

# The Link

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



**MAY 2021**

Buses, Drainage Survey & R.P.F. Updates

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Have Your Say – Respond To Local & National Surveys!

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Friday In The Park Is Back & News On One Parish Fete

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Details of Seedling Share Event...

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

**£1**

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## The Parish Of Hardington Vale

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

## Rode Chapel – Baptist - Methodist

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

## Keyholders

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

## Community Transport & Local Government

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

## Other Useful Contacts Details

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

## Useful Community Contact Details

| Organisation  | Contact Name                          | Contact Number  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Allotments - Rode Rode Gardens Association                            | Lucy Travis (Chair)                   | 831726/Lucy_travis@hotmail.com  |
| Buddy Scheme (Rode)   | Mike Salmon                           | 831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com   |
| Choir - One Voice   | Lee Ingram                            | 825058/07766 244321   |
| Community Speed Watch (CSW)   | Malcolm Wood                          | 830301/mwood17@uwclub.net   |
| Crafts Group - Meet Mondays 2.30pm @ Rode Chapel                      | Alison Hughes                         | 830244  |
| Cricket Club (NSP) Youth & Senior                                     | Mark Finch                            | 07876 191100  |
| Friends of Rode and Norton Schools (FRANS)                            | Brandon Quentin-Hicks (Joint Chair)   | brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk<br>07867 545720                                 |
| Gardening: Rode & District Gardening Club Meet 2nd Monday @ Rode Hall | Averil Morrow                         | 830686<br>averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk                                       |
| Ladies Group (Rode) Meet 4th Thursday 7.30pm @ Rode Hall              | Pat Banwell                           | 831139  |
| Lunch Club (Over 60's) Meet 1st Monday @ Rode Hall                    | Alex Sing                             | Asing_homeandgardens@hotmail.com<br>830836                                |
| Memorial Hall (Rode)  | Bookings:<br>Kate Robinson            | rodehall@bananasoft.net<br>evenings only 830202 www.rodevillagehall.co.uk |
| NSP Pre-School  | Dawn Strand                           | admin@nortonpreschool.co.uk/834791  |
| Old School Room Farleigh Hungerford                                   | Dilys McKechnie                       | 01225 754925  |
| Over 60's Meet 2nd Thursday   | Pat Smith                             | 830559  |
| Parish Council - Rode Meet 1st Tuesday                                | Hugh Williams (Parish Clerk)          | Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com<br>rodeparishcouncil.webs.com           |
| Parish Paths Liaison Officer  | Caro Smith                            | caro.a.smith@gmail.com/830911   |
| Photography Club (NSP) Meet bimonthly 2nd Tuesday                     | Tony Day                              | 01373 834438/tonyjday22@gmail.com   |
| Playing Field/Pavilion (Rode)   | Bookings:<br>Chair: Nigel Clarke      | rodepfbookings@gmail.com<br>biz.nibex@btinternet.com                      |
| Post Office (Rode)  | Demi Ward                             | 830321  |
| RANS Running & Walking Club<br>www.facebook.com/TeamRANS              | Brandon Quentin-Hicks                 | brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk<br>07867 545720                                 |
| Rode & NSP First School Federation                                    | Headteacher:<br>Georgina Muxworthy    | 830523  |
| Rodevillage.com Website & Twitter Feed                                | George Berry                          | info@rodevillage.com<br>http://twitter.com/rodevillage                    |
| Rotary Gift Shoeboxes   | Sarah Gurr<br>Nicky Robinson-Moore    | 07801 286997/sarahgurr26@hotmail.com<br>07734 110353                      |
| 1st Rode Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs & Beavers) Mon/Wed in term time    | Group Scout Leader:<br>Howard Russell | hdrussello1@gmail.com<br>830640   |
| Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday in term time            | Marcus Bradshaw                       | explorers@rodevillage.com<br>07713 165312                                 |
| Sewing Group (NSP)  | Hilary Bodger                         | 834444  |
| Ukulele Group   | Ray Floyd                             | 07847 051245  |
| Village Agent   | Nic Edwards                           | 07946 461468/ nicolae@somersetccc.org.uk                                  |
| Walking Group Meet 1st Thursday 10 a.m.                               | Liz Dinnis                            | elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com/07788 656337                                  |
| <b>THE LINK</b>   |                                       |   |
| Copy for the magazine & adverts Distribution/Subscriptions            | Gill Leonard<br>Caroline Williams     | 831072/link@rodevillage.com<br>831046/link@rodevillage.com                |

# Church Reflection & News

## REFLECTION

Somewhat surprisingly, it's now not far off a year since I first moved to Rode. It has been a strange time to join a new community, what with a ban on meeting people for a lot of the time and all, but it has, nevertheless, been an interesting few months. I do hope that you are able to enjoy the gradual easing of restrictions as we come out of Lockdown and have more opportunities to meet with friends and family again.



As we are gradually recovering some of the freedoms that a lot of us took for granted pre-Covid, I've also been reflecting on the way in which it has opened up new opportunities for me too - and that has largely been thanks to the technology we are blessed with. One of my passions is social justice, in fact I'm so passionate about it I moved from full-time ministry to part-time ministry so that I could spend time doing a PhD which looks at ways of enabling the church to be more active in the social justice arena. Long before I ever thought about being a vicar-type person, I've seen part of my personal vocation as being to speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves - which it turned out is a phrase that comes from the bible, but it was years before I discovered that at theological college! It comes from Proverbs 31 and says:

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.  
Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

Over the years I've become increasingly committed to working in the areas of social and environmental justice - areas which are intertwined. Environmental justice is inherently linked to social justice as it is generally the poorer populations of this world who are most directly impacted by climate change. For me, living with a focus on justice means trying to make ethical decisions in how I live my daily life but also joining with others in challenging injustice in all sorts of ways - and working *together* is crucial in this area if bigger changes are to be achieved. The pandemic has actually made that easier in some ways. I've been involved in social and environmental justice meetings that I wouldn't otherwise have been able to get to. So I have learned a lot more and met many others all working towards the same outcome of a more just society.

Just one of those ways has been through doing more training and going to more meetings with Citizens UK. CUK are a community organising group that is a people powered alliance dedicated to challenging injustice and building stronger communities. These alliances are made up of faith communities, charities, schools, health trusts, and other organisations all working together. And they actually go a step further than just speaking up for others - they

## Church Reflection & News

empower others to have a voice in making decisions that affect them and in finding solutions for the real issues and injustices that they face. It was CUK who introduced the idea of a real living wage and also them who initially challenged the injustice of child refugees living alone in desperate circumstances and being separated from their relatives here in the UK. They created a coalition to deal with this issue that ultimately led to the setting up of the charity Safe Passage - which is a charity that is supported by this parish. I love it when things come together!

Much of my life is centered on working towards social justice and enabling others to do that too so that the world might gradually be transformed. Ultimately, I think, my passion for social justice comes from a belief that this world and all the people in it are so precious that we have to care for each other and our planet in every way we can. If you are passionate about any area of social or environmental justice too, it would be great to hear from you and maybe chat about it over a cup of coffee.

*Alex Holmes*

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### NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

The sun came out for us on Easter Sunday and we were at full capacity (30, in these socially distanced times) to celebrate the joy of the resurrection. You may have heard the bells ringing on Easter Sunday morning – the first time that more than one bell had been rung in the tower since last October. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces in church and to be able to enjoy Becky and Steve's beautiful music – live!

The church looked absolutely lovely with the Easter flowers arranged by Sandy and her team. Outside the church there was a lovely ethereal decoration on the large wooden cross, a beautiful yellow and white cross on the north door, the Easter garden just inside the church and many beautifully arranged decorations of predominantly yellow and white flowers. It certainly was a sight to behold. As the church remains cool, the flowers managed to last until our next Service two weeks later so we were able to enjoy them all over again. Hopefully as restrictions gradually ease we may be able to ease restrictions in church too and we will keep you informed as this happens.

You may have heard us tolling the tenor bell earlier in April. The bell was tolled ninety-nine times to commemorate the life of Prince Philip at midday on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Andy (my husband) rang the bell and I had the easier job of checking he tolled it the right amount of times!

*Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell*

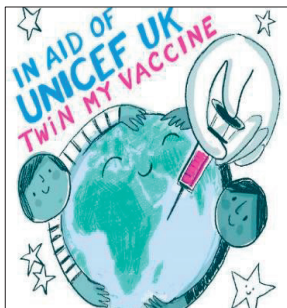
# Church Reflection & News

## ST. LAWRENCE OCCASIONAL OFFICES

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 Funeral Service for Audrey Harries followed by burial in the churchyard.

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### H.V. CAMPAIGN TO HELP VACCINATE WORLD'S POOREST



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

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

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

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

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

The Parish of Hardington Vale are backing the idea and invite you to support this initiative. If you have the financial resources and would like to donate, you can do so on: [justgiving.com/fundraising/hardington-vale](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hardington-vale)

Find out more about how UNICEF is working with the World Health Organisation to distribute vaccines to the very poorest in the world through the COVAX programme:

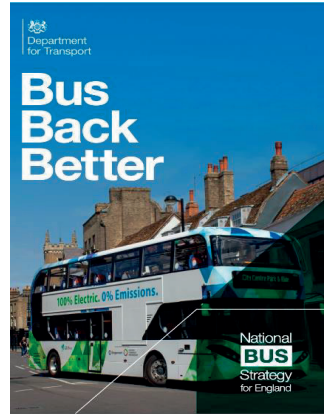
[www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covax](https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covax)



## NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMERSET BUSES

The UK Government has just launched a new national bus strategy for England entitled Bus Back Better. The Government's believes 'buses are the easiest, cheapest and quickest way to improve transport'.

This national Bus Strategy is backed by £3 billion of new funding and forms a key plank in the Government's twin agenda of "Levelling Up" and "ensuring the economy meets Net Zero carbon emissions". This is the biggest change in buses in the last 30 years! As Co-Chair of Somerset Bus Partnership and a Chair of Frome and Villages Bus User Group I feel this new national bus strategy and its extra funding gives us in Somerset the chance to deliver major improvements in the County's bus services. Somerset now needs to seize this unique opportunity.



The newly formed Somerset Bus Partnership is supported both by Councillors and by bus user groups across Somerset and it will seek to work with local town and parish councils and with Somerset County Council to input into a Bus Enhancement Partnership for Somerset that incorporates both what current bus users need and take steps to facilitate more Somerset residents to switch from using private cars to travel by bus.

At 10 journeys per resident, Somerset currently has the fourth lowest bus passenger journeys per population in England. It is the lowest in the South West. Bus passenger journeys in Somerset have decreased by more than some 40% over the past decade. Said Peter Travis, "The new Bus Strategy provides the funding to reverse this decline in passenger numbers in Somerset and see Somerset playing its part in the Government's levelling up and green agendas by launching a Bus Enhancement Initiative for Somerset. Somerset needs to commit to this initiative by June 2021."

We are looking for bus users or people who may be interested in buses or concerned about the Climate Emergency who would like to join in and help work out how we can take advantage of Bus Back Better. Do please get in contact via the below contact details:

*Peter Travis*

Somerset Bus Partnership

T: 01373 831726 E: SBPMendip@outlook.com

# Parish News

## R.P.F. BIGGER AND BETTER

In my March article I outlined the Trustees' approach to adoption of the land granted to the parish as part of the Section 106 provisions attached to the Church farm development.



As mentioned, we intended to produce a plan for the land's development as a community orchard and wildlife area. The plan has been published to Rode Parish Council, as landowner, and to a few people who have expressed an interest in supporting the Trustees. The plan itself should be available for everyone to view via Rode Village Facebook if you want to have a look at how we're intending to go ahead with the project (if you are not Facebook user and would like information, please contact me).

Just one thing to note, the design shown at the beginning of the plan is just a concept: a starting point for the development, consequently it may look different once the project is completed. Why is this? Well, how things are laid out will depend on what we find once we start work so the plan has been kept relatively simple allowing us to adapt the design in the light of reality. Anyway, more on this in future articles.

**A Great Green Space** - With the lovely weather that we've recently enjoyed it's been great to see the playing field being well used. There have been picnics; people hanging out for a chat in the sun; families enjoying impromptu football and cricket and a few just soaking up the sun. Just one small thing. All users of the playing field need to be assured that the grounds are safe so, a brief reminder to use the rubbish bins provided or take your litter home with you for recycling please. Also, a quick reminder that dogs are not allowed on the playing field as we really do need to keep the playing surfaces clean and clear of dog fouling.

**It Costs Money!** Some may not be aware that the playing field is run by a managing charity, so we have to raise money for upkeep of the grounds and equipment. We do pretty well, thanks in no small part to our lottery, Rode Parish Council support and generous donations. However, the income is not keeping pace with the growth in dilapidation sadly.

The Trustees check the playing field pretty regularly to ensure it's safe, but pressure is increasing as equipment, ground works and buildings age. Just recently the reason for buckling of the tarmac adjacent to the scout hut has been identified as water getting under the surface. Again, it's quite safe but indicates a significant amount of work will need doing to repair it.



# Parish News

The Trustees are undertaking a review of all the facilities to ascertain the extent of dilapidation and estimate the cost of work needed to improve the facilities.

**Enjoy the Sunshine** - Bit by bit we're coming out of Lockdown. There's plenty of fresh air and open space to enjoy in the sunshine at the playing field. It's free for non-commercial use! From the 17<sup>th</sup> May we can start meeting in small groups indoors – groups of 6 or two households. All being well, from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact. Things are getting better.

*Nigel Clarke*

T: 01373 830594 E: biz.nibex@btinternet.com

## RODE DRAINAGE SURVEY - BRIEF UPDATE

Calm Engineering, on behalf of Mendip District Council and the Somerset Rivers Authority, would like to extend our thanks to the residents of Rode for your co-operation and support during the recent survey work in the village. The survey team remarked on how smoothly the survey progressed and how they had never worked within a community that was so engaged and helpful. We were able to access all the areas we needed to complete this part of the survey.

We were able to clean the drainage network of sediment (using the giant vacuum on the back of a tanker) and, where possible, to flush out any limescale build-up within the culverted watercourses. This has already improved the capacity of the drainage network.

We identified several manhole covers that needed replacing and liaised with Wessex Water to undertake this work whilst the road closures were in place. There were a total of 5 manhole covers replaced: 4 on the High Street and 1 at the bottom of Church Lane.

We await the full results from the survey, which we will hope to provide in an update next month. Please note that there will be some additional surveys undertaken on the watercourse and attenuation ponds upstream of the village during May (scheduled to start w/c 10th). There should be no disruption to the village during these works.

Many thanks for your continued support on this project.



# Parish News

## LIKE TO ORGANISE RODE'S BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL?

Sadly, our Rode Poppy Appeal Organiser of many years, Alan Batcheldor, has reluctantly had to stand down from the role due to ill health.



During his time as Organiser Alan and his team have taken the totals collected by Rode to new heights.

Along with Alan I do hope that someone will come forward to be Rode's new Poppy Appeal Organiser and continue to help Rode support this very worthy cause. This would also mean that Alan will not have to worry any further about the 2021 Rode Poppy Appeal (which I know he is) and can concentrate on his health.

If you would like to find out more, please call (01373 831395) or email (alanbatcheldor@btinternet.com) Alan, he will be delighted to discuss what exactly is involved with you.

A big thank you to Alan for his hard work through the years, it has been much appreciated and all good wishes for the future.

I do hope that I will be introducing Alan's successor in our next issue...

*Gill Leonard*  
Editor

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## RODE AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL AGM 2021

Got something to say about your village hall?

Ideas, feedback and new committee members always welcome. Come along to the hall Annual General Meeting and give us your input.

It is on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30 pm in the main hall Government guidelines permitting – if this is not possible, we will hold it on Zoom, access details will be publicised.



# Parish News

## DEFIBRILLATOR – PHONE BOX, HIGH STREET, RODE

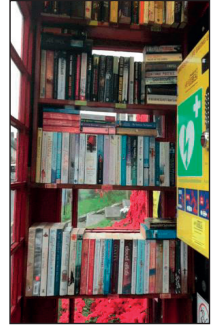
On 14 April the Defibrillator was required for an emergency in Laverton. The clutter on the floor in the phone box made it much more difficult to access the defibrillator from its cabinet.

**PLEASE** can you not leave **ANYTHING** on the floor in the phone box. If it doesn't fit on the shelves, then please take it away. Also, when it rains, the floor gets wet.

There are many ancient and long out of date, damaged books being left. Please dispose of them yourselves and don't use this lovely facility as a dumping ground for unwanted literature. Charity shops and the Tip are open again! Please just leave your favourite reads for others to enjoy.

Thank You.

*Lizzy Etheridge*



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## NORTON ST PHILIP CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE!!

As a result of upgrading the central area of the church to offer a variety of uses, we're disposing of the pews in this area.

They are top quality solid oak pews made in the 1800's. All have oak panelled backs. The end panels have ornate detailing with plinth and cappings.



The larger pews can be cut to size to fit your exact requirements-contact one of the excellent carpenters advertising in The Link - and the surplus oak timber would make excellent table tops or benches!!

| Number of pews available | Overall length in mm | Price each collected |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1                        | 2230                 | £260                 |
| 3                        | 3100                 | £300                 |
| 4                        | 4630                 | £350                 |

For full details of size, features and availability please contact Chris Cloke on 01373 834917.

NOTE - Special offer on pews 3100 and 4630 long - buy 1, get one half price!!!

# Parish News

## BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST CITIZEN SCIENCE EVENT

There has been a lot in the news recently about the condition of our rivers. We're very lucky to have the beautiful Somerset Frome on our doorstep....it's not only a haven for wildlife, but also a recreational resource for anglers, kayakers and swimmers.



The quality of the water is vital for the wildlife, and for other (human) users! The good news is that we can all play a part in understanding and improving the quality of our local river....

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) will be running their annual Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring event this summer and are seeking river enthusiasts to take part. Throughout July BART aim to collect as many samples from the rivers, streams and lakes of the Bristol Avon catchment to help gain a snapshot of water quality.

BART will supply free water testing kits to volunteers which can be used to measure nutrient levels in a water sample taken from a chosen waterbody; In high concentrations nutrients can impact the local wildlife which depends on a healthy river.

The presence of nutrients may indicate a pollution event nearby or ongoing issues from land management, sewage outfalls or urban pressures. The results will help BART target their conservation work.

George Clark, BART Project Manager, said:

“Rivers and streams are the arteries of our planet but they face serious challenges. Within the Bristol Avon Catchment, including the Somerset Frome and its tributaries, we often see nutrient pollution entering watercourses and degrading these important ecosystems and impacting the species that inhabit them. Therefore it is increasingly important to carry out monitoring and work together for rivers.”



“The citizen science event is a great opportunity to get back outside after months of Lockdown and connect with your favourite local river or newly discovered stream. Volunteers can take an active role in scientific monitoring, helping us understand the water quality issues in our communities and to help protect these precious environments.”

Individuals or groups can get involved in the event and BART would like to encourage schools and community groups to take part too. To register your interest in the event please get in touch with George via email ([george@bristolavonriverstrust.org](mailto:george@bristolavonriverstrust.org)) and he will share the sign up page with you when it goes live in June.



We will have a distribution point in Rode for the test kits – more info on that in the June edition!

*Jim McAuliffe*

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## NEW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE FOR RODE

The first afternoon D2s from Bath schools came through Rode on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

For many months, despite the best efforts of bus campaigners, there has been no afternoon D2s School Bus to bring Rode pupils back from Bath schools, even though there has long been a morning D2s school bus that takes them to Bath.



Finally, late last month, First accepted our argument that Rode needed an afternoon school bus to bring back to Rode those school children they took to Bath schools in the mornings.

The D2s school buses were introduced following the Covid pandemic. They are exclusively for school students because as long as they sit in school/class bubbles and wear face masks, there isn't the same requirement to be socially distanced as there is on the normal D2 and so a lot more school children can be transported on each bus.

By the way, if in the morning, you might have been surprised to see the convoy of yellow and brown D2 buses going along Rode's High Street and thought, 'You wait ages for a bus and then three come at once', that'll be the D2s and plus two D2 buses. Because of limited passenger numbers allowed on each D2 bus, to carry all those who need to get to Bath in the rush hour, First have to put on two buses. The same happens in the evening rush hour too.

*Lucy Travis*

# Parish News

## HELP DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HELP YOU



DEVON &  
SOMERSET  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

*We are trying to understand the risks our different communities face so we can work to prevent incidents from happening and ensure we have the right resources in place to tackle local risks.*

### Your voice matters

**We would like to hear what you think the risks are within your local community. You have until 20 May to tell us what you think.**

Please scan the QR code



or follow  
<http://bit.ly/haveyoursayCRMP>  
to complete the online survey.

For more information please visit  
[www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/HaveYourSay](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/AboutUs/HaveYourSay)  
or call **01392 261287**



Like many organisations, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has a range of statutory responsibilities we need to undertake in order to manage the risk to our communities.

At the same time, we have broadened our offer to partners wherever we can as we recognise that there are some complex issues, such as reducing the impact of mental health, that require leaders to work together to solve some difficult societal problems.

As such, we are undertaking our regular strategic review of the risks that we might face in the future and what the future landscape might look like in terms of infrastructure as well as societal trends.

This will be reflected in a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), formerly known as an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which will run from April 2022 until 2027.

Before developing the draft CRMP, we are gathering views from people and partners across Devon and Somerset. These views will give us an understanding of what you and residents feel are local risks that we need to consider as well as perceptions of the fire and rescue service and its role within our counties.

# Parish News

## RODE GROWS AND SHARES UPCOMING EVENTS

**Seedling Share** - Sunday 16 May, 10- 2pm, outside 25 High Street, Rode. Following on from our February share, we will be hosting a seedling share event for any surplus flower/veg/herb seedlings outside our house - plants will be free, but we will have a donation pot for those that wish to donate. Donations will be made to a charity suggested by members and confirmed before the event.

We'll also have a box for any spare seed packets, there'll be some gardening books too. Hand sanitizer will be provided - please keep a safe distance when visiting. Do you think you'll have surplus seedlings or seeds to donate? If you do, that would be amazing! Donated plants can be dropped off before the day - I'll look after them until the 16th - just let me know in advance. Seedlings can be dropped off before 10am on 16<sup>th</sup> May, giving me time to set everything out.

If you'd like to pick up some locally grown seedlings for your garden or allotment please do come down and join us. We'd love to see you on Sunday 16 May!

**Rode in Bloom** – We'll be jointly organising this with Rode and District Gardening Club and Rode Allotment Society - encouraging more planting across Rode for both our pleasure and for wildlife - with a competition element to make things more fun! Details to follow in due course - do let me know if you're interested in taking part and shaping it, we'd love to have you on board. Late autumn last year I planted up a galvanised tub full of spring flowering bulbs, in the last few months it's been giving me so much pleasure, others have told me they've really enjoyed it too, which makes me so happy. It didn't cost a lot, perhaps £30 and has definitely been worth the money and effort. I'd love to see more planting across Rode and am so excited to be co-organising 'Rode in Bloom' - more info and details in due course!



**Giant Sunflower Competition** – I'm so pleased with the interest in the competition - now fully subscribed with all competition seeds distributed - 43 individual entries plus 5 classes from Rode and Norton Federation School. All those entered should have received my initial email end of February with full competition info and growing tips. I just want to flag up that if you haven't yet sowed your seed, I recommend you now sow the seed directly and by the end of May. I wish you all the best of luck, can't wait to see your giant sunflowers!

*Julia Robb*

E: [juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk). T: 07527 918314

# Parish News

## SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

**Future Parish, Town and City Council Meetings:** The government announced on 25th March that the Coronavirus regulations allowing for remote Parish, town and City Council meetings would not be extended beyond 6th May 2021. This effectively means that all Council meetings scheduled for 7th May or later will have to be held in public, face-to-face. No provision is available for remote attendance including mixed hybrid (part attendance) meetings. A legal challenge has been launched by Hertfordshire County Council but this will not be heard until later in April and planning should now be made to either pull forward meetings before 7th May, postpone meetings or determine Covid secure meeting facilities for the Council and Members of the public. The Government have launched a consultation on allowing remote or hybrid meetings on a permanent basis via their website: [gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence).

**Road Map Out of Lockdown:** Enjoy the great outdoors responsibly now that restrictions are easing, it's important to keep following the rules while still enjoying the new freedoms – and sunny weather. Please keep travel to a minimum, avoid unnecessary journeys and try to combine trips if that's possible. If you need to travel, walk or cycle where possible, and plan ahead to avoid busy times and routes if you use public transport. This will allow you to practise social distancing while you travel. If you need to use public transport, you should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers, visit [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). There is also advice on accessing green spaces safely,

**Lateral Flow Tests** - For people who do not have symptoms, around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms. Lateral flow testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms but who may still be spreading the virus. Rapid testing is now being offered to everyone, with people encouraged to take regular tests (twice a week) to help prevent outbreaks and reclaim a more normal way of life. You can find out how to book a regular lateral flow test if you do not have symptoms here.

**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.

**Highways Awards:** The multi-million pound M5 Junction 25 upgrade project won prestigious Project of the Year and Collaboration Awards at the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transport South West Awards 2021. SCC also received the Innovation Award for traffic modelling on the Toneway Scheme.

*Linda Oliver*

County Councillor, Frome North Division  
T: 834210





## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR MAY

### **Countryside Planning Matters:**

As you can imagine a wide variety of planning issues have come up in my relatively short tenure as ward councillor. Given the season I thought it might be useful to highlight a couple about our relationship with the countryside on our doorstep.



### **Removal of Hedges:**

It is against the law to remove most countryside hedges without first seeking permission. According to the 1997 Hedgerows Regulations it is an offence to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. "Important hedges" are any hedgerow more than 30 years old that are valuable because of the mix of species they contain, or because they have historic significance.

Hedges are also protected if they grow in, or next, to land used for farming, forestry or horses with a continuous length of 20m or more; or with a continuous length of less than 20m but meets another hedge at each end.

Removing a hedgerow can lead to potentially unlimited fines if the breach is deemed serious enough to be heard in the Crown Court.

In addition, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits damage to the nest of any wild bird, while that nest is in use or being built, which effectively makes the removal or trimming of a hedgerow an offence in the nesting season, 1 March to 31 August.

Here is a link to a very readable article in Farmers Weekly:  
[www.fwi.co.uk/business/compliance/top-tips-on-staying-legal-when-removing-hedges](http://www.fwi.co.uk/business/compliance/top-tips-on-staying-legal-when-removing-hedges)

### **Planning Permission to Use a Paddock or Field as Part of a Garden:**

You need planning permission if you live next to a parcel of agricultural land, paddock land or a field and would like to use it as part of your garden or for other domestic purposes. This is because it constitutes a material change of use, as set out in section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Enough of dry (even if very important) legislation - I hope you are all enjoying our glorious outdoors and have a happy and productive May.

*Barbi Lund*

MDC Councillor for the ward of Rode and Norton St Philip

# Parish News

## LAVERTON NEWS

As I sit in the spring evening sunshine writing this month's Laverton News, a glass of wine in hand, it really does feel as if the warm summer evenings are just around the corner...

And talking of summer - a date for your diaries!

**St Mary's Laverton Church Fete** - Saturday 31st July - 10.30am in the churchyard (weather permitting). Come along for a coffee with your friends, buy some local produce, stock up your bookshelf and buy some 'old tat' to help clear the Egg House! We really missed you all last year – it's such a fun annual event. All are welcome.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Some of the Laverton children (and their parents!) enjoyed a brilliant afternoon in the Easter sunshine hunting for eggs!

Their baskets were full!



**The Swallows Return** - As we passed by Manor Farm a couple of weeks ago, we were intrigued as to why Gilli was gazing up into the barn. It turns out the swallows were starting to return to Manor Farm, something they have done for many a year! Gilli has actually kept a really comprehensive record of their arrival from warmer climes (see below) and it is fascinating that they appear around the same date in April each year, give or take a week!

Swallows Arrival at Manor Farm Laverton:

|      |                        |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|------|------------------------|
| 2006 | 18 <sup>th</sup> April | 2014 | 10 <sup>th</sup> April |
| 2007 | 6 <sup>th</sup> April  | 2015 | 10 <sup>th</sup> April |
| 2008 | 20 <sup>th</sup> April | 2016 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  |
| 2009 | 13 <sup>th</sup> April | 2017 | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| 2010 | 17 <sup>th</sup> April | 2018 | 18 <sup>th</sup> April |
| 2011 | 8 <sup>th</sup> April  | 2019 | 19 <sup>th</sup> April |
| 2012 | 20 <sup>th</sup> April | 2020 | 8 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| 2013 | 14 <sup>th</sup> April | 2021 | 10 <sup>th</sup> April |

*Jackie Moss*

## 200 CLUB

A big, big thanks to all members who have renewed their membership and to all NEW members that have joined the club this year. This is a vital source of income for the group of which we are very grateful for your support.



1<sup>st</sup> Rode (Scout Group)

The February and March draws have now taken place, the results are as follows:

February

1st prize £50 - Tina Ellis

2nd prize £25 - Jim McAuliffe

March

1st prize £50 - Wendy Could

2nd prize £25 - Clive Upshall

Thank you to Demi at the Post office for drawing the lucky numbers.

*Jan Jupp*

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## PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Finally, it seems that we will be able return to The Cross Keys to do the monthly draw but the March draw was again done by an independent neighbour.



Playing Field Lottery winners in March 2021:

1<sup>st</sup> - £50.00... Mrs. R. Dymond, Rode.

2<sup>nd</sup> - £25.00... Gary Holloway, Rode.

3<sup>rd</sup> - £25.00... The Duncan Family, Rode.

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 and two Sunday roasts (when The Cross Keys is back to normal), all possible for £1.00 per ticket!

And remember you are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket. Tickets on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I.

Next draws, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April in The Cross Keys garden and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May... inside the pub!! If anyone would like to witness the draw from a suitable social distance, then please feel free to do so. If you would like to do the draw, just ask.

*Keith Sharman*

T: 830408

# Parish News

## POLICE ALERTS

### **30/03/2021 9788 Somerset: Buying & Selling on Social Media / Online Platforms:**

We are seeing an increase in burglaries from garages and sheds where the offenders are clearly seeking out motorcycles, specifically dirt bikes such as KTM & Yamaha.

It appears that a number of these bikes have been listed for sale on social media platforms, where a potential buyer arranges to view the vehicle but then doesn't turn up. Not surprisingly, a day or so later the Garage / Shed is broken into and an attempt is made to steal the bike, or it is stolen.



If you are considering selling your vehicle - or any expensive item - follow the guidance provided on the website. Do not automatically assume it is safe to pass over your address details and or photos of your vehicle outside of your garage, especially if it shows your street name and garage number. If you do so and the purchaser doesn't turn up, be aware and pay close attention to the item you are selling and the security of the location it is stored.

Sadly, this may not just affect you. If your garage is broken into, your neighbour is likely to be targeted and may also sustain damage to their garage.

Remember, whenever you place an advert, you are also advertising what you have to steal. Read the guidance provided by the website carefully, and ask yourself if you really need to provide your address or do you meet somewhere public nearby? Always meet any prospective buyers in a well-lit, public area.

**01/04/21 9788 Somerset – Caravan Security:** As the restrictions around Covid-19 are being eased and many people are looking at “Staycations” rather than holidays aboard, caravans are becoming increasingly popular. Unfortunately, criminals have also noticed this, so please take steps to increase the security of your vans.

Secured By Design is the official police security initiative which provides a recognised standard for all security products, and a recent addition to this listing is Caravan iD.

This scheme provides an individual identification number for your caravan and motorhome that can be checked to see if it has been stolen. For more information, visit their website at <https://caravanid.com/>

Other similar products are also available on the SBD website [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com). All these products are police approved products.

# Parish Youth News & Events

## NORTON ST PHILIP PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE

The sun is shining and we are all really happy to be back at Pre-school for the Summer Term. Several kind people have been working hard over the Easter holidays to revamp our play areas and toy storage and it all looks brilliant!

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Haven Timber, Dean Perry of Perry Landscape Services and Richy Trott of Holbourne Removals who have all given generously of their time and resources to help us clear away our old broken shed and redesign our outside areas.



We really appreciate your help and the children are loving the wonderful new sandpit and having more space in which to play!

Thank you also to Co-op's Local Community Fund for their support towards our outside area improvement project. The children are particularly enjoying the new obstacle course equipment which includes planks, crates and tyres for the children to build with and create.

We are happy to welcome five new children who are starting at Pre-school this term, we hope you will enjoy your time with us.

Did you know that although we only take children from two years old, you can put your child's name down for Pre-school at any age, as soon as you know that you would like them to attend. As the Pre-school is usually oversubscribed, registering early is the best way to maximise the chance of your child being offered a place at the time that you would like them to start attending sessions with us. For more information or to register your child, please email [info@nortonpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@nortonpreschool.co.uk) or check out our website: [nortonpreschool.co.uk](http://nortonpreschool.co.uk).

*Norton Pre-school Team*

# Parish Youth News & Events

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER NEWS

Dear families, I hope you all had a lovely Easter especially as we can begin to meet our families and friends outside again. I have started, along with Caroline and Jo, visiting Norton St. Philip and Rode First schools for assemblies and it has been wonderful to receive such a joyous welcome from the children and staff on both sites.



**Tots and Toys:** I am now able to offer (started 21<sup>st</sup> April) outdoor babes and toddlers as a pre-cursor to ‘Tots and Toys’ re opening in St. Philip and St. James Church in NSP.

We cannot use the church at the moment as there is a lot of work being undertaken to remove pews and put in a new floor and heating. So, each Wednesday from 9.30-11.00am I will host an ‘outdoor meet and greet’ for parents and carers with babes and toddlers.



This will take place on The Mead at NSP in the enclosed play park at the top end of The Mead. Parents and carers will need to bring picnic rugs for their children to sit on and maybe a camp chair for yourselves, also refreshments and some toys for your child. There will be stories, parachute games and we can now have outdoor singing as well! We’re hoping that if all the building work goes to plan to re-open ‘Tots and Toys’ in St. Philip and St. James Church from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am-11am.

The Covid restrictions we are working under at the moment may have been relaxed even more by then. I am working on an up to date Covid guidelines risk assessment for opening our indoor ‘Tots and Toys’ and I will send this out to parents and carers who are on our register and you will also be able to find this information on the ‘Children and Family Worker News’ on the parish website: [hardingtonvale.org.uk](http://hardingtonvale.org.uk). If you would like to register for ‘Tots and Toys’ so that we can easily contact you, please send an email to [kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk](mailto:kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk) or leave me a phone message on 01373 812766. At ‘Tots and Toys’ we welcome 0-5 year olds and their parents, grandparents and other carers. We are usually open every Wednesday morning throughout the year except for Christmas. In the school holidays we also offer ‘pop up’ family workshops at the same time for older siblings and/or other families with primary age children.

# Parish Youth News & Events

**Bug Hotel:** I have received funding to build a bug hotel in the church yard of St. Philip and St. James church NSP. This will be part of the Eco Church and Wilder Churchyards initiative. I will be inviting families in the parish to come and help build it – more on this in next month's Link magazine. Meanwhile if you have any of these items could you save them for the bug hotel: small branches, straw and hay, broken terracotta pots, bamboo canes, roof tiles, corrugated cardboard, dry sticks, loose bark, dry leaves and stones. Pallets have been donated by Church Farm housing development in Rode.



*Sue Rodford*

Children and Family Worker

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

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## “THE BIG ASK” – IMPROVING CHILDHOOD

The Children's Commissioner has launched “The Big Ask” - the biggest ever consultation with children undertaken in England. The survey will be live until May 19th and asks children, young people, carer leavers, parent/carers and professionals working with children across England to set out their priorities for improving childhood post Covid.



Results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve. Visit [childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/](http://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/) to complete the survey. See the video giving more details at: [youtube.com/watch?v=rHV4b5jwwmk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHV4b5jwwmk).

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## RODE SCOUTS

At long last our scout group is meeting up again. Over the next few weeks we will be out and about in the village, hiking around the local area and having fun playing games on the playing field. All our activities will be socially distanced and following government guidelines. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

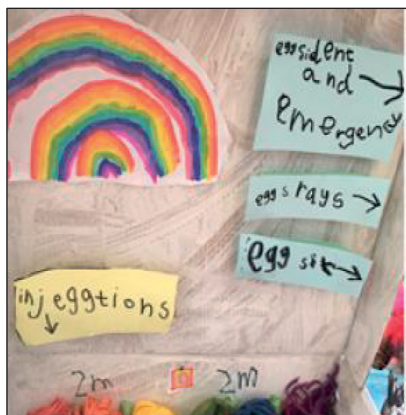


*Jacqui Rottenbury*

# Parish Youth News & Events

## RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! There was a cracking good end to the Spring term at our Federation with the annual Design and Technology Egg Challenge. We weren't going to let the small matter of a pandemic crush our creativity! The children were tasked with creating 'Happy Eggs' that would cheer us up and make us smile. As usual the children did not disappoint and both school halls were filled with an incredible display of their 'out of the box' thinking.



There were some fabulous pandemic themed eggs, rabbits and chicks, Marvel's Avengers, some eggs were illuminated, there were even Donald Trump eggs. Sammy in Reception created a hospital full of eggs queuing for their 'injection'. We laughed a lot at Year 1 Mostyn's postcard from the eggs on the nudist beach! All the staff very much enjoyed Year 2 Flora's 'Breaking News' update with Boris Johnson and Chris Whitty! In Year 3 Pippa continued the pandemic trend by depicting a Joe Wicks workout and loo roll hoarding. Things got more technical in Year 4 and

Gryff had created a marvellous hospital scene including a working bedside buzzer for his Covid-egg and visors for the doctor eggs. It was wonderful to have such positive creativity come from a negative situation.

Photos of the winning eggs are on the news feed on the website. We would have loved to invite all the parents in, like usual, to view the eggshibition but instead



we have created two videos to take you on a tour around the display:  
<https://sway.office.com/WAEpUxhdr2SoiFHZ?ref=email>



# Parish Youth News & Events

It is wonderful to have the whole school back for the Summer Term and I am very proud of the way the children are so eager to listen and learn following months of Lockdown. Together we are making exciting plans for the future. I have met with each class to find out what kind of after-school clubs they would like. They had some brilliant suggestions which we will try to make a reality. To begin with, we have launched 'Drama Karma Club' with the very talented Kevin Ross and 'Music Makers' with the equally talented Emily Hampson (new Head of Music at Selwood School). The children also have ambitious plans for developing our outdoor areas. I couldn't promise them the swimming pool they requested but we are starting to draw up plans beginning with a fabulous play fort at the Norton St. Philip site.

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

*George Muxworthy*

Head Teacher

[www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk](http://www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk)

T: 01373 830523 or 01373 834327 COME AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

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## FRANS UPDATE



**Chicks on Sticks was Cracking** - Thanks everyone who turned out for the Chicks on Sticks trail. We've had some brilliant feedback and it was great to see so many of you out on the trail, thanks for getting involved!

**TFI Friday in the Park(s)** - As of May 21st, both Rode and Norton parks will be hosting our weekly TFI (it stands for thank frans it's Friday in case you were wondering) Friday clubs. Music, after school tuck shop, drinks (including grown up drinks), ice creams and cakes will be the order of the day each week at the pavilions in both parks. We've made a special request for sunshine every Friday so head on down from 3pm and start the weekend slightly earlier than you might normally do (or later in some cases).

**End of School Party** - Save the Date! 23rd July not only marks the end of the school term but also the date for our special end of year send off. More details to come but expect beach bars, child-friendly music (think raver tots), festival atmosphere and all round family fun.

*FRANS Team*

# Parish Health & Wellbeing

## VILLAGE AGENT NEWS



Hello readers! As the temperature rises and the days are lighter for longer, it's a real boost for many of us that we can get out and about and meet people outdoors!

You may however still be feeling anxious and isolated until restrictions are further eased in the summer. If this is the case, have you thought about joining a Befriending Service? CCS has a NEW project called CHAT TO CONNECT for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) People. Do you want to meet new people in a similar position to you, with shared interests? We know it's good to talk and share experiences - you are not alone. Complete the short online registration form, and we will match you with another person with similar interests and hobbies. You may need some technical support in order to connect with someone, so we are also offering one-to-one virtual support with phones, tablets, and laptops, downloading apps, and using Zoom or WhatsApp. Go to: [ccslovesomerset.org/chat-to-connect/](https://ccslovesomerset.org/chat-to-connect/)

There are other similar services in Somerset too:

- Age UK Somerset's Friendly Phone Calls Service Phone: 01823 345613 or email [befriending@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:befriending@ageuksomerset.org.uk), or visit
- British Red Cross – Get help with loneliness: [redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-with-loneliness](https://redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-with-loneliness)
- Mind are launching some 'Somerset Wellbeing Friends' groups focusing on tackling loneliness/improving life skills/promoting coping strategies. T: 01935 474875 [mindinsomerset.org.uk/somerset-wellbeing-friends/](https://mindinsomerset.org.uk/somerset-wellbeing-friends/)
- The Silver Line Free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people Phone: 0800 470 8090 [thesilverline.org.uk/](https://thesilverline.org.uk/)

Most organisations have been able to move online in some form or another, why not check out some online groups:

### Book Clubs:

- [thereader.org.uk](https://thereader.org.uk)
- [somersetlibraries.co.uk/events/categories/reading-groups/](https://somersetlibraries.co.uk/events/categories/reading-groups/)

### Art & Creative Clubs:

- [seedsedgemoor.com/](https://seedsedgemoor.com/)
- [artbank.org.uk/](https://artbank.org.uk/)
- [mindfulartclub.co.uk/tag/online-art-groups/](https://mindfulartclub.co.uk/tag/online-art-groups/)

**Men's Sheds:** Community spaces for men to connect, converse and create. They help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly, they're fun. [menssheds.org.uk/](https://menssheds.org.uk/)

# Parish Health & Wellbeing

**Keeping Active:** There are some great resources in Somerset that you can access online during the current restrictions:

- Somerset Activity & Sports Partnerships [sasp.co.uk/be-active-at-home](http://sasp.co.uk/be-active-at-home)
- Sport England [sportengland.org/jointhemovement](http://sportengland.org/jointhemovement)
- AGE UK [ageuk.org.uk/somerset/activities-and-events/exercise-sessions/](http://ageuk.org.uk/somerset/activities-and-events/exercise-sessions/)

**Business Networking:** [ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-social-enterprise/](http://ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-social-enterprise/)

**Courses:** Thinking of starting a new career or learn something new? Try Somerset Skills & Learning [sslcourses.co.uk/](http://sslcourses.co.uk/) or Step Up Somerset [stepupsomerset.org.uk](http://stepupsomerset.org.uk)

You may know of other local groups and events - we'd love to know about them.

Don't forget, Active and In Touch Frome offer befriending telephone calls and community transport in our area. Their number is 07539 795261. The Walled Garden at Mells is open and on Monday afternoons 2-4, free gardening and a cuppa sessions called "Wild Memories" are running for anyone living with dementia or memory loss. You can call Zak on 07949 572849 to book a place.

As always, please get in touch if we can help you.

*Nic Edwards*

T: 07946 461468 E: [Nicolae@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:Nicolae@somersetccc.org.uk)



# Family & Friends Notices

## AUDREY HARRIES 19.10.1925 – 12.03.2021

Audrey Harries, nee Stride, was born on 19 October 1925 at Trudoxhill, the youngest of 9 children: 3 boys and 6 girls. She was 14 when WWII broke out and decided to help the war effort by volunteering to become a Red Cross nurse. She trained in Weston Super Mare and served in Plymouth, Chatham and finally in East Grinstead, where she helped nurse burned airmen at the Queen Victoria Hospital. She worked with Sir Archibald McIndoe, a pioneer plastic surgeon.



Later, Audrey joined the navy, scoring 98% in the Naval Entrance Exam. She met her husband-to-be David at Chatham Dockyard aboard HMS Scott at 7.30pm on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 1948, where the ship was undergoing a refit. Engaged in September 1948 they married at Nunney Church in June 1949.

When David retired from the navy, his new business interests led them to Bearsden, near Glasgow, where their only child, also called David, was born in 1955. The family lived in Scotland for the next 15 years, before moving south to Rode in 1970. David's employment was transferred to Bath and Bristol, and Rode was chosen as their home, as Audrey was keen to be living closer to her now elderly mother.

In Scotland, Audrey had founded the Bearsden branch of the Scottish Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, following the move South she continued to fight tirelessly to champion the cause of children and adults with learning disabilities. She spent years giving speeches to raise awareness about this issue together with founding the Frome branch of Mencap in 1971 and energetically fundraising for it. Subsequently Audrey became a Trustee of the national charity Royal MENCAP in 1987...in which role she served for 13 years until retiring in 2000 at the age of 75.

In another age she might have had a very high-flying professional career, but as it was, she devoted her considerable energies to the support of her husband's career, to her son David and her causes: Citizens' Advice, Mencap, adults and children with learning disabilities and latterly the Macular Society. She led a wonderfully altruistic life of service to others. After Audrey's own diagnosis of Macular Degeneration, she attended the Bath branch of the Macular Society in Green Park for 14 years, before setting up another branch locally, in Frome.

She was a fiercely independent person and a natural leader who led by example. She knew what she thought and what she wanted and was energetic and

## **Parish Family & Friends Notices**

determined in the pursuit of her agenda. She was feisty and loved a good argument...she could be deliberately provocative and at times it was wise to bite one's tongue...she loved to have the last word and she was very difficult to say "no" to. But she had an admirable lack of capacity for self-pity - despite her rapidly deteriorating eyesight she continued to attack life with gusto and got on with as much as she could manage.

Following her beloved husband's death in 2018 (they had been married 69 years) Audrey found herself living alone and therefore increasingly lonely....one of the curses of a long life. Her Red Cross and Navy Nursing years qualified her as a blind veteran, which led to her being invited for a week's break at the Blind Veteran's centre in Brighton. There she met Godfrey, a former soldier and doctor, another blind veteran of similar age. They became fast friends and were to spend much of their remaining time together.

To celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday she planted 95 daffodils in her garden, many of which were showing when she returned from hospital on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. In those last days not once did she grumble or complain...as ever, she set a formidable example. I don't think she was ever really aware of the high esteem in which she was held by those who knew her. She was bowled over by the generosity of the team who cooked for her each day in the week following David's death. And she was kind, loving, thoughtful and wise, always interested in other people of all ages, and they in her. One friend remarked "She was one of the nicest people I ever knew...a wonderful person" and another "A very, very nice lady...she always looked so smart...I'm so glad to have known her" And another friend and colleague of over 30 years standing: "Just say what a wonderful friend she was...she was so supportive and a real fighter for what she believed to be right".

Even at 95, she was still campaigning...smartly dressed, looking no more than two thirds of her actual age, she spoke movingly on television just scant weeks before her death, in support of saving Furlong Close from closure, a campaign which at the end was closest to her heart.

Audrey passed away just 25 days after a Doctor's appointment gave rise to urgent tests at the RUH. She returned home and spent her last days in bed...still receiving the few allowed visitors but resting between times. Much of her last day was spent asleep, and she passed peacefully away, just after 9 in the evening.

A great lady...we are all better for having known her and we can all be proud that she was our friend.

*Bill Jackson*

# Family & Friends Notices

## GOODBYE TO RODE...

Call me sentimental, but after 30 years I feel moved to write this...

Tim and I left Rode last month after 30 years in the village, as we have sold our house in The Old Brewery and our new one isn't ready yet. I write this in a very pleasant Airbnb in Pensford.

We first moved to Rode on a wet and windy January day in 1991 just a few weeks after our wedding and we lived for 12 years at 51 High Street near the Green.

Our favourite pub was the Cross Keys (The Mill was still derelict) and we enjoyed the village banter and good beer in there, especially after cricket matches. In that period we also remember all those parties, pantos and fundraisers at the Memorial Hall, many in fancy dress and all of them great fun!

I'll gloss over our accidental transgression when we moved briefly to Hilperton Road in Trowbridge. It only took 2 years before our house was on the market and we wanted to come back to lovely Rode.

We moved into The Old Brewery where we've spent the last 14 years and made the decision to downsize ... within Rode, of course.

However, it hasn't worked out that way as we couldn't find anything suitable. We are now on our way to a contemporary newbuild in Wedmore, near Cheddar. It's still Somerset and nearer Tim's homeland, but it's NOT RODE!

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone we know in the village.

That's a lot of people and you have all played your part in our life. You're a friendly, interesting and gorgeous bunch of people and we will miss you.

We are looking forward to a new adventure and new friends in Wedmore but don't be surprised if we return.

If it doesn't work out, we'll be back like a shot!



*Helen & Tim Flooks*

# Parish Cricket

Well we've finally made it to the start of the season without going back into lockdown although we're not totally out of the woods yet, we still have to play with certain restrictions in place. The Pavilion won't be open for use apart from the toilets and until 17th May regrettably we can't encourage spectators. Churchmead is of course a public open space and we encourage anybody using it to observe current government social distancing guidelines.

May Fixtures (Wednesday evenings, 6pm, unless stated):

|                    |                          |      |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------|
| 2 May (Sun 1.30pm) | NSP v NSP                | Home |
| 5 May              | Poplars                  | Home |
| 12 May             | Hinton Charterhouse      | Away |
| 17 May             | U15s vs Purnell Panthers | Home |
| 19 May             | Bradford On Avon         | Home |
| 24 May             | U15 vs Marshfield        | Home |
| 25 May             | U13 vs HSVW              | Home |
| 26 May             | Monkton Cavaliers        | Home |



**Social Membership:** A big thank you to those who've have signed up for social membership this season. We have great support and all visiting teams are impressed with the atmosphere created on a Wednesday evening. If you'd like to join and help support the club for a minimum £10, or donation of your choice, please contact me or see one of our committee members on a match night.

**Sponsorship:** Like all clubs and organisations, it's hard to cover running costs by subscriptions alone. Ageing mowers, rollers, scarifiers etc. all eat up funds. If you would like to sponsor a match for £25 again please contact me. We are happy to promote any business or cause (Non Political).

Norton St Philip CC is a one team, very friendly and very social, village club that play midweek matches. The club captain this year is Rupert Foster so if you would like a game please contact him 07793 440534 or myself.

## ALL STARS CRICKET FOR CHILDREN 4 - 8 STARTS IN MAY!



To sign up, go to:

[ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/At/Beckington2](http://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/At/Beckington2)

Or for more information contact Holly Pickering:  
[beckingtonallstars@gmail.com](mailto:beckingtonallstars@gmail.com)

For info on Junior Cricket for all ages up to 19yrs please contact me.

Mark Finch

T: 07876 191100

# Parish Gardening

## GARDENING IN MAY

We had an unusually dry April with many glorious blue sky and sunshine days but also many frosty nights to keep us on our toes protecting tender plants and seedlings. I've been really enjoying the magnolias and cherry blossom around the village, clematis Montana too, on a warm day I often smell its beautiful fragrance before I see it. As I write wisteria buds are breaking and it won't be long till the beauties are in full bloom, looking and smelling incredible.



Gardening tasks for the month:

- Watering - as needed in dry weather. Better to water first thing in the morning or in the cool of the evening, than in the heat of the day - avoids leaf scorch/reduces evaporation. Keep an eye on pots as can dry out very quickly.
- Cutting the grass - regularly cutting is good for healthy growth, encouraging the grass to thicken up. However, avoid cutting the grass too short in prolonged dry periods, being a little longer offers good protection.
- Weeding - due to dry weather weeds have not been quite as prolific, which is brilliant. Best to remove or hoe annual weeds before they flower and set seed - remove all the roots of perennial weeds to prevent them regrowing.
- Tying in and staking - plants are putting on a lot of growth now and some need support - climbing/rambling roses, clematis (self-clinging, but often needs help), peonies and dahlias to name a few. Best to get support in early.
- Pruning early spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and winter jasmine if you haven't as yet, to keep their size in check.
- Planting - spring is a great time to plant into the garden (as well as in autumn), you can see any gaps that need filling and more plants are available, After the risk of frost has passed, summer bedding plants can be planted out which will give you so much colour and interest for months.
- Seed sowing - a lot of annual veg and flower seeds can be directly sown from May if you haven't had a chance to sow them indoors before now. Is.
- Hardening off seedlings before planting out - recommended to do this - place in a cold frame or bring them outside in the day for a week or so in a sheltered spot - it will thicken their leaves and make stronger plants.
- Feeding - now we're in the main growing season good to regularly feed certain plants, especially those struggling after a wet/windy winter, also recommend an ericaceous feed for acid loving plants (acers/ hydrangeas/camellias etc) to keep them happy and avoid yellowing leaves.
- Pest control - I am much more in favour of natural methods of pest control over chemical control - either using simple manual methods or biological



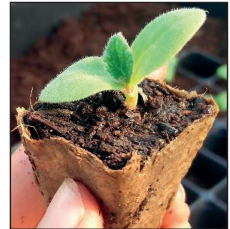
# Parish Gardening

control solutions. For aphids, a mixture of water and washing up liquid can be sprayed over an infestation or use a tissue gently to remove them from buds and stems, or in a greenhouse setting you can order ladybird larvae which prey on aphids. For issues with vine weevil (notches taken from the leaf edge) I recommend using a biological control in the form of a microscopic nematode that specifically targets vine weevil applied every six weeks during March till October.

For all my sowing/potting on/top dressing, I use peat free compost for environmental reasons. Peat is highly nutrient dense, but it is not a sustainable resource coming from lowland raised bogs which are a rare habitat. There are many alternatives to peat giving great growing results, including coir and wood based composts. I recommend always looking closely at the compost you buy – it will state if it is peat free or peat based and how much peat is present. My favourite compost is Melcourt Sylva Grow, and they are RHS recommended too.

Birds are raising their broods now so definitely appreciate any food put out for them and water to drink and bathe. I noticed a blue tit tugging at a jute string support in our garden and flying off with a beak full, presumably for nest building. I added more jute string and he came back within a minute for more. A pleasure to see the birds, notice behaviours and know that you're helping.

Shared gardens - Over the last couple of months we've been busy setting up our extended growing space - now have 3 secondhand glass greenhouses and 2 new raised beds made with reclaimed scaffolding boards. We've been seed sowing and potting on -trying to keep everything alive and happy through the frosty nights/hot days we've been having! A few tomato casualties at the start of the frosty nights, lesson learnt to be more cautious. We've had to do a lot of watering – now watering seedlings from the bottom, getting the compost thoroughly damp has made a big difference, would definitely recommend it.



Do you have a patch of garden you don't use any more or is too much work? Interested to share your garden with others? Or would you like to have more space to grow vegetables/fruits/flowers? I would love to hear from you if you're interested in getting involved in the Garden Share scheme across the parish.

Happy gardening!

*Julia Robb*

E: [juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk). T: 07527 918314

N.B. See pages 13 and 34 for Rode Grows and Shares latest news...

# Parish Farming

## FUSSELS - EARTH DAY - SPRING PLOUGHING

On Thursday 22 April Fussels' were celebrating "Earth Day" and what better day to be turning the soil early on a beautiful sunny morning with clear blue skies.

The field, showing in the photograph, is named Ten Acres, as it is just that!



A small field surrounded by established hedges and a public footpath on two sides, one being a 'covered hedge'. It sits just on the edge of the village. Andy as a third-generation farmer is very passionate about the land, particularly the soil. If the soil isn't right, then the yield will be poor. Agronomy is so important.

Last Autumn this field was put down to stubble turnips for local Sheep Farmers, Tom and Charlotte Wheeler, for their store lambs to feast and fatten. Stubble Turnips are a great break crop for farmers and an early food source for the stock lambs. When the sheep have finished feasting, the ground is then prepared with a measured amount of farmyard manure (which is ploughed in) ready for the next crop, Forage Maize, which Andy grows for animal feed. This will be drilled in late April, early May for harvest in September/October, all weather dependent! This year it will be cut by our Combine Harvester. The difference is that we will drill less seed (37,000 seeds per acre) as opposed to (44,000 seeds per acre) if it was going to be cut by the Forager. The rows will be more defined and won't fall over!

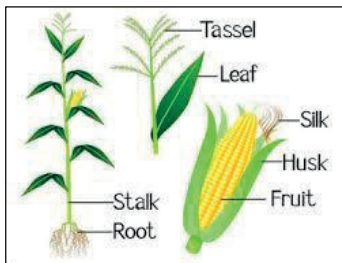
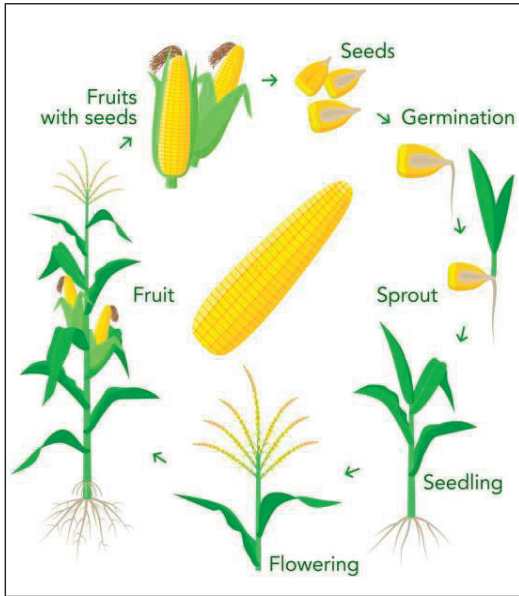
There is a skill to ploughing which only comes with experience and knowledge of the undulation and lie of the land. In the photograph you can see our experienced Farm Manager, Shaun, ploughing a straight furrow. Much is done by eye.

When ploughing, it is important not to place the plough into the soil too deep as we don't want to disturb dormant seed that will flourish when brought to the surface and into the light! The furrow depth is approximately 10cm deep and is set by eye (and the small wheels on the plough). At the time of writing, due to the lack of rain, the soil is compacted, cracked and dry and so it was slow going, but with some new blades on the plough and the power of our Fendt 720 Tractor, the job was completed.

# Parish Farming

The ploughed field will first be rolled with our Roller, which will break up the soil and consolidate the moisture followed by the Power Harrow over the rolled ground to break it up a bit more, ready for the precision Maize Drill, which is a specialist piece of kit. Germination takes approximately 14 days. And then we wait...

Journey of a Maize seed:



Lizzy Etheridge

E: [info@fusselsfinefoods.co.uk](mailto:info@fusselsfinefoods.co.uk) T: 01373 831286

[www.fusselsfinefoods.co.uk](http://www.fusselsfinefoods.co.uk)

# Parish Groups

## RODE MONTHLY WALKING GROUP RETURNS

We will start on Thursday 6 May at the usual time of 10 am, meeting at the Village Green.



We will probably just walk the Tellisford loop as we don't want to attempt anything too strenuous after such a long period of inactivity.

*Liz Dinnis*

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T:07788 656337

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## RODE GROWS AND SHARES

For those of you on Facebook - we have a 'Rode Grows and Shares' group page which you can join free as a member to be kept updated, it is a private page and can be found via the Rode village group page. We currently have 93 members, a lot of whom have been generously sharing their surplus produce outside their houses and let others know on this page.

So much has been shared to date - from veggies, herbs and fruit to plant pots, gardening equipment to various plants.

Members can also signpost and share growing related events or news that might interest others. I am so happy with how it's developed and so excited for this growing year. Do join us if you are interested! See page 13 for details of forthcoming events.

*Julia Robb*

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

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## MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Things are looking ever more positive! Let's hope after the June Government announcement we can make some definite plans... fingers crossed folks!!



With love and best wishes

*Alex Sing and the Team*

# Parish Food & Drink



Tables available outside and in our extension. Full table service.  
No booking necessary.  
Open inside from 17 May.



## Farleigh Road

FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Phone 01225 720006  
[www.farleighroadfarmshop.co.uk](http://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



32a High Street, Rode, BA11 6PA

Telephone 01373 830321

Sam and the team would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the shop, café takeaway and post office.

We have had some glorious weather for the first two weeks of opening outdoors, and have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you back.

In line with government guidelines we anticipate opening inside on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, we are preparing the indoor space to be ready.

We continue to serve breakfasts, lunches and also takeaways, and of course a selection of tasty treats including our well known brownie selection.



Opening hours for the shop, café and post office...

Monday 09.00 – 17.30

Tuesday 09.00- 17.30

Wednesday 09.00 – 13.00

Thursday 09.00 -17.30

Friday 09.00 17.30

Saturday 09.00 – 13.00

Please note we will be closed on both the May bank holidays 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

# Parish Food & Drink

**blindmans**



**brewery**



**Fresh Craft Ales, Casks, Mini Kegs, Bottles, Cans, Bag in Box  
Local & UK Delivery for all occasions**

**DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FREE LOCAL DELIVERY OPTIONS**

**[www.blindmansbrewery.co.uk](http://www.blindmansbrewery.co.uk) 01749 880038**

**Blindmans Brewery, Talbot Farm, Leighton, Frome**



## THE MILL AT RODE

We have now opened up our gardens for our outside table service! We have been so happy to see many familiar faces and are looking forward to welcoming more of you over the coming months.



We have some really exciting additions coming this April/May, firstly our new outdoor bar, as well as a brand new and improved menu.

To book a table please call 01373831100 now.

@rodemillofficial

<http://www.rodemill.co.uk>

# Parish Food & Drink



**FREE LOCAL  
DELIVERY**

**07486 059985  
11 LOWER ST, RODE**

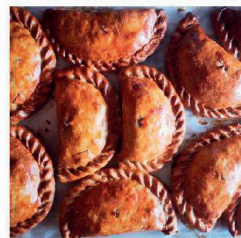
We are a craft bakery in Rode selling a range of baked goods available for free local delivery or collection every Thurs, Fri & Sat.

Visit our Facebook Page or Website for our menu, with specials announced every Monday based on what's fresh and in season.

Order online or by text or email. 24 hour pre-order is essential.

[07486 059985](tel:07486059985) / [joewilkinbakes@gmail.com](mailto:joewilkinbakes@gmail.com) / [thevillagebakingco.co.uk](http://thevillagebakingco.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/thevillagebakingco](http://www.facebook.com/thevillagebakingco)





# Parish Food & Drink

## CHATLEY FARM BROWNIES

NEAR BATH

[www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk](http://www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk)



Lovingly handmade on the farm  
9 Delicious flavours  
Delivered by Royal Mail

FREE Gift Wrapping & Gift card  
Gluten free options  
Local Collection from Norton St Philip

## OUR MULTI BUY OFFERS

**£8.50**

For 1 pack

**£8.00**

each for 2 or 3  
packs

**£7.50**

each for 4 or  
more packs

Follow us on facebook! [www.facebook.com/ChatleyFarmBath](http://www.facebook.com/ChatleyFarmBath)

# 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.

♥ [somerseetfoodie.com](http://somerseetfoodie.com)



Deliveries are made on our 100% electric van

Our own packed wholefood ingredients are 100% Plastic free

Over 100 Five Star Product Reviews, in the last 6 months



Somerset Foodie Ltd, Church Farm, Rode, BA11 6AA t. 07834 852 561



## THE TRIO COLLECTION

OUR BEST SELLERS TRIPLED UP

From £10 per trio, available at [www.fussels.co.uk](http://www.fussels.co.uk)

### Click & Collect

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

# Parish Events

**RODE WALKING GROUP**

**MAY WALK**

**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**See page 34 for details**



**RODE PARISH COUNCIL  
AGM/Parish Meeting  
(Virtual via Zoom)**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
7.00 pm**

## **RODE GROWS AND SHARES**

**Seedling Share**

**Sunday 16 May, 10- 2pm**

**outside 25 High Street, Rode (opposite The Cross Keys)**

**see page 13 for full details...**

## **Rode and District Memorial Hall AGM 2021**

Got something to say about your village hall?

Ideas, feedback and new committee members always welcome

Come along to the hall **AGM** and give us your input.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30 pm in the main hall**

Government guidelines permitting – if this is not possible,  
we will hold it on Zoom, access details will be publicised.

## **Friday in the Park(s)**

**Starting May 21<sup>st</sup> both Rode & NSP from 3pm**

**Music, tuck shop, drinks (inc grown up drinks), ice creams and cakes will  
be the order of the day each week at the pavilions in both villages.**

**A special request is in for sunshine every Friday.**

**So, head on down and start the weekend... see page 23**

**\*SAVE THE DATE \***

**St Mary's Laverton Church Fete Saturday 31st July - 10.30am**

**See page 16**

# Noticeboard

FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S  
BECKINGTON PLANT SALE

Preserves + Books + Bric-a-Brac

SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12noon

OUTSIDE AT:  
24 Bath Road  
29 Goose Street  
"Stepstones" (next to the Baptist church)

Social distancing strictly observed.

Donations only as change cannot be given.

**FROME FESTIVAL IS BACK ON 2<sup>ND</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

*... and it is 20 years old this year!!*

*If you haven't been to any of the varied events before or if you're eager to attend again having enjoyed past festivals visit [fromefestival.co.uk](http://fromefestival.co.uk) to find out all about this year's programme of events.*



# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via ZOOM) MEETING OF RODE  
PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 pm

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## UNCONFIRMED

### **Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr B Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 3 members of the public

### **1. Public Participation:**

Comment was made that there were a number of trees along Clay Lane that appeared to be dead and that could fall onto the road creating a public hazard. Additionally, water was still running off Barbara's Field onto Clay Lane and it was hoped the adoption of The Sportsman would resolve this.

A question was raised as to whether there had been any update on the Hearings regarding the Local Plan Part 2. The Chair said no report was expected for at least a month, however it was thought Ashford Homes would be challenging the Inspector's removal of The Mead from possible development sites.

A Parishioner said that should development of Brown's Ground go ahead, advice should be sought from a landscape engineer, and one lived in the village who was willing to give advice.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Steve Eyles and Cllr L Oliver

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March were approved.

**4. Declarations of interest:** None.

**5. Report from County Councillor:** A report had been submitted which noted that Somerset had very impressive vaccination rates. There were concerns over the resumption of face-to-face council meetings after 7 May. Somerset was also looking for nominations for the Somerset Medal and was looking for people who had done particularly well with regard to Covid19; nominations closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**6. Report from District Councillor:** Cllr Lund reported that Mendip like Somerset was against the forced re-introduction of face-to-face council

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

meetings and supported the challenge to the Government ruling. Business grants continued to be available. Consultation continued on the new Unitary Authority until mid-April.

In response to a question over the two major planning consultations she said she had no news of either going to the Planning Board but thought it was unlikely either would progress before the LPP2 Hearing Inspector's report.

## **7. Actions from the previous meeting:**

- i) **Hoedown:** An article had been put in The Link and also on the village Facebook site. To date there had been expression of interest in taking part from 6 people, with others indicating participation later in the year. MS agreed to repost a call for volunteers before the Hoedown day – 25<sup>th</sup> April.
- ii) **Lengthsman:** Due to injury the Lengthsman had not started work yet but should start in this month. AP reported that it was the landowner's responsibility for keeping footpaths clear, therefore this should not be part of the work required to be done by the Lengthsman.
- iii) **Barrow Farm paths:** It was agreed to check if these paths were public footpaths or not as their status was uncertain. Additionally, concerns were raised over whether the PC owned the grass bank on Lower Street next to the Temperance Garden.
- iv) **Marsh Road:** The site visit was to take place once Covid19 restrictions were eased. The status of the grass edges would also be raised at this meeting with SCC to confirm who was responsible for what.
- v) **The Bell:** No update.
- vi) **Broadband:** It was reported that ultrafast broadband was to be installed in Rode by Voneus and that the work should start in October. Ultrafast would be available to all households.
- vii) **Aerial photographs:** The order for the photograph as a gesture of thanks for the cleaning work done by Clive Harrington had been raised.

**8. Climate Emergency:** JM reported that he had got 5 people interested in joining the working party but he was still looking for younger participants.

## **9. Highways:**

- a) It was agreed the working group would look at the A361 speed and volume data with Patrick Moss later this week.
- b) County Roads had been informed about the concerns over HGVs using Lower Street and the request for speed repeater warnings on Rode Hill; acknowledgement had been received but a further response was awaited. Thanks were given to Cllr Oliver for submitting photographs of worn road markings to SCC.

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

- c) Cllr Oliver had also got SCC to circulate the proposed speed restriction areas on the A361 past the Church Farm development and the PC agreed to accept the proposal although further extension of the 30mph limit beyond the Parkgate Lane junction would be even better. The PC also agreed that the 'village gates' sign should be similar to the Long Stanton design that had been circulated.

## **10. Planning matters**

### a. New applications:

**2021/0415/HSE:** Erection of second storey extension above existing single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension – 3 Walnut Close. No objections.

**2021/0418/HSE:** Demolition of single storey extension to rear elevation and demolition of existing garage. Construction of two storey side extension. No objections.

**2021/0534/TCA:** 4 pleached hornbeams, reduce height by 1-1.5 metres – 17 High Street. No objections.

**2021/0569/TCA:** Reduce height of ash by 2 metres and its spread by 1.5 metres – 1 Halfpenny Row. No objections.

### b. Mendip decisions:

**2020/2328/FUL:** Forestry building with seasonal retail element and forestry office – Hillside Farm, Marsh Road. Approved with conditions

**2021/0025/HSE:** Erection of solar panels on garage roof – 18 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions

**2021/0139/HSE:** Extension of single garage to form double garage – 1 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions

**2021/0141/HSE:** Erection of double garage rather than single garage and car port – 9 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions.

**2021/0178/HSE:** Insertion of garage door to existing car port and erection of a garden room for home office – 16 St Lawrence Lane. Approved

**2021/0293/TCA:** Goat willow – re-pollard at previous pruning points – Cheap Street. TPO not required.

### c. Other planning matters:

**2021/0071/OTS:** Application for outline planning permission for the erection of up to 49 dwellings etc. Noted the submission of rejection by PC.

The Clerk reported that Mendip had changed their policy of informing Parish Councils of planning decisions. The PC agreed this should be challenged and the Clerk agreed to write to Mendip on the issue.

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**11. Calm Engineering and drainage:** JM reported that the survey of the village had been completed with minimal disruption and thanks went to all residents for their co-operation. The results of the survey should be available in a couple of weeks. An update would be sent to all residents and an article would be put in The Link. Two issues had been identified, these were: partially collapsed drain outside the school and fragile structure in danger of collapse in Lower Street opposite the new houses.

A plan of action would be drawn up to minimise flooding and carrying out mitigation works.

It was reported that Bristol and Avon River Trust were on part of Earthwatch Europe looking for groups to take river water samples and it was hoped the village school could do this. Samples taken in September had indicated high levels of phosphate pollution in the Frome at Rode.

**12. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field:** The hoggin path had still not been started and it was agreed representatives of the PC would initially email Autograph Homes with a view to meet them to progress this.

**13. Parish Council website:** An outline proposal had been circulated by the Chair and the meeting agreed this should form the basis of a new website. A simple site with links to information was favoured. The Chair and Clerk agreed to progress this.

**14. Cycling and Walking:** The Frome area for the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) was funded but to include other villages parishes would need to fund it themselves, and the figure for Rode would be £2,400. It was agreed this would not be currently pursued and this would be an item for the Climate Emergency Group to consider in the future.

**15. Police Beat Manager:** The monthly report was noted.

**16. Village assets:** Thanks were given to Keith Sharman for photographing the village assets. The Clerk would complete the listing and circulate this. It was agreed that finger posts and milestones should be included in the asset register.

**17. Back to bus:** A Government Strategy Paper had been published which was very supportive of improving bus transport across the country. Boris Johnson was very keen on buses and they were seen as a way of reducing transport costs and positively impacting on the climate emergency. This could



# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

result in a significant change in Somerset's approach to bus services. It was agreed the PC would fund (approx. £150) for a village survey of bus use and requirements to help push the local case for increased bus services.

## **18. Financial matters:**

i) The Clerk reported that he had still not heard back from the NatWest, but hoped the new signatories (EB and MS) had been approved.

ii) The accounts status to the end of March was noted and the Clerk informed the meeting he would be completing the AGAR forms for approval at the May meeting.

ii) The following payments were agreed:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Rode Scout Group (Donation following road clean)    | £1,750.00 |
| Rode Playing Field (Donation following road clean)  | £1,250.00 |
| Moss Naylor Young (Barbara's Field transport study) | £960.00   |
| Somerset Association of Local Councils (training)   | £70.00    |
| Eagle Grounds Maintenance                           | £725.12   |
| Clerk salary  | £220.82   |
| HMRC PAYE   | £55.00    |
| Peter Travis (Zoom subscription)                    | £14.39    |

## **17. Other items:**

**Trees – The Mead and Clay Lane:** A report that there were trees leaning unsafely on The Mead had been received along with concerns expressed earlier in this meeting about trees along Clay Lane. It was agreed these were the responsibility of the landowners, however before the PC contacted them an expert would be asked to look at them to assess their state.

## **Date of Next Meeting (virtual via Zoom):**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at **7.30 pm**

## **Date of AGM/Parish Meeting (Virtual via Zoom):**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at **7.00 pm**

Note the Chairman has indicated he would like to stand down at this meeting and new Chairman be elected along with a Vice-Chairman.

The Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

*Website: [rodeparishcouncil.webs.com](http://rodeparishcouncil.webs.com)*

# ...and finally

## WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where, in Hardington Vale, would you see these houses? Did you recognise the view in last month's photograph? It is looking down Straight Lane in Rode from the A36. If you have a photograph of a part of Hardington Vale that you would like us to feature, email it to [link@rodevillage.com](mailto:link@rodevillage.com), or drop it into 30 High St, Rode with the location.



### Codeword

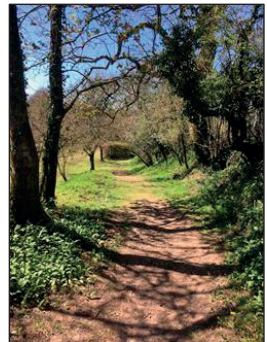
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### Last month's Codeword

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|    | 3  | 21 | 13 | 5  | 10 | Y  |    | 20 | A  | 26 | L  | A  | R  | M  |    |    |

## POEM OF THE MONTH

Ah! my heart is weary waiting,  
 Waiting for the May:  
 Waiting for the pleasant rambles  
 Where the fragrant hawthorn brambles,  
 Where the woodbine alternating,  
 Scent the dewy way;  
 Ah! my heart is weary, waiting,  
 Waiting for the May.



*Denis Florence McCarthy, Summer Longings*

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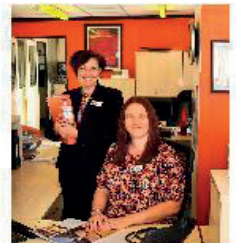


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| DATE   | TIME                            | SERVICE  | LEADER/INFO                                   |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Sunday 2 May</b>                            | 9.00 am<br>10.30 am             | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Informal Breakfast<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Holy Communion   | Zoom<br>J Robinson/C<br>Walker/M Harrison     |
| <b>Monday 3 May</b>                            | 9.00 am                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer   |   |
| <b>Tuesday 4 May</b>                           | 5.00 pm                         | <b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer   | Zoom  |
| <b>Wednesday 5 May</b>                         | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm              | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Informal Prayer  | Zoom  |
| <b>Thursday 6 May</b>                          | 6.00 pm                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer  |   |
| <b>Sunday 9 May</b>                            | 9.30 am<br>10.30 am             | <b>Mini Breakfast Church</b><br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Holy Communion   | Zoom/S Rodford<br>J Robinson/C Walker         |
| <b>Monday 10 May</b>                           | 9.00 am                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer   |   |
| <b>Tuesday 11 May</b>                          | 6.00 pm                         | <b>Tellisford</b> , Evening Prayer   |   |
| <b>Wednesday 12 May</b>                        | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm              | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Informal Prayer  | Zoom  |
| <b>Thursday 13 May</b><br><b>Ascension Day</b> | 9.00 am<br>6.00 pm              | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , said Eucharist<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer  |   |
| <b>Sunday 16 May</b>                           | 9.00 am<br>10.30 am<br>10.30 am | <b>Farleigh Hungerford</b> , Morning Worship<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Informal Worship | B Day<br>C Walker/B Day<br>R Stewart/A Holmes |
| <b>Monday 17 May</b>                           | 9.00 am                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer   |   |
| <b>Tuesday 18 May</b>                          | 5.00 pm                         | <b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer   | Zoom  |
| <b>Wednesday 19 May</b>                        | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm              | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Informal Prayer  | Zoom  |
| <b>Thursday 20 May</b>                         | 6.00 pm                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer  |   |
| <b>Sunday 23 May</b>                           | 10.30 am                        | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Holy Communion   | C Walker/J Robinson                           |
| <b>Monday 24 May</b>                           | 9.00 am                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer   |   |
| <b>Tuesday 25 May</b>                          | 6.00 pm                         | <b>Tellisford</b> , Evening Prayer   |   |
| <b>Wednesday 26 May</b>                        | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm              | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Informal Prayer  | Zoom  |
| <b>Thursday 27 May</b>                         | 6.00 pm                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer  |   |
| <b>Sunday 30 May</b>                           | 10.30 am                        | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , United Service   | J Robinson/A Holmes/<br>C Walker              |
| <b>Monday 31 May</b>                           | 9.00 am                         | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer   |   |

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

Zoom invitations may be obtained from Rev Caroline Walker Email: [carolinehwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehwalker@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01373-834258

[www.hardingtonvale.org.uk](http://www.hardingtonvale.org.uk)

## MAY 2021 DIARY & 2021 YEAR PLANNER

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mon 3 May    | BANK HOLIDAY – Early Spring Bank Holiday  |
| Tue 4 May    | 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Monthly Meeting via Zoom   |
| Thu 6 May    | 7am-10pm Memorial Hall Polling Station for Avon & Somerset PCC Election<br>10am Rode Walking Group see page 34 for details<br>7.00pm, Rode Parish Council A.G.M. via Zoom |
| Sun 16 May   | 10am-2pm Seedling Share see page 13 for details   |
| Mon 17 May   | 11am-12pm Mobile Library, Memorial Hall<br>7.30pm Rode Memorial Hall AGM see page 8 for details   |
| Fri May 21st | 3pm Friday In The Park see page 23 for details  |
| Sun 23 May   | <b>JUNE LINK COPY DEADLINE</b>  |
| Mon 31 May   | BANK HOLIDAY - Spring Bank Holiday<br>The Cross Keys – Rode Playing Field Lottery Draw  |
| Sun 20 Jun   | Father's Day  |
| Sat 31 July  | 10.30am St Mary's Laverton Church Fete see page 16  |
| Mon 30 Aug   | BANK HOLIDAY - Summer Bank Holiday  |
| Sat 25 Dec   | Christmas Day   |
| Sun 26 Dec   | Boxing Day  |
| Mon 27 Dec   | SUBSTITUTE BANK HOLIDAY (Christmas Day)   |
| Tue 28 Dec   | SUBSTITUTE BANK HOLIDAY (Boxing Day)  |

|  <span style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin-left: 10px;">May 2021</span> |   |     |     |     |     |   |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Mon   | Tue   | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |   |
|   |   |     |     |     |     | 1 |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |   |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |   |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |   |
| 31  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: grey; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> REFUSE <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: orange; border-radius: 50%; margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> RECYCLING <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: green; border-radius: 50%; margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> GARDEN |     |     |     |     |   |



Is back!

Wednesdays 9.30-11.00am

see page 20

**Please send copy for the June 2021 issue of 'The Link'**  
 via email to [gillhleonard@aol.com](mailto:gillhleonard@aol.com) or deliver to 1 Lower Street, Rode BA11 6PU  
 latest Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

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