

The Link

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



MARCH 2022

A Car Boot Sale In Rode & Roxy Is Finally Back!!

A Second Plantathon – Now It's The Woodland Areas - Be There!

Scouts STILL In Need Of Leaders For Explorers

Link New Subscription Year - Ensure You Get Yours Delivered!

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

£1

PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE

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Geoff Banwell (finance) 01373 831139
Chris Cloke (buildings) 01373 834917

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Guy Hungerford 01249 701211

Tellisford:

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DEPUTY WARDEN

Rode:

Sally Pickett 01373 831796

ELECTED PCC MEMBERS

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

¹ Deanery Synod Representatives

² Safeguarding Officer currently vacant

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

⁴ with specific responsibility for Hemington
churchyard

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

Sue Rodford (kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk)

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Buddy Scheme (Rode)	Mike Salmon	831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com
Community Speed Watch (CSW)	Malcolm Wood	830301/mwood17@uwclub.net
Crickets Club (Rode) Seniors	Andy Pickett	andypickett2013@gmail.com/07775 805546
Crickets Club (NSP) Youth & Seniors	Mark Finch	07876 191100
Friends of Rode and Norton Schools (FRANS)	Brandon Quentin-Hicks (Joint Chair)	brandon@bambooohouse.co.uk 07867 545720
Gardening: Rode & District Club	Averil Morrow	830686/averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk
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Over 60's	Pat Smith	830559
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Rode & NSP First School Federation	Headteacher: Georgina Muxworthy	830523
Rodevillage.com Website & Twitter Feed	George Berry	info@rodevillage.com http://twitter.com/rodevillage
1 st Rode Scout Group Beavers Wed 4.45-5.45pm Cubs Thu 6-7.30pm Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm During school term time	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussello1@gmail.com 830640/07736 739680
Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm in term time	James Osborne	jamesosborne1@live.co.uk 07773 280939
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NHS 111 24 hour medical care help	Contact 111 if you have an urgent medical problem and you are unsure what to do T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk	
Frome Rural Beat Neighbourhood Police Team	PCSO PCSO Supervisor Neighbourhood Officer	Russell.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk/07547658018 Stephen.Reading@avonandsomerset.police.uk David.Cohen@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION

Springtime!
God's message of Hope
to a world tiring of winter's starkness,
longing for that first crocus
to push through snow's icy blanket
and spread its leaves,
like arms outstretched,
to its creator.
Springtime!

Our yearly reminder, if we needed one,
that to a world that was dark and cold,
a world devoid of love's sweet warmth,
God sent His Son
to break through sin's icy blanket,
and arms outstretched
on a cross,
He brought us
Hope.

There is real wisdom in the adage, *'It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God.'* Springtime is a season of optimism and hope, and Christians live a faith centred on hope. Winter, with its cold and dark days has gone, just as Good Friday, when it comes, passes to Easter and beyond. We live a resurrection life, reflected in the new life springing up around us.

As we walk round the lanes and see the spring flowers bursting into bloom it reminds us of all the promise that has been buried in the ground through the winter. Thankfully we do seem, at last, to be moving away from the fear and restrictions that have been around us throughout the last two years of Covid. I wonder what you are enjoying most as things open up and we are able to return to being together and doing things with other people?

One of the joys that I am encountering currently is having our grandchildren stay with us. Our granddaughter has a wobbly tooth. Do you remember those days? - the daring to wobble it, but the fear of the pain. Yet when it happens (which it will imminently!) all that is forgotten and on to the next thing.

We must not forget the lessons we have learnt through the last very strange period -the amazing healthcare that we have been blessed with; the care workers who have been behind all the unseen acts of kindness, constantly going the extra

Church Reflection, News & Events

mile. Nor must we forget the friends and family who have been there to help and support - even if that has been 'virtual' or on a telephone.

In the church we are preparing through Lent to celebrate Easter - a time of reflection and self-discipline, but also a time of growing nearer to God. My prayer is for us all as a community, that we will treasure together the struggles that we have been through and come out of this a stronger, more inter-linked caring community of wonderfully diverse people who all are blessed to live in this beautiful part of Somerset. Look forward to seeing you out and about in the coming months.



Caroline Walker
Rector

ECUMENICAL HOLY COMMUNION AT RODE CHAPEL

Caroline Walker and Jo Robinson are both unavailable on 2nd March so the Holy Communion will be on 9th March at 12.30pm in Rode Chapel.



Sue Beaven

LETTING GO AND LENT

February 27th had "Letting Go" as the focus helping us to let go of tension held in the body as well as emotional and mental burdens.

All are welcome to attend this Yoga and Meditation Class.

Tea, conversation and prayer available afterwards. Donation optional.

A poster for a yoga and meditation class. The background is a dark blue gradient with a white line-art illustration of hands in a prayer position (Anjali Mudra) in the center. The text is white and yellow. The main title is "Devotional Last Sunday of the Month YOGA @Norton St Philip Church". The time is "5-6:15pm". A list of dates is provided: 30th January, 27th February, 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June. It also says "ZOOM also available". The bottom text includes "Gentle yoga class using Christian meditation All are welcome", "£5 donation Bring a mat", and the email "carolinehwalker@btinternet.com".

Devotional Last Sunday of the Month
YOGA @Norton St Philip Church
5-6:15pm
30th January
27th February
27th March
24th April
29th May
26th June
ZOOM also available

Find peace
Find hope
Find faith

Gentle yoga class
using Christian meditation
All are welcome

£5 donation
Bring a mat
carolinehwalker@btinternet.com

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

At the end of February we held our Murder Mystery evening at the Memorial Hall to raise funds for the Heart of Rode which looks after the fabric of the church.



We had a deliberately limited audience of 60 people to allow greater spacing between tables and I think it is safe to say that everyone looked to be enjoying themselves. The cast put on a marvellous performance and with a Greek theme to our play this year we added a few traditional Greek foods to the cheese and biscuit platters.

We were very grateful to the Memorial Hall for not charging for our use of the hall and we raised the magnificent sum of £720. A huge thank you to those who took part and to everyone who attended. See page XX for more about the night.

All the funds raised by The Heart of Rode from one off events like this are really important to help us maintain the church for future generations.

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 27th March this year and we will be holding an Informal Service on that day at 10.30am so we'd love to see as many mums at the Service to celebrate all they do throughout the year. There will be refreshments served after the Service and posies of flowers will also be distributed.

At the end of January we held our United Service in St Lawrence and as is traditional after Services of this type we head to a local pub for Sunday lunch. This time we went to the Cross Keys and 25 of us enjoyed a lovely lunch. Thanks go to Jo for organising it and to Hannah and her team at the Cross Keys for accommodating so many of us and putting on a lovely lunch.

We have recently started on a programme of essential maintenance work to keep St Lawrence in good order. This is being undertaken by Michael Walker. The whole floor of the South aisle has been taken up and the joists repaired or replaced. Thanks to Michael we were able to make good use of joists and floor boards recently taken out of Norton St Philip church which meant that no materials had to be purchased.

As a result of that and voluntary help kindly given by Peter Stratford, a very satisfactory and economical outcome has been achieved. The bigger challenge is going to be the roof, more of which will follow later!

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

Church Reflection, News & Events

RODE CHAPEL

Rode has had an interesting ecclesiastical History, at one time there being five Churches, two Anglican establishments, a Primitive Methodist Chapel (now wonderfully re-named The Old Ebenezer on Ticklebelly Lane) a separate Methodist Chapel and Rode Baptist Chapel. The Parish Church remains open, and following the formation of a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Methodist and Baptist Fellowships in the late '80's and a loving refurbishment of the Baptist Chapel in 1991, Rode Chapel is now the non-conformist witness in Rode. The second Anglican Church is now a private house, as is the former Methodist Chapel.



We are a small fellowship and offer full membership as Methodist, Baptist or Rode Chapel people. We have no actual Baptist membership at present, although the building remains in Baptist ownership. We have a functioning baptistry inside, and believers' Baptisms with full immersion have been carried out and we are willing and able to conduct Marriages and Funerals as well as Baptisms.

We meet (in normal times) every Sunday at 10.30am for worship usually led by visiting preachers scheduled on our behalf by the Somerset Mendip Circuit. As an ecumenical foundation we are pleased that we have a close cooperative relationship with the Anglican fellowship of Hardington Vale, in which Parish Rode is situated: our building is centrally located in Rode village so the 24 hour annual prayer vigil is held in our Chapel, as is the Remembrance Day Service, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and also the Meeting Place....a monthly early evening service, music led, comprising practical participatory worship through worship songs following a central theme. This is prepared alternately by Anglican and Methodist leadership for the first Sunday of the month at 6.00pm. We have a regular Prayer Meeting, Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm for a half hour, which is led alternately by Anglican and Methodist friends.

Outside, we have re-developed a corner of our churchyard to produce a Quiet Garden...a quiet place with planting and seating which has become popular with walkers, visitors and local people who want a quiet place to sit, rest, contemplate and pray. A group of local people have adopted the remainder of the yard as a project in which clearance and new planting have created a wonderful complement to the professionally designed Quiet Garden, which offers easy access to all, including wheelchair users. All are welcome...

Bill Jackson

Church Reflection, News & Events

MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S LAVERTON - HIGHLIGHTS

Events at the Church – and, with Graham and Gilli's kind permission, the Egg House – will recommence, enabling the Laverton community to use this special space for more than worship. Planning for an event in Autumn is underway. The Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar will be repeated.

The finances of St Mary's are now in a healthier position thanks to many people's generosity, including several from outside Laverton. This has paid for the critical works to be done to the fabric of the building, inside and out, and will enable the organ to be repaired, the electrical inspection to be done and, potentially, the heating system to be updated. The Organ has recently been identified by experts as a rare gem. Its heritage and standing will hopefully be the subject of a piece in the Parish Magazines.

The Laverton community event that is the spring sprucing of the Church and grounds will be reinstated. 10am-12noon, Sat March 26 – with cake and coffee of course, and filled with laughter as ever.

With our many, many thanks for all she has done for at least 20 years, Mhairi has stepped down as Deputy Warden. Bob will continue as Chapel Warden – for which we are indebted to him. Mhairi's various duties will be shared around. She will continue to tend the Church grounds with love and devotion.

Andraea Dawson-Shepherd

FYI RECEIVED FROM SAFE PASSAGE...

"Dear Caroline, I wanted to thank you for Hardington Vales donation of £357.80 to Safe Passage. We're a small charity, and your gift will have a big impact on our work and, crucially, the lives of the children that we work with.

I leave you with the lovely news that a 7 year old girl arrived in France at the weekend to join her mother, after many years of being apart and a very difficult case for our lawyers.

We're so happy that they can be together again – your donation will make these things possible.

Thank you again Caroline to you and Hardington Vale for choosing Safe Passage as your charity of the year.

Isabelle Hanson"



Church Reflection, News & Events



Hiring of NSP Church for Events

The new flexible space in St Philip & St James church, Norton St Philip, is now available to hire. Examples of costs are set out below:

Wedding receptions (at weekend)	£650
Wedding Receptions (weekday)	£500
Reception after a baptism	£50
Reception after a funeral	£50
Meetings	£50
Evening special occasion receptions (at weekend)	£300
Evening special occasion receptions (weekday)	£250

+ events in the week are required to finish at 10.00 pm

+ events at the weekend are required to finish at 11.00 pm

Contact Andrew Morrison for further details about bookings
Tel: 01373-834979 Email: andrew@turnerpartners.co.uk



Mothering Sunday

27th March 10.30am

St Lawrence Church, Rode

Informal Family Service including songs & posies

Why not come along and bring the family?!

Delicious Cakes and Coffee



Church Reflection, News & Events

**The Parish of Hardington Vale
Farleigh Hungerford, Hemington, Laverton,
Norton St Philip, Rode, Tellisford**

Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on
Monday 28TH March 2022

It will be held in person in Norton St Philip Church at 19:30

Join us and hear what has happened over the past year
and our plans for the coming year.

The meeting will include the **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**
to elect our four Parish wardens
*(note: All residents of the Parish of Hardington Vale
and all those on the Electoral Roll may vote)*

immediately followed by the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
(where only those on the Electoral Roll may vote).

All the annual reports and accounts can be found in the latest copy of
Hardington Vale News which will be available at the back of each church
and via the website www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

Tony Day, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council
Hardington Vale



Church Reflection, News & Events

TELLISFORD ALL SAINTS

12hours of Prayer

9am - 9pm

Wednesday April 13th

concluding with Compline at
9pm



- creative prayer ideas provided
- time for quiet reflection and prayer
- drop in anytime during the day



Maundy Thursday 14th April

Agape Meal

re-enact a Passover Meal

St Philip and St James church - 6pm

Eat a meal together

Share Communion



Please let us know if you are
coming for catering purposes

Jo Robinson

321jorobinson@gmail.com

Walk of
Witness

**15th
April**

Meet outside
Rode Chapel
at 10am
Concluding
at
St Lawrence
Rode Church
with short
Service at
11.00am



An Hour at
the Cross

2 - 3pm

St Philip
& St James

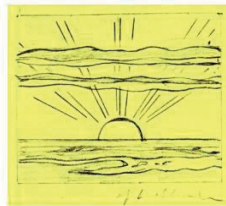
Norton St
Philip

Prayer and
Reflection

GOOD FRIDAY

Events across the parish

EASTER DAY CELEBRATION!!!



St Lawrence Church Rode

SUNDAY 17th April

Holy Communion

10.30am

He is Risen! Hallelujah!!!

Link Team Message

THE LINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We have had an excellent response to the renewal of Link subscriptions and are delighted to also welcome a number of new subscribers.

Subscription money is due by 25th March at the latest to ensure the delivery of your April issue of The Link, so if you haven't paid already please do so as soon as possible. Rode Post Office has spare subscription envelopes if needed.

IF YOU PAY BY BANK TRANSFER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INCLUDE "LINK" AND YOUR SURNAME AND INITIALS AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE. YOU MUST ALSO STILL COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE SUBSCRIPTION ENVELOPE TO RODE POST OFFICE.

We are having difficulties because some subscribers who have paid by bank transfer appear to have not completed their subscription envelope and dropped it into Rode Post Office. This means that we have no address for the household that has paid, and it cannot, therefore, be allocated to a distributor. In some cases, it is easy for me to trace the address, but I have several subscriptions with no address. If you think this may apply to you, please drop your envelope into the Post Office.

Thank you for your cooperation and for subscribing to the magazine.

Caroline Williams

Link Subscriptions Coordinator
01373 831046

AMAZING AGAIN...

Like last year it has come to my attention via the Hardington Vale Treasurer's Team that some of our 22/23 Link Subscribers have actually paid in excess of the required subscription to receive their 22/23 magazines! We have also received some lovely feedback regarding the magazine.

Very much appreciated, thank you.

Gill Leonard
Link Editor

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

Sadly, in recent times, I have had to rerun and highlight requests for new volunteers by various community organisations due to the lack of response. James and Russell have received none to their recent plea for new Leaders to ensure the future of Rode's Explorer Scouts and it is therefore repeated below.

It would be a huge loss if Explorers were forced to disband and current and future parish youth were denied the opportunity to experience and benefit from all they offer. I do hope that some volunteers come forward and I will not need to repeat their plea in our April issue...

Gill Leonard
Editor

EXPLORERS NEED URGENT HELP!!

Is there anyone reading this who would be prepared to give a little of their time to help the Scouts Rode Explorers by becoming a Leader?



Our Explorer Unit is in desperate need of a couple of additional Leaders.

Explorers are a group of young people aged 14-18 who meet every two weeks on a Tuesday evening and the occasional weekend to have fun, try new experiences and activities, learn skills of survival and independence in the true scouting tradition.

We run this between us, but James is back off to the Isles of Scilly for all the summer and Nick has work commitments so cannot make every meeting and will not be able to run Explorers alone. So if we wish Explorers to continue we need to find new Leaders.

If anyone would like to join us as a Leader (which is a really rewarding role) or would like more information and to discuss what's involved please don't hesitate to contact one of us, details below:

James E: jamesosborne1@live.co.uk T: 07773 280939
Nick E: nickrussell6@hotmail.com

We'd be really delighted to hear from you...

James Osborne & Nick Russell

Parish News

OUR BUSES ARE UNDER THREAT

This Spring was meant to herald a new era for our buses.

In April 2022, the £3 billion Bus Back Better funding was set to transform our bus services. The hope was that, as a result, many people would abandon their cars and be persuaded to use the much improved (and the far 'greener') option of going by bus on their journeys to nearby towns and villages.



To improve buses across the county, Somerset CC has bid for £163 million of Bus Back Better funding. That's what Somerset had deemed was needed to improve its bus services. It is a huge amount of money, but Somerset's bus services are currently the worst rated buses in all of England.

It's not yet known how much money Somerset might get as a result of their £163 million bid but, given the Bus Back Better funding pot has been oversubscribed some 8 times, it's unlikely Somerset will get anything like what it is needed.

But now the Government has put an indefinite hold on its entire 'Bus Back Better' programme.

Most immediately alarming is that the Covid bus funding from Government, which has been keeping our buses running, might not be extended beyond March 2022. Throughout the Covid epidemic, the Government has advised people not to use public transport, and unsurprisingly passenger numbers have fallen. With services no longer being commercially viable because of reduced passenger numbers, the Government had to step in and fund buses (and trains) to keep them running so key workers and others could still get to their work.

Now to aid the recovery, we need bus and train services even more, but passenger numbers are still well down. The Government has not yet said whether it will keep funding existing bus services beyond March. Without this Government subsidy, it's been estimated some 30% of all bus services will be cut, with some bus services disappearing completely. Local Bath MP, Wera Hobhouse, has said our local bus services could "fall off the side of the cliff".

So if you want to protect our bus services in Rode, please send an email [now](#) to the Government Buses Minister Baroness Vere asking that the Covid-19 Bus Recovery Grant funding is continued into April and beyond, her email is

Parish News

verec@parliament.uk, copy your email to your MP, David Warburton david.warburton.mp@parliament.uk and please also copy in Somerset Bus Partnership somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com so we can follow up on it.

Additionally, if you should speak to any of the candidates for the Somerset Unitary Council May 5th elections, please ask them what their plans are to protect and improve our bus services here in Somerset. There's never been a time when our bus services in Somerset have been at so much risk.

Peter Travis

Somerset Bus Partnership Team

<https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>

Footnote: In February, Peter Travis, Rode Parish Councillor and Co-Chair of the Somerset Bus Partnership, was elected Chair of Somerset County Council's BUS USER AND STAKEHOLDER GROUP, a group set up by Somerset County Council to advise them on their bus services.

WANT TO SEE A GOOD FILM?



After two years the Roxy returns to the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 18th March with a bang, showing the multi award winning 'Nomadland', in which a middle aged woman, Fern (Frances McDormand) who, following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The film has real nomads Linda May, Swankie and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her journey of exploration through the vast landscape of the American West.

Winner of 3 Oscars, 4 Baftas (nominated for as many more), Nomadland boasts a stellar performance by Frances McDormand and spectacular cinematography which showcases both the splendour and squalor of present day America.

“Chloé Zhao’s Nomadland is an utterly inspired docu-fictional hybrid, like her previous feature The Rider. It is a gentle, compassionate, questioning film about the American soul. With artistry and grace, Zhao folds nonprofessionals into an imagined story built around the cheerful, resourceful, middle-aged woman played by Frances McDormand. This quiet, self-effacing performance may be the best of her career so far.” The Guardian. Hope to see you there.

Adam Harris

Parish News

COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND WILDLIFE GARDEN

Our hedge is looking good and spring is nearly here.



The Woodland Trust are going to deliver our 105 tree saplings for us to create woodland areas across the new addition to the playing field. So we are planning **PLANTATHON 2** on Saturday 19th March 2022 at 2pm, refreshments available.

As before, everyone is welcome, just bring your spade and be prepared to get muddy.

If you have trees or bushes that have been growing in pots and you would like to give them a new home, bring them along or get in touch and we will help with transport.

Please get in touch:

Nigel - 830594 E: biz.nibex@btinternet.com

Averil - 830686 E: averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk

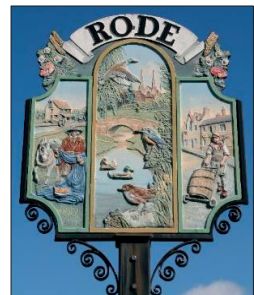
Averil Morrow

COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS

There will be elections for Parish Councillors on 5 May in Rode.

These are being held a year early to coincide with elections for Councillors to be part of the new Somerset Council which will replace the District Councils (including Mendip) and the current Somerset County Council.

The new Somerset Council will start in April 2023, being a single body to replace the current five bodies (one County and four District Councils) that runs the whole of Somerset.



Anyone who is interested in standing to be a Councillor on Rode Parish Council should contact the Clerk – Hugh Williams (01373 831046 or clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail) before 22 March for nomination papers (these require 2 sponsors). Currently there is a vacancy on the Parish Council.

Parish News

“THE PARISH COUNCIL ONLY MEETS ONCE A MONTH”

Or so I was told some 12 years ago when I was persuaded to join Rode Parish Council. It may only be a single meeting each month, but that meeting usually goes on for nearly 3 hours. The monthly Parish Council meeting however is just the tip of the very much larger iceberg that is the workload of a Rode Parish Councillor. Our Rode Parish Councillors each takes on additional tasks, which can take up a lot of their time.



Because Rode has such a very active council, we do need parish councillors willing to give of their time and to give generously. Two of our newest parish councillors, Jim McAuliffe and Andy Pickett, have jointly taken on the hugely time-consuming tasks of preparing our defence against unwelcome planning applications in the village, working with our District Councillor, Barbi Lund. Jim also leads on the major drainage project that's ongoing in Rode. Andy, who is our Vice Chair, is always the first to volunteer on anything from offering personally to install the railways sleepers that are needed to complete the footpath down from Church Farm to advising on a new constitution for the Playing Field Trustees. Mike Salmon joined the Parish Council at much the same time as Jim and Andy, Mike is now our Parish Council Chair. He represents Rode on groups discussing the reorganisation of Somerset local government, also with our County Councillor, Linda Oliver, he's aiming to get 20mph speed limits for all our village roads. Elaine Butler pioneered the Rode Hoedown, works with traffic watch, and is battling to sort out The Bell. Ann Edney and Pat Restorick are our most experienced parish councillors, they handle all the individual planning applications of which there are usually 3 or 4 each month, each application requires a site visit and usually talking to the residents of neighbouring properties. As for me, I do a bit here and there too.

Rode Parish Council itself has few powers, usually all we can do is make recommendations. Sometimes that means it can feel like we're wading through treacle but the fact that Rode Parish Council has achieved so much over the past decade is testament of the hard work of your councillors.

But the Parish Council always needs new people. There will be an election for Rode Parish Council on May 5th. If you want to make a difference, then think about putting your name forward. Go and talk to any of the Parish Councillors about what it's like and what you need to do to get yourself elected.

Peter Travis

Rode Parish Councillor since 2010

Parish News

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

- **Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline:** A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm
- **Vaccination programmes roll-out:** Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 96.2% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 93.8% having had both doses. In total 63.7% of the adult population have also received their booster.
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the Structural Changes Order was laid before Parliament on 24th January. The agreed vesting date remains 1st April 2023. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.
- **County Council Revenue Budget:** Somerset County Council has published its last draft proposed budget ahead of the creation of a new unitary Somerset Council in April 2023. The council is proposing major increases in investment in care services, with an increase for Adult Social Care of £18m (13%), and over £12m (also 13%) for Children’s Services. The increase in funding for Adult Social Care in part reflects the council’s recent decision to support an increase in carers pay and to provide a retention bonus for care staff in Somerset. This is intended to support the recruitment and retention of staff in a challenging job market for care services.
- **County Council Capital Budget:** SCC is proposing to allocate £48 million for capital spending in the coming year. This includes substantial investment in measures to tackle climate change, building on the council’s successful Climate Emergency Community Fund. The council has allocated £1 million in new match funding to support the “decarbonisation” of schools – on top of the existing £7.8 million investment in decarbonising the council’s buildings, including libraries. A further £1 million has been allocated for electric fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure. A new investment of £1 million has been allocated to local transport schemes.



Parish News

- **Proposed Council Tax:** Council Tax for SCC is proposed to rise by two per cent with a further one per cent rise for the social care precept. This compares to UK inflation in December running at over four percent and will mean that Somerset County Council continues to set one of the lowest County Tax rates in the UK.
- **Somerset libraries:** Since libraries reopened their doors last April, Somerset Libraries have had over half a million visits and have welcomed over 16,000 new members. To encourage even more people to reconnect with library services and support communities as they start to recover from the impact of the pandemic Somerset Libraries is running two initiatives from 21st January until the 31st March. Children and young people aged 17 and under will not be charged for using any library services. This includes requesting books from other libraries, borrowing DVDs and no charges for the late return of items! The service will also be happy to clear outstanding charges, for all customers, incurred before 21st January 2022, no questions asked. To take advantage of this ‘welcome back’ offer, visit your local library before the 31st March and speak to a member of staff.
- **Climate change action 1:** Somerset County Council has been ranked as the top county council in the UK when it comes to taking a lead on climate change. Climate Emergency UK has ranked all 409 local authorities, scoring them against nine categories, including how well councils’ plans would mitigate the impact of climate change locally, whether the climate and ecological emergency was integrated into existing policies, community engagement, climate education, scale of emissions targets, and commitments to tackle the ecological emergency. Somerset County Council was named as the top county council, meanwhile Somerset West & Taunton Council was ranked as the top district council.
- **Climate change action 2:** A grant available to help Somerset people benefit from energy efficient installations worth up to £10,000 has been extended until June 2022. The Green Homes Grant Scheme allows eligible homeowners to apply for vouchers to install climate-friendly energy saving measures such as insulation, air source heat pumps, or double glazing. The work can be worth up to £10,000, with nothing for homeowners to pay towards the cost of the works. To be eligible for the grants, the residents of the property must have a low income and the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the property must be rated D, E, F or G. visit: www.heatsomerset.co.uk for more information.

Linda Oliver

Somerset County Councillor (Frome North)

Parish News

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Playing Safe - You'll be pleased to hear that the Charity's Trustees take safety seriously.



For that reason, we have an independent safety inspection of the site every year by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents or RoSPA for short. We always act on any safety concerns meaning that the play equipment is perfectly safe to use.

However, it's becoming clear that each year wear and tear are taking their toll meaning that we now need to take greater steps toward the renewal of the play area. In the next few months the Trustees will be asking you, the good people of Rode, to help us replace some of the equipment that's nearing the end of its life, as well as the associated playing surfaces. The project will also entail a complete revamp of the fencing and gates. When the call comes please support our fund raising efforts for this really worthy cause.

New Footpath - As part of the S106 agreement attached to the Church Farm Development a new footpath has now been installed. It doesn't look quite as we'd expected but the Parish Council are on the case and talking to the developer. The path will now continue through the small wood between the S106 and through the trees at the back of the play area.

No Dogs Please - It wasn't long ago that I wrote about the fact that people are still walking their dogs on the playing field despite our 'No Dogs' policy. The policy is there for good reason. As I said previously children in particular use the playing field for sport and some parents have had unpleasant moments cleaning their child's clothes. It's important to keep the playing surfaces clean for the health of all those who use the grounds.

Trustees and members of the community do ask dog walkers to leave the Playing Field from time to time. In one recent incident one of our supporters was told roundly where to go. Please help by getting the message out there that dogs should be walked elsewhere and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

The Hedge is Growing! In the last edition of the magazine there was a short piece on the 'Plantathon'. Thanks again to all those who participated. If you go up now, you'll see that the recent mild weather has encouraged the plants to grow and green shoots are appearing along the whole length of the new hedge. Just fantastic to see and all due to a great team of organisers and willing helpers. Brilliant stuff!!

Parish News

Welcome Back to Rode CC! Rode Cricket Club has reformed and work is underway to prepare the square for matches. The undergrowth has been cut away from the protective netting to the rear of The Old Brewery enabling the club to reinstate it so that hit for 6 doesn't end up in someone's garden or, worse, through a window! It's great to have you back at the playing field. Many of us are looking forward to lazy summer days and the sound of leather on willow on our home ground.

Nigel Clarke

Chair, Rode Playing Field Trustees

T: 01373 830594 M: 07785 734794 E: biz.nibex@btinternet.com

A CELEBRATION WE'VE WAITED 70 YEARS TO HOLD

Beginning at noon and continuing through until midnight, Rode's Platinum Jubilee Party is going to be a party for everyone in Rode: the young, the old and all those in between.

To be held Saturday June 4th at Rode Playing Field, the event is being jointly planned and organised by FRANS, Rode Scouts and Rode Playing Field.



In the afternoon, there's to be a village fete with a special tea party being provided for the children. Plus, lots of surprise entertainers! Then, in the evening, we're lining up bands to ensure it'll be a night to remember.

Throughout the day and into the evening and the night, there'll be stalls offering lots of good things to eat ... and to drink!

So, at this stage, all we ask is you mark the date of Saturday, June 4th, in your diary and make sure you're there on the day. Rode's Platinum Jubilee Party will be an event not to be missed.

If you would like to have a stall at this event, please contact Ann Edney on 830544 or Pat Restorick on 830572 or email Ann on annmedney@btinternet.com.

Peter Travis

Jubilee Party Team

plustravis@hotmail.com

Parish News

RODE GROWS AND SHARES

Sunday 6 March, 10-2pm

25 High Street Rode Seed sharing table and launch of 2022 Giant Sunflower Competition: Come along and pick up some vegetable/ herb/flower seeds as well as a packet of special giant sunflower seeds (saved from last year's winning sunflower) if you would like to enter this year's competition. If you do have any spare veg/herb/flower seed packets that you won't be using and would be happy to pass on, it would be fantastic if you're able to drop off to me before the event so I can organise in advance. Thank you.

The tallest sunflower grown last year was 11ft "Sonny" by Sammy Clay, can someone grow taller this year with these special seeds saved from "Sonny"?! Giant sunflower seed packets are limited and given on a first come first serve basis. We'll have a signup sheet for the competition on the table.



Sunday 19 June

Save the date Rode Open Gardens: The event will be organised and run by Rode and District Gardening Club, Rode Allotments and Rode Grows and Shares. More info to follow. Do get in touch with either Averil Morrow, Lucy Travis or myself if you'd like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Julia Robb

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

PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

January 2022 winners are detailed below - drawn by Hannah in the Cross Keys:

1st - £50.00 Richard Holdway, Woolverton.

2nd - £25.00 Paul Burch, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 Gill Lynch, Rode.

Sunday Roast for two, Sally Dignan, Rode, thanks again to Mark and Hannah.

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 & two Sunday roasts, all possible for £1.00 per ticket! You are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket. Tickets on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I (T: 830408). Next draws, Monday 28th of February 2022 and Thursday 31st of March 2022.

Keith Sharman

Parish News

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SPREAD A LITTLE HAPPINESS?

Hi there – Nicky Robinson Moore and I have been organising the Rotary Shoebox Scheme now for a few years for the local area. This is an incredible scheme which allows Eastern European families to receive boxes filled with items for all ages including toys, toiletries, first aid kits, hats and gloves, stationary, sewing kits etc. Full details can be found on: www.rotaryshoebox.org.



We now need your help... Due to Covid our help with funding the boxes has come to an end... So, we have enough stock to fill about 100 boxes in Nicky Robinson-Moore's dining room. Each box costs £2 to send and in order to continue with this amazing charity we need hard cash.

Please if you can donate whatever you can - any amount received would be fantastic. Please spread the news and hopefully we can obtain more donations. If you would like to donate go to this GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/52418f14>

In the warmer weather Nicky and I will be doing a car boot sale to raise money too... again if anyone would like to help with that, please get in touch.

THANK YOU for all the support we've received all the way along, we certainly couldn't have done any of this without your help... Any questions please contact either of us: sarahgurr26@hotmail.com nickydivadiver@googlemail.com

Sarah Gurr

SHARED GARDENS SCHEME ACROSS THE PARISH

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 like to have more space to grow vegetables/fruits/flowers? If you're interested in any way I'd love to hear from you. Email best - juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07527 918314

What some weather in February! We were dreading visiting the plot after Storm Eunice – some damage but surprisingly less than we feared! 2 greenhouses were damaged and the brassica cage flattened - but Cavolo Nero and purple sprouting broccoli mostly still standing – fantastic! We've been enjoying our plot's squash/pumpkin haul, cooking up chutney, soup, risotto, curry and an Italian dish called "rotolo" (very tasty Jamie Oliver recipe). Roasting Crown Prince squashes whole a highlight - a great and easy way to cook squash!

Julia Robb

Parish News

VALENTINE'S DANCE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Valentine's ball. We raised £300 which is going towards sending me to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next August.

I need to raise over £4000, along with 4 other Explorer Scouts from Rode, who have all be selected to go.



It is an amazing opportunity and we are all really looking forward to being involved in the 25th World Scout Jamboree with thousands of Scouts from all over the world.

Watch this space for more fundraising events coming this way.

Sam Rottenbury

HOW STORM EUNICE COMPARED...

Michael Cooper, Frome weather expert, recorded a maximum gust of 68mph on Friday 18th February @ 11:27. However, to put it into context back in 1990 on January 30th in The Burns Day Storm, Michael recorded a 90 mph wind gust.

More context? Michael tells me in 1588, 1589, and in 1703 (especially 1703), the wind was estimated to have exceeded 120 mph over Somerset. Whole villages and hamlets were just blown away and thousands of people lost their lives (as recorded by Daniel Defoe in his book "THE STORM").

Peter Travis

200 CLUB DRAW

Please find below the results of the January 200 club draw:

1st prize £50 Martyn & Jodi Gilroy

2nd prize £25 Louise Howell

Drawn by Hannah - Cross Keys



Jan Jupp

LAVERTON NEWS

I had already written my piece for the Parish Magazine whilst Storm Dudley was howling around outside and then... Storm Eunice!!!

A very challenging few days for everybody but as always, Laverton pulled together with that great community spirit - neighbours looking out for each other, offering hot water and hot meals (from those lucky enough to have a gas hob!) and even wine! How thankful we all were to the engineers who got us all up and running again on Saturday evening!

With all the excitement and stormy weather it's hard to believe we are almost in March. Walking around the lanes it's wonderful to see early signs of spring popping up all over. The daffodils in Row Lane are almost in bloom and there's a gorgeous carpet of snowdrops and crocuses outside Row Farm House. Spring is almost here! A big thank you to Bob and Debby who once again are keeping the village verges clear - you do a great job.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

There are lots of plans underway for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June. By the time you read this our first meeting will have taken place and I'll be posting details on the village FB page.



Book Exchange

A very big thank you to the friends of Paliaret Hall in Norton St Philip for donating a large quantity of great books, DVD's and CD's. Much appreciated - and all in the name of recycling! Please pop along to the Book Exchange and help yourself.

Janet's Cards - We're delighted to have some lovely greetings cards in the Book Exchange (blank for your own message) which have kindly been donated - all proceeds to Dorothy House. They are just inside the door on the table - suggested donation of £2. Please kindly pop your donation in the honesty box. Various photographic designs of local scenes and nature. Thanks Janet!

Defibrillator Update

A few of us from the village met with the co-ordinator from the Friends of Frome Hospital to conduct a site visit with a view to acquiring a village defibrillator. We are now awaiting an electrical report to establish where the defibrillator might be situated. I'll keep you posted.

Jackie Moss

Parish Health & Wellbeing

The Health and Care System in Somerset is Under Pressure

Health and care services in Somerset are very busy, meaning all health and care services including GP practices, hospitals and adult social care services are under immense pressure. We are asking for your help and support to ensure we can continue caring for those who need our support.

- **Help get relatives home from hospital** – be ready to collect loved ones from hospital as soon as they are medically well enough to leave. If you can provide some care for loved ones it will help us care for those people who are very unwell. Very often simple arrangements such as regular visits or help with meals can mean that someone can go home more quickly.
- **Review your care at home** – if you are receiving care at home that you think you no longer need, please contact your care provider or Adult Social Care so staff can review your care needs. This will support us to make sure care is allocated to help someone else to remain in their own home or leave hospital with the right support.
- **Access health services wisely** – if you don't know which service is the right service for you **click or call 111 first**. 111 can provide advice and direct you to the best place for the care you need.
- **Use your local pharmacy** – they can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for a range of minor illnesses, such as colds, sore throats, tummy trouble and aches and pains. Pharmacies are open throughout the day, evening and on weekends and you can be seen without an appointment.
- **Check the latest guidance on visiting health settings before you go** – if you are visiting a relative or loved one in a health or care setting, or are planning to come to an appointment with them, please check if there are restrictions in place.
- **Protect yourself** – the vaccination remains the best form of protection against coronavirus. You can book your vaccination through the [National Booking System](#) or look for walk in sites on the [Grab a Jab](#) site. Eligible for a free flu vaccination? You can [book your flu vaccination here](#).
- **Help prevent the spread of COVID-19** – continue to wear face masks, sanitise your hands regularly and socially distance where possible in our hospitals and healthcare settings. COVID-19 affects how we run our services and we care for very vulnerable patients, so it is important that we do all we can to minimise the spread of the virus.
- **Help look out for your community** – check in on relatives and neighbours who might need extra support.
- **Check out our advice and guidance** – Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group has a webpage full of information and advice on the different services, apps and support available. You can find the information on their [choose well page](#).

Visit:

www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/the-health-and-care-system-in-somerset-is-under-pressure/

Parish Health & Wellbeing



I said one day. This is day one.

Get help and support to get active at nhs.uk/BetterHealth

**Better
Health**

Let's
do this



Lift someone out of loneliness

Screening saves lives

**Better
Health** every mind
matters

Help us help you



Don't dismiss the early signs of a heart attack

A squeezing across the chest. A feeling of unease.
It's never too early to call 999 and describe your symptoms.



Help us
help you

Parish Ecology

RODE AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

As most villagers will no doubt recall, last year Rode Parish Council formally declared a Climate Emergency. Since then we've set up a Climate Emergency Group, which has now met three times. Our most recent meeting was virtual, as a couple of the group were self-isolating with Covid – but that didn't stop the discussion!



The group is keen to understand the views of Rode residents – in particular to help us understand the issues you think we should be addressing, both individually and as a community. We're putting together a Survey for all villagers, which hopefully should be coming through your letterbox this month.

We will soon be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and one of the initiatives to mark the event is The Queen's Green Canopy – "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"! We're keen to encourage tree planting in the village, and of course the Community Orchard project on the expanded playing field land is a great start. If you're interested in planting a tree, find out more at www.queensgreencanopy.org

Recently Climate Emergency UK undertook an extensive exercise to rank all 409 local authorities in the UK in terms of the quality of their Climate Emergency plans. The good news is that Somerset County Council was ranked as the top county council in the UK when it comes to taking a lead on climate change. Their Climate Emergency Strategy is comprehensive, but they've prepared an easy-to-read summary which is worth a look (search Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy in Google).

The biggest contributor (nearly 40%) to Rode's carbon footprint is road transport (car journeys by residents), and one way in which we can help address this issue is increasing our cycling. The big challenge is access to safe cycle routes. In this respect, we're liaising with Beckington in relation to the proposed Beckington to Frome cycle route. Beckington PC has partnered with Frome Town Council to access funding from Somerset CC's Climate Emergency Community Fund, and this funding will support the development of a feasibility study into a route which will form part of the wider LCWIP (local cycling and walking infrastructure plan) being developed for Frome.

Finally, if you're interested in joining the Climate Emergency Group, please get in touch at jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

Jim McAuliffe

Parish Cricket

RODE CRICKET CLUB

As the days lengthen and (hopefully soon!) the weather gets a bit warmer, we are starting look ahead with excitement to the return of Rode Cricket Club for the 2022 season.

Work has already begun reclaiming the Brewery Site protective from the weeds and grass which has been growing up through it, and it seems with a bit of repair work this can be made serviceable.



The Playing Field Committee have been incredibly supportive, and we are all hopeful that the boundary at the Church Farm end can be extended in time for the new season.

Work on recovering the square is being carried out by an expert contractor, and by the time this edition of The Link is in circulation, should have commenced, weather permitting.

A new Committee was formed late last year and we have been coordinating the above work, as well as putting feelers out for clubs willing to add us to their fixture list. It is looking increasingly likely that we will be able to have a reasonably full season across the months of June, July and August.

Activities still outstanding include arranging the return of the equipment loaned to Beckington CC over the last few years and identifying additional kit required.

Later in the year we will also be arranging some fundraising events too, so watch this space!

Most importantly of all however, is **we need players!**

There has already been really encouraging interest shown by recent arrivals to the village and "old lags" alike, but to make a success of this relaunch we need as many as possible.

Young/ old, male/female, fit and accomplished or just out for a good, healthy social event on Sunday afternoon in the sunshine, **we welcome all comers!**

Please contact me for further details.

Andy Pickett

Chairman

E: andypickett2013@gmail.com T: 07775 805546 or 831796

Parish Youth News & Events

CHILDREN'S WORKER NEWS

Dear families, I have included activities for this month and details of some activities to put in your diaries for spring and early summer as it is going to be very busy! You may ask why all the activities listed below are based at St. Philip and St. James Church Norton St. Philip? The reason being that most of my children's worker resources are kept at NSP Church and with the new space available to us after the removal of the pews it makes holding activities for families easier plus there is new heating installed which for families with little ones makes such a difference. Also, the church is very safe particularly thinking of the outdoor space as we are situated away from the busy main road.

MINI BREAKFAST CHURCH MARCH: Our theme will be patron saints and will be held at NSP Church 9.00am- 9.30am on Sunday 20th March.



ADVANCE NOTICE MINI BREAKFAST CHURCH APRIL: As Mini Breakfast Church falls on Easter Sunday 17th April, we are moving to Easter Saturday morning 16th April, and we will be making an Easter Garden in NSP Church and other Easter decorations at 10am and then we will have an Easter Egg hunt!



TOTS AND TOYS: Just to let you all know that the new overhead heating has been installed in NSP Church and this will make our sessions much warmer in the colder months.



MOTHERING SUNDAY INFORMAL FAMILY SERVICE MARCH: We will be holding a short family service to celebrate our mums and mother church at 10.30am on Sunday 27th March at NSP Church. There will be songs, creative activities, posies and delicious cakes and drinks afterwards. Do bring the whole family whatever their age!



ADVANCE NOTICE CATERPILLAR POP UP CLUB APRIL: Caterpillar Club (3-9-year-olds) will take place on Wednesday 20th April (school Easter holidays) 2pm-3.30pm and our theme will be 'New Life' and we shall be checking in on our bug hotel.



ADVANCE NOTICE THE PLATINUM JUBILEE JUNE :

Design a new crown for Queen Elizabeth 2nd! Please make at home or join us for a royal crown making drop-in session in NSP Church on the morning of Thursday 2nd June (Spring bank holiday). There will be a royal crown competition which will be judged in NSP Church at 5pm and cream teas will be available in the church during the afternoon. The age categories will be pre-school, 4- 7 years, 8-11 years, 12-16 years, and adult.



Sue Rodford

H.V. Children and Family Worker

E: kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk T: 01373 812766

Parish Youth News & Events

FRESHFORD UNITED YOUTH F.C. LATEST

Freshford United Youth F.C. has been growing this season with more children joining the teams of all ages and all progressing very well.

We currently have a team in every age group from Under 5's to Under 13's (Minus Under 10's unfortunately) plus our Adult team. Every team trains weekly with most age groups playing regular games in the Mid Norton & District Youth League.



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

We also are always looking for coaches, helpers, supporters and committee members to cover a wide range of roles of which some would only require an hour of your time a month at the most so please make contact with me on the number below if you would like to get involved.

At Rode Paying Fields we have our Under 9's and 11's playing and training each week so if your child is looking to get into football or come along and watch then please get in touch and come and test it out.

If you have a building project happening soon, we are after some rubble but mainly any soil of different grades at our pitches in Freshford so if you want to save the cost on skip hire we would be willing to accept these for free, if you want to discuss this more please speak to Chris on the number below.

As always, we welcome any support from the village and if you want to keep up to date with what is happening information is always available on our website www.freshfordunitedfc.com

Chris Birleson

Club Manager

T: 07738 741477 E: cb@dentons.net

Parish Drama

WHO KILLED THE HOLIDAYMAKER...?

With a breather in Covid restrictions came Murder and Mystery to Rode. Those lucky enough to secure a ticket were transported to a sunny Greek resort managed by Ar-Son travel (putting the fire in to your summer!) and were treated to a pool-side mystery! Yes, towels were involved!



The unfortunate victim was a young German, Wolfgang von Humpf. He was found dead on his sunbed by the lifeguard on changeover day. This conveniently meant that there were only a few suspects; 2 young lads called Nip and Tezza, the self-styled 'Cocktail Crew', the lifeguard and the receptionist. Of course, it might have been death due to natural causes..... or even his long-suffering mother, Greta!

The holiday company's manager flew in to attempt to promptly resolve and cover up the mystery with the help of the holiday rep, the star witness Greta von Humpf whose English was dreadful... and who actually didn't see anything! Thankfully, she heard everything. There was also some brilliant CCTV footage.

In fact, the CCTV footage was so hilarious that the manager, having watched it once, wanted it rewound and then played again in slow-motion. Thus providing scenes of 2 tipsy boys staggering past the pool after their usual night out on the town, greeting the lifeguard, falling out and making friends again. Equally, we saw both the life-guard and the receptionist going about their daily duties. Of course, there was also an argument with a German about towels and sunbeds... All of which entertained the audience with some excellent silent slapstick comedy. The most laughs came from an unscripted tumble off the stage! No members of the audience or cast were hurt in the making of this scene!

Finally, it was revealed that Tezza pushed Wolfie into the water when the pair were arguing. Tezza had fallen in love with Jazz, the lifeguard, and was fed up with Wolfie complaining that Jazz wasn't around early enough in the morning to allow him to put his towels on the best positioned sunbeds.

What Tezza didn't know was that, even wearing leopard print speedos, Wolfie couldn't actually swim. Tezza couldn't jump in himself due to a nasty injury. By the time he had returned with Jazz, it was too late..... so the pair hauled him out of the pool and arranged him on one of the sunbeds thus trying to pervert the course of justice. They needn't have worried too much.

Although the truth came out, Greta, tired of being bullied and bossed around by Wolfie, was quite happy to accept the natural causes conclusion in return for

Parish Drama

becoming an honorary member of The Cocktail Crew, happily looking forward to hitting ze town viz zees 2 knights in shining farmer!

Grateful thanks to Rory, Dan Barry's pal from Selwood who returned to Somerset to play a dead body in a dressing gown! Thanks to the CCTV incident, he did at least have some action!!

Thank you to everyone who came ready to enjoy themselves and to entertain us with all manner of crazy theories as to who did what and why... the best theory was that Tezza did indeed murder Wolfie because he was an animal rights activist who took umbrage at the leopard skin speedos (gratefully, Rory was not obliged to wear these!) and, last but not least, to you, in helping to raise £720 for The Heart of Rode.

Very many thanks to Sally Pickett for coming up with the idea, sitting in the director's chair for the production and for an Oscar winning performance as executive producer for the entire evening.

The Murder Mystery players were Sarah Benson, Jo Nicholson, Marian Mudie, Tim Fussel, Anna Bradshaw, Sarah Coumbe, Dan Barry and, towering over us, special guest star Rory. We'll be back!



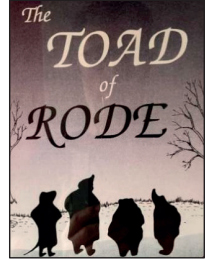
Sarah Coumbe

Editor's Note: Thanks to Sally (and this year's cast) for delivering another great evening for our community – I think this is the 6th murder mystery she has come up with! Wonder who'll be the next victim...?

Parish Drama

THE TOAD OF RODE : RETURNS!

It has been a busy few weeks for Team Toad as work continues in advance of showtime on Thursday April 28th, Friday 29th April and Saturday 30th April. Set construction and painting is in full flow and we hope to have the stage curtains up by the beginning of March which will help mark another significant step forward for us.



The cast are gaining in confidence all the time and they are really bringing their characters to life, and the final touches are being put to the costumes which look amazing.

By now you may already have bought some raffle tickets, but if not and you fancy winning some amazing prizes including: discount at Raves from the Grave, the best little record store in the west country, tickets for comedy nights, special edition chocolates from choc on choc and much much more, then you can get them from Hannah in the Cross Keys and Sam in the Village shop.

Most exciting of all, we have had some professional help in the shape of the wonderful actor Rupert Holiday - Evans, who you might have seen recently in the TV mini series SHOW TRIAL.



His energy and insights have certainly sharpened up everyone's game, and I am confident this year will see performances reaching new heights as a result.

Tickets will be on sale from mid March and we hope to make them available online as well as in the Cross Keys and the Village shop.

Keep your eyes and ears open so you don't miss out! The more we sell, the more money we can give to our chosen charities, Focus Frome and Dorothy House.

Gary Holloway

Parish Gardening

MARCH GARDEN NOTES

I'll keep this short, really short, as I've no idea if Franklin will disrupt the power supply like his best friend Eunice. She was pretty feisty and how awful to be cut short in my dispensing of horticultural wit and wisdom? *

Top tips (well, kind of):



- Still time to buy bundles of little snowdrops - the ones you love seeing as you walk past other people's front gardens, the ones you'd dearly love to see huddling in your own garden but haven't yet remembered to plant. Seize the moment and buy them "in the green" as long as you find homes for these perfect little bundles of living plants the minute they arrive wrapped in last week's newspapers.

- Ditto for the bright yellow winter aconites - about which so many of us are still so very sniffy (myself included) - until we hit this particularly tedious stretch of winter and find ourselves longing for a burst of bright yellow, in whatever form it comes.



- Time to lust over the thousands of tempting summer-flowering tubers and bulbs which you can buy now and start planting up soon. Don't miss the chance to plant up a hundred tiny corms of the late summer -flowering *Acidantha mureliae* - they're such amazing value for money, you'll kick yourself if you don't do it this year.

- Check the cobwebby shed or cupboard where you might have mislaid last year's diligently-lifted dahlia tubers. Maybe this is the year when the slugs won't get to feast on them before they even get started out there in the big wide open garden border or cutting flower bed. It's worth a go. We are gardeners! We must must maintain optimism in the face of...slugs.

- If those dahlia tubers have gone walk about (or fed a family of 50 mice) then indulge yourself with some new tubers which will flower in outrageously clashing colours, unless you are the subtle and understated type? Cafe au Lait for you, then...

- Finally it's time to start thinking about sowing seed: spinach, chard and beetroot could possibly cope with being sown outside soon, while you start the tender favourites - tomatoes and chillies? - indoors. I'm debating whether to bother with aubergines - still waiting for those I sowed about 5 years ago to flower...I know, I know, that's not how it works. But I'm still waiting...

Muddy Fingernails

*Note: this is not a rhetorical question. Answer: very.

Parish Groups

RODE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



In February we heard Janet Berlin give us lots of practical tips on collecting and sowing seeds. Janet grows many plants that are easy to grow from seeds and says nobody ever minds sharing seeds from their gardens. Some plants such as foxgloves/primulas/fritillarias need to have their seeds planted straight away whilst fresh. Foxgloves should be sown on the 8th July, which is very specific! Fritillarias need to be left outside for 2 years before they develop enough to be planted out. Things like foxgloves, ammi major, nigella, poppy and astrantia need to have the whole flowerhead put in large paper bags or be shaken over large sheets of paper so they can be put somewhere safe to dry. There'll be many thousands of seeds, ideal for sharing or exchanging with gardening friends. Decant into old envelopes, seal, label and keep cool and dry.

Janet sows sweetpeas through the winter so there is a succession of flowers through the summer. If low flowers are left to go to seed whilst cutting other flowers regularly, they can be dried and saved for the next year, making considerable saving on the price of new seed. When sowing seeds Janet had some handy hints to aid success. Water seed trays by sinking in a bath of water and cover with a plastic bag to maintain humidity. Warmth from underneath (ideal for those with underfloor heating!) helps with tricky seeds but most will germinate on a windowsill. Large seeds can be started off by putting on damp kitchen roll in a sandwich box, waiting for tiny roots to emerge then potting on carefully. Re-using square plastic pots saves space and halved (lengthwise) plastic bottles make more manageable seed trays for peas and beans.

Remember to harden off young plants by putting them somewhere sheltered before planting out in the garden. Despite making lots of garden compost Janet buys seed compost to avoid diseases. Metal coathangers can be cut into 3 sections to make useful pegs for holding down cloches or covers in the garden.

Janet was thanked for a delightful, informative talk and for supplying a seed quiz that had us all scratching our heads. You can see Janet's own garden at Duck Pond Barn, Church Lane, Wingfield on Sunday 26th June and Sunday 7th August 2022 when it's open for charity under the Wiltshire National Open Garden Scheme. There's also a Plant Sale outside Wingfield Church (donations welcome) Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday 15th-17th April 2022.

This month we have our AGM at 7pm followed by Laura Batt talking on Hedgehog Awareness - Monday 14th March, Rode Village Hall - all welcome.

Averil Morrow

Parish Groups

RODE OVER 60'S

We were very pleased to welcome 4 new members to join some of our regular members to the Hall on Friday 11th February for a scrumptious afternoon tea.

The next event for Rode Over 60's is the annual dinner on Friday 11th March, members are asked to be at the Hall at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start, where a delicious 3 course meal awaits them.



There are 4 birthdays in March to celebrate, Wendy Harrison and Terrie Lewis both have birthdays on 2nd March, and Gill Kneebone and Gail Stinton both have birthdays on 26th March, we wish them Many Happy Returns of the day and hope they all enjoy their Special Day.

A date for your diaries, Rode Over 60's AGM is on Friday 8th April at 2.30pm in the Hall.

Sue Beaven.

RODE MONTHLY WALKING GROUP

This month's walk, as usual on the second Tuesday of the month, will be on Tuesday 8th March.



Starting from the village green at 10 am we are walking along lanes to Lullington, continuing across fields to Beckington for a coffee stop and then returning to Rode, approximately 8 km.

Please contact me for further details.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T: 07788 656337

OTHER CLUBS NEWS WELCOME...

If you would like us to include details of a club you are involved with, please do contact us: link@rodevillage.com. We would be happy to do so.



Parish Groups

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Well, we had another great turn out for February's lunch; seems everyone is really enjoying getting out and getting together which is of course the whole aim of Monday Lunch Club!!



Our next lunch is Monday 4th April and we look forward to seeing all our regulars and new members alike - at The Village Hall, 12.15pm... £4 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal, bring your own wine if you fancy a drink with it (the Hall is Licensed) - so, don't sit at home on your own - come and meet new friends and have a great meal at the same time!!

Please let me know well in advance if you'd like to come - just give me a ring! If you need help with getting to the Hall also please let me know and we can arrange transport.

Hope to see you there!

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team

T: 01373 830836 / 07828 600095

RODE LADIES GROUP

Rode Ladies Group will be meeting at 2.30pm on Wednesday 23rd March at Rode Memorial Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk by Bob Rogers entitled 'The Eagle Has Landed'.

Bob spent 20 years working at the country's largest bird of prey centre where he flew eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and even vultures. After the talk we will have tea and cake.



The meeting is open to anyone who thinks they might like to join the group when membership re-starts.

Please come along and meet us.

Caroline Williams

01373 831046

Parish Nature

If you love nature, Spring is great. New things daily and all sorts of colours start to brighten us up. Attention is grabbed by birds, butterflies, flowers and insects. We easily overlook one remarkable group of arrivals. Fungi.

Fungi is becoming cool. It stars in best-selling books reviewed on Radio 2 and award-winning Netflix documentaries. So, why love fungi? Well just a few reasons...

- Their colours and shapes are outstanding
- They have great names often linked to obscure myths or legends
- And they don't fly away when you try to photograph them

Here are some favourites you'll see in the lanes and hedgerows of Laverton this Spring. Just some of the great fungi you'll see around here this Spring and into the Summer.



The wonderfully named Witches' Butter shows one of the brightest yellows in the natural world.

It has other names but this one derives from ancient Swedish folklore. It loves recently fallen deciduous branches.



Turkey-Tail is with us all year but its colours are best in the Spring. Historically it was used to make jewellery – matching brooches and ear-rings!



If fungi stars in films then this wins an Oscar. The aptly named Collared Earth Star changes from brown bulb to this over a few days and then disappears again before you know it. You'll see it under beech trees.



The Shaggy Parasol hides in hedgerows and forms "Fairy Rings" in local woods.

Myths warn that anyone entering a Fairy Ring will die young and either become invisible or be transported to the fairy world! Watch out.



Jelly-Ear or Judas' Ear looks like deep-pink translucent ears. Look for it on old or dead Elder. It's named after Judas Iscariot who supposedly hanged himself from an Elder tree after his betrayal of Christ.

If you find others you can't recognise just send a picture (via the magazine) and we'll try and help ID it.

The Fun Guy!

Parish Farming

FUSSELS - WHEN THE WIND BLOWS...

...and it has blown, and blown, causing havoc and damage; as I write this, it is still blowing. I don't remember having such storms continuously. Even in 1987, having moved to Rode in the May, the October storm was the worst ever. Scaffolding was still up around my cottage, as I had just had my roof totally re-done. Just as well!



We have also seen some rain which has caused the fields to be saturated preventing Shaun from getting on with the late Winter jobs.

The snowdrops are stunning at the moment, left untouched, they multiply and are a reminder that Spring is not far away. I have also seen a few daffodils and by the time this edition of the Link drops on your mat, they will be fully out and brightening our village.

Fine Foods: Andy was recently out speaking to a group of Farmer's in Burford, Oxfordshire! They were wanting to know about diversification and how it all inter-links with the farm. Needless to say, he was very late back!

Now groups are meeting again, we've several Speaking Engagements booked in over the next few weeks. We love going out to share our passion for what we do. Normally, this is followed by a Tour then we can show our guests the real thing!

Markets: The Frome Independent returns on Sunday 6 March. Hopefully any inclement weather will not prevent it from going ahead. We will be there, as well as at Axbridge FM on Saturday 5/3/22 and Nailsea FM commences too on 19/3/22. We will then be heading for Easter! Having sat on the Board of SFM, and now the current Chair, I am ever amazed at what our Co-ordinators do to ensure the Markets go ahead. There is an immense amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Please support our local Farmer's Market (Frome FM in the Cheese & Grain) not to be confused with the Mendip Market in the Car Park. Somerset Farmer's Markets are Producer Markets, enabling you to buy the best straight from the Producer/Grower and also giving you the chance to know the back story. Our Factory Shop here at Fussels HQ continues to be open: 9-5 Monday to Friday and 10-1 on Saturdays.

Parish Farming

Tours: Stop Press ... Blooming tour dates announced. Thursday 21 April / Thursday 5 May / Thursday 19 May | all at 6.30pm. We already have a number of Group Tours booked throughout the Spring and Summer but do consider joining us on one of the above dates. You won't be disappointed.



Shows/Events: I have booked several events now and I hope these will go ahead. Quite a lot of events that we would normally attend are not going ahead this year; possibly because there is such a lot of outlay several months prior to the date. Covid has hit these events particularly hard with being cancelled, but it does seem that the public are wanting to gather again and enjoy a day out at these Agricultural and Food Shows.

Farm: When this wind has died down and the fields drained, Shaun will be able to get out onto the fields fertilising which will wake up the crops from their winter sleep. This is the time when they start to take off, particularly the rape, which appears to grow daily, almost in front of your eyes. The weather has been milder which means the ground will be starting to warm up; another trigger for growth.

Again, we are growing an early flowering strain of Oilseed Rape; a great food source for the bees.



Jamie from Waggle & Hum will be bringing in his hives to place close to the OSR which helps immensely with pollination. It is almost time to be planting the Spring Barley; look out for Shaun with the drill. The Winter Barley and Wheat will also get a boost of fertiliser soon to get them going!

All too soon, it will be Spring and at the end of March we will be putting the clocks forward into British Summertime. Where does the time go? Take care

Lizzy Etheridge

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

Parish Events

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR DIARY/YEAR PLANNER ON THE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS OF FUTURE EVENTS AND OTHER REGULAR PARISH EVENTS - ALL CROSS REFERENCED TO PAGE NUMBERS IN THIS ISSUE

 **Car Boot sale** 
Scouts in aid of Rode Scout Group **Scouts**
1st Rode (Scout Group) 1st Rode (Scout Group)

Sunday 6th March 2022



Held at:
Hillview Farm
Marsh Road
Rode
BA11 6PE

Visitor's 10am Till 1pm
Sellers set up from 9.00

Refreshments available

Pitches: £10
Entry Charge:
Adults £2
Children free

To book a pitch please contact
James or Elizabeth on
01373 830571 Or jamesosborne1@live.co.uk

Forget-me-not Café



When? - 14th March
(second Monday each month)
NEW TIME 2.30 – 4 pm

Where? - St Philip and St James Church, Norton St Philip



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contact Jo for more information
(including other similar cafes in the local area)
321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381



RODE PLAYING FIELD PLANTATHON 2

Come and join us on
Saturday 19th March 2022 at 2pm
to plant woodland areas as part of the
Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden

See page 14 for more info.

Refreshments available
all ages welcome & bring your spade!

Parish Events

THE ROXY RETURNS - **18th March** Friday

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★ EVENING STANDARD ★★★★★ THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

FRANCES McDORMAND

NOMADLAND

WINNER 3 OSCARS A FILM BY CHLOE ZHAO WINNER 2 Golden Globes

7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

• Doors open 7pm • Raffle • Licensed Bar • Tickets £5.00 at the Post Office • £5.50 on the door

CLOCKS GO FORWARD

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH AT 1 AM

#GBSpringClean

ONE BAG BIG DIFFERENCE

RODE SPRING CLEAN

SUNDAY APRIL 10TH AT 2:00PM

Meet on the Village Green to collect grabbers & bags and join THE CLEAN-UP OF RODE Streets and Pavements.

Refreshments on Rode Playing Field at 4:00pm

ALL WELCOME

Join the Great British Spring Clean 25 March - 10 April 2022

The TOAD of RODE

... SEE PAGE 32!



Parish Food & Drink

The Mill at Rode have some exciting events coming up in March for you all to enjoy in the run up to sunnier days! Make sure you keep an eye on our socials for dates and further information on the following events.



Mother's Day
Saint Patrick's Day
Kids Sunday, every Sunday
...and so much more!



If you would like to book any of these events, please call **01373 831100 John and the team**



Follow us on Facebook for updates #RodeMill
@rodemillofficial
<http://www.rodemill.co.uk>



fussels Home Refill Starter Kit

Are you looking to reduce your use of single-use packaging? If you are, we can help you along the way with our at-home refill starter kit.

The kit contains a 5 litre tin can of Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil; a 500ml bottle of Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil, which you can refill from the can when required; decanting funnel and Chrome-plated pourer.

With this kit, it's a simple and cost-effective way of enjoying our British cold pressed rapeseed at home, as well as helping the environment.

Come and see us at our factory shop in Rode (BA11 6AA) or search "**Fussels Rapeseed Oil**" to order online for delivery or FREE Click & Collect.

Parish Food & Drink

Somerset Foodie

ingredients to inspire

Your local online specialist food retailer

Shop online, we're local and offer FREE same day delivery, straight to your doorstep.

Transform the meals you create at home with our artisan ingredients, you'll find simple and inspiring recipes with 'how to make' videos on our website.

♥ [somersetfoodie.com](https://www.somersetfoodie.com)



Deliveries are made on our 100% electric van

Our own packed wholefood ingredients
are 100% Plastic free

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in the last 6 months



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Parish Food & Drink

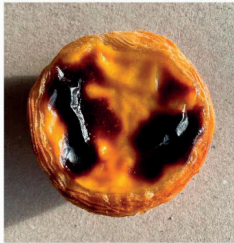


WE CAN DELIVER TO YOUR BUSINESS OR EVENT

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Church Farm, Parkgate Ln, Rode, BA11 6AA



AVAILABLE WEEKLY FROM:

**Rode General Store & Cafe, Mes Amis, The Cross Keys,
Somerset Foodie, Wild Herb, Farleigh Farm Shop, Frama,
8 Stony Street & TEALS**

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Delivered by Royal Mail

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Local Collection from Norton St Philip

OUR MULTI BUY OFFERS

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each for 2 or 3
packs

£7.50

each for 4 or
more packs

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Parish Food & Drink



Tables available outside and in our extension. Full table service.
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Open inside from 17 May.



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FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Phone 01225 720006
www.farleighroadfarmshop.co.uk

Cafe & Shop both now open!

We are so happy that our
cafe is now open.



Breakfast 9.00 – 11.30
Lunch 12.00 – 3.30
Afternoon Tea until 4.00

*We are still offering our delivery and
collection services from the shop for
those not feeling comfortable visiting us.*



Parish Food & Drink



RODE GENERAL STORE, CAFE & POST OFFICE

More than just stamps

We look forward to welcoming you back to our modern shop & cafe to enjoy a warm welcome, home cooked food, buy local produce and goods.



01373 830321

Open Monday - Saturday

32a High Street, Rode, BA11 6PA



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

PARISH RECIPE

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

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

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

E: gillhleonard@aol.com



Noticeboard

THE BECKINGTON & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SERVICE NOT SELF

For most of us, the Royal British Legion is best known for its annual poppy appeal and the national commemorations at Westminster Abbey, the Albert Hall, and in Whitehall on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday; but there is far more to the RBL than just these very public manifestations.

In the present climate, it seems unfashionable to express pride in anything even vaguely patriotic or British, but the RBL operates throughout the year, not just in remembrance-tide, in an understated, low-profile style, which might be termed typically British.

It offers a network of support to serving and former armed service people and their families. It provides help with rehabilitation and mental health, with the transition to civilian life, with the adaptation of homes for people with disabilities, with managing finances and avoiding homelessness, and much more.

For older veterans, it provides care homes for those unable to live alone, and support for independent living for those able to remain in their own homes. The RBL has links with a broad network of other charities so if it can't help with a particular issue, it knows a charity that can.

The RBL celebrated its centenary in 2021 but celebrations were curtailed owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Beckington Branch was formed on 31st March 1930. Since then, it has participated in fundraising events in support of the RBL's many charitable activities as well as offering support to individuals and families through its welfare officer. There have been coffee mornings, quizzes, raffles, and an annual dinner. Over the past two years most of these activities have been in abeyance but with the turn of the season, your local branch is springing back into action.

We shall be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 2nd April from 10.00 a.m. till 12 noon at the Baptist Church in Beckington and a commemoration service to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Falklands Campaign on Sunday 12th June at 4.30 p.m. at St George's Church, Beckington. In the autumn, we hope to arrange a dinner as a belated celebration of the centenary of the RBL, 1921-2021. The details will be published later in the year.

We are always pleased to welcome new members.

You do not need to have served in the armed forces to join the RBL, so if you would like to support our work, please contact the chairman, Ben Richards on 01373 831304, the secretary, Barry Davies on 01373 831344 or any member of the committee known to you and we shall be pleased to hear from you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2nd April

10 a.m.-12 noon RBL Coffee Morning,
Baptist Church, Beckington.

Sunday 12th June

4.30 p.m. Falklands Campaign
Commemoration Service,
St George's Church, Beckington.

Autumn: Centenary Celebration Dinner
(postponed from last year). Date to be
confirmed.

Noticeboard



Active and In Touch Frome

Helping to combat loneliness and isolation in our community

Are you feeling isolated or lonely?

Active and in Touch can help you.

We are a charity who wants to help combat loneliness and isolation in Frome and our surrounding villages.

We can offer ongoing befriending support to anyone who feels isolated or lonely.

Our volunteer drivers (Frome Community Drivers) will help individuals make journeys to medical appointments, social groups, hairdressers, shopping, exercise classes and more.



Frome **community drivers**
Providing volunteer drivers for those in need

The people Active and in Touch support have become isolated and lonely through the circumstances that life has thrown at them, maybe a bereavement, caring for a partner for years, moving to a new area, change in health, having to give up a car, or just not feeling confident to try new things alone. Our members come from all walks of life.

Volunteers needed - We are keen to recruit more volunteers to act as befrienders or community drivers. You can give as little or as much of your time as you like. Drivers are reimbursed 45p per mile for petrol.

For more information about our service – be it as a member or a volunteer please contact: enquiries@activeandintouch.org or Phone: 07539 795261 / 0 www.activeandintouch.org

BECKINGTON TENNIS

Beckington Tennis have adult classes on Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings.

This includes Cardio, Beginners, Rusty Rackets and Intermediate classes.



Junior coaching runs on Saturday and Sunday mornings plus Friday evenings. Individual coaching is also available.

Please see the website Beckington tennis clubspark or contact Donna on donna.tennis@hotmail.com for more information.

Noticeboard

WELCOMING AUTOGRAPH HOMES 100th BUYER

Autograph Homes has cracked open the champagne for its 100th buyer.

Martin and Adele have just moved into their home at Church Farm in Rode, Somerset, a development of beautiful, rural homes designed and built by the Bristol-based company. “We are absolutely delighted with our new home at Church Farm in Rode,” says Martin, who with his wife Adele relocated across the country for work, having lived in their previous house for 18 years.



“When we discovered Church Farm we were immediately excited and impressed. We wanted strong ‘kerb appeal’ and character. The development and the house deliver on both accounts plus a well thought layout and good quality fittings.”

Simon Taylor, managing director for Autograph Homes, says he’s so proud of this milestone for the independent company which has become one of the South West’s fastest growing homebuilders:

“With a focus on both sustainability and quality throughout our developments, our style of new home has been welcomed by customers. We’re delighted to be able to celebrate with our 100th buyer.”

Church Farm is a rural development of 2,3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes set in the idyllic village of Rode, just 12 miles south of Bath. Built in natural stone, with spacious, contemporary interiors, the development brings together the finest traditions of West Country craftsmanship with the highest standards of modern architectural design.

The design of all Autograph homes takes a forward thinking approach that ensures they are fit for the future, combining low carbon technologies to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

According to Martin what has been the icing on the cake has been the attentive and friendly service from Autograph Homes. “From the head office to the guys working on the site, we genuinely consider ourselves very lucky to have found such a developer, such a site, such a lovely house and in such a pretty area.”

For more information about Autograph Homes, visit: www.autograph-homes.co.uk

Noticeboard

Alan Burgess directs
Frome Voices



4 ENGLISH COMPOSERS

VIVALDI
songs from the Bavarian Highlands

BACH
the job has gone fishing

BRITTEN
blest pair of sirens

MORLEY
made for a

FINZI
made for a

Saturday 19th March 7.30 pm
and **Sunday 20th March 3 pm**
Christ Church Frome BA11 1EH

Tickets (on the door) £10 under 18s free Refreshments available

2022 FROME WINDOW WANDERLAND



The fifth annual Frome Window Wanderland is taking place this year on Friday 4th to Monday 7th March, from 5.30 – 9pm each evening. It's a fun community event. There will be downloadable maps of different areas of Frome this year, so you can plan your route and go for a wander visit in your neighbourhood.

Maps (a street listing of those taking part) will be 'Downloadable', nearer the time at: windowwanderland.com/event/frome-2022/



Community Call to Help Protect Local Heritage



The Local Heritage List helps to protect buildings, sites and structures that local people regard as important - from medieval cottages to unusual postboxes. Somerset and Exmoor residents are being invited to nominate what's valuable in their community as part of a new project being delivered by the South West Heritage Trust. Somerset and Exmoor National Park were chosen by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as one of 22 national pilots for a Local Heritage List Project. The Local Heritage List is different from the national statutory list. It focuses on buildings, sites and structures that local people regard as important. Local listing will stop locally significant sites from being overlooked and will offer some increased protections through the planning system.

Mary Andrews, Local Heritage List Project Manager, said: "Anyone can have a say in deciding what's valuable to their community by nominating a site. Nominations might feature rare materials or historical connections and could be anything from a factory to a front doorstep, a postbox to a historic landscape. Places where important events took place, or where minority identities are celebrated, are also promising candidates. The key thing is that the site matters to the life and culture of the local community." There are several ways to make a nomination, including through the 'Know Your Place' website, or by post or email. Find out more at swheritage.org.uk/local-heritage-list.

Noticeboard

CARPET SPOT & STAIN TREATMENTS - HOME BASICS

Accidents will happen. As professional carpet cleaners, we see a huge variety of issues and cannot always fix what we find. That said, we see plenty of situations where hasty decisions have made simple spillages into disaster zones! In this short article, I'm going to try and outline some simple dos and don'ts for treating stains in your home. These tips are for wool, 80:20 and fully synthetic carpets. If you have an accident on sisal/seagrass or "bamboo silk" (viscose) - after you've blotted with a towel, you'd better call for divine intervention!

Firstly, the DON'TS... avoid panic and the actions associated with panic. These include researching "hacks" online and implementing the advice unquestioningly/scrubbing the stain hysterically/pouring liberal amounts of another liquid onto the stain in an attempt to counteract the problem. There is a lot of misinformation online, obviously. This includes nonsensical ideas about stain treatment. Scrubbing a carpet will cause permanent damage to the pile, particularly with a looped wool carpet. Adding lots more liquid to a stain can cause it to widen or cause some carpet backings to yield an additional brown stain (cellulosic browning).

Do not use Vanish or other off-the-shelf stain treatments, most of these products contain a form of bleaching agent. When you see the phrase "oxidising", think bleach. While these products can seem the answer you're looking for, they have the capacity to cause several additional problems. Namely:

- They can bleach/lighten your carpet, particularly if it has a wool content
- They will almost certainly leave a residue in the carpet, leading to accelerated resoiling in this area over time.

Now that we've dealt with the DON'T'S, what should you DO?

Step 1: Absorb the spillage using kitchen towels/old towels. Gently scrape up any solids using a blunt tool.

Step 2: Gently blot the area with a very mild solution of warm water & detergent. Do not scrub!

Step 3: Use more kitchen towels/old towels to absorb the remaining moisture. Leave on top & apply weight to aid absorption.

Granted this may well not remove serious coffee/wine stains, but it will help with most other types of stain. If you've just spilled a glass of red, you may need to wait until the next article... If you'd like some more detailed resources on this subject visit our website and browse the info in the "Stain Removal" section.

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk and 10 Parishioners

1. Public Participation:

Parishioners had been approached by Voneus asking them to sign up to ultrafast fibre broadband which was due to start coming to Rode in May/June. It was agreed no commitment should be made as superfast fibre was coming to Rode either via Voneus or Openreach and it was too early to enter into any agreements.

Old maps indicated there used to be two ponds on Barbara's Field and to reinstate these would help reduce flooding around Clay Lane. There were now grants for rewilding and the farmer could be encouraged to do this.

An issue over the safety of 5G was raised and the Parish Council (PC) was strongly encouraged to back other councils in Mendip asking for ten questions regarding the safety of 5G masts laid out in document circulated to the PC to be endorsed by the PC. Following discussion, it was agreed that this issue should be held over to the next meeting while Councillors made further investigations. There was some concern that Councillors did not have sufficient knowledge of 5G and only one side of the argument was being made.

The path from Church Farm had resulted in a number of glass bottles being dug up and left, these were dangerous and should be removed. It was questioned whether the black plastic on the sides was to be left as it is.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr B Lund and Cllr L Oliver.

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from County Councillor: In Cllr Oliver's report to Rode PC it was noted that Somerset was ranked number one Council in England for taking the lead on climate change.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund's report had nothing specific for Rode.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. Trees:** The Clerk reported that an inspection, by an independent tree expert, of the trees on Parish Council land was to be carried out on the next day.
- ii. Notice board:** The Clerk still had to order the new board.
- iii. Clock:** It was reported a roofer had given a quote for around £200 to investigate and repair the roof to free the clock mechanism. The meeting agreed a second quote for scaffolding should be obtained prior to progressing the work.
- iv. Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path is progressing and in place of the sleepers it had been proposed and agreed by the PC that a large diameter pipe in the drainage ditch would be used and the path continued over this. The gate and fence at the far end of the playing field were due to be installed in the next couple of weeks. Concern was expressed over the 'loose' plastic edging especially on the ploughed field side of the path and it was agreed the owner would be contacted to ensure an edge would be kept between the path and the ploughed field.
- v. Building in grounds of Coach House:** Information had been passed to Mendip District Council by Cllr Lund and Enforcement had given the owners 28 days to submit retrospective planning application for the new building.
- vi. Link:** Gill Leonard, the Editor, has been investigating the potential to create an on-line library of The Link and described the work to date in the February edition of the magazine. Coincidentally the issue of preserving old copies had been raised on the village Facebook site, and Jim McAuliffe had separately sought a quote for digitisation. The option of retaining a hard copy archive at Frome Museum was also raised. JM will revert to Gill Leonard, who is seeking feedback in relation to her ideas
- vii. Grit bin:** Discussions had been held with a resident of Providence Place and a possible site identified for a grit bin, however the site would need to be levelled. Confirmation of a suitable site from the residents was awaited before a bin was purchased.
- viii. Fingerposts:** The quotes for refurbishing the three remaining fingerposts were considered and it was agreed to proceed with refurbishing the one at the end of the High Street. The other two would be done in the next financial year and the Clerk agreed to progress this and request the quoted prices were maintained for this year.

8. Playing field: A new draft Constitution had been drawn up and thanks were given to Steve and Amanda Eyles and Peter Harris for doing this. The PC had a number of questions on this, most of which were addressed at the meeting. The draft had been drawn up closely following the Charities Commission's model;

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

but a few points required clarification and the solicitor who had been involved in the draft would be consulted over these. It was agreed this should be finalised at the March PC meeting.

9. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: Plans were already being made to have celebration held on Saturday 4th June on the playing field. There was support for the village putting on a major event for residents. The Parish Council agreed to make a considerable donation to the event. It was agreed that following a further meeting of the organising committee, to agree the programme of events and their costs, the PC contribution could be agreed by email to avoid any delays.

10. Highways:

i) Speed Indicator Devices: The data from the SID installed on Straight Lane in December had been circulated to the PC and these indicated that during the month there had been good compliance with the speed limit and minimal speeding.

A meeting still had to be arranged to progress the completion of a new Memorandum with Somerset.

ii) Speed limits: Somerset had informed Rode PC that the new 20mph speed limit in the village would not be installed in this financial year, this also included the work to install the new village signs and speed restriction changes on the A361.

iii) Drainage on Lower Street: Calm were aware of the issue and more cones had been put in place to protect any further damage to the drain; however, the repairs still had to be done.

11. Planning:

i) New applications:

2021/2921/HSE: Conversion of existing garage to form an annex – 69A High Street. Concerns had been expressed by parishioners over this application and it was agreed some Councillors would visit the site to determine the PC's position. [Note: After the site visit it was agreed Rode Parish Council would recommend rejection of the planning application.]

2022/0136/TCA: Pollard willow, reduce canopy of holm oak and sycamore, reduce height of a cypress and cut another down, prune magnolia and reduce height of birch – 16 High Street. No objections.

ii. Mendip decisions:

None

iii. Other:

Mendip Local Plan Part 2: Norton St Philip (NSP) had proceeded with the Judicial Review of Mendip's decision to include areas in NSP and Beckington in the LPP2 plans. Mendip had decided to defend their position against the Judicial Review. It was agreed PT would maintain contact with NSP on this issue and the PC would defer any decision at present.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Currently Mendip had a three and a half year housing supply; an update on this was due to be published later this month.

12. Climate Emergency: JM reported the working group had recently met and it had been agreed to survey residents to find out how seriously they take the issue and what they want to do regarding climate change. The working group would like people to plant more trees round the village as part of the Queen's Canopy initiative.

Mendip were currently consulting on a planning document to ensure more sustainable and reduced climate impact of any new buildings in the area.

He added that a recent seminar run by Somerset on climate change had highlighted the fact that non-political Parish Councils could do more than political town and district councils with regard to climate change initiatives.

13. Conservation area: AP reported he planned to circulate a proposal paper to the Parish Council for approval, probably for the April meeting. This would, after agreement, be submitted to a consultant for comment.

14. Buses: PT reported that he was active in the Bus Users and Stakeholders group which was working with Somerset to obtain government funding for improved bus services. Local buses through Rode had only had very minor time changes in January; a revised timetable could come in during April and if so, he asked for support to issue new timetables to all householders. This was agreed.

15. Financial matters:

Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Clerk Salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
W and R Arney (fencing)	£1502.40

16. Any other business:

a) It was agreed Planning Enforcement should be alerted to the buildings constructed on The Mead which appeared not to comply with planning regulations.

b) Due to lack of technical knowledge by members of the Parish Council on the issue of 5G the meeting further agreed that Rode PC should question Mendip over their safety guidelines on the installation of 5G masts.

17. Date of next meeting:

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

Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council

...and finally

WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where, in Hardington Vale, would you see this footpath post?

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

It was in the middle of Lullington.



Sudoku

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

Last month's Sudoku

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

POEMS OF THE MONTH

I wonder if the sap is stirring yet,
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:
Sing robin, sing:
I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring.

Christina Rossetti

Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty.

William Shakespeare



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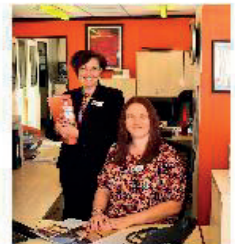
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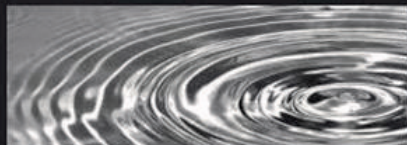
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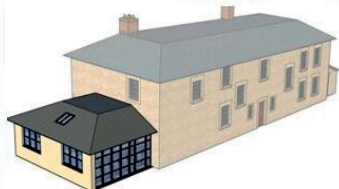
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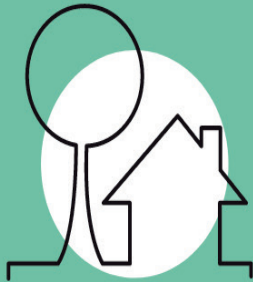
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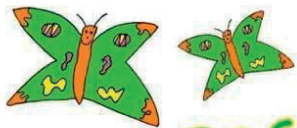
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gratefully received...

Hardington Vale Church Services – MARCH 2022

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	PREACHER
Tuesday 1 March	6.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 2 March ASH WEDNESDAY	8.30 am 6.00 pm 7.30 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer Norton St Philip, Holy Communion & Ashing	S Kivett
Thursday 3 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 6 March LENT	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Informal Breakfast Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion Laverton, Holy Communion Rode, Chapel, Meeting Place	A & S Filkins J Robinson/M Harrison C Walker
Monday 7 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 8 March	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 9 March	8.30 am 12.30 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Holy Communion Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 10 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 13 March	9.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Tellisford, Matins Rode St Lawrence, Informal Breakfast Norton St Philip, Holy Communion Laverton, Matins	A & S Filkins C Walker/B Day
Monday 14 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 15 March	6.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 16 March	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	
Thursday 17 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 20 March	9.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford, Morning Worship Norton St Philip, Mini Breakfast Church Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion Norton St Philip, Informal Worship Laverton, Matins	C Walker/M Harrison S Rodford C Walker M Walker/M Harrison
Monday 21 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 22 March	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 23 March	8.30 am 6.00 pm	Hemington, Morning Prayer Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 24 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 27 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Tellisford, Holy Communion Rode St Lawrence, Informal Mother's Day Service Norton St Philip, Informal Mother's Day Service Laverton, Matins	C Walker M Walker/S Kivett C Walker/S Rodford
Monday 28 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 29 March	6.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	

MARCH 2022 DIARY

Tue 1 Mar	Shrove Tuesday
Fri 4 Mar	11.25-11.55am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode NB Changed from Mondays
Sun 6 Mar	9.00am Scouts Rode Car Boot see page 40 10-2pm Rode Grows and Shares see page 20 for details
Mon 7 Mar	NB No Monday Lunch Club this month see page 36
Tue 8 Mar	10am Rode Walking Group see page 35 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 56 for details
Fri 11 Mar	Over 60's Members Dinner see page 35 for details
Mon 14 Mar	2.30pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 40 for details 7.00pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 34 for details
Fri 18 Mar	7pm Rode Roxy see page 13 & 41 for details
Sat 19 Mar	2pm Plantathon 2 see page 14 for details
Tue 22 Mar	APRIL LINK COPY DEADLINE
Wed 23 Mar	2.30pm Rode Ladies Group see page 36 for details
Sun 27 Mar	1am British Summer Time begins - Clocks go forward one hour Mother's Day
Thu 31 Mar	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 20 for details

FORWARD PLANNER

Mon 4 Apr	Monday Lunch Club see page 36
Fri 8 Apr	Over 60's see page 35 for details
Sun 10 Apr	Rode Spring Clean see page 41
Fri 15 Apr	BANK HOLIDAY Good Friday
Sun 17 Apr	Easter Sunday
Mon 18 Apr	BANK HOLIDAY Easter Monday
Wed 20 Apr	2-3pm Caterpillar Pop Up Club see page 28 for details
28/29/30 Apr	"Toad of Rode pantomime see page 12 for details
Mon 2 May	BANK HOLIDAY Early May Bank Holiday
Fri 5 May	Parish Council Elections
Thu 2 Jun	BANK HOLIDAY Spring Bank Holiday
Fri 3 Jun	BANK HOLIDAY Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday
Sat 4 Jun	Rode Platinum Jubilee Bank Party see page 19 for details
Sun 19 Jun	Rode Open Gardens see page 20 for details



Mar 2022

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

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Contact Sue – H.V. Children's Worker if you need more details
E: kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk T: 01373 812766

**Please send copy for the April 2022 issue of 'The Link'
via email to gillhlleonard@aol.com latest Tuesday 22nd March 2022.**

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