joined in with the socially distanced 'BBC Carols on your Doorstep' on a very cold evening just before Christmas. It's probably fair to say it wasn't very tuneful, but it was good fun and got us in to the festive spirit – the Mulled wine certainly helped!

Keeping the Laverton lanes water free! As anyone who lives in the village knows only too well, the lanes around here are somewhat wet and muddy in the winter. Many thanks to Bob and Debby Hill and their brilliant team of drain clearers for all their efforts in keeping the drains in the village clear and flowing. We all really appreciate your hard work!

Christening: On Saturday 19th December, we had a church service at Laverton for the Christening of Felicity Iris Grace Snook.

"Felicity wore a Christening gown that was first worn by her great-great grandmother and worn by every generation since. It was a lovely intimate service gathered around the font (all within Church of England rules).

Christmas flowers and foliage from friends and families gardens decorated the church and were then given to the godparents and also to Caroline, and Bob and Debby Hill. Felicity was very well behaved and had a lovely smile for everyone.



We would like to pass on our thanks to everyone for organising the service at short notice." Mark, Shirley, William, Holly and Felicity

That's all for this month.

Jackie Moss

Parish Health

COVID VACCINATION DATA FOR SOMERSET

You can now check Somerset's vaccination data on our coronavirus dashboard. The information provided by the NHS will be added every Friday. The dashboard also provides an overview of coronavirus cases, a map, the R number and more detailed district-level information: somerset.gov.uk/covid-19-dashboard/



People are asked to support the NHS:

- by not contacting GPs and health services about vaccinations. You will be contacted when it is your turn to be invited for your vaccination. Some telephone lines are jammed with people asking about vaccinations and this is preventing people who need help from getting through.
- When contacted, please attend your booked appointments;
- Please continue to follow all guidance to control virus spread and save lives.

TRANSPORT TO YOUR VACCINATION SITE:

Mendip Community Transport's Slinky Buses are available - where possible only one passenger and one driver will be on each journey. If you have not heard about Slinky, it's an accessible door-to-door bus service funded by Somerset County Council for people unable to access conventional transport in the Mendip area. Whether you need to attend health appointments, clubs or classes, visit friends and relatives, or just need to be able to get to the shops, they will be happy to provide you with the transport service you require. If you are eligible to use this service, you will need to register with them, once you are registered (for vaccination purposes can be fast tracked by phone) you can book transport by contacting their booking office not less than 24 hours before travel. Trips can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance.

Valid Somerset Council Concessionary Bus Passes entitling you to a 50% discount can be used on these Services but are only valid after 9:30am (call 0300 123 2224 to enquire about a Concessionary Bus Pass). Slinky operating times are usually 9:00am – 5:00pm. Fares as follows:

- Under 3-miles Single - £2.50 (Travelling with concession pass £1.30)
- Under 3-miles Return - £4.00 (If travelling with concession pass £2.00)
- Over 3-miles Single - £3.50 (If travelling with concession pass £1.80)
- Over 3-miles Return - £5.00 (If travelling with concession pass £ 2.50)

The Slinky Booking Line 01749 880482 is open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Frome Community Cars are also available - A journey costs £2 booking fee + 60p per mile. If you hold a valid concessionary bus pass the fare is £2 booking fee + 30p per mile for the first 16 miles (single) or 34 miles (return) journey. Call 07596 591391 or visit: fromecommunitydrivers.org.uk/

Parish Youth News & Events

H.V. CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER NEWS

Dear families, due to the latest Covid restrictions when you read this I will be on Furlough. Please contact Caroline or Jo if you need any help or support during this time. I look forward to catching up with you all as soon as possible.

Meanwhile keep well and safe.

Any activities for the children and our families will be organised by Caroline or Jo during my Furlough and details can be found on the Hardington Vale Parish Website – hardingtonvale.org.uk - under Children and Family Worker News.

There will be a Zoom Mini Breakfast Church on Sunday 14th February 9.30am-10.00am led by Caroline and Jo and the theme will be St.Valentine. Caroline will issue the Zoom invitations and Jo will organise the activity packs.

Please let Caroline know if you wish to join our growing group of 13 families so that you receive an activity pack for your child/ren and a Zoom invitation.
Rev'd Caroline Walker T:01373 834258 E: carolinewalker@btinternet.com.

I would like to thank all the families from the Benefice who looked after the two new wooden Posada's this year as they travelled around family homes retelling the Christmas Story in a fun and imaginative way.



Photograph courtesy of the Lambourne Family in Rode

God Bless

Sue Rodford

STOP THE BLOCK IN YOUR HOME



On average Wessex Water faces around 13,000 sewer blockages per year, most of which are caused by wet wipes being incorrectly flushed down the toilet, or cooking fat being poured down the sink.

Blockages can back up into people's homes or cause sewers to burst and pollute the local environment. By working together to dispose of items correctly, we can do our bit to stop the block.

In the bathroom

Only flush the three Ps - ✓ paper, ✓ poo and ✓ pee - to keep your pipes blockage-free.

If you haven't already, try placing a bin in your bathroom to easily dispose of items such as:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ✗ wet wipes (even those which say they are 'flushable' do not break down in sewers) | ✗ cotton buds |
| ✗ make-up removal pads | ✗ sanitary items |
| ✗ plasters / bandages | ✗ dental floss |
| | ✗ nappies |
| | ✗ disposable razor blades |

To cut down on your plastic waste, you could even go one step further and try some reusable alternatives of these items.

In the kitchen

Over time, pouring oil or bits of food down the sink can cause fatbergs in your neighbourhood. Keep the following items out of the drains:

- ✗ **fat, oil and grease** - collect it in a container, leave it to cool and solidify then dispose of it into your food waste recycling or household waste.
- ✗ **food scraps** - scrape them into your food waste recycling or household waste and use a sink strainer to catch the really small bits.
- ✗ **coffee grounds** - scrape as much as you can with a spoon into your food waste recycling or household waste.

Visit wessexwater.co.uk/stoptheblock for more information.

Wessex Water
YTL GROUP



FOR YOU. FOR LIFE.

PEAT FREE

Many of us gardeners are by now buying Peat Free compost, I hope. But how many of us have realised that most potted plants that we buy from nurseries and garden centres will be in compost containing PEAT. Peat bogs are incredibly valuable in terms of habitats for wildlife, absorbing water from our uplands and therefore mitigating flood risk, and sequestering billions of tonnes of carbon—three excellent reasons for not using it in our gardens.



Lowland raised bogs are particularly valuable to wildlife. The UK used to have 95,000 hectares of lowland raised bog but now has only 6,000 intact hectares. 94% has gone either to drained farm land, or extracted for gardening purposes. Lots of the peat we use now comes from elsewhere in Europe where great chunks of unspoiled country is being dug up so we can have pretty gardens. There are 5 ways of dealing with this: buy peat free compost; ask garden centres about stopping the use of it in potted plants for sale; grow plants from seed; make your own compost; seek out nurseries that are guaranteed peat free (all the National Trust ones are). Thank you

Barbara Day (on behalf of Sustainable Norton St Philip)

RODE DECLARES A CLIMATE EMERGENCY & SUSTAINABLE NORTON ST PHILIP

Solar Streets are a Solar Panel Installation company based in Westbury. They offer a special deal with a 25% discount when a group of property owners come together to place a bulk order for solar panel installation on their properties.

We have already had some interest in Rode and Norton St Philip, and Solar Streets would be happy to work on a joint project combining these 2 villages.

If you are interested in joining this excellent scheme and want to find out more, please email Barbi Lund (barbilund@live.co.uk) or Barbara Day (barbara.day04@googlemail.com) tel no 01373834438 by Feb 14. This is not a commitment but a way of gauging interest.

Parish Farming

FUSSELS - LOOKING FORWARD TO THE LIGHT



Christmas 2020 was brief; just one day with our family. Sadly, it seems that because we were allowed to be together on this one day, Covid-19 has done its worst! The highest figures of loss of life and our NHS at breaking point! The new strain appears to be more lethal; we now need to heed this warning and do our bit to help reduce this acute crisis.

I never tire of walking as dawn is breaking. Breathing colours, the glimmer of light bringing the promise of another day. It really is the best time and waking up to a Hoare Frost is extra wonderful! As I walk, it is a time of reflection for me; thankful that I live surrounded by the most beautiful countryside and in a remarkable caring community. What I find most concerning is that we must never take this for granted. We, as a community have rallied to support those who have contracted this awful virus, with offers of shopping, meals and more, all done with the utmost care and sensitivity. How amazing that someone has taken the time to carefully prepare a meal and leave it outside your door.



Fine Foods: The Artisan Deli in Bath was a welcome outlet for our range of products prior to Christmas. We enjoyed the opportunity to trade with other local food and drink producers, and thank you so much for those of you who visited us. We continue to be part of Somerset and Dorset Farmers' Markets and many of you will have seen us on the Farmer's Country Showdown, filmed at Axbridge FM, (shown on BBC1 6 January at 3.45pm). If



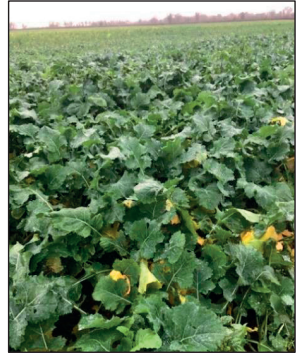
you'd like an insight into how we produce our oil to finally taking it to Market, then do look at it on Catch-Up or BBC iPlayer. This programme generated a huge number of orders countrywide via our website which was slightly overwhelming at the time, but we turned the orders around as fast as we could. The Farmer's Markets continue to be open and run with everything in place for you to safely shop with us. Our stall is set up as self-service to keep contact and handling to a minimum. Farmer's Markets have been a lifeline for many as they can pick up much of their fresh produce without having to go to a Supermarket. It's a chance for us to reconnect with our regular customers as well as those now

Parish Farming

finding that shopping outside is a bonus! It's also important to remember that to enable the business to function, there are a number of staff behind the scenes, that make it work, who are unseen and rarely get a mention!

Tours & Talks: We have been able to keep our Speaking Engagements going, by way of Zoom. A great tool for us and others too. Sometimes just a talk and other times a Cooking Demonstration. For groups who have not been able to meet (WI's, Rotary, U3A's etc.) this has been a pleasant way to pass an hour. Both Tim and Andy have offered insight into what we do here and I have cooked. Sadly, Zoom does not offer the chance to smell what has been cooked, but it has encouraged some to try out the recipe.

Farm: This is a quieter time of year on the farm. Just as well, as with all the rain it has been impossible to get onto the fields. For us, the Oilseed Rape, planted in early August, is still looking good. It is currently dormant and today covered in a snowy blanket. It's quite happy frosted! We will not know for sure, how well it is until it 'wakes' in Feb/March. We really hope that if there is flea beetle present, that it will be minimal. After 3 years of trying to fight this destructive beetle, by drilling early, we may have found a way to reduce its activity. The Wheat and Barley are sitting tight and just waiting for the lighter, longer and warmer days to arrive, when it will take off. The Stubble Turnips are perfectly ready and the Wheeler family's sheep will be arriving very soon. Both Shaun and Andy keep a close eye on the crops at this time of year inspecting them regularly. Some sadly under water! Although there's not so much groundwork to do during the winter months, it's a time for Shaun to catch up on paperwork and Farm Accounts, as well as overseeing the cleaning and servicing of the farm machinery. Andy, well, he is already thinking of harvest!



Finally, as we move into 2021, we have much to think about. The vaccine is rolling out apace now and as long as we take the greatest care for the foreseeable future, then we might be able to enjoy family time again in the months ahead, as and when restrictions are relaxed. In the meantime, take the greatest care.

Lizzy Etheridge

...Footpaths: Please could we remind you to keep your dogs on short leads on the footpaths alongside the crops (to prevent crop damage); and to pick up after them. Also, there is NO footpath through the Yard, at any time. Thank you.

Andy Fussell

www.fusselsfinefoods.co.uk | info@fusselsfinefoods.co.uk | 01373 831286

Parish Gardening

I hope that you are keeping well and have had a lovely restful Christmas and New Year, despite the restrictions.

As winters go, we have had it fairly mild here so far and the days are getting noticeably longer day by day which is fantastic.



There are signs of spring in our gardens and in the countryside, with bulbs growing up, snowdrops flowering and daffodils nearly there. Nature is carrying on and I take a lot of comfort in this, especially in what has been a difficult year.



February is a good month for the following jobs before spring kicks in, including:

- Tools - get your tools organised, cleaned and sharpened if you haven't had a chance to as yet.
- Planning - plan what you would like to grow in the months ahead. We have been planning what veggies and flowers to grow at our shared plot this year, and it has been really helpful to think of brighter days ahead filled with plants, and I would definitely encourage you to do the same.
- Seeds - go through your seed collection, decide what seeds you want to plant and note any seeds you don't have and want to get, and depending on the seeds, start sowing from mid February. See Rode Grows and Shares section for information on a Seed Sharing event.
- Pruning - there are many plants that can be pruned this month including roses, apple and pear trees, fruit bushes, wisteria, winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering, any herbaceous perennials that have been left to overwinter but might be looking a bit forlorn now, cornus (dogwood), fuchsias and deciduous hedges before birds start to nest.
- Deadheading Winter Bedding - regularly deadhead cyclamen and violas to keep them healthy and flowering for months to come.

Parish Gardening

- Moss - there is a lot of moss falling from roofs and onto lawns, paths and borders, it is a good idea to rake, sweep or collect it up, as you don't want to the moss to take hold.
- Wildlife - keep bird feeders and water baths clean and topped up as often as you are able, the birds will really appreciate the help

And remember to stop and smell the flowers whenever you can, I would thoroughly recommend it. At this time of the year there are so many fragrant flowering shrubs in front gardens throughout the parish to enjoy, including daphne, viburnum tinus, viburnum x bodnantense, forsythia, mahonia and sarcococca (christmas box).

Shared Gardens - We have been busy planning for this years growing season, organising seeds and preparing an expansion of our plot which is very exciting and will allow us to grow more and try growing new things - including luffa (natural sponge/scourer), oca (starchy tubers, like potatoes) and cucamelons, as well as lots of different flowers.

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

RODE GROWS & SHARES UPCOMING HAPPENINGS:

Saturday 13 February - Seed Sharing and launch of Grow Your Own Giant (sunflower) Competition.

Seed Sharing: Now is the perfect time to be thinking about what you want to plant in your garden or allotment this year, and if you're going to grow from seed, to make sure you've got the seeds you need to get sowing and growing.

I thought it would be good for those of us with surplus seeds and those in need of some seeds, to pool resources together. I will, therefore, be putting together a seed sharing table outside our house - No. 25 High Street, Rode (opposite The Cross Keys) on Saturday 13 February, 10am - 4pm, for you to swing by on your daily exercise (or I can deliver if you tell me what seeds you would like).

If you have any surplus veg or flower seeds to donate, please make sure they are sealed and labelled, and drop them over to me, or I can collect, or you can bring them first thing on Saturday 13 February for me to organise.

Parish Gardening



I will organise the seed packets alphabetically to make it easier to find what you're looking for.

I will have hand sanitiser for everyone to use before handling the seed packets, and please ensure appropriate social distancing when visiting.

If you would like to get in touch - give me a call, an email, knock the door, or chat to me around the village.

Grow Your Own Giant (sunflower) Competition:

Last summer we grew a 10ft tall giant sunflower, affectionately called Bruce the BFG and harvested his seeds.



We thought perhaps fellow parishioners, young and older might be interested in growing a giant sunflower and as a bit of fun and something to look forward to, we would like to host a competition.

There will be two age categories - adults and children (16 & under) which will be judged separately, with prizes for the tallest sunflower and prizes for the largest head.

Prize information and more details to be confirmed.

Seeds and growing instructions will be available to be collected on Saturday 13 February at the seed sharing table, or, can be arranged at another time if not convenient.

We hope you can take part and can't wait to see your sunflowers!

Happy gardening

Julia Robb

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



Parish Events

Formal Notice of AGM



The Norton St Philip Cricket Club AGM will be held on Friday 26th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Obviously in the current situation we think this will be held as a “Zoom” meeting but will confirm to all members and interested parties nearer the time.

Attendance and apology notification please to Club Secretary: Karen Miles - karenemiles@gmail.com

Norton St Philip CC is a one team, very friendly and very social, village club that play midweek and the occasional Sunday match. If you would like a game or would like just to be a social member, then please contact Rupert Foster, Chairman T: 07793 440534, or myself T: 07876 191100. We also have an excellent junior section so again please contact me for info.

Please stay safe and hopefully we will all be on Churchmead enjoying some refreshments and cricket again in May. Thank you

Mark Finch

RODE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB AGM

Following a Zoom Committee Meeting on the 19th January, Rode and District Gardening Club would like to announce their AGM is to be held by Zoom on Monday 8th March at 7pm.

Please let me know if you would like to participate or if you have any gardening needs or ideas for the future. We are hoping to organise some garden visits during the summer and resume talks in the autumn, if, restrictions have been relaxed.

Averil Morrow

E: averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk T: 01373 830686

**RODE GROWS & SHARES EVENT
SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
SEE PAGE 27 FOR DETAILS**

**RODE ON LINE DOG SHOW
SEE PAGE 10
FOR FULL DETAILS**

Parish Food



THE VILLAGE



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**FREE LOCAL
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Large Sourdough	3.85
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NO HASSLE - Home cooked frozen dishes delivered to your door - Oven cook or microwave

Dish	1 Portion	2 Portion
Beef Lasagne	£4.75	£8.75
Chicken Provencal in rich tomato sauce with Mediterranean Vegetables	£4.75	£8.75
Chicken Tikka Masala	£4.75	£8.75
Beef Bourguignon	£5.00	£9.25
Pork Tenderloin with sage and apple	£5.00	£9.25
Cottage Pie	£4.75	£8.75
Fish Pie	£5.00	£9.25
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Vegetable Lasagne	£4.75	£8.75
Sweet potato, aubergine, coconut, coriander & chickpea curry	£4.75	£8.75
Caramelised red onion and blue cheese tart	£2.50	£4.75
Dessert		
Apple Crumble	£3.50	£6.00

These products can be ordered online @ abitofadocatering.net or by telephone on numbers above
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 Payment by Bacs, Cash or Cheque – made payable to A Bit of A Do Catering Limited
 Bank details: Account No. 56545185 – Sort Code 60-21-36

Hello from the farm - A Bit Of A Do Catering has been baking!

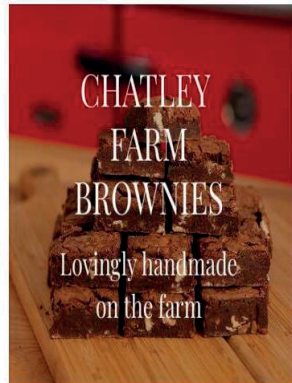
We're excited to tell you that we have launched our new website:

www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk

delivering delicious handmade chocolate brownies direct to your door.

A perfect gift or a sneaky treat for yourself, have a peek at the range of tempting flavours! We use Royal Mail so why not brighten up someone's day, or your own, with 4 delicious squares of brownie!!

Jo & all the team at Chatley Farm



Somerset Foodie

ingredients to inspire

Somerset Foodie Ben Tollworthy has been sourcing quality ingredients for professional chefs for over 20 years... and now, through our new online store we're making these easily available to you.

Based here in Rode at Fussells Fine Foods, you can order a huge range of fantastic ingredients online to help you create memorable meals at home.

Looking for meal time inspiration?

Every week we create delicious recipes using our ingredients, and have a YouTube channel where you'll find Ben's 'how to cook' videos to follow.

How to order



- Step 1: Go to www.somersetfoodie.com and browse our online shop.
- Step 2: Select shipping method, either 'Click & Collect' or 'Local delivery'.
- Step 3: If you live in Rode or the surrounding area, use promotional code 'Doorstep' and we'll deliver FOR FREE within 24hrs*.

 [somersetfoodie.com](http://www.somersetfoodie.com)

Somerset Foodie Ltd, Church Farm, Rode t. 07834 852 561



*order before 3pm and we'll aim to deliver the same day, please note we don't offer weekend deliveries



All customers are required to wear a face covering when entering

Opening hours...

Monday	09:00 – 17:30
Tuesday	09:00 – 17:30
Wednesday	09:00 – 13:00
Thursday	09:00 – 17:30
Friday	09:00 – 17:30
Saturday	09:00 – 13:00

Shop

Between the hours of 09:00 – 11:00 we will continue to deliver to customers who are vulnerable and shielding. The shop will be open for customers to browse and make purchases. We are a small shop, customers will enter on a one in, one out basis. We will also continue to serve customers from the window.

Café

Take-away baked goods will be available with hot drinks.

We will also offer a limited take-away brunch menu between 09:00 – 13:00. Customers will be required to place their orders through the window, or over the phone, and wait outside to collect orders from the window.

Post Office

The Post Office will continue to operate on a one in, one out basis.

The safety of our customers, staff and the wider community is our priority. We ask that everyone uses the hygiene facilities provided and observes the social distancing rules and guidance.

We would like to thank all of our customers for their continued support and patience.

Rode General Store, Café & Post Office

Parish Food



Delivery and Same Day Collection Service

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

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

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



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FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Phone 01225 720006

www.farleighroadfarmshop.co.uk



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fussels
NEW PRODUCT

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Here at Fussels, we thought it was time to add even more sunshine yellow to our liquid gold Extra Virgin Rapeseed Oil, with an infusion of pure Sicilian lemons. We've produced a bright and zingy oil, perfect for dressings, marinades and shallow frying chicken or fish.

Come and see us at our factory shop in Rode (BA11 6AA) or search "Fussels Lemon Oil" online.

£4.00 for 250ml bottle or available in special offer packs.

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share please do send it in and you will receive a bottle of Fussels Rape Seed Oil courtesy of Fussels Fine Foods E: link@rodevillage.com



Noticeboard



William Arney would like to thank everyone who speaks to him while he is out on his daily walks around the Langham Place, Langham track area.

As you will have noticed William is blind and really appreciates everyone speaking to him, but please introduce yourselves so that he can put names to voices.



Would you like to support your local community as a volunteer driver?



CCS is supporting Frome Community Drivers to recruit volunteers to provide a lifeline to residents in our villages who could not otherwise access the things they need, whether it be essential appointments or social events.

You can volunteer to drive as much or as little as you want.

Petrol is reimbursed at 45p per mile.

If you would like to help please call:

Morag on 07596 591391 or Nic on 07946 461468.



Lending with Heart and Mind

Mendip District Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

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*subject to eligibility

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via ZOOM) MEETING OF RODE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 6 members of the public

1. Public Participation:

Alex Holmes reported that on 16th December there would be ‘doorstep carols’ in Rode, this had been advertised in The Link and she was looking for ways to reach all residents. It was agreed this would be put on the village Facebook site. The doorstep carols would be held between 6.00pm and 7.00pm and were also being broadcast on Radio Somerset, the carol sheet and information can be found at: www.doorstepcarols.co.uk

Concern was raised that Highways England had only considered traffic congestion at the Beckington roundabout on the A36 as traffic through the village and on other routes had not been considered in connection with the Merfield/Mead development. It was pointed out the Highways England were only responsible for the A36, but they had said they were reluctant to approve any development until this roundabout was improved. A Mendip highways study had shown the A361 to be one of the most over used roads in the district. A question was raised why the Inspector’s Hearings were not considering Barbara’s Field; it was explained that only the Merfield/Mead site had been identified by Mendip as a possible site to meet a requirement to build extra houses. The Inspector was due to visit Rode during w/c 14 December to view the site.

The work to reduce water run-off from Barbara’s Field going into gardens had resulted in water now flowing down Clay Lane and concern was expressed that this could freeze (see also minute 7iv). There were also concerns over water in The Sportsman and the adoption of this site.

Continued speeding past Crooked Lane and The Mead required action and it was suggested the 20mph sign be moved to the far side of Crooked Lane. (see also minute 8)

A parishioner reported that a recent post regarding the planning application for the Merfield/Mead site from the Mendip Conservation Officer had recommended its rejection.

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2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Lund and Cllr Oliver

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

4. Declarations of interest: None

5. Report from County Councillor: Thanks were given for the report which had been sent, the speeding issues are further discussed under minute 8.

6. Report from District Councillor: Thanks were given to Cllr Lund for her work during The Inspector's Hearings and the meeting also thanked Terry Morrow and Peter Travis for their work in connection with these Hearings.

7. Actions from the previous meeting:

- i) **Weed control:** The leaflet had been delivered to all houses in Rode and an article printed in The Link. Discussions were held on how to take this forward and it was agreed to investigate what would be required to close roads to facilitate any weed clearance. It was agreed to try and find someone to take a lead in weed clearance but probably it was now best to get community involvement in early Spring 2021.
- ii) **Recycling:** The new scheme appeared to be working well but it was agreed to leave any feedback to SWP until after Christmas to see how collections went over the holiday period.
- iii) **Broadband:** There was to be a meeting, on Zoom, with Voneus hosted by SE on Thursday and hopefully if there was enough interest fibre could be put into Rode in the next 6-9 months. It was possible a similar meeting with Truespeed could be held although Truespeed was looking for a significant commitment from residents before it would proceed.
- iv) **Website accessibility:** Discussions had been held to develop a completely new accessibly compliant website for the Parish Council which could also host other groups in the village, with each having its own access to upload material as necessary. A further supplier was to be approached and both would be asked to submit quotes for work. It was agreed the PC would review these and decide which to employ.
- v) **Trees at foot of Halfpenny Row:** The Clerk said that a second tree surgeon had inspected these and said they were not currently a problem confirming the original view.
- vi) **Water run-off issues:** Action had been taken by reducing the height of the bank near Barbara's Field but this had resulted in water now running into Clay Lane and this had continued even after a few relatively dry days. Wessex Water/Somerset Rivers Authority/Mendip had agreed to fully investigate flood management in Rode but it was thought this would take a

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

few months. A leaflet drop regarding this was to be carried out in early 2021 with local information and participation being sought. However, it was noted that in the meantime the work done would be reversed in order for water to be retained in the ditch. AP agreed to inspect Clay Lane and liaise with residents to help them resolve this matter.

vii) **The Bell:** This was carried over to the January meeting

viii) **Christmas tree:** The tree had been put up on the village green and thanks were expressed to the Osbornes for supplying it, a letter of thanks would be sent. Keith Sharman was thanked for installing the lights.

8. Highways: Cllr Oliver had circulated recent updated data from the survey carried out in September. Somerset worked on average speeds but the PC expressed its concerns over the significant number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. It was agreed that PT, JM and AP would review the data and discuss it with the Transport Consultant before seeking a meeting with Cllr Oliver and Somerset Highways.

Data from Speedwatch on traffic in Rode indicated that there were vehicles exceeding the speed limit (Speedwatch had used over 36mph as speeding) and the PC agreed that the village should become a 20mph zone – in particular High Street, start of Straight Lane and Church Lane. It was agreed to work with Cllr Oliver on this issue and try and get Somerset to fund signage but, if necessary, the PC could look to fund the installation of signs. This would be further discussed at the January meeting.

9. Planning matters

a. New applications:

2020/1997/HSE: Conversion of loft, construction of three flat dormer windows to rear elevation – 25A Lower Street. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

2020/2267/OTA: Erection of detached two store dwelling – 4 Fairfield. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

2020/2286/HSE and 2020/2287/LBC: Demolition of existing extension and replace/erection of a single storey extension and roofing works together with internal alterations – 12 Lower Street. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

2020/2328/FUL: Forestry building, with a seasonal retail element and forestry office, to include demolition of existing barn – Hill View Farm, Marsh Road. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

2020/2346/VRC: Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2020/0973/FUL – land behind 16 Lower Street. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

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2020/2378/TCA: Two apple trees thin crown by 20-30% and reduce height by approx. 1 metre – 30 High Street. No objections leave to Planning Officer.

b. Mendip decisions:

2020/1091/FUL: Change of use from agricultural to leisure, including construction of fishing lake, three holiday accommodation huts and landscaping – off Rode Hill. Approved with conditions.

2020/1775/HSE: Erection of single storey rear extension/garden room – 7 The Mead. Approved with conditions.

2020/1956/HSE: Insertion of 3 windows on ground floor rear elevation – 11 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions.

c. Other planning matters: -

10. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: A further meeting had been held with PT, EB, AP, Autograph Homes, Andy Fussell and Playing Field Chairman to finally agree fencing, path and ditch crossing. The work was planned to proceed. It was agreed that discussions with the Playing Field and Parish Council (PT, EB, AE, PR and AP) would be held to discuss who was responsible for what with regard to the newly donated land. The Declaration of Trust had been signed but the final document from the Land Registry was still awaited.

11. Inspector's Hearing: The Hearings had started on 24th November with PT and Terry Morrow and Cllr Lund representing Rode. The Chair reported that the main discussions concerning Rode were due to take place on the following day. Tobias Shaw Paul of DLA Piper had been invaluable during the Hearings. It was impossible to predict what the outcome would be; although BANES had put a very good case against extra housing in Midsomer Norton and Radstock. A key question had been posed by the Inspector as to why Frome had been excluded for any extra housing.

It is thought Mendip might not decide on the Merfield/Mead planning application until the Hearing results are published (April 2021).

12. Somerset Climate Emergency: The SAVE Climate proposal looked principally like an education programme but it was agreed this could be of benefit and without any initial cost the PC agreed Rode should join it. There was discussion over Rode declaring a Climate Emergency and it was agreed that if it did so then any decisions made by the PC would have to consider possible effects on climate change. The wording of a policy to reflect a climate emergency should be considered. It was agreed that a fuller discussion would take place at the January meeting with this as an early agenda item.

13. Somerset Unitary Authority: It was agreed that Rode could make little impact and Central Government would decide what the make-up of a Unitary Authority for Somerset would be. This would be taken off the agenda.

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14. Police Beat Manager: The Clerk had chased the Beat Manager for a monthly report, but had heard nothing. An incident of keying cars in Walnut Close was mentioned, the Police had been informed and the Beat Officer would be alerted too.

15. Financial matters

i) The Clerk reported that he had had a letter from NatWest indicating there was a problem adding the two new signatories. However, the weblink given in the letter did not work and the phone lines were always busy; he said he had written back to ask what the actual problem was.

ii) The meeting agreed that with possible expenditure to put up 20mph signs in the village and extra Transport Consultant and legal costs the Precept for 2021-2022 should be raised to £19,000.

iii) The following payments were agreed:

Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Frome Printing Company (weed flyer)	£110.00
SALC training (Code of Conduct)	£75.00
Clerk salary and expenses	£253.43
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Peter Travis (Zoom subscription)	£14.39
Moss Naylor Young (traffic con.)	£1,600.00

The Meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____ Print: _____

Date of Next Meeting (virtual via Zoom):

Tuesday 5th January 2021 at **7.30 pm**

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via ZOOM) MEETING OF RODE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Cllr B Lund, Cllr L Oliver, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 5 members of the public

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

1. Public Participation:

Thanks were given to those who had attended the Inspector's Hearings into the Mendip Local Plan Part 2 at the end of November and start of December. However, some concern was expressed over a comment made by DLA Piper that although the Merfield site was totally inappropriate for housing development Barbara's Field site might be more suitable. It was agreed this was unfortunate but as no planning application had been received for Barbara's Field the PC had been advised by the Monitoring Officer that it could not make any comment on it. Comment was made that Barbara's Field could have considerable historic importance with a possible ancient settlement, Roman remains and the site of a clay pipe factory and it would be helpful if the landowner could give access for further investigation by the village.

There was continued speeding through the village and this had been an issue for the last 10 years; a request was made for the PC to investigate the speed and volume of traffic through the village and take any action to alleviate the problem.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Pat Restorick

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2020 were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None. The Clerk added that Mendip had today updated their website to include information on the three new Councillors.

5. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Oliver said that the Somerset weekly information emails on Covid were useful and anyone could sign up to receive them. Cases were increasing hence the new 'lockdown' although Mendip was currently showing one of the lowest increases in cases. Somerset was looking for people to help with the vaccination programme and it was agreed this request would be put on the Rode Village Facebook page. Recycling centres remained open but people were encouraged to keep their waste, if possible, until the lockdown ended.

On the speed data on the A361, although difficult to interpret, she advised that once Patrick Moss had been consulted any comments and questions be sent directly to Somerset Highways.

If Rode wanted any traffic calming measures installed, the PC should approach Traffic Management; although current data did not support the need for it and a case would have to be made for reduced speed in the village. She warned that when traffic calming was put in Norton there were more complaints about the lighting (legally required) than about the previous speed of traffic. On the issue of repeater signs on Rode Hill these should be progressed as all data showed there was speeding on this road and that maybe roundels on the road would be most effective. The issue should be taken forward to Traffic Management.

6. Report from District Councillor: No report for this meeting.

7. Actions from the previous meeting:

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- ix) **Weed control:** Closing roads in the village would probably necessitate a cost and also 12-week notice would be required. The Chair said he had spoken to Clive Harrington regarding cleaning the roads, which he agreed were in a poor condition with mud and weeds. This would be the best time of the year to 'scrub' the roads in the village and his company could do the work. It was agreed that a quote for the work should be obtained and possibly a road selected for 'scrubbing'. PT agreed to take this forward.
- x) **Recycling:** The new scheme appeared to be working well and it was agreed to write to SWP expressing thanks to them. However, a comment would be made about concerns over 3 weekly collections and nappies in the summer.
- xi) **Broadband:** SE updated the meeting that Voneus had chosen Rode as one of the locations to include in the next group of villages to get ultrafast broadband. The next group of villages would go forward in about 8-9 weeks and it was hoped that ultrafast broadband could be available in Rode by the end of the year.
- xii) **Website accessibility:** This was still to be progressed and the Clerk and Chair would put together a proposal for approval by the PC.
- xiii) **Water run-off issues:** It was suggested that Aster Homes were claiming that water run-off into properties in Nutts Lane was not their responsibility however this needs further investigation.
The reduced height of the bank had resulted in water running across all of Clay Lane, attempts to rebuild the bank had helped but the situation was still not ideal.
- xiv) **The Sportsman:** Money had been set aside following this development but the developer had since folded. The issue of adoption had been ongoing for 10 years and the issues regarding drainage etc. needed to be set out so these can be rectified and The Sportsman adopted. AP and Cllr Oliver agreed to take this forward.
- xv) **18 Marsh Road:** The pavement and an area onto the road had recently been resurfaced following building works. However, there is no clear demarcation between the property and the pavement or between the pavement and the road and also the drainage gully enters under the new tarmac but does not reappear further down the road. This is to be further investigated and either Mendip or Somerset Highways approached over the issue.
- xvi) **The Bell:** This was to be progressed and EB agreed to look into it as the property continued to deteriorate.

8. Climate Emergency: JM had prepared a paper, he said that around 75% of Councils had declared an emergency and that by Rode declaring an emergency this would be a formal recognition of the issue and that the PC would

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

try to do something about the issue. Many Councils set a target of becoming carbon neutral (often by 2030) but there was agreement that for Rode to become carbon neutral was difficult as no one had a grasp of the village's current carbon impact or how it could be determined. Cllr Lund pointed out that Somerset and Mendip who had buildings and controlled roads etc. and could assess their impact more readily were struggling with measuring how to become carbon neutral. It was agreed that Rode should look at tangible actions it could take to reduce any impact on the climate, e.g. bus use, housing, energy efficiency of buildings, tree planting etc. Future decisions by the PC should, if a climate emergency be declared, consider the impact they make on the climate. It was mentioned that a number of grants were available for small projects which benefited the environment such as energy efficiency and tree planting and Rode PC would need to have someone to look into these.

The PC unanimously agreed to declare a climate emergency:

i.) Declares a Climate Emergency;

ii.) Pledges that Rode Parish Council will support initiatives to address climate change, and consider the sustainability and environmental impacts of all its decisions, initiatives and advice;

iii.) Works with other local councils (including neighbouring Parish Councils, Mendip DC, and SCC) to determine and implement best practice;

iv.) Sets up a Steering/Working Group to determine the next steps, with a view to the Working Group reporting back to the Parish Council within [two] months with proposed Terms of Reference and an outline of initial actions which the Parish Council can take to address this emergency.

It was agreed that a Steering/Working Group should be formed that had PC representation on it but probably was chaired by a more knowledgeable climate person and also using people from the current climate emergency group. This Working Group would help formulate tangible actions that the PC could consider taking to reduce climate change.

Rode had agreed to support the SAVE Climate initiative which is to be run by Burnham on Sea Council and the ECO-Centre. The Secretary of this initiative had offered to give a presentation to Rode PC and it was agreed that he would be asked to do so and to answer any questions – this would be separate to a PC meeting.

9. Highways: The meeting agreed the small group would discuss the traffic data collected on the A361 with Patrick Moss later this month.

It was agreed to pursue the installation of repeater signs on Rode Hill to remind motorists that this is a 30mph zone.

The meeting agreed to form a working group (PT, EB, AP) to investigate traffic (volume and speed) within the village, this would look at the current data available, gather extra data as necessary on village hot-spots and assess the issue fully.

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10. Planning matters

d. New applications:

2020/2503/TCA: Removal of lower branches of Hornbeam, reduce height of Cornus and reduce height of and shape group of 6 Photinias – 33 High Street. No objections.

e. Mendip decisions:

2020/1997/HSE: Conversion of loft, construction of three flat dormer windows to rear elevation – 25A Lower Street. Approved with conditions.

f. Other planning matters: -

11. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: Nigel Clarke (Chairman of the Playing Field Committee) had sent a report to the PC and he informed the meeting that a new Trustee had been found for the Committee. He said there were concerns over the state of the tarmac by the Scout Hut which was thought to be being damaged by the SWP vehicles turning and parking there; with the possible future replacement of the Scout Hut the Playing Field Committee had decided only to monitor the situation. Plans are being drawn up on what to do on the new S106 land, the School and the Scouts were keen to support the project and the Woodland Trust were to be consulted. The village would also be consulted and possibly villagers could sponsor trees in the area. He said that until plans were finalised, no funding would be sought from the PC. The Play Ground would remain open during this lockdown. The path from the Church Farm development was still to be installed, possibly delayed due to the wet weather, Ashford Homes would be contacted on this issue.

He was thanked for this update.

12. Inspector's Hearing: The Chair reported that the Interim Report should be published at the end of the month, this would then go for a six-week consultation and the final Report was not expected until the end of June.

13. Cycling and Walking: It was reported that Beckington, Lullington and Berkley were all supporting the Frome initiative to create a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The meeting agreed that Rode would also support this as it would also tie-in with declaring a Climate Emergency.

14. Drainage Issues in Rode: Mendip had received grant funding to investigate the drainage and flood issues in Rode. A contractor had been appointed and the first survey of the culvert from the school to the river was due to take place in mid-February. The village would be kept updated as the survey could involve parking suspensions on roads during the surveys. Further investigations were planned over the coming months around the village.

15. Police Beat Manager: The Mendip East Neighbourhood Policing report for December was noted.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

16. Financial matters:

i) The Clerk reported that he had replied to the letter from NatWest indicating there was a problem adding the two new signatories but had heard no more. He said he would try and check in the bank to find out who was authorised to sign cheques.

ii) The following payments were agreed:

DLA Piper (Support for Hearings)	£3,516.00
SALC training (Planning)	£50.00
G Berry (website hosting)	£125.88
Clerk salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Peter Travis (Zoom subscription)	£14.39
T Lynch (electricity for Xmas tree)	£25.00
Mendip Community Transport	£150.00
Hardington Vale (church grass cutting)	£450.00
Citizens Advice Mendip	£100.00
Rode Chapel	£160.00

17. Other items:

a) **Footpaths:** These were all registered, although path 13/1 was to be investigated and a change of direction might need to be applied for.

b) **Tree on Cheap Street:** This required pruning and the Clerk was asked to get quotes.

c) **Pump on Lower Street:** If someone was willing to renovate it the PC agreed it would fund any materials

d) **Covid Champions and Buddy Scheme:** MS reported he had virtually attended a couple of Somerset sessions on Covid Champions, but these appeared to be too little too late. He reported that with the new lockdown there could be an increased demand in the village for Buddies, this could be a problem as many people's availability might have changed since the scheme was set up 10 months ago. It was agreed a letter drop be delivered to the people who had come forward as Buddies so as to check their current situation. If necessary, a call could go out for more Buddies.

The Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____ Print: _____

Date of Next Meeting (virtual via Zoom):

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at **7.30 pm**

Website: rodeparishcouncil.webs.com

Letters

We cannot guarantee inclusion of letters in the magazine, however, due to the volume of letters received in January regarding proposed housing development in Rode we have allocated four pages of this issue in order to include them. In the interests of fairness two pages have been allotted to each viewpoint:

FROM STEVE EYLES

I am writing this letter not as a councillor but as a Rode resident. One who lives close to the proposed housing development on Barbara's Field and whose house overlooks Brown's Ground.

Brown's Ground was designated a "Green Space" in our Neighbourhood Plan but that doesn't give villagers any right to use the land. Currently, we are obliged to keep to the narrow footpath that runs from Church Lane to the top of Marsh Lane.

Although-Brown's Ground is designated as a Green Space, we have seen how this government changes planning rules to build yet more houses, so there's no certainty that Brown's Ground will stay protected in the future. If you doubt that anything could happen to Brown's Ground, remember it was only recently when virtually all of Mendip's Green Spaces were cancelled by a Government-appointed Inspector as part of his review of Mendip's Local Plan.

In December 2019 following central government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Mendip lost their 5-year housing supply. Why this is important is that where councils cannot demonstrate a five-year supply, national planning policy, rather than policies in a Local Plan have greater influence in decision making.

National policy states there should be a "presumption in favour of sustainable development" for housing. This means that if a site can be considered to deliver 'sustainable development' then planning permission could be granted, even if there is no support from the council for housing in that location or the site sits outside the Local Plan. Councils have less control over where new homes are built and may have to recommend approval of applications for sites they have not chosen, resulting in more new houses being built.

Therefore, Andy Fussell's proposal to "gift" Brown's Ground to our village "in perpetuity" is significant and something we need to consider very carefully. Why is he doing this? It's part of a proposal to develop housing on Barbara's Field.

What could it mean for Rode? First, it means we protect Brown's Ground for ever from unwanted housing development. But it means far more than that. It would allow us to transform this large tract of arable farmland into a major community asset in the very heart of our village to which everyone in Rode would be free to access and enjoy.

Brown's Ground could be a major new community resource for the current residents of Rode, but perhaps even more importantly, it could be a huge benefit for the future generations of villagers. Whether we like it or not, Rode is going to see more houses and to have Brown's Ground as a community asset will therefore become even more important. I'm sure future generations would always be grateful to us if we had ensured this 'green lung' in the midst of our village was not only protected but becomes a parkland for all to enjoy.

That is the unique opportunity we have.

Brown's Ground may potentially become a wooded parkland with paths and walkways enabling villagers of all ages to explore, exercise or just find some peace and quiet. A plan has been developed to plant some 150 willow trees; these would not just create a wonderful wooded landscape they'd also generate a significant revenue stream that would benefit the village. A fully costed plan is being drawn up to show how this could work and pay for itself.

There are many benefits willow offers being one of the few woody species that can cope with waterlogged soils and temporary flooding. It also significantly helps to reduce flood risk as its roots stabilise the soil and slow water run-off. It is so valuably used in this way that some water companies pay farmers to plant willow for this purpose alone. Willow is the ideal climate change tree to improve the resilience of land and encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

For those in Rode wanting an opportunity in Rode to grow their own fruit and vegetables, a dozen new allotments would be included too. Currently, there's already a waiting list of 11 Rode residents wanting allotments.

Brown's Ground could be transformed into an impressive and unique community asset, different yet complementary to Rode Playing Field. Brown's Ground would fundamentally extend and develop the recreational options for this village. Such an asset would likely enhance the value of properties in Rode.

Essentially, taking advantage of this unique opportunity will safeguard Browns Ground for future generations to come.

Letters

FROM ANDREW COURT

There are very many reasons why I oppose further housing development in Rode, traffic being one of the main issues. Let's assume, 2 cars per household (we have two cars, our neighbours have three). The 49 dwellings proposed would generate considerable extra traffic entering or leaving the village. Unlike from the Church Farm development, vehicles would not have direct access to the main roads.

I've been looking into some of the most likely routes that these cars could take into and out of the village from Barbara's Field. You may well be affected. Here are a few:

Clay Lane - This lane is one of the few quiet country lanes in Rode, used by walkers, runners and children going to school. It is a single-track road with a blind bend at the Church Lane end. Any increase in traffic would be dangerous to all those who use it. Clay Lane would be the obvious short route from the development to Bradford Road. Even if the proposal were to make Clay Lane access for residents only, this would not be enforceable. Already, some cars occasionally ignore the No Entry sign at the Bradford Road end.

Route for cars returning from Bradford-on-Avon - This shortest route would see cars using Rode Hill, Marsh Road and Nutts Lane - dangerous junctions and narrow residential roads/lanes - totally unsuitable for the extra traffic.

Route to the A36, northbound - Clay Lane - Bradford Road and onto Rode Hill. Bradford Road is already busy with traffic and there are speeding issues which have yet to be addressed. It would also involve increased traffic at the already dangerous junction with Rode Hill and more opposing traffic across the narrow bridge on Rode Hill where there have already been accidents. Or, traffic would avoid the Church Lane/A361 junction by driving through the village, along the High Street, to join the A36 north of the A361 roundabout. This would pose an extra danger in the vicinity of the school as well as ruining the tranquility of Straight Lane.

A361 roundabout - Highways England have already stated, before recent housing developments, that the roundabout at the junction of the A361 and A36 has reached saturation point. Another 49 houses in Rode would put undue extra pressure on the main roads around the village.

An **independent** traffic survey should be commissioned but it remains my view that the traffic issues alone should constitute grounds for the Parish Council to reject the Barbara's Field/Browns Ground development.

FROM NICOLETTE BROWN

I am **totally opposed** to **any more** housing development in Rode. In recent years The Sportsman & Red Lion Gardens developments have been built and currently **44** new houses are being built at Church Farm and **8** on Lower Street. We have a proposal for **29** new homes at Merfield and now **49** on Barbara's Field, both on Greenfield sites. This makes a total of **130** new homes - far too many for a small village. When is it going to end?

The extra traffic generated by these developments would have a severe impact on our narrow village lanes.

Most importantly, we cannot allow **any** housing development on Greenfield sites; it sets a dangerous precedent for the future. Once Greenfield land has been developed, it is lost forever. Building in open countryside, as is the case with Merfield and Barbara's Field, is bound to have a destructive effect on the natural habitat and lead to villages becoming small towns.

Many of us have chosen to live in Rode because of its unique village character. The proposed development on Barbara's Field is for an unrealistic and preposterous number of homes, bigger than the development at Church Farm and nearer to the centre of the village.

The access point would be on Church Lane, at the entrance of Clay Lane. Clay Lane is, along with Straight and Crooked Lanes, one of the last remaining country lanes in Rode; a peaceful lane with currently only a handful of cars per day. It is regularly enjoyed by walkers and is a quiet route to school for local children. There are high hedgerows with birds and wildlife. Clay Lane is a very narrow, single-track road and totally unsuitable for more traffic. If a car comes along, pedestrians have to literally lean against the hedge to keep safe, and for anyone not steady on their feet or taken unawares by speeding traffic, it could be extremely dangerous.

The offer of Brown's Ground to the village, as an amenity, could be a significant financial burden to the Parish Council for many years to come. The site would need regular professional maintenance and it should not be assumed that it would be maintained indefinitely by volunteers.

Barbara's Field is on high ground and a housing development there would have a negative visual impact on the village. The infrastructure of the village would struggle to support another 49 new homes on Barbara's Field (or 78, if the Merfield development goes ahead) and there are likely to be drainage and sewerage issues as well. Please join me in **strongly opposing** this proposed development now!

...and finally

WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where, in Hardington Vale, would you see this view? Did you recognise the bridge in last month's photograph? It was of Shawford Bridge, carrying the A36 over the River Frome. If you have a photograph of a part of Hardington Vale that you would like us to feature, email it to link@rodevillage.com, or drop it into 30 High St, Rode with the location.



Sudoku

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

Last month's Sudoku

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

POEM OF THE MONTH

Was it the smile of early spring
That made my bosom glow?
'Twas sweet, but neither sun nor wind
Could raise my spirit so.

Was it some feeling of delight,
All vague and undefined?
No, 'twas a rapture deep and strong,
Expanding in the mind!



Anne Bronte, In Memory of A Happy Day in February

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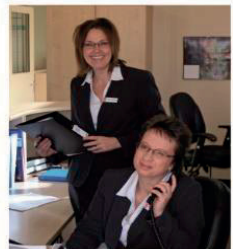
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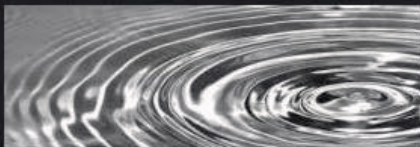
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Under the guidance of our Bishops we have been strongly encouraged to take and keep all our services online at the moment. A big thank you to all of you who have supported this and who dip into our services.

We are very encouraged by the way we have been able to use technology to pre-record our weekly main service - also the engagement with **Breakfast Church** (1st Sunday each month), where we get together online for a general catchup, as well as a song and prayer and look at a short bible passage and discuss in breakout groups. (MBC) **Mini Breakfast Church** (2nd Sunday of every month) for families is also growing in its popularity. This is a fun half hour and includes a story, an activity and a song. Why not come along?

For further details please go to our home page on [hardingtonvale.org.uk](https://www.hardingtonvale.org.uk)
or to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hardington.vale.parish/>
or use the qr code



to see the latest service and to access all our previous services.
If you have any queries, please contact Caroline, the Rector 01373 834258.

**** NB despite church services being on-line over Christmas £880 was raised to send to the Charities that the parish supports (as stated on the parish Christmas Card). Thank you to all who still gave so generously in these challenging times.*

FEBRUARY 2021 DIARY & 2021 YEAR PLANNER

Tue Feb 2	7.30pm Rode Parish Council Monthly Meeting via Zoom
Fri Feb 12	Closing Date for Rode On Line Dog Show see page 10 for info.
Sat Feb 13	10am-4pm Rode Grows & Shares Seed Event see page 27 for info.
Mon Feb 15	Rode On Line Dog Show Voting Days begin see page 27 for info.
Tue 16 Feb	Shrove Tuesday
Fri Feb 20	MARCH LINK COPY DEADLINE
Mon Feb 22	11am-12pm Mobile Library, Memorial Hall
Fri Feb 26	7.30pm Norton St Philip Cricket Club AGM via Zoom see page 29 for info.
Sun Feb 28	Rode Playing Field Draw – tbc at The Cross Keys see page 16 for info.
Mon Mar 8	7.00pm Rode & District Gardening Club AGM via Zoom see page 29 for info.
Sun Mar 14	Mothering Sunday
Fri Apr 2	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday
Sun Apr 4	Easter Sunday
Mon Apr 5	BANK HOLIDAY – Easter Monday
Mon 3 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Early Spring Bank Holiday
Mon 31 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Spring Bank Holiday
Sun 20 Jun	Father's Day

		Feb 2021				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	
15	16	17	18	19	20	
22	23	24	25	26	27	
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Please send copy for the March 2021 issue of 'The Link'
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