# The Link §

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



## **JUNE 2022**

Details of Local Events Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee are inside and lots more local news and info too...

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#### DEPUTY WARDEN

Rode:

Sally Pickett 01373 831796

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#### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

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churchvard

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rode.chapel@btinternet.com

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Rode Gardens Association		(Chair)		35-7-37-11-37_11-11-00 11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-	
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	
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		Kate Robinson		www.rodevillagehall.co.uk	
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Old School Room Farleigh H'ford		Dilys McKechnie		01225 754925	
Over 60's		Pat Smith		830559	
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		(Parish Clerk)		rodevillage.com/parish-council/	
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RANS Running & Walking Club		Brandon Quentin-Hicks		brandon@bamboohouse.co.uk	
www.facebook.com/TeamRANS				07867 545720	
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Federation		Georgina Muxworthy			
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Rodevillage.com		George Berry		info@rodevillage.com	
Website & Twitter Feed				http:/twitter.com/rodevillage	
1st Rode Scout Group		Group Scout Leader:		hdrussello1@gmail.com	
Beavers Wed 4.45-5.45pm		Howard Russell		830640/07736 739680	
Cubs Thu 6-7.30pm					
Scouts Wed 7-8.30pm During school term time					
Scouts Edor Explorer Unit					
Every other Tuesday 8-9.30pm in					
term time					
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wanking Group	Community		ort & Local Government & Closest GP		
Community	nity 01749 880613/www.menfopcommunitytransport.co.uk				
Transport	Mendip Commu Slinky Bus Book			01749 880482	
	Frome Commu			07596 591391	
Mendip D C General Enquir				0300 303 8588	
Somerset C C General Enquiri				0300 123 2224	
Beckington	Appointments 7		Enquiries and Emergencies T: 830316		
Family Practice	Results 9.30-13	.00/14.00-16.00		Dispensary 8.30-13.00/15.00-18.30 T: 867987	
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NHS 111 24 hour	, ,		modical	problem and you are unsure what to do	
medical care help T: 111 Online: 1:		u nave an urgent - medical prol 11 nhs co uk		problem and you are unsure what to do	
Frome Rural Beat PCSO				.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk/07547658018	
Neighbourhood PCSO Superviso				Stephen.Reading@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
Police Team Neighbourhood					
Tolice Tealii iveigiiboutillood		Office David.Conen@avonandsomerset.ponce.uk			



## **GOD BLESS OUR QUEEN**

There are many in the parish who are old enough to remember the Queen's Coronation and are delighted (and somewhat surprised) that they - and she - are still here to celebrate her 70 years on the throne – truly amazing!

I have no memories of the Queen's Coronation as I was born in the year she came to the throne but I do have very fond memories of her three previous Jubilees, as do many. In the coming days an opportunity for more memories to be made and for some to have their first experience of such an event as we celebrate our Queen and her long reign. It is hoped that the July issue of The Link will include many memories of the day – your photos please!

I am sure lots of you have gatherings with family, friends and neighbours planned - do enjoy them. We in Hardington Vale are very lucky to have many residents who have devoted their time to organising a variety of community events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee - some of which are very large and will enable many to come together at this special time. A very big thank you to all those involved.

During the long weekend it would be good if you could maybe take the time to check on those you know of in our community who may not be in a position to avail themselves of all that is on offer and might welcome seeing a friendly face and perhaps some help getting to some of the events...

The following pages give details of the parish events that we have been advised of that are open to all residents of the parish and their families and friends. Apologies in advance if anything has not been included! The events are nicely spread over the Jubilee Weekend, no overlap to speak of, so, much fun to be had - and a day to recover if needed!

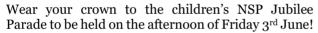
CELEBRATE AND ENJOY!



#### LET'S CELEBRATE IT TOGETHER...

#### CHILDREN'S CROWN MAKING WORKSHOP NSP

In St. Philip and St. James Church in Norton St. Philip on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 10.00am-11.30am an opportunity for children to make their own crown (there will be a donation jar for materials).





Sue Rodford

## ST LAWRENCE "PLATINUM JUBILEE PEAL"

At 11.45am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June the St Lawrence Church bell ringers will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in their own unique way

The Coronation ceremony in 1953 began at 11.45am. It lasted three hours so we thought it was appropriate to ring the bells at a similar time on the anniversary.

Please listen out for them!

Sally Pickett







WATCH THE
FILM OF THE
CORONATION
WHILE
ENJOYING A
CREAM TEA







#### **RODE JUBILEE PARKFEST IS HERE!**

Everything is ready to ensure Rode's Jubilee Event is a very special day to be enjoyed by all. Rode's ParkFest is likely to be the biggest event locally on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>... So not to be missed.



Opening at midday, a whole array of family entertainments has been lined up ... everything from the unusual (fire eaters and people walking on stilts) to the much-loved favourites (John Osborne's tractor rides and the St Lawrence Bottle Stall).

Keith Sharman and the Scouts have got the beers in, there'll be hamburgers and hot dogs of course (made with the wonderful Wheelers' sausages), more unusually there's prosecco and tacos. A special free tea for young children and cups of tea for those who just want a quiet moment from all the activities.

There are toilets on site but not a lot of them (just worth being aware). So good to plan ahead.

There's a raffle with a prize of food goodies donated by Somerset Foodie and look out an amazing specially-produced Jubilee chocolate treat from Choc on Choc.

Music throughout the day with live bands performing onstage from 6:00pm in the evening through too late. National anthem to be played at 3:00pm and again in the evening.

Our special thanks to Rode Parish Council, Fussell Farms and Choc on Choc for all their support.

Also a shoutout for the team who has been organising the event; Ann Edney and Pat Restorick, Mal Bertenshaw, Howard, Diana and Nick Russell, Brandon Quentin-Hicks, Gary Holloway, Keith Sharman, Steve and Amanda Eyles and all the folk from the Scouts (and their parents), FRANS and the Playing Field who will be helping on the day.

And yes, we've listened ... there's no entry charge but we will invite donations to support the three organisations (The Scouts, FRANS and the Playing Field) who have worked hard to make this day possible.

Peter Travis ParkFest Team Member



## **Church Reflection, News & Events**

#### **REFLECTION - BLESSING THE LAND**

By the time you read this, Rogation Sunday will have passed. We celebrate it every year in church and usually go for a walk in the afternoon, taking in one or two churches and farms on the way.

This year it was Norton St Philip to Hemington via Hardington. In years past it has been Rode to Tellisford and sometimes Farleigh Hungerford, enjoying our beautiful countryside.

The name Rogation comes from the Latin "rogare" meaning to ask, when God's blessing was asked for the crops which had been planted a few weeks earlier. This goes right back to pre-Christian times. There was a custom of "beating the bounds". It started when people walked the boundaries of land in times before maps. They would pause at certain landmarks; trees walls, and hedges and beat them with sticks. The sticks were often made of willow and as the bark was removed it was called "stripping the willow". Is this where that challenging but exciting country dance of the same name comes from?

The church developed this to mark parish boundaries, with banners and prayers and food and drink. The names "Gospel Oak" or "Amen Corner" may well derive from this. We certainly carried on the tradition of good food and drink in Hemington church this year!

The land needs our concern and our prayers - and action. Sharman Flindall wrote a report in last month' s magazine about a fascinating talk by Sally Morgan, a biologist and gardener, at Rode Gardening Club. She spoke about adapting to Climate Change in our growing patterns.

Human activity is causing rising temperatures, and it's not just by burning fossil fuels, but also by changes of land use, deforestation, and unhealthy farming methods in agro industry.

The land is becoming increasingly a desert and it is estimated the world has only 60 harvests left, a terrifying thought for our grandchildren. Land is no longer capturing carbon as it was designed to do because mankind increasingly pours chemicals on it which destroys the wonderful structure and turns it to dust.

This is not hopeless if things change very soon. I am not a farmer, but I have been told that that good grazing techniques, return to organic manure, and rotation of crops can make a big difference. I am a gardener, however, and appreciate what Sally had to say. Have another read of Sharman' article and see what a difference we can make in our gardens.

## **Church Reflection, News & Events**

"The pastures of the wilderness overflow'
the hills gird themselves with joy
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks'
the valleys deck themselves with grain
they shout and sing together for joy"

What an astonishing picture of God's care for the world. Our part as humans is to humble ourselves and treat the earth with the honour it deserves, and it will reward us. So praying for the soil is good and taking action with the choices we make in what we buy and eat, and how, if we are lucky enough to have a patch of land, we garden it. If you're interested there's a very thought provoking but ultimately hopeful film on Netflix - "Kiss the Ground". Highly Recommended.

Barbara Day

#### THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its



start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

**26th May - 5th June:** So let's join with Christians around the world as we pray during this period - creative ways to pray at home individually or as a family on: www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us

**Wednesday 1st June 9am - Thursday 2nd June:** In Hardington Vale we are meeting in The Chapel in Rode for 24/7 prayer. If you would like to be part of this either call in The Chapel when you can during this period or contact me: 834258 carolinehwalker@btinternet.com for further information.

Caroline Walker

## Church Reflection, News & Events NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE

As mentioned on the previous page, with Rode Chapel we are holding 24 hours of prayer from 9am on 1st June, we hope to be able to cover the whole 24-hour period and we are delighted to be joining with the Chapel in this.

We are planning on ringing the bells at midday on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

The Coronation ceremony in 1953 began at 11.45am and lasted three hours so we thought it was appropriate to ring the bells at a similar time on the anniversary.

Please listen out for them!

We are gearing up for our "History Afternoon" on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June and look forward to sharing our knowledge of our ancient and beautiful village church.

Please drop in at any time between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to also enjoy a cup of tea or glass of wine. There is no charge, but any donations will be much appreciated and there will be a raffle (see advertisement on page 48).



In the meantime, there is the "ParkFest" Jubilee celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> June (see pages 6 and 7 for full details) when members of the Heart of Rode Committee will be running the tombola. Please come along and see whether your luck is in!

As lots of readers will be aware, there are now many Ukrainian refugees being generously hosted in Rode and the rest of Hardington Vale. It has been our great pleasure to offer the Church and its facilities free of charge as a venue for professional English classes to be given to them. By the time you are reading this those lessons should be well under way.

Following on from the work undertaken earlier in the year to repair the wooden floor on the south side of the church, we are now having some work done to replace the metal bars on the window above the west door., as required by the church architect. This is being undertaken by Michael Walker and we are very grateful to him for all his work.

Sally Pickett and Geoff Banwell

## **Church Reflection, News & Events**



**Ecumenical Holy Communion at Rode Chapel** 

The next Holy Communion at Rode Chapel is on Tuesday 7th June at 9.45am.

#### **CREAM TEAS AND THE CORONATION?**





See page 4 for the details...



All are welcome to attend this Yoga and Meditation Class.

Tea, conversation and prayer are available afterwards. Donation optional.



## **NSP Church Flexible Space Available for Hire**

The new flexible space in St Philip & St James Church can now be hired for events for further details contact:

Andrew Morrison T: 01373 834979 E: andrew@turnerpartners.co.uk

Events in the week required to finish at 10 pm Events at the weekend required to finish at 11pm

#### MAY SOMERSET UNITARY ELECTIONS RESULT

On 1 April 2023, the five existing councils in Somerset will be replaced by a single Somerset Unitary Council and as both our Somerset Councillor, Linda Oliver (Cons) and our Mendip Councillor, Barbi Lund (Green) did not stand for re-election change is afoot. Our two new elected Councillors are Adam Boyden (Lib Dem) and Dawn Denton (Cons).

Adam Boyden introduces himself below and we look forward to Dawn Denton being able to do so next month.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Linda and Barbi for all their work on behalf of our community and for their involvement with The Link.

Gill Leonard Editor

#### THANK YOU AND HELLO FROM ADAM BOYDEN

Every election is determined by the people who show up", and on 5th May, 43.7% of the electorate voted, and I had the honour of being elected as one of your Somerset County Councillors for Frome North. Thanks to everyone for your help!



Due to the immense support across Somerset, I am now part of the brand new Liberal Democrat administration running the County Council. Our first 'full council' meeting was yesterday when nearly all 110 county councillors met in a large room near Bridgwater. Bill Revans was elected Leader of the county council, and he used his maiden speech to outline a few priorities.

This will be a listening council, with a positive relationship with all Somerset residents. We will disperse power, including by developing the emerging Local Community Networks, to give local residents a genuine role in shaping how the new council will operate.

A big challenge will be to 'get Unitary done', as this has a strict deadline of next April when the new unitary Somerset Council must be formed, taking over all county and district services.

How we develop the current 'pilot' Frome Area LCN (covering the Rode area) which has been looking into the local coordination of services for children and

young people, into an effective local committee of the unitary council and an active and engaging partnership with local people and organisations to raise issues and achieve meaningful action on local issues, will be really important.

I know many in Rode are concerned about environmental issues, and Somerset is in the front line of the fight against climate change. The new Lib Dem council will increase momentum towards making Somerset more resilient to the effects of climate change and becoming an exemplar council on climate and environment policy, led by councillor Sarah Dyke in the council's Executive.

This is also why we have established a new Scrutiny Committee for Environment and Climate Change policy, of which I will be Vice-Chair, to ensure that we are doing all we can to tackle the global threat locally. We need to promote active travel, better bus services and digital connectivity to keep Rode connected and reduce the need for car journeys.

I also remain a Mendip District Councillor for nearby Frome College Ward and supported the Lib Dem motion at that Full Council on Monday which declared a 'cost of living emergency', due to the explosion in the cost of living and its impact on working people, pensioners and those on benefits. This called for a windfall tax on energy giants, and for a summit of local organisations to find ways to help people in need, and it is truly a shame that this is needed in the 21st century.

Locally I am also picking up on issues of current concern, including road safety, and will be meeting with parish councillors to help progress local priorities.

I will also be working with your Mendip District Councillor Barbi Lund (until next April) of course, and with Dawn Denton who was also elected in Frome North.

I really want to hear from anyone with a concern or ideas. My new county council email is adam.boyden@somerset.gov.uk and my website is at www.adamboyden.mycouncillor.org.uk - you can sign up to email alerts to keep informed, by emailing me. So please get in touch, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Adam Boyden
Somerset County Councillor for Frome North
Mendip District Councillor for Frome College Ward

#### NO TAKERS FOR SOME FUN AND ADVENTURE?

Last month we featured an appeal from Jacqui Rottenbury for new Rode Scout Group Leaders but as we go to print apparently no one has come forward,



Sadly I again find myself having to draw attention to the need for volunteers to step up before the future of another of our community institutions is threatened closure.

So I repeat Jacqui's plea below and sincerely hope that this time she gets some response and the future of Rode Scouts is secured – time is running out with the end of the current term fast approaching!

"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 and we can arrange a taster session."

Gill Leonard Editor

#### **200 CLUB DRAW RESULTS**

The 200 club winners of the April draw were:

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

Drawn by Christine Lowe

Scouts

1st Rode (Scout Group)

Jan Jupp

#### A LITTLE LUNCHTIME MUSIC PERHAPS?

Now that St Philips and St James has been reordered we are keen to make it available for community events as much as possible and this will include various concerts.

These are informal events; you are welcome to bring your lunch with you and stay behind afterwards for a cup of tea and a conversation with the musicians.

The aim is to present a wide variety of music over the course of the year.



The summer lunchtime programme has now been finalised. The concerts begin at **1pm and end at 2pm.** Admission is £5 per person. Tickets can be bought on the door:

**Thursday 2 June** - Graham Dent (piano) and Nick Sorensen (saxophones). "Our Favourite Things": a programme of jazz standards and original compositions.

**Thursday 7 July** - Livvy Hylton-Smith (vocals) and Bob King (guitar) The Great American Songbook, rhythm and blues and contemporary popular songs.

**Thursday 4 August** - Tony Roberts (saxophone) and Richard Llewelyn (guitar) Tony Roberts was part of the vanguard of contemporary British jazz and folk from the 60s onwards. He has performed with such luminaries as John Dankworth. Mike Gibbs, Nucleus, Danny Thompson and John Renbourn.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear Tony play with the outstanding guitarist Richard Llewelyn.

**Dates for your diary -** The Autumn season of concerts will take place on the following Thursdays: 8 September / 6 October / 3 November and 1 December. Artists to be confirmed.

Take a look at page 50 for details of another event at the church in July: "Hymns and Pimms"!

#### H.V. COMMUNITY GROUP - UKRAINIAN CRISIS UPDATE

Well, it is now some 3 months since the Russians invaded Ukraine and a lot has happened since then. The HV Community Group was formed to respond to the crisis at a local level by finding people willing either to host fleeing Ukrainians or to help to make them feel more at home when



they have arrived. We have also been ascertaining the possibilities available to arriving Ukrainians in terms of education, transport, jobs etc.

It is a constantly evolving picture, but at the time of writing, we have some 30+ guests recently arrived in our community, spread across the several villages of HV, and they are generally beginning to settle in well. There are another 40 or so in the pipeline at various stages of the process; visas are applied for in the majority of cases, and we are now waiting for them to be granted before we move on to figuring out transport arrangements. Each hosting household is supported by one or more 'buddies' who can take over if the hosts are not available at any point, and this reduces the stress on the hosts considerably.

**Emotional Reactions** - It is hard to put into words what our guests must have been through. They were people just like us, living their day to day lives, with all the hopes and fears we all know and share. And then suddenly the world goes crazy. Imagine if one day, you had to suddenly leave your village, be it Rode or Norton or wherever, and head off with perhaps only one suitcase, to an unknown future in a foreign country, leaving all your treasured belongings behind, losing everything that represented your progress in life. Gone. And imagine further if you had to leave one family member behind to fight. It is an almost unimaginable prospect for us, but that's what it was like for our guests after February 24<sup>th</sup>.

So we need to support them emotionally and mentally as well as physically. The children who have arrived so far are resilient, although some still report occasional nightmares. But a recurrent theme from all the guests is how amazing they find the welcome they are receiving, and the large number of Ukrainian flags they see flying everywhere (including of course on Rode green). And a number of them have mentioned how much they love English architecture! Who would have guessed? It should also be said that most of the guests think of their move to the UK as temporary and are keen to get back to start rebuilding their country whenever it is possible. However, that seems a distant prospect at the moment.

**Education -** For most of the Ukrainians here, education for the children seems to be the first priority. Schools have been sorted out for most of them, and it must be said that the various schools involved have been more than helpful.

From first schools through to the colleges a practical approach (such as signs in Ukrainian for example) has been taken to integrating the children, making them feel welcome and managing their different requirements.

We are going to be starting English Tuition classes for the adults. (they should be well under way by the time you read this) involving daily 2-hour group classes in venues in Rode every day except Wednesday when they will be in Norton St Philip. There will also be one-to-one conversation sessions with experienced TEFL teachers in the villages. There are of course also online courses. We feel that getting their standard of English to a fairly good level is crucial if they are to find jobs in the community, and thereby become more independent and move on. But for the moment Google Translate has really come into its own!! And it has to be remembered that not only are they having to learn a new language, but also a new way of writing, using our Roman system of letters rather than Cyrillic. So they even have to learn how to write their own name! The first stage on arrival (once they are settled and ready) is to get them to undertake a language assessment questionnaire to see what level their English is, so as to offer them a place in a suitable level class. Having said all that, some of the guests are arriving with already very good English, and it is hoped that they will be happy to help with supporting and translating for the others.

We had hoped to use the facilities at some of the local institutions of further education to provide formal English teaching classes, but of course these are now all finished until September, and we need to provide lessons pretty well immediately. Somerset County Council has agreed to support classes two days a week and we have agreed to buy in professional services from Bath Academy to provide the education as required the other 3 days a week. This is not cheap (although we are being given preferential rates), and to that end our online donations page is now looking to raise even more than the current achievement of more than £2500, and the large majority of any sum raised will be used for this education program. If you feel you would like to donate (no upper or lower limit), please use this link:

www.gofundme.com/f/helping-ukrainian-refugees-within-our-community

**Bureaucracy** - Prior to their guests arriving, hosts need to fill in the required visas on their behalf. This is just as complicated and frustrating as has been described in the media. When I did the ones for my 3 guests, it took 4 solid hours, and that was with the assistance of an expert who had done it several times already. But at least we have some experience of the process now. Needless to say, the hoops are seemingly endless that have to be jumped through to register for the various services that our guests need once they have arrived, such as Health Service, National Insurance , Universal Credit and so on. Through trial and error, the hosts and their buddies have learnt that things need to be done in exactly the right order to progress the registrations. So, for

example, they have to have a bank account before applying for Universal Credit. Getting a bank account with the high street banks takes some 4 weeks or longer. However the online Monzo Bank seems to be relatively quick in getting one set up. It is a constant learning process.

**Employment -** The guests are all expressing a desire to find employment as soon as possible. I am currently building up a list of job opportunities in the locality, and once the guests are established and have a suitable level of English, they can start to look for work. In general they are willing to turn their hands to anything initially, although they may have been working in highly skilled positions back in Ukraine. There are a number of lawyers, accountants and so on, and they hope they will eventually find work in their particular profession. If you know of any job vacancies please drop me a line and I will add them to the list I'm building. I'd be particularly interested in any professional vacancies.

**Transport** - One problem still to be resolved involves obtaining car insurance for those that can drive. Hopefully we can find a company willing to insure Ukrainian drivers at a premium which is at least worth considering. One of our coordinators has been investigating this and has found out that to put one Ukrainian (who is not a youngster!) on the host's UK insurance only one company (Saga) was willing to offer the possibility, and the cost would be £2000! Something will need to be done about this, but it is difficult to see just what at the moment.

**More Information -** So a good start; no doubt there will be difficulties to come, both bureaucratic and emotional. But be assured that all the hard work put in by hosts and helpers is very much appreciated.

If you have items you feel would be useful to the folk arriving, please hold on to them, but let us know by sending a list of what you have to hardingtondonations@gmail.com. A particular plea is for bikes, scooters and helmets (known to be OK) for kids and/or adults, also wellies.

If you want any more information on what we are doing, or feel you have something to contribute in practical terms, the contact details for the four committee member are:

Andraea Dawson-Shepherd (Laverton): andraea\_ds@yahoo.co.uk, 07970 885896

Mary Morrison (Norton St. Philip):

dmarymorrison@btinternet.com, 07717 473884

Ali Smith (Rode): ali.w.s.smith@gmail.com, 07970 737382 Dave Walsh (Rode): davewalsh1900@gmail.com, 07704 881102

Ali Smith

#### RODE DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

A huge thank you to those of you who have kindly and generously already contributed to the replacement battery and on-going costs related to our village defibrillator which is kept in the vintage red phone box on the High Street.

So far, I have received £105 which is just over 25% of the £400 required.



As mentioned last month I am aware of how much food, energy and fuel have, and are, escalating but if you 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, please leave with Demi at the Post Office.

Thank you.

Lizzy Etheridge

#### STILL CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

A call to knitters to support Hardington Vale's international charity The Mission To Seafarers in a practical way 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?



It's a great way of using leftover wool and making a real difference.

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

#### THE TOAD OF RODE: RETURNS!

It seems like a lifetime ago since we took the final curtain for The Toad of Rode: Returns! Mind you, the memories are still fresh and what memories they are. As you might expect, there are a few stories that shall only be known to the cast and crew, although I can tell you that Anne lived up to her character Moley's reputation and empties were quite numerous when the green room was cleared. As for highlights, well a few that can be shared spring to mind.

Josey, Shania, Libby and Georgie lit up the stage and set the tone with their opening 'Troll Styleee' number, then there were the four principals; Richard Churchyard (Toad), Mike Salmon (Badger), Anne Sawtell (Moley) and Lucia Phillips (Ratty) were terrific throughout. It's hard to overstate how much time and effort they put into making their performances so amazing and a certain Mr Director will for ever be grateful for what they achieved.

Of course, the 'black dress, yes! ... The black dress 'as modelled by Garry Holmes must get a special mention, Deb Cowell and Steve Rhodes in full 'Rhumble' mode, the baddies (take a bow Barbara Holmes, Debbie Churchyard, Esther Perkins and Mandy Bergyl) dressed as Toady coats doing their rap, Anne and Lucy being glooped by the rabbits before launching into their very own version of that Village People classic R.M.D.A, everything about the ghost scene, Josey as the Judge coping with Andy Hodder's tricks and Heidi and Hodder making up the lines as they went along, (Author does not recommend this as a strategy for any future productions), the amazing sets (hats off to Barbara Holmes and her team), Sue Shannon's costumes and Debbie Law's makeup that brought the characters to life, Rachel's song, and of course the never to be forgotten striptease clothes exchange between our very own lycra loving Welsh Sue (Vicky Millgate) and Richard as Toad. Last, but by no means least... guest appearance by the original Mr Bum, aka Grant Slade. Pure panto-theatre magic!!!

There are so many people who made the show possible but we need to mention a few in particular. The production would never have been possible without the donations and support from... Martin Moss at Maple Audio, Gary Bull of Mendip Developments, Raves from the Grave record shop, family Osborne, Andy Fussell at F.A.B.S, Sam in the Post Office, Jarred and Amelia Christmas (pop up comedy) and special thanks to Hannah and Mark at the Cross Keys. We can't thank you enough.

It wasn't all plain sailing of course, indeed there were some decidedly rough patches that threatened to swamp the good ship Toad, not the least of these being Covid which forced us to put the show dates back by a month, but together we always managed to find a way through. Of course, the difficult times will soon

be forgotten and what will be remembered are the good times and there were a lot of them. Perhaps more than any other show we have put on, the abiding memories of this one will be the laughter and the friendships that were made along the way.

Having fun and bringing people together has always been a key part of Rode Panto and the other is raising money for charity. This year the main beneficiaries are Dorothy House with which we have a longstanding association and Focus Frome Counselling, both do amazing work and they rely upon donations to enable them to carry on doing so.

After taking into account the costs of putting the show on which were well in excess of £3,000 we were able to share out over £4,000, which is not bad going for a bunch of river folk. That's it, the final curtain has fallen on The Toad of Rode: Returns!, it just remains to say, thank you to everyone who supported us along the way, we hope you enjoyed the show!!! Gary Holloway



#### **CALLING CHURCH ORGANISTS!**

If you would like to come and play our 19th century organ for practice or just pleasure, then please contact Deborah Allen on 01225 753376.

During the Summer months, the Church is open during the day.

We understand from organists who have played in our Church that it is a good instrument and we would like it to be used more often!



The Friends of St. Leonard's Church, Farleigh Hungerford

#### PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY

Playing Field Lottery winners in April 2022, drawn by staff in the Cross Keys.



1st - £50.00 ... Jean Hornsey, Rode.

2<sup>nd</sup> - £25.00 ... Eddie Sharman, Forest of Dean.

 $3^{\rm rd}\,$  - £25.00  $\,\dots$  Derek Telling, Rode.

Sunday Roast for two, Sally Pickett, 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, Tuesday 31st of May and Thursday 30th of June.

If anyone would like to do the draw or witness it from a suitable social distance then please feel free to do so. Just ask.

Keith Sharman

T: 830408

#### WELCOMING RODE'S UKRANIAN VISITORS

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May was sunny and warm...in fact a beautiful day.



Iain and Sally Partington invited all our Ukrainian visitors, their hosts and some of their buddies to a barbecue in their back garden and a great time was enjoyed by all.

The food was good and plentiful, the company excellent and it was really lovely to see all the younger children playing happily as a group together, despite not knowing one another before their arrival.

Through the wonders of modern technology, communication was not a problem, as smart phones can convert speech to a written form of almost any language and several people at the gathering were seriously adept at using the application.



Listening in to the anecdotes of various people's experiences, I was very pleased to hear how positive everyone was about our village school.

Staff and children alike have clearly gone the extra mile and worked tirelessly to welcome and accommodate the visitors, and to extend kindness and friendship.

A huge THANK YOU to Iain and Sally for throwing open your home to everyone.

Bill Jackson

#### LAVERTON NEWS BY JACKIE MOSS

Welcome to Laverton - You may have seen the flags and some of you may by now have been lucky enough to meet the Ukrainian families who are being hosted in Laverton. Dmytro and Inna and their children Stas, Myk and Masha are with Andy and Andraea at Wheelbrook Mill and Sasha and Mak, and their boys Dan, Pasha and Mark who are with Bob and Debby at School Barn. Also with them is



Sasha's mother (the boys' babushka), Jenia. Last, but by no means least is 'Brus' (Bruce), their adorable beagle puppy. They seem to be settling in well and I'm pleased to say all of the children are now attending our local schools, who really have been so helpful and accommodating. We have other families arriving in the near future.

**Laverton Bridge** - Good news! After months of being closed we've just heard from the Rights of Way Officer at Somerset County Council that refurbishment work on the footbridge over the brook is due to start during the week commencing 20th June. They hope to complete the works within four weeks. I'm sure we'll all be pleased to have it open again soon!

**The Book Exchange is a Year old!** On the 29th of May last year lots of lovely village folk joined together to celebrate the opening of the Laverton Book Exchange. It's gone from strength to strength and has even appeared on the Frome FM book club programme! Thanks to all for using it - not just to exchange books - but also as a place to meet up for a cuppa and a chat. Once again The Palairet Hall in NSP has been kind enough to donate their unwanted books and we also currently have a large collection of DVDs up for grabs.

**Platinum Jubilee** - As a write this piece it's just over two weeks until Laverton comes together to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We're hoping as many Laverton folk as possible (and their families) will join in the fun! Lots in store including our very own 'Laverton Band' playing on the Friday evening and a Village Dog Show, Children's Crown Competition, family games and a Jubilee Afternoon Tea on the Saturday afternoon! Many thanks to those who have donated funds, given up their time and generally been involved with the organisation of this weekend. Thank you. It promises to be a fun filled weekend with hopefully something for everyone - and we've ordered the sunshine!

Jackie Moss

## **Parish Youth News & Events**

#### H.V. CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER NEWS

#### TOTS AND TOYS

Will be running as usual on Wednesday 1st June in NSP church 9.00am-10.45am.



If your tots have older siblings, they are welcome to join us, and I will set up a colouring activity table for them.

**THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS -** I will be holding a crown making workshop instead of the usual half term holiday Caterpillar Club.

This will be in St. Philip and St. James Church Norton St. Philip on Thursday  $2^{nd}$  June 10.00am-11.30am. There will be a donation jar for the materials.

Wear your crown to the children's NSP Jubilee Parade to be held on the afternoon of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.



Children's entertainments and activities will be held in the field opposite NSP church front porch. These will run from 2pm-5pm and I will be running a lucky dip bran tub with a prize every time look out for my gazebo and there will be more crown making materials if you still need a crown – grownups can make a crown as well! To celebrate this special occasion, I will also have free goody bags from the church family in Hardington Vale.

#### MINI BREAKFAST CHURCH

This will take place on Sunday  $19^{th}$  June in NSP church 9.30 am-10.00 am

**ADVANCE NOTICE FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY CATERPILLAR CLUB** Caterpillar Club will be running from 2pm-3.30pm on four Wednesdays over the school summer holidays (see below), more details nearer the time.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August



Sue Rodford

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

## **Parish Youth News & Events**

#### NORTON ST PHILIP PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE

Recently the children have been hard at work making fabulously regal crowns, ready for the parade at the Norton St Philip Jubilee Fete on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The parade will take place in the children's field at 3pm. Royal fancy dress optional!





The children all enjoyed a very exciting visit from Zoolab who bought a selection of wildlife into Pre-school.



It was great to be able to hold all of the different animals including a snake and a giant cockroach!

We are keeping very busy in our garden tending to our newly planted crops. We should have some potatoes and strawberries ready to eat soon – yum!

Did you know that although we only take children from two years old, you can put your child's name down for Pre-school at any age. As the Pre-school is usually oversubscribed, registering early is the best way to maximise the chance of your child being offered a place when they are ready to start.

For more information visit our website www.nortonpreschool.co.uk. To register your child, please email info@nortonpreschool.co.uk

## **Parish Youth News & Events**

#### **RODE PARENT/CARER AND TODDLERS GROUP**

I am very pleased to confirm that the Rode Parent/ Carer and Toddlers Group will be starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30-11.30am at Rode Chapel.



The Group will meet weekly on Mondays for the time being – do come along and see what we are up to, we look forward to meeting you and your babies/toddlers!

Ros Jackson

E: rosjackson@btinternet.com

#### LAST MONTH'S RODE TREASURE HUNT AND CREAM TEAS



Juliet and Sam who are going on the World Scout Jamboree to South Korea in 2023 would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported the cream teas and treasure hunt afternoon at the beginning of May.

The weather was great and despite a few clues being rather elusive everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and £580 was raised!





## **Parish Ecology**

#### **SOMERSET WASTE LATEST**

**Fixy** – The new customised SWP van, is going on the road across the county to promote the repair and reuse of



electrical and electronic items. Offering support, publicity, useful tools and an electrical testing service, Fixy will visit events, schools and businesses, and work alongside Somerset's existing "repair cafe" groups. With the average UK household holding on to 20 unwanted electrical items, Fixy aims to help get anything with batteries or a plug - toasters to TVs, laptops to kettles - fixed and reused rather than discarded. Every year, we throw away millions of tonnes of electrical and electronic waste that have taken vast amounts of energy to make and contain valuable materials, such as gold and platinum, copper and aluminium, cadmium and mercury. Recycling is good, but reuse is even better, and it is often surprisingly easy to fix things. Not only can you save money, materials and energy, but repair is a useful action against climate change.

Fixy will also take your smart tech donations to check, clear out personal data and pass on to those who need it. For more details of Fixy and its upcoming events, go to: somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy.

Want to help repair Somerset? Somerset repair groups are recruiting new volunteers. Can you help by donating your time and skills? Groups need people to help with fixing items, coordinating, welcoming, cake baking, tea making, publicity, social media and more. Do get in touch with a local group. There are many benefits from volunteering with a repair group including acquiring new skills and confidence and helping to create a more sustainable world. To find a group or information to help you get one set up in your community, and for more details of Fixy and its upcoming events, go to: somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy.

**Garden waste subscription reminders on their way** - Renewal reminders for your service, extended last year due to Covid start going out by email (do check your spam folder) and post at the end of May. Prices have been frozen so a 180-litre bin subscription still costs £57.20, while a 10-pack of 90-litre garden waste sacks remains £28.30. Sign up for a garden waste service any time at somersetwaste.gov.uk. ... and save with a bargain compost bin

Get free soil improver and make good use of food/garden waste by composting, we work with getcomposting.com to offer great deals e.g. a 220-litre bin for £13.. Save with buy-one-get-one-half-price + just £6.99 delivery per order. Why not order 2 and share delivery with someone? All details: getcomposting.com. For composting tips: somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting. N.B. Platinum Jubilee collection day changes – see back cover.

## **Family Notices**



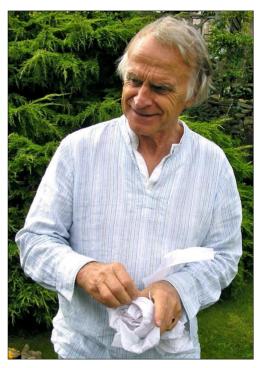
#### **DAVID HORNSEY**

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation of the support, sympathy and kind messages so many of you have given us during David's short illness and subsequent death.

He will be sadly missed by all of the family, and by the many villagers we have known during the fifty years we have lived here.

During that time David was involved in village life, firstly serving on the carnival committee, then as a Parish Counsellor, Chairman of the Governors of the village school and finally well known as a mender of clocks and maintaining the Jubilee clock above the Cross Keys.

Jean, Kate and Steve



#### A NOTE TO OUR READERS...

The Link "Friends & Family Notices" Section of the magazine is here for the use of all in the parish of Hardington Vale to share news, make announcements and more/ Please do feel free to make use of this facility - there is no charge.

## **Parish Farming**

#### PLATINUM JUBILEE TO HAYMAKING



And so we are here, at last celebrating the 70 year reign of our Queen, Elizabeth II. How remarkable and celebrated is she.

The image on the right reminds me of the children's book "The Queen's Knickers'!

Both drawn by pupils at Ludgershall School.



Crows are hooligans, and that's all I have to say on the matter! However, my blackbird continues to give me joy on a daily basis and Miss Jenny Wren is still flitting about and wiggling her bottom! My robin, however, is becoming so tame, that as I sat one evening, he hopped about around my feet. I had just disturbed some soil close by and he had a little feast on that account! Iain, my frog, has returned to the water feature and hides amongst the stones with his head poking out of the water. Owls and bats are about and Percy continues to call day and night! Sadly no sign of any hedgehogs though.

I recently bought a couple of Bee Skeps for my garden after I visited the Platinum Jubilee Festival of Flowers at Salisbury Cathedral. Stunning and breathtaking! They were part of the Wild Garden display. I have been investigating how bees were kept a century ago in Skeps and although it's unlikely I'll have any bees moving in, they will be a rather lovely feature.

**Fine Foods**: Ticking along nicely, but in a process of change.

**Markets**: The Farmer's Markets continue to be busy with Axbridge 4/6 and the Frome Independent 5/6. We currently no longer attend Nailsea Farmer's Market. Don't forget our nearest Frome Farmers Market on Saturday 11/6 in The Cheese and Grain. Why not come along and see what's on offer? Each market 9-1pm

**Factory Shop:** Here at Fussels HQ continues to be open: 9-5 Monday to Friday and 10-1 on Saturdays.

**Tours:** Harvest tours - keep an eye out for new Evening Tour Dates, starting at 6.30pm. Risotto has been the dish of the day and this is what one group leader said:

## **Parish Farming**

'I think our tour of Fussels and the delicious risotto is going to be a talking point at our club for a while. The ladies were all so impressed with the talks; they were so interesting and entertaining, and also yours and Tim's passion for your products and what you do shone through. I am sure there will be many variations on your risotto made, but I doubt they will be a match for yours'

Using the best and freshest ingredients you can afford is the key, particularly the risotto rice which is available in our Warehouse Shop up at The Farm.

**Shows/Events**: Shows coming up are Bridport Food Festival (18/6) A great foodie event and definitely worth a visit. This is one of my favourites!

**Farm:** Shaun is still extremely busy. The Maize is up and looking good. Wonderful to see it sitting in the drill lines. Such a skill!

The Rape is looking pretty good too, nice and thick; flowers dropping and the pods forming. The mixture of rain and sunshine has been perfect. Now we wait for it to finish growing, pods plumping and it coming to full ripeness prior to harvest in the third week of July. It is currently green but will turn brown towards the end of June.

Our Barley is looking fantastic and we are hoping for a good yield this year; harvest will be mid-July. I love watching it move in the breeze, lightly rustling.

The Wheat is also coming along nicely and the ear/head is starting to appear, but it will not be ready to harvest until mid-August. The recent mix of weather will have done it good. As we now move into a drier spell, there still needs to be moisture in the ground to keep it growing.

The Field Beans are currently in flower and will be harvested in September.

But first, haymaking towards the end of June. My favourite time of year.

The hay is cut, turned 2 or 3 times, rowed up and baled. We need about 7 days at 21 degrees! So difficult to predict when to go! All down to experience and weather watching.

Take care

Lizzy Etheridge

 $E: info@fusselsfine foods.co.uk\ T: o1373\ 831286\ www.fusselsfine foods.co.uk$ 

## **Parish Cricket**

#### **RODE CRICKET CLUB**

Rode Cricket Club finally played its first match for seven years on 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was glorious weather for cricket, and the beautiful setting of Stour Provost's rural location in North Dorset was the perfect backdrop to our rebirth.



There were no fewer than four "father/son" combinations, with the Wotton's gaining most bragging rights. Wotton senior (Julian) scored a very brisk 51 not out before retiring to enable

others to have a go, and took three key wickets. Wotton junior (Nicholas) played well beyond his tender years, taking two wickets and a stunning catch in the deep to give the author a very rare wicket! Dymond junior (Robert) and Pickett junior (James) also performed well with bat and ball, and Hayward junior (Harry) demonstrating "you never lose it" with an exciting cameo innings with the bat.

The performance overall was admirable given the early days of the new team, but sadly not quite enough to start with a win. A narrow defeat by 30 runs was a creditable performance however, and better results will surely follow.

Whilst we are hugely grateful to the older members of the team for their participation and contributions, the most exciting aspect of the return of Rode Cricket club is the number of teenage members putting their names forward. As school term comes to an end in July, and particularly with exams soon being in the past, we hope that these younger members will form the backbone of the team in the coming weeks.

Our next game will be our first game back at home against Frome Incidentals. This will be a Wednesday evening game, T20 format, on **8**<sup>th</sup> **June**.

It promises to be something of a celebration event, with no doubt a few cans of various beverages available to players and spectators alike throughout the evening. If you are free, please come on down and enjoy a (hopefully!) lovely summers evening listening to the sound of leather on willow and a few "howzat" calls ringing out!

PS: we're still looking for players! Anyone interested, please contact me on the number below.

Andy Pickett T: 07775 805546

## **Parish Cricket**







Beckington, Norton St Philip, Rode Junior Cricket 2022



Junior cricket for girls and boys from school year 2 upwards is held at Beckington Cricket Club, BA11 6SJ, on Thursday evenings

4.30 - 6pm - Soft ball Kwik Cricket for all children yr 2, 3 and 4 6 - 7.30 pm - Hard ball cricket for Yr 5 upwards - u11, u13 & u15. Matches in the Bath and District Youth Cricket League are played on a Monday or Tuesday evening.

6 - 7.30pm - Soft/ hard ball cricket for girls yr 5 upwards - We have a fantastic and fun, ever growing, girls section. Matches are played in the Wiltshire Girls league on a Wednesday evening.

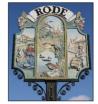
For more info contact

Mark Finch, Chairman Beckington, NSP, Rode Junior Cricket
07876 191100

## **Parish Gardening**

#### **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 (and to celebrate Father's Day!). So far we've got 11 gardens across Rode signed up which is wonderful! 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 are hoping to match and build on it if possible! Thank you to everyone who took part to make it the success that it was.

Would your children like to enter a planter they've put together? It would be amazing if they were keen to join in, as we would love to have them 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. If you would like to open your garden on the day, please let us know asap so we can finalise the list and map.

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.

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 - including Rode Chapel and Rode Allotments. 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/07527 918314) or one of the following: Averil Morrow 830686/averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk Lucy Travis 831726/Lucy\_travis@hotmail.com
Sharman Flindall 830456/sharman.flindall2@bt internet.com
We would love to hear from you!

Julia Robb

#### **RODE GROWS AND SHARES**

On Sunday 22 May, I hosted (alongside my lovely mum) a plant sale outside our house as I've been asked a few times



recently if I was putting one on - so I thought I'd better jump to, realising it was the only weekend day I'm free before Rode in Bloom/Open Gardens.

I organised it at very short notice, so my apologies if you didn't hear about it in time. The weather was perfect for it - sunny, warm (actually hot!) and dry. Lots of people donated plants and also came along to buy and for a chat. We raised £167.27 for the new Scout Hut! Thank you so much to everyone for getting involved - Rode is amazing!

There will be another plant sale at the jubilee event on 5 June, so hope to see you there.

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.

Any sunflower seeds yet to be sown can be planted straight out into the garden now, where they are to grow. Ideally last sowings to be done by the end of May, but very early June would be ok, 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

#### THOUGHTS FROM MUDDY FINGERNAILS

I'm taking a short break from bucolic May-time Somerset and find myself in the middle of Snowdonia. The scenery is so different, with breathtaking mountains, picturesque streams and cascades around every corner. The hillsides are violethazed with the massed bluebells, the verges are pungent with the wild garlic.

Everything seems a month behind Somerset, so I'm enjoying spring all over again. And just as I'm drinking in all the natural beauty around me, my Instagram feed is full of the noisy, frantic preparations for RHS Chelsea next week. Could there be a greater contrast between these apparently effortless natural surroundings and those which are being painstakingly created by teams of designers, landscapers and horticulturalists in a temporary home just behind the Kings Road?

I do love seeing all the work that goes on behind the scenes at RHS Chelsea, the crazy details and the extraordinary lengths the garden designers and nurseries go to in their attempts to create a "natural" garden scene, to mimic nature. There is such skill and creativity and sheer bloody hard work on show there. But then I walk out into the hills behind my tiny rental cottage and what is on show here seems unsurpassable - the whole is so pleasing, so simple yet also varied and full of tiny perfect details.

Of course even the natural landscapes her reflect human intervention - the hills are criss-crossed with ancient drystone walls, the roads and streams meander beside each other, ancient routes carved out over centuries, bisected by quaint bridges and flanked by groves of birch trees while the sheep graze the land all around. I don't think I'm alone in feeling that as hard as we gardeners may try, we'll always fall short of what nature herself creates. But am I down-hearted? Of course not!



Plas Brondanw, the home of Clough Williams- Ellis of Port Meirion fame, is predominantly green with sloping lawns, mature trees, evergreen hedges, and very little colour on show - apart from the extraordinary soft verdigris colour of all the painted ironwork and window frames of the old house. The garden doesn't compete with but celebrates the landscape beyond: all the greens within

the garden (avenues of beech and yew, glades of Japanese cherry trees, double borders simply planted with deciduous ferns), sit so comfortably with the colour palette of mountains and valleys beyond, the garden structure framing the outstanding views of Mount Snowdon.

I'm swooning now at the thought of it and I'm determined to take on board a couple of key lessons from it - firstly that gardens work best when they draw fully from the wider landscape and secondly that the greatest impact usually comes from the simplest planting. Snowdonia is magical!

Enough purple prose. I'm off to buy some dwarf- runner bean plants I've spotted on a bench at the end of the road in this wonderful mountain village lots of plants grown in cut- off plastic milk bottles, with an honesty box for payment.

But of course there's no place like home...

Muddy Fingernails

#### **NATURE NOTE**

When I came here nearly 30 years ago the garden in front of my house was a field, Row Court had no garden either and there was little gardening round about except for Graham & Daphne White's new garden at Row Barn.

For all these years three clumps of strong bright gold daffodils with bold green stripes on the backs of their flowers have defied the sheep to eat them in the field. This year I took their photograph and sent it to a daffodil fanatic in Scotland and this is what she told me:



'It is called "Van Sion", dates from before 1620 and its first appearance in England was chronicled by Parkinson in Paradisus as being by a Fleming, Vincent Sion. Parkinson wrote a beautiful botanical book "Paradisi in Sole ParadisusTerrestris" in 1629 and dedicated it to Anne of Denmark, Queen of England, wife for Charles I.

Row Farmhouse was built in 1641, so maybe an early owner was an advanced gardener and they have been here ever since! I shall always wonder how they got here.

Sara Jocelyn.

#### **SHARED GARDENS**

As I mentioned in previous Link articles, 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 had meetings with the keen growers and garden owners.



The shared garden in Tellisford is now well under way with the grower getting stuck into tackling some greenhouse and beds clearing work to get prepped for growing. I can't wait to see how the space develops! We are still setting up the shared garden in Rode but hoping that one will be underway soon.

For our shared garden, we feel even further behind in the growing season (I think some years are like this! We've been so much busier this year than the last two, so have had less free time for growing). We've only done a small amount of seed sowing in the greenhouse - sweet peas, tomatoes, herbs and some other cut flowers. We've now directly planted most of the dahlia tubers overwintered in storage into the ground where tulip and daffodil bulbs were growing, a great job to tick off. The rest will most likely go into big pots. Steven's sowed his colourful fiesta corn, and he's doing three sisters planting – corn/beans/squash growing together. We'll be directly sowing our runner beans and sowing cucumbers and



courgettes in the greenhouse end of May - hoping it's not too late! I'm so pleased to see various plants have come back or reseeded from last year - mostly abutilon (Indian mallow)/foxgloves/alliums/nigella/squirrel tail & bunny tail grass/calendula/angelica/stocks/nasturtiums. Makes me very happy - and means I don't need to re-sow these this year!

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 or my phone number is 07527 918314.

Julia Robb



#### ingredients to inspire

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We look forward to welcoming you back to our modern shop & cafe

to enjoy a warm welcome, home cooked food, buy local produce and goods.



## in the





## PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND OPENING HOURS

Thursday/Friday/Saturday 9.00-13.00 Sunday Closed

#### **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

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





RODE GENERAL STORE, CAFE & POST OFFICE



#### WHOLESALE BAKERY

Rode, Somerset

www.thevillagebakingco.co.uk info@thevillagebakingco.co.uk 07486 059985 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: gillhlleonard@aol.com



#### CHATLEY FARM BROWNIES

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www.chatleyfarmbrownies.co.uk



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



FREE Gift Wrapping & Gift card
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Local Collection from Norton St Philip

#### **OUR MULTI BUY OFFERS**

£8.50

£8.00

£7.50

For 1 pack

each for 2 or 3 packs

each for 4 or more packs

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www.facebook.com/ChatleyFarmBath



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





Phone 01225 720006 www.farleighroadfarmshop.co.uk

## Cafe & Shop both now open!

We are so happy that our cafe is now open.



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

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



#### **RODE WALKING GROUP**

The June walk will be on Tuesday 14th, meeting at the usual time of 10 am. As we will be walking around and through Wellow the meeting place is the village car park, when driving through towards the west this can be found signposted to the left near the other side of the village.



The walk will be approximately 5 km and will include an English Heritage Long Barrow to the southwest.

I hope that some of our Ukrainian friends will join us for this walk so please would hosts/buddies contact me if necessary for further details. Also would any Rodents who are thinking of coming please contact me if you can help with transport.

Liz Dinnis

E: elizabethdinnis49@gmail.com T:07788 656337 NB Advance warning of change of walk day in August. I will be away on the 2nd Tuesday in August so the walk will be on Tuesday 16th.

#### **RODE CRAFT GROUP**



By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting on 26th May and our second will be fast approaching!

Calling all crafters and those who would like to be crafters. Do you have any craft projects on the go? Or would you like to learn something new? Fancy bringing along your knitting, sewing, crochet or card making for a cuppa and a chat? Do come along to Rode Craft group, in Rode Chapel. Join us for a chat, for friendship and for sharing your love of crafts. Come along even if you don't know any at the moment but would like to learn something new.

Our second meeting will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2pm to 4pm, in Rode Chapel. We are planning on meeting up weekly initially and will then review depending on interest. Some of us will be having a go at making worry worms to give to the school but do bring along whatever you are working on at the moment.

All are welcome so just come along.

Val Parker

#### **RODE OVER 60'S CLUB**

The first of 3 outings took place on Thursday 12th May, our destination was Highfield Garden World, Gloucestershire. The weather was kind to us, we were very lucky to have a very comfortable coach and the driver was friendly and helpful.



Highfield Garden World is a family run and independent Garden Centre with an amazing Food Hall full of delicious treats, the roast lunch was amazing and enjoyed by many members, there was a lovely home and giftware section, a Pet Shop and of course plants and all the garden supplies needed for this time of year.

The next outing is on Thursday 9th June to Sidmouth.

The coach fare for this outing will be £15.00 for members and £18.00 for visitors, anyone wishing to go on this outing please ring Mrs Ros Dymond 01373 830149, Mrs Joan Carter 01373 830095 or Mrs Sue Beaven 01373 831326 by Thursday 2nd June.

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, Joan or Sue or any committee member that they are not able to go, this will avoid keeping the coach waiting.

There are no members with birthdays in June but it is hoped that everyone will have a lovely time celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

God Save the Queen!

Sue Beaven

#### **RODE AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

Please note, no meetings in the village hall over the summer as members visit local notable gardens. If you are interested in joining the club contact Averil Morrow, telephone 830686 or email averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk.



#### MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Another great turn out for April's lunch; seems everyone is really enjoying getting out and getting together which is of course the whole aim of Monday Lunch Club!!



Our next lunch is Monday 13th June and we look forward to seeing all our regulars and new members alike - at The Village Hall, 12.15pm...

£5 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. Please bring cash as we have no facility for card payments.

Hope to see you there!

Alex Sing and the Lunch Club Team T: 01373 830836 / 07828 600095

NB July Lunch Club is on 11th July

#### RODE LADIES GROUP IS SADLY CLOSING

After a meeting with Sharman and Caroline, we have regretfully decided that RLG has been difficult to continue partly due to the change from evening to afternoon when trying to book the hall. It also appears that members have found other interests or have family commitments now. Unfortunately life seems to have changed since Covid and it is not so easy to book speakers or get regular attendance at meetings. We do thank everyone for their past support.

There are some funds left in the bank and if anyone would like to continue with the group we would be happy for them to use the money. Please do contact Sharman or myself via email addresses: sharman.flindall2@btinternet.com or patbanwell@hotmail.com. We will leave the funds in the bank for a couple of months to see if anyone wants to organise future meetings but will then close the account and will be donating the balance to charity.

Pat Banwell

#### RODE LADIES GROUP MEETING WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

The meeting was opened by Pat Banwell. She announced that the Rodent Readers Book Club had two vacancies, contact Pam George for details. Pat then introduced the speaker on "The Cleveland Pools, Bath" - Sally Helvey.

Sally is a Bath tour guide as well as an ambassador for Cleveland Pools. She swam at the pools before they closed in 1984. The Pools are the oldest outdoor pools in the UK and possibly Europe at 200 years old. They are in Bathwick and were originally fed from the River Avon. As well as the main pool, there was the Ladies perpetual shower bath and the children's pool on the upper level. They were built on the Bathwick Estate, owned by the 1st Duke of Cleveland, as part of a development that included Sydney Gardens but was never completed and were the smallest of 11 pools in Bath at the time. They were designed by a local architect, John Pinch, and financed by private subscription. Originally, they were for men only and a separate pool for ladies was created later.

In Victorian times a Captain Evans was employed to run the baths and teach children to swim. He was eccentric, 'a master of incredible feats' and was accompanied by a Mandrill Baboon. All sorts of swimming matches and galas were put on, often with gold and silver medals as prizes. Sally passed round a medal that had been donated to the Pools which was worth £800 today. In 1915, mixed swimming was allowed.

In 1984 the pools closed due to competition from the new leisure centre opening in the city. In 1988 a trout farm was opened on the site and in in 2004 the site was put on the market for £450,000. It's listed building status was changed in 2006 to a Grade 2 Site of Significance. A Trust was formed to save the site and restore the pools for use all the year round. They have received grants from various bodies including the Heritage Lottery Fund but are still short of £400k to cover the £6m overall cost. The pools will be heated to 28-32C using a river sourced heat pump. They hope to host other activities such as water polo, canoeing and paddleboarding. There will be a shop and café and access will be by river as well as by footpath.

Sue Shannon thanked Sally for a very interesting talk. The raffle was won by Hazel Roberts' daughter.

Caroline Williams

**N.B. OTHER CLUBS NEWS WELCOME...** If you'd like us to include and help promote a club you are involved with do contact us: gillhlleonard@aol.com

NEW WEEKLY RODE CRAFT CLUB

THURSDAYS
2-4pm
RODE CHAPEL
See page 43



#### **NEW**

RODE WEEKLY PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

Starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 9.30-11.30pm Rode Chapel see page 27









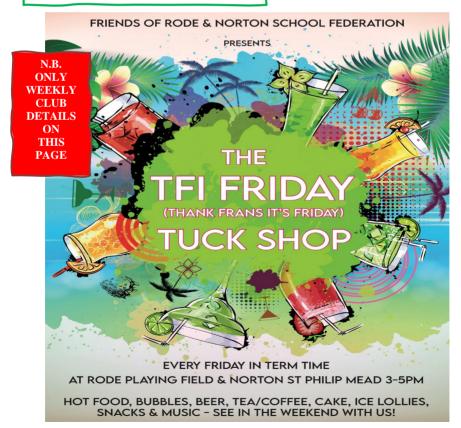
EVERY Wednesday 9 – 10.45am St Philip and St James Church, NSP

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.

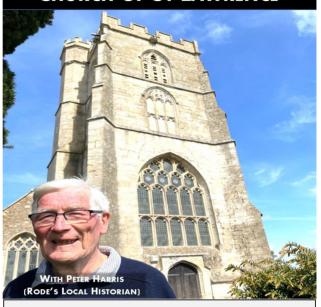
Contact Sue – H.V. Children's Worker if you need more details E: kidschurch@hardingtonvale.org.uk. T: 01373 812766



# ST PHILIP & ST JAMES CHURCH NOZZONS PPHIP Lunchtime

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 1pm see page 15 for details

## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT RODE'S 600-YEAR-OLD CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE



**SATURDAY JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2:00-5:00 PM** 

#### Monday 13th June 2022 (See page 45)



## Forget-me-not Café

When? - June 13th (second Monday of every month) 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 321jorobinson@gmail.com 01373 831381



## RODE IN BLOOM RODE OPEN GARDENS



#### SUNDAY 18TH JUNE

11AM-4PM

BEST GARDEN & CHILDRENS PLANTER COMPETITIONS

PLANT SALE

SEE PAGE 34 FOR FULL DETAILS







Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm see page 15 for details



Monday
11th July 2022
(See page 45)





SATURDAY 2 JULY

in St Philip & St James church Norton St Philip



TICKETS £5.00 on the door or tel: 01373-834226 in advance

IT'S BACK!!
THE ANNUAL
RODE BARN DANCE
AT
OSBORNES BARN

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 the

#### **Noticeboard**

#### **BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF LONELINESS**

Frome based charity **Active and In Touch (A&IT)** will focus on the impact of loneliness when it launches its "Above and Beyond Fundraising Appeal" during National Loneliness Week (13th-17th June). A&IT supports over 300 people in Frome and neighbouring villages who live alone at home. Demand for in touch Frome their services increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic...



According to the Campaign to End Loneliness -

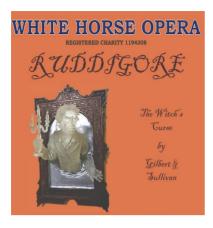
- The number of over-50s experiencing loneliness is set to reach two million by 2025/6. A 49% increase in 10 years.
- Half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all.
- Two out of five older people (about 3.9 million) say the television is their main company.

Social isolation and loneliness are real issues to many. Lack of family contact, no friends, limited opportunity to go shopping, being house bound or unable to get active in the community have a real impact on physical and mental health. A&IT is changing this by supporting people and creating space and opportunities for them to make friends and connections and develop a sense of belonging through a matched 1:1 befriending service. A&IT work closely with a range of health and wellbeing services including Frome Medical Centre/social care charities/Health Connectors/Village Agents/Frome Town Council.

A&IT's team of wonderful volunteers offer a lifeline to people who may be struggling alone at home. Knowing there is someone out there they can meet for cup of coffee and chat, help with shopping or providing some company can make all the difference. In addition to the befriending service, the charity runs 2 weekly social groups and A&IT Community Drivers, providing a lifeline for people living in Frome and neighbouring villages who could not otherwise access vital services such as attending medical appointments, going shopping, visiting family and friends or attending social events. They rely on a network of local volunteer drivers give up their time to provide lifts within Frome and neighbouring villages, including visits to the Royal United Hospital in Bath.

The charity is calling on the residents of Frome and surrounding villages to get behind the appeal by giving a donation, running an event, or involving their church, school. community group or business. It is also looking for volunteers to join the befriending service or signing up as a community driver. For more how you can support the charity, on active and into uch, org, email enquiries@active into uch, org or call 07539 795261

#### **Noticeboard**



"Ruddigore" (The Witches Curse) by Gilbert and Sullivan will be performed for one night only:

JULY 8th at 7.30pm in St George's Church Beckington by White Horse Opera

Interval refreshments will be available.

Tickets £10 from Jo Casey: jo@mijocasey.plus.com or 07775 900047



American Independence Day Extravaganza! Beyond the Hedge at Corsley House Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 6pm-10.30pm

Come and party in the amazing grounds of Corsley House to celebrate American Independence Day - the American way! Feast on traditional American Burgers, slaw and Hot Dogs in the Walled Garden, cooked by the internationally renowned Roth Bar, from over the county line in Somerset.

With music originating in Detroit, Michigan, dance your heart out with the 12 - piece Motown Gold, coming all the way from the hot spots of London town. And then as night arrives, watch the ginormous Firework Display against the backdrop of ancient Cley Hill.

Tickets: £20 for adults; £10 for 14-18 years; Free for under 14 years, and for this you get the historic Corsley House gardens, Motown Gold music, the Firework display, and a night to remember.

You can bring your own picnic, or treat yourself to the food, wine and beer on sale.

As payback for Independence in 1776, the American Landlords of Corsley House are generously donating the Proceeds of this party to the Churches and Community of Corsley and Chapmanslade.

email: chogtickets21@gmail.com

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 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) and Cllr Elaine Butler (EB)

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams - Clerk

1. Public Participation: None

**2.** Apologies for absence: Cllr Linda Oliver (County Councillor).

**3. Approval of the minutes**: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

**5. Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Oliver had given an update on Somerset buses but this would be covered by PT (see minute 14)

#### 6. Actions from previous meeting:

i. **Trees:** Merfield/The Mead: The Clerk had sent a registered letter (including the tree report from J Osborne) to the owner requesting he had the trees assessed and respond to the PC. However, nothing had been heard. Discussion was held over what other action could be taken but apart from notifying Somerset and Mendip of the PC's continuing concerns it was felt little more could be done.

**Parish trees:** The report had been received and circulated, generally all trees were in good condition. It was agreed that the Norway Maple near the allotments should be inspected by a tree surgeon regarding removal of dead wood.

It was reported that there were two dead trees, one on Rode Hill and another by the Rode Hill and Bradford Road crossroads that need to be reported to County Roads as these could endanger the highway.

**ii. Clock:** The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Peter Watkinson regarding repairing the striking mechanism and he would hopefully be over in the near future.

The sad news that David Hornsey had died meant that there was now no one in the village to regularly look after the clock. It was agreed the PC

would look for a replacement to wind, check the time keeping and make other maintenance checks on the clock.

iii. Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field: The path was still of considerable concern. Exchange of emails with Autograph had made little progress. There had been no feedback from Mendip on this issue. It was reported the previous S106 officer at Mendip had been very helpful. Discussion was held over the best way forward not only on the path but other S106 requirements that appeared not to being implemented by Autograph. It was agreed that the Parish Council would seek a meeting with Autograph on the S106 issues and maybe include Mendip, Andy Fussell and all other partners in the S106 agreement.

On the issue of S106s it was agreed Mendip Planning should be approached regarding future S106s to discuss potential requirements.

Quotes for the extra fencing by the path in the playing field were still awaited.

The clearance through the small wood was still to be done and the Playing Field Committee was arranging this.

- **iv. Spring Clean:** This had taken place on 10<sup>th</sup> April and teams had cleared a considerable amount of litter from around the village. Thanks were given to AE and PR for doing the teas in the pavilion.
  - Future Hoedowns and litter clearances were discussed and it was tentatively agreed a village Hoedown would be arranged for the end of June. EB agreed to circulate an email thanking those who had joined the spring clean and encourage future clean-ups; also including those who had participated in previous Hoedowns.
- v. Waste site on A361: This had been largely cleared and Mendip had requested that anyone seeing vehicles either clearing (or dumping at) the site to report any details to them. The threat of enforcement action by Mendip appeared to have had an effect.
- 7. Climate Emergency Group: JM reported that a joint meeting with Beckington and Norton St Philip had been held. This had been useful in exchanging ideas and information. He said that the key issue from the Rode village survey had been to improve bus services. There was some new government funding coming on the installation of communal Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and Rode could apply as there was a lot of on-street parking and a large number of properties unsuited to having EVs, possible locations would need to be determined.

It was reported that the grass in the church yard at Christchurch was being cut too often and Cllr Lund agreed to let JM know who to contact at Mendip to allow the rewilding of this.

#### 8. Highways:

**a) Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** A meeting at the crossroads with Sara Davis had taken place and possible improvements were to be put forward by Sara Davis to Somerset. Although there had been a number of accidents this was not considered a high priority junction by Somerset. The meeting also agreed new SID locations and amendment of others.

It was agreed to contact Sara Davis with regard to the double yellow lines that had been agreed near the junction of the High Street and Rode Hill, to ensure they were included in the implementation of the 20mph village speed limit and village gates work.

- **b) Memorandum of Understanding:** This still had to be completed and the precise SID locations (using what3words) had to be inserted into the document, once completed it was agreed the Chair would sign it and be submitted to Somerset for counter signature.
- **c) The Sportsman:** An email had been sent to the address given by Cllr Oliver but no response had been received yet.

#### 9. Planning:

#### i) New applications:

**2022/0218/VCR:** Variation of condition 2 of permission 2019/0620/REM application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2015/1431/OTS to replace existing dwelling with 5 new dwellings and associated garages – 6 Frome Road. No objections

**2022/0579/HSE:** Erection of single storey extension – 41 Marsh Road. No objections

#### ii. Mendip decisions:

2022/0557/TPO: To crown lift holm oak and cut down cypress - 16 High Street. Approved

#### iii. Other:

**2021/0071/OTS:** There had been no progress with the appeal, this still had not been assigned to the Planning Inspectorate to start the appeal. It was noted that since the planning application had been made Mendip had now adopted a net zero policy for all developments in the area. This could be raised as an additional objection point in the appeal for the development.

**Nether Storey:** The Parish Council had been approached to see if it was willing to join a forum of parish council across Somerset that were concerned over developers not delivering the affordable houses they promised. It was agreed Rode would join the forum with the Chair being the main contact.

#### **10. Playing Field Constitution:** No further progress had been made.

11. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: The plans for the day were progressing well, a Jubilee mug was circulated and these are to be given, free, to all under 12 children in the village. A plea for first aid cover for the day was made.

**13. Elections:** It was agreed that the residents on Church Farm could be approached to fill the vacancy, by co-option, on the Parish Council.

**14. Buses:** PT reported that Somerset had been given £11.9m funding by the Department for Transport (DfT) but before releasing the money the DfT has to approve the plan Somerset has for using this money. He said that £8m would be used to install bus lanes in Taunton, with the justification that this would be an easily demonstratable use of the money and should allow for future funding money for further bus improvements.

The new Rode bus timetable would be printed shortly and distributed to households

**15. Annual meeting:** It was noted this meeting would take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Rode Chapel, reports would be sought from the playing field and memorial hall committees.

#### 16. Financial matters:

- i) Allotment charge: It was agreed to increase the annual charge to £55.00 and the Clerk would invoice Mrs Bird.
- **ii) Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

J McAuliffe (climate change training)	£38.93
Atworth Arboriculture	£360.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£777.40
Flagmakers (Ukraine flag)	£78.67
Clerk Salary	£247.18
HMRC PAYE	£56.00
BHIB (insurance)	£681.42
E Butler (clean-up equipment)	£67.86

iii) Turnover: Rode Parish Council had a turnover of more than £25,000 for the year 2021/22 therefore the accounts will require both an internal and external audit for the AGAR return (Annual Governance and Accountability Return). The Clerk would arrange an internal audit prior to approving the returns for external audit.

#### 17. Date of next meeting:

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

Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.	
Signed	
Date	Print
Website rodevillage	com/narish-council

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM TELLISFORD PARISH MEETING (TPM) AGM

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 18 residents of Tellisford and Woolverton attended the Parish Meeting's AGM, held at The House, Woolverton by kind invitation of Rowena Smith. Eight households sent apologies. The meeting began with everyone present introducing themselves.

Ray Floyd was re-elected Chairman, Ash Morrell was re-elected Vice-Chairman, and Anthony Battersby was re-elected Parish Clerk. Four residents were nominated to serve on the Planning Sub-Committee - Anthony Battersby, Nicholas Diggle, Clare Parfitt and Rowena Smith – and they were unanimously elected. Paul Brimble had resigned from this committee as he is moving away from the village. Clare Parfitt has agreed to fill the role of Honorary Footpaths Officer.

The Planning Sub-Committee's report since the last Parish Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 is summarized below:

Application	Site	Subject and Outcome
2021/0824/FUL	Lower Chatley Farm	Improving existing field access (retention of
		hedge removal already completed). Pending.
2021/0825/FUL	Lower Chatley Farm	Change of use of land from agricultural to sui
		generis for use as a construction industry
		training site. Erection of mobile classrooms and
		creation of a field track (retrospective). Pending
2021/2318/PAA	Spinney Farm	Prior approval for a proposed change of use of
		agricultural building to 2No. larger dwelling-
		houses (Class C3) and for associated
		operational development. Approved Nov 2021.
2021/2566/FUL	Woolverton House	Change of use from hotel to single dwelling-
	Hotel	house & change of use from ancillary
		manager's accommodation to dwellinghouse.
		Approved 6 January 2022
2021/2786/APP	Lower Chatley Farm	Approval of details reserved by Conditions 5,
		7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 on Planning Consent
		2021/0233/FUL. Approved 28 March 2022
2021/2825/HSE	Church Farm	Erection of tennis court.
	Woolverton	Approved 3 March 2022
2021/2908/HSE	Woodside, Laverton	Erection of single storey side extension
	Lane	following demolition of garage.
		Approved 18 February 2022
2022/0446/LBC	The Little House,	Internal alterations & new first floor double
	Woolverton	doors to replace window on North elevation,
		strip & recover roof. Approved 11 May 2022
2022/0928/VRC	Woodside, Laverton	Variation in finishes to single storey side
	Lane	extension following demolition of garage.
		Pending

Paul Lawrence, formerly with Voneus, gave a detailed update on recent developments in plans for providing high speed broadband.

Under the current government contract for extending fast connectivity to 1 gigabit per household, the potential suppliers compete with each other to claim vouchers for connecting households, unlike the previous scheme for which we as householders claimed £500 and all claimants passed the grant on to the chosen provider (Voneus). Now there is competition between Voneus and Gigaclear to provide a fibre service off BT telephone poles: they have maps and are calculating their options.

There are differences between the two companies in their proposed coverage of villages; Gigaclear is planning to cover Norton St Philip, Beckington, Rode and Tellisford by the end of this year, whereas Voneus is planning to cover all the villages in their first scheme plus Beckington, Rode and NSP. The team of village champions that was formed to get Voneus' current service has reconvened, to be ready to respond as soon as Voneus contacts them about high speed fibre, expected to be in mid-June. A new company, Fibreway, is providing service via fixed wireless — as Voneus is now — and its network pings from Shepton Mallet to Writhlington to Tucker's Grave to Fortescue Fields in NSP to Southwinds in Woolverton. Paul said that even with a household of three teenagers it was unlikely that the target provision of 1 gigabit would all be used.

Sven Rees, a recently arrived resident in Southwinds, drew attention to the danger of the A36.

This road is the responsibility of Highways England which has consistently declined to adopt this Parish Meeting's suggestions for speed-reducing measures. In the past TPM has asked for a "gate" which could have a sign thanking motorists for driving carefully, but Highways said the verges were too narrow for such a gate to be installed.

The SID (Speed Indicator Device) is currently obscured by branches, and the plans to start a Community Speedwatch were put on hold by the Covid pandemic.

The meeting agreed to various actions, including reactivating and training the Community Speedwatch team in co-ordination with the experienced group at Farleigh Hungerford, removing foliage obstructing the SID, and asking the developer of Southwinds about the bus stop mentioned in their plans.

Rachel Feilden Hon. Minutes Clerk

#### ...and finally

#### WHERE IN HARDINGTON VALE?

Where in Hardington Vale would you see this scene?

Did you recognise the view in last month's photograph? It was Tellisford from the top of Vaggs Hill.



#### Sudoku

#### Last month's Codeword

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#### POEM OF THE MONTH

Strawberries that in gardens grow Are plump and juicy fine,
But sweeter far as wise men know
Spring from the woodland vine.
No need for bowl or silver spoon,
Sugar or spice or cream,
Has the wild berry plucked in June
Beside the trickling stream.
One such to melt at the tongue's root,
Confounding taste with scent,
Beats a full peck of garden fruit:
Which points my argument.

Robert Graves, 'Wild Strawberries'





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Hardington Vale Church Services - JUNE 2022

		vale Church Services – JUNE 2022	
DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Wednesday 1 June	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 2 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 5 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Informal Breakfast	F & R Stewart
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion	C Walker
	11.00 am	Laverton, Holy Communion	J Robinson
	6.00 pm	Rode, Chapel, Meeting Place	
Monday 6 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 7 June	9.45 am	Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	6.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 8 June	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 9 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 12 June	9.00 am	Tellisford, Matins	
	9.00 am	Rode St Lawrence, Informal Breakfast	F & R Stewart
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion	J Robinson/S Kivett
	11.00 am	Laverton, Matins	
Monday 13 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 14 June	5.00 pm	<b>Laverton</b> , Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 15 June	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 16 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 19 June	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford, Holy Communion	J Robinson
	9.30 am	Mini Breakfast Church, Norton St Philip	S Rodford
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, Holy Communion	J Robinson
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Informal Worship	M Harrison/B Day
	11.00 am	Laverton, Matins	
Monday 20 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 21 June	6.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 22 June	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 23 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	
Sunday 26 June	9.00 am	Tellisford, Holy Communion	C Walker/M Harrison
	10.30 am	Rode St Lawrence, Informal Worship	J Flindall/N Sheet
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion	C Walker/M Harrison
	11.00 am	Laverton, Matins	
Monday 27 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 28 June	5.00 pm	Laverton, Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday 29 June	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer	
•	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer	Zoom
Thursday 30 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer	

JUNE 2022 DIARY					
BANK HOLIDAY Platinum Jubilee Long Weekend					
	10-11.30pm Crown Making Workshop see page 3 for details				
Thu 2 Jun	11.45am "Platinum Jubilee Peal" begins see page 3 for details				
	1pm Lunchtime Concert see page 15 for details				
	2pm Cream Teas + Highlights of the Coronation see page 4 for details				
F:0.1	BANK HOLIDAY Platinum Jubilee Long Weekend				
Fri 3 Jun	2pm until dark NSP Platinum Jubilee Celebration see page 5 for details				
Sat 4 Jun	Platinum Jubilee Long Weekend				
Sat 4 Juli	Midday-11pm Rode Platinum Jubilee ParkFest see pages 6 & 7 for details				
Sun 5 Jun	Platinum Jubilee Ling Weekend				
Thu 9 Jun	Rode Over 60s Coach Trip see page 44 for details				
Sat 11 Jun	2-5pm Church History Afternoon see pages 10 & 48 for details				
Mon 13 Jun	12.15pm Monday Lunch Club see page 45 for details				
WOTT 13 JUIT	2.30-4pm Forgot Me Not Café see page 45 for details				
Tue 14 Jun	10am Rode Walking Group see page 43 for details				
Tue 14 Juli	7.30pm Rode Parish Council Meeting see page 56 for details				
Sun 19 Jun	Father's Day				
	11-4pm Rode Open Gardens see page 34 for details				
Mon 20 Jun	JULY LINK COPY DEADLINE				
Fri O.4 Iver	9.30-11.30pm New Rode Toddler Group starting see page 27				
Fri 24 Jun Thu 30 Jun	11.25-11.55am Mobile Library, High Street, Rode				
Thu 30 Jun	8pm RPF Lottery Draw, The Cross Keys see page 22 for details				
0.10.11	FORWARD PLANNER				
Sat 2 Jul	"Hymns & Pimms" see page 15 & 50 for details				
Thu 7 July	1pm Lunchtime Concert see page 15 for details				
Mon 11 Jul	Monday Lunch Club see page 45 for details				
Sat 16 Jul	Rode Barn Dance details tbc				
Sat 23 Jul	Laverton Church Fete details tbc				
Mon 29 Aug	BANK HOLIDAY August Bank Holiday				



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Please send copy for the July 2022 issue of 'The Link' via email to gillhlleonard@aol.com latest Monday 20th June 2022.