

# The Link

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



**MAY 2022**

Climate Change Survey Results

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Parish Council AGMS  
-----

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Rode Barn Dance Back & More

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May 5<sup>th</sup> Somerset Unitary Council Election

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

**£1**

## PARISH OF HARDINGTON VALE

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Andrew Morrison<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Day<sup>1</sup>, Robin Finlay,<sup>1</sup>  
Sharman Flindall<sup>1</sup>, Andy Filkins, Susie Filkins,  
Rachel Feilden<sup>3</sup>, John Flindall, Francis Green<sup>4</sup>,  
Rachel Stewart, Anne Harkness, Ros Lockley,  
Sally Pickett<sup>3</sup>, Michael Walker  
<sup>1</sup> Deanery Synod Representatives  
<sup>2</sup> Safeguarding Officer currently vacant  
<sup>3</sup> Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh  
Hungerford, Rode and Tellisford.  
<sup>4</sup> with specific responsibility for Hemington  
churchyard

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

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Booker hbooker@theccct.org.uk 07831 873489

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rode.chapel@btinternet.com

**Key Holder:** Alison Hughes 01373 830244  
rode.chapel@btinternet.com/830411



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| Organisation   | Contact Name  | Contact Number   |
|--|---|--|
| Allotments - Rode<br>Rode Gardens Association  | Lucy Travis<br>(Chair)  | 831726/Lucy_travis@hotmail.com   |
| Buddy Scheme (Rode)  | Mike Salmon   | 831257/mikesalmon123@icloud.com  |
| Community Speed Watch (CSW)  | Malcolm Wood  | 830301/mwood17@uwclub.net  |
| Cricket Club (Rode) Seniors  | Andy Pickett  | andypickett2013@gmail.com/07775 805546   |
| Cricket Club (NSP) Youth & Seniors   | Mark Finch  | 07876 191100   |
| Friends of Rode and Norton<br>Schools (FRANS)  | Brandon Quentin-Hicks<br>(Joint Chair)                                | brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk<br>07867 545720  |
| Gardening: Rode & District Club  | Averil Morrow   | 830686/averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk   |
| Ladies Group (Rode)  | Pat Banwell   | 831139   |
| Lunch Club   | Alex Sing   | Asing_homeandgardens@hotmail.com/830836  |
| Memorial Hall (Rode)   | Bookings:<br>Kate Robinson  | rodehall@bananasoft.net<br>www.rodevillagehall.co.uk   |
| NSP Pre-School   | Dawn Strand   | admin@nortonpreschool.co.uk/834791   |
| Old School Room Farleigh H'ford  | Dilys McKechnie   | 01225 754925   |
| Over 60's  | Pat Smith   | 830559   |
| Parish Council - Rode  | Hugh Williams<br>(Parish Clerk)                                       | Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com<br>rodevillage.com/parish-council/   |
| Parish Paths Liaison Officers  | Cathy & Nick Taylor   | candn800@btinternet.com  |
| Playing Field/Pavilion (Rode)  | Bookings  | rodepfbookings@gmail.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  |
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| 1 <sup>st</sup> Rode Scout Group<br>Beavers Wed 4.45-5.45pm<br>Cubs Thu 6-7.30pm<br>Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm<br>During school term time | Group Scout Leader:<br>Howard Russell                                 | hdrussell01@gmail.com<br>830640/07736 739680   |
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| Mendip D C   | General Enquiries   | 0300 303 8588  |
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| Beckington<br>Family Practice  | Appointments T: 830006<br>Results 9.30-13.00/14.00-16.00<br>T: 867986 | Enquiries and Emergencies T: 830316<br>Dispensary 8.30-13.00/15.00-18.30 T: 867987   |
| NHS 111 24 hour<br>medical care help   | Contact 111 if you have an urgent<br>T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk     | medical problem and you are unsure what to do  |
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# Church Reflection, News & Events

## REFLECTION

It feels like we have been on a roller coaster of emotions the past two years – anxiety about Covid, relief when the vaccine came out, sadness at our separation from loved ones and then, for many, joy when we finally hugged them again. And now, these past few months, we have felt horror and disbelief as we have watched the war in Ukraine unfolding.



I'm writing this reflection a few days after attending a meeting we had in the chapel in Rode (there was a similar meeting in NSP a few days before). A committee of people are coordinating a response from Hardington Vale parish to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, and as they shared about how we can get involved some of the weight of heaviness I had felt about the situation in Ukraine lifted, I sensed some anticipation and hope as we talked about how we could welcome, host and support guests from Ukraine and I felt hugely privileged to be part of this loving and caring community.

It is exciting seeing how things are coming together and how different people have different resources and gifts but everyone has something to offer - some have spare bedrooms, others offer skills in finances or form filling or computers, others have talents in teaching or experience in safeguarding, some have contacts in schools and social services and others can even use their gift of shopping!

There is a long list of opportunities and in fact whatever your resource, talent, gift or skill, I am sure it could be used in some way and although individually it seems like a huge task, together we can do something really significant. And this isn't just for the next few weeks, it is going to be for many months, so there will be plenty of opportunities to be involved.

Over the last couple of years, as a church community, we have been talking and praying about how we can give and receive hospitality. Then for the whole of last year we were meditating on a passage of scripture (Acts 6:1-7) about caring for widows and have been discussing how we can each use our gifts and skills for the benefit of others. So now, as it is mostly women and children arriving in our community, it seems like all this is coming together in an incredibly special and poignant way.

It reminds me of my favourite part of the Easter story when the two disciples are on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It was Easter Sunday, and the disciples are upset and confused by the death of Jesus and the disappearance of

# Church Reflection, News & Events

his body and, as they walk, they are joined by a third person who asks what they are discussing. Their response sounds almost impatient; 'are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know what has been going on?'

Of course, Jesus is the one person who actually *does* know what has been going on and, using the Old Testament, he explains why the Messiah had to suffer and it all starts to make sense to the disciples. So, they welcome him, in fact they urge him, to stay the night with them in Emmaus and as they eat together, and as he breaks and shares the bread, they realise it's Jesus! Jesus said, 'when you welcome the stranger you welcome me' (Matt chapter 24). I love that hospitality was the key to recognising Jesus.

Things are moving incredibly quickly at the moment and by the time you read this reflection there may be quite a significant group of Ukrainians living in our parish and, as time goes on, I am sure that we, and indeed our guests, will have lots of different and unexpected experiences and emotions. Sometimes we will perhaps feel frustrated as we struggle to communicate or confused as we encounter cultural differences, and we may feel empathy for our guests as they struggle with being far from their home and loved ones. It won't always be easy or simple, but as we work together it will be extremely rewarding and we will experience joy as we don't just give welcome and hospitality but as we receive it too.

*Jo Robinson*

Curate

N.B. If you would like to get involved in the H.V. response please contact:  
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or David Walsh [davewalsh1900@gmail.com](mailto:davewalsh1900@gmail.com)



**Ecumenical Holy Communion at Rode Chapel**  
**The next Holy Communion at Rode Chapel is on**  
**Tuesday 3rd May at 9.45am.**

**Sue Beaven**

# Church Reflection, News & Events

## NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE AND AN INVITATION

Church History Afternoon – on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June you are invited to come to St Lawrence and learn something of its long and interesting history over a cup of tea or a glass of wine.



Come along and discover more about:

- The oldest parts of the church, which precede the Reformation
- The relics from an earlier Norman church
- The magnificent East window
- Who St Lawrence was and what happened to him
- The reredos behind the high altar
- The memorials to past residents
- The organ
- Captain Noad's window
- The Rectors of Rode
- Why there were two churches in Rode, well within living memory
- The Stations of the Cross paintings
- The bells and their restoration earlier this century
- The improvements to the vestry to provide kitchen and toilet facilities, also earlier this century

You will have an opportunity to go up the tower to see the bells and where they are rung. For safety reasons, access onto the tower roof will not be possible.

The church is normally kept locked for security reasons; the West door was even ram-raided a few years ago. Please take this opportunity to come and explore Rode's church. Our village historian, Peter Harris, and others will be available to answer your questions and explain things.

It is an important Grade 1 listed building and the residents of the village from time to time are the custodians who must try to maintain it and pass it on to the next generation in good condition.

Feel free to drop in at any time between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. There will be no charge, but donations for the upkeep of the church and its churchyard are always welcome.

Make an entry in your diary/calendar now!

We look forward to seeing you



# Church Reflection, News & Events

.In addition to this we wanted to say how grateful we are to the flower arrangers who created beautiful arrangements for Easter and the church looked stunning.

You may also have seen the cross outside church decorated in the colours of the Ukrainian flag.



Our Walk of Witness around the village on Good Friday was well attended and we were blessed with beautiful weather as we made our way from the centre of the village to St Lawrence stopping to hear readings and prayers as we went.


*Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell*

# Church Reflection, News & Events

**Devotional Last Sunday of the Month**  
**YOGA @Norton St Philip Church**  
*Find peace*  
*Find hope*  
*Find faith*  
Gentle yoga class  
using Christian meditation  
All are welcome  
carolinewalker@btinternet.com

**5-6:15pm**  
30th January  
27th February  
27th March  
24th April  
29th May  
26th June  
ZOOM also available

**£5 donation**  
**Bring a mat**



All are welcome to attend this Yoga and Meditation Class.

Tea, conversation and prayer available afterwards. Donation optional.

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## *Hardington Vale* *Rogation Walking The Parish 2022* *Sunday 22 May*



### *Norton St Philip - Hemington* *(4.5 miles - easy/moderate)*

*2.00 pm set off from the church at Norton St Philip via Hardington*

*4.00 pm onwards... arrive at Hemington for tea - contribution (£5) to CCT*

*for more information please contact Michael Fowler on 01373 834925*

*Everyone is welcome including non-walkers and well-behaved dogs*

## REMEMBER TO VOTE ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Please don't forget to vote for new Somerset Councillors on Thursday 5 May. These are important elections with the creation of a new, unitary council in April 2023. There are 110 seats available in 55 divisions across the county with electors able to cast two votes each in their division.

The ward of Rode and Norton St Philip will be part of Frome North. Some of you will already know that I am not standing as a candidate for Somerset Council. However, I still have a year to go as District Councillor so you will still be seeing me around until the end of March 2023.

|                      |                    |                        |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Your candidates are: | Adam Boyden        | Liberal Democrat       |
|                      | John Clarke        | Green                  |
|                      | Christine Cockroft | Liberal Democrat       |
|                      | Dawn Denton        | Conservative           |
|                      | Lollie Melton      | Green                  |
|                      | Dale Spree         | Conservative           |
|                      | Steve Tanner       | Independents for Frome |

Count of votes and declarations of results for 110 councillors to the County of Somerset will take place on 6 May 2022

*Barbi Lund*

MDC Councillor for the ward of Rode and Norton St Philip

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## SOMERSET UNITARY ELECTIONS THURSDAY MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

On 1 April 2023, the five existing councils in Somerset will be replaced by a single Somerset Unitary Council. This means that all the services delivered by Somerset County Council and the four district councils – Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, and South Somerset – will be delivered by the new Somerset Council. You will have two votes and can choose from seven candidates – see above. The Councillors elected on 5 May 2022 will transfer to this new Council and will run it until the next election in May 2027. Visit: [newsomersetcouncil.org.uk](http://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk) for more information.

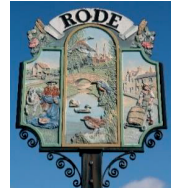
Polling Stations are open from 7am to 10pm on May 5 2022.

You must vote at your assigned Polling Station. We have a Polling Station in Rode at Rode and District Memorial Hall. You need to be registered in order to vote - you don't need your poll card to vote.

# Parish News

## RODE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION UPDATE

Seven nominations for Councillors for the Parish Council were submitted by the deadline. This means there will be no election of Councillors in Rode as there are eight vacancies, which are filled by these seven nominations.



There is still a Councillor vacancy which we hope to fill by co-option in the next few months.

*Hugh Williams*

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

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## CALLING ALL THOSE UP FOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

Rode Scout group needs you!

John and I will be leaving our roles as Scout Leaders at the end of this term. Dan, Mike, Mitzi and Alex are carrying on, but they will need one or two committed people to take on the role of Scout Leader for the section to continue.



We have had a great time and lots of adventures with the Scouts but it's time for us to step away. We have enjoyed brilliant activities and camps with some terrific young people. All training is free and you will be warmly welcomed into the scouting family.

Anyone interested or even mildly curious is welcome to join us on a Wednesday evening between 7 and 8.30pm and see what we do. Just email me at [jrottenbury@outlook.com](mailto:jrottenbury@outlook.com) and we can arrange a taster session.

*Jacqui Rottenbury*

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## 200 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

The 200 club winners of the March draw were:

1st prize £50 - Ros Jackson

2nd prize £25 - Jan Flower

Drawn by Andy the postman.



*Jan Jupp*



## RODE'S JUBILEE EVENT ON JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>

Rode's ParkFest on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> is not only going to be one of the best events locally but also one of the biggest.

Marquees have been organised, bands booked, beer ordered, and the gin and tonic tent will be at the ready. There'll be food to be cooked on the day. Plus a free afternoon tea for Rode children. A host of entertainers are set to invade the Playing Field during the afternoon to amuse both children and adults alike. And later, there'll be music for you to dance the night away. And of course, we'll be playing the national anthem to commemorate this special day in our nation's history.



We very much hope you will come and enjoy the event that we've had to wait 70 years to celebrate! Bring friends and family. Yes, aunties, uncles and grandparents ... grandchildren too ... all will all be made to feel most welcome. We promise them a great day!

So, we're expecting a lot of people to come and join the Rode ParkFest. Could this be an excellent opportunity for you to set out your stall to promote your local Rode organisation and perhaps raise some funds through hosting a money raising activity on your stall? If that strikes you as something worth exploring, then please do contact Ann Edney on 01373 830544 or email Ann at annmedney@btinternet.com. But do it soon, please!

The Rode ParkFest is being organised by Rode Playing Field, Rode Scouts and FRANS and is being supported financially by Rode Parish Council.

*Peter Travis*  
ParkFest Team Member

**STOP PRESS...** Rode's 7th Beer Festival will be part of the ParkFest Jubilee event! 12 noon 'till 11pm.

At least 8 Real Ales, wine, lager, cider etc. and 10 pence off a pint for card carrying CAMRA members!

Look forward to seeing you there.

*Keith Sharman*



# Parish News

## RODE DEFIBRILLATOR – RE-STARTER FOR 10!

This is our Defibrillator!

This is to give you the latest on the defibrillator. Currently it is beeping and showing a red cross in the corner of the box where there is usually a green 'ready' light.

Just to reassure you I confirm that the defib is still operational and I have sent away to The Community Heartbeat Trust and paid for a new battery which should last until 2026.



In 2013 when the 'Starter for 10' Appeal was launched, we raised enough money, not only to fund the purchase of this essential piece of equipment, case etc., but also enough to cover the cost of several pairs of replacement pads including 2 battery replacements and a rescue ready kit, up until now!

WOW!

Alas, the account now stands at close to zero! So, in order for the monitoring and availability of a defibrillator to remain operational in the village (it's in the Phone Box for those of you who don't know its location), I will be starting to fundraise again.

I estimate that we need to raise around **£400** just to keep things ticking over. Broken down, that is 40 people giving £10 or 80 people giving £5 (just a suggestion).

Any other amount or loose change will also be much appreciated.

I am aware of how much food, energy and fuel have escalated recently but if anyone does feel they would like to contribute, please pop any donation in an envelope marked 'Defib' and post it through my door at:

Teasel Cottage, 53 High Street, Rode (opposite The Old School Room). or if easier, leave with Demi at the Post Office.

Thank you, thank you.

*Lizzy Etheridge*  
Co-ordinator

## RODE IN BLOOM AND OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 19 June 2022, 11-4pm - I hope you can join us for the second year of this event to celebrate the wonderful gardens and growing spaces in Rode. The competition element this year will just be focused on the people's favourite garden (voted for by you), and the children's planters - with prizes awarded to the winners and homegrown thank you gifts for all entrants.

We were thrilled how well last year's event went and we're hoping to match and build on it if possible! Thank you to everyone who took part to make it the success it was. .

Would you like to take part in this year's event by opening your garden or children entering a planter they've put together? It would be amazing if you were keen to join in, we would love to have you involved.

Gardens should be enjoyed and celebrated in all their forms and whether they are small or large - from wildlife gardens, veg gardens, landscaped gardens, or lawned gardens with flower beds.

We are also encouraging villagers to embrace the "In Bloom" aspect by helping Rode to be even more beautiful and abundant with flowers - in front gardens or in pots, a small amount can make a big and collective difference to both wildlife and to our experience. In the run up to the big day, we will organise opportunities to share surplus plants to help make Rode Bloom even more!

On the 19th, there will be a hub on the village green (where maps will be available, plants and gardenalia too plus children's planter competition) and there will be refreshments on offer at various locations around the village for you to refuel between garden visits. Money raised from the day will be donated to the Rode Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden.

If you are interested in opening your garden as part of the day, however big or small, entering the children's planter competition, donating plants or gardenalia or generally being involved, please do get in touch with either myself (best to email) [juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk)/07527 918314) or one of the following:

Averil Morrow 830686/[averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk)

Lucy Travis 831726/[Lucy\\_travis@hotmail.com](mailto:Lucy_travis@hotmail.com)

Sharman Flindall 830456/[sharman.flindall2@btinternet.com](mailto:sharman.flindall2@btinternet.com)

We would love to hear from you!

*Julia Robb*

# Parish News

## THE TOAD OF RODE: RETURNS!

Well, strictly speaking it returned!!! By the time you read this the costumes will have been returned, the scenery stored away and the grease paint wiped away (apologies Richard and Mike if that's still a problem...) and the photographs and mementoes have been filed away for another day and what memories they are.

The idea for the show started about a year ago and somehow it turned into a script and then it took on a life of its own although it would be fair to say that the journey from page to stage wasn't always an easy one.

There were the usual problems with changes of cast, arranging rehearsals to fit everyone's diary, the occasional bouts of over confidence and indeed of dread and fear and we had to start from scratch as the scenery boards from the last show were not fit for purpose. On top of that, things were obviously compromised somewhat by Covid, indeed the original showtime was scheduled for the end of February, and in the final weeks before curtain up several of the cast tested positive. Still as the saying goes; 'The show must go on!' and as a team we made it happen.

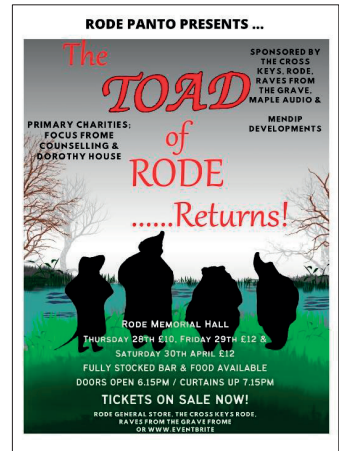
Everyone involved in making the magic happen, actors and support staff alike put an incredible amount of effort into bringing Toad to the stage but it was worth it.

Many new friendships were forged, incredible memories were created and all of us are surely better and happier people for the experience.

It should also be highlighted that without the sponsorship of Raves From The Grave, Maple Audio and Mendip Developments, plus the support of F.A.B.S, the Osborne family and Hannah at the Cross Keys, we would never have got over the line, and for that all at Team Toad will be forever grateful.

If you saw the show, then I hope you enjoyed it, if you didn't, well you'll have to take my word for it that it was something never to be forgotten!

I can honestly say that everyone who took part should be proud of what we achieved, I for one can only say a massive thank you ...you made the hours of work feel like it was time well spent. Talking of worthwhile...





## Parish News

The key drivers behind the show were to bring something special to the village, an event that would bring a smile to people's faces after two years of difficulty and sadness, and to raise money for a couple of very worthy causes. The first being Dorothy House, with which we have a long-standing association and which has helped many families in Rode over the years. The second being Focus Frome Counselling Charity which offers access to much needed support to people who otherwise would be left without support during what remain challenging times for us all.

I can't tell you here what we raised, but I promise to post an update in the next edition of The Link.

That's it for now, indeed it's farewell from the land of Toad and all his Riverbank and woodland friends, you certainly will be remembered.

*Gary Holloway*

P.S. Below a special reminder of Lucia's (AKA Ratty) finest moment...



# Parish News

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS!



Would you like to support Hardington Vale's international charity The Mission To Seafarers in a practical way?

One way is by joining the amazing group of knitters who make hats, scarves and fingerless gloves which are given to seafarers to help them keep warm during long cold nights spent on the open seas. Each knitted item finds a home and the seafarers they're matched to are extremely grateful for the extra warmth! It's a great way of using leftover wool and making a real difference. The website has straightforward patterns which are easy to download and the finished items can be posted to the charity.

Andy Bowerman finishes his job with the charity in May, but Andrew Wright will be taking part in the Sea Sunday Service on 10 July and it would be great to be able to present him with the finished articles.

If you're able to help or would like further information, please contact me.

*Debby Hill*

T: 01373 830362

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## PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Playing Field Lottery winners in February 2022, drawn by customers in the Cross Keys. Now, it doesn't happen very often, but....

1<sup>st</sup> - £50.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> - £25.00 – Tim Plaister, Rode. Well done Tim.

3<sup>rd</sup> - £25.00 - Gary Millgate, Rode.

Sunday Roast for two, Mr and Mrs. Mike Curzon, ex Rode. Thanks again to Mark and Hannah.

If you would like a chance to get a slice of this action, remember only 200 tickets available and a share of £100 and two Sunday roasts, possible all for £1.00 per ticket!

And remember you are supporting the Playing Field when you buy your ticket. Tickets on sale at the Post Office, or directly from Jane and I. Next draws, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

*Keith Sharman*

T: 830408

# Parish News

## NEW HOMEGROUP STARTING IN RODE THIS MAY!

A homegroup is a group of people who meet in someone's home and who want to learn more about God, discuss the bible, pray and encourage each other.



There is a new Homegroup starting in Rode in May – this month!

It's a great opportunity to get to know more people in the village and learn more about God and how to follow Him! Please get in touch if you are interested or just want to know more.

*Jo Robinson*

E: 321jorobinson@gmail.com or T: 831381

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## THE RODE VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

A big thank you to all who turned out for the above on April 10th, organised by Rode Parish Councillors as part of "The Great British Spring Clean".



Thank you to Elaine Butler for the above photograph of some of the volunteers. I was away at the time but was and am very grateful for your efforts, as I am sure, are all other residents of the village.

*Gill Leonard*

Editor

# Parish News

## LAVERTON NEWS

I am starting this month's newsletter with a touching story - sometimes small acts of kindness mean so much in these troubled times:

Such a lovely thing happened to me today: I was browsing for daffodils in the Frome green grocers; next to me, a statuesque young woman with 4 cheerful little girls in tow; they chose with care a bunch of flowers from the bucket and I wondered who they were going to visit. I crossed the bridge with my heavy parcels to the library car park and paused on a bench; they all appeared in a row before me saying "these flowers are for you"!! The woman explained that it was her little daughter's birthday; they had been out to lunch and were now going to the cinema, but a woman had stopped them on hearing about the birthday, nipped off and returned with a present for the little girl. So they had decided to do a kind thing for the next person they met, me! Then they picked up all my parcels and took me to the car, en route telling me the names and colours of their hens, and their puppy - four friends and all so lively and communicative. What a lovely woman, long may she reign. So my kindness today is to hand on this tale to you. Blessings, *Sara Jocelyn*

**St Mary's Church Laverton Spring Cleaning** - On the 26th March a jolly band of volunteers wielding ladders, mops, dusters, polish, secateurs and trowels made a splendid job of cleaning the Church, weeding the path edge and pruning the shrubs leaving everything tidy, fresh and sparkling. Hurrah and many thanks to all for their hard work! *Gilli Weeks*



Above - Andy and Julia hard at work!

**The Swallows are back!** Gilli is pleased to report that the swallows are back at Manor Farm - they arrived on 12th April - almost a year to the day they arrived last year! Isn't it amazing? Gilli wonders if anyone else has them in their barns or outbuildings?



# Parish News

**Jubilee Celebrations** - Hopefully all houses in Laverton should by now have received a flyer through their letter box with details of the Laverton Jubilee weekend. We've been given/promised lots of lovely fabric and bunting - but still room for more, so please keep sewing!

**Defibrillator for Laverton** - It's taken a while but I have just heard from the Friends of Frome Hospital that we have been granted a Defibrillator for the village. We are now awaiting a visit from their electrician to check all is in order with the electrics. This is great news for the village and once in place they will be happy to offer some basic instruction in how to use it. We'll be looking for a willing 'Guardian' just to keep an eye on it and check it regularly.

*Jackie Moss*

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## DID YOU KNOW?!!

I am delighted to say that the recent refurb of the inside of St Philip and St James is completed. The recent addition being the placing of infra-red heaters in the church so that we can warm you up now too! So do drop in and have a look.



If you are thinking about getting married in the near future why not come and look round the church in Norton St Philip and consider it for your wedding reception?!

Also did you realise, that if you live in the parish of Hardington Vale you are entitled to get married in any of the churches that make up Hardington Vale?

If you would like to discuss this further please do contact me -  
T: 01373 834258 E: [carolinehwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinehwalker@btinternet.com) or  
Ros Clarke the Parish Administrator –  
T: 834488 E: [admin.hardingtonvale@btconnect.com](mailto:admin.hardingtonvale@btconnect.com)

*Caroline Walker*

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**SOME SAD NEWS...** It has come to our attention that Alan Stacey passed away in April, followed by his wife Delia some days later. It was our understanding that Alan was the oldest surviving man born and residing in Rode. He and Delia were a devoted couple and had been married for over 70 years, their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was featured in the magazine. Our sincere condolences to all their family.

# Parish News

## RODE COMMUNITY ORCHARD & WILDLIFE GARDEN

### Progress Since December

The first Plantathon in December successfully planted a mixed hedge along the 170 metre boundary fence – some 650 plants in all. The event was very well attended some 50 plus people of all ages from the village community.

Plantathon 2 took place in March when a smaller band of community volunteers planted 100 trees donated by The Woodland Trust. These were planted in small copses one of entirely silver birch and three others of mixed trees comprising downy birch, rowan and wild cherry. The Trust also provided a significant number of dogwoods and these were planted at the north eastern end of the site. The community was asked if they had trees they could donate which resulted in the planting of a copse of locally grown oaks, walnut trees, a sycamore and a horse chestnut.

The footpath has been installed by the developer. Excess hedging plants are being planted along the boundary. The project is also in receipt of some reasonably mature 4' high rowan trees that were saved from being dumped in a skip. Some of these have been planted at intervals along the boundary hedge.

John Osborne has done a trial raking of the site. A site visit is now required to determine if this is sufficient to allow the wildflower seeds to be planted (Task 14).

### Project Tasks

The tasks have changed slightly from October as the practicalities of organising the work become more apparent.

| Task | Schedule Date | Description  | Compl'n Date |
|------|---------------|--|--------------|
| 8    | 19-11-21      | Delivery of hedging plants and materials           | 09-12-21     |
| 9    | 08-12-21      | Working party to remove wire from old fencing      | 09-12-21     |
| 10   | 30-12-21      | Hedge Planting 'Plantathon'                        | 30-12-21     |
| 11   | 16-02-22      | Trees from The Woodland Trust delivered            | 17-02-22     |
| 12   | 19-03-22      | Tree Planting 'Plantathon 2'                       | 19-03-22     |
| 13   | 20-04-22      | Removal of trees to connect two halves of path     |              |
| 14   | 30-04-22      | Scarification of surface for wildflower seeding    |              |
| 15   | 30-05-22      | Installation of fence alongside new footpath       |              |
| 16   | 29-06-22      | Installation of drainage pipe on northwest of S106 |              |
| 17   | 29-06-22      | Removal of site waste                              |              |

## REMEMBER - NO MOW MAY

Full details were given on this by Jim McAuliffe last month. A brief reminder - to help protect wildlife, the charity Plantlife started the “No Mow May” campaign several years ago – and whilst private gardens cannot substitute ancient wild meadows, we can do a huge amount on a small scale to reverse critical habitat loss.



One of the best ways to encourage wildflowers in the garden is simply to forget the lawnmower and just let your grass grow. Try to resist cutting until at least the middle of July – or even into early September if you can. This gives the wildflowers a chance to complete their cycle of growing, flowering and setting seed.

To find out more, checkout the Plant life website: [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

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## A CALL OUT FOR MENDIP TREE WARDENS

The Mendip Tree wardens' group is part of the Tree Council's tree warden scheme. It will aim to support groups interested in a wide range of tree and wildlife-related activities. It might be starting your own community tree nursery to help replace the trees lost through ash die back or the recent storms, you might be interested learning to survey ancient trees or your local hedgerows and provide vital citizen data or learn about the amazing wildlife that makes it home in or on trees. You can decide what your group does.

Currently they are looking for one or two groups of people in different parishes who are interested in joining a pilot, before we open it up to the whole district. Everyone is welcome whether you are experienced or just starting.

The Mendip Tree wardens enable groups to contact each other to share knowledge and skills as well as enabling training and support for groups.

If you think there is a group in your parish that would like to get involved at this pilot stage, please contact [climate@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:climate@mendip.gov.uk)

*Barbi Lund*

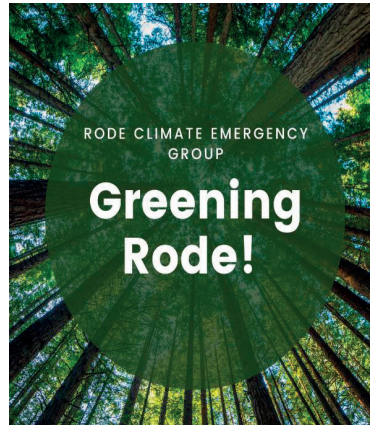
MDC Councillor for the ward of Rode and Norton St Philip

# Parish Ecology

## RODE CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY – RESULTS

First of all, a VERY BIG “Thank You” to everyone who completed the Climate Change survey which took place in March. The survey was undertaken primarily to help the Climate Emergency Group understand what Rode residents think about Climate Change and help inform decisions regarding the priorities for us as a village, and as a Group.

The survey itself contained eleven questions. Respondents were also invited to indicate their age and gender, and the survey responses could then be analysed to understand any key differences in responses by age-group or gender.



Copies were hand-delivered to all adults on the Electoral Register for Rode (just under 700 individuals). Additional copies were available in the Post Office for those not on the Electoral Register. 198 responses were received (approx. 22% of the electorate), with nearly a third of respondents (70) also adding some brief narrative comments.

The vast majority of respondents feel that the climate is changing, that humans are primarily responsible, and that drastic changes are required to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Over 80% of respondents believe they could be doing more (or a lot more), and although a majority think they know what they should be doing, 40% of respondents feel they need more (or a lot more) information.

Almost every respondent said they were already recycling as much as they can (although almost a third said they planned to recycle more in 2022). Almost 60% of respondents are already home-composting, encouraging wildlife and buying locally-grown food where possible. Nearly half of respondents are planning to reduce meat consumption this year, and over 40% are planning to buy more locally-grown food. Although the numbers are much lower, over 10% are planning to buy an electric/hybrid car, and nearly 20% looking to improve their home insulation in 2022.

It is clear that there is an appetite in the village to make some significant investments in household carbon-reduction. However, a lack of information, and cost, are significant issues. When it comes to transport, a large majority of residents are keen to see improved bus services, nearly half want improved safe

# Parish Ecology

cycling/walking routes, and over a third believe we should instal community EV charging points.

In terms of the natural environment, there is general support for some of the key farm management initiatives outlined in the SCC Climate Emergency Strategy. In addition, nearly three-quarters of respondents are concerned about the use of pesticides, and over half concerned about the quality of the water in the River Frome.

For the final question, respondents were invited to select their top two priorities from a list of seven. The clear “winner”, gaining almost twice as many votes as the next most popular, is the improvement of public transport and provision of safe walking/cycling routes. There was also strong support for increased recycling and maximising the use of low carbon energy sources.

For the most part there were no material differences between age-brackets or genders - although Women generally felt they could be doing more, compared to Men, and acknowledged a need to know more. Women were also more likely to want to prioritise improved bus services, whilst Men were more likely to prioritise low carbon energy.

In relation to Age, there were some distinctions which seem to chime with national and international data - in particular, younger residents (under 65s) are more likely to think that human activity is *mainly* responsible for climate change, and under 65s are more likely to think they could be doing more to avoid the worst impact of climate change. In terms of behaviour change, the biggest generational difference related to meat-eating....61% of under-65s are planning to reduce their meat consumption this year, compared to 37% of over-65s. And in relation to our priorities, improving safe walking & cycling routes had the same percentage difference between the generations (61% of under-65s seeing this as an important way to reduce emissions from road transport). [Over 65s are twice as likely to accept the need to use our cars but seek to prioritise other ways to reduce our carbon footprint.]

The Climate Emergency Group is now reviewing the results of the survey and starting work on an Action Plan to help reduce Rode’s carbon footprint. We’ll be feeding back on this at regular intervals and would very much welcome support to help deliver on that plan. If you are interested in joining the Group, or maybe just keen to get involved in one or two initiatives, please contact me at: [jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com)

*Jim McAuliffe*



# Parish Ecology

## THE RIVER FROME, AND WATER QUALITY

Much has been said and written recently – in the press and elsewhere – about the quality of sea and river water in and around the UK.

Last autumn the Environment Bill was passed into law, and with it either (depending on your perspective) carte blanche for water companies to continue to pump raw sewage into rivers and seas – or increased requirements on those water companies to improve the quality of those same rivers and seas. Most environmental groups took the former view, whilst the government and the water companies themselves generally took the latter.

In fact, everyone has the opportunity to express their views, as the government recently launched a consultation on some of the proposed targets in the new legislation. Responding to the consultation is relatively quick and easy, and if you feel strongly about this issue it is definitely worth making your feelings known (search for “Consultation on the Government’s Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan”). The deadline for comments is 12<sup>th</sup> May.



The Rivers Trust has recently updated its excellent Sewage Map to include the 2021 data. This shows, for the vast majority of combined sewage overflows (CSOs) throughout the UK, how many times these CSOs allowed excess water/sewage into rivers and seas. Locally, the CSO (water recycling centre) near Langham Farm overflowed 47 times, for a total of 446 hours last year, a *slight* improvement on 2020. The situation should be materially improved later this year when the upgrade works are complete (see below).



## Parish Ecology

Meanwhile, Wessex Water is working on a project to use both regular sampling and Artificial Intelligence to predict water samples at multiple points on the River Frome (including Tellisford Weir).

Currently the AI algorithm is approximately 90% accurate in predicting the water quality at Tellisford. One objective of the project is to provide near real-time data on water quality in a way that can be used by the public. This should give swimmers and other water-users the confidence they need when assessing whether the water quality is safe.

Incidentally, if you still have the latest Wessex Water magazine (which was delivered to all WW customers recently) there's a short article on storm overflows. Their website also includes some good explanations of how CSOs work.

### Rode Water Recycling Centre Improvements - Wessex Water Update

Phase one of Wessex Water's upgrade of Rode Water Recycling Centre has been completed ahead of the Environment Agency Regulation date of 30 June.

The second phase of the £2.6 million scheme starts in May, work that will increase biological sewage treatment capacity and allow for population growth and future development in the area.



All work is taking place within the existing site boundary and also involves remedial improvements to the access track. Pedestrian access will be managed and maintained throughout.

Wessex Water will be installing a standby generator to provide resilience should mains power be disrupted, with all work expected to be finished during September 2022.

Residents may notice an increase in construction traffic in the area and some noise during working hours (normally Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6pm), with every effort made to keep this to a minimum. Customers' water and sewerage services won't be affected.

*Jim McAuliffe*

# Parish Health & Wellbeing



## TALKING CAFES FROME, BECKINGTON, COLEFORD, MELLS

Talking cafes are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a Health Connector about activities, support groups and services in your community.

**Frome:** Mondays 10am – 11.30am Cheese and Grain, Market Yd, Justice Ln, Frome BA11 1BE

**Frome:** Thursday 1pm – 2.30pm, Coffee#1, 15-16 Westway Centre, Frome BA11 1BS

**Coleford:** Thursday 1pm – 2.30pm, The Hub, Old School, Church Street, Coleford BA3 5NQ

**Beckington:** First Tuesday of every month, 1.30pm-2.30pm, The Woolpack, Warminster Road, BA11 6SP

**Mells:** Last Thursday of every month, 11am-12pm, April-September, The Walled Garden Cafe, 5 Rectory Cottages, Mells, Frome, Somerset, BA11 3PN





## Top tips to improve your mental wellbeing

There are little things we can all do to take care of our mental wellbeing.



Just like our physical health, it is important to look after our mental health. This can help us to learn new ways to cope with life's challenges and lead happier, healthier lives.

Simple changes can make a big difference – here are six areas that can help you look after your mental wellbeing:



### 1. Being aware of unhelpful thoughts

Learn to ask yourself whether your thoughts are helpful or not? Is there a different way to see the situation? What would you say to a friend?

### 2. Focus on now

Spend time focusing on the present instead of getting stuck on the past or worrying too much about the future. You could try relaxation techniques and mindfulness.

### 3. Getting enough rest

Make sure you have enough down time before bed and a good sleep routine with a regular bedtime and wake up time.

### 4. Connecting with others

Make time for socialising with friends and family or online communities where you are able to talk about the way you feel.

### 5. Living a healthy lifestyle

Eating well and getting enough exercise for your physical health can help to boost your mental wellbeing too.

### 6. Do something for yourself

Have some 'me time' by spending regular time on the things that make you happy, whether that's a hobby, trying something new or relaxing.



**Better Health** every mind matters

If you or someone you trust has a smart phone or computer and can access the internet, do visit [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/) for more tips and information on caring for your mental health, and find what works for you. You can also get access to the internet at most local libraries.

# Parish Health & Wellbeing

## VILLAGE AGENT NEWS



somerset village &  
community agents  
part of CCS

Hello Readers, as I write, the sun is shining and I'm reflecting on an Easter weekend spent walking and in the garden (as well as eating a chocolate egg or two!). Our local weather forecaster reported a ground frost overnight, reminding us that it's not quite time for planting our bedding plants yet. If, like me, you follow "The Mendip Nature Diaries" on Facebook, you'll have been treated to some beautiful local wildlife pictures including Red Kites, Orange Tip butterflies and even adders.

It's a great time of year to get outside if you can and May is National Walking Month in the UK, and a great incentive to Get Outdoors in Somerset. Kick start some healthy summer habits or encourage you to move a bit more than normal! In Somerset, we are blessed to have thirty-five miles of our coastline on the Southwest Coast Path route. Why not set yourself a spring-summer challenge to walk it! Find more information here: <https://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/walk-coast-path/south-west-coast-path-national-trail/area/somerset-and-exmoor/>.

Do you enjoy walking alone or with friends, or would you like to meet new people while you walk? The Get Outside in Somerset campaign has grown massively. It has a website packed with local groups you could join, and a Facebook group where you can share your favourite places to go. Why not inspire others to follow you! Visit - <https://getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk/activities> and select walking from the dropdown list for ideas! More walking motivation can be found on the Somerset Day Trail map: <https://somersetday.com/2022-somerset-day-trail-map/>. May 11th is Somerset Day – a now well-established celebration of all things Somerset! Join in the activities at some of the fabulous destinations on the 2022 trail challenge. You could also win one of four prizes by submitting an interesting/wacky/fun photo of your days out or home with the Somerset flag (or bunting) flying. So why not celebrate National Walking Month Somerset style!

**Help with Food** - CCS Village Agents were instrumental in the distribution of food to all corners of Somerset during the pandemic. Our role as primary distributor has ended, but the many community groups we supported are still going strong! If you need help with food, please do still contact your local CCS Agent, who'll then connect you to your local group for premade meals/food boxes. Visit : [tinyurl.com/2p88y4z6](https://tinyurl.com/2p88y4z6) to complete our online form or call 01823 331222.

If you're part of a Community Group, the Smart Community Food Resilience Grant Fund is open for applications until 31st May. Community groups/charities/organisations/agencies supporting or directly working to develop food resilience in Somerset communities can apply. Visit: [smartcommunities.online/new-food-resilience-grant-fund/](https://smartcommunities.online/new-food-resilience-grant-fund/)

# Parish Health & Wellbeing

HIS Church provides pallets of food for groups to purchase and use. For more details, costs, and delivery contact: Christine Wylde on 07771 707477 or email [hisfood@hischurch.org.uk](mailto:hisfood@hischurch.org.uk)

FareShare redistribute surplus food from some of the UK's top food companies to more than 10,500 charities and community groups. To join the scheme for regular delivery please contact: <https://fareshare.org.uk/>

**CCS Village Agents Talking Cafés** - are back at over sixteen locations across Somerset. It is a great place to drop in if you have a problem and do not know where to turn or are feeling lonely or isolated and would like a cuppa and a chat. Most run weekly sessions, so call us to find your local venue on 01823 331 222, or visit [somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/](http://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/) Our Facebook Live Talking Cafes are also still taking place every Wednesday at 1pm. May discussion topics include Deafness, and guests from the Home Library Service. Tune in live or watch on catch up via Facebook or You Tube. [www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafelive](http://www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafelive) I'm aware that not everyone has access to the internet, so if you know someone who would benefit from the support of a CCS Agent, please do get in touch.

*Nic Edwards*

E: [nicolae@somersettrcc.org.uk](mailto:nicolae@somersettrcc.org.uk)

Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Village & Community Agents are in communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. They offer advice/support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any issues you may have. or situations that you need advice and or support with, from finance matters, health issues, caring responsibilities and more. For more information visit [somersetagents.org](http://somersetagents.org) E:[info@somersettrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersettrcc.org.uk) T: 01823 331222 or our parent organisation [ccslovesomerset.org.uk](http://ccslovesomerset.org.uk) For specific advice for carers, please visit [somersetcarers.org](http://somersetcarers.org) or call 0800 31 68 600 to find out who can advise you.



Just think  
111 online first

When you think you need A&E,  
go to [111.NHS.UK](http://111.NHS.UK)



# Parish Youth News & Events

## RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

March and April have been extremely busy months in our Federation and it has been wonderful to be able to take part in some of our usual whole-school events again, welcoming parents back into schools.

**Steam Week** - In March, the children spent a week experimenting with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Parent and engineer Jill Clay kicked us off on Monday using her engineering and science background to lead workshops on bridge building, at Rode. Using just paper straws and masking tape the children created bridges. Over at Norton, children built towers of toilet rolls to see how many could be pulled along without the tower toppling. They investigated how to build towers that were stable and strong, looking at real towers for inspiration. Our own Mr. Searle visited all the classes to help them to plant seedlings, beans and cress heads. Years 2,3 and 4 investigated what wolves, pigs and cows eat and whether they are omnivores or herbivores. Year 3 made space rocket blow toys using straws. Reception built conveyor belts to transport ball pit balls into buckets. Gruffalo class went on a walk to find frogspawn and Elmer class had to use their 5 senses to spot signs of spring on their science walk.

**Collection for Ukraine and Textile Recycling Bank** - By the end of March our wonderful school community had amassed an incredible amount of essential supplies to send to Ukraine. The Year 4 children formed a 'bucket-brigade' moving all the boxes of items donated, filling a van. The donations were transferred to an arctic lorry, heading for Ukraine. Dimitri and team sent a thank you message; "I just wanted to send you a note to say thank you to all parents, carers, staff, children and members of the public that have been donating to our campaign to get aid over to Ukraine. The volume of donations has been overwhelming and some of the notes and drawings that have come with them have made us a bit misty eyed!" A general textile and shoe recycling bank is situated in the Rode School car park. Contributions are welcome all year round and help to fundraise for our school. Please contact the office team if you would like to arrange to access the bank.

**Year of Klezmer Concert at Frome Cheese and Grain** - The Hop-Skotshne Trio visited Rode School on Friday March 18th to present an interactive workshop with years 2,3 and 4, playing traditional Jewish celebration music. They then worked with year 4 children to help them practice the pieces they had been learning to play on the ukulele. The project culminated in a 'Grand Concert' alongside the Hop-Skotshne Trio and ten other schools in the Cheese and Grain, Frome, on Tuesday





## Parish Youth News & Events

March 22nd. The children represented the school exceptionally and we were very proud of them. The staff weren't bad either!

**We Went On A Troll Hunt!** - Gruffalo Reception Class had a beautiful

morning for their first school trip; a troll hunt! They set off from Rode school and found not three, but in fact, four goats. They crossed three bridges, discussed currents, islands, weirs, whirlpools and waterfalls. Near the Mill,



they bravely approached the arch of the bridge and, would you believe it, there was the troll! As he was a friendly troll they took him back to Norton on the minibus. A great walk full of science, nature and geography.

**Wild Jubilee Garden Big Spring Dig** - Huge thanks to our valiant band of helpers that pitched in on Saturday April 1st to work on the Wild Jubilee Nature Garden at our Rode site. There were some great workers; digging, raking, chopping and pruning. We even had some dry-stone walling! Little Wilfred Ellis (not yet two years old) proved to be a dab hand with the spade and wheelbarrow. A super example of our Federation teamwork at its best. Thank you to all involved, especially Mr. Searle who organised resources and tools. Tasks included clearing and opening pathways, moving wood chip and beginning to dig out the pond area.



**Sponsored Swim at Frome Lions** - Our team of valiant swimmers entered the annual Frome Lions sponsored swim and had great success. The children really rose to the occasion and lapped up the cheering and clapping from the viewing gallery! We'd like to say a big well done and thank you to Alice W, Leo

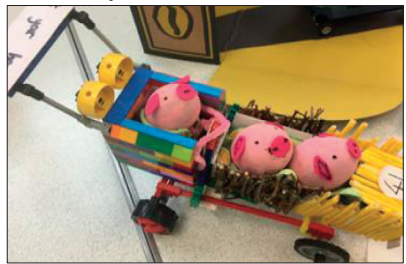
# Parish Youth News & Events

N, Henry A and Reuben C from BFG class, as well as ex-pupils Ava C and Matthew A for representing our Federation. Collectively, they swam a distance of 1200m in 25 minutes, which is a fantastic achievement. The initial nervous faces, soon changed to proud, smiley ones, as they took it in turns to plough their way up and down the pool, completing 48 lengths between them.

**Year 4 Drama Karma Macbeth Project** - BFG Class have been privileged to work with Kevin Ross and Chloe George (Drama karma) this term, dipping their toes into Shakespeare! The Macbeth scenes they have been working on were absolutely incredible, involving stage fighting, tree branches (when Burnham Woods comes to Dunsinane), toil, trouble and drumming. Although only 8 or 9 years old, the children had no problem getting to grips with Shakespeare's words. We hope to present this work to a wider audience later in the year. Drama Karma will continue working with Year 4 next term and their very popular after-school club will run on Thursdays for years 2,3 and 4.

**Tales and Teeth Egg Challenge/Fairy Tale Dress Up Day** - This year's design technology Egg Challenge was called 'Escape the Villains'. The task was to decorate a blown or hardboiled egg to represent a fairy tale character, then design and build a getaway vehicle for the character to escape the baddies. Parents were invited in on the last day of term to watch the Great Eggscape Race where we put the vehicles to the test.

We had an eggcellent array of eggciting creations and were able to award many edible prizes before we broke up for the Easter holidays.



Next term...we start our new topic 'River Deep, Mountain High' and will be growing, planting, studying the local area and preparing for our Big Summer Show at the Merlin Theatre on the evenings of June 29th and 30th.



We'll be meeting our new Reception children in June. We have very limited spaces left for September so get in touch soon if you still need a school place.

[www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk](http://www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk) or call us on 01373 830523/834327

**COME AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!**

# Parish Youth News & Events

## CHILDREN'S WORKER NEWS

**Easter Garden** - Many thanks to the families who came to Mini Breakfast Church on Easter Saturday at NSP. We made a lovely Easter Garden which can be seen in the church porch and an Easter tree with decorated eggs to celebrate the season of 'new life' through Jesus' resurrection. This was followed by a challenging Easter egg hunt in the churchyard!



**Mini Breakfast Church** - Our next Mini Breakfast Church will be held at NSP Church 9.30am- 10.00am on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Please note the new start time which is 30 minutes later than before.

**Easter Holiday Caterpillar Club** - We had a busy afternoon looking for signs of new life in the churchyard with magnifying glasses that the children had made. A quiz about the creatures who had hibernated in our bug hotel gave us some surprises as to who might have slept there!



**Platinum Jubilee Celebration** - A reminder that instead of Caterpillar Club in the summer half term holiday there will be a crown making drop-in workshop in NSP Church 10.00am-11.30am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.



If you would like to design a crown to wear for the Jubilee celebrations, I will have lots of sparkly materials available for you to use. Children will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible older sibling. There will be a donation jar for materials used in your crown.

*Sue Rodford*

H.V. Children and Family Worker

E: [kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk](mailto:kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk) T: 01373 812766

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## RODE PARENT/CARER AND TODDLERS GROUP

A Parent/ Carer and Toddlers Group is going to start in Rode soon.

It will be on Monday mornings at Rode Chapel. Look out for more details in next month's copy of the Link.



*Val Parker*

# Parish Youth News & Events



**Beckington Pre-School**

Open term time from 8:45am

Children aged 2-4 welcome  
30 hours funding accepted

Beckington Baptist Church Hall  
www.beckingtonpre-school.co.uk  
01373 831492  
info@beckingtonpre-school.co.uk  
Find us on 

Charity no. 1035832



EVERY Wednesday 9 – 10.45am  
St Philip and St James Church, NSP

Toys, songs and stories. No need to book drop in sessions.  
New play space in the church and new heating.

£2.00 per adult for coffee and cake.  
No charge for children, please bring refreshments for them.

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

**DANCE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES**

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

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



REGISTERED ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE TEACHER

FOR FURTHER INFO: CONTACT: 07526 922863

**“A DANCING CHILD IS A HAPPY CHILD”**  
Welcoming all students to explore their passion for dance.

Photo: Fernan Chirindel/istock

# Parish Groups

## MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

There is no Lunch Club in May, our next lunch is Monday 13th June and we look forward to seeing all our regulars and new members alike - at The Village Hall, 12.15pm...

£4 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal, bring your own wine if you fancy a drink with it (the Hall is Licensed) - so, don't sit at home on your own - come and meet new friends and have a great meal at the same time!!

Please let me know well in advance if you'd like to come - just give me a ring!

If you need help with getting to the Hall please let me know and we can arrange transport.

Hope to see you there!

*Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team*

01373 830836/07828 600095

NB July Lunch Club is on 11th July

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## RODE MONTHLY WALKING GROUP

April's walk around the woods, fields and public footpaths of Freshford was very enjoyable, ending with a coffee stop at their lovely cafe/shop.

The next walk, on Tuesday 10 May, will be the Tellisford loop again but with an extension, approximately 7k in total.



Meeting at 10 am on the village green we set off past Langham as usual and will be returning down Tellisford Lane to where it joins by the Mill, the extension happening in Tellisford.

If you are intrigued, or just fancy a walk in pleasant company, do join us. Further details from me.

*Liz Dinnis*

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T:07788 656337



# Parish Groups

## RODE OVER 60s CLUB

The AGM held in the Hall on 8th April was well attended, it was quite a short meeting, so the delicious tea was soon imminent! The Treasurer Mrs Carter reported that the finances are in good shape and grateful thanks go to the late Captain Roger Sharp who left the Club £2000 in his will.

It is planned to run 3 outings this year, the first on Thursday May 12th to Highfield Garden World, the second on Thursday 9th June to Sidmouth and the third on Thursday 7th July to Weymouth.

The coach fare for these outings will be £15 for members and £18 for visitors, anyone wishing to go on these outings please ring Mrs Ros Dymond 01373 830149 or Mrs Sue Beaven 01373 831326 by Thursday 5th May.

Please put the right money for your fare in a sealed envelope with your name on the front and hand it to Mrs Carter or a Committee member when boarding the coach.

It is requested that anyone who has booked to go on an outing, but on the day is not able to go, please notify Ros or Sue or any Committee member that they are not able to go, this will avoid keeping the coach waiting.

Members celebrating their birthdays in May are Mr John Thomas on 1st May, Mrs Eileen Byrne on 11th May, Mrs Wendy Deakins on 13th May and Mr Tom Ryan on 28th May. A very Happy Birthday to you all.

*Sue Beaven*

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## RODE CRAFT GROUP

Any craft projects on the go?

Fancy bringing along your knitting, sewing, crochet or card making for a cuppa and a chat?

A craft group will soon open in Rode Chapel on Thursday afternoons.

More details will be in next month's copy of the Link.

*Val Parker*



# Parish Groups

## RODE AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Last month members of the Gardening Club heard from Sally Morgan, a biologist, writer, and keen gardener on the impact of climate change for gardeners and growers of crops.



Despite May 2021 being the coldest here since 1659, temperatures are rising and today the UK is warmer by an average 0.8 °C compared 1961-1990. Human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels coupled with deforestation, changes in land use and farming are the prime causes.

We have seen across the world the loss of polar ice leading to higher sea levels, droughts, intense downpours and flooding, plus vast forest fires. We all are aware of these, but other signs such as mosquitoes being active in the daytime in Spain not just in the evening.

As growers we cannot carry on as usual, but we need to adapt our growing spaces to meet these challenges. Apples which were harvested here in October are now all in before the end of September. This means cider makers cannot leave them till winter to process (as in the twentieth century) as they are rotting before then, adding extra pressures at a busy time.

One positive result is that here in southern England the growing season is extended by 21 days. Trees budding 14 days earlier and small plants flowering 32 days earlier. However winters have tended to be wetter and less cold and summers hotter and drier. Many trees, especially fruit trees dislike being waterlogged. They do need a period of chilling to break bud dormancy. This time when temperatures are below 7°C, known as the chill factor, is between 400 – 1000 hours for most fruit trees, but plums and damsons need more than 1100 hours, so growers are now having to look for different rootstocks more tolerant of higher temperatures. Commercially these may reduce problems but for gardeners' trees on dwarfing rootstocks will be more vulnerable.

Rain when it arrives may be more intense. One in a hundred-year events could become one in ten. Too much water needs to be dealt with. We can slow it by planting green roofs, creating permeable surfaces especially in our front gardens. Building swales, channels to direct water run-off, especially in new developments, follow the contours, plant with grasses and wildflowers to slow run off, soak up water, provide homes for wildlife and look attractive.

# Parish Groups

Gardeners need to collect water for use in the drier hotter summer months. Water butts are easiest to install and perhaps tanks to collect water for dipping watering cans should be considered.

Gardeners can address drought issues by deciding not to dig beds but mulch them. This keeps the moisture where it is needed and actually helps when rain falls as soil can absorb it better. Mulch can be any organic material, which improves both the structure and the microbes in soil, supporting better plant growth. Cut material can be placed straight onto the beds. Where rainfall is already low, such as the southeast, gravel can provide a good mulch surface to grow through.

The choice of plants may have to be adapted, living lawns with a wider range of plants supporting wildlife especially insect variety will enhance the opportunities for wildlife generally, reduce the need for using weedkillers and pesticides. Mediterranean or prairie planting in drier areas could be an option.

Our choice of trees to grow may also be affected as their life span is so much longer. Will beech, oak, lime, or horse chestnut cope with this new climate we have created? What trees would be better choices? The Forestry Commission is already looking what types of trees it should plant today to harvest in fifty or one hundred years.

There will be positives, but we need to be flexible if we are to create productive gardens that contain flowers, vegetables, give pleasure, so they are attractive places for us and our native creatures.

This will be the last meeting in the Village Hall for a few months as members visit local notable gardens over the summer. There are some seats available on the coach if you would like to join us on our day trip to the RHS Garden at Wisley on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June. £20 (includes entry to Wisley). Please contact Averil Morrow, telephone 830686 or email [averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk)

*Sharman Flindall*

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## OTHER CLUBS NEWS WELCOME...

If you would like us to include details of a club you are involved with, please do contact us: [gillhleonard@aol.com](mailto:gillhleonard@aol.com)

We would be very happy to help promote it.



# Parish Groups

## RODE LADIES GROUP

The Eagle has Landed. Rode Ladies Group met on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The meeting was opened by Chairlady, Pat Banwell who commented on the dwindling number of attendees which was partly due to the meetings having to be held in the afternoon. She also said that we still needed a Secretary whose duties would include drawing up agendas, taking minutes of meetings and organising the AGM. Pat then introduced the speaker, Bob Rogers.

Bob was originally a full-time civil servant, but at the age of 45 he changed to working part-time and started working 4 days a week at the Hawk Conservancy Trust near Andover. He learned a huge amount from Reg Smith the original owner. Reg Smith was the son of a butcher who had a small farm and was passionate about nature conservancy and had an enormous amount of knowledge. He gave talks on radio and TV and cared for all sorts of injured and abandoned animals. Following his appearance on Blue Peter, 150 cars turned up at his farm the following Saturday and 240 on the Sunday. In 1966 Reg set up Weyhill Zoo Park on his farm, which featured European wildlife. The family took in an orphan brown bear cub which lived in the house with them until he reached 7ft. Reg created a bear pit for him but they had to take out a picture window to get him out of the house as he wouldn't fit through the door.

At the end of the 70s Reg decided to specialise in keeping birds of prey, aviaries were constructed amongst the trees and the Hawk Conservancy Trust was founded. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength and is a very popular attraction as well as conserving and breeding birds, carrying out research and providing education.

The Trust now has extensive premises and grounds and a café. There are 3 different daily displays of birds of prey and they also run 'Experience Days'. Reg talked about some of the birds that might be on display. Barn owls numbered 90,000 before the war but there are now only about 4,000. They are fussy eaters and hunt at dawn and dusk. They use their hearing, which is very acute, to find their prey. Kestrels, also known as 'wind hovers' are now on the amber list of endangered species due to changes in farming practices and are now often seen over motorway verges. Peregrine Falcons are the fastest creatures in the world. They fly upwards and then dive down onto the bird they have targeted – they can reach 200mph in 3 seconds.

Liz Dinnis thanked Bob for a very interesting and well-illustrated talk and Terri Lewis won the raffle.

*Caroline Williams*

# Parish Farming

## FUSSELS, BLUEBELLS, SWALLOWS AND MAIZE

My blackbird is still singing and hopefully he is celebrating a nest full of eggs. A first brood on the way. As soon as I dug over some earth, the robin came and



sat on the fork while I was tugging at some stubborn weeds, awaiting a worm! He is so tame and came back again and again ever hopeful. A tiny wren has now appeared and wiggles her bottom on my fence! She will be laying the tiniest of eggs (smaller than a mini egg)! The first swallows have returned having made their long

journey from Africa; feeding and sleeping on the wing! Then, today, I saw a solitary bee hovering around my 'Bee Hotel' popping in and out, perhaps storing some nectar for a feast later.

The longer days and recent sunshine have made the memory of winter fade, although the breeze has been cool and temperatures are still dropping overnight. Perhaps we might still see a frost! The photograph of the bluebells was taken by Helena in Picket Woods. I must find a date soon for a walk from Shearwater to Heaven's Gate, where there are bluebells galore. They put on such a display and I sometimes stand in awe and pause, as they wave their delicate bells in the breeze, as if they are saying you can look but don't pick us!

**Fine Foods:** The first of our Blooming Tours has taken place and it was great hosting again. It was the birthday of one of our guests, and so as a surprise, a Lemon Sponge (with candles) was in order to celebrate the occasion. We also hosted 22 lovely ladies from Southwick WI, who were an absolute hoot. All very game managing to get in and out of our Land Rovers in order to visit River Ground where our Oilseed Rape is just about in full bloom. Enjoyed by all.

**Markets:** The Farmer's Markets continue to be busy with Frome Independent 1/5, Axbridge 7/5 and Nailsea is on 21/5. Don't forget our nearest Frome Farmers Market on Saturday 14/5 in the Cheese and Grain. Come and meet the Producer/Growers which also gives you the chance to hear the back story. Why not come along and see what's on offer? Each market 9-1pm

Our Factory Shop here at Fussels HQ continues to be open: 9am-5pm Monday



# Parish Farming

to Friday and 10am-1pm on Saturdays.

**Tours:** Blooming Tours Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, both at 6.30pm. There are still some places available on both dates - do think about joining us. They're a pleasant way to spend an evening - a glass of bubbly and light supper included!

**Shows/Events:** Shows coming up are Bridport Food Festival on 18<sup>th</sup> June. A great foodie event and definitely worth a visit. This is one of my favourites!

**Farm:** Again, we have grown an early flowering strain of Oilseed Rape; a great food source for the bees.

Waggle & Hum's hives are in place close to the OSR, which is a game changer with pollination. Our fields are buzzing!

Andy buys seed forward on the Grain Markets and now with OSR topping £830 per tonne (as I write) it seems to be going up daily.



A huge problem for us at Fine Foods when the price of the raw material escalates. Fertilizer has also hit £1,000 per tonne; the highest price ever; it comes from Russia! Need I say more? These are huge problems for all farmer nationwide.

Shed Field, The Brickyard and Barbara's Field were spread with FYM in early April; then ploughed, harrowed and made ready for the maize to be drilled during the first week of May. Look out for the precision maize drill on the back of the tractor in the coming days. It doesn't take long, so don't miss it! It's always exciting to get a new crop into the tilled soil and then wait (approximately 14 days) when the first shoots poke through the warm earth. Readyng the fields for the forage maize requires experience, precision and care, which Shaun has in abundance. Farming requires much future planning. Working the rotation in conjunction with the Rural Payments Agency's lengthy document (the farm being mapped via satellite) is complex and takes a lot of Andy's time. And then there's the Contract Farming that we do as well! It's a game of survival...

Take care.

*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 Gardening

## GARDEN NOTES FOR MAY

I've been thinking about what brilliant pearls of wisdom I might share with you but worryingly I find my mind is flitting butterfly-like between lots of different and completely unrelated subjects.

This is not news to those who know me well, but I know you'll be kind and choose to regard this instead as a gardener's potpourri - which by the way may be one of those things due a revival (if it ever went away in this corner of Somerset...?) As you see, the urge to digress is strong. I must be firm. Here goes.

Colour palettes and spring bulbs: I've decided to get ahead for next year and note up the colour combinations I like NOW, instead of waiting for these thoughts to return to my scattered mind in autumn. I'm not convinced I'll go as far as putting in an early order now but it's been great to see combinations that have not previously charmed me now doing just that.

How about a tropical fruit cocktail: orange, cream and lemon with some purple accents including *Viola cornuta* varieties, white *Myosotis* (forget-me-nots), soft yellow *Hyacinthus orientalis* 'City of Haarlem' and red purple 'Woodstock', orange *Erysimum allionii* (wallflowers) and white *Hesperis matronalis*. It looks gorgeous and fresh and fun and we can all do with more of that in our lives, so they're all going on my wish list. (The photos by Cassian Schmidt on Instagram will convince you, if that's needed?)

Dahlias: mine have now all been potted up following their winter break and are showing encouraging signs of having coped with my benign neglect (again) but all the labels have got muddled up. Who cares? It'll be fun to see what emerges (if the slugs allow).

The fresh new foliage of the autumn raspberries has started to emerge and I'm so excited at the prospect of this late crop which kept on fruiting well into November last year - I'm so pleased I planted it. Sometimes I get it right.

Compost Heap: I need to be brave and find time to turn it next weekend. I decided it was on the "too difficult" list and put it off for so long last year, but of course it isn't too difficult at all. I

t has apparently attracted the attentions of a rat, so no more kitchen scraps at all, I'm just using cut up plant material. And I've decided to feel accountable to you so that next time I write, I have to report, without fail, that the heap has been turned. I just have to find a path to the compost heap through the growing

# Parish Gardening

towers of stacked plastic plant pots that I've acquired over the years, all merrily slung into the space in front of the compost heap.

I re-use these pots as much as possible but even I have my limits, so the towers must be reduced somehow. They should be accepted at the Frome recycling centre on Manor Furlong but you can also offer them to others who might want them via local Freecycle groups online, and I hear that Dobbies Garden Centres will also accept plastic pots of any size/colour as long as they've been given a quick wash beforehand. So that's another job for next weekend.

Seeds: I bought a good dozen packets of exciting new seeds months ago and they're still (ahem) in their packets. Accountable to my readers (see above), I shall report on their being sown by next month. This may also prove to be a partial answer to the pot towers (also see above).

Finally my plant of the moment: *Muehlenbeckia complexa* which has wiry dark stems and small dark green disc-shaped leaves. It doesn't sound great, but it will climb and twine or sprawl and spread through other plants and it knits together lots of lovely shade loving plants so its great versatility makes it a planting designer favourite.



So many pearls of wisdom here, just so many....

*Muddy Fingernails*

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## RODE GROWS AND SHARES

Giant Sunflower Competition 2022

The competition is under way! We have all 37 people signed up for the Giant Sunflower Competition plus the 5 classes at Rode and Norton School Federation.

Sunflower seeds can be sown in pots or straight out into the garden now where they are to grow, last sowings to be done by the end of May, as the plants need enough time to get as big as possible!

Good luck to everyone who is taking part in the competition! I can't wait to see your wonderful sunflowers across the Parish, and I wonder how tall the tallest will be this year!

*Julia Robb*

# Parish Gardening

## SHARED GARDENS

As I mentioned in last month's Link, I have had interest from a couple of garden owners in the Parish to share their gardens, which is absolutely fantastic - I've met them and seen their gardens and have set up meetings with the keen growers and garden owners. Hoping for these shared gardens to be underway soon.

For our shared garden, we still feel behind in the growing season - we have only done a small amount of seed sowing in the greenhouse so far - sweet peas, tomatoes, herbs and some other cut flowers. We will direct sow as much as possible, to give us more time and make life a bit easier too.

I've had rooted dahlia cuttings delivered for the first time, which is exciting and have potted them on. I'll directly plant all the dahlia tubers I've overwintered in storage, into the ground once I've lifted all the tulip and daffodil bulbs from that bed.



I have been harvesting the unusual tulip varieties I've been growing and have been selling bunches of them locally, mostly through the Rode village Facebook page. It has been great to share the love of tulips with fellow villagers and meet some more people I haven't met before.



Do you have a patch of garden that you don't use any more or is too much work?

Would you be interested to share your garden with others?

Or would you like to have more space to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers?

If so, I would love to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved in the Garden Share scheme across the parish.

It would be best to email me - [juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliarobb@hotmail.co.uk) or my phone number is 07527 918314.

*Julia Robb*

# Parish Cricket

## RODE CRICKET RETURNS!

Preparations are coming to a head for the coming season for Rode Cricket Club. The square has been professionally restored and it is now over to the volunteers in the Club to roll and mow it sufficiently over the coming weeks to create a suitable playing surface. The roller has been returned from Beckington Cricket Club where it was on loan for the last few years, so you'll see me, James or Jules on it frequently for the rest of the summer!



The protective net also needs a straining wire assembled at the top – we are currently looking for a “cherry picker” type device at a reasonable rental cost to undertake that safely.

Most exciting of all is that we have a number of fixtures confirmed, **with the first one on 8<sup>th</sup> May away to Batcombe!** If anyone fancies chancing their arm, please do contact me - T: 07775 805546 E: [andypickett2013@gmail.com](mailto:andypickett2013@gmail.com) the success of this rebirth of the club depends on as many residents as possible supporting us in a playing capacity, even if only occasionally.

We anticipate our first home fixture being late May/early June, so keep your eyes peeled for that. No doubt there will be a few cans of beer on offer for anyone who wants to come and watch part or all of that match.

Thanks to all the Playing Field Committee Members and other residents for supporting this return of cricket to the village! Let's hope for a dry summer, lots of enthusiastic players and a few wins over the coming months.

*Andy Pickett*

Editor's Note:  
Thought a photo of the first Rode Cricket Club Team from 1895 might be of interest!

Hopefully next month we will have one of the 2022 Team!!






# Parish Events

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

May - No Lunch Club in May  
June - Lunch Club Monday 13th June 2022  
July- Lunch Club Monday 11th July 2022



**Scouts** 

#DreamWild  
scouts.org.uk/wsj  
@ f t d /ukcontingent



## Rode Treasure Hunt and Cream Teas Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May



**Cream teas will be served in the Memorial Hall  
from 2-5.30pm**

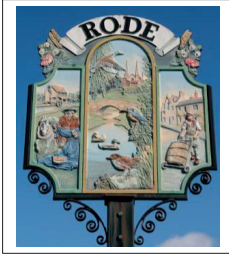
Raising money to send 2 Rode Explorers to the  
World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.

This is a walking treasure hunt (£5 per sheet) starting  
on the village green at 2pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

More information from Sally Pickett (831796)

# Parish Events

Rode Parish Council  
Annual Parish Meeting  
To be held in  
Rode Chapel  
at 7.30pm  
on Monday 9th May.



All welcome.

## Forget-me-not Café



When? – 9<sup>th</sup> May (second Monday of every month)

**NEW TIME 2.30 – 4 pm**

Where? - St Philip and St James Church, NSP



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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Contact Jo for more information

E: 321jorobinson@gmail.com T: 01373 831381

## Tellisford Parish Meeting

The Villages of Tellisford and Woolverton

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 18:00pm**

The AGM of Tellisford Parish Meeting  
will be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
at 18.00, venue The House Woolverton.

The agenda will be circulated 14 days before the meeting.

All residents of Tellisford and Woolverton who are over the age of 18 are entitled to attend, speak and vote.

Date for your diaries...

June 2nd  
2pm onwards  
In

St Philip and St James Church Norton St Philip Church



Projecting Highlights of the Coronation  
Cream Teas

## Parish Events



*Rode Jubilee*  
**ParkFest**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 4TH**  
**RODE PLAYING FIELD**  
**MIDDAY-11.00PM**

GAMES - ENTERTAINERS - STREET PARTY  
TRACTOR RIDES - MUSIC - STALLS - BAR  
SPECIAL EVENTS - CAFE IN THE PAVILLION  
FOOD STALLS - PROSSECO/GIN BAR  
FREE JUBILEE MUGS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN!

*Live music from 6pm*  
**THE BONSAIS - Henry Ray (El Toro)**  
*With more acts TBC*  
*Kids Disco, Open Mic, Dance Off, Top local music*

**All day tickets - £5**  
**Children under 13 FREE**



THE ANNUAL RODE BARN DANCE  
AT OSBORNES BARN  
IS RETURNING AT LAST!!

SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>

A SCOUTS AND FRANS FUNDRAISER  
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Save the Date  
St Mary's Church  
Village Fete  
Saturday  
23 July 2022  
Further details tbc

# Noticeboard

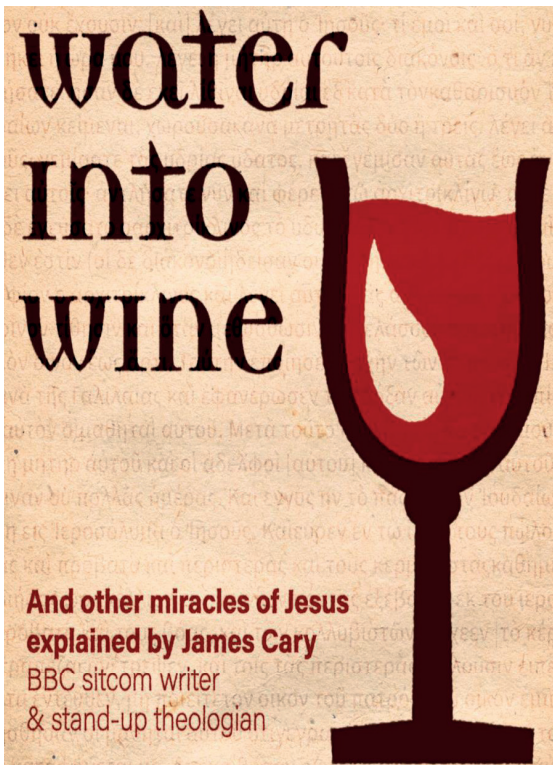
## THE WELCOME RETURN OF THE ENERGY CAFÉ

Following the success of last month's first drop-in café and with the increase in energy prices now a reality, why not come along to the next Energy Café which takes place on Saturday 7th May to have a chat with impartial energy experts who can offer advice.



Being held at Frome Town Hall from 9am – 12pm, pop in for free information and refreshments, no appointment is necessary. Energy advisers trained by the Centre of Sustainable Energy will be able to provide a range of advice and guidance including tips on ventilation and avoiding damp, condensation and mould, help with understanding energy use, switching to better value/green tariffs, and claiming relevant benefits fuel vouchers or energy support.

Keep an eye on the Healthy Homes page: [frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/sustainability-and-resilience/green-and-healthy-futures-programme/healthy-homes/](http://frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/sustainability-and-resilience/green-and-healthy-futures-programme/healthy-homes/) as there will be more Energy Cafés coming over the next few months.



**WEDNESDAY  
25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022  
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH,  
BECKINGTON  
BA11 6TG**

**“WATER INTO WINE”**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**WINE & CANAPES**

**Tickets £10.00**

**From:  
Jo Casey  
T: 01373 830885  
E: [jo@mijocasey.plus.com](mailto:jo@mijocasey.plus.com)  
Jenny Ayrton  
T: 01373 830208  
Freda Brann  
T: 01373 830597**

# Noticeboard



Taking place on Saturday 11 June all fabulous females aged 14+ are invited to join forces and take on a 5km midnight walk around the beautiful city of Bath., Based in the new home of Bath Pavilion...which will be given a glowing UV makeover. Arrive from 10pm for drinks, food, fun, merchandise sales, laughter, games and a funky warm-up, before heading off into the city to walk at midnight. Get back for food and celebrations and then head off home by 2am.

Register for the Midnight Walk today at [www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/womens-midnight-walk-2022/](http://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/womens-midnight-walk-2022/) and be part of this event for ladies.



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## OPERA COMES TO SOMERSET

Opera comes to Somerset this July with glorious works by Puccini and Rossini. In partnership with Project Factory CIC, Opera Brava, Britain's leading outdoor touring opera company, is bringing *Tosca* and *The Barber of Seville* to the beautiful grounds of The Bishops Palace in Wells.



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***Tosca* will be performed on 14<sup>th</sup> July  
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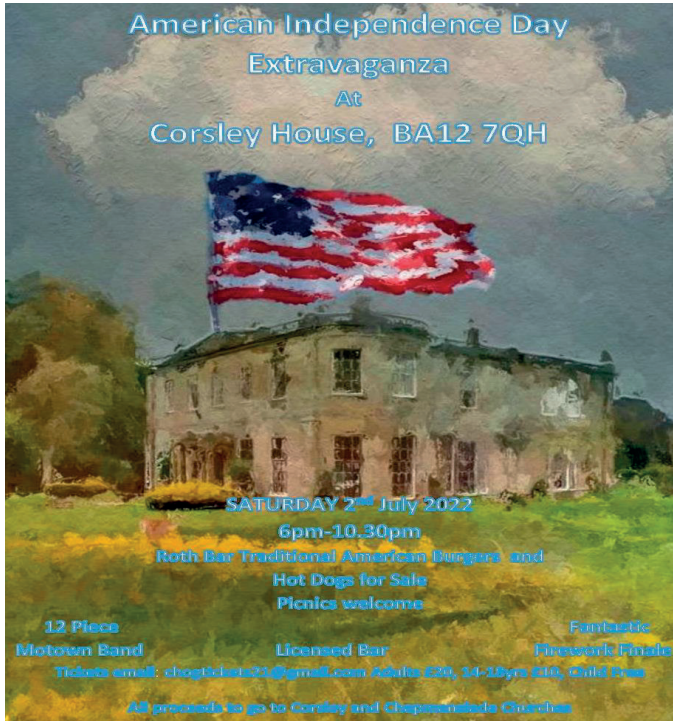


**SAVE THE DATE... 16/17<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

The F.U.F.C. Summer Festival of Football will take place over the weekend of 16/17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 with tournaments for every age group as well as other entertainment for the family plus lots of food, drink, snacks, sweets and ice creams available all weekend. More details to follow...



# Noticeboard



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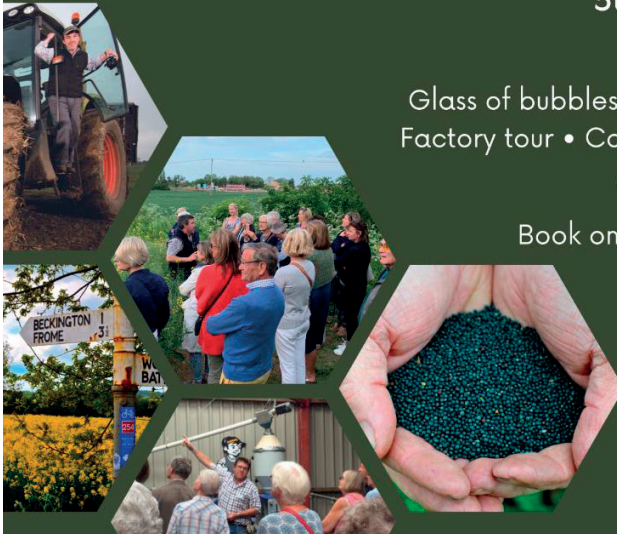
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# Parish Food & Drink



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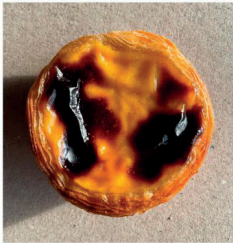
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# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 pm

---

## UNCONFIRMED

### **Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Linda Oliver, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 2 Parishioners

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

Concern was expressed over the appeal to build on Barbara’s Field as the Inspector had rejected the Merfield application mainly on heritage grounds, which were not present for Barbara’s Field. However, traffic in the village was of concern; with a Frome application was on hold due to traffic concerns, additionally building on prime agricultural land should count against development in the current climate with locally produced crops a priority.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Elaine Butler and Cllr Barbi Lund (District Councillor).

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

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

**5. Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Oliver reported that she had spoken to Somerset County Council regarding adoption of The Sportsman and had been given a specific email address to chase this up (this was given to the Clerk). With regard to the potential development of Barbara’s Field she added that National Highways had already noted concerns over the A36, particularly the two roundabouts round Beckington and any development would need to provide S106 funds to improve these.

This was Cllr Oliver’s last meeting and thanks were given to her for all the help, assistance and guidance she had given the Parish Council over the years.

### **6. Actions from previous meeting:**

**i. Trees: Merfield/The Mead** These trees are on private land and Somerset County Council arboriculturist had revisited the site but said as these were on private land little could be done. The owner should be

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

approached and ensured he had public liability insurance for them. A registered letter would be sent, with the report from a local tree expert, requesting action. A tree expert contact number had been given.

**Parish trees:** Clerk said the report from the independent tree expert, had been chased up and would be chased again.

- ii. **Clock:** The Clerk had received an offer from Peter Watkinson, who had made repairs in August, to come and see if he could get the striking working again from inside the Cross Keys. He hoped to come sometime in April and it was agreed to put on hold any repairs via the roof.

Additionally, it was agreed that a new maintenance person should be sought for the clock due to David Hornsey's ill health.

- iii. **Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path was still of considerable concern. A bridge had been put in over the ditch but this was currently surfaced in large stones which were already falling into the ditch. There had been some work done on the path but its condition was still unacceptable, one key point was that the drainage required improving. Cllr Oliver suggested the S106 Planning Officer at Mendip should be contacted. Mendip Planning Enforcement had been made aware of the concerns over the path but the specific S106 Officer could well be of help. The Clerk would make contact.

It was reported that the undergrowth in the small wood was to be cleared by the playing field and the meeting agreed that initially the path through this small wood would be left without surfacing. Discussions over further fencing along the path within the S106 land were held and it was agreed quotes from Richard Arney would be obtained for general fencing and 'dog-proof' fencing.

- iv. **Mead development:** This had been reported and Mendip Planning Enforcement had registered it.
- v. **Spring Clean:** Plans were in place for this to take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. It was advertised on the Village Facebook and teas would be available in the Pavilion.

**7. Climate Emergency Group:** JM reported that 198 questionnaires had been returned and these indicated a high level of awareness and concern over climate change within Rode. The return rate had been far better than expected and the results would be publicised to the village. The Group would now consider possible actions.

## **8. Highways:**

**a) Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** A meeting at the crossroads with Sara Davis had been arranged to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**b) Memorandum of Understanding:** This still had to be completed and it was suggested the meeting to finalise the Memorandum took place after the crossroads meeting.

## **9. Planning:**

### **i) New applications:**

**2022/0557/TPO:** To crown lift holm oak and cut down cypress – 16 High Street. No objection.

**2022/0482/HSE:** Two storey rear and side extension with front elevational changes and associated works – 11 The Mead. No objection.

### **ii. Mendip decisions:**

**2021/2641/TCA:** Reduce height of apple and birch tree – 7 Langham Place. Approved

### **iii. Other:**

**2021/0071/OTS:** There had been no progress with the appeal and the Clerk was waiting to hear from Mendip. An offer had been made by Simon Steel-Perkins to meet to discuss possible S106 requirements. There was concern that it would be necessary to ensure this meeting was without prejudice and in confidence; and that he understood the PC was still against the development. Again, the S106 Officer at Mendip should be consulted prior to the meeting for guidance. However, there was agreement that a meeting should be held.

**10. Playing Field Constitution:** AP reported that a new draft had been drawn up which appeared to be satisfactory. It was up to the Playing Field to progress and to ensure the Charity Commission cleared the new agreement.

**11. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations:** The plans for the day were progressing well, a further meeting of the organising committee was planned for the following day. The committee were very grateful to the PC for its generous contribution. It was noted that currently neighbouring villages had not planned any events for this weekend.

**12. Death of a Senior National Figure:** The meeting agreed a separate Rode book of condolence would be used and that, providing it was agreed, be placed in Rode Chapel when required.

**13. Elections:** It was reported that seven nominations for Councillors for the Parish Council had been submitted – today being the deadline. This would mean there would be no election in Rode but there was still a vacancy for co-option. The Unitary Authority elections would take place in 5<sup>th</sup> May with two vacancies for the Frome North area.

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**14. Buses:** PT reported that Somerset had been given £11.9m funding (compared to the £160m requested), although this would be of help it would not enable the plans to be implemented fully. Concern remained with bus occupancy still at only 75%. He asked for PC funding (about £150) to produce a new bus timetable for Rode residents and this was agreed. The Bus Back Better group had prepared a manifesto to send to electoral candidates and asked for PC endorsement. As this had only just been circulated and all had not seen it this would be put on the May agenda.

**15. Annual meeting:** It was agreed to hold this meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Rode Chapel.

## **17. Financial matters:**

**i) Asset Register:** This was approved.

**ii) Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| J McAuliffe (climate questionnaires)              | £130.00 |
| P D Watkinson (clock repair)                      | £130.00 |
| Eagle Grounds Maintenance                         | £777.40 |
| Somerset Association of Local Councils (training) | £20.00  |
| Clerk Salary                                      | £266.54 |
| HMRC PAYE   | £66.40  |

## **18. Date of next meeting:**

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm**

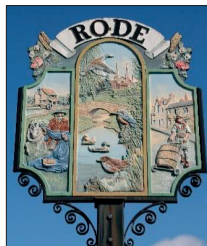
The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

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**WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?**

Where in Hardington Vale would you see this View?

Did you recognise the view in last month's photograph? It was Langham farmhouse on the the footpath to Tellisford.



**CODEWORD**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 4  |    | 25 |    | 22 |    | 19 |    | 26 |    | 10 |    | 5  |    |
| 1  | 21 | 14 | 14 | 4  | 17 | 26 |    | 2  | 18 | 15 | 19 | 25 |    |
| 24 |    | 18 |    | 17 |    | 15 |    | 4  |    | 7  |    | 4  |    |
| 7  | 21 | 7  | 19 | 25 |    | 26 | 4  | 15 | 9  | 4  | 1  | 24 |    |
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| 5  | 18 | 16 | 4  | 26 | 7  |    | 4  | 9  | 9  | 25 | 9  | 9  |    |
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| 11 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 26 |    | 14 | 4  | 11 | 25 | 14 |    |
| 12 |    | 14 |    | 10 |    | 10 |    | 18 |    | 18 |    | 6  |    |
| 21 | 6  | 21 | 18 | 7  |    | 22 | 4  | 1  | 4  | 23 | 10 | 25 |    |
| 17 |    | 19 |    | 19 |    | 2  |    | 21 |    | 10 |    | 15 |    |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |    |

**LAST MONTH'S CODEWORD**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 8  | 20 | 4  | 21 | 20 | 25 | 13 | 20 |    | 14 | 18 | 9  | 7  |
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| 3  | 7  | 17 | 6  | 18 | 8  | 20 |    | 20 | 22 | 9  | 7  | 1  |
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| E  | W  | E  | R  |    | K  | N  | E  | E  | J  | E  | R  | K  |

**POEM OF THE MONTH**

"The trees are coming into leaf  
Like something almost being said;  
The recent buds relax and spread,  
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again  
And we grow old? No, they die too,  
Their yearly trick of looking new  
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh  
In fullgrown thickness every May.  
Last year is dead, they seem to say,  
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh."

*Philip Larkin, "The Tree"*





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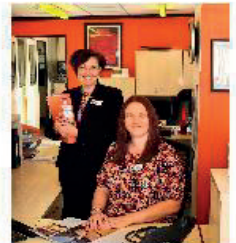


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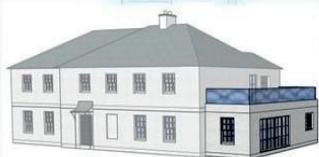


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## Hardington Vale Church Services – MAY 2022

| DATE                                     | TIME   | SERVICE   | LEADER  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Sunday 1 May</b>                      | 9.00 am<br>10.30 am<br>11.00 am<br>6.00 pm             | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Informal Breakfast<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Laverton</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Meeting Place  | A & S Filkins<br>J Robinson<br>C Walker                           |
| <b>Tuesday 3 May</b>                     | 9.45 am<br>5.00 pm                                     | <b>Rode Chapel</b> , Ecumenical Holy Communion<br><b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer  | zoom  |
| <b>Wednesday 4 May</b>                   | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm                                     | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Ecumenical Informal Prayer  |   |
| <b>Thursday 5 May</b>                    | 6.00 pm  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer   |   |
| <b>Sunday 8 May</b>                      | 9.00 am<br>9.00 am<br>10.30 am<br>11.00 am             | <b>Tellisford</b> , Matins<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Informal Breakfast<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Laverton</b> , Matins  | A & S Filkins<br>M Harrison/S Kivett                              |
| <b>Monday 9 May</b>                      | 9.00 am  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer  |   |
| <b>Tuesday 10 May</b>                    | 6.00 pm  | <b>Tellisford</b> , Evening Prayer  |   |
| <b>Wednesday 11 May</b>                  | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm                                     | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Ecumenical Informal Prayer  |   |
| <b>Thursday 12 May</b>                   | 6.00 pm  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer   |   |
| <b>Sunday 15 May</b>                     | 9.00 am<br>9.30 am<br>10.30 am<br>10.30 am<br>11.00 am | <b>Farleigh Hungerford</b> , Morning Worship<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Mini Breakfast Church<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Informal Worship<br><b>Laverton</b> , Matins | J Robinson<br>S Rodford<br>C Walker/B Day<br>R Stewart/J Robinson |
| <b>Monday 16 May</b>                     | 9.00 am  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer  |   |
| <b>Tuesday 17 May</b>                    | 5.00 pm  | <b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer  | zoom  |
| <b>Wednesday 18 May</b>                  | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm                                     | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Ecumenical Informal Prayer  |   |
| <b>Thursday 19 May</b>                   | 6.00 pm  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer   |   |
| <b>Sunday 22 May<br/>Rogation</b>        | 9.00 am<br>10.30 am<br>10.30 am<br>11.00 am            | <b>Tellisford</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Rode St Lawrence</b> , Informal Worship<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Laverton</b> , Matins  | C Walker<br>J Robinson/M Harrison<br>B Day/C Walker               |
| <b>Monday 23 May</b>                     | 9.00 am  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer  |   |
| <b>Tuesday 24 May</b>                    | 6.00 pm  | <b>Tellisford</b> , Evening Prayer  |   |
| <b>Wednesday 25 May</b>                  | 8.30 am<br>6.00 pm                                     | <b>Hemington</b> , Morning Prayer<br><b>Rode Chapel</b> , Ecumenical Informal Prayer  |   |
| <b>Thursday 26 May<br/>Ascension Day</b> | 11.30 am<br>6.00 pm                                    | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Holy Communion<br><b>Norton St Philip</b> , Silent Prayer   | C Walker  |
| <b>Sunday 29 May</b>                     | 10.30 am   | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , United Parish Holy Communion  | C Walker/J Robinson   |
| <b>Monday 30 May</b>                     | 9.00 am  | <b>Norton St Philip</b> , Morning Prayer  |   |
| <b>Tuesday 31 May</b>                    | 5.00 pm  | <b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer  | zoom  |

| MAY 2022 DIARY  |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Mon 2 May       | BANK HOLIDAY Early May Bank Holiday<br>NB No Monday Lunch Club see page 33 for details   |
| Tue 3 May       | 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 58 for details   |
| Fri 5 May       | 7am-10pm Somerset Unitary Council Election see page 7 for details  |
| Sun 8 May       | 2-5.30pm Treasure Hunt & Cream Teas see page 44 for details  |
| Mon 9 May       | 2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 45 for details<br>7.30pm Rode Parish Council Annual Meeting see page 45 for details   |
| Tue 10 May      | 10am Rode Walking Group see page 33 for details  |
| Thu 12 May      | Rode Over 60s Coach Trip see page 34 for details   |
| Mon 16 May      | 6pm Tellisford Parish AGM see page 45 for details  |
| Sun 22 May      | 2pm Rogation Walking see page 6 for details  |
| Tue 24 May      | <b>JUNE LINK COPY DEADLINE</b>   |
| Fri 27 May      | 11.25-11.55am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode  |
| Tue 31 May      | 8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 14 for details   |
| FORWARD PLANNER |  |
| Thu 2 Jun       | BANK HOLIDAY Late May Bank Holiday<br>10-11.30pm Crown Making Workshop see page 31 for details<br>2pm Projecting Highlights of the Coronation & Cream Teas see page 45 for details |
| Fri 3 Jun       | BANK HOLIDAY Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday   |
| Sat 4 Jun       | Midday-11pm Rode Platinum Jubilee ParkFest see pages 9 & 46 for details  |
| Thu 9 Jun       | Rode Over 60s Coach Trip see page 34 for details   |
| Sat 11 Jun      | Church History Afternoon see page 4 for details  |
| Mon 13 Jun      | Rode & District Gardening Club coach trip see page 36 for details<br>Monday Lunch Club see page 33 for details   |
| Sun 19 Jun      | 11-4pm Rode Open Gardens see page 11 for details   |
| Thu 7 July      | Rode Over 60s Coach Trip see page 34 for details   |
| Mon 11 Jul      | Monday Lunch Club see page 33 for details  |
| Sat 16 Jul      | Rode Barn Dance see page 46 for details  |
| Mon 29 Aug      | BANK HOLIDAY August Bank Holiday   |

| Somerset Waste Partnership |     | May 2022                      |     | Somerset Waste Partnership |     |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Mon                        | Tue | Wed                           | Thu | Fri                        | Sat | Sun |
|                            |     |                               |     |                            |     | 1   |
| 2                          | 3   | 4                             | 5   | 6                          | 7   | 8   |
| 9                          | 10  | 11                            | 12  | 13                         | 14  | 15  |
| 16                         | 17  | 18                            | 19  | 20                         | 21  | 22  |
| 23                         | 24  | 25                            | 26  | 27                         | 28  | 29  |
| 30                         | 31  | ● REFUSE ● RECYCLING ● GARDEN |     |                            |     |     |

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**Please send copy for the June 2022 issue of 'The Link' via email to [gillhleonard@aol.com](mailto:gillhleonard@aol.com) latest Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

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