

The Link

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



MARCH 2024

Somerset Council News

Bus Is Best If We Really Want to Keep Them

A Murder Mystery, A Colour Run, An Auction & More

Local Climate Emergency Group News

Still Time to Organise A 2024/2025 Link Subscription

and much more local news and details inside...

£1



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² Safeguarding Officer
³ Chapel or Deputy wardens at Farleigh Hungerford,
Rode and Tellisford.

HARDINGTON VALE WEBSITE

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

Hemington and Hardington
are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust
Keyholder Peter Simper 01373 834315

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the
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Rodevillage.com website	Jim McAuliffe Hugh Williams	jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com
1 st Rode Scout Group Beavers Wed 5.30-6.30pm Cubs Thu 6.15-7.45pm Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm Scouts Edor Explorer Unit Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm NB During school terms only	Group Scout Leader: Howard Russell	hdrussell01@gmail.com 830640/07736 739680
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NHS 111 24 hour medical care help	Contact 111 if you have an urgent T: 111 Online: 111.nhs.co.uk	medical problem and you are unsure what to do

from The Link Team

THE LINK ANNUAL 2024/2025 SUBSCRIPTION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

Subscription money is due by 25th March at the latest to ensure delivery of your April issue of The Link - spare subscription envelopes are at Rode P.O. if needed.

IF YOU PAY BY BANK TRANSFER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INCLUDE "LINK" AND YOUR SURNAME AND INITIALS AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE. YOU MUST ALSO STILL COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE SUBSCRIPTION ENVELOPE TO RODE POST OFFICE. IF WE DO NOT HAVE AN ADDRESS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE LINK.

Unfortunately, it appears that some subscribers who have paid by bank transfer have not completed and handed in their envelope at the Post Office. This means that we have no address for the household that has paid. In some cases, it is easy for me to trace the address, but I have several subscriptions with no address. If you think this may apply to you, please complete and drop an envelope into the Post Office.

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

Caroline Williams

Link Subscriptions Coordinator
01373 831046

IT'S ACTUALLY HERE - MY LAST ISSUE AS EDITOR!

Well, it's been a rather longer tenure than I originally anticipated – I did try to step down a couple of years ago but there were no takers. This time, thanks to Cathy, I can finally hang up my Editor hat!!

As mentioned before, I cannot stress enough my gratitude to all who have contributed through the years, without whom I simply could not have produced The Link. We have had two wonderful printers too. Currently we have the wonderful Darren, who frankly is a saint and a miracle worker, and who I know will be invaluable to Cathy.

Finally thank you to all who have taken the time and trouble to contact me following the news I was to step down.

from The Link Team

So very good of you to take the time and has been lovely to read and hear your comments. Rewarding - and on occasions emotional. Thank you, it is very much appreciated.

So, The Link now moves on to its next chapter with Cathy, who, I know will do a great job. She has been beavering away in the background for a couple of months now, creating her own version of the February issue and now March and is well prepared to go live in April.

It has been a pleasure working with her and we will be doing a final handover on the 8th March. Good luck Cathy and thank you again for coming forward and allowing me to move on and helping to ensure The Link can carry on.

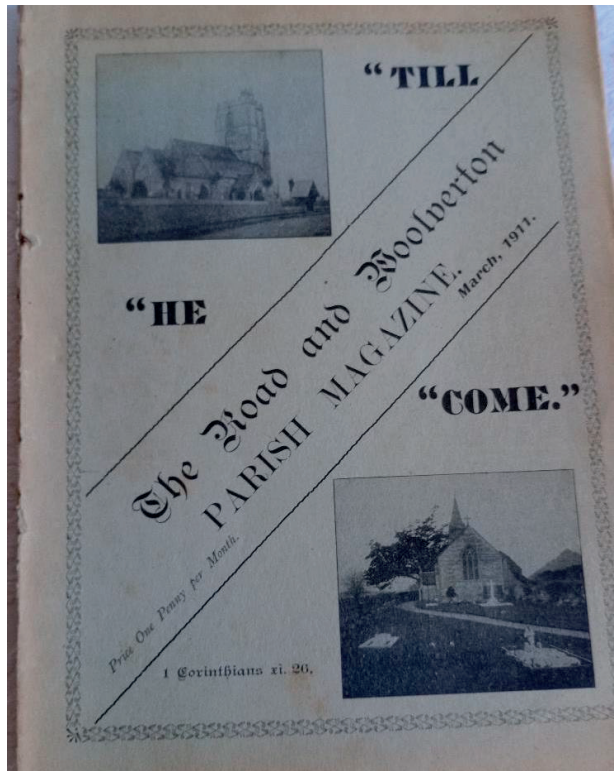
I'll be working in the background for a bit, on advertising and such and we are hoping to set up an archive of The Link on the new Rode village website. More on that in the coming months. My thanks to Jim McAuliffe for all his hard work on the site. y set up a Link archive on the new Rode village website... more on that in the coming months.

Please do carry on "Linking".

A local parish magazine has existed for well over a hundred years and long may it continue – on the right is a photograph of the March 1911 issue.

Thank you for the memories and welcome to Cathy...

Gill Leonard
Outgoing Editor



Church Reflection, News & Events

REFLECTION

Artificial Intelligence?

We regularly drive to visit my mother-in-law who lives in South East Kent. The drive is now familiar, but I usually put the satnav on just in case there are traffic issues, apparently the satnav tells us about these issues though the consequences of following proposed alternative routes can be surprising. However, the reason for mentioning a car which is over ten years old (we were recently fined for straying unknowingly into the congestion zone in Bristol) is that it contains some interesting artificial intelligence. For example, the satnav somehow “knows” our usual route so that it helpfully directs us to a supermarket in Farnham where we can buy a sandwich, a bag of crisps and a coffee. We didn’t tell the satnav to do it. It just does it. However, before I get carried away with praise there are also some shocking features. When attempting to overtake a cyclist, I have experienced shaking of the steering wheel to steer to the left because the car thought I might collide with an oncoming vehicle while not “seeing” the cyclist.

Why am I writing this? Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been part of our lives for a very long time. People were developing programs that aimed to simulate human conversations when I was a student which was a very long time ago. However, now the software has become more sophisticated and subtle. I can now talk to the television to get the film I want, and 14 years ago I had an operation which involved a “robot” controlled by a surgeon, there was no need to open me up completely!

Computers can be used to make sense of huge amounts of information (“big data”) to come to conclusions for example about what the money markets are doing, and to analyse the opinions of potential voters in upcoming elections. The data used are unstructured, but the computer can create structure and rules from what it learns of the data and suggest, for example, different taxes that will appeal to potential voters.

It seems clear to me that if the big data are extracted from say the Daily Mail it would produce different rules and results than if it was extracted from the Socialist Worker. So where should we get our data from to manage our artificial intelligence?

In my daily readings of the Bible, I have just read a lesser-known book, the letter of Jude. It is very short but there is a sentence that strikes me in the context of AI: “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of God into licentiousness...”

Church Reflection, News & Events

That was a risk in Jude's time, and it is a risk now. When we use AI that is driven by big data where does the data come from?

As a Christian I believe that a place to start when analysing data is the Bible.

The verse I quoted from Jude goes on to say those persons who corrupt "...deny our only master and Lord, Jesus Christ".

More than ever we need a pole star, a clear fixed ethical framework that is independent of our personal ideas and preferences and which will offer guidance in how artificial intelligence is allowed to shape the future.

I believe that the person of Christ and his teaching are alive and can offer that guidance to all, even in all these complexities, if we take time to get to know His meaning and to follow Him.



Michael Harrison
Hardington Vale Reader



Join us for half an hour on Thursdays at 6.00 pm.

A small group of us meet on Thursdays at 6.00 pm (currently from home) to meditate in the Christian tradition, seeking God in the silence and stillness beyond word and thought.

If you would like to join us for half an hour (reading, silent prayer, closing with The Lord's Prayer), or learn more, please email Robin Campbell robinclerks@gmail.com

Be Still and know that I am God

Psalm 46:10

Church Reflection, News & Events

NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

At one of our Communion Services in February we welcomed some Chinese visitors who knew Jo (our Curate) when she worked in China.



They told us more about the Starfish Project which Jo helped to run in China and for which her Prosecco and Pudding evening last year raised funds. It was their first overseas visit and they seemed to be enjoying everything that England and Rode had to offer. The children were particularly interested in the organ as they hadn't seen one before and we also showed them the bells which they found intriguing. We always like to welcome visitors from both home and abroad!

You may hear the bells one Thursday in March when a quarter peal (a specific number of changes on the bells) will be rung by a visiting band, this lasts about 45 minutes and will be a pleasure to hear. We do get requests from ringers all round the country to come and ring our bells and there will be another visiting band in April, so listen out then.

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 10th March this year and we will be holding a Communion Service on that day at 10.30am so we'd love to see as many mums as possible at the Service to celebrate all they do throughout the year. There will be refreshments served after the Service and posies of flowers will also be distributed.

For an update on our church roof appeal please see page 10.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell



Church Reflection, News & Events

TELLISFORD ALL SAINTS

12hours of Prayer

9am - 9pm

Wednesday March 27th

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



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week Compline

A quiet service of
mediation

Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th
and Wednesday 27th March

At 9 PM

In the Chapel

All are welcome



Good Friday

29th March

Events across the Parish

Walk of Witness meet outside
An Hour at the Cross

St Lawrence Rode
at 10am

2 - 3pm

Concluding at
The Chapel

St Philip &
St James

High Street
with short service
at 11.00

Norton St Philip
prayer and
reflection

EASTER DAY CELEBRATION!!!

*St Lawrence Church
Rode*

SUNDAY 31st March

Holy Communion

10.30am

He is Risen! Hallelujah!!!

Parish News

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR UPDATE



Dear The Link reader

The main news is that on 20th February, Somerset Council's Full Council passed a budget and set the Council Tax for 2024/25, avoiding a Section 114 Notice. The budget was approved by 52 votes (all Lib Dem) to 9 against and with 31 abstentions. I voted for the budget to avoid a s114 because it was the only responsible thing to do. If we did not pass a balanced budget, the Council's Chief Finance Officer would have had no choice but to submit a Section 114 Notice to the Government under the Local Government Finance Act, effectively declaring bankruptcy, as some other councils have recently. To avoid this was some achievement.

Months ago, massive increases in the costs of social care (for elderly and disabled adults, and children) (partly due to the Government's aborted Fair Cost of Care initiative), higher inflation and interest rates, Government underfunding of the new council, previous County council tax freezes, a low Council Tax and tax base, and the disruption of reorganising 5 councils into one meant that Somerset Council had a £100 million budget gap for 2024-25. If this was not closed, the Chief Finance Officer would submit a Section 114 Notice, meaning all but absolutely essential spending stops, expensive Government commissioners come in to cut services and increase council tax with no democratic control. But Somerset Council's Lib Dem run administration has worked to avoid this, by consulting the community on your priorities, working to identify sufficient savings, going through the cross-party scrutiny process with councillors, asking Government for a capitalisation direction (which requires the sale of council assets and commercial investments), using reserves, and working with town/city/parish councils to devolve local services.

Many of the original savings proposals have been either withdrawn or changed to allow alternative funding models to be explored. These include savings linked to highways maintenance, RNLI lifeguard provision, school crossing patrols, and savings linked to democratic functions such as Scrutiny. Some services will now be protected by working in partnership with City, Town and Parish Councils, including Somerset's CCTV service and public toilets, and discussions continue to make this happen.

However, some services will be lost, and many staff will be made redundant in a necessary 'transformation', as set out in a detailed list of 162 savings proposals. A budget for 2025/26 also looks extremely challenging, as you can only sell assets once. It is not just Somerset – in a recent report the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee pointed to systemic underfunding of local

Parish News

councils in England and called on the Government to fix a £4 billion hole in council funding now or risk severe impacts to council services and further councils facing effective bankruptcy. It called on the next Government to create a sustainable funding system for local authorities (as this one will not). Our MP Sarah Dyke has also been raising the issue effectively in parliament. The next general election will be your chance to elect a new Government that takes our vital public services, and local government, seriously.

Somerset Council's portion of Council Tax is again to increase by £82.14 a year (4.99%). Your parish councils have made small increases to their precepts, including to contribute more to local services. Here in Frome North the parish precepts are increasing by the following amounts a year for a Band D property in 2024/25 (and % from 2023/24): Frome: £56.90 (26%), Beckington £7.60 (9.95%), Berkley £8.00 (31%), Norton St Philip £1.31 (1%), Rode £9.63 (19.6%), Lullington: no increase, Tellisford: no precept.

If you pay Council Tax but have a low income, you could be eligible for Council Tax Reduction – see <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/benefits-and-payments/council-tax-reduction/>.

Planning New Housing

Somerset Council's Planning and Transportation Subcommittee met recently and considered a report on the proposed development site allocations to update the Mendip Local Plan (which has had a 505 dwelling shaped hole in it since Norton St Philip Parish Council's successful judicial review in 2022). None of the sites put forward by landowners/developers in Rode, Beckington or Norton St Philip have been proposed by the Council's planning policy team for inclusion for various reasons, and replacement allocations have been proposed in Frome, Glastonbury, Street, Wells, Coleford, and around Midsomer Norton/Westfield instead. I understand that a public consultation on a draft site allocations document will follow shortly. Work on a Somerset-wide Local Plan also begins later in 2024-25.

Rode Roads

Speed limits in and around Rode are also going to change, after a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was issued in January for a public consultation. Rode village will have a new 20mph limit, and main roads around it (including the A361, Rode Hill and Bradford Road) will have lower speeds with extended 30mph and 40mph limits. The changes were requested by Rode Parish Council several years ago. I understand there has been no objections, so the new speed limits should be implemented by Somerset Council some time after April. There have been several serious accidents on higher speed roads in the area last year.

Parish News

The new locally-set speed limits are an indication of the community's desire for safer roads, so I hope these will be respected, for everyone's safety.

I have also reported the potholes and poor road surfacing along parts of Bradford Road to the east of Rode. You can report problems on the highway online at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>.

Further Details

For further details and links to all the reports please see my website www.adamboyden.mycouncillor.org.uk/ and you can sign up for email alerts by emailing me at cllrboyden@gmail.com.

If anyone has issues I can help with, please get in touch. Thank you,

Adam Boyden

Somerset Councillor for Frome North division (Lib Dem)

Mobile: 07809 284817

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ST LAWRENCE ROOF APPEAL UPDATE

Our latest fund raiser for the church roof will be held in the Memorial Hall on the 2nd March – our 'Who Killed the Golf Pro' murder mystery evening. Please come along for what is a fun evening and to help raise money for the church.



Work continues to progress well on the first phase of the re-covering of the roof. This should be completed by the end of March, all being well. We must then let the bats do whatever bats do between April and September inclusive.

In anticipation that the second phase will be able to commence after that, the work has recently gone out to tender. This phase takes in the North Aisle, the North side of the Nave and the Porch. The scaffolding will then be much more visible from the road.

This is the biggest restoration project undertaken on our church since 1870. We' are determined to see it through, but funding to complete all 3 phases is not yet in place - all donations and assistance with fundraising continue to be welcome.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

FRANS

Firstly we'd like to start with a big thank you to all that came to support FRANS at the big Friday quiz which we held in the Memorial Hall in February. We had a great time hosting you and were overwhelmed with the support from the community. There are already plans to run this again next year so if you enjoyed the evening we hope to see you again next year. In total we raised over £600 which is fabulous.

FRANS are also excited for March as it welcomes the return of the COLOUR RUN which will be held on Sunday March 24th at 11am on the Mead at Norton St. Phillip. Last year was our first foray into this alternative fun run and it proved to be joyful for all. Once again it promises to be a big family friendly fun event in line with the Indian festival Holi, marking the coming of spring. All ages are welcome, there will be a short loop with 'colour stations' where you will be showered with coloured dust. You can do the 'loop' as many times and as fast as you fancy and at the end you will be a walking (or still running) work of art. There will be music, refreshments and laughter. If you'd like to join us, don't delay in booking your tickets as we expect the event to be popular. Tickets for the run and run paraphernalia can be found at : FRANSColourRun2024.eventbrite.co.uk



All proceeds will be going straight into the school ensuring the children are fully equipped and have the best opportunities. One focus at the minute is raising money towards a multifunctional and SEN space for the Norton St. Phillip site (reception and year 1 children).

If you would like to help towards school fundraising we welcome any donations at any time, even direct transfers: **Friends of Rode and Norton Schools**
Account number: 31419160 Sort code: 309875



Parish News

SAVE OUR RODE BUSES

This past month has seen many large rallies across Somerset campaigning against threatened bus cuts. These rallies have received wide coverage on both BBC and ITV local news, BBC Radio Somerset and in the local press.



Bus protests have taken place across Somerset this month.

Unfortunately, bus passenger numbers still have not yet fully recovered to the pre Covid levels although a marked increase in patronage has been seen since the Government's introduction of the £2 single fare a year ago.

Given the financial emergency declared by Somerset Council, Somerset Council is not able to increase its funding of bus routes.

The best way to save our buses isn't by holding protests but by more people to go more often by bus.

First Bus has warned that the incremental cost of their D2 Frome to Bath service coming through Rode is not currently being covered by the fare income they are getting by coming via Rode.

Whilst our Rode bus service is safe when the bus timetable changes this April, First Bus say they will be reviewing how much improved patronage they get in Rode over the next few months and that will determine whether they can continue to come through Rode from September 2024. First say they will need to see extra business both through the week, however it is particularly at weekends where First need to see a significant increase in the numbers of Rode folk using the D2.

So we have the next 6 months to SAVE OUR BUSES in Rode.

So, please BUS IT whenever you can.

Rode Parish Council will publish and door drop a new Rode bus timetable to every home in Rode in early April..

Peter Travis

Co Chair – Somerset Bus Partnership
Frome And Villages Bus User Group (FAVBUG)

RODE STREET LIGHTS

There will be a delay in turning off the agreed streetlights in Rode as Somerset are employing new contractors in April. No more work is currently being taken on and the streetlight turn off will be allocated to the new contractors to be done in the next financial year.

Hugh Williams

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

RODE PARISH HISTORY

Peter Harris, our go to for local history, has had his book "Discover Rode's Past" reprinted and copies are now available at the Rode General Store and Cafe or directly from him. Email: pjh14cl@gmail.com

Gill Leonard

Editor

IT'S STILL GIVING...

It, being the much missed Laverton Book Exchange.

Jackie Moss has received a letter from Dorothy House to confirm that they've counted all the pennies and buttons in the collection tin wen the Exchange closed ..and the sum raised was £73 - not bad at all!

Virginia Garaux

Laverton News

Parish News

RODE SCOUTS NEXT FUNDRAISER

Rode Scout Group are holding their Silent Auction on Saturday 13th April. Please see our poster on page 30 for full details.



If you have never been before this is how it works:

- We collect, or you can deliver to us (ideally during the week or at the latest the evening before), any unwanted bric-a-brac, knick knacks, unwanted gifts, toys, books and small items of furniture in good condition (at our discretion).
- These are put on display for sale and the highest bidder gets the product.
- It starts at 1.00pm and you go round putting your bid on the bidding sheet by each item, then someone who wants the same item outbids you etc.
- It then becomes exciting as people rush around the hall to make sure their bid is highest.
- The whistle is blown at 3.50pm, so you have 10 minutes to make sure you are the last to end the bids on the items you want.
- We then sign it off and you take your slip and pay on exit.

A Great and fun way of raising money for the group... and you can also buy bacon rolls and refreshments!

Howard Russell
Group Leader
1s Rode Scout Group



A HUGE THANK YOU TO RODE P.O

Once again they are proving invaluable to The Link for their help in processing the new annual subscriptions to the magazine - this in addition to the casual sales of The Link which they handle year round.

Demi is now in charge, with Sam having opened a new business in Westwood – More on that next month.

In the meantime I'd like to officially also wish them both every success, do hope Sam will not be a stranger and can't thank them, and all the Team, enough for all they have done, and continue to do, for the magazine.

Gill Leonard
Editor

.DISCO DAHLIAS!

Cast your minds back to the end of summer last year and Laverton's William Sargent's fabulous floral fundraising efforts for Wiltshire Air Ambulance...all of which raised an amazing £566!

Earlier this month William and his friends were invited to the air base at Semington to hand over the funds he raised, enjoy a full VIP tour and learn all about this vital service.



They learned that it takes on average 3 minutes from receiving the 999 call to take off and they can reach the middle of Bath in under 4 minutes flying time, Rode, Laverton or Norton, in under 3 minutes. They can also fly patients to whatever hospital is most appropriate, including to Oxford.

On board is a pilot and either a doctor or a paramedic and they're often requested when the location of patients are inaccessible to land ambulances, particularly in rural areas. If they can't find a suitable landing site nearby, they have to carry all their equipment with them, sometimes walking long distances. The children struggled to lift just one of the bags they would need to carry!

They gave a really important tip: What3Words is very helpful information to pass on, so they know the exact location and they can then source a landing site before arrival. Links to What3 Words below.

[what3words](https://www.what3words.com/) /// The simplest way to talk about location & [what3words.com](https://www.what3words.com/)

They average 3 call outs every day and it costs over £12,000 a day to operate. The annual cost is £4.5 million. William said that's a lot of flowers! We're looking forward to lots more beautiful flowers this summer, William! Thanks also to Ellie Rossiter of Flowers at the Gate and Cock Road Farm who helped out when stocks were running low.

Shirley Sargeant

Laverton News

Parish News

PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Playing Field Lottery winners in January 2024,
drawn by staff and customers in the Cross Keys:



1st - £50.00 Jan Nesbitt/Dave Lister, Rode.

2nd - £25.00 Gary Bull, Rode.

3rd - £25.00 Sally Pickett, Rode.

Sunday Roast for two at The Cross Keys, courtesy of Mark and Hannah, Mike Benson, Rode.

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

And remember you are supporting the Playing Field (which needs all the help it can get right now!) when you buy your ticket.

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

Next draw Sunday 31st of March.

If you would like to do the draw or witness it, then please just turn up at the Cross Keys on draw night at 8pm.

Keith Sharman

T: 830408

200 CLUB

The results for the January draw are as follows:

1st Prize £50 Jean Attwell

2nd Prize £25 Jean Hornsey



Drawn By Oliver Bach-Petersen and Meredith Ellis

Jan Jupp.

Health & Wellbeing

Whether you're aiming to eat better, move more or boost your mental wellbeing, we've got you covered every step of the way.

 www.healthysomerset.co.uk



Leading a healthy life in Somerset has just got a little easier – thanks to a new website launched by Somerset Council's Public Health team.

The new site: healthysomerset.co.uk is easy to use and features health and wellbeing resources tailored to all age ranges – making it even easier for users to find the information and support they are looking for.

Free resources include everything from nutrition tips to mental health support and information on maintaining good health.

The new refreshed layout of the site breaks down services and support to represent the ages and stages of life from the 'best start in life' (0-5 yrs), through to 'starting well' (5-18 yrs), to 'living well' (18-65 yrs) and 'ageing well' (65+).



Quit smoking

When you quit smoking, good things start to happen – you can begin to see almost immediate improvements to your health.

It's much easier to stop smoking when you get the right support and there are lots of options to choose from.

Check out our free tools and tips to help you stay on track. Let's do this!

www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/

Parish Environment

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

Proposed Solar Farm

As noted in the February edition of The Link, the planning application for a large-scale solar farm in Rode was due to be determined by 12th February. However, the applicant has been required to provide a significant amount of additional information in order to respond to issues raised by consultees. Most of this additional information is now available on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/> [On the SC website, go to “Planning, buildings and land”, then select “View or comment on a planning application”, choose “Mendip”, then go to “Find an application”. The application reference is 2023/2183/FUL].

In particular, the applicant disagrees with the views put forward by Historic England, the Somerset Council Conservation Officer, and the Mendip Conservation Officer. The applicant appears to have made some minor changes to the extent of the development (with some of the solar panels in close proximity to Flexham Farm removed), but otherwise – from the documents currently available – the extent of the proposed solar farm is unchanged.

Rode Parish Council has been informed that the determination date of this application has been extended and the application will probably be considered at the April meeting of the Somerset East Planning Committee (2nd April). It is likely that Somerset Council will issue a new 14 day re-consultation period (although this will depend on the scope of changes proposed).

Representatives from Low Carbon, the developer of the proposed scheme, have been invited to present an update on their plans to the Parish Council, and that meeting will take place on 11th March.

Rode Repair Café

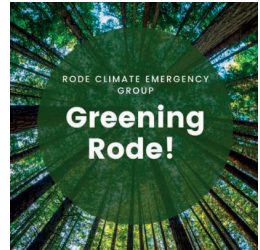
Plans are underway to bring a Repair Café to Rode! Building on the success of the Norton St Philip Repair Café, the idea is to hold at least a couple of events a year in Rode, with the first one pencilled-in for **Saturday 8th June** (in Rode Memorial Hall). In order for this event to take place we obviously need expert repairers! So - if you have some knowledge or experience of fixing household objects (be they electrical, mechanical, pottery, porcelaine, clothing or footwear....) please email me at jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com And please pass on this request to anyone you know who may be interested in helping out.

Parish Environment

Climate Emergency Group – New Leader Required!

Having been in the hot-seat for three years, I will be stepping back from "leading" the Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip Climate Emergency Group in the summer.

Whilst we've organised a number of successful events, produced a monthly email newsletter (with around 100 subscribers), and sought to highlight the climate emergency locally, I think it's time for someone with more expertise, energy, and time, to take on the mantle - and in particular to inspire us to reach the next level.



If you think that person is YOU - please drop me a line....and, if it's not you, but you know someone who could be interested, please ask them to get in contact: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

New Rode Village Website

Finally, a further reminder that the new village website (www.rodevillage.com) has a section on the Climate Emergency, where you can find a range of information – including resources and advice in relation to household energy saving, installing solar panels, heat pumps, etc; access to grants and other forms of assistance; and all past editions of the Climate Emergency Group newsletter.

Jim McAuliffe



It's not just smart tech gathering dust in our cupboards. Electrical items contain materials including copper, gold and aluminium. When you recycle your items, it means these materials can be used again. All electrical items should be recycled when they are no longer fit for purpose. Don't forget, you can recycle small electricals – including cables and chargers – at the kerbside.

Just bag them up and leave with your weekly recycling collection. Larger items can be taken to one of our recycling sites.



Somerset
Council

Parish Youth News & Events

1ST RODE SCOUT GROUP

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all enjoyed exploring eating and making for Chinese New Year and Pancake Day last month:



Claire Le Page
Explorers



An important part of being a Scout is to commit to The Scout Promise. Every new Scout is invested and repeats The Scout Promise out loud. It is always a proud moment for all. Congratulations to our three new Scouts.



Pandora Jacobs
Scouts

Parish Youth News & Events

MONTHLY YOUTH ACTIVITY SPACE IN NORTON

It runs from 7-8.30pm on the fourth Monday each month – so our next one is on **Monday 18th March**



The church is full of activities, including badminton, pool, table tennis, board games, crafts, etc.

We are also intending to start some creative options, so bring along your musical instrument and / or Drama skills!

The evening is open to all secondary age young people (school years 7-11) and isn't restricted to those who live in Norton St Philip - everyone is welcome as long as you have a safe way to get to us and home again.

We're asking for a small donation of £1 each to help cover costs, including a delicious hot snack and drink. An opportunity to enjoy food, games, crafts or just chill.

Why not drop in and see what's going on? For more information, contact me on 07789 838418 or fstewart660@gmail.com or 01373 834611

Fergus Stewart

**AFTERSCHOOL
TOY SWAP**

Join us at our Kindness Festival Toy Swap where families can trade in gently loved toys for exciting new things to play with

**Thursday, 21 March - The Silk Mill
14:00 – 16:30**

**Drop off your toys between 9-11am
or bring them with you to the event
Free!**

Find out more about Purple Elephant's Toy Library,
Share's Children's Costume Hire & Frome Eco Party Kit

  **Frome Eco Party Kit**  **SHARE FROME**
A LIBRARY OF THINGS

Parish Youth News & Events



Open term time
from 8:45am

Beckington Pre-school

Children aged 2-4
welcome
30 hours funding accepted

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

Charity no. 1035832

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.

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Mondays during term time

9.30-11.30pm

Rode Chapel



TOTS AND TOYS

MUMS, DADS, CARERS AND GRANDPARENTS...

Are you at home with a baby, toddler or pre-schooler?

Would you like to meet up with others for a chat, tea/coffee and refreshments while the children play and sing?

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 9.00am - 10.45am

in St Philip and St James church, Norton St Philip

£2 donation for refreshments

Further information, please contact Maria Fleming, Playgroup Leader email:

totsandtoysnsp@gmail.com

Parish Groups

RODE WALKING GROUP (2ND THURSDAY IN THE MONTH)

Unfortunately, February's walk from Monkton Combe was postponed and will now go ahead in March instead. Details are as follows:-



Meet on Thursday 14 March at 10 AM in the car park of the Wheelwrights Inn in Monkton Combe. This is a 'dry' walk of approximately 4 to 5 km following lanes to Midford and back. Returning along the old railway track at first, we branch off on the tunnel track towards the reservoir at Tucking Mill and then rejoin the lane to Monkton Combe. A short cut can be taken through the Church graveyard on the way to the Wheelwrights Inn.

Any queries please contact me.

Liz Dinnis

07788656337

elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Monday 4th March - 12.30pm

Mark, Hannah and the wonderful lunch club helpers would be delighted to see you at our monthly over 60's lunch club.



Please book by contacting Hannah at The Cross Keys, pop in or give us a call 01373 830900 letting us know how many spaces and. of any allergens.

£5 per person - please bring cash on the day.

The raffle will be held as usual, please bring cash to buy tickets, and all donated prizes are very welcomed.

Thank you for your support of this non-profit village initiative, it's a really lovely afternoon; especially with Kim and her team of superstar helpers from Rode School joining us each month.

See you soon.

Hannah Lovell and Mark Warrener

Parish Groups

RODE OVER 60'S MARCH REPORT

Rode Over 60's club met on the 9th February, the first event of 2024. Everyone agreed the Memorial Hall floor renovation was a great improvement. Thank you to all involved!

The afternoon was a first for the club - "Our Favourite Poems". We really weren't sure how popular this would be. We needn't have worried! Many members brought along their poems. Some read them themselves, others asked a committee member to read them on their behalf.

The afternoon began with Bill Jackson acting as our Master of Ceremonies and who read Marriott Edgar's "The Lion and Albert" with gusto! Later he read "Albert's Return". Two members did a two hander and read a very amusing poem by Richard Stilgoe called "Army Wife". We heard both funny and philosophical examples, e.g. "The moving finger writes..." quote by Omar Khayyam... and my contribution is below:

"Leisure" by Henry Davies.

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep and cows
No time to see, when woods we pass
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass

No time to see, in broad daylight
Streams full of stars, like skies at night
No time to turn at beauty's glance
And watch her feet, how can they dance
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smiles her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care
We have no time to stand and stare.

Members recalled why their choices meant so much. Often evoking childhood or schooldays memories. Poems short or long, old favourites like "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth. It was an enjoyable afternoon seeing people sharing and chatting together. After all this culture a well-earned afternoon tea was served and the raffle drawn.

Our next event is our Annual Dinner on Friday 8th March, 6 for 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall, catered for us by Jo Pobjoy and her team. A real treat for all - especially the committee - no cooking, clearing or washing up, hooray!

Birthdays this month:

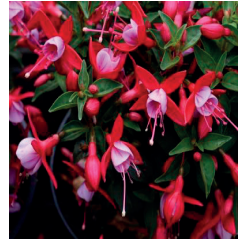
rs. W. Harrison - 2nd: Mrs. R. Jackson - 10th: Mrs. G. Kneebone - 26th: Mrs. G. Stinton - 26th: Mrs. V. Parker - 29th. We wish them all a very Happy Birthday. Please note there was an omission in last month's birthday list. Unfortunately, Mrs. Pat Windsor's birthday was not mentioned. My apologies and belated best wishes to Pat.

Gail Stinton

Parish Groups

RODE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our February meeting was entertaining and informative as our engaging speaker, Derek Dexter, shared his passion for fuchsias. He brought with him a wide selection of strong rooted cuttings and very useful advice on how to grow fuchsias successfully. It is not his job but something he does in his spare time. He's been growing/showing successfully for many years, often beating fuchsia growing specialists. Until Covid he was living in Woking, where his local society entered the RHS Hampton Court Show in the 'Window Box & Hanging Baskets Class', winning a silver-gilt medal in 2007. He moved to Somerset in 2021.



Fuchsias came from Central and South America originally. Hardy varieties will grow outside successfully provided they are planted in the ground. Those grown in pots and tender varieties need to be protected from frost. In late October Derek trims his plants right back and strips all leaves off. They are kept barely damp in a greenhouse where the temperature remains above 6 degrees. In early January they are encouraged back into growth, but most gardeners should do this in late February or early March. Every plant is checked over for vine weevils and the roots reduced by sawing off the bottom third and repotting in fresh compost. The plants are sprayed with water daily to moisten the woody stems so new growth breaks out all the way up the stem, not just at the top.

Once the plant is in leaf cuttings can be taken. These are very small; multiple cuttings of just 2 pairs of leaves on a short stem stuck into a 2-inch pot of sieved compost. Labelled and placed on a warm windowsill they'll root successfully in 18-21 days, rooted cuttings go into modules to grow on for 8 weeks, feed every 2 weeks. All plants are pinched out above every third pair of leaves, so plants become bushy with many points where flowers will come. Harden off from mid-May - early June, then can be planted out to enjoy all summer/autumn, continue feeding and each plant will be covered in flowers. Removing dead flower heads encourages more, but any berries which are black can be eaten or made into jam. Water when the pots feel lighter. If the pot's heavy, it doesn't need more - overwatering is harmful. Watch carefully for vine weevils/hawk moth caterpillars/fuchsia gall mite but these plants are easy to grow well.

- Next month's meeting - 11th March - AGM plus Gill Hazel Talk on classic and unusual bulbs. Doors open 7:15pm. New members/guests welcome.
- A 3-hour willow workshop 9.45am Thursday 11th April in Rode Memorial Hall. Take home your own obelisk for plants. Non-members will be welcome.

Sharman Flindall

R&DGC E: rodeanddistrictgardeningclub@outlook.com

Parish Business



Hi readers of “The Link”.

I’m Ping, a home cook who was propelled into a ‘dream come true’ world of cooking after winning the coveted MasterChef trophy back in 2014 and subsequently the MasterChef Champion of Champions in 2022.

Born and raised in the town of Ipoh in Malaysia; I grew up with amazing food and was inspired at an early age by my mother’s cooking. Perhaps most inspiring to me was my mother’s way of showing love through cooking, something which is hugely important in my food ethos.

I’ve lived in the UK for the past 20+ years and we now live just down the road in Wingfield which has been home for me, my husband Andrew and our 2 girls, Alexa and Luna, for the past 8 years.

Some of you may well have met me (well Andrew my husband most probably) as we’ve been delivering our meals around the area for the past few years and have built a lovely client base across Rode and surrounding villages.

For those who don’t know what we do, my husband Andrew and I run a chilled meal delivery service, “Ping At Home”, to try to spread our love of Malaysian food. Rode, is a very special place for us as the lovely villagers opened their hearts and stomachs at the very start of our venture.

We started Ping At Home from our home kitchen during Lockdown but recently moved into a lovely space in Church Farm where we share our space with 2 lovely neighbours Fussels Rapeseed Oil and Somerset Foodie.

From the shop on site we have a range of grab and go items available along with a pickup point for our meals.

Why not pop in and say ‘Hi’ as well as marvel at the other wonderful products available in the shop.

For more info have a look at our website www.pingathome.com

Parish Gardening

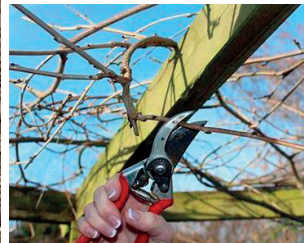
The birdsong is rising to a raucous crescendo and it can feel like the milder weather is telling us it's time to finally get spring cleaning in the garden after months of watching the garden steadily slide into a brown mush.

But tread carefully around the borders and stay the fingers itching to work those secateurs - or at least try to exercise a little restraint: we need to remember the risk of sudden freezes and sharp frosts stays with us for many more weeks to come.

But for the irrepressible amongst us, here are a few jobs we can safely tackle now:

- Rose pruning - prioritise taking out dead, diseased and damaged stems; look at the overall framework, removing old woody stems if there's strong new growth at the base and try to cut just above an outward-facing bud - loads of guidance available online...
- Bare root planting - go for it! Time is running out! Think about any gaps in hedges that could be filled now, or indulge yourself and buy a new tree, or maybe a rose or two
- Get on with the wisteria winter prune - a firm hand is required, be bold and fearless and take it back to a couple of buds on the main frame of stems
- Sow Sweet Peas - hang on, where have you been, why haven't you done this already??
- Make the most of the final weeks of dark late afternoons of planning time - spring is nearly here!

“Muddy Fingernails”



Forthcoming Parish Events

Who Killed the Golf Pro.....?

A return of the murder mystery evening:
Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 7.30pm
in the Memorial Hall



Tickets available from the Post Office:

£10 per adult including a glass of wine & cheese & biscuits

£5 per child including a soft drink & cheese & biscuits

Profits to The Heart of Rode

**RODE MONDAY
LUNCH CLUB
4th MARCH
12.30PM
RODE MEMORIAL
HALL
See page 28**

NSP LUNCHTIME CONCERTS CHURCH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES CHURCH

MARCH CONCERT DETAILS

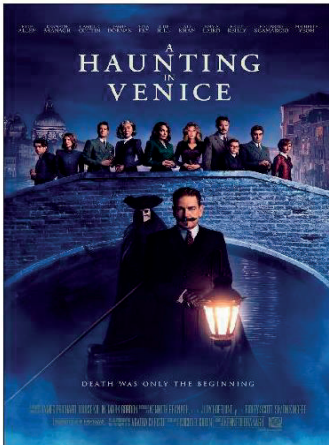
Thursday 14 March.

Trio Paradis

12.30 for 1pm

Tickets £5 – available on the door

Beautiful chamber music by women composers



FRIDAY 15TH MARCH 7.30 pm Memorial Hall

Kenneth Branagh directs and stars as Hercule Poirot in this film version of Agatha Christie's *Halloween Party*. Amongst others this film also stars Tina Fey and Michelle Yeoh in a story of murder, suspense and (perhaps) the supernatural. Flickering candles, screams, gore, wind, bumps, bodies and much more to the fore!

**Tickets: £ 6.00 in advance from Rode
Post Office - £ 6.50 on the door**

**• Doors open 7pm •
Licensed Bar • Raffle**

Forthcoming Parish Events

: THE HOODOOS :

are doing Norton St Philip

7.00pm ~ Saturday 16th March 2024



The HooDoos...? Who are the HooDoos...?

The HooDoos play an eclectic mix of swampy blues, folk, jazz, bluegrass, country, pop and funk wrapped with gorgeous goose-bumping vocal harmonies.

This bunch of musical talent is a bit of a favourite and **definitely a band not to miss...!**

**The venue is not licensed so feel free to bring your own alcohol
Light refreshments will be available**

7.00pm ~ tickets £12.00

ticket booking: glenysbrown1711@gmail.com

Church of St Philip and St James in Norton St Philip

Vicarage La, Norton St Philip BA2 7LY - 01373 834 226 / 07795 984016

Forget-me-not Café



When? Mar 18th 2.30 – 4 pm (3rd Mon of every month)

Where? St Philip and St James Church, NSP

Come and enjoy a cuppa and friendly people to chat with. We have a great café team, all Dementia Friends, who are looking forward to meeting you!



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

Forthcoming Parish Events

Tellisford Parish Meeting

The Villages of Tellisford and Woolverton

Thursday 11 April 2024 at 19:00pm

The AGM of Tellisford Parish Meeting
will be held on Thursday, 11th April 2024

at 19.00, venue Meadow View 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.



SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2024

AT RODE VILLAGE HALL 1.00pm – 4.00 pm

Rode Scout Group are looking for donations of Bric-a-brac, knick-knacks, unwanted gifts, books, toys and small items of furniture for the above event. Items can be brought along to the village hall on *Friday evening 12th April from 6.30pm to 7.30pm* however if you cannot get to the Hall we can arrange to collect them during the week prior to the event, so please contact Howard on 01373-830640 or 07736739680.

Please note small items of furniture will be accepted at the discretion of the organisers

Each item will have a lot number and sheet. Now the fun begins, if you are interested in something just put your name down on the sheet along with your bid, it is wise to check again as it is possible that you may get out bid, if you really want this item you will have to increase the previous bid, this makes it very exciting!!! At 3.50 pm a warning whistle will be blown giving you just 10 minutes to secure your bids, the final whistle will be blown at 4pm at this point everyone must step away from the tables, stewards will then step in and highlight the winner of the lot. Payment must be made in full before you leave the hall

Bacon rolls will be available from 1pm, also Teas, coffee & cakes

Come and join in:

- It's great fun bidding
- You can enjoy delicious refreshments
- Help the scouts raise much needed funds for the re-build of the Scout Headquarters
- Recycle unwanted items

Forthcoming Parish Events

2024 NSP LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
FUTURE CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
THE CHURCH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES NORTON ST PHILIP
12.30 FOR 1PM

11 April: Band of Pilgrims
Blues, gospel, folk and more

9 May: Charles Wiffen
Classical recital from an internationally renowned pianist



**RODE
PARK FEST**

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
13TH & 14TH JULY

LIVE MUSIC | BBQ | BAR
TRACTOR RIDES | TOMBOLA
COMEDY | RACES | DISCO
TRADITIONAL FETE GAMES
TALENT SHOW | SHOPPING VILLAGE
TUG OF WAR | CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING
.. AND LOTS MORE!

RODE PLAYING FIELD
ORNEAGE CLOSE
RODE

rodeparkfest@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE...
SATURDAY JUNE 8TH
RODE REPAIR CAFÉ
SEE PAGES 18



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS
YOU

CAN YOU FIX THINGS?!

DO YOU HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OR
EXPERIENCE OF FIXING HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS -
BE THEY ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, POTTERY,
PORCELAIN, CLOTHING OR FOOTWEAR...? IF
SO, WE NEED YOU FOR RODE'S INAUGURAL

REPAIR CAFE

SATURDAY 8th JUNE

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP, EMAIL
JIM.MCAULIFFE@BTINTERNET.COM

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Inspiring ingredients for adventurous cooks
with recipes to show you how to use them!

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Plastic free packaging
on all wholefood ingredients
Great value - go on foodies, give us a try!



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- 60+ Vegan Wines
- 30+ Fortified Wines
- 40+ Gins
- Christmas Gifts
- Tastings & Tapas



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Original & Flavoured Oils
Dressings • Mayonnaises
Vinaigrettes • Dipping Oils

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or call 01373 831286



THE MILL *At Rode*

Mothers Day

Sunday 10th March

we are running our popular Sunday
roast menu alongside pub classics

Booking strongly advised

Tel. 01373 673 112

www.TheMillatRode.com

Parish Food & Drink



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

More than just stamps

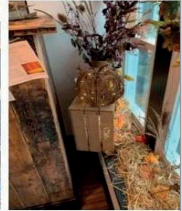
Open Monday – Saturday
32a High Street, Rode BA11 6PA
01373 830321

USUAL OPENING HOURS

Monday	9.00-17.30
Tuesday	9.00-17.30
Wednesday	9.00-13.00
Thursday	9.00-17.30
Friday	9.00-17.30
Saturday	9.00-13.00

Easter Opening Hours
Good Friday 9-1
Easter Saturday 9-1
Easter Monday -closed

**HAPPY
EASTER**



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



PARISH RECIPE

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



If you do, please send it in...

You'll receive a bottle of Fussels' Rape Seed Oil courtesy of Fussels' Fine Foods for your trouble!

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

E: thelink@rodevillage.com

CHATLEY FARM BROWNIES

NEAR BATH

www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk



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

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

OUR MULTI BUY OFFERS

£8.50

For 1 pack

£8.00

each for 2 or 3
packs

£7.50

each for 4 or
more packs

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Parish Food & Drink



Farleigh Road FARM SHOP & CAFÉ



Local meat, done right!

You don't have to eat meat every day, but when you do, make sure you know where it comes from..



Introducing Kieran & Cath

We couldn't be luckier to have 2 amazing butchers! They are on hand every day to help you 'meat' your carnivorous needs!

Pop in today and see what's they have!



Have you tried our cafe yet?

We serve a great selection of Winter Warmers! Perfect for this time of year.

Sunday Roast that are unrivaled!

We know, we know... everyone claims to do the best roast, but trust us, we do!

01225 720006

Cafe Opening Times

Breakfast: 9:00-11.30

Lunch 12:00-3.30

Afternoon Tea Served Until 4:00

01225 720006

[f](#) Farleigh Road Farm Shop [t](#) @Farleighroadfarmshop [i](#) farleighrdfarmshop



Fitness with a Difference



Welcome to our Fitness with a Difference community, where we're all about making life better for those who are young at heart. We're here to help you live your best life and be as independent as possible.

No need to worry about long trips or tricky planning. We bring our training and expertise to you in the charming rural villages of Wiltshire. Just take a quick stroll to your local village hall, and you're all set to go.

Our tailored routines focus on improving balance, flexibility, and strength, which, in turn, make everyday tasks easier. Whether it's getting dressed, reaching into cupboards, or walking on uneven ground, we've got you covered. We want to ensure you feel able to live a full and happy life, regardless of your age or the challenges you face.

So why wait? Grab a friend, and join us at the village hall every Tuesday at 10:00 AM and let's have fun together.



Email: jennifer@fitnesswithadifference.uk

Tel: 07341 986569



More people
More active
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR) and Cllr Moira Punt (MP).

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk and Cllr Dawn Denton (County Councillor) and 2 Parishioners

1. Parishioners Participation: Concern was raised over the new windows that had been installed in The White House on Lower Street. These new windows had replaced the old rather ornate windows and had altered the look of the house in a Conservation Area. There were other buildings in Rode which had similar ornate windows and concern was expressed that these could be lost. It was noted that the building was not listed and no Article 4 was in place to prevent window replacement. Therefore, nothing could be done in this case as Somerset Council had been consulted. However, it was agreed the Parish Council would look into how Article 4 could be applied to buildings in the Rode Conservation Areas – this would probably involve photographs and some history on properties and consultation with Somerset. Cllr Denton agreed to investigate the process.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr P Travis, Cllr J McAuliffe, Cllr A Pickett and Cllr A Boyden (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th January were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Actions from previous meeting:

i Grass cutting: Tony Jones and his son were attending the meeting to introduce themselves and said they were looking forward to cutting the grass within Rode. They emphasised that they would be keeping an eye on the length of the grass and would carry out cuts to keep it short, even if this involved more frequent cutting. The signed contract was returned.

ii. Paths at playing field: Grant Slade had provided a new set of costings for a gate and path into the playing field. This would be a good quality temporary path that could, depending on the future of the village hall location etc., either be made permanent or removed. It was agreed by majority to proceed with this path once the ground had dried sufficiently.

iii. The Mill: It was reported Cllr Pickett had written to the Licencing Officer at Somerset regarding the new Licence and was awaiting a response.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

iv. Paths from Barrow Farm: The Clerk reported a new reduced quote was expected for keeping the paths clear and this should meet the PC requirements.

v. Drainage: It was reported that CALM had not finished all the drainage works and that when Somerset took over from Mendip they did not take over the agreed works. Cllr McAuliffe was in discussions with the Community Engagement Officer (Dr Paul Elliston) regarding drainage on Crooked Lane and Straight Lane. Suggestions that Rode develop a Community Emergency Plan to cover flooding had been made. MP said that the Climate Group could look at this. The Chair reported that the LCN had also considered producing flood resistance plans for Parishes. (It was noted sandbags are not favoured; other more efficient products were now available).

6. County Councillors Report: Cllr Denton reported that Parkgate Lane was due to be inspected following last week's flooding but it was unlikely any work would be done on it until Somerset's new contractors started in April.

7. Highways issues:

i. Street Lights Turn off: No further comments had been received following publication of the questionnaire results in The Link. It was therefore agreed to approach Somerset to action turning off the agreed street lights after midnight by fitting new timing devices. Should crime rise this would be reviewed.

ii. SIDs: The AutoSpeedWatch devices would be ordered by the Clerk.

iii. TRO for 20mph limit: There had been no comments regarding the new speed limits in the village and along the A361. Somerset Highways will now put a schedule of work to action this in the next financial year, starting in April. The subject of village gates was discussed but with Autograph Homes no longer paying for these it would be up to the Parish Council to fund them.

8. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/0108/TCA: To prune magnolia – 9 High Street. No objections.

2024/0172/CLE: Application for an existing lawful development certificate for Residential Use Class C3 – Barn at Monks Lake Farm, Monkley Lane. Noted.

2024/0244/TCA: Sorbus tree – 0.5-1m reduction all round, Grafted Maple – reduce crown by 1-1.5m, Apple and Pear – thin crowns by 10% and reduce by 1-1.5m, Birch remove all deadwood and reduce crown by 1-2m – The Stables, Langham Place. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

None

9. Solar Farm: Application 2023/2183/FUL to build solar farm on land south and east of Bradford Road still had to be decided by Somerset. The CPRE had approached a Parish Councillor to request the Parish Council (PC) make further comment over the revised plans submitted by Low Carbon as the CPRE strongly felt these did not address any objections raised. Discussions on this agreed that

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

no further comment should be made as the current PC objections were sufficient. It was also noted that the determination date for Somerset was today so any comment could be too late.

Concerns were expressed that Low Carbon had not demonstrated that it had looked at alternative sites for this solar farm.

It was agreed that the PC had no objections to Low Carbon either attending the March meeting or conducting a 'Zoom session' with the PC.

A question over why Somerset's solar farm policy for the county had not been published and it was agreed to investigate when this will be published as it is considered important with regard to any solar farm developments.

10. Ultrafast broadband: Information had been received from Gigaclear that the cabinet should go live in March and connections should be completed in May. However, it was noted that the work in the High Street had not been completed due to too many other services being in the way of the Gigaclear cabling and this had to be resolved.

11. LCN: Previously reported above. However, Cllr Denton said that Somerset would be contacting the PC to get a form completed to assess the Council's priorities.

12. Financial matters:

i. Annual finances: The Clerk reported that after 10 months the PC was showing a profit for the year and should show a surplus for the year as there were no major costs envisaged for the next 2 months.

ii. Assets: The asset register was noted. The Clerk was asked to cost new waste bin for The Shard.

iii. Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Clerk Salary	£265.31
HMRC PAYE	£64.60
Autospeedwatch	£727.64
J McAuliffe (hall hire)	£44.00

13. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 11th March at 7.30pm** (A pre-meeting for the PC starting at 7.00pm for Councillors only will be held to review the Rode Neighbourhood Plan)

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Date Print

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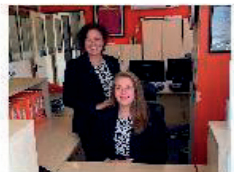
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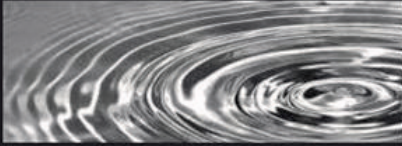
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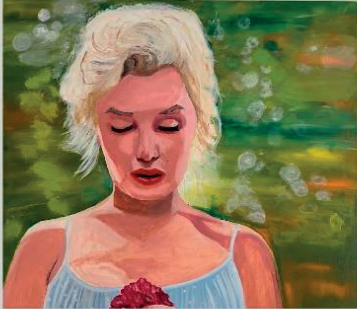
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Join us for
our next
events

Rossetti House care home, Frome

Our upcoming free events

Monthly carers café

Last Friday of every month, 11am - 12.30pm

Join other family carers and share experiences over complimentary coffee and cake. Our friendly team will be on hand to give helpful advice and support.

Dementia friendly cinema

Every Thursday, 3pm - 4.30pm

Join us weekly and enjoy some film favourites in our cinema, a welcoming and safe screening for people living with dementia.

Trusted to care.



To RSVP please call
01373 610 206 or email
helen.cross@careuk.com



HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH 2024

.DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Wednesday 27 March	9.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline	
	9.00 am –	Tellisford , Day of Prayer concluding	
	9.00 pm	with Compline	
Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
	7.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Passover Meal	
Friday 29 March Good Friday	10.00 am	Rode , March of Witness, St Lawrence	
	11.00 am	short service in Rode Chapel	
	2-3.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Hour at the Cross	
Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday	6.00 am	Norton St Philip , Sunrise Vigil	
	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion	J Robinson
	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	C Walker
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	J Robinson
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	S Kivett
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion	tba

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

RODE CHAPEL MARCH 2024 SUNDAY SERVICES

6pm Meeting Place Sunday 4th March (N.B. No morning Service)

10.30am Sunday 10th March Rev. Andrew Prout (HC)

10.30am Sunday 17th Rev Michael White

10.30am Sunday 24th March Local Arrangement

10.30am Sunday 31st March Mr Barry Speddings

RODE CHAPEL DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Sunday 10th March: Mother's Day... posies (free) from the Chapel steps

Good Friday 29th March Ecumenical Walk of Witness:

10am St Lawrence Church commences - concluding at Rode Chapel with short Service

11am Good Friday Maech 29th Short Service



Osborne's Firewood Services

Call James - 07773280939

- 1/2 load (1/2 cube) £65
- 1 load (Cubic meter) £130
- 2 loads (2 Cubic Meters) £260
- Dumpy Bag of Oak sawmill offcuts £150
- Nets of logs (Approx 12 logs per bag) £6
- kindling £6
- Natural firelighters (40 in a box) £6

All prices include delivery

HARDINGTON VALE CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH 2024

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Sunday 3 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast	F Stewart
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	J Robinson/B Day
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	M Weymont
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place	
Monday 4 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 5 March	9.45 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 6 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 7 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 10 March Mothering Sunday	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	C Walker
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , special Mother's Day Informal Service	J Robinson/B Day
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Iona Service	M Griffiths
Monday 11 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 12 March	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 13 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 14 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 17 March	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship	C Walker/M Harrison
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence , Holy Communion	Harrison
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Worship	C Walker/M Harrison
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	J Robinson
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion	
Monday 18 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 19 March	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 20 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer	
Thursday 21 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday	9.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion	J Robinson
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Palm Procession starting at the George car park	C Walker
	6.00 pm	Rode , Chapel, Meeting Place	
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Evening Service	J Waller
Monday 25 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
	9.00 pm	Rode chapel , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline	
Tuesday 26 March	9.45 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	9.00 pm	Rode chapel , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Compline	
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline	

MARCH 2024 DIARY	
Fri 1 Mar	11.15 -11.45am Somerset Mobile Library, Rode High Street, BA11 6PB
Sat 2 Mar	7.30pm "Who Killed the Golf Pro?" see pages 10 & 28 for details
Mon 4 Mar	12.30pm Monday Lunch Club see page 28 for details
Fri 8 Mar	6 for 6.30pm Rode Over 60s see page 24 for details
Sun 10 Mar	Mothering Sunday
Mon 11 Mar.	7.15pm Rode & District Gardening Club see page 25 for details 7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 41 for details
Thu 14 Mar	10.00am Rode Walking Group see page 23 for details 12.30pm for 1pm NSP Church Lunchtime Concert see page 28 for details
Fri 15 Mar	7 for 7.30pm Rode Roxy see page 28 for further details
Sat 16 Mar	Buckland Dinham Fundraiser see page 29 for details
Mon 18 Mar	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 29 for details 7-8.30pm Monthly Youth Activity Space see page 21 for details
Wed 21 Mar	COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL LINK
Sun 24 Mar	11am Colour Run see page 11 for details
Mon 25 Mar	11.15 -11.45am Somerset Mobile Library, Rode High Street, BA11 6PB
Fri 29 Mar	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday
Sun 31 Mar	1am British Summer Time begins - Clocks go forward one hour Easter Sunday 8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 16 for details

YEAR PLANNER	
Mon 1 Apr	BANK HOLIDAY – Easter Monday
Thu 11 Apr	12.30pm for 1pm NSP Church Lunchtime Concert see page 31 for details 7pm Tellisford AGM see page 30 for details
Sat 13 Apr	1am Silent Auction see pages 14 & 30 for details
Mon 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY – Early May Bank Holiday
Mon 27 May	BANK HOLIDAY -- Spring Bank Holiday
Sat 8 Jun	Rode Repair Café see page 31
Sun Jun 16	Father's Day
Sat 13 Jul	Rode Park Fest – see page 31 for details
Sun 14 Jul	Rode Park Fest – see page 31 for details
Mon 26 Aug	BANK HOLIDAY – Summer Bank Holiday
Wed 25 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY – Christmas Day
Thu 26 Dec	BANK HOLIDAY – Boxing Day

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Mar 2024

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

We welcome all content contributions for "The Link"
please email: thelink@rodevillage.com

RODE CRAFT CLUB



We each bring along whatever we are working on, share ideas /skills and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and biscuits.

Weekly on Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm at Rode Chapel. There is no need to book or to commit to coming every week.

We have knitters, embroiderers, crocheters, card makers, leather workers and cross stitchers. The list goes on! All abilities too. We all help each other.