

# Rowde Village News



February/March 2021

## Meet The Magazine Team for 2021



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Plus of course, around 25 additional volunteers who deliver your magazine to your door!

## RORY IS A TRUE HERO!



After drawing five 'free portraits for NHS Heroes' last year, I have now had the honour and privilege of drawing an amazing little boy from Devizes. He truly is a hero and this is his story:

Rory Holloran would have been five years old on 26th August 2020. He spent time in John Radcliffe Hospital Oxfordshire, GWH Swindon and his last months in Charlton Farm Children's Hospice in Bristol where he sadly passed shortly before his fifth birthday. He had wonderfully supportive NHS staff visiting daily. He amazingly fought his battle against Leukaemia so so bravely for two and a half years but in the end Rory lost his fight and passed due to many viruses and a massive breakdown of antibodies.

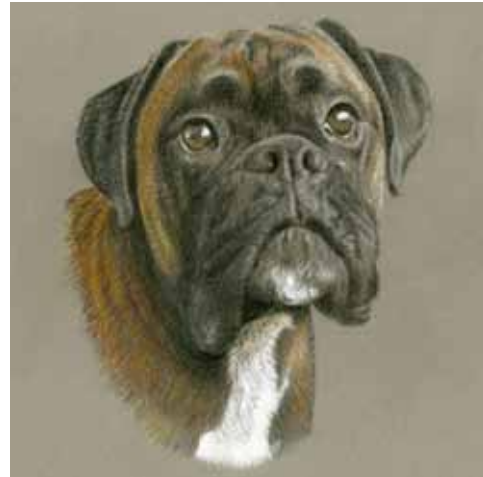
It would be wonderful if you could donate something, anything, to 'NHS Charities Together' in Rory's memory via the link below, thank you, Alan x

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AlanWatters1>

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

15th March, 15th May, 15th July,  
15th September, 15th November

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## Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Rowde Village News. I hope you are all coping with the latest lockdown due to the pandemic. Remember that 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 page 20.

Despite lockdown however, this is again a very full issue and I again make no apologies for the amount of space taken up with articles and letters related to the fight to save Furlong Close. I think it is important that everyone in the village has access to all the information available up to going to print.

We have had some really cold weather lately and readers have sent in an amazing total of around 100 wonderful photographs of Rowde in the snow. I have published as many as I can and they are featured on pages 26 to 29 as well as on the front cover and the inside back cover. So, many many thanks are given to the following photographers:

Adam Branson, Adrian Noakes, Alan Watters, Anna Paget, Ashleigh Hitchmough, Charlette-Louise Reeve, Christine Waite, Corrina Fisher, Donna Pope, Emily Miles, Gareth Waite, Geraldine Clisby White, Graham Stevens, Holly Drewett, James Del, Janet Crew, Jo Giles, Jo-Anne Ashby, Jon Gray, Josie Cerretelli, Julie Baker, Karen Whitbread Wadd, Kat Miller, Kelly Reeve, Lesley Heaven, Linda Collett, Lindy Cole, Louise Tovey, Lynne Jordan, Maggie Cerretelli, Mandy Humphreys, Mark Somerville, Pat Bryant, Paul Saunders, Poppy Wilkins, Racheal Fennell, Richard Few, Robyn Laney, Roger Wiltshire, Rory Sherman, Sally Bull, Sarah Rogers, Steph Peskett and Sue Thompson.

I hope you enjoy looking through them all.

So, until the next issue;

### ***Mind how you go and 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 wonderful photographs on the front cover and the inside back cover were taken in the snow by Mark Somerville. Thanks Mark, great shots!

Now everyone say "Ahhhhh" for the super photograph on the back cover sent in by Sue Thompson at the Rowdey Cow.

## 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*

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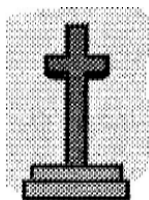
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## ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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.**

### BOOK REVIEW

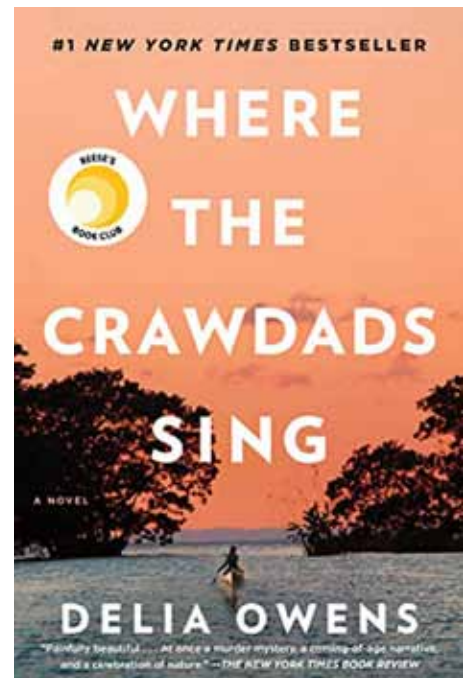
## ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** **by Delia Owens**

This first novel by naturalist Delia Owens gave our club members a chance to escape, in mind at least, from grey January skies to the warmth of the North Carolina marshlands. Owens draws on her vast scientific knowledge to create a vivid celebration of the beauty and diversity of the marsh habitat against which she sets a tale of human adversity in the face of neglect.

Though punctuated with moments of great sadness, it was agreed by all who had read it that this is a fabulous book, beautifully written and well worth any time invested in reading it, not least for the thrilling twist at the end!

Our members gave this a rating of 9/10.

**Anne Ferguson**



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# ROWDEY COW NEWS



There is not much to report for current news as we have been closed since New Year's Eve due to the Covid guidelines. However, the farm is still carrying on as normal and the work on the farm doesn't stop.

We reopened the cafe in December under the tier 2 restrictions after the November lockdown. It was lovely to be able to welcome customers back into our cafe. Weekends and the Christmas holidays were still quite busy as families and people in the same household were able to come in and enjoy the food, drinks and ice cream in the cafe. We then closed at the end of December as the whole country moved back into lockdown.

and it was lovely to enjoy a little bit of Christmas magic for the children from the safety of their cars.



The Rowdey Cow  
20 December · 🌐

Most surreal moment of the night! Santa can fix cars too!

Only one out of two of our planned Movie Nights in December went ahead due to the storm which hit on the Friday afternoon and night. The inflatable screens are not able to stand safely in gusty winds. Saturday appeared much less windy and we were confident that it would be fine, however, as people started arriving the technicians were struggling to get the screens up. After a very stressful period of time the screen rose triumphantly just in time and everything went to plan! The Children's Elf Showing enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas before the showing



**The Rowdey Cow**

Posted by Sue Thompson  
22 December at 09:14 · 🌐

Anyone worried about the disappearance of Reggie and friends so close to Christmas, we can reassure you they have just moved inside the stable barn temporarily in line with the bird flu regulations! 🦃



👍 🤔 🍷 101

8 comments 5 shares



The Spotty Dog Farm Shop has stayed open throughout as they are selling essential food items and also a food delivery service. They are also selling takeaway drinks and snacks while we are closed.

Most of the pubs and restaurants we supply have closed so ice cream production has ceased for the time being although we hope to start making some more soon when the orders start coming back in.



If the hospitality sector is still closed down when the weather gets nicer in the Spring we hope to open for takeaway drinks and ice cream like last time and maybe food too if the demand is there. The main concern is to keep everyone



safe in these more dangerous Winter months so we have chosen to close altogether for the short term and will look at takeaways in the Spring (and in the meantime the Spotty Dog Farm Shop is still open and providing hot drinks and snacks if you fancy a visit down here).



We hope you are all keeping safe and we hope to be able to see you soon.

**Sue x**



# COVID STORIES

## 'I was fighting for mine and my baby's life'

Karen Mannering is six months pregnant with her fourth child. The 39-year-old started struggling with a persistent cough and a fever during the second week of March, but hospital staff were wary of bringing her in. On day 11, that changed.

"I called 999 and my breathing sounded so bad an ambulance was at our house within minutes," explains Karen. "I was literally gasping for air so they put me on oxygen straight away."

Karen tested positive for Covid-19. She had pneumonia in both of her lungs and was isolated in a hospital room for a week.

"No one was allowed to come and see me," she says. "It was a very lonely, dark time. I was bed-bound for two or three days. I couldn't even go to the toilet. If they needed to change the bed sheets, they would have to turn me over. When I struggled to breathe, I would buzz for help and would have to wait for staff to get their protective equipment on before they could attend to me. I was constantly on the phone to my family to keep me calm. I was scared I was going to die and my family say they had prepared for the worst. I was fighting for every single breath. I was fighting for mine and my baby's life."

Karen says she will never forget the feeling of crisp, cold air on her face the day she left hospital.

"My husband and I drove home with our face masks on and the windows open," she says. "The breeze felt amazing. I suddenly appreciated the smallest of things."

Karen is still self-isolating at home, but in a room away from the rest of her family. She is getting stronger, but still has a dry cough which could last months.

She believes she could have contracted coronavirus at the beauty salon where she works, but she may never know for sure. She may also never know how her family seems to have escaped the virus.

## 'I just wanted someone to help me'

Jessie Clark knew she would be vulnerable if she contracted Covid-19 - she has chronic kidney disease and five years ago had a kidney removed. When the 26-year-old started coughing and becoming increasingly breathless she started to worry. Within days, she was struggling to walk.

"I also had a lot of pain in my ribs, back and abdomen," explains Jessie. "I felt like I had been beaten up."

Two days after Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the UK was going into lockdown, Jessie's fiance Tom drove her to A&E. They were quickly separated because of safety restrictions.

"I was scared to be alone, but I was so poorly I just wanted someone to help me," Jessie says. "I was given a green mask with a wired bit around the nose to keep it up. I was taken to a unit which seemed to be being used for Covid-19 patients. Social distancing was in place so we had bays separated by walls with a bed in each bay. I wasn't tested for Covid-19. My doctor told they 'couldn't swab everyone, but it

was safe to assume I had it'. He said the pain I was experiencing was the inflammation from my lungs and that I should keep self-isolating and taking painkillers. I have never had breathing issues before. It is scary not knowing if you are going to stop breathing or if what you are feeling is normal for the virus."

Jessie was in hospital for six hours. Tom waited for his fiancé in the car park, unsure what was happening. He is a key worker and the couple think he may be asymptomatic and accidentally gave Jessie the virus.

Five days after leaving hospital, Jessie still struggles to walk and sleeps up to 18 hours a day. She sometimes has coughing fits but can breathe more easily.

"I think some young people think they're invincible, but most are taking coronavirus seriously now," she said. "There has been a lot of information telling us this virus doesn't affect people my age, but it definitely does."

## 'I was within a whisper of a very dark place'

Stewart Boyle is almost certain he contracted coronavirus at one of his choir meetings.

"We were all social distancing when we met on the Thursday, but by Sunday a high number of people had come down with flu-like symptoms," he says.

Over the following 10 days, the 64-year-old's health declined. "It's quite subtle at first," he explains. "But then I would try to climb the stairs and be wheezing like an old man. Soon I didn't have the ability to exercise or move at all. The virus was attacking my lungs and I was losing the capacity to fight back."

Stewart's family called 111 and he was taken to hospital.

"It was like something out of a movie," he says. "I was wheeled into the 'red zone' and there were loads of tests being carried out and swabs being taken. They thought I had coronavirus so they upped my oxygen. There were a couple of hours where I was within a whisper of a very dark place and I thought, 'maybe my time is up'. But I wanted to live."

I could feel the battle in my lungs and it required all my reserves to get through it. The extra oxygen gave my lungs a break and gave me the added energy to push out the disease. The NHS staff were incredible, but all they can do is help you fight the virus. There's no vaccination or magical potion that can save you. It's about your own resilience."

Stewart left hospital recently and is now self-isolating at home. He has been drinking a lot of water to help his lungs and throat recover.

Meanwhile, his choir has performed a special song for him via Zoom.

"The song was about looking after me and holding me. It was stunning," he says. "I'm a long way off to getting my singing voice back. All I can do right now is croak."



# THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

## Better Days Ahead

Winter is still with us but the days are getting longer, bulbs are pushing up and the promise of better days ahead keeps us going, especially this year! In the hive, the bees are already getting ready for spring, gradually increasing the population of the colony - more workers mean more work, more work means more bees and more honey.

The beekeeper has few jobs with the bees at this time - just an occasional check to ensure the hive is secure from the elements and pests, still heavy with honey, and that the entrance is clear of debris and deceased bees.

The main dangers to the colony in winter are the odd disease which can spread more rapidly when the bees are cooped up in bad weather, pests such as mice and green woodpeckers and of course starvation. \* The hive can be protected against mice and woodpeckers but not much can be done about disease in winter. Starvation however can be avoided.



*Hive damaged by woodpeckers*

The bees walk a tightrope in late winter. They want to increase in numbers but stored food is declining, nothing is coming in and the rate of consumption is accelerating so the greatest risk of starvation is at the end of winter, as it was in the past for humans. Bees properly prepared for winter should need no extra feeding but sometime it happens. In warm weather bees can be fed sugar (plain old white sugar) in the form of a syrup and the bees process it into stores for the winter. But when the weather is cold the bees can't process syrup and so in an emergency situation they can be fed fondant which is basically powdered sugar made into a paste (very similar to the icing on iced buns). In fact, many beekeepers use commercially prepared icing as an emergency feed.

Beekeepers walk a similar tightrope. They must ensure the bees have enough to eat but also must ensure that sugar doesn't find its way into the



*Bees being fed syrup*

honey, which could happen with excessive feeding. The best bet is to ensure the bees have plenty of their own honey going into winter. In the war beekeepers were allowed an extra sugar ration as beekeeping was seen as valuable to the war effort. This sugar was dyed green to prevent it entering the black market. Apparently, it was noticeable that some wartime honey had a greenish tinge.

Next issue - the beekeeping season will be starting in earnest.

\* Thankfully we don't have bears, who can devastate a whole apiary in a few minutes. The bears are actually interested in the brood (the baby bees) which are full of protein rather than the honey. Few bee colonies survive the attack. Unsurprisingly bees hate bears and when defending against them, will go for the eyes, ears and paws where the fur is thinnest. Beekeepers are advised to wear light colours so they are not mistaken for a bear by the bees!



*Apiary attacked by Bears*

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OUR FOOTPATHS  
Need YOUR HELP....



You may have noticed that some of our footpaths in the village need some care and attention.

They are being used more and more now since the pandemic began.

It would be great if we could make all our paths useable and safe for everyone to enjoy.

We are looking to form a group of ready volunteers who have outdoor skills and the desire to help our community in a very practical way.

We have bridges to fix, stiles to re-instate, steps to add and hedges to cut back.

If any of the above appeals to you, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

at [rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com), tel: 01380 501919

*Thank you to the Wiltshire and Swindon Ramblers for the photograph and support, advice and encouragement.*

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# NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

*Co-operation Responsibility Happiness Resilience Respect Caring*

We are now known as Silverwood school – Rowde Campus, as we have started the amalgamation of the three schools into one (St. Nicholas, Rowdeford and Larkrise).

are home learning; this has been going great and we are really impressed with students engagement. Zoom calls are a great connection for them and a way to see the teachers and their friends on a daily basis.



With the country being in a third lockdown school is open to some students but most



We had 5 laptops donated by Priority IT in Westbury for students who do not have access to one at home. These were collected by our SENCO, Mrs Caslin who also gave a radio interview.

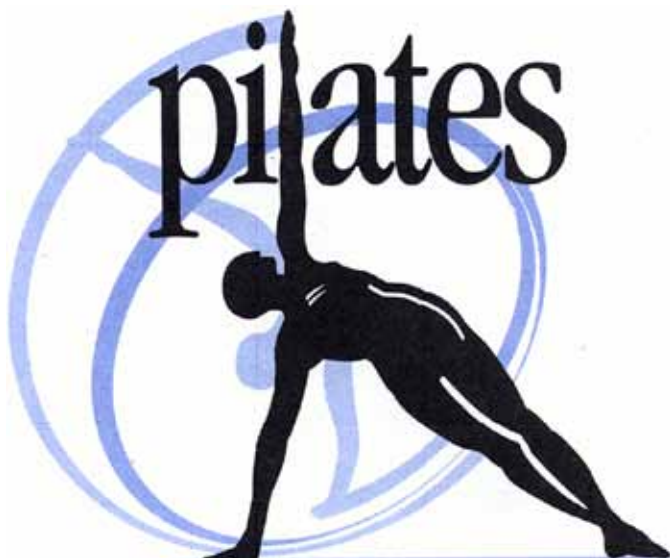
***Teresa Ollerhead***

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# NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

*Our bright start leads to their bright future*

It is probably fair to say that 2020 was a year that most of us would rather forget, and the latest lockdown has meant that 2021 has started off in very unusual circumstances too. The promise of vaccinations and an opening up of society are there, in the distance, but the havoc wrought by Covid-19 remains with us for now. Here at Rowde Academy Primary School, we are very much open for key workers and vulnerable pupils, and are doing everything we can to support parents who are Home-schooling.

A typical day for our home-schooled pupils means two live 'lessons' on Zoom, coupled with a set of instructions on tasks for the day and two recorded lessons to watch, all provided by the staff here and aligned with the new curriculum we put in place last year. We have provided laptops for eleven local families, and whilst none of this is ideal for children or parents, learning is continuing and pupils have daily opportunities to interact with their peers. The support from parents has been superb, and the staff and I are very grateful. I'm sure the children are too, even if it isn't always apparent!

We will emerge from all this, and there is a great deal to look forward to for the children attending Rowde. A recent visit by a Diocese advisor confirmed what we already knew – that the changes we have put in place mean that the school's Special Measures designation by Ofsted is no longer accurate and we are very much a school 'on the up'. We have a new, re-designed website which will tell you more about this.

There are plans being drawn up for new sporting facilities which can be accessed by the community, and a huge refit of our current IT systems coming very soon. Some of our pupils are becoming involved with local plans for a play area, whilst Year 6 have made a film remembering those from Rowde who lost their lives in the First World War which will soon be ready to share. Crucially, all those things that really make a school what it is – trips, events, community initiatives, Church links, celebrations and an 'open door' to our friends and neighbours – will recommence as soon as it is safe to do so. I can't wait!

Right now as I type this, twenty-two pupils are learning in the main hall, another nine are in the Reception classroom, and more than 90% of remaining pupils are learning at home and awaiting the afternoon Zoom call with their teachers. It certainly isn't school as I remember it, or the kind of education I have worked in for thirty years, but they are happy, safe and learning.



I can hear laughter from my office and the gentle hub-bub of curious children discovering new things. Let's hope, by the time I next write to you, that our school will be bustling with a full cohort of pupils, and that for them, lockdowns are just a fading memory.

**Jon Edy-Berry, Head Teacher**

**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](http://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 code 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 9th December 2020 and 13th January 2021 on zoom.

The Parish Council received presentations from the National Grid regarding the Visual Impact Project to drop twelve electricity pylons across Roundway Down underground; and also from Wiltshire Council regarding the proposed new development at Reed Place.

Wiltshire Council is ready to go to the Planning department with their plans to build ten new properties on land to the east of Reed Place, behind Rowde Primary School. These properties will be a mixture of social rent and affordable housing. If you wish to be considered for one of these properties, you must be on the housing list with Wiltshire Council.

The properties will be constructed off-site. This will minimise the amount of disruption to local residents. Wiltshire Council anticipate that there will be considerable disruption over a period of one week while the modular houses are delivered.

If there is a requirement for more large social housing, Wiltshire Council could arrange for a new Housing Needs survey in the next few years, which will ask the opinion again of every household in the village. This is the village's chance to say what housing they need and want. At that stage, Wiltshire Council could consider further housing.

## Council Tax – payments to Rowde

Rowde Parish Council has frozen its precept for 2021-2022!

There will be no increase in the amount paid towards the upkeep of Rowde by residents in their Council tax bill.

This will result in slightly smaller precept for the village than we received in 2020-21 due to a decrease in the tax base (£37,644.93).

It was noted by the Parish Council that 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone, especially financially. The 0% increase reflects the difficulties that have been caused by the pandemic

## Other news in Rowde...

Silverlands Play Area - refurbishment

Wiltshire Council has made money available to refurbish the Silverlands Play Area.

Cllr Laura Mayes has been fundamental in helping Rowde access these funds. Parish Council gave a huge thanks to Cllr Mayes for her help and support with this.

The Parish Council is looking for views from the local community, families and young people to gauge their views on what they would like to see in this area. If you have any suggestions, please contact Cllr Lisa Wills, 01380 730078, or by email at [rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com](mailto:rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com).

## Allotments

### Oak tree

The Parish Council has obtained a PICUS rest on the oak tree on the allotment site. There is a fruiting body of fungus at ground level and a further fungal bracket to the north west. It says that there is a large central cavity and the fungus can cause decay in the buttress roots from underground. This could potentially lead to uprooting.

The area underneath the tree has been cordoned off and the allotment holders who are affected by this have been notified.

Representatives of the Parish Council have also met with the Tree Officer at Wiltshire Council regarding the oak tree. It was discussed that the tree is near the end of its lifespan. It has considerable decay from two different types of fungi. A 50% reduction to the crown was initially discussed. However, this would not remove the safety issue for the allotment holders beneath the tree and also users of the playing field. It would mean that a third of the allotment site would be unusable. If the crown was reduced by 50%, the Parish Council would need to monitor the tree annually and possibly carry out further work in 3-5 years' time.

It has been recommended that the tree is pollarded to beneath the limb growth, reducing the tree by 80%. The tree would have no branches or limbs but could then remain in situ and will break down over the next twenty years and continue to be a habitat for wildlife.

The Parish Council voted on the proposal to pollard the tree (one Parish Councillor voted against the proposal). The Clerk was asked to arrange for the work to be carried out as quickly as possible.

## Rents

The Parish Council has agreed to increase the allotment rents from March 2021. A half plot will cost £20.00. A full plot will cost £40.00 per annum. The increased rents will cover the costs of running the allotments: water rates, green waste collection, repairs. The increase in rents will allow the allotment fund to increase so that the allotments become self-financing.

## Green waste collection

It was agreed that the Parish Council will hire a 1100ltr green waste bin for use by the allotment holders. It will be sited on the central path on boards, until a plot becomes available for it to be stored permanently. The cost will be £1.50 + VAT per week (when the bin is not emptied), then £16.98 + VAT per empty up to 80kg. If the weight exceeds 80kg the cost will be an extra 0.17p + VAT per extra kg. This charge will be taken out of allotment funds. All Parish Councillors were in agreement.

## Agreements

A revised agreement will be issued to allotment holders in March 2021. The basic rules have not changed. No bonfires or barbeques will be permitted on the site moving forward and changes have been made to the provision of sheds.

## Ditches

It was reported at the Parish Council meeting on 9th December that Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the drainage improvement works have been completed at Rowde Primary School. There is now a pond on the school site. It is not clear how this would improve local drainage issues. Wiltshire Council does not have a record of the previous drainage arrangement and so is unable to request that it is returned to its former condition.

## Footpaths & Highways Safety

Are you interested in forming a group to look at and repair some of the footpaths around the village? It has been noted that our footpaths are being used much more since the start of the pandemic and there are minor issues that need to be attended to. If you are interested and able to help, please contact the Clerk.

D Pullen has kindly agreed to talk with a local landowner about problems with footpath ROWD10. The Clerk has asked for the bin on the junction of Springfield Road (from the High Street end) to be emptied more regularly. It was agreed to purchase an additional bin for the area too to help alleviate the use by dog walkers.

Quotations for two new bins have been approved by the Parish Council. One to be sited on Marsh Lane near to Furlong Place (£340.71 + VAT & fittings). The second bin will replace the vandalised bin on the large playing field (£183.09 + VAT & fittings)

A highways safety mirror has been purchased and installed by the Parish Council on the corner of Close Lane with the High Street.

The Clerk has purchased some 40mph & 50mph bin stickers for those that need them around the village. If you are in a 40mph or 50mph area of the village and one like one of these stickers, please contact the Clerk (01380 501919, or email rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com).

It was previously reported that Wiltshire Council had made a Tree Preservation Order on the hedgerow that borders the permissive footpath with Buena Vista, opposite the Rowdey Cow entrance. This was incorrect. The preservation order was on an oak tree on land at Buena Vista, not a hedgerow.

## Neighbourhood Planning

Rowde Parish Council is represented on the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Planning Group. The parish has been asked to identify possible parcels of land for development. If you have land or know of land that could be developed, please contact the Clerk, or Cllr Pat Bryant. 01380 698567 or by email at: Rpcpatbryant@outlook.com

## Wiltshire Council update

### Coronavirus

Covid-19 infection rates have not plateaued in Wiltshire yet (as of 13/1/21). We are behind the curve with our neighbouring counties who were in a higher tier long before Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council is giving £1.1 million pounds to families who are struggling with IT for their children. This will be spent on laptops to facilitate home schooling and will be administered through local schools. If anyone who has children who need help with IT provision, please contact your local school in the first instance.

## Rowde Covid support group

The Rowde Covid support group is available to help residents in need during the lockdown. 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 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

## Railway Station, Devizes

Devizes Gateway is hosting a consultation on the proposed train stop at Lydeaway, near Devizes. Everyone is encouraged to share their views through the consultation.

It is available through: <https://devizes.org.uk/index.php/devizes-gateway/devizes-gateway-survey.html>

## Hft

Wiltshire Council has reported that they have had a number of meetings about HfT and that meetings have been taking place with the residents.

A new Chief Executive for HfT was appointed in December 2020.

## Finance Update

The Parish Council has received a further C.I.L payment from the Malthouse Farm development of £2,852.62.

Monthly invoices for November & December 2020 were as follows:

November invoices (total: £2,416.29)

- Admin costs: £1,415.28
- Grounds maintenance: £1001.01
- December invoices (total: £1, 870.78)
- Admin costs: £1,237.12
- Grounds maintenance: £597.25
- Speeding warning signs: £36.41

Parish Council income for November & December 2020

09/11/2020	Interest	£0.06
30/11/2020	Interest	£0.84
09/11/2020	Solar Farm community benefit	
Sandridge Solar		£116.09
09/12/2020	Interest	£0.06
31/12/2020	Interest	£0.36

## 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 Parish Council meetings.

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

## 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

## ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Wiltshire County Councillor deputising for Rowde

<b>Anna Cuthbert</b>	<b>Wiltshire Councillor</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Anna.cuthbert@wiltshire.gov.uk">Anna.cuthbert@wiltshire.gov.uk</a></b>	
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Tel No: 01380 861155 Email: [bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk)  
[www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk)



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## February/March Worship in Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane

All of our services are online at the moment, although we are also open in a limited way for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms.

Everyone is very welcome at all our services



Date/Time	Service
<b>Sunday 7 Feb</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>2nd before Lent</b> BCP Morning Prayer zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84167033264">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84167033264</a> Informal Worship zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899011474">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899011474</a> Orders of service available on A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 14</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Sunday before Lent</b> BCP Morning Prayer zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84167033264">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84167033264</a> Informal Worship zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899011474">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899011474</a> Orders of service available on A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Wednesday 17</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Services will be available on YouTube, see our Church YouTube Channel
<b>Sunday 21</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Lent 1</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 28</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Lent 2</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 7 March</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Lent 3</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 14</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 21</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Lent 15</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 28</b> 8.00 am 10.00 am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> BCP Morning Prayer on zoom Informal Worship on zoom For links and orders of service, see A Church Near You - Rowde
<b>Sunday 4 April</b>	<b>Easter Day</b> To be confirmed – please see posters on Church door, on our Facebook page and A Church Near You

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/>

## Occasional videos of Bible reading and prayers

– You Tube Recorded Services  
Churches of Rowde and Bromham  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEaEU1Oqi6iDABPgvyc1LQQ>  
Please check the Church notice board for further information

Or contact the Administrator:

Sarah Bowler  
[sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com)  
07876142112

## Open the Book

For more information, contact Fran Hall: 07989758412 or Sarah Bowler: 07876142112  
[sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com)

## Growing in Faith

Please contact Ruth Bray on 01380 859847 or [ruthbray@outlook.com](mailto:ruthbray@outlook.com)

## Mothers' Union

Please contact Carole Myer for details: 01380 850706 or [ed.myer@btinternet.com](mailto:ed.myer@btinternet.com)

## Church Cleaning

For more information contact Jane Moss on 01380 729160 [jmosscaudet@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:carolineculley1@outlook.com) or Revd Ruth for more details.

The details for zoom are available on A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690/>

## Flower Arranging

For further information please contact: Jane Sartin [j.ksartin@talktalk.net](mailto:j.ksartin@talktalk.net) or call 01380 727446

## Contact Details

### Rector:

Revd Ruth Schofield:  
07738 858909  
01380 850191  
[revrschofield@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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,

The largest gathering we had for worship at Christmas was on Christmas Eve. About 50 of us met in Rowde Churchyard, all socially distanced, to think about the nativity. We walked round the Church, and heard the nativity story, with two children really wonderfully playing the parts of Joseph and Mary. We sang Away in a Manger, and prayed together. I'm extremely grateful for the space we have around our church that made it possible to do this safely.

The other stars of the day were two donkeys, whose usual home is the Rowdey Cow. Their



owners very kindly brought them out to remind us of how difficult the journey would have been for the Holy family as they travelled from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem.

This year starts as we were last Easter, with our own travelling much more limited. We're advised to stay at home, unless we have to travel for work or other allowable reasons. And it's at times like these that we really appreciate all that we have on our doorstep. We live and work in a compassionate and welcoming village – Rowde is a wonderful community in a beautiful part of the country.

One example of that compassion has been the wonderful way in which the whole community has stepped up to support the residents of Furlong Close. At St Matthews we particularly value the people from HFT who are part of the church family, and would be devastated if they were moved away. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to sign the petition to support them:

[https://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde?utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=custom\\_url&recruited\\_by\\_id=e653cfc0-df22-0130-4d19-00221967ea1d](https://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=e653cfc0-df22-0130-4d19-00221967ea1d)

*In his love, Revd Ruth*



## **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](mailto:rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com) or  
[patabryant@live.co.uk](mailto:patabryant@live.co.uk)**

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

## **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](mailto:watters.alan@gmail.com)

or **Suzan Jackett** on 01380 729791 or by email at [suzijj@rocketmail.com](mailto:suzijj@rocketmail.com)

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Other treatments available

Contact Trudi on 07810 – 374053

[Trudis36@gmail.com](mailto:Trudis36@gmail.com)

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

find me on Facebook, twitter or Instagram

(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**

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Email: peterdolman@btconnect.com

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Does your dog spend too much time home alone? Do you find it hard to fit in regular daily exercise for your dog amongst the stresses of everyday life? Let me help you! I'm a dog walker with over 10 years' experience working with dogs and other animals. I have worked for guide dogs and have been a supervisor at a busy kennels, as well as years helping at veterinary practises. My passion for animals runs very deep and their care and welfare is of up most importance to me. I am experienced, offering a professional, caring and friendly service to dogs & their owners of all Breeds I am fully insured and first aid trained.

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

My website is [www.boopee-and-friends.co.uk](http://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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## ROWDE MEMORIES



Rowde School 1930s sent in by Yvonne Bowden (Do you recognise anyone?)



Rowde School Nativity Play sometime in 1950s, sent in by Barry Webb

Do you recognise anyone? To help you, here are the ones we know: Bottom right is Marilyn Amor. Chris Handrick, angel centre back. Susan Clark, top right at the back.



# ROWDE MEMORIES



Rowde Cross Keys skittles team with their trophies after the annual dinner. Left to right (back): A. Buckland, G. Underwood, V. Simpson, J. Booker, D. Carpenter, E. G. Grist; (front): L. Perrett, M. Underwood, E. Booker, C. Butler.—Picture, G. Whiting.

## Rowde Cross Keys Skittles Team, late 1950s?

Back row L to R: A Buckland, G Underwood, V Simpson, J Booker, D Carpenter, E G Grist  
Front row L to R: L Perrett, M Underwood, E Booker, C Butler. *Photo by G Whiting.*



*Photo submitted by Barry Webb*

## Rowde School Kitchen Staff, early 1960s.

Back row L to R: Pat Bolter and Joan Morris  
Front row L to R: Freda Webb (Barry's mother), Stella Elvin and Margaret Hart.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## ROWDE FETE and SPORTS

WILL BE HELD ON  
**Saturday, June 16th**  
In a Field kindly lent by A. Tayler, Esq.

**BROMHAM BAND HAS BEEN ENGAGED.**

**The SPORTS include:—**

	Value of Prizes—1st	2nd	3rd
TUG-OF-WAR (open), 8 a-side, Entrance Fee 2/-	£2	£1	
MILE FLAT RACE, Handicap (open), Entrance Fee 1/-	£2	£1	10/-
Six-a-Side FOOTBALL MATCH IN SACKS (open), Entrance Fee 2/-	Prize £1.		
1 MILE RELAY RACE (open), team of 4. Entrance Fee 2/-	£1	10/-	

**GRAND MARATHON RACE (Open).**  
First Prize, Grand Challenge Cup, value £5 5s.  
(three consecutive wins or four in all), and  
a Prize value £2; Second Prize, value £1;  
Third Prize, value 10s. Entrance Fee 1s.  
All Entries for Sports to be made to Mr. O. C.  
Rolf, Rowde, Devizes, by THURSDAY, JUNE 14th.  
First Race starts at 2.45 p.m. sharp.

**BOWLING COMPETITION FOR LIVE PIG.**  
J. & H. Williams' Steam Galloping Horses  
and other Amusements have been engaged.

**DANCING IN THE EVENING.**  
Refreshments will be provided by Mr. T.  
Benford, "George" Inn, Rowde.  
ADMISSION: From 2.30 p.m. till 5 p.m., 1s.  
(including Tax); after 5 p.m., 6d.  
423T-981G A. J. DALLY, Secretary.

Newspaper cutting sent in by Dennis Powney, thought to be from 1923.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Travel Alert**  
**Travel restrictions may apply and**  
**transportation services are subject to change.**  
**Please check online or phone 01249 444444**  
**before you travel.**

## FUN COLUMN

*Welcome to this month's fun column, featuring classic jokes and quotes by Jo Brand:*



My inconsiderate neighbour banged on my door at 2.30am this morning. Thank goodness I was still up playing the drums.

My husband can do the work of two men. Unfortunately those two men are Laurel and Hardy.

Anything is good if it's made of chocolate.

I like men. They are hugely entertaining, but they have a lot of shortcomings and you just have to bear those in mind.

I was worried about my health, so I went to see my GP. I said "Is it too late for me as a fat middle aged woman?" He said "No, it's never too late, just do something a couple of times a week that gets you slightly out of breath." So I started smoking again.

I was not a particularly small child but I was always the one picked to play Bethlehem in the school nativity.

Laughter is the best medicine, though it tends not to work in the case of impotence.

I took my husband to the hospital yesterday to have 17 stitches out - that'll teach him to buy me a sewing kit for my birthday.

Some men are deeply likable but have attitudes I don't like. Does that mean I should completely dismiss them? It's like saying: if someone votes Tory can you like them? And, yes, I can. I have friends who vote Tory, and I'm appalled, but that's not to say they're not great people in so many other ways. We have a tendency to oversimplify things.

National treasure? I'd rather maintain a taint of national disgrace.

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

**Page 24**

## 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

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August  
& 19th Cent  
Barry

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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](http://tasnorthwilts.org.uk)*

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# Local News



## Rowde in snow









# Rowde in snow









## SILVERWOOD SCHOOL UPDATE



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 after extensive consultation a permanent new name has been chosen, Silverwood School. Pupils across all three sites are pupils of Silverwood School with each site referred to as the Trowbridge campus, Rowde campus or Chippenham campus. 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!

The name was shared with the school community as plans continue to build up to 400 special school places at the school's Rowde campus. Work on the design for the new build has been underway throughout the autumn and winter. The design team ran a series of online workshops from September to November to inform the design and these have been really well supported by parents, carers and staff from all three campuses. The workshops considered key areas like building design, transport, ecology and environment, play and outdoor learning, and linking the school and the community. We then also shared an online survey so that many more parents, carers and staff had their say covering the same key topics.

In parallel with the online workshops with parents, carers and staff, we are very grateful to the school staff who have been engaging with students so that they are involved and their views also shape the design. At one of our design workshops we heard feedback from pupils from all three campuses to tell us about what they valued about their current campus and what they would like to see in a new build. This included a video and some great singing from pupils to show us the importance of music in their learning! The children and young people told us how much they value their teachers and friends and the importance to them of sensory spaces, drama, sport and music. The feedback and views from parents, carers, staff and children have been fundamental to how the design has developed and we are now looking forward to working with pupils, parents, carers,

and staff on more detailed aspects of the design throughout the spring.

As part of our commitment to keeping people informed and involved, we also held a community event in November to meet with residents who live locally to the Rowde campus to share our early ideas about development on the site and hear their views. This event was also held online as a webinar and had great attendance and lots of really good questions from local people, councillors and the Parish Council.

We are hoping to submit a planning application in mid-April, and will be holding another meeting with local residents before that, to share our outline plans and hear community views on Wednesday 3rd March at 6 pm. This event will be run as an online meeting, and you can register to attend by e-mailing [specialschools@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:specialschools@wiltshire.gov.uk) or by calling 01225 718303.

**Councillor Laura Mayes, Wiltshire Councillor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

## UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF FURLONG CLOSE, ROWDE



As readers will know, the residents of Furlong Close are vulnerable adults with serious learning disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism. They have lived happy lives at Furlong Close, in many cases for more than 20 years, where they are well-cared for by the kind, compassionate and professional staff there.

In October 2020, Hft informed the residents of Furlong Close and their families of a joint decision by Hft and Wiltshire Council to close Furlong Close by June 2021. The vulnerable residents were told that their community was to be broken up and they were to be "moved on" to unidentified alternative accommodation, to make room for Furlong Close to be sold off for commercial development.

This appalling decision was reported in the last edition of Rowde Village News and I am writing to update the people of Rowde on what has happened since then.

Readers will recall that the decision by Hft and the Council to close Furlong Close was arrived at without any consultation with the residents, their families or the local community. It has been devastating both for the vulnerable residents, whose disabilities make change particularly stressful for them, and their aging parents, who had understood that their vulnerable adult children were settled for life.

Especially cruel was the announcement of this traumatic decision in the midst of the pandemic, when families were not even able to provide proper emotional support to their vulnerable relatives, many of whom were left tearful, frightened and anxious by the news.

### **The local community has rallied around**

Faced with this shock announcement, the families and friends of the residents, together with supporters from the local community, banded together to form a group, Family and Friends of Furlong Close, and appealed to Hft and the Council to reverse this heartless decision. A petition was started. The local Councillor for Rowde, Anna Cuthbert, rallied to the cause. A supportive statement was made by the local MP, Danny Kruger. These efforts succeeded in late November in getting the closure of Furlong Close delayed, but the closure decision has not been withdrawn.

Since December, the efforts of the families, friends and supporters to have the decision reversed have continued and the response of the local community has been overwhelming and heart-warming.

Our petition now has over 17,500 signatures. Emails and letters have been sent to all of Wiltshire's Councillors, Hft's trustees and many others. As I write, 22,000 leaflets are being distributed around the local area, informing people of the announcement and seeking their support to save Furlong Close. Articles and letters have been published in the Gazette & Herald and reports have been broadcast on BBC Radio Wiltshire and ITV West. One of the day service users, Alan, has contributed his voice to record a song to raise awareness of the issue – see <https://youtu.be/cdrQzuZl8K0>.

### **Legal proceedings have been commenced**

Determined to fight for the future of their vulnerable relatives, some family members engaged solicitors and letters were written late last year, to clarify who had decided that Furlong Close should be closed and why.

The Council has sought to distance itself from the situation, maintaining that Hft's announcement of the closure as a "joint decision" with Wiltshire Council was inexplicably mistaken. The contemporaneous correspondence between

the Council and Hft, however, which has been obtained by family members in answer to Freedom of Information requests, indicates that the Council was working hand-in-glove with Hft.

In stark contrast to the Council's position, Hft has repeatedly asserted that the decision was taken "in partnership with Wiltshire Council" and has accused the Council of now "backpedalling" and "trying to hide behind" Hft.

Both Hft and the Council have said that the decision is "not about money", but neither has offered up any explanation that could justify uprooting 33 vulnerable residents from their settled homes.

Through the generosity of numerous supporters contributing to Crowd Justice funding, legal advice was obtained from counsel that there were good prospects of succeeding in legal action challenging the decision. As a result, on 12 January 2021, legal proceedings were commenced in the High Court on behalf of one of the residents, Katie Gange.

Katie, who is 41, has a rare epileptic disease and severe learning disabilities, which mean that she needs constant support. She has lived at Furlong Close for the last 11 years and is happy, settled and well-cared for there. If Katie is forced to leave her long-term home, the stress will cause Katie's epilepsy to worsen and her family fear that she will withdraw into herself and become miserable, introverted and lonely.

The legal proceedings ask the High Court to urgently quash Hft's decision, which they allege breached Katie's human rights, by unjustifiably interfering with her right to her home, failing to properly consider the impact on her of being forced to leave and failing to consult with Katie or her family. They seek a response from Hft by 5 February 2021.

Notably, Katie's application is supported by numerous supportive statements from members of the local community in Rowde, which attest to the strength of local feeling about this terrible decision.

### **Where to from here?**

The decision to close Furlong Close has been delayed but not withdrawn, so that the threat of closure continues to hang over the residents and their families.

The continuing community pressure has now resulted in the Council and Hft entering into discussions about saving Furlong Close. This is encouraging, but those discussions (which are taking place behind closed doors) have not yet produced any result, leaving the residents and their families in a continuing state of acute anxiety as to the future.



That continuing anxiety is taking a heavy emotional toll on the residents and their families, but they are holding on and fighting hard to save Furlong Close. What is sustaining them is:

- The embrace of the local community, as reflected in the numerous expressions of support from the villagers of Rowde and the 17,500 people who have signed the petition calling for Hft and Wiltshire Council to save Furlong Close; and
- The fundamental justice of their cause. The residents of Furlong Close are extremely vulnerable people, who have lived at Furlong Close for decades and want to remain there. For them to be callously “moved on” by Hft and Wiltshire Council, so that the site can be sold off for commercial development, is a disgrace.

### How you can help

Please, if you want to help us:

- If you have not already done so, sign our petition – [www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde](http://www.change.org/p/hft-and-wiltshire-council-stop-the-closure-of-hft-in-rowde) – and make sure you go all the way to the bottom to confirm your signature;
- Contact Cllr Laura Mayes, who will be standing to represent Rowde and Bromham in May this year and ask her why she has said nothing to oppose the closure of Furlong Close – [laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk); and
- Contact Cllr Simon Jacobs, who is the Councillor for Devizes and Roundway South and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, tell him what you think and ask him to please save Furlong Close – [simon.jacobs@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.jacobs@wiltshire.gov.uk).

*Yours sincerely,*

**Mark Steele**

### FIRE CREW HELPS STOP CANAL BOAT FROM SINKING AT CAEN HILL MARINA

Firefighters were called out early on the evening of 28th January to help stop a canal boat from sinking. They helped to stabilise a canal boat that was taking on water at the Caen Hill Marina at Rowde.



The crew from Devizes fire station mobilised at 6.48pm after receiving the emergency call.

They investigated and found the water appeared to be coming from the domestic water supply. It is understood that a burst pipe caused the problem. The crew used a mini ejector pump and safe working in water equipment to pump out the water and stabilise the boat.

### NEW PROJECT WILL REPAIR HISTORIC LOCKS



A major programme of work is underway on the four highest locks at the Caen Hill Flight on the Kennet & Avon Canal.

The Caen Hill Flight, at Rowde and Devizes, is described as the one of the wonders of the waterways. The 16 locks form a giant watery staircase allowing boats to travel up and down the steep hillside. Being amongst the busiest locks on the canal network in typical years, they require constant attention and this year the Canal & River Trust is focussing on the pinnacle of the flight, locks 37-40.

A team of craftsmen and women from the trust, the charity that cares for the flight, will soon be re-lining the massive lock gates and repairing brick work in lock chambers that date back to the early 1800s.



It's a massive challenge that involves draining the adjacent side reservoir ponds (used to store water to operate the locks) down to around 0.5m deep. This allows the engineering team to descend the 5.5m (18 feet) into the locks to

repair the brick work. In keeping with the locks' heritage, the team will use traditional lime mortar, as was used when the locks were built in 1810. Caen Hill's hard-working lock gates also bear the evidence of the thousands of boats that travel through the flight each year (it hosts an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 boat movements annually). So, the lock gates, scarred by the bumps and scrapes of thousands of fenders, will be relined using traditional green oak.



Mark Evans, director for the Canal & River Trust for Wales & South West, explained: "We are proud custodians of Caen Hill Flight. As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it enjoys the same level of heritage protection as Stonehenge – so it's a big responsibility. This year the Trust is spending £70k on the repair work at Caen Hill to allow the thousands of visitors, on boat and on foot, to continue to enjoy this very special place. "The flight is iconic for so many reasons. It's a massive feat of engineering from the heyday of the canals and one of the country's longest continuous runs of lock flights.

It's also the ultimate challenge for many boaters – demanding four hours to travel up, or down. Such is the challenge that we have a team of lock keepers, many of them volunteers, to assist. And those volunteers also help to care for the canal and towpath.

"This winter work is crucial to keep the flight in peak condition. It continues to be breathtaking, both to those on the towpath enjoying the view during part of their daily exercise today and (literally breath-taking) to boaters negotiating through the locks in future months."

"The safety of our colleagues also remains a priority, with this project being safely carried out within the Government's coronavirus guidance."

The towpath at Caen Hill remains open and the flight is planned to reopen to boats on March 19.

The works at Caen Hill are part of the Canal & River Trust's national programme of repairs being carried out across England and Wales under coronavirus restrictions this winter. The £45.1 million programme of repairs will include

lock gate replacements, dredging to ensure the water is deep enough for boats, and a host of tasks to keep the 200-year old network open and help ensure its resilience to climate change.

### **FROM ADELAIDE TO DEVIZES: TOWN'S RAILWAY REDISCOVERED IN AUSTRALIA**

A new station on the outskirts of Devizes will soon offer people the chance to revisit what was once an integral part of the market town.

Devizes railway station – on the branch line between Holt Junction to Patney & Chirton Junction - operated between 1857 and 1966.

The Reading-Hungerford line was quickly extended in 1862 westward via Pewsey to Devizes, reaching the station through a tunnel under Devizes Castle, in what proved to be the busiest period for the Devizes station.

The line was entirely closed in 1966, and now there is little trace of what once was a bustling rail community.



Tracks were pulled up, station buildings demolished and the line's tunnel beneath Devizes Castle bricked up at one end.

But now, the chance to experience the railway of Devizes in its heyday is possible thanks to Caleb Jenkins over in Adelaide, Australia.





The modeller has painstakingly pieced together a detailed layout of what used to be a bustling and lively set of rails in the market town.



His YouTube videos, which include a return eye view of the journey between Pans Lane Halt via Devizes to Bromham and Rowde Halt, Yard, have reached thousands across the globe.

He said: "The layout was originally built about 25 years ago here in Adelaide by my good friend, a British Railway Modeller like myself, Peter Lucas, born and raised in Devizes before moving to Australia in the 1970s.

The school featured on the layout is where he attended, the church and cemetery are where his parents were married and laid to rest, respectively.

In 2017, I purchased the layout from Peter and introduced it to my social media platforms which further enhanced its reach globally with tens of thousands of views across my videos."

Caleb's railway videos, available to watch on the Caleb's Rail Films Youtube channel, were even showcased in an ITV report on the Devizes Gateway last year.

His series of films reflect the multiple journeys made by passengers and of produce alike throughout the years.

Small characters in his videos also add to the retelling of history.

As locomotives and railcars chug past on screen, keep an eye out for Tom Sheppard the market town farmer, Cescil the "humble Wiltshire postman" and Jon McMillian as PC Constable of the Devizes Constabulary.

Caleb hopes to one day visit the town that his set has taken inspiration for. He hopes to visit in five years, just in time for when the new station is poised to open.

He added: "The dream has always been to come to the UK and the rest Europe since I was very little. We are planning for 2025 as that will be my 30th birthday."

Visit Caleb's YouTube channel or the Facebook page for the Devizes railway layout.

### YUMMY BRECKIE AT CAEN HILL CAFE



Just before going to press I saw a post on the 'Rowde all about it' FB pages asking if the Caen Hill cafe was doing takeaways so I went up there on Sunday morning to investigate (just before it started snowing again). They were indeed open and I got some really yummy bacon rolls!





They are in fact providing a full takeaway service seven days a week from 1030am to 3.30pm and they have an excellent socially distant and safe working system in place serving customers from a hatch at the side of the building (see photos).

### **SUPER SUPPER TAKEAWAY AT THE GEORGE AND DRAGON!**



*Chippy, the Masked Provider*

I recently ordered a Friday evening takeaway from the G&D and I must say I was impressed at the way Chippy has organised this restrictions-compliant and safe service for the village and to help us all get through lockdown. We had fish and chips with mushy peas and Tartare sauce and it was simply delicious (washed down with a bottle of wine of course - sorry, no dry January for us I'm afraid lol).

**Ed**



*Photo: Geraldine Clisby-White*

## **Sample Takeaway Menu The George & Dragon Rowde (For Friday 5th February)**

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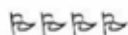
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Please note that our Rowde Village website manager is Rebekah Jeffries and she can be contacted at rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com or 01380 720988.



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[liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk](mailto:liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk) / 07780860922

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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**

# LETTERS

## CAMPAIGN TO SAVE FURLONG CLOSE

I write as Chair of The Families and Friends of Furlong Close to explain the situation of the 34 learning disabled residents currently under threat of losing their homes, and of the many day care service users who have already lost their occupation and friendships as a result of the closure of that service.

The Families and Friends have come together to fight the closure and we are seeking public support in our campaign to get Hft and Wiltshire Council to think again.

As you may know from local media coverage the decision to shut down Furlong Close was announced without warning to residents, staff and families in mid-October by the charity Hft which took over the close of five bungalows and associated flatlets from Self Unlimited in 2013. The shock announcement came on the heels of the news that day care services on site would also be closed for good.

Many of the residents, who have severe learning disabilities, many coupled with epilepsy, sight and hearing impediment and severe physical disability, have lived at Furlong Close for more than two decades, some since it opened 28 years ago. They and their families had the expectation that it would be their life-long home and the news that they are now to be forced to abandon their homes and the safety and security of the Close and the village of Rowde is a terrifying prospect.

For some, now in their 50s and 60s, such a traumatic change will seriously damage their mental and physical health. In some cases such a move could shorten lives. The announcement has already left many residents confused, frightened and depressed about what is going to happen to them.

The decision to close has been justified by Hft and Wiltshire Council on the basis that Furlong Close is a "campus-style" site which is not a model of care now favoured by the Care Quality Commission for new developments. This is a completely inadequate justification for proceeding, without consultation, to break up an existing, happy community of highly vulnerable people and force them to leave the homes where they have been comfortably settled for many years.

Nor does it accord with CQC policy which expressly states that it has no wish "to disrupt the lives of people who are currently residing in a service that is not small-scale, provided that the care provided is person-centred."

**No one who knows Furlong Close would suggest that it is in any general sense of the word a "campus", nor that its residents are isolated from their local community. They worship, shop, volunteer, eat out, visit the pubs and cafes and work part-time in local businesses.**

And yet Hft, with the support of Wiltshire Council and the passive agreement of many of the elected councillors are still intending that Furlong Close be closed down.

The Families and Friends are asking Hft and Wiltshire Council to withdraw the decision and to think again in order to allow all those residents who so choose to continue to live safely and securely within the supportive local community.

If you support our campaign please challenge your local division councillor and those who are candidates in the coming May elections, to declare publically where they stand on this cruel and inhumane policy which is being pursued in their name.

**Antonia Field**

**Chair Families and Friends of Furlong Close**

## CONSULTATION COMPARISONS

As the Silverwood School is in an advanced state of planning, a dark cloud is hanging over the future of the homes in Furlong Close. Unless Wiltshire Council acts firmly to save Furlong Close, the happy homes of 33 vulnerable adults with learning disabilities could be destroyed and replaced by 112 units of housing (as per Wiltshire Council's 2017 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - see letter on page 44). This will not only deny the unfortunate residents of Furlong Close their long term homes, but will also carelessly discard the obvious synergies in Rowde having both a community of learning disabled adults and a centre of teaching excellence for learning disabled children, who could benefit in numerous ways from interacting with and learning from each other.

The extensive community consultation around the development of Silverwood School stands in stark contrast to the complete lack of consultation that preceded the joint decision by Hft and Wiltshire Council to close Furlong Close and evict its vulnerable residents (a decision which is temporarily on hold but not withdrawn).

Perhaps Hft and the Council hoped that the 33 vulnerable residents of Furlong Close could be quietly "moved on" without any fuss, so the land could be sold by Hft for housing and the Council could extract its thirty pieces of silver for agreeing to remove the covenant which restricts Furlong Close to being used as a site for residential care only. Perhaps this is what Louisa McCann, the Executive



# LETTERS

Director of Finance at Hft was referring to when she boasted to Wiltshire Council in July 2020 that “Hft has a proven track record of delivering move-ons from a residential campus site”?

How disappointing that Cllr Mayes’ enthusiasm for Silverwood School has not extended to her offering any support at all to the residents of Furlong Close.

**Trish Gange**

## ‘FIGHT THE CLOSURE’ UPDATE

Dear Editor

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to update your readers on the progress in stopping the closure of Furlong Close.

As most of your readers will know from your last issue..... On 13th October 2020; without any prior consultation with service users or family supporters; Hft announced that they proposed to close the residential and day occupation site for disabled people with learning disabilities at Furlong Close Rowde by June 2021. A “Family & Friends of Furlong Close” support group was formed to fight the closure.

The proposed closure date of June 2021 has now been postponed but Hft are still determined to close the site and sell it for development after the eviction of service users.

There has been tremendous support for the petition to keep the site open which is currently fast approaching 25,000 signatures and many thanks to all who have signed. Here is a flavour of the comments made by the signatories:

- “Change for the good is a result of real consultation with the people who matter - shocked and appalled at a decision of this magnitude without this taking place”.
- “It’s so sad that this is their home and because of greed they will be asked to move disrupting a happy and secure environment”.
- “People shouldn’t be treated like this. They need stability and consistency for their wellbeing. They should not be sent elsewhere after 20 years just for monetary gain, away from all they’ve known.”
- “This is appalling, unethical and mercenary. I would expect better from an organisation like this. Seems everyone has a price, very sad.”
- “I’m appalled at this charity’s pursuit of profit over people! How can they claim to be doing this in the best interests of the people they care for? Disgraceful!”
- “This is terrible! We have friends whose adult mentally disabled son went through a similar traumatic change to his housing. It was NOT for the best and took years to get him adjusted

to his new living situation. It was highly distressing. Please keep this home open.”

- “I believe it completely wrong to uproot anyone from their home without consultation and agreement. To do so during a time of extended stress and worry is worse; on top of both of those, to do it to vulnerable people, some of whom don’t have a “voice” like this to get them to be heard is appalling. Is it now, “Charity begins in whichever home is cheapest and allows us to build on prime land because you aren’t important enough” now?”
- “What an outrageous backstabbing group of management capitalists. Shameful behaviour taking advantage of the pandemic to sell the safety of some of the most vulnerable people. Don’t allow this to happen, so many vulnerable people are suffering so much due to this government and this pandemic confusion.”

Both Hft and Wiltshire Council have stated that funding is not the reason for closing.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) have no wish to close the site and disturb the lives of existing residents and have stated “... it would be wrong to require such places to close and the residents move out with all the attendant stress.”

Unfortunately the senior management of Hft: the charity entrusted by Wiltshire Council with the support of the disabled people at Furlong Close, have been content to persist with their aim to close the site; despite the impact on service users and their families. Letters of objection to Hft’s plans have not had the courtesy of a reply.

The prospect of service users losing the homes, friends, carers and environment that they have enjoyed, many for over 20 years, has had a serious impact on their health, mental health and stress.

Legal processes are in progress to challenge Hft’s proposed closure.

The “Family & Friends of Furlong Close” support group has now grown to 73 individuals comprising families and supporters of service users, supporters from Rowde Village and other Wiltshire residents who feel strongly opposed to Hft’s cruel proposals. They would like to thank Rowde Village and the local area for their continued support and remain determined to get a satisfactory solution to this tragic injustice. We propose to communicate the opinions of the thousands of objectors to the closure to Wiltshire Council, who have the power to overturn Hft’s plans. If any of your readers would also like to write letters of objection to the council, it would be very much appreciated. In a free society, democracy should always win in the end.

**Yours sincerely**

**John & Dianne**

# LETTERS

## FURLONG CLOSE WAS OFFERED FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hi Alan

I wonder if you could include in your letters pages the STELAA plan of Furlong Close, put together following a call for development sites by Wiltshire Council in 2017?

The Families and friends of Furlong Close have been horrified to discover that Furlong Close, owned and managed by the charity Hft and home to 33 vulnerable people, was offered as suitable for the building of 112 new houses as long ago as 2017. This disturbing information has been discovered by members of the campaign group currently fighting to stop the closure of the residential care home.

The site was accepted by Wiltshire Council for the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment prepared in August 2017.

It has not been included in the list of possible development sites currently being considered and subject to public consultation, but demonstrates

clearly that four years ago the site was being identified for a large residential development.

But, on behalf of the Families and Friends of Furlong Close, home to 33 adults with learning disabilities, many of whom have lived at Furlong Close for the last 20 or more years, the Families and Friends would like to ask Cllr Simon Jacobs, Wiltshire Council Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, to explain how this could be the case given that it is the long term home for 33 vulnerable adults, who cannot be moved without great trauma and distress, and which is subject to a covenant in favour of Wiltshire Council restricting its use to housing for people in need of care?

It is clear that Wiltshire Council's Strategic Housing Availability Assessment, on which the Plan is based, includes Furlong Close as a site "AVAILABLE" and "DELIVERABLE" for redevelopment in the "SHORT TERM" into 112 houses.

**Antonia Field**

**Devizes: Rowde**

**3461**



Site Address: Furlong Close

Total Area: 3.0737ha

Suitable Area: 3.0735ha (100.0%)

Suitability Constraints\*: N/A

All Constraints\*: PP, MRZ, MSA, ALCG1

Suitable: Yes. No suitability constraints.

Achievable: Yes (Residential)

Capacity: 112

HMA: East Wiltshire

Previous Use: PDL

Available: Yes

Deliverable: Yes

Developable: In short-term



# LETTERS

## “REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME AND MINE”



*'Happier Days' - Joanna and Matthew having lunch in the pub pre-Covid*

OK, slightly off my usual topics but that's because this is really important to me and mine. The pic is my wonderful wife Joanna and her brother, Matthew, who has Down's Syndrome. He's a lovely chap but the charity charged with looking after him day to day are about to ruin his life.

Essentially, the charity HFT that run his care and accommodation decided they'd try and take advantage of the pandemic/lockdown/confusion and try to move everyone out from the shared, communal bungalows they've lived in for over 20 years, with activity centres, a gardening area, workshops and kitchens, in a village where many of them work, to the charity's "preferred" living situation of two to four residents in a rented house in a town centre with a couple of carers.

Without consulting families, "because that would involve face to face contact".

This is because their current homes are on a valuable piece of land that was only allowed to be built on because it was for social housing: new rules mean they can be replaced by fancy executive houses making the site worth millions of pounds.

If you could take a minute to sign the petition and share it around, Joanna and I'd be beyond grateful. If we can get the required number of signatures – and we're almost there – the plan to move Matthew and his friends out will be called in to be considered by our local authority rather than just by the charity who would pocket the money. That will hopefully mean Matthew will never know this was ever considered and will live happily ever after. The petition is at <http://chnng.it/8BWgvjmQH6>

**Thank you, Greg Pullen**

## NEARLY FOUR MONTHS ON!

It's nearly four months since the residents of Furlong Close were told out of the blue that Hft and Wiltshire Council wanted them to move from their homes. Since then, other than hearing in the media that the date for closing Furlong Close is no longer June 2021, there has been

nothing communicated to anyone formally about what is happening. Snippets of information have come out of conversations, for example council officers and Hft have been in discussion about options to keep people in their homes but no updates have been provided. Then there was the announcement that the day service could reopen subject to risk assessments, but the day service remains resolutely shut. The Families and Friends of Furlong Close have written hundreds of letters and emails have been written to Hft and to Wiltshire Council but the vast majority have gone unanswered. This simply isn't acceptable.

This limbo that the residents, their families and the day service users have been put into by Hft and Wiltshire Council is having a distressing effect on everyone who cares about Furlong Close and the people who live there. Parents worried about what is going to happen to their grown up children who were settled and happy, but now face an uncertain future. Brothers and sisters worried about their siblings, knowing how they would struggle to live anywhere other than Furlong Close. Day service users left confused and lonely because they are no longer able to see their friends and take part in the activities they enjoy at Furlong Close.

And then there are the staff who work tirelessly caring for the residents at Furlong Close. Carers who are more like family than workers, who provide outstanding care for these most vulnerable people. These staff members have been put in a most difficult position, not knowing what their future employment is going to be, and all the time wondering if they should, as some have and who could blame them, secure employment elsewhere while they can.

I am incredibly grateful to the Wiltshire Councillors who have taken an interest in the plight of the residents of Furlong Close, some Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent colleagues who feel as I do that the decision to close Furlong Close is not in the best interests of the people who live there and that the residents and their families deserve to have a say in how and where they are cared for. Parish Councils like Rowde, Worton and Bromham, Devizes Town Councillors and many candidates standing in the May elections have all pledged their support to the Families and Friends' campaign to save Furlong Close. These community leaders have been joined by more than 24,000 people who have signed the petition to save Furlong Close for the residents who want to remain in their homes. This show of strength from our community has been quite incredible and shows how important Furlong Close and its residents are to our local area.

I hope for three things in the next couple of weeks. Firstly that the decision makers at Wiltshire Council and Hft will listen to and take account of what the residents and their families and supporters are saying, and all of the local people who have made their feelings known about the future of Furlong

# LETTERS

Close and confirm that those who wish to stay in their homes can do so. No ifs, buts or maybes. Secondly I would like an end to this failure to communicate. Residents and their families deserve to be treated with respect by the organisations responsible for commissioning and providing care for the residents of Furlong Close. Leaving them in limbo is not respectful, it creates mistrust, distress, anger, anxiety and makes people feel helpless. As one mum said to me at the weekend, "Anna, I'm sick with worry, I'm trying to be strong but I can't sleep and I'm upset all the time about what's going to happen. Furlong Close is perfect, I hate the thought of [their child] being in a flat in Trowbridge, being isolated and lonely whereas everyone in Rowde looks out for the people from Furlong Close and helps to keep them safe." This is not how we should be treating people, especially some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Thirdly I want Hft and Wiltshire Council to reopen the day service. This reopening was subject to risk assessments being put into place so that it could operate in a covid secure way. Plenty of other day services around the country have reopened and now that the vaccine is being rolled out there is no reason why Furlong Close day service shouldn't reopen. This will go some way to demonstrating that both organisations can commit to the wellbeing and support to the day service users as well as the residents.

Thank you for all the emails and telephone calls that I have had with messages of support. As one Rowde resident said, "It may feel like a David and Goliath situation but please tell everyone to keep going as you have the whole village behind you."

*With best wishes,*

*Cllr Anna Cuthbert*

## SOME COMMENTS RECEIVED:

"I signed a little while ago as I have a son who is a vulnerable adult and he has had no assistance with housing or anything else for that matter so I completely understand."

"I have signed & shared the petition regarding furlong close @ Rowde. I think what they are trying to do is disgusting. It's an amazing facility and those awesome residents do not deserve to lose their homes."

"It's extremely sad to read all about HFT, the work, the support, the stability ruined for money. I don't know how people can sleep at night, and look themselves in a mirror. It's very disturbing."

"Freemasons donated a large sum of money for the original premises to be built and for its specific purpose of lifetime care and support only. It would appear that the original donation will end up somewhere where it was not intended. It makes you think twice about donating money to a charity, as it may end up lining somebody else's pocket. The donation should therefore be returned if or when they sell the land but I doubt very much if it will be??"

*Ed*

## 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/](http://www.playlistforlife.org.uk/apply-help-point/) or get in touch with Surrinder Bains, Local Organiser for Bath: [surrinder@playlistforlife.org.uk](mailto:surrinder@playlistforlife.org.uk) 07712273949.

## SILVERLANDS PARK REFURBISHMENT



Rebekah and I attended a site meeting at Silverlands Park with Wiltshire Council just before lockdown no.3.

WC has now confirmed that there is money available to spend on improving this park. The Parish Council would like to invite the children in our community to participate in giving us ideas of what they would like to see. From this we can put together a few plans for the children then to vote on.

If you would be interested in giving your ideas, please email [rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com](mailto:rpc.lisa.youth@gmail.com) or if your child would like to draw a plan of what they would like to see in the park, you can post a copy through my door at 21, Consciences Cottages, Devizes Road, Rowde.

*Cllr Lisa Wills.*





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## Sudoku (medium this month)

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

### Last Month's Solution

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

## Mini Sudoku (easy 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.

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

### Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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*And please remember to mention where you saw the advert when you contact any of our advertisers! Ed*



# 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

## 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.

**ROWDEY GOW**

Locally Sourced Food  
Children's Play Area

Spectacular Views  
Miniature Ponies

Delicious Home Made Ice Cream  
made using our own milk fresh from the farm

**FARM CAFE & ICE CREAM PARLOUR**

Open 7 Days a Week

**Taste of the West South West England GOLD 2018**

**Taste of the West South West England GOLD 2015**

Cooked Breakfasts  
Full Lunch and Snack Menu  
Children's Menu Available  
Ice Cream Available All Day  
Home Made Cakes and Cream Teas

all our food is freshly made from local produce

Lower Farm, Devizes Road (A342), Rowde, Nr Devizes SN10 2LX  
Tel: 01380 829666 | www.rowdeycow.co.uk

## 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)

10th February 2021

10th March 2021

21st April 2021

12th May 2021

9th June 2021

14th July 2021

No meeting in August

8th September 2021

13th October 2021

10th November 2021

8th December 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





**Rowde Playing Fields in the snow**

*Photo by Mark Somerville*





*Helping with the home schooling at the Rowdey Cow!*