

Rowde Village News

Dark clouds hang over Furlong Close



December 2020 / January 2021



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Covid-19 support in Rowde

The group has re-activated for our extremely vulnerable neighbours.

If you are unable to collect prescriptions yourself, or arrange to have them delivered, or need shopping urgently, please contact the support group on

01380 730078 or 01380 698567

or by email at

rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com or patabryant@live.co.uk

Alternatively, if you are able to help others, we would love to hear from you too.

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Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Rowde Village News. I hope you are all coping with the latest bout of restrictions due to the pandemic. The Covid-19 Support Group has been reactivated in the village so, if anyone needs help, please do not hesitate to contact them. You will find their notice on the page opposite.

This is a very full issue and I make no apologies for the amount of space taken up with articles and letters related to the recent news that Hft in Furlong Close is to close. I think it is important that everyone in the village has access to all the information available up to going to print. You will find the parish council's stance on page 17, various articles including one from our local MP on pages 28 to 33 and several letters on pages 42 to 47. Many submissions are quite long but well worth reading.

A new Facebook group called 'Stop Closure of Furlong Close, Rowde' has also been set up so you can keep up to date with any new information there and also get your own views aired.

Despite the Covid restrictions we still have some news from the village schools, the church and other organisations so I hope you enjoy reading all about what they have been doing since the last issue.

In addition, the Rowdey Cow cafe and the Spotty Dog farm shop should hopefully be open again and operating within official guidelines, so do try to give them your support (see page 6).

And may I say how saddened and shocked I and many others were to hear of the passing of our dear friend Franco Volpi. He was a well known and loved member of our community and will be hugely missed. RIP Franco. (see also page 42)

Finally, the magazine team wish you the very best and safest Christmas you can possibly have and we hope and pray that the coming new year will be so so much better than this one has been.

Mind how you go, stay safe, Ed

This magazine is brought to you thanks to Jam Print Design & Printing and all the advertisers

Notice to contributors & advertisers

This magazine is generally printed in black and white in hard copy and delivered free to every home in the parish but additionally it is hosted on the **Village website** in full colour. If anyone does not wish any particular details (photographs, names, contact details, etc) to appear on the World Wide Web then they are advised not include them in their submissions, thank you.

Contributors please also note:

The deadline for articles and any changes to advertisements is the 15th of every second month.

Inserts: Due to the extra work created by inserting leaflets into the magazine and the fact that the team is already stretched, we very much regret we are unable to accept requests of this nature except in very special circumstances, when there will be a small charge.

Views expressed in this magazine are those of its contributors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the magazine's editorial team.

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Cover Images

The dramatic photograph on the front cover of this issue shows the entrance to Furlong Close, Rowde and was taken by the editor.

The stunning photograph on the back cover was taken looking across the fields off Marsh Lane by Ann Swan (inspired by Sheila Lee).

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

The Club will start again as soon as possible.

Di. Buckland, Secretary 01380723049

ROWDE TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

The Club will start again as soon as possible.

Daphne Ellis, Secretary/Treasurer 722655

HIWAY CLUB

(for the hearing impaired)

The Club will start again as soon as possible.

Di Buckland (Secretary) 723049

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

We will be staying in touch with all our members and helpers whilst we are closed with a newsletter, which should arrive on your doormat every week. I look forward to us meeting up again. If any Monday Club members would like any help whilst we are closed, do please let me know.

For more information please contact :

Caroline Culley, 07557 983940 / 01380 850531
carolineculley1@outlook.com

The Monday Club is a community day centre and lunch club for older residents of Bromham and Rowde. It is grant aided through Wiltshire Council.



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ROWDE BOOK CLUB

Due to Coronavirus, meetings are continuing via the Zoom facility online, the date of the next 'physical' meeting will be notified to members when it is known. **Contact Ann on 01380 724788 for further info.**

Last month was a 'free read' month and the books read are listed with points out of 10 as follows:

Dominicana by Angie Cruz – readable 7/10

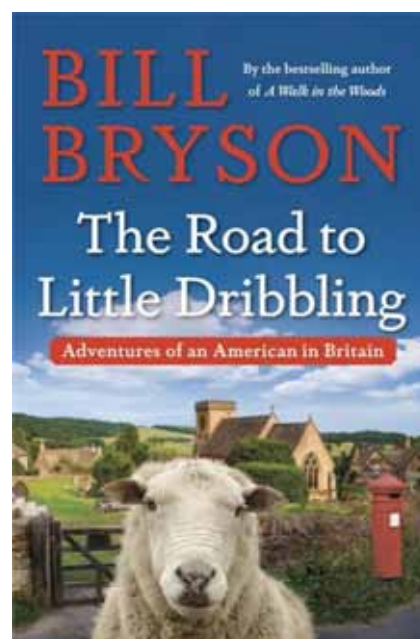
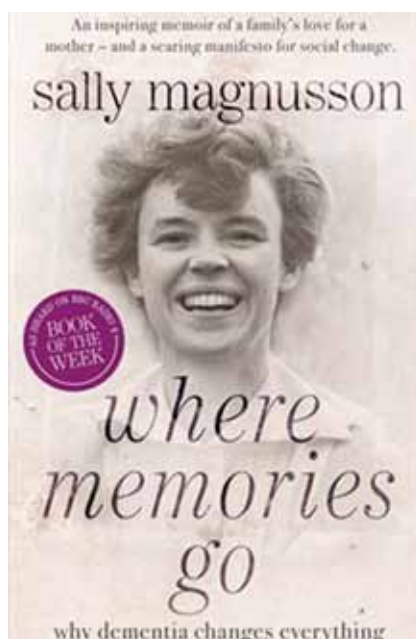
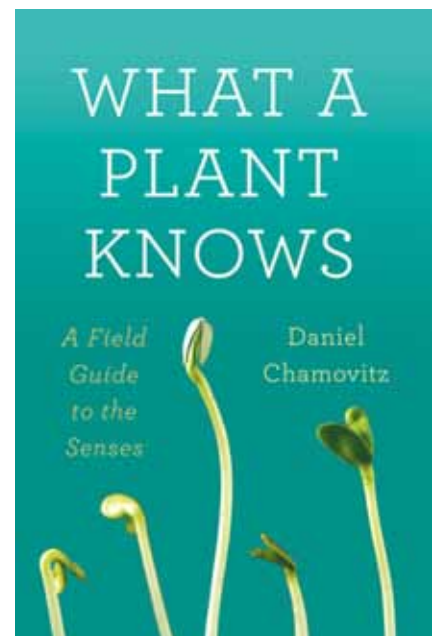
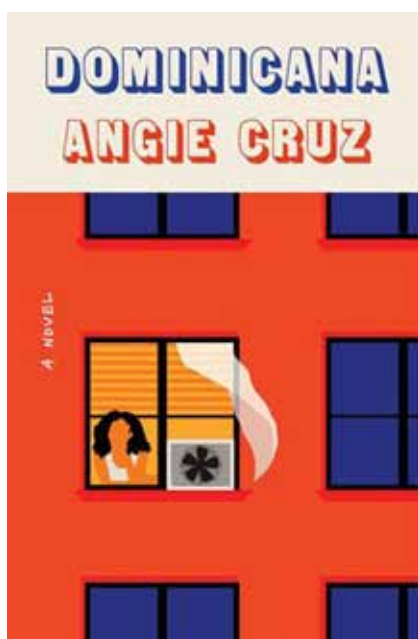
Winter in Sokcho by Elisa Shua Dusapin – bleak and sad 7/10

What a Plant Knows by Daniel Chamovitz – fascinating plant facts 9/10

Where Memories Go by Sally Magnusson – experiences of dementia 8/10

The Road to Little Dribbling – Further Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson – laugh out loud 7/10

Books in the pipeline for discussion at the next meeting in January are 'Where the Crawdad Sings' by Delia Owens and 'The Fallen Persimmon' by local author Gigi Karagoz.



ROWDEY COW NEWS



We had a nice and busy period over October and half term where we quickly learned to serve customers through table service instead of from the till. The first weekend we had to change from the outside food hatch to table service was the weekend of the Spotty Dog farm shop relaunch and was one of the busiest weekends we have experienced so we were thrown in at the deep end, slightly! We survived though and it was a chance for the children to enjoy the fair rides and see the animals and the Spotty Dog farm Shop had their grand opening with councillor Laura Mayes starting off the proceedings!

Then we received the news that from the 5th November we would have to close the café again as we went into a second lockdown. We had provisioned for this as the second wave was expected and we understand that to help keep everyone safe from this awful virus that hospitality are the first to be closed down to stop people meeting socially and spreading covid in public places. Fortunately, despite being closed for a few months earlier the year, we have enjoyed a busy Summer with the help of the Help out to Eat out Scheme. We are, however, desperately hoping that we can open again in December but, of course, only if it is safe to do so.

Our neighbours, the Spotty Dog Farm Shop, are staying open throughout as they continue to offer essential food from local farms and their food delivery service. They also have a very Festive Christmas Courtyard which is well worth a visit. They also have late night shopping evenings and personal shopping slots.

We have an exciting Christmas event which we hope will be able to go ahead even if the café is still closed. It is a drive in Festive Film night! We are holding this on the 18th and 19th of December and the first showing on both evenings is Elf and will include goody bags for everyone and a visit from Father Christmas! Then there is a later showing of The Holiday and Love Actually.



This can all be enjoyed from the safety of your own car in your own bubble, so this is the most covid safe way we could think of to organise some Festive Fun! Please see our website or facebook page for more details.



We are also planning a Dine and Shop evening on 13th December where you can enjoy a Christmas 3 course Supper and combine it with some Christmas Shopping! This is a booking only event with a maximum table number of 6 but of course depends on the guidelines which will be issued at the start of December.

I was deeply saddened to hear the news that HFT is to be sold and the residents to lose their homes and to be

split up from their friends. Two of our employees are residents there and we would be so sad if they had to leave. We have shared a petition to help stop this on our face book page so please help them by signing this. Thank you so much for everyone's support through this very difficult year and we really hope to see you all soon and that you have a safe and Happy Christmas x

Stay Safe, Sue



CHRISTMAS AT THE ROWDEY COW

Adult 2 Course £20.95
 Adult 3 Course £25.95
 Childrens 2 Course £9.55
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S T A R T E R S

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SHORT STORY

Jock

2nd Boer War South Africa 1899.

During the formation of the Flying Column that was to relieve Kimberly a little dog attached himself to 'H' Company of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders. One of the soldiers, Sergeant John McGill took it upon himself to look after the dog and named him very aptly. 'Jock'. They were never apart either in bivouac or on the march.



'Jock' on a forced march with the Highlanders

At the battle of Magersfontein 11th December, just two weeks before Christmas, the whole of the Highland Brigade had taken very heavy losses from the Boers and the Seaforths bivouacked along the banks of the Modder River were no exception, they had lost many pals. Their one source of entertainment on Christmas day was little Jock as they fed him with tit-bits and made a fuss of him. He would go from one group of men to another hoping for a bite of their meagre rations, then he would return to Sergeant McGill a happy dog.

It is recorded at Fort George, near Inverness, Scotland that Sergeant John McGill died of disease or accident in South Africa during the war, but by then Jock had become the regimental pet of the 2nd Seaforth's and served with them throughout the rest of the war.

On the 18th January 1903, the 2nd Seaforths embarked at Durban for home, and little 'Jock' was smuggled on board the ship in a kitbag. During the voyage he was stowed away in a kit rack during the day and was taken on deck for an airing at night time. Dogs, or any animal were not allowed to be taken home because of rabies but it is quite certain that a number of the crew knew that Jock was on board, but it was kept quiet, and a nod and a wink to the Seaforth's said everything.

Just a couple of days or so before the arrival of the ship at Queenstown, a ship's carpenter was doing some repairs and discovered the dog. He reported the case to his superiors and an order went out from the ship's captain for little Jock to be destroyed.

The troops wouldn't hear of this and fortunately the officers of the Seaforth battalion, who also took an interest in the dog, managed to get Jock reprieved on condition that he was placed in quarantine when the ship docked. This was done, and after a few months Jock re-joined the battalion, now stationed in Dublin, and afterwards accompanied them to Aldershot, Edinburgh and eventually Fort George.

Jock wore both the South African war medals, that being the Queens medal and the Kings medal, having served under Queen Victoria and King Edward V11. On certain occasions, like parades, he wore them around his neck, and sat as proud as the soldiers themselves.

Jock died at Fort George, and was buried in the pet cemetery within the fort. A headstone was erected to his memory.



Jock, in old age and a little over fed.



Jock's grave in Fort George. The pet cemetery is out of bounds to the public. I was very fortunate that I had an appointment with the curator of the museum in the fort during my research of my Grandfather who served as a Seaforth. She accompanied

my partner and I to the pet cemetery where I was given permission to take the above photo.

There was an amusing moment just before I took the photo of Jock's Grave. The pet cemetery has regimental offices on one side of which we had our backs to. My partner and I, and the curator were bent down studying the grave, with our backs to the offices. Suddenly we heard an almighty roar behind us. A kilted sergeant-major from the Black Watch had stepped out from his office and shouted, 'that is sacred ground-you will remove yourselves, NOW!'. Having served in the army I had to smile, (before I turned around of course). We all stood up and turned round to look at him. He was still roaring but in an accent we couldn't comprehend. Then it stopped abruptly as he recognised the museum's curator, and in a quiet voice, he said 'madam'? She explained the situation and after an apology he returned to his office. How I miss being bawled at by a sergeant-major.

The story was told to me by my father. His father, (my grandfather), had served with 'H' Company, 2nd Seaforths Highlanders in the 2nd Boer War and had known and made a fuss of 'Jock'. My grandfather had survived all the major battles, but he was wounded whilst fighting in the Cape Colony towards the end of the war.

Harry Angier, Rowde

**Magazine Submission
Deadlines for 2021
(bi-monthly)**

15th January 2021

15th March 2021

15th May 2021

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Winter in the hive

The days are short, cold and wet. The bees have no chance to make honey or swarm. This season is all about survival.

In this country the only bees to survive as a colony are honey bees. Bumblebees and wasps tend to overwinter as individual pregnant queen bees, in warm dry nooks and crannies. Their colonies break down in late summer and autumn and are started again from scratch in new nests by their queens the following spring. Honey bees however survive in numbers in their hives and are ready to go when the warm days return.

There are a number of natural threats to the bees survival but a colony of honey bees in a warm, dry hive with plenty of honey stands a very good chance of making it through winter.



Beehives in the snow

As the seasons move through autumn and into winter, the population of the hive heads down towards its lowest level. At the height of summer the hive may have 50,000 bees in it. In the middle of winter this may fall to 10,000 or fewer. The queen will continue to lay eggs for new bees, pausing only for a few weeks in the depth of the dark days. Her laying rate is controlled by the worker bees who judge the amount of food available to the colony and the day length. Maximum laying is around the longest day and minimum around the shortest day.

The bees don't hibernate and are active in the hive all winter. In colder weather the bees huddle together to form a cluster in the centre of the hive. The colder it gets, the tighter the cluster. Roughly spherical, this is the shape with the smallest surface area so minimizing heat loss. The bees can unlink their flight muscles from their wings and vibrate the muscles to generate heat. Think of running on the spot. The bees on the outside shuffle around to take turns on the cold surface of the cluster. The outer areas inside the hive might be only a few degrees warmer than the world outside but in the cluster the bees are warm and cosy. In the centre of the cluster it is less tightly packed and there you will find the queen and her court, and possibly a



The winter cluster

small area where young bees are being raised. If there are larvae being raised the temperature in that area of the hive has to be maintained at 35C (just a shade off our blood temperature). This temperature is maintained whenever young bees are being raised, winter or summer.

Short flights can be taken in quite cold conditions but sustained flying needs higher temperatures. When the weather is mild and fine some bees will venture out to take a 'comfort break' (keeping the hive clean and hygienic) or collect water (bees need to dilute honey before they can use it). In late winter on mild days you might see bees visiting snowdrops, crocus, willows and hazel collecting nectar and, in particular, pollen. Pollen is the bees' protein source. Without pollen the bees cannot raise young bees; and without young bees the colony will dwindle and fail.



Bee on a crocus - photo courtesy of Richard Rickitt

Bees are always instinctively planning ahead - so from the shortest darkest day onwards the colony starts to build in numbers ready to take full advantage of next year's early flowers. Roll on spring!

More about overwintering and the spring build-up in the next issue.

David Brown, Rowde Hall Cottage

01380 722406 davidb.rowde@gmail.com



Heather Smith
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Awards Presented to Wiltshire GP Surgeries With Best Support For Unpaid Carers

GP practices in Wiltshire that are providing the best support to unpaid carers have been recognised in the Wiltshire Investors in Carers GP Accreditation Scheme.

The awards recognise and celebrate those Wiltshire GP practices who have met a number of requirements, including maintaining an up-to-date carer register, having a carers' lead and providing clear information and flexible appointments for carers.

Among the surgeries receiving awards were:

Courtyard Surgery – Platinum

Lansdowne Surgery – Platinum

Market Lavington Surgery – Platinum

St James Surgery – Silver

This is the eighth year that Carer Support Wiltshire has coordinated the awards, which were set up to ensure more consistency in the support carers receive within GP practices. The awards are funded by Wiltshire Council and the NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Tracey Cox, Chief Executive, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said:

"A lot is often said about the immense value of carers and, while it's impossible to quantify just how important they are, we know that carers nationwide are able to save the country's economy more than £130 billion each year showing their immeasurable worth.

"It is so important to identify carers in our community and to provide them with the right support and help that they need. I am pleased that so many more GP practices across Wiltshire are providing this support and being recognised for their efforts through this great Accreditation Scheme."

Kath Brice, Communications and PR officer Direct Line: 01380 819606

Working hours: Mon 9am-6pm | Tue 9:15am-12:45pm | Wed 9am-5pm | Thu 9:15am-12:45pm

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NEWS FROM ROWDEFORD SCHOOL

Co-operation Responsibility Happiness Resilience Respect Caring

Our school value this term is Co-operation which everyone is following, this was very apparent at our annual Sponsored Wheel and Walk this year. Covid restrictions meant we couldn't have our usual walk along the canal but that didn't stop us having fun - activities around the school site and a great colour run, raising nearly £1300 for school and a local charity.



Remembrance Day was different again this year but some students wore their uniform from groups they belong to – cubs, guides and we held a minutes silence in the classroom.

Cleo - PAT dog

We have a great addition to school in the services of a PAT dog to support students. Cleo is a beautiful dog with a lovely temperament; she has been fully trained to work with children and the students love her.



Teresa Ollerhead

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future

This term, KS1 have been preparing and learning about Advent and the Christmas Story. Although we may not be able to do our full Nativity, we will not let COVID stop us from celebrating this very special time of year for our school and community. We will be recording our own special Christmas celebrations and messages and these will go home for families to enjoy.



In Willow Class (year 1), our learning has also been based around the Jolly Christmas Postman by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. This has definitely become a favourite book of ours. We have loved opening the letters that he has delivered to all the different characters. The children have become absorbed in the traditional tale characters and

the stories linked with them. We have even been walking through the trees pretending to be Little Red Riding Hood!

In KS1, we have been joined by Mrs Helen Alford, one of our new teachers. She writes

'I would like to introduce myself as the new class teacher in year 2. I am an NQT and started teaching at Rowde C of E Primary Academy in September.

I have loved my time here so far and have been really touched by the warm welcome I have received from the staff, parents and children. Rowde C of E Primary Academy has such a friendly and loving atmosphere and the children are happy and enthusiastic. I have enjoyed getting to know the children and I very much look forward to the term ahead and Christmas in my new school'.

Since September, the children in the school have become so eloquent and impressive in their understanding and learning of our values that Mrs BQ wrote about in the last Rowde Village News. They are very proud to be chosen as a values champion at the end of the week and can explain why they were chosen in great detail.

They also continue to be completely amazing in how they have coped with the 'changes' in school and our 'bubble' system. They are a real credit to their families and we are immensely proud of them all.

Although Christmas may look a little different this year and we may not be able to be together physically – we still come together as a community to celebrate the birth of Jesus. On behalf of Rowde C of E Primary Academy, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

Mrs Sarah McCann

You can now follow us on twitter at Rowde C of E Primary @RowdeSchool or on Facebook



Your Parish Council

Please visit the rowdevillage.org website; the Rowde Parish Council Facebook page and the village noticeboards for confirmation of forthcoming Parish Council meetings.

Parish Council meetings will be held on zoom for the foreseeable future. Please contact the Parish Clerk for a zoom login in advance of the meeting if you would like to attend.

A full set of minutes is available on the village website. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the minutes, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Meetings – during Coronavirus

The Parish Council met on 14th October and 11th November on zoom.

The key areas discussed at those meeting were:

CORONAVIRUS

Wiltshire Council update during the Coronavirus

- Cllr Mayes noted that the Wiltshire's infection rate remains relatively low. However, we do not have the hospital capacity to treat huge infection numbers.
- At the time of the meeting, increases in cases had grown mostly in the 60+ age group. It is believed that transmission of the virus is mostly taking place within households.
- There had been Covid outbreaks in 28 education settings around the County. All schools are now prepared with a virtual learning platform for those children who are required to self-isolate.
- During the second national lockdown, libraries and leisure centres have had to close again. The Household Recycling Centres remain open this time as they have adequate Covid precautions in place.
- Staffing levels at the Wiltshire Well-being hub have been increased. They are concentrating on residents who are classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable'. Wiltshire Council is looking for support from local communities to help other vulnerable residents.

Rowde Covid support group

The Rowde Covid support group has re-engaged and has contacted residents who received help from the group last time.

If you are unable to obtain prescriptions yourself and can not have them delivered or collected by family members, the group can help you.

The volunteers can also collect basic shopping needs. This is a small group with a big heart. We are here to help if you need us.

The group is being managed by L Wills & P Bryant, with very many thanks from the parish.

If you need help or can give help, please contact on Lisa Wills on 01380 730078, or by email at rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com, or Pat Bryant on 01380 698567 or by email at: patabryant@live.co.uk

Other news in Rowde...

New North Wiltshire School (Rowdeford site).

- A webinar was held on 11th November 2020 to engage with the local community about plans to develop the North Wiltshire School on the Rowdeford site.
- It is anticipated that a full planning application will be submitted in Spring 2021. It is hoped that

construction will begin in Summer 2021 with completion of construction work by Autumn 2023.

- Many questions were raised during the webinar, relating in particular to construction work on the rural site and the implications for traffic on the A342 and in particular at the entrance area.

- There will be further opportunities to engage with the planning process for the new school.

- A new name for the school will be announced within the next two weeks.

Hft

- The Parish Council is greatly saddened to hear the news about the proposed closure of Hft (proposed for June 2021), which has been an integral part of our community for many years. The Parish Council is concerned for those residents who will lose their homes, their friends and the life that they have known for many years. The Parish Council is also concerned about the loss of local employment for those people employed by Hft.

- Hft has stated that their priority remains the health, safety and happiness of the people that they support. All residents will be re-housed in the local area.

- Hft says that it is closing because residential settings for people with learning difficulties is not considered to be the best model now and that residents would benefit from being fully integrated into the community.

- Cllr Mayes advised the Parish Council and local community to consider possible future uses for land at Hft, so that the community is ready with a response if and when it comes to that point.

Planning Matters

Reed Place - Phase 2

- Wiltshire Council has been given approval to work with a company called Rollalong, which will provide carbon neutral modern methods of constructing homes from their factory. This brings many advantages including minimised disruption to those living/working around the construction site. The next step is for Wiltshire Council to procure an architect to design some possible site layouts.

Planning Applications

20/07184/VAR Cedarwood Cock Road Rowde SN10 2PP

Planning application: Variation of Conditions 2 and 8 of 19/03283/FUL (Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and erection of 2 chalet style bungalows) The Parish Council did not have any objections to the application.

20/08161/FUL, Rowde Water Recycling Centre, The Common, Rowde

Planning application: by Wessex Water for a Proposed Motor Control Centre Kiosk and additional treatment facilities. The application relates only to the building of the motor control centre. The remainder of the development will take place within permitted development rules. The Parish Council did not object to the application. They stated that they would like the motor kiosk to be obscured from view as much as possible. The Parish Council would also like to receive follow up details relating to the noise and odour studies.

20/09055/TPO: 11 Scholar's Park: Proposal: To reduce a Walnut tree and a Chestnut tree by 25%. It was noted that there was no reason given for the application on

the paperwork. The Clerk clarified with the planning department that the application to reduce the trees is to improve the light and also to prevent them hanging over the neighbouring property. The Parish Council did not have any comments to make about the application.

Allotments

Report on the oak tree

- Quotation have been sought for remedial work to be carried out on the oak tree on the allotment site. It has been discovered that there are two types of fungus growing on the oak tree and it has been recommended by the tree officer at Wiltshire Council, that the Parish Council arranges for a PICUS test to be carried out to discover the extent of the decay in the tree before work is carried out to reduce the canopy.

Communal composting

- All allotment holders were surveyed (27 plot holders in total) to discover their views on communal composting. Eight responses were received to say that they would use a mixture of personal and communal composting. No one responded to say that they would rely solely on communal composting, with no personal composting to supplement it.

- It was proposed that the Parish Council hires a green waste bin for blighted green waste, which can not be composted. It is proposed that the bin will be housed in a purpose built bin store and accessible only to allotment holders. This will be emptied when it is full. The bin will be funded by allotment rents.

Revision of allotment rules and tenancy agreement

- A revision of the allotment rules and tenancy agreement is being drafted. This will be shared with the Parish Council and in turn allotment holders. The documents will be available for all to view online through the Parish Council website.

- The tenancy agreement will include provision for the Parish Council to review allotment rents annually.

- The Clerk and L Wills will continue to review allotment rents and facilities in neighbouring parishes. This information will be circulated to Parish Councillors.

Ditches

- L Wills and D Revell have investigated the problem caused by overgrown ditches around Silverlands Road/Reed Place. Aster Housing have engaged and will clear out brambles in the areas that they are responsible for. The remaining areas are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council maintain that the ditches are working adequately and do not need any remedial work.

Footpaths

- D Revell has reviewed the damaged bridges and has kindly agreed to repair the bridge on the permissive footpath. D Revell will also repair the steel bridge on footpath ROWD11 – side of bridge has fallen away.

- It was noted that some of the signage for the footpaths is confusing. D Revell has agreed to report back when he notes that there is a matter that needs attention.

- It was noted that Footpath ROWD24 (The Common) has had its stile missing for over a year.

- Wiltshire Council has made a Tree Preservation Order on the hedgerow that borders the permissive footpath with Buena Vista, opposite the Rowdey Cow

entrance, to ensure that the hedge is not cut down, topped, lopped, uprooted or willfully damaged or destroyed to safeguard the visual amenity, wildlife value and character of the area.

Community Area Transport Group (CATG) update

- This is the first meeting that has been held since February 2020 (pre-Covid).

- The remainder of the budget for CATG for this year is £5000. It was clear from the meeting that parishes will be expected to fund their own requests through increases in the precept moving forward as CATG does not have sufficient funds to cover all of the requests.

- The Parish Council currently has two active requests before CATG. Our request for a footpath for the entrance of Tanis has been stalled due to social distancing prioritisation work. It is unlikely to be considered for a substantive CATG bid before 2021. It remains on the CATG list on their priority schedule.

- The Parish Council has also requested a 'Road Narrowing' sign by West End Farm, the High Street and asked CATG to consider a metal safety barrier at the Close Lane junction. CATG has agreed to look at that whole section of road, with regards to soil encroachment on the road, over-hanging hedges, road markings. They did not think there would be sufficient space to install a metal barrier. There was a question mark about the efficacy of the existing chevron and agreed to look at its long-term effectiveness and will look at replacing it if needed.

Playing Area Update

- It is being proposed that four football teams will use the playing field moving forward.

- The Parish Council thanked J Dalley and D Revell for arranging for the purchase and collection of new goals posts for the playing field. These posts will remain in situ and can be used by people in the village.

- D Packer is thanked for his continued support of the playing field and all the work that he carries out to ensure that football matches can take place there.

- D Revell was thanked for jet washing the play equipment in the small playing field. Thanks, were also given to Coppards Plant Hire for the free donation of the use of the jet washer.

- The RoSPA safety reports on the play areas have been received. D Revell has kindly carried out some of the repairs required.

- After the recent jet washing, some of the equipment will need to be re-painted. It was discussed whether this could be carried out by the local school or Community Payback. This will need to take place in the Spring now.

Social events

- P Bryant is organising a village calendar to mark the year of lockdown and to help raise funds for the parish and MacMillan Cancer Support. Local businesses are invited to advertise in the calendar. Residents are encouraged to send in their pictures showing life in Rowde during lockdown. Please contact Pat Bryant for further details: patabryant@live.co.uk, or tel: 01380 698567

- Christmas will come to Rowde. The Village Christmas tree will go up on the Village Hall grounds around 28th November 2020.

Census

The next 10 year census is coming soon: March 2021. All households will be surveyed, mostly online. There will be provision for people who do not have online access to record their details.

Finance

Monthly invoices for September and October were as follows:

September invoices (total: £2,241.77)

- Admin costs: £1,342.02
- Grounds maintenance: £632.75
- Allotments & playing field: £267.00

October invoices (total: £3,469.06)

- Admin costs: £1,236.92
- Grounds maintenance: £498.24
- Road sweeping, goal post fixing, highways mirror: £1,733.90

Parish Council income for September & October 2020

09/09/2020	Interest	£0.06
30/09/2020	Interest	£0.94
21/09/2020	Allotment rent	£16.50
25/09/2020	Precept, Wiltshire Council	£18,986.71
09/10/2020	Interest	£0.06
31/10/2020	Interest	£0.86
20/10/2020	Pitch rent, Bishops Canning YFC	£210.00

Neighbourliness

- Please can we remind everyone to park with respect for your neighbours and residents who live in the village. Everyone should be able to easily access their own drives or houses.
- Please be aware of any hedgerow/bushes/trees that may hang over your property and cause obstructions and dangers for pedestrians and drivers.
- There is no such thing as the 'dog poo fairy'. Please keep our streets and grassed areas clean for everyone to enjoy. Please do not use our playing fields, to exercise your dogs and leave their waste behind.

My Wiltshire App

- Please note that Wiltshire Council is updating its website. Changes have been made to the 'My Wiltshire App'. If you have an existing account, please click on

'forgotten password' when you try to login for a new password link to access your account.

- Please forward requests for highway repairs to the Clerk or report them through the 'My Wiltshire App'. The more reports that are logged through the App, the higher the priority will be given to the issue.

- It is easy to report problems like potholes, dog mess, graffiti, litter and street lighting in your area using the 'My Wiltshire' online form. Reports can be made anonymously or you can register for free. Once you have registered, you can track the reports you have made, and receive notification once the work has been completed. The more residents report issues, the more likely we are to have them fixed.

- The 'My Wiltshire' page can be accessed through the Wiltshire Council website at: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Concerns

If you have any local concerns about footpaths, hedges, allotments, play facilities, or anything village related, we would like to hear from you. We value your input and suggestions and will try to help.

You can contact us through the Rowde Parish Council Facebook page, or by e-mail: rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com, or by telephone: 01380 501919.

Police Matters

If you need to report a crime:

- Please dial 101 to report a crime and 999 in an emergency.

It is possible to follow the Police on:

- Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>
 - Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>
- Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meetings dates can be found in the village diary at the back of the magazine.

We invite all villagers to attend, to observe and to make use of the public question time at the next Parish Council meeting.

A full set of minutes is available on the Parish notice boards and on the village website.

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL			
Ivan Whittaker-Axon	Acting Chair, Roads & transport	rpc.iwhittakeraxon@gmail.com	01380 728669
Lisa Wills	Vice-Chair; Allotments; Social Media	rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com	01380 730078
Pat Bryant	Footpaths & Bridleways	patabryant@live.co.uk	
VACANCY			
John Hawkins	Finance, Planning	rpc.jhawkins@gmail.com	07929 424781
John Dalley	Sports & Playing Fields	jdtaxisdevizes@gmail.com	07592 063789
Chris Stevens		rpc.cstevens010@gmail.com	01380 738438
Debra Pullen		rpc.dpullen@gmail.com	
Dave Revell	Playground Safety	rpc.daverevell@gmail.com	07734 422703
VACANCY			
VACANCY			
Rebekah Jeffries	Clerk	rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com	01380 501919

Wiltshire County Councillor deputising for Rowde			
Anna Cuthbert	Wiltshire Councillor	Anna.cuthbert@wiltshire.gov.uk	

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Useful phone numbers

Libraries:	01225 713000	or mobile/outside Wiltshire:	01225 777234
Parking:	01380 734812	School admissions:	01225 713010
Pest control:	01380 734721	School special educational needs:	01225 718095
Planning:	01380 734812	School transport:	01225 713004
Recycling boxes - Hills Waste:	0845 6032085	Social care – adults:	0300 456 0111
Registration - Births, Deaths & Marriages:	01225 713007	Social care – children:	01225 773500
Roads & pavements (Clarence) Freephone:	0800 232323	Street care and cleaning:	01380 734849

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF Hft FURLONG CLOSE

The Parish Council is greatly saddened to hear the news about the proposed closure of Hft. Hft, and before that as Care, and then Self-Unlimited, has been an integral part of our community for nearly thirty years. We have worked alongside residents from Hft, sung with them, prayed with them, and worked with them. We have recently dropped kerbs around the village to make it easier for the residents to get around.

Residents of Hft are part of our community and help to make Rowde the enriching place that it is. They live with us, not separate from us. The residents provide many valuable services, for example duvet washing, making wedding cakes, and gifts, carrying out grounds work around the village. We are really disheartened to think this could all be dissolved and at the same time that Rowdeford (now Silverwood) school is being expanded and developed.

We are very concerned for the residents who will lose their homes and the life that they have known for many years. The residents of Furlong Close live as our friends and neighbours and we will support them over the coming months in whatever way we can.

As a Parish Council, we are concerned too about the loss of local employment for those people employed by Hft. Hft at Furlong Close is an employment hub for the village.

Hft has stated that their priority remains the health, safety and happiness of the people that they support. We support MP Danny Kruger in his plea to Hft to pause the planned closure and to carry out a full and proper consultation with residents, their families, the staff and everyone who will be impacted by this decision, when permitted to do so by current Coronavirus restrictions.

We will continue to support this local community with the statutory powers that we have.

We are saddened by this announcement, as many people in Rowde will be (over 2000 people have signed a petition already), and we hope that the value and worth of Hft, the inclusivity and security that it brings to the residents who live there, will be reflected upon and a fair consultation takes place.

We stand in solidarity with our friends and neighbours. Our community.

Rowde Parish Council

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December/January Worship in Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane

Services in St Matthew's, Rowde, are in bold
 Services in Bromham and Sandy Lane are in italics



Everyone is very welcome at all our services

Date/Time	Service
Sunday 6 Dec 8.00 am 10.00 am	Advent 2 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion at Bromham. St Nicholas Patronal festival</i>
Sunday 13 8.00 am 10.00 am	Advent 3 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion (CW), Rowde
Saturday 19 6.00 pm	<i>Nine Lessons and Carols, Bromham</i>
Sunday 20 8.00 am 10.00 am 2.00 pm	Advent 4 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Bromham</i> <i>Holy Communion (CW), Bromham</i> Blue Christmas, Rowde – a quiet contemplative service, particularly suitable if Christmas is a painful time of year for you
Thursday 24 2.00 pm 4.00 pm 11.30 pm 11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service, Rowde <i>Crib service, Bromham</i> Midnight Mass (CW), Rowde <i>Holy Communion (CW), Bromham</i>
Friday 25 8.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Christmas Day <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Christmas Day, Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Christmas Day, Bromham</i>
Sunday 27 10.00 am	First Sunday after Christmas Holy Communion (CW), Rowde
Sunday 3 Feb 8.00 am 10.00 am	The Epiphany Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion (CW), Bromham</i>
Sunday 10 8.00 am 10.00 am	Baptism of Christ <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion (CW), Rowde
Sunday 17 8.00 am 10.00 am	Epiphany 2 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Bromham</i> <i>Holy Communion (CW), Bromham</i>
Sunday 24 8.00 am 10.00 am	Epiphany 3 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion (CW), Rowde
Sunday 31 8.00 am	Epiphany 4 <i>Holy Communion (Common Worship), Bromham</i>

Please check the noticeboard outside Church for more details – plans may change depending on Government Covid guidelines, and some of

these services may take place online rather than in Church.

Private Prayer

The churches within our Benefice are also open for private prayer on the following days.

Mondays St Matthew's Rowde 2pm - 4pm
Tuesdays St Nicholas Bromham 10am - 4pm
Thursdays St Matthew's Rowde 2pm - 4pm
Fridays St Nicholas Bromham 10am - 4pm
Every day Sandy Lane 10am - 4pm

FaceBook – There is a Thought for the Day on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, written by Revd Heather Smith, Caroline Culley, Fran Hall or Revd Ruth. In order to see this, search for “Churches of Rowde and Bromham” on Facebook, or click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/439328832796693/>

Weekly video of Bible reading and prayers

– You Tube Recorded Services Churches of Rowde and Bromham
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEaEU1Oqi6iDABPgvyc1LQQ>

Pray in the Yard

Next time you walk through Rowde churchyards, look out for the new prayer boards. There are prayers and readings displayed to help us think about and reflect on Advent. Do stop and have a look. And look out for the prayers changing as we move into a new church season.

Please check the Church notice board for further information

Or contact the Administrator:

Sarah Bowler
sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com
07876142112

Open the Book

For more information, contact Fran Hall: 07989758412 or Sarah Bowler: 07876142112
sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Growing in Faith

Please contact Ruth Bray on 01380 859847 or ruthbray@outlook.com

Mothers' Union

Please contact Carole Myer for details: 01380 850706 or ed.myer@btinternet.com

Church Cleaning

For more information contact Jane Moss on 01380 729160 jmosscaudet@gmail.com
Maureen Hiscocks 01380 725406 for the brass cleaning rota.

Choir

Choir Leader: Vacant

Choir Practise Junior and Adults will return as

soon as possible.

Bell Ringing

Contact: Richard Heath rich.p.heath@gmail.com/ or 01380 722379

St Matthews Café

St Matthew's Café, will be held on Tuesdays from 10.30 am on Zoom until further notice, but please do check a Church Near You and Facebook for up to date information.

Contact Caroline carolineculley1@outlook.com or Revd Ruth for more details.

The details for zoom are: Coffee and Chat, Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74060915540?pwd=K29BL2FDQ2dSRkIWbkoyb0h0bDR0QT09>

Meeting ID: 740 6091 5540

Passcode: u8uaSK

Flower Arranging

For further information please contact: Jane Sartin j.ksartin@talktalk.net or call 01380 727446

Contact Details

Rector:

Revd Ruth Schofield:

07738 858909

01380 850191

revrschofield@gmail.com

Associate Priest:

Heather Smith

07795 822515

Lay Minister:

Caroline Culley

07557 983940

Church Wardens:

vacant

Benefice Administrator:

Sarah Bowler 07876 142112

sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Website: A Church Near You

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690/>

Benefice Facebook page: Churches of Rowde and Bromham

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/439328832796693/>

A Message from Revd Ruth

Dear Friends,

This is a weird time! I'm writing this in lockdown, and all of our worship is online again. We meet on Sunday mornings through the wonders of Zoom, using our computers to share Bible readings, prayer, and often a discussion of how we live out our faith. But by the time you read this, we might (we hope) be back in church, preparing to celebrate Christmas.

Whether we are in church or not, able to meet up with all of our family and friends or not, it's really important to remember that Christmas is not cancelled. We hope (and pray) that daily life will soon be less restricted. Especially we long to be reconnected with each other, to be able to hold the hand of a friend or have a hug from a grandchild, to talk without a facemask or to share a cuppa without worrying so much about hand sanitisers and who we're bubbled with.

At the heart of Christmas, we remember Jesus coming to live with us, arriving as a baby born to Mary and Joseph, and laid in a manger. One of the names for Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God with us". And God is still with us, through the isolation, lockdown, social distancing and zooming. God cares about the nitty gritty of our lives, knows us inside out, and loves us anyway.

We'd love to invite you to share with us at St Matthew's this Christmas. Whether we are meeting in person or not, come and celebrate the incredible gift of love that God gave us that first Christmas. We will post a filmed service of carols and readings on YouTube, so we can all sing our hearts out at home. Look out for prayers and inspiring poems on the boards in the churchyard. And hopefully we can meet together soon.

In his love, Revd Ruth

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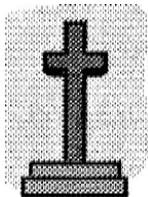
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WE NEED YOU!

Do you have some news to share or just have something to say about the village? If you can contribute to the content of your Rowde Village News in any way or would like to give us feedback (good or bad) or discuss any magazine issues then please contact:

Alan Watters on 01380 724788 or by email at watters.alan@gmail.com

or **Suzan Jackett** on 01380 729791 or by email at suzijj@rocketmail.com

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(Trudi Speirs and Cloud Nine Therapies)

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the information given and views expressed in this magazine are generally as supplied by the contributors. Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news items is sourced directly from other publications and the internet. We therefore apologise for any inaccuracies published but regrettably we have no control over this possibility happening. We will however publish any corrections notified to us as soon as possible.

Alan Watters, Editor

CHILDREN'S PRIZE COLOURING COMPETITION

See next page for details



PRIZE COLOURING COMPETITION

(see previous page)

Open to children 10 years and under who either live within the parish of Rowde or attend one of our two local schools (Rowde Academy and Rowdefield School)

Just colour in the drawing on the previous page, carefully cut or tear it from the magazine or print it first if you can only access it from the village website and drop it in to our advertising manager Julie Baker, at:

3 Church View, Rowde SN10 2NB

Alternatively take a good photograph of it on your mobile phone and send it to the editor by email at watters.alan@gmail.com or by text to 07886870053.

Closing date 15th January 2021

A prize will be awarded to the drawing judged to be the best by a local artist

Name:

Age:

School:

Home Address:

Phone number:

email:

CORONAVIRUS - BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED!

And yes, you can continue to donate if you are over 70, well and have given a full donation in the last two years. There is no longer a restriction because of government guidelines.

At the moment we particularly need:

Male donors - men can donate more often than women.

Black donors - Ro blood is needed and a common type for black donors.

O negative donors - hospitals need this blood type most regularly, as it can be given to all patients.

We also urgently need people who have had coronavirus, or symptoms, to donate plasma (a special plasma appointment is required).

How to register to be a blood donor?

Check you are able to give blood. Register to be a donor online, or call 0300 123 23 23. Sign in to your online account and find an appointment – a number of appointments can be booked in advance.

You can also download the NHS Give Blood App to book or manage your appointments.

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I have a Facebook page where you can see reviews and updates of your dogs on their walks.
www.facebook.com/boopeeandfriends/

My website is www.boopee-and-friends.co.uk. Feel free to message me via website or on my Facebook page. Alternatively you can call me on 07368635866.

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before you travel.

FUN COLUMN

Welcome to this month's fun column, featuring classic jokes & quotes by Bill Bailey:



"The day after tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life – that way you've always got a couple of days in hand."

"Nostalgia: How long's that been around?"

"People say 'Bill, are you an optimist?' And I say, 'I hope so.'"

"Three women walk into a pub and say, 'Hooray, we've colonised a male-dominated joke format.'"

"Three blind mice walk into a pub. But they are unaware of their surroundings, so to derive humour from it would be exploitative."

"A horse walks into a bar, and the barman says 'Why the long face?'. The horse replies: 'I'm deeply troubled by the anthropomorphic aspects of my existence and the extent to which I am now protected by law.'"

"I was in the supermarket. I was at one of the new self-service tills. You know the ones – with the two extra members of staff hanging around."

"Without the beat in the background, Jazz basically sounds like an armadillo was let loose on the keyboard."

"Marijuana? It's harmless really, unless you fashion it into a club and beat somebody over the head with it."

"I'm English, and as such I crave disappointment. That's why I buy Kinder Surprise. Sometimes I eat the toy out of sheer despair."

"Contentment is knowing you're right. Happiness is knowing someone else is wrong."

"It's not a beard, it's an animal I've trained to sit very still."

Do you have a funny story to tell? Send it in!

PHOTO FUN

This issue we have some amusing animal photos.



Do you have any interesting or amusing photos of people, pets or anything else? Send them in!

The Arts Society North Wiltshire

April 1st:
August
& 19th Cent
Barry

NOW ZOOMING

May 6th:
pestry:
imate Wall Decoration
Susan Kay-Williams

We are a friendly group who enjoy hearing about a wide range of arts based subjects. Many people from this area and beyond appreciate them – do come and join us! We meet in the Assembly Hall, Melksham from 10am for coffee and at 11am for a one hour lecture.

For more information go to tasnorthwilts.org.uk

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Local News



Silverwood School - new name chosen for special school in Rowde as plans progress for the future.

After weeks of consultation the votes are now in and the North Wiltshire School has a new name. Parents, governors, staff and pupils were involved in choosing their favourites to create a shortlist of names and the winning name was Silverwood School.

The name was shared with the school community on 24 November as plans continue to build at the school's Rowde campus to provide hundreds of SEND school places in North Wiltshire.

On 1 September the three school sites of Larkrise, Rowdeford and St. Nicholas came together as one school with the working name of North Wiltshire School. Now pupils across all three sites will be pupils of Silverwood School with each site referred to as the Trowbridge campus, Rowde campus or Chippenham campus respectively.

There were dozens of suggestions with some great creative ideas from pupils from a host of names including some quirkier ideas such as The Hedgehog School, 3 Wiltshireteers and Triple Choc Chip School!

Silverwood School was chosen from a shortlist of eight by governors and was unanimously voted in as the name for the school.

Now the school community will have the next important job - choosing a logo for the newly named school.

Sean McKeown Interim Executive Headteacher said: "I am absolutely delighted with the school communities' choice, Silverwood School. I am thoroughly looking forward to the next stage, when the logo design and name will combine to represent all that Silverwood has to offer: a centre of excellence where all children and young people will thrive, flourish and achieve the most amazing outcomes. I am incredibly proud to be leading Silverwood School on the next phase of its exciting journey."

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children, Education and Skills said: "Well done everyone and what a brilliant name for this school. I am so proud of how the school communities from across the three campuses have come together to decide this new name and I'm sure this is a demonstration of how we will move forward with learning and striving to provide the very best education for all our pupils."

Early in November, interested residents were able to hear early plans for the new school build at the Rowde campus.

The new school build will help meet pupil needs, be made sustainable and there will also be



benefit to the community in terms of employment and facilities.

A full planning application will be submitted in spring of next year and will be shaped by feedback from a series of design workshops, as well as community events as local people, families and staff involved in the school have their say.

The £33m programme will deliver up to 400 places on the Rowde site

Sean McKeown has a key role supporting the new school in its transformation alongside the senior leadership team within all three sites with the current headteachers being responsible for the day-to-day running of their school campus.

In the summer it was announced contractors Willmott Dixon will oversee the work on the new school build, providing places for pupils with SEND aged from early years to post-16, with the new facilities at the Rowde campus being completed by September 2023. The involvement of children from all three sites and the wider school community was included in the contract as their views are important to how the project will go forward.

The new facilities will operate as a “school within a school.” There will be a community of small teaching clusters that will provide a range of specialist teaching spaces, therapeutic support, and quiet dining.

Each cluster will be designed to offer plenty of space to move around while maximising natural daylight and ventilation to create an airy feel. In addition, there will be a hydrotherapy pool and outdoor learning provision.

Main construction works are expected to start in Summer 2021 and be complete for Sept 2023.

LOCAL WRITERS AND ACTORS NOMINATED FOR RADIO AWARD FOR ‘MULCH’

Mulch! a nine episode radio soap opera written by Devizes Writers’ Group members Rosalind Ambler and Simon Evans for Warminster Community Radio has been shortlisted for a National Community Radio award.

The story centres on an allotment, with many twists and turns.

Young actor Jay Allsop from Rowde played a major part, adding to his considerable list of performing successes, and Rosalind took the role of Fiona Featherstone-Ferne, a posh allotmenteer who broke many rules.

It was produced and edited by Warminster Community Radio’s Barry Mole.

MAKE-UP ARTIST CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN LONDON FASHION WEEK



Make-up artist Karina Scoffield has been chosen to take part in London Fashion Week in February. Karina, will work behind the scenes applying make-up to some of the models taking part in the major fashion event, from February 19-23.

Karina, 32, who is a former pupil of Devizes School, said: “This is the first time I’ve had the guts to apply. I am bit overwhelmed to be chosen. I had to send off my work portfolio to an agency and they looked at what I’d done, my accreditations and my website and I was one of the make-up artists selected.”

Her proud mum, Joy Alford, who lives in Rowde, said: “I am extremely proud of Karina. She has done all of this independently and off her own back following illness and major surgery. I am so proud that she is so talented. She is a beautiful girl and does not realise how good she is at her job.”

Mrs Scoffield is an award-winning make-up artist who was a South West regional winner in the 3rd English Wedding Awards for 2018.

She is also a finalist in the national 2020 Make-Up Artist of the Year competition taking place in Southampton. The final was postponed from May to November and will now take place next year.



ROWDE COMES TOGETHER TO OPPOSE CLOSURE OF HFT AT FURLONG CLOSE

Families of residents at Furlong Close Hft facility in Rowde have pleaded with operators to halt plans to close the facility.

It was announced in October that the decision had been taken to close the site next June. In addition to the 33 residents with learning disabilities, a number of people use the facility for day care.

Trish Gange, whose daughter lives at the complex, has said residents have been treated “like pieces of furniture” and has called for a 12 month extension to the proposed closure.

Meanwhile, a petition against the closure has gained nearly 2,000 signatures (*update: over 2,500 at time of going to print, Ed*).

Mrs Grange said: “These very vulnerable people are to be re-housed into unknown premises, and in so doing will also be obliged to forsake their long term friendship groups, and quite possibly lose the continuity of excellent care given by the support staff that they know and depend upon. The prospect of losing what they had been led to believe would be their “home for life” has caused much distress and anxiety amongst them, with some of them already suffering from stress related conditions.

“For such a decision to be taken about the lives of such vulnerable people, without consultation, is totally removed from the compassion, care and understanding that should be the prime consideration of those who are entrusted with their care.”

She added: “It would appear that no allowances are being made for the restrictions imposed upon us all by coronavirus.”

Divisional director of charity Hft, Emma Bagley, explained that the closure had been arranged to maximise opportunities for people with learning disabilities or difficulties.

She said: “We have the opportunity now to ask people, probably, for the first time in their lives who they want to live with and the type



of house they want to live in. This is giving them the opportunity to have easy access to shops or cafes the same way you or I would. At the moment the people we support are so heavily reliant on staff coming in that drive or a car being available, so if those things aren't available on that day they are in effect confined to Hft Rowde. We want to maximise their independence and support.”

The proposed June closure date of Hft Rowde could be subject to change, given the wider effects of coronavirus (*update: the closure date has been postponed - read other reports, Ed*).

She added: “We are obviously very aware of covid and there have been valid concerns raised by families that there will be additional challenges around the pandemic, and we are having ongoing discussions with Wiltshire Council around that all the time and the effect that may have on their planning and assessment timescales.

“It's something we are aware of and certainly not ignoring.”

MP Danny Kruger has also pledged to support the families (*see the following statement, Ed*).

He said: “It was very concerning to learn that Home Farm Trust is proposing to close Furlong Close in Rowde next year. Several families have contacted me to raise their concerns about the impact this will have on the residents, and I am keen to work with Hft and families to find a way through that preserves the community of

residents in the place they've lived in for nearly 30 years."

He has contacted Home Farm Trust and Wiltshire Council to discuss this matter.

Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection at Wiltshire Council also pledged to support the residents.

He told the Gazette: "We are in contact with residents and their families to reassure them we will support them throughout any changes and we expect the excellent care they already receive to continue into the future. While this is Hft's decision to close this site we are in agreement with the principle of that decision. The changes will mean residents can settle in smaller community based settings and have the opportunity to live more independently. We will work in close partnership with Hft to ensure the transition is smooth and puts the residents at the heart of future plans."

From Danny Kruger MP

(25th November 2020):

My statement on the proposed closure of the Home Farm Trust centre at Furlong Close

I am very concerned that some 34 adults with learning disabilities - many of whom have lived at Furlong Close for decades and whose families had reason to believe they had

a home for life - have received letters informing them the home will close. I regret this decision was made without any consultation with residents or their families. I wrote to Home Farm Trust, the owner and care provider at Furlong Close, on 13 November to ask for an explanation of this decision, and await a response.

I have every sympathy with Hft who are trying to deliver the best care they can, and I pay tribute to Hft staff at Furlong Close for the support they give their residents. I also know that Wiltshire Council are determined to ensure that all vulnerable residents get the care they need and deserve, and that compared to other councils our work with adults with learning disabilities is well funded. My hope is that, for those residents who wish to remain living at Furlong Close, a way can be found for the site to remain their home. To that end, I support Wiltshire Council's request to Hft to pause the process of closure until a proper consultation with residents, their families, care staff and the community, including a detailed assessment of every resident's needs and wishes, can be undertaken. It is not possible to undertake the consultation and assessment with the current restrictions on face-to-face contact. I hope therefore that Hft will formally suspend the



MP Danny Kruger

planned closure of Furlong Close, and will agree a process with residents and their families, and with the Council, to undertake consultation and assessment once conditions permit.

From Cllr Anna Cuthbert (for Rowde)

(25th November 2020):

Withdraw the decision to close Furlong Close!

It came as a complete shock to residents of Furlong Close, to their families and the wider community that Hft and Wiltshire Council had come to a mutual agreement to close the homes and relocate everyone who lives in Furlong Close to new accommodation by June next year. Some people have lived in Furlong Close since the bungalows and flats were built in 1992. Nobody told the people who lived in Furlong Close or their families that a potential closure was on the cards, even though officers from Wiltshire Council and representatives from Hft had agreed it and had been discussing it for many, many months.

Everyone who lives in Rowde and the surrounding area knows that Furlong Close is home to adults with learning disabilities and a place where other adults are able to visit and use the day service. Rowde is their home and, just like many other Rowde residents, some have lived as part of the village community for all of their adult life. The decision that Furlong Close is no longer to be their home has been devastating to the residents and their families who I am in touch with.

The day service provided at Furlong Close and that other adults in the local area with learning disabilities attend has already closed to people who don't live in Furlong Close. People from outside of Furlong Close were stopped from attending initially, and quite rightly so, because of concerns about the spread of coronavirus to and within this high risk group of people. But as other day services began to reopen around the country to get people safely back together, the decision to close the Furlong Close day service on a permanent basis, I am told by the Director of Operations at Hft, was made by Council officers. This has had a profound impact on those people and their families as although other support may have been offered, they love Furlong Close and it's a very important part of their lives.

A petition to stop the closure of Furlong Close was set up shortly after the letters arrived informing families about the impending closure. More than 2300 people have signed the petition and the strength of local feeling and support grows on a daily basis. Families and supporters of Furlong Close residents and the day service users have formed a group to stop the closure. Some families have sought legal support, many

have sought the help of Danny Kruger our Devizes MP and are very grateful for him asking for a pause in the process and the planned closure to be suspended.

But I am not asking for a pause or a suspension, I am asking that the decision is withdrawn and that nothing happens in relation to Furlong Close until a proper process of consultation and assessment has been undertaken. A decision must be taken based on what people's needs are. And that may well be staying in Furlong Close. But the decision making process must begin again with the involvement of the people it will affect, and their families and advocates rather than making decisions behind closed doors without any consultation and what could be described as a complete disregard for the needs and wishes of those involved.

It would be naive of me to suggest that Wiltshire Council just carries on commissioning Hft, or another provider, to deliver the services it currently does at Furlong Close without properly understanding what people need and want. We can't expect the needs of a young adult, who moved to Furlong Close into their home for life nearly 30 years ago, to be the same today - as we get older our needs change and any one of us could develop mental or physical health conditions that mean we need more care and support, and the residents of Furlong Close are no different. However in the short term we may need to carry on as we are because we are in the midst of a global pandemic and we need to keep people safe from the harm that the virus could cause.

Part of the process to make informed decisions about adult social care are assessments that are undertaken by Wiltshire Council. This is a statutory responsibility and Danny Kruger has said that these assessments "can't take place with the current restrictions on face to face contact" and he is right. We know that one of the groups of people at high risk from coronavirus who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable are adults with Down's Syndrome. We also know that the over 70s are classed as clinically vulnerable, and many of the family members of Furlong Close residents are in this category. So Danny is absolutely right to say that the assessments can only happen "when conditions permit". This does not mean modifying the process and conducting it over video conference or in a socially distanced way as this would not allow for proper support to those undergoing assessments to be provided, nor would it mean we were protecting those at greatest risk during the pandemic.

So I would urge those who took the decision to close Furlong Close to withdraw that decision and to work with the people who live there and the people who love them on identifying what is in their best interests. It's heartening to know that the original decision wasn't taken purely on financial grounds

and as Danny has said, "compared to other councils our work with adults with learning disabilities is well funded." This means that maintaining the status quo is not unachievable.

Lots of people have commented on the closure being supported by the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and I know this has upset many people. What I know of the arrangements that are put into place for adults with learning disabilities in our county is that we want people to live their best lives possible. Over time, models of care and support evolve and it is true that neither Wiltshire Council nor the Care Quality Commission, as the regulator, would support providers like Hft building new closes of accommodation like in Rowde. It was right at the time and Furlong Close was a model of best practise, which is why it has been so successful and people love living there. Today, young adults with learning disabilities have the choice about what sort of support they want, the sort of housing they want, who they want to live with and how they spend their money. And for young people embarking on a more independent life away from their families for the first time this is absolutely the right thing. The concern that families and supporters of some of the residents at Furlong Close have is that for people who have lived for such a long time at Furlong Close, a move would not be in their best interests, not enable them to live their best lives and importantly, many of the residents have said that they don't want to move. It's these voices we need to listen to and ensure they are amplified. People like the chap I spoke to yesterday who has been going to Furlong Close every week for the last 22 years. He told me that he is very sad at the moment because he misses going to Rowde. He misses his friends, he misses the animals he helps look after, he misses the garden he helps grow things in, he misses the staff who he works alongside in the workshops and outside and in the kitchen, he misses playing skittles at the pub and going to the Rowdey Cow, and he misses seeing people from Rowde when he is out and about in the village. He doesn't understand why that's all been taken away from him.

We owe it to the residents of Furlong Close and those who use the day service to make sure that their voices are heard. To those who need to listen, let me be clear, this starts with the decision to close Furlong Close being withdrawn so that a proper dialogue can begin.

OFFICIAL HFT STATEMENT (UPDATE)

Dear Alan (27th November 2020),

I hope that you are well. I wanted to inform you of an important update regarding the closure of Hft's Rowde Service. All people supported and Rowde and their families were informed of this news yesterday. I appreciate that this impacts the information that we previously sent over to

you on 23 November, however, in the case that you are still in a position to amend content for the newsletter, I am providing some updated wording below:

As you may already know, in October Hft announced that we, in conjunction with Wiltshire Council, have taken the decision to close the service at Furlong Close. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on face to face meetings, we held phone calls with all of the families of the people supported at Rowde to explain the news and what it would mean for them and their relatives. On site, our staff team sat down individually with all of the people at Rowde to talk through the news with them, with many relatives joining these conversations virtually.

Wiltshire Council and other local authorities are responsible for running assessments with the people living at Rowde and their families over the coming months to identify appropriate future support for each person. Everyone affected by the decision will be consulted and have the opportunity to have their voice heard during this process, and there is a very strong set of rules which the Council will have to follow to make sure the right outcomes are achieved for the people at Rowde. These assessments will take place over a number of sessions and are being organised by friendship groups to maximise the chance that people will be able to live with their friends locally in future.

Due to the impacts second wave of the pandemic, on 26 November Wiltshire Council proposed that we review the original planned closure date of June 2021, and Hft is in agreement with this decision. However, our long term intention is not to continue running a campus style service at the site.

The Hft staff team has been working very closely with the people at Rowde over the past month and have been encouraging people to talk about what they would like their future homes to be like, including who they would like to live with and which areas they might like. Many of the people we support are excited about the opportunity to have their own house for the first time and have already started planning what they would like their new home to be like – we've found that one of the important things for people is having an en-suite in future rather than shared bathrooms, as well as having the chance to decorate their own rooms. We've also been helping people explore what sorts of things might be able available to them within the community with many being excited at the prospect of shops, cafes, activities, and for some, the potential for work opportunities.

Our weekly Voices to be Heard sessions with families are focussed on the assessment process, with feedback being shared with the management team to ensure that the people at Rowde are fully involved in planning for the future. The Hft Family Carer Support Service

(FCSS) remains available for relatives who would like extra support through this time.

We are continuing to support the people at Rowde through the pandemic and have purchased tablet devices to help people stay in touch with their loved ones remotely. From the feedback we've received, people are enjoying using the staying connected to family and friends via video calls. We are also continuing to work closely under guidance from Wiltshire Council regarding family visits and are very pleased to have been able to put clear Covid-19 risk assessments in place to allow window and garden visits, as well as walks with family members.

We know that this is a sensitive time for all those involved and we will continue to do our utmost to support Wiltshire Council and other local authorities as they run assessments with the people at Rowde.

Hft Enquiries

UPDATE FROM CLLR CUTHBERT

(28th November 2020)

I am pleased that Wiltshire Council and Hft have agreed to review the planned closure date of Furlong Close. This is a good start and shows a willingness from both organisations to listen. Hft have now said the "long term intention is not to continue running a campus style service at the site". This means that there is no reason why residential care and support can't continue certainly in the medium term, which I know will be an enormous relief to those people who have been so upset about being told they were having to leave their homes. Whilst Hft doesn't want to run the service at the site in the long term, maybe an alternative provider will want to and the site could be let to whoever Wiltshire Council commissions services from. This would mean that residents who need and want to stay at Furlong Close can do so. It isn't clear what "long term" actually means and I am sure this will be clarified quickly. I hope that the decision to close Furlong Close is now withdrawn rather than the matter kicked into the long grass until later next year. Given the announcement about the closure being reviewed I see no reason why the day service can't now re-open with the necessary adjustments in place so that it is Covid-secure and that people can get back to activities, support and friendships they have missed so much.

Kind regards, Anna

REPLY TO CLOSURE OF FURLONG CLOSE

Dear Alan and Suzan,

I refer to the "latest update" from Hft on the closure of Furlong Close, which you have provided to me for comment from the families' perspective.

I am sorry to report that the rosy picture which Hft tries to portray in its update of a caring organisation helping the 34 residents of Furlong Close to move forward into sunlit uplands is completely at odds with the experiences of the 18 local families which have so far joined our Group of supporters.

The sad fact is that the residents of Furlong Close suffer from a range of serious learning disabilities, including Down's syndrome, autism and epilepsy. This means that they have difficulty understanding and retaining new or complex information, weighing up options and making decisions. It is because they suffer from these disabilities that they cannot live independently and need the support of their families and carers.

It is apparent from Ms Bagley's update that Hft has spent the past month putting before these vulnerable people the prospect of living in a newly decorated house, with their friends, in a location of their choosing, overflowing with shops, cafes, activities and work opportunities. No wonder some of them are said to be "excited". Those discussions would appear to have taken place in the absence of a family member able to ask the hard questions, look out for the interests of their relative and make sure that unrealistic expectations are not being created. This should not be happening.

To the families, this description of the supposed "excitement" about the closure of Furlong Close is not heartening, but tragic. These families have spent their lives doing their very best to ensure that their son or daughter, brother or sister, has been able to realise their full potential and live a safe, happy and stimulating life. For decades, they have carefully reviewed with their relative and his or her social workers, general practitioner and treating psychiatrist, what living arrangements for their relative would best achieve that goal.

The option for their family members to move out of Furlong Close into a smaller, shared house somewhere else is not new; it has been carefully considered many times by the families over the years, in discussions with their relative and drawing on their intimate knowledge of their needs. It has been consistently rejected in favour of them remaining at Furlong Close.

For Hft to now suggest that by closing Furlong Close, it is opening up new, exciting and more beneficial options for the residents, which have somehow been ignored by their families until now, is not correct and is frankly offensive.

The sad fact of the matter is that the decision to close Furlong Close is devastating for the futures of most, if not all, of the residents, who have lived there for many years; not because they had no other options, but because that was their choice. It is devastating because:

Many of them have lived at Furlong Close for decades and consider it their home for life. A number are now in their 50s and 60s. They do not want to abandon the life they know and start again and they are ill-equipped to do so;

Furlong Close provides them with a close, happy and caring community, among hard-won friends, much-loved carers and the people of the village of Rowde. Many of your readers will have seen for themselves how much happiness is generated for the residents and day-care users of Furlong Close by its many community activities; e.g. the Christmas Bazaar, the annual music festival, social functions and fundraising events. Its residents tend the gardens and look after the sheep, goats and hens. They shop in Rowde, go to Church there and eat out in its pubs and cafes. Many have had part-time work there. They walk Rowde's familiar streets in safety and see people around them that they know well. How will this compare to life in a small share house in Trowbridge?

Contrary to the picture painted by Hft, the families in our Group have overwhelmingly found that their relatives are not "excited" at the prospect of leaving their long-term home and moving to an uncertain future. On the contrary, those who understand what is happening are anxious, depressed and frightened. I have asked family members to comment on the suggestion that their relative is "excited" about the move. Their responses are telling; among them:

"Resident is frightened and miserable about what is going to happen to him. He calls me several times a day seeking reassurance that he is not going to 'lose his home'."

"Resident's reaction to the announcement has been complete shock and disbelief. She is depressed and fearful."

"Resident's psychiatrist says that it is likely that he will struggle to adapt to a new home and may suffer from isolation and depression, anxiety and resistance to care."

"Resident was shocked to hear that his home for the last 20 years was being taken away from him and his mental health is suffering because of it."

"Resident is excited because she has been told that so many opportunities await her. This has been entirely the wrong approach and is misleading the residents, who cannot make an informed decision on their own."

This decision, which was taken without any consultation with the residents or their families, is a human tragedy. Hft's attempt to portray it as a great "opportunity" for the residents does it no credit.

Kind regards, Mark Steele

FLAWED UTOPIA?

Many of the residents of the Hft complex have lived there for 20 years or more and have made close friends.

In addition to the 33 residents a number of people use Hft for day care. These include a 40 year old man from Devizes who has Downs Syndrome. His father Brian said: "It's a tragedy."

Emma Bagley, Hft's divisional director, admitted news of the closures had caused deep upset to

some residents and families. She said the large site would eventually be sold by the charity.

Mr Minter and his wife Sylvia said their son has been depressed since day care at the centre stopped in March because of coronavirus restrictions and have now been told it will never re-open.

As yet they have no idea if an alternative day place will be provided. Mr Minter said: "My son is recovering from surgery and has become very depressed and developed an eating disorder where he's lost a huge amount of weight.

"He needed to get back and meet friends and staff, some of which he has known over 20 years." I challenged Hft to open day services at the start of last week and operate safe distancing policies which are now standard in schools including Rowdeford School nearby which has younger people attending with the same challenging conditions most have at Hft. Now we know why."

Mr Minter said he was highlighting the issues not just for the sake of his own son but all those affected.

He said: "This isn't about us. This is about the closure of a wonderful community. Wonderful staff have left who organised a float to travel for the Devizes Carnival, the Christmas lantern parade. All sadly gone and before COVID 19."



Brian and Sylvia with their son

Brian Minter writes:

"Who are these people "excited" about this and looking forward to visiting shops and cafes locally? Employment even?

Can we examine this concept of independence? How this will work in practice? If there are multiple people living in this new home, how many are able to leave independently and do their own thing? You'll know better than me? If they need supervision, how does it work if someone wishes to go out to the shops, while others do not, or wish to do something different or even stay behind? Surely, with a single carer, they all have to do the same thing or nothing? In Furlong Close, economy of scale and redundancy, plus facilities there, enabled multiple choice? Am I missing something? If I am can someone please explain? This sounds like a flawed utopia?"

Brian Minter

FINAL THOUGHTS BY A RELATIVE

1) The Hft statement highlights residents as excited to have their own house, but this will not be the case; they will be moving into a room, with ensuite, in a shared house. I believe (not 100%) ensuite is now law, and could be facilitated at Hft Furlong Close? My sister was excited when told she won't be leaving in June.

2) The residents have always been allowed to decorate their rooms/studio flats with pictures and accessories.

3) I have been advised there was only one bungalow meeting, in Hawthorn where the residents were asked to think about what they would like in regards to the future. This may have been individually, but that it was at a time when the residents were all very upset upon receipt of the news.

And I would like very much to have been invited to virtual meetings with my relative, but the bungalow has very limited internet access so online meeting temperamental to impossible.

Meaning, did the 'very close' work with residents and / or virtual engagement with families occur? It may be so, I don't want to be unjust, but haven't received this feedback.

4) The residents have always had access to shops, Devizes carnival, cafes etc. in the community. The move will not enable this.

5) just in case activities ceased in March 2020, due to COVID 19 restrictions, with occasional bungalow games mornings / afternoons occurring in the summer. Also the O and E /activities staff ceased working in this capacity, completely on the day we received the phone call and staff were advised of Furlong Close's closure, i.e. Oct 20. I thought voices to be heard also reduced but perhaps it carried on online as before it's a separate thing?

6) lastly I think the work placement wording is misleading. The government has assessed the residents for their capability to work, on more than one occasion and in each case they were understandably found unable. Please note, were this not the case, and they were able to work they would have lost not only their right to the benefits they receive but also possibly right to live in a residential care home such as Furlong Close?

That said I believe residents volunteer for short periods with private or Hft provided key workers. All created due to the residents or key workers long standing relationship with the community.

Best wishes, Natasha Parris

Wiltshire Mind



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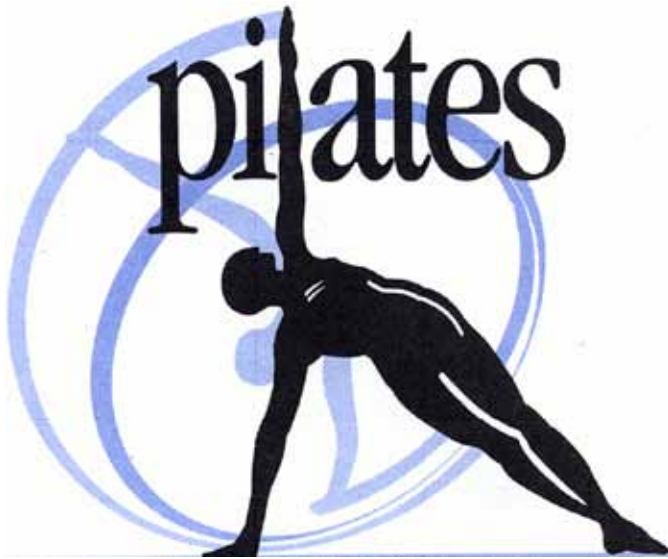
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The Rowde village News is independent of political parties, private interests and government. Our policy is to provide readers with a complete, fair, accurate and balanced news and information service.

Although we are a voluntary run, nonprofit making publication we still do our best to adhere to the Press Complaints Commission's Code of Practice. While we try hard to avoid mistakes, some errors can occur during the part time and hectic process of producing one of Wiltshire's largest and most regarded village magazines (apparently, from feedback received over recent years).

Our policy is to correct errors of fact as soon as possible and, where appropriate, apologise. If you find an error of concern, please contact the editor (contact details on page 3).

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Alan Watters, Editor

ROWDE MEMORIES



Photo sent in by David White

Rowde Miniature Rifle League team circa 1924

(Were they based at the George & Dragon?)

Back row: Fred Amor, Jack Watts, Bill Carter, Rev. Wright, Sidney Webb, Phil Hurn, ? Dalley.

Front row: Bert Underwood, Bert Dalley, Charlie ferris, George Oatley, Reg Mantell, Dave Parry.

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LETTERS

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE



Dear Alan & Suzi,

I am the local organiser for Playlist for Life and wondered if you could help promote the following; Free webinars to help share the power of music for people living with dementia

Community groups in the area are being encouraged to help bring the power of personal music to help those living dementia by setting up a Playlist for Life Help Point. A Help Point is a place where people can get information about creating and using a personal playlist to help someone living with dementia.

Sign-up to be a Help Point and get access to our free webinar on how to share the power of personal music in your community. You'll also receive free materials to distribute to people in your community.



Sign up at www.playlistforlife.org.uk/apply-help-point/ or get in touch with Surrinder Bains, Local Organiser for Bath: surrinder@playlistforlife.org.uk 07712273949.

Kind regards, Surrinder

A BIG THANK YOU

Morning Alan,

Can I say a big thank you for all the help and support to every one in Rowde that sent me flowers and cards and donated to Dorothy House when I lost Keith in September to cancer, every one was so supportive which meant a great deal to me.

SINCERE THANKS

I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone for all the cards and flowers I received when Franco passed away last month and all the kindness shown to me and



Franco Volpi

my family. Words cannot say how much we appreciated it.

I would also like to thank the Parish Council for allowing Franco's Bench to be placed on the allotment and to Rebekah Jeffries in particular for all her help. Also a big thank you to Geoff Edwards for his hard work transporting and securing the bench for us.

Thank you all once again

Jean Volpi

THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HFT ROWDE

Dear Alan (26th November 2020)

Thank you for giving the families and supporters of the people of the Hft Rowde site the opportunity to respond to Hft Divisional Director's latest update. Such a shame that Hft senior management didn't give us similar consideration before they made the decision to close the site.

BACKGROUND

The announcement to close has been made without the courtesy of any prior discussion or consultation with residents, service users or families. Also the timing of the announcement in the middle of the COVID pandemic, makes proper safe meaningful meetings to discuss the best possible options for our people impossible, without breaking lockdown rules and putting people's lives at risk. It is important to note that the closure has been announced on the basis of giving our people more independence, choice and control over their lives, with better outcomes. Both Wiltshire Council and Hft have since stated that funding is not the reason for closure.

LETTERS (cont'd)

For nearly 30 years Hft Rowde has been chosen by people with learning disabilities to provide residential, or supported living, together with the option of day occupation services. Our son has lived, made friends and enjoyed the site facilities for 22 years.

Hft Rowde is a pleasant village community, consisting of four well designed residential detached bungalows with supported living flats attached and three supported living bungalows. A central hall is used for social events, meetings and hired out for use by the village of Rowde and others. Two kitchen workshops are used to make produce for sale in local farm shops, village fetes etc. and meals for the day users. Other rooms are used for day occupation workshops including drama, "voices to be heard meetings" and various crafts etc. There is a horticulture workshop, consisting of raised beds, poly-tunnels, and chickens are kept on site. There is an orchard and sheep are kept in the two adjacent fields owned by the site and the users enjoy helping with this. Hft Rowde people have been involved in the distribution of the Rowde village magazine. Service users have also been hired to cut the grass in the Rowde village churchyard. These facilities are enjoyed by the residents and other day service users which give them a purpose to life.

The village church is attended by some residents. There are two pub / restaurants in the village, one with a skittle alley and two cafes nearby, all used by the residents. One of the cafes was once successfully run by CARE Rowde people. The owners then decided to run it themselves. Helped by Hft, some Rowde residents have had success in finding jobs in line with their abilities in Rowde village, nearby Bromham village and the town of Devizes. Individual bungalow care staff are exceptionally good at encouraging residents to achieve their best in line with their ability. Residents have a happy peaceful and safe environment in which to live and socialise in with their friends and the site is well accepted by the village, some of whom volunteer to help on site and are regular supporters of Hft Rowde fundraising events.

RESPONSE TO HFT DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR'S LATEST UPDATE

Hft indicates that the closure was a difficult decision and COVID restrictions prevented face to face meetings: so why have they chosen to make this important life changing decision about the lives of the vulnerable people of Rowde, without prior consultation with the people affected and in the middle of a pandemic preventing proper meetings, without putting people's lives at risk?

Hft are proposing running assessments with the people living at Rowde and their families over the coming months to identify what sort of future home and support would be most suitable for each person. Are the Hft senior management not aware

of the "Annual Assessment of Care and Support Needs" with Wiltshire Council social services, which goes into life details to assess need. In our son's case this has consistently concluded that the services from Hft Rowde continues to be successful and appropriate for his needs. Over the years, our son has been aware of the option of supported living but has been adamant that he would not like that. His support workers Wiltshire Council social worker and family have constantly agreed with his choice and that supported living would not be appropriate for him. So why are Hft proposing running more assessments with the people living at Rowde and their families over the coming months to identify what sort of future home and support would be most suitable for each person, when the answer is already known? This is a complete waste of taxpayer's money.

The comment that "Many of the people we support are 'excited' about the opportunity to have their own house for the first time and have already started planning what they would like their new home to be like" and "decorate their own rooms" are in our view quite ridiculous. Our son is certainly not excited and we are not aware of anyone else who is. All residents have their own room which they can arrange and have decorated to their choice. Surely Hft senior management are aware that by the nature of our peoples disability, they can be persuaded to be excited about any proposal if asked in a certain way, avoiding the down side? Our son considers the other residents of his bungalow to be his second family.

Reference is also made to "ensure that the people at Rowde are fully involved in planning for the future". Hft are already proposing taking away their chosen options, so how can they justify that the people are fully involved in planning for the future? These are the things our son would miss if Rowde site was closed. He would miss; social contact with his friends; the safe and peaceful facilities of the site; the wonderful carers who support him; day occupation services including helping in the site kitchen, drama productions, voices to heard group, craft activities etc.; being in familiar surroundings; social functions in Marsh Hall; weekly trips to the Gateway club with his friends; the annual site music festival; the Christmas Bazaar; helping with fundraising events; birthday parties of residents; discos; his annual holidays with his friend and carers and he would also miss the other residents of Rowde village who he has got to know through his daily walks which have become part of his life.

The reference to "Covid-19 risk assessments in place to allow window and garden visits, as well as walks with family members." is perfectly true but of no relevance to the proposed site closure process, which would risk lives if proper meetings were held and viewing any proposed property safely would be impossible. Our son's bungalow care team have all put in a lot of additional effort during lockdown to keep the bungalow residents safe and happy. The

LETTERS (cont'd)

lockdown has been a challenging time for us all, but for people with learning disabilities it is more difficult for them to understand why their normal activities are no longer available to them. The care team have with kindness, consideration and caring, helped the residents create a structured day within the bungalow and made every effort to keep them safe and happy. They have also helped to maintain residents safety by confining them to their own bungalow residents and regular care team and ensuring that agency carers are not required by working additional shifts.

CONCLUSION

It is our view that the proposed closure is cruel, inhumane, discriminatory and limits the choice of living environments for people with learning disabilities. The term "campus site" is used to describe the Rowde site model which in our view, is not appropriate. Everyone has the right to choose how and where they live. People in their latter years are increasingly choosing retirement villages to live in. Some people choose to live in villages and others in towns or cities. Personal choices should be available to all, including people with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely, John & Dianne

DEVASTATING PROPOSED CLOSURE OF FURLONG CLOSE

Dear Alan and Suzan (24th November 2020),

My relative lives, with 33 other vulnerable residents, at the Hft centre for people with learning disabilities, at Furlong Close. I am writing to ask for the help of the people of Rowde to stop an unfolding tragedy.

On 13 October 2020, the staff, residents and day-care users at Furlong Close, and their families, were informed by Hft that it and Wiltshire Council had jointly decided that the facility will close by June 2021 and that steps are to be taken immediately to begin the process of breaking up the Furlong Close community and relocating its residents somewhere else. The day-care facilities provided at Furlong Close, which have been suspended during the pandemic, will not re-open.

This terrible news came completely out-of-the-blue. There was no prior consultation with the families by Hft or the Council. The residents of Furlong Close are among society's most vulnerable people. Many of them have lived there for 20 years or more and they consider Furlong Close, and the village of Rowde, as their home. The announcement that it is to close and that they have to move has been world-shattering for them.

Why then, is this happening? Hft and Wiltshire Council have both said publicly that the decision is not being driven by financial considerations and that Furlong Close is being shut down "in the best interests of the residents" (with the land and buildings to be sold off for development).

This is an absurd justification. Furlong Close was inspected by the Care Quality Commission in April this year. While some minor areas were identified

for improvement, the overwhelming conclusion of the report was that Furlong Close provides its residents with a high standard of care, with staff who are "kind, caring and professional" and residents being accommodated in a "homely atmosphere", in which "people care about each other".

To give some feeling for the quality of life provided to its residents by Furlong Close, I can do no better than quote from an email sent to me by the family of one of the residents, who has lived there for 22 years, describing what he would miss at Furlong Close if it closes:

"He will miss social contact with his friends; the safe and peaceful facilities of the site; the wonderful carers who support him; day occupation services, including helping in the kitchen, drama productions, 'voices to be heard' group; craft activities etc.; being in familiar surroundings; social functions in Marsh Hall; weekly trips to the Gateway Club with his friends; the annual site music festival; the Christmas Bazaar; helping with fundraising events; birthday parties and discos and the other residents of Rowde Village who he has got to know through his daily walks."

For Hft and the Council to have decided for themselves that these vulnerable people would be "better off" being forced to leave the place which has been their home for many years and moved on to an uncertain future, is just wrong. To do this without even consulting the residents and their families is appalling. To do it in the middle of the worst pandemic in 100 years, when the residents are isolated from the emotional support of their families, is not just appalling, but unnecessary, unfair and cruel.

I have personally communicated with the families of many of the other residents and day-care users. All of them report that their relative is very happy at Furlong Close and is devastated by the announcement, which has left them anxious, confused and frightened. In leaving Furlong Close they will leave behind everything which is now familiar and happy for them, including long-term friendships and being part of a loving community, supported by a team of much-loved and dedicated carers.

One family, for instance, has told me that, when their relative (who is 63 and has lived at Furlong Close for 27 years) was told of the closure, he was so distressed that he shut himself in his room for some time and wouldn't speak to anyone. His psychiatrist has said that he will struggle to adapt to a new home away from his friends and happy memories at Furlong Close and is at real risk of this traumatic move leading to isolation and depression, anxiety and resistance to care.

My own relative, who is 65 and has lived at Furlong Close for 17 years, telephones his 95 year old mother several times a day, anxious about "losing his home". Over and over again, he asks who will help him, where he will live and whether he will be able to see his friends. His mother is losing sleep and her own health is suffering.

The distress of both these men is shared by the relatives of all of the other families I have spoken

LETTERS (cont'd)

to. All of those families are desperately concerned about the misery which is being inflicted on this group of vulnerable people by the proposed closure. Since 13 October, numerous letters have been written to HFT by the families of the residents and day-care users, begging them to reconsider this inexplicable decision. None has received a single reply.

The families of the residents are working hard to try to have the decision by Hft and Wiltshire Council reversed. A petition at <https://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde> has so far gathered over 2,000 signatures.

The MP for Devizes, Danny Kruger and the local Councillor for Rowde, Anna Cuthbert, have responded to the families' pleas for assistance and are pressing the Council and Hft for answers. The families are very grateful for their support.

If people want to help, can they please sign the petition and write to Hft at RowdeFamilies@hft.org.uk and to the Leader of Wiltshire Council at Philip.Whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk and register their support.

Many thanks, Mark Steele

WITHDRAW THE DECISION TO CLOSE FURLONG CLOSE!

The Editors RVN (29th November 2020),

I am writing on behalf of my relative who is 65 and has been a resident of Furlong Close for 17 years. I am also writing on behalf of his mother, Audrey.

Hft's "update" essentially makes two claims in defence of its decision to close Furlong Close:

First, that evicting the residents from their homes at Furlong Close is not a bad thing, because they will have an "exciting opportunity" to live elsewhere. This is as transparently patronising as the boss who tells you that losing your job of 30 years is an "exciting opportunity" to find a new career; and

Secondly, that everyone affected by the decision will be thoroughly "consulted" and "have their voice heard". It is an empty sort of "consultation", however, which only occurs after the decision has been made and when Hft's update makes it clear that the decision will not be changed.

I am sorry to report that the rosy picture which Hft seeks to convey in its "update" of it and Wiltshire Council earnestly consulting with everyone and then helping the 34 residents of Furlong Close to move forward into sunlit uplands is completely at odds with the experiences of the almost 20 families which have so far joined our Group of supporters. In fact:

There has been no consultation whatsoever to date, and there cannot be any meaningful consultation unless the decision to close Furlong Close is first withdrawn;

The residents are not "excited" by having to leave their longstanding homes. Their families overwhelmingly report that those of them who understand what is going on are anxious, depressed and frightened.

The sad fact is that the residents of Furlong Close suffer

from a range of serious learning disabilities, including Down's syndrome, autism and epilepsy. This means that they have difficulty understanding and retaining new or complex information, weighing up options and making decisions. It is because they suffer from these disabilities that they cannot live independently and need the support of their families and carers.

Hft's "update" in seeking to justify its decision to close Furlong Close, proudly reports that it has spent the past month putting before these vulnerable people the prospect of living in a newly decorated house, with their chosen friends, in a location of their choosing, overflowing with shops, cafes, activities and work opportunities. No wonder some of them are said to be "excited". What is clear, however, is that those discussions have taken place without a family member being present to look out for the interests of their relative, ask the hard question and make sure that unrealistic expectations are not being created. In fact, this rosy picture of life after Furlong Close is a cruel mirage.

To the families, Hft's description of the supposed "excitement" about the closure of Furlong Close is not heartening, but tragic. These families have spent their lives doing their very best to ensure that their son or daughter, brother or sister, has been able to realise their full potential and live a safe, happy and stimulating life. For decades, they have carefully reviewed with their relative and his or her social workers, GP and treating psychiatrist, what living arrangements for their relative would best achieve that goal.

The option for their family members to move out of Furlong Close into a smaller, shared house somewhere else is not new; it has been carefully considered many times by the families and residents over the years and, for good reasons, has been consistently rejected in favour of living at Furlong Close. For Hft to now suggest that by closing Furlong Close, it is opening up new and "exciting" options for the residents, which have somehow been overlooked by their families until now, is frankly offensive.

If Furlong Close is closed, it will be devastating for its residents:

Many of them have lived at Furlong Close for decades and considered it their home for life. A number are in their 50s and 60s. They do not want to be forced to abandon the life they know and start again in a strange place, and they are ill-equipped to do so;

Furlong Close provides them with a happy and caring community, among hard-won friends, much-loved carers and the people of the village of Rowde. Many of your readers will have seen for themselves how much joy is generated for the residents and day-care users of Furlong Close by its many community activities; e.g. the Christmas Bazaar, the annual music festival, social functions and fundraising events. Its residents have been able to tend the gardens and look after the sheep, goats and hens. They shop in Rowde, go to Church there and eat out in its pubs and cafes. Many have had part-time work there. They walk Rowde's familiar streets in safety and see people around them that they know well. How will this compare to life in a small share house in Trowbridge?

LETTERS (cont'd)

I have asked the families in our Group whether their relative is "excited" about the closure and their responses portray a rather different picture. For instance:

"Resident is frightened and miserable about what is going to happen to him. He calls me several times a day seeking reassurance that he is not going to 'lose his home'."

"Resident's reaction to the announcement has been complete shock and disbelief. She is depressed and fearful."

"Resident's psychiatrist says that it is likely that he will struggle to adapt to a new home and may suffer from isolation and depression, anxiety and resistance to care."

"Resident was shocked to hear that his home for the last 20 years was being taken away from him and his mental health is suffering because of it."

This decision was taken without any consultation and is a human tragedy. Hft's attempt to portray it as a model of consultation and a great "opportunity" for the residents is disgraceful.

Kind regards, Mark Steele

THE PLIGHT OF ROWDE RESIDENTS

As fellow residents of Rowde village, I would like to bring to your attention the plight of the special people living at Hft, Furlong Close.

In October the decision was announced, without any prior consultation, that this happy and secure home for very vulnerable people would close in June 2021.

Families of everyone involved are fighting for this decision to be reversed or, at the very least, for the process be halted for a minimum of twelve months to allow for full and proper consultation with all concerned.

The consequence of this cavalier announcement, should the plan go ahead, is that all the residents, some of whom have lived there for many years, will be re-housed to as yet unknown premises in smaller groups, thus forsaking their long term friendships and quite probably losing the continuity of excellent care that they receive from the staff they know and trust. Needless to say, the staff must undoubtedly be concerned about their future employment as well.

Meanwhile, many of the residents and day service users are seriously anxious and distressed, and it has also had a severe impact on family members, many of whom are elderly and already suffering ill health.

Just to compound the situation, the decision has been taken for the day service to remain permanently closed. The consequences of this are that those living off-site are being deprived of this valuable opportunity for training and occupation and are meanwhile becoming increasingly anxious and depressed.

It would appear that no allowances are being made for the restrictions imposed upon us all by the pandemic, and the process required would involve meetings that would be in contravention of Government guidelines, putting everyone at serious risk.

Pandemic aside, for such a decision to be

taken about the lives of such vulnerable people, particularly without consultation, is totally removed from the compassion and understanding that should be the duty and prime consideration of those entrusted with their care.

The wider community in Rowde have embraced the residents of Hft and have always included them in village life which they very much enjoy and appreciate. We would ask for all the support you can offer to call a halt to this dreadful and cruel decision.

Thank you, Trish

RESPONSES TO 'POSITIVE REASONS'

I have been through all the "positive" reasons for the move that Hft have put forward in writing, although there are not many.

1. Residents will have the opportunity, some of them for the first time in their lives, to choose where they live.

- Every resident has an annual review in which they are asked if they are happy where they are living, and undoubtedly if they were not they would have the chance to consider some alternative.

2. They would be able to choose the decorations in their bedroom.

- This is already possible at Rowde.

3. They could have an en-suite bathroom. Is this really a serious reason to undertake such a major process?

- In my daughter's case this could present a real danger. She needs to be accompanied to the bathroom for safety reasons. If she were to have one close to her bed she might be inclined to attempt to take herself, overbalance and crash onto one of a number of hard surfaces, with serious consequences.

4. Easy access to coffee shops, etc..

- At present some of the more independent residents are able to access Devizes town by bus, and for everyone else staff drive them in Hft cars. There are frequent trips out to RDA, swimming, shopping, cinema visits, coffee shops, etc., and for those who choose not to go along there are sufficient staff members to stay behind with them. This will not be a possibility for smaller numbers living together, as it will mean everyone has to go, or no-one can go. Irrespective of numbers, without a doubt Hft will not provide a car for each separate dwelling.

I have been told that there was an informal discussion in Alder with someone from Hft asking everyone who they would choose to have as a housemate, but no more than that.

When this ugly beast raised its head in October I wrote to my local Councillor requesting information about Wiltshire Council's decision. This was passed by him to the appropriate person and I have still to receive a reply. Since then I have written once again to my local Councillor on a more personal note.

Best wishes to all, Trish

STAND UP FOR OUR FELLOW RESIDENTS!

Sometimes you have to stand up for something which doesn't directly affect you simply because it is

LETTERS (cont'd)

fundamentally wrong and the people affected cannot stand up for themselves.

The proposed closure of the Hft campus at Furlong Close is just such a case.

This facility was made possible by a £1.25 million charitable donation in 1992 to provide a safe environment for vulnerable adults - until now!

Hft, without any apparent consultation with residents or their families, announced by letter on October 13th that they would be closing down by June 2021.

This is untenable. These vulnerable people have not been considered, they are happy and safe where they are, some have lived there since it opened and have all their friends there. If Hft think this is an acceptable way to treat members of our community, they are wrong. Hopefully, with a real community effort we can turn this decision around.

Please sign and share our petition on <https://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde>

Mandy Humphreys

WE THINK THE WORLD OF THEM

I was saddened to hear the news that Hft in Furlong Close, Rowde is to be closed. One of our valued members of staff is a resident at Hft and is a true asset to our team. He started off as a volunteer here and then for at least the last 5 years he has worked here every Tuesday and is a treasured and important member of our team and attends our work outings and meetings with us. One of his friends has recently started volunteering with us once a week and he too has fitted in fantastically and we all think the world of them both as do our regular customers.

They like their routine to be the same when they work here so it is important that they do the same jobs in the same order at the same time each week. I can not begin to imagine how the disruption of the routine in their lives of having to move from their homes and being split up from their friends and the people they know and trust would affect them. It would be devastating and hugely upsetting for them.

Many of the other residents regularly visit the Rowdey Cow Cafe and they would all be missed.

I have also attended events held at Furlong Close for the residents and they all seem so happy together. They are a 'family' and I can't believe that this could be taken away from them.

I hope that somehow their homes can be saved and that they can stay together here in Rowde.

Sue Thompson

Owner, Rowdey Cow Farm Cafe, Rowde

MY HEART GOES OUT

To whom it may concern:

I have been the pub Landlord of The George & Dragon in Rowde for 16 years now and I am very concerned to hear about the proposed closure of Hft Rowde. The residents of Hft

have become an integral part of the village, including their presence in Church, their help in the Village Shop and their contribution to keeping Rowde clean and tidy.

I find it hard to understand how the authorities can justify disrupting the lives of these lovely people who have called Rowde their home for the past 28 years. My heart also goes out to the amazing staff at Hft, some of whom live in our village and for whom it is their livelihood.

I very much hope further consideration will be given to the proposals.

Yours sincerely, Christopher (Chippy) Day

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

3x mens suits,

1x Pierre Cardin French Navy,

1x Principles evening suit Black,

1x Douglas light grey check.

I pair of Austin Reed navy trousers

All are in pure wool and in immaculate condition. It is such a waste and would be happy to be `named a price`.

FREE

Four white internal doors

WANTED

An `Ottoman` stool with lid in reasonable condition that I could refurbish/upholster if necessary.

Contact for all of the above is Jim on 07413 618023 or 07413 592935

FREE

Single Bed

Phone Sue on 01380 729488

LOCAL & Signed CHRISTMAS CARDS

£1 each Contact Alan 07886870053

watters.alan@gmail.com for list/images

How to advertise here for FREE:

If you live locally and have an item to sell then just contact Julie on juliebaker72@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07796690413, giving a brief description of the item, the amount you would like for it, and a contact telephone number (name optional). 'Wanted' ads also accepted. **Note - private advertisers only**

Please also let us know whether your item sells or not so that we can either remove it or keep it in for subsequent months

Sudoku (Difficult this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (Medium this month)

Insert the numbers 1 to 6 in the blank boxes so that each of the six separate areas of the puzzle and each line vertically and horizontally contains each number only once.

	4			1	
2					5
5		6			
				6	1
	5		4		
		2	1		

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

5	4	6	2	1	3
2	1	3	4	5	6
6	2	1	5	3	4
3	5	4	1	6	2
4	3	5	6	2	1
1	6	2	3	4	5

Quick Reference List of Advertisers

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Local Honey	25
Spotty Dog Farm Shop	35
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FUNERAL DIRECTORS ETC:	
Charles S Winchcombe & Son Ltd	17
M J Sly (Memorial Stonemasons)	20
John Stuart Funeral Services	38
D J Bewley Funeral Directors	41
TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:	
The PC Doctor (Ian Diddams)	4
Dolman Audio Visual (TV & Hi Fi repairs)	23
Spanish Tuition	25
Rudi Dalby - Power of Attorney	34
Original Pet & People Portraits by local artist	2
The Arts Society North Wiltshire	25
HOUSE MAINTENANCE:	
House Cleaning (Martina)	38
Painter & Decorator (Lawrence Plumb)	4
Plasterer (T O'Rourke)	23
Adams Renovations	40
Hestia Soft Furnishings	40
Building Contractors (Gaiger Brothers)	41
KFR (used furniture and white goods)	4
Cee Cee Painting & Decorating	4
Skip Hire	23
Gray & Amor Ltd, Property Renovation	11
APT Building and Electrical Contractors	2
GARDEN SERVICES:	
Tree Surgery - Trevor Hale	39
Tree Surgery - Tom Ashpole	25
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PUBS/RESTAURANTS/CAFES/B&Bs:	
The Rowdey Cow	7 & 22
George & Dragon	
HEALTH AND FITNESS:	
Clinical Sports & Remedial Massage	36
Active Plus for over 60s	34
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The Sycamore Centre	50
Pilates Classes	35
Cloud Nine Therapies	20
North Wessex Therapies	10
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Whistley Canine Country Club	36
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Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust	41
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Arts Together - Ageing Creatively	39
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<i>And please remember to mention where you saw the advert when you contact any of our advertisers! Ed</i>	

Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide

Listed below in alphabetical order are the various village organisations with contact names and telephone numbers

Allotments

Chris Stevens, Tel: 01380 738438

Bell Ringing

Contact Richard Heath
on 01380722379

Bingo

Mondays 8 pm in Village Hall

Charities

Rowdeford Charity Trust
trustees@rowdefordcharity.org.uk
www.rowdefordcharity.org.uk

Children's Art & Craft Classes

Hayley Mitchell 01225458679
hayleymitchell@thecreationstation.co.uk

Church Coordinator

Benefice Administrator:
Sarah Bowler 07876142112

Church Choir

Junior & Senior Choir Practice
Thursdays at 7.00 pm at
St Matthew's Church,
Gavin Moss 01380 729160 /
07771780016

Church Wardens

Michael Comwell Tel: 01380 722855
Gavin Moss Tel: 01380 729160

Doctor

For list of doctors contact the
Health Commission, Pans Lane,
Devizes, Tel: 0300 111 5717

Football

John Dalley, Tel: 727094

Footpaths

Ivan Whittaker-Axon 01380 728669

Garage

Slades of Devizes Tel: 727755

Hospitals

Devizes Community Hospital
Tel: 723511
Chippenham Community Hospital
Tel: 01249 447100
Trowbridge Community Hospital
Tel: 01225 711300

Ladies Club

Held in Village Hall on last Tuesday
in the month at 8 pm.
Mrs Di Buckland, Tel: 723049

Local Councils

Wiltshire Council
Tel: 0300 4560100
Devizes Town Council 722160

Neighbourhood Police Team

Jo Newbury Rural Beat Manager
PCSO Georgina Dodd
Ring 101
Google devizes npt to contact the
team on
www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk>devizes

Parish Council

Actg Chair - **Ivan Whittaker-Axon**
Tel: 01380 728669
Clerk - Mrs Rebekah Jeffries
Tel: 01380 501919

PC Repairs - 07833696328

ian@pcdoctor-devizes.co.uk

Playing Fields

For playing field bookings
please contact the Parish
Council Clerk on 01380 501919
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

Police

Devizes Police Tel: 101

Pubs/Restaurants

Cross Keys, Tel: 739567
George & Dragon, Tel: 723053
Rowdey Cow Cafe, Tel: 829666

Rifle Club

Practice Wednesdays, Matches
Thursdays in Village Hall.
Laurence Plumb, Tel: 728174

Roads/Pavements

'My Wiltshire App or 03004560100

Rowde Court Studios

Ann Swan, Tel: 01380 724788

Rowde Rainbows

Meet: Tuesdays 6.15 to 7.15pm
Contact: Emma Moffat 07780756411
Email: RowdeRainbows@gmail.com

Rowde Village News

Alan Watters, Tel: 01380 724788 or
07886870053 watters.alan@gmail.com

Rowde Village Hall

Enquiries - Tel: 07926952631
Bookings - 722497 (after 6 pm)

Rowde C of E Primary Academy

High Street, Rowde SN10 2ND
Head teacher 723991

Rowdeford Special School

Head Teacher
Tel: 850309

Hft (ex Self Unlimited)

Sharon Young, Tel: 721309

Sewing Circle

Ring Yvonne on 01380 728745

St Matthew's Flower Guild

Liz Ibbetson, Tel: 720630
Flowers for all occasions,
Weddings, Funerals &
Anniversaries

TAXI

R H Reeves 725072
J Dalley 07592 063789

Toddler Group

Village Hall Thursdays 9.30-11.30

Tuesday Afternoon Club (60s+)

Held in Village Hall first Tuesday in
the month at 2.30 pm.
Mrs D Ellis, Tel: 722655

Veterinary Surgeries

Estcourt - Tel: 723687
McQueens - Tel: 728505
The Paddock - Tel: 813202

Village Fete - Lisa Wills

Enquiries - Tel: 01380 730078

Website

www.rowdevillage.org
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com
or contact Rebekah 01380 720988

Youth Club

Iain Marr 07540017184

Foot Health Practitioner Beauty Therapist

Margaret Alison DipFH MAFHP MCFHP CIDESCO

Offering a wide range of treatments including
Nail cutting Callus and corns Fungal conditions
Facials Waxing and tinting

www.margarettreatments.co.uk

For appointments and enquiries
07921 295744 01380 698190

4 Market Place Devizes SN10 1HT
(entrance via Station road)

The Tranquil Moment HEALTH & BEAUTY CLINIC

Unit 2 Manor House Yard, Poulshot Road, POULSHOT,
DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE SN10 1RY

TELEPHONE: 01380 828297

www.tranquilmoment.co.uk

email: tranquilmoment@live.co.uk

Decleor facials,
microdermabrasion, massage,
sports massage and injury clinic,
shrinking Violet fat loss body wraps,
CND shellac and Brisa Lite
sculpting gel nails, CND manicure
and pedicure, Apilus electrolysis,
CACI non surgical face lift,
Decleor and CND stockist

Please call Jo at The Tranquil Moment Health and
Beauty Clinic to make an appointment

Call us or follow us on Facebook for up
to date offers and news

VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings

(All Wednesdays 7.30pm - venues to be confirmed)

9th December 2020

13th January 2021

10th February 2021

10th March 2021

21st April 2021

12th May 2021

9th June 2021

By zoom, until further notice otherwise, meetings
will be held in the Village Hall. Start time 7.30pm

The Board Room
Renelec House
46, New Park St,
Devizes

SN10 1DS
sycamorecentre.devizes@yahoo.co.uk
www.careconfidential.com/devizes

The
SYCAMORE
Centre 

07762 382913

A Pregnancy Choices Centre

LOCKDOWN HUMOUR



Third week in quarantine with my husband I decided to knit something for him



Stray Dog Association calls urgent meeting to figure out where all the humans have disappeared to?



Children's Colouring Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Tillie Mae, Age 5 from Devizes Road, Rowde who is the winner of the colouring competition in the October/November issue.

Tillie will be receiving art materials donated by Alan Watters from Rowde Court Studios.

(See this issue's Christmas-themed competition on page 21)

