

Rowde Village News



Queen's Jubilee Celebrations
Pages 2, 31 & 47

August/September 2022

The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations



Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Rowde Village News and I hope you have all survived the recent bout of record breaking hot weather. I will never complain about the rain again!

I'm sure you will all have heard by now, but I would like to express my own sheer delight at the wonderful news that Furlong Close has now officially been saved! The site has new owners and we also have a new care provider in place. Read the complete and incredible success story on pages 24 to 30. It is quite a long article but I assure you it is well worth taking the time as it is a truly fascinating read.

After a depressing couple of years coping with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic it was so wonderful that we could all celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee together with a village picnic and other pub and street events. Read about them on page 31 and see all the readers' photos in full colour on the inside front and back covers.

In addition of course there are all the usual articles and excellent reports from the village schools, clubs and other organisations.

Finally, there are a few good letters on page 42 including a big thank you from Taras, our local window cleaner, for our continuing support to his Ukrainian relief efforts.

Mind how you go, Ed

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

Notice to contributors & advertisers

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

Contributors please also note:

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

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

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

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Cover Images

The wonderfully colourful image on the front cover shows Sarah Howard Jones, the winner of the best hat competition at the Jubilee picnic and was taken by Alan Watters. The photographs on the inside covers were taken by Claire Holder, Jan Arnold, Mandy Humphreys, Rosie Berry, Melanie Gordon, Liz Denbury and Alan Watters. Thanks everyone!

The back cover shows various photographs of 'Save Furlong Close' and 'We Saved Furlong Close' stickers taken around the village by the editor.

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

Monday Club were very thankful for the fantastic air conditioning in the clubhouse during the recent hot weather. Members managed to keep cool when it was so hot outside.

Wiltshire Council have recently changed how they give grants to day centres such as Monday Club. We have traditionally received a grant each year to pay towards the rent and organiser costs. Our treasurer, Keith, has recently applied for Monday Club to join the new framework to provide Day Centre services for Wiltshire Council. We are delighted to say that we have been successful in joining the framework. If you live in Rowde or Bromham and you have been assessed by Wiltshire Council as being eligible for care support funds, you could be eligible to have your place at Monday Club funded by the council. This would mean that you wouldn't have to pay anything! It's early days for the new framework, and we

haven't been told the details of how it will work, but if you are interested, do contact us.

To find out more about Monday Club, please contact Carol - 01380 850925 or Caroline - 01380 850531.

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

On May 24th the 'Ladies' met in the Village Hall and made rosettes to be used as hat decorations or on the lapels for the Platinum Jubilee. Afterwards we had a Royalty Quiz! The Raffle winner was Mrs. D. Ellis.

On June 21st our 'talented' members brought along examples of their skills and talents, ranging from Painting, Quilting, Knitting, Enamelling, Photography and Embroidery to Crackers and Felting. The lucky raffle winner was Mrs. J. Handy.

The next meeting will be a Games Evening on July 19th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall followed by meetings on August 16th and September 13th. Programme to be arranged.

Di. Buckland

ROWDE BOOK CLUB

Meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month. Contact Ann on 01380 724788 for further info.

BOOK REVIEW

'Sorrow and Bliss' by Meg Mason

Martha Friel has recently separated from her second husband, Patrick and this is the story of how she got there. We learn of her dysfunctional artist parents, rich cousins, cocaine fuelled first husband and finally saint-like Patrick who supports her through breakdowns even when she is utterly horrible to him.

Martha has lived with an unspecified mental illness since her first psychotic breakdown at 17.

Since then she has suffered recurrent bouts of depression and irrational behaviour and long believed there was something wrong with her.

She received misdiagnoses and ineffective treatment until a private psychiatrist recognised the symptoms and prescribed a medicine that helped.

Martha narrates her experiences from childhood in London surrounded by her immediate and extended family up to the age of 40 by which time her life has unravelled. Her unbelievably tolerant and long-suffering husband, Patrick, has finally left her and she is forced to return to her bohemian parents and her family including Ingrid, a dear sister, who each in their own way are close, supportive and loving but tiring of Martha's whinging self-centred behaviour.

Martha has one last chance to find out whether a life is too broken to fix or whether, maybe, by starting over, she can find contentment and a happier future.

The book tackles the issues of long term mental illness with some wit and candour. Probably more sorrow than bliss!

The novel generated much discussion and divided opinions between Book Club members. About half enjoyed reading it and the others had some reservations. Although an easy read, some found it depressing, tedious and lacking total authenticity. (In a note by the author at the end of the book, Meg Mason declares that the medical symptoms described in the novel are not consistent with any genuine mental illness. The portrayal of treatment, medication and doctors' advice is wholly fictional!)

However, all agreed that it showed clearly how mental illness affects not only the sufferer, but also family and friends and presented an astute depiction of life on the psychic edge.

Jacqui Hylands-White



THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Solitary Bees

In the garden on and around the flowers you can see lots of flying insects gathering their food. As well as butterflies, moths and hoverflies there are the bees. Big bold bumblebees, busy honey bees and then there are the solitary bees. In Britain we have around 270 species of bees. That is broken down as just one type of honey bee, 24 species of bumblebee and all the rest are solitary bees.

Most of the common solitary bees are given straightforward names that describe their appearance. The ashy miner bee (Picture A) for example is a mining bee that looks as though it is covered in ash.

My favourite name, the hairy-footed flower bee (Picture B) is just that: a bee with hairy feet!



A: Ashy Miner bee - note the frayed wings - this is an old bee



B: Hairy-footed Flower bee

Others are named after the person who named them (quite often, it seems, a retired vicar!) or where they are found. Some of the rarer species only have Latin names.

Honey bees live in hives and hollow trees and survive through winter as a colony. All the other bees survive by hibernating either as mated females or as pupae, but in both cases ready to emerge at the right time of year and start the process again.

Solitary bees are varied in their lifecycle: some live and work alone, and some nest in large groups. I have been called out to 'swarms' on several occasions which turn out to be ivy bees (Picture C); a forgivable mistake as they are rather like a honey bee, but they are a solitary bee who nest together on sandy bank in their hundreds and thousands. But each bee is an individual and raises its young as a single mother.



C: Ivy bee on Ivy!

So what is going on in the solitary bee nest? A typical example might be a leaf cutter bee, (who makes those little semi-circular bites out of rose leaves you may have seen). At the start of the season, the female eats pollen and nectar and searches for a place to make her nest. She chooses the stem of a dead plant if it's big enough, or under the bark of a dead tree (or perhaps a bit of bamboo in a bee hotel!) She lines the nest with leaves and then gathers pollen and nectar, makes a ball of pollen moistened with nectar at the deepest point of her nest and lays one egg in it. She makes a partition with a bit of leaf and repeats the process. The first eggs laid will develop into females, the last one or two develop into males (drones). She then seals off the nest with more leaf and that is it, her job is done. Inside the nest the eggs hatch and the larvae eat the pollen and grow. When the larvae are big enough they pupate and hibernate in the nest until the spring. The males emerge first and search for females to mate with. The females emerge and once mated – the cycle begins again.

David Brown, Rowde Hall Cottage
01380 722406 davidb.rowde@gmail.com

ROWDEY COW NEWS



As I write this sat by a fan in my living room, we have closed the café early due to the heat – that is a first here – the snow and wind but never before the heat! It's 35 degrees and the glass windows have created a greenhouse effect and the freezers are all struggling (as are we)! This should be the last day of the extreme heat though so we look forward to getting back to some normality again tomorrow.

We have enjoyed a very busy June and July with the lovely weather keeping us very busy with ice cream production and sales. We attended the Lions Car Rally on the Green in June and the Heddington Steam Rally in July which was great fun and very busy on the Sunday.



We have a new kiosk and barbecue and we look forward to making use of this throughout the Summer holidays – we have used it for our Jubilee party, our later openings, last Sunday in the heat instead of Sunday roasts and also for a prize giving for the Bishops Cannings football team.

We are excited about Jefferson's Fair visiting us again throughout the holidays with their bouncy castles and roundabouts.

New ice cream flavours have included Caramac, Double Decker and Wispa Gold.

In June our naughty peacocks went through a bit of a teenage rebellious stage and kept running off and visiting our neighbours but they seem a little more settled for now! Please see the collage of pictures to witness their adventures and thank you to everyone who lives in Tanis for their patience with them!

We were thrilled to hear the news that Furlong Close has officially been saved and a huge congratulations to the residents' families who have fought tirelessly to campaign for them.

We hope everyone is keeping safe in the heat and look forward to seeing you soon!

Sue



The Jubilee celebrations were really well attended in Rowde and were great fun with a wonderful party and community atmosphere – with record numbers here on the Thursday and a lovely day on the Saturday with the picnic in the park.

LIFE ON THE ALLOTMENTS



Interesting to see that the allotments are flourishing despite the recent record breaking heat!
Dedicated gardeners indeed!

Photo by Mandy Humphreys

Dates for your diary

Saturday September 10th

Rowde Village Party

7.00pm-11.30 pm

Featuring Chris Ashburn

(The last singer at the Jubilee Picnic)

Venue to be decided

**Please check parish noticeboards, Facebook page & website
for more information**

Also

Save the date:

June 3rd 2023

For our next

Annual Village Celebration



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WE NEED YOU!

Do you have some news to share or just have something to say about the village?

If you can contribute to the content of your Rowde Village News in any way or would like to give us feedback (good or bad) or discuss any magazine issues then please contact:

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

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

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 corrections notified to us as soon as possible.

Alan Watters, Editor

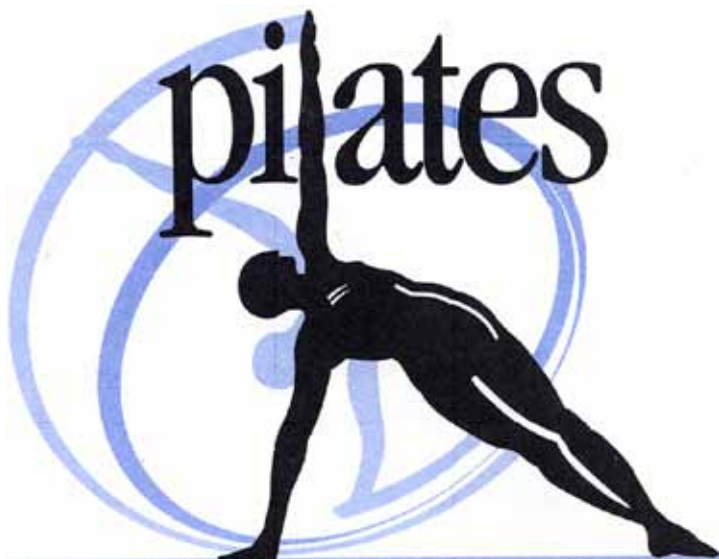
Magazine Submission Deadlines for 2022 (bi-monthly)

15th September

15th November

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To book your place or for any enquiries please email suzijj@rocketmail.com or call Suzan on 01380 729791

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AN UNEASY PARADISE - LIVING ON THE WATERWAYS

DOM'S STORY



"I probably feel happier living on the canal, the freedom of knowing you have your own space you're not going to be turfed out of, that you can make your own, I can save money for projects that otherwise I wouldn't be able to do in this current system where space is so expensive. It's allowed time to develop my own business, its allowed me to get involved in green projects, its given me time to plant an allotment, things like that, that perhaps if I was on a 40h week I wouldn't have quite enough time to do. It's definitely given me more time to be at peace with myself, a good structure of meditation. There's something timeless about the canal, you feel a little more in touch with the seasons and the sun's movements, maybe even the natural rhythm of your body.

I have more fear about living on the canal these days, I'm nervous about the Canal River Trust and what their actual intentions are for live aboard boaters, I don't like seeing them bully people to the point of them leaving the canal, I've seen that happen and that makes me nervous. What would I do if I could no longer live here? I think that there's an expanding network of communities going on in the UK right now that are really progressive that might not necessarily be in the mainstream, I think that's the way forwards for England right now, try to think of different ways to live together that don't involve severe monopolisation. I think England's a very green country, there's so much open land, I feel like it's time we started using it properly in imaginative ways and sustainable ways that we can all benefit from. I'm a bit of a romantic really, a bit of an idealist, I think anything is possible with imagination. The current model keeps people slightly enslaved paying off mortgages. What can we do? It's a challenging question, how would I like to see the future of England? I think we're back at the same problem again where the wealthiest people own most of the land, everybody else is paying out of their ass and its going to some rich bloke who owns the land or a corporate developer which is the same thing in the end. I'd like to see the self-build movement grow ideally."

TONI'S STORY



"I lived on the K&A canal for just over a decade, moving off in 2018. I had gone from living in a series of rooms and bedsits in Bristol to owning an inexpensive 40ft narrowboat. For the next 11 years, I moved my floating home every fortnight, cruising between Bath and mid-Wiltshire.

I remember the first months, when it seemed like every day I would slow down inside just a little more and then just a little more the next day, as the city gradually left my psyche and I became unhurried. This gentle pace - "canal time" - may perhaps be an experience now unique to this particular way of life. It got into my bones.

The strong community, the country, the sense of distance from the everyday world, the off-grid self-management of needs, the impromptu towpath gatherings and meetings with others who shared much or little in common but always shared the choice of being outside of the norm, the unusual percentage of creatives and musicians, the stillness - I miss all of these things but did make sure to appreciate them at the time.

Would I return to boat life now? Perhaps, although latterly - as the canal administration came up with more rules, the hire-boats numbers swelled and the canal and towpath got increasingly promoted as every type of thing but a place where people live diverse and rich lives - I felt that I'd had the best years already.

I believe that the live-aboard life will outlast this phase, however. If so, it will continue to be a living embodiment of much that is valuable and almost forgotten, smuggled safely into the future."

From the series - An Uneasy Paradise : Living on the Waterways

Instagram @anuneasyparadise

And the softcover book of the same name is available on Amazon or from sebastienandlouise.com

NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Apple class at Silverwood entered the BBC Young Reporters Competition 2022, and they were one of the regional winners! A fantastic achievement, we will keep you posted as the story unfolds, here they are after hearing the news! Aardman Animation came into school and held a workshop for the students; which as you can see below was very popular and enjoyed by all. Students Reward Trip took them out to Longleat, the Cinema, Hillworth park and Rowdey Cow in recognition of their hard work throughout the term. We said goodbye to our year 11 students at their Prize Giving ceremony and they celebrated in style at Prom (above) which was thoroughly enjoyed by them all.



NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future



Carnival Day

Hello again from Rowde C of E Primary Academy as we reach the end of this academic year. Since I wrote last, introducing myself, the school has been so incredibly busy to ensure it has the positive buzz and community spirit it once had again. We have successfully had all our classes out on trips to enhance their learning, including lots of visits to Dauntseys for their outreach work. Our Year 6s have started swimming again, going up to Devizes pool and we have had sports day and fundraisers to really open our doors again – it feels great. We have had many exciting things happen, from visitors to trips, that I cannot write about them all, but it is a pleasure to share some key updates with you.

Community art project



As I wrote about last time, we were lucky enough to have No Added Sugar, a pair of experienced artists, visit and work on a collaborative art project which has now transformed the external parts of our school. As you can see, every child from Year 3 to Year 6 painted their own circle with an abstract pattern – they considered their colour choices and overall composition and we love the final result. At break and lunch times, we still see children sharing which is theirs on the wall.

Devizes carnival

We were thrilled with the number of pupils, parents and staff who joined us for Devizes carnival – the largest school group there – and we had great fun parading as birds of paradise with a Peruvian band playing behind us. Dancing through the streets of Devizes, we were proud to show everyone what Rowde is all about. We are passionate about ensuring the children learn, grow and

love, and we feel experiences like these are crucial for their growth in areas outside of the classroom.

Year 6 residential and leavers service

As our Year 6s finish their time with us, we took them away to Blenheim Woods for a 3-night residential stay. With the Bushcraft Company, it is all about going back to basics with the children camping, cooking on an open fire, learning about camouflage and concealment, trying different knife skills, archery and even tomahawk throwing! Lots of time to get back to nature which we feel has huge benefits for our pupils, especially after their experiences with Covid-19 and national lock downs.

To also celebrate their time with us, we have had a big party and water fight (with one very wet Head Teacher), put on a production of a historical adventure and restarted our lovely leavers service in St Matthew's Church. We are looking forward to having an increasing number of services back in the church and are grateful to the members of the community that have helped make this possible.

Jack Rutter athlete visit



From Sports for Schools, we had the inspirational Jack Rutter visit Rowde in June. During the afternoon, the children did themselves proud in the challenging fitness circuit which they were sponsored for to raise money for sports equipment.

Then, we had a whole-school assembly where Jack told his story. He was on track for a Premier League football career before a brain injury put an end to that dream. After some intensive recovery, getting back into the sport, he regained his confidence and played for the England Paralympic team. Jack currently has 14 England caps to his name – nine of them as captain – and represented his country in the European Championships in Portugal. The whole school were mesmerised during his assembly where he shared his story and the importance of both determination and optimism when you find something that you really love.

Working with an archeologist

As a school, we are very lucky to be working with Julian



Richards – an experienced and well-known archeologist. He has visited Rowde to do an assembly on archeology, as well as a number of workshops where children did an indoor dig: digging up clues from the past to learn about



the people of the time. Since, he has also taken our Year 3 class to Stonehenge. As Julian wrote the guidebook for English Heritage, and a children's pop-up book on the historic site, there was no better expert to be the class tour guide for the day! We know this is the start of lots more exciting projects together.

Play pod at Rowde



I'm pleased to announce that we are going to have a Play Pod, which is endorsed by the Wiltshire Scrap Store, from September. It includes lots of equipment which enables the children to have more creative play. As part of the investment, staff who support at break and lunch work through a training programme so they have the knowledge and skills to ensure it's a success. The mentors and experts from the Scrap Store train us and then mentor both adults and children to play creatively but safely. It is about allowing children to take risks and enjoy the environment, whilst encouraging and supporting them to assess their own risks to make sensible choices. You can read more about it at the link below, but it is all about reusing scrap to inspire children's creativity. <https://www.wiltshirescrapstore.org.uk/playpods/?v=79cba1185463>

Visits and volunteering

If you would like to visit, or come and volunteer your time (whether that's for hearing children read, doing a spot of gardening, working with the children) then please do get in touch. If you feel you have any relevant skills or experience that could help us, it would be great to hear from you. We are a small team, with a lot to do, so we'd be grateful for your help and support.

I hope, just from this snapshot, you can see that it's all going on at Rowde! We are so determined to ensure the best for the children at our school and we are excited and looking forward to the next academic year when we will continue to improve and thrive again.

Kindest regards and looking forward to welcoming you if you'd like to come and visit,

Alice Simpson, Acting Head Teacher

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Your Parish Council

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

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

Since the last edition of the Rowde Village News, the Parish Council has met on 8th June and 13th July 2022.

Farewell... to Cllr Chris Stevens who has left the Parish Council after ten years of dedicated service. Chris was thanked for all of his contributions to the Parish Council, the allotments and the village over the years. The Parish Council wish Chris well for his future.

Next Community event....

A village party on 10th September 2022!! For more information, look on the Parish Council Facebook page and the village noticeboards in the weeks to come

Jubilee Celebrations!!

The Jubilee was celebrated in the small playing field on Saturday 4th June 2022, with music from Archie Combe, Chris Auburn, The Chippenham Town Band, juggling by Arthur Plumb, and the Great Teddy Bear parachute. There was ice cream available, Pims, honey to buy, skittles to play, plants to buy, cake to eat and much more. The feedback from the day has been very positive and people have said that they enjoyed coming together as a community.

All children (born after 1 September 2006) in the village should have received a celebratory Jubilee mug. If your child did not receive one, please contact Lisa Wills (rpc.lisa.wills@gmail.com).

The Jubilee event raised £668 for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Thank you again to the Jubilee Team: Barbara & Carlo Zaccarelli, Josh Wills, Rosie Berry, Chris Greenwood, Lisa Wills, Chris Stevens, John Dalley, the Sea Cadets and everyone who was involved in making it a lovely celebration.

Furlong Close

The sale of Furlong Close is progressing. The site will be purchased by company called SSH who will carry out development work that is required.

Provision for residents of Furlong Close will be in the model of 'supported living' with more tailored packages of care, rather than a residential provision. Each resident will have their own tenancy agreement and will become tenants in a supported living arrangement. A housing association 'Inclusion' will lease the site from SSH. Care will be provided by 'Agincare'.

Silverwood School

The next milestone for the project will start on 15th August when the Cross Laminated Timber frame (CLT) will start to be delivered on site. This will come on the back of a series of articulated lorries. The deliveries will not happen all at once but over a period of time over the Summer and into early Autumn. During this period, there will be an increase in larger vehicles accessing the site from the Bromham direction.

Wiltshire Council has employed a Highways consultation to work on the Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 30mph speed limit beyond the school.

The Parish Council asked Wiltshire Council for information on the proposed number of vehicles

that will be travelling to and from the school. The Parish Council has queried the projected figures and re-stated their wish for the school transport to be directed through Westbrook and to approach from the east side of the village. A Dixon (Project Manager) has offered to meet with the Parish Council to discuss this further.

It was also noted that the taxi transport has backed out onto the road recently at pick up time.

It has been asked if the widening of the entrance drive to Silverwood School could be prioritised to prevent this from happening.

It was noted that the traffic lights at Silverwood School were on green on both sides on one occasion and that an accident could have easily happened. There were work men on the road at the time.

Rowde Primary Academy School – swimming pool

Mr James Evans, Head of Estates for the Acorn Trust and Miss Alice Simpson, Acting Headteacher, attended the July Parish Council meeting to speak about the current condition of the school's swimming pool and the options for its future.

The swimming pool is currently in need of extensive repairs: replacement heating pumps, a new filter system, the surface of the swimming pool needs attention, replacement fencing. Mr Evans noted that there are no changing facilities near the pool, or toilets. The pool is shallow and only suitable for children aged up to 7 years old. Keys Stage 2 children are currently transported to Devizes Leisure Centre for swimming lessons.

The Acorn Trust could support the repair costs, however, it can not support the ongoing maintenance costs (chemicals, cleaning, energy). The ongoing maintenance costs are estimated to be between £15 - £20k a year: the equivalent of a Teaching Assistant post.

The Trust has said that the pool is not viable and is considering filling the pool in. In return, the school wish to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) elsewhere on the site (please see planning application details).

Youth Club

J Wills is speaking with Rowde Primary Academy about restarting the village Youth Club.

A location needs to be agreed, along with storage for Youth Club equipment.

If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact J Wills (rpc.joshwills@gmail.com).

Highways

The 'Local Highways & Footpaths Infrastructure Group' (LHFIG) met on 5th July 2022 and have approved the infrastructure costs for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for the village. The Clerk will present options for the Speed Indicator Device at the September Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council paid for a road sweeper to come through the village on 1st June 2022. The sweep was difficult due to mud that had been left on the roads from adjacent fields.

Planter – Rowde Court Road

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to help maintain the planter on Marsh Lane at the junction with Rowde Court Road. If you are able to assist with its weeding and planting, we would love to hear from you! The Parish Council will cover costs of the plants. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in helping.

Planning

Reed Place development: The planning process has been delayed because of a problem with the proposed drainage scheme. It is not anticipated that building will start until the new year.

Planning Applications

Dunkirk Hill Farm, Dunkirk Hill, Devizes Wilts, SN10 2BD (PL/2022/03672) Lawful development: Existing use Certificate of lawfulness for the residential use of land and buildings. This application is on the border of Rowde Parish. This application has been considered by Devizes Town Council and they do not support the application. There is currently a holiday let on the site and the application is attempting to get permission to build on the site.

The Parish Council objects to the application as the site is outside of the development envelope of Devizes town. The Parish Council objects to the application as it does not want to see development on the northern escarpment of Devizes.

Rowde Primary School, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2ND: Consultation - PL/2022/00796: New MUGA pitch with 4m high surrounding mesh fence and access path.

The Parish Council does not object to the MUGA, but it is concerned that its proposed location is on top of a soak away. There have been problems with drainage in that area in the past.

Oakwood Stud, Marsh Lane, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2NW

Consultation - PL/2022/04303. Stationing of mobile home (renewal of application 19/01982/FUL). The Parish Council did not wish to comment on the planning application. It does not consider the current building on the site to be a mobile home.

Neighbourhood Planning: C Greenwood and the Clerk attended a Neighbourhood Planning meeting on 30th May 2022. The Clerk attended a further meeting on 4th July 2022.

The plan consultant said that all sites put forward for development would be assessed through the agreed methodology.

A member of the audience at the July Parish Council meeting expressed concern about the possibility of altering the settlement boundary in the village. There has been no proposal to change the settlement boundary at this time.

Discussion has started about the Neighbourhood Plan Design Code, which would develop policies on housing design, which reflect the local community. Residents are asked to take photos of local design features that they like and think work well, and those that they do not to start building a portfolio. These photos can be sent to the Clerk for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Play areas

Large Playing Field update

- Railings will be installed at the pedestrian entrance to the large playing field.
- There are still plans to fill the potholes in Sands Lane.

Silverlands Play Area

The legal paperwork has been signed and the transfer is being completed.

Allotments

If you would like to rent an allotment plot, please contact Cllr Green for more details. Costs start at £20 per annum.

Finance Update

Payments were approved for May 2022 invoices (total: £6,944.34)

Admin costs: £1,929.63

Ground's maintenance: £937.13

Jubilee celebration: £1,210.44

Insurance: £1,417.14

Village donations: £1,450

Payments were approved for June 2022 invoices (total: £3,964.77)

Admin costs inc. audit fees: £1,879.21

Ground's maintenance: £824.64

Jubilee celebration: £857.92

Donation (Rowde Toddlers Group): £403

Two additional invoices were presented for payment at the meeting:

Wansbroughs: legal fees for completing transfer of asset of the playground. £1,472

Grounds work: £540.

Parish Council income up to May & June 2022

Allotment Rents £160.00

Interests £1.86

Keep in touch!

Website: Thank you to A Humphreys for managing the new village website.

Noticeboards: Thank you to S Jeffries & T Jeffries for all of their hard work in refurbishing the wooden noticeboard in Silverlands Road.

The Parish Council has three noticeboards in the Village: one on the High Street next to the bus shelter, another in Tanis near the postbox and grit bin, and the third one at the entrance to Silverlands Road.

Facebook page: Check out the Parish Council's Facebook page for news and events.

Contacts: The Parish Clerk can be contacted at rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com, or by telephone: 01380 501919. The Chairman, Mr P Brown, can be contacted at p208brown@btinternet.com 07554 311726.

Please see next page for a full list of contact details for all of our Councillors.

My Wiltshire App

- The more reports that are logged through 'My Wiltshire', the higher the priority the issue will be given.
- It is easy to report problems like potholes, dog mess, graffiti, litter and street lighting in your area using the 'My Wiltshire' online form. Reports can be made anonymously, or you can register for free. Once you have registered, you can track the reports you have made, and receive notification once the work has been completed. The more residents report issues, the more likely we are to have them fixed.
- The 'My Wiltshire' page can be accessed through the Wiltshire Council website at: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Concerns

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

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

Police Matters

If you need to report a crime:

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

It is possible to follow the Police on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meetings dates can be found in the village diary at the back of the magazine. We invite all villagers to attend, to observe and to make use of the public question time at the Parish Council meetings.

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

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

Philip Brown	Chair/Planning	p208brown@btinternet.com	07554 311726
Lisa Wills	Vice-Chair, Social Media, Primary School Liaison	rpc.lisa.wills@gmail.com	01380 730078
John Dalley	Sports & Playing Fields	rpcjdalley@outlook.com	07592 063789
Debra Pullen	Footpaths, Bridleways	rpc.dpullen@gmail.com	
Chris Stevens	Village Appearance and Safety	rpc.cstevens010@gmail.com	
Barbara Zaccarelli	Village Events	barbarazaccarelli@yahoo.com	01380 726316
Sally Green	Allotments	sallygreenrpc@yahoo.com	
Mandy Humphreys	Furlong Close liaison, Website	loireuncorked@me.com	
Josh Wills	Playing fields; Youth Co-ordinator	rpc.joshwills@gmail.com	
Chris Greenwood	Neighbourhood Planning, Tree Officer, Roads & Transport	cj_g@me.com	07525 185514
Pat Bryant	Planning	rpcpatbryant@outlook.com	01380 698567
Rebekah Jeffries	Clerk	rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com	01380 501919

Wiltshire County Councillor for Rowde

Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Councillor	laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk	
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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



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Our operators will carry out a full security and fire risk assessment before fitting the appropriate security devices. If you are over 60 or vulnerable due to a mental or physical disability and don't feel that you have adequate home security please contact us to arrange a visit.

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August & September Worship in Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane

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

are in *italic*. Please visit our website, for the latest information on our services:

Everyone is very welcome at all our services



Date/Time	Service
August 7 8am <i>10am</i>	Trinity 8 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
August 14 8am 10am	Trinity 9 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
August 21 <i>10am</i>	Trinity 10 <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
August 28 8am 10am	Trinity 11 <i>Morning Prayer, Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
Sept 4 8am <i>10am</i>	Trinity 12 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Sept 11 8am 10am	Trinity 13 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
Sept 18 <i>10am</i>	Trinity 14 <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Sept 25 8am 10am	Trinity 15/ St Matthew <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde (Harvest)
October 2 8am <i>10am</i>	Trinity 16 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham (Harvest)</i>

Please visit our website, for the latest information on our services: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690/> or check the Church notice board for further information

Or contact the Administrator:

Sarah Bowler

sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

07876142112

Private Prayer

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

Monday to Saturday - St Matthew's Rowde 10am – 4pm

Monday to Saturday - St Nicholas Bromham 10am – 4pm

Sundays - Rowde & Bromham Church open when possible

Every day - Sandy Lane 10am – 4pm

A Message From Revd Heather and Caroline

Revd Heather works two Sundays a month and will be taking services across the benefice. On other Sundays Caroline and Fran will be leading non-Eucharistic services, or retired clergy will be standing in for Eucharists. See below for details.

During the vacancy please contact:

Revd Heather for matters relating to baptisms and weddings

Caroline for funerals.

Events

Regular Activities

Rowde Church Café on Tuesdays 10.45-12:00

Come and join us for coffee, cake and time to

chat. Everyone welcome, from anywhere in the benefice!

Open the Book

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

Growing in Faith - Prayer

For more information please contact Caroline Culley carolineculley1@outlook.com

Mothers' Union

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

Choir

Choir Leader: Nichola Brown

Choir Practise Junior and Adults will return as soon as possible.

Practice: 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month - at 6.30pm. Please contact Nichola Brown nicola_brown@talk21.com 01380 722406

Bell Ringing

For further information please contact the Tower Captain: Richard Heath rich.p.heath@gmail.com/ or 01380 722379

Flower Arranging

31 July & 7 August Rosie Berry

14 & 21 August Barbara Zaccarelli

28 August & 4 September Jill Myerscough

11 & 18 September Jayne Andrews-Wheeler

25 September HARVEST FESTIVAL

New members are most welcome to join the team.

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

Contact Details

Rector: Vacant

Associate Priest: Revd Heather Smith
07702 113544 revheathersmith@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Caroline Culley
07557 983940 carolineculley1@outlook.com

Churchwarden (Bromham)

John Drew 01380 850908

Sandy Lane (pro warden)

Ernest Escott 01380 850405

Benefice Administrator: Sarah Bowler
07876 142112

sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Website: A Church Near You

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

Benefice Facebook page: Churches of Rowde and Bromham

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

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Is an award-winning local charity, seeking to reduce loneliness and isolation and in doing so improve health and well being for vulnerable elderly people through participation in the arts. We run weekly sessions in Pewsey, Marlborough and Devizes and are looking for friends and supporters to join us in fundraising, raise local awareness and help at our sessions.

COULD YOU PLEDGE SOME TIME AND HELP BY?

- **Businesses:** Adopting us as your 'Charity or Choice' or supporting us in other ways?
- **Individuals:** Help spread the word in your community, join our 'friends' scheme, run a fundraiser for us, help promote our work?
- **Groups:** We have plenty of ideas and resources to support groups involvement

For more info about our activities or being involved

liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk / 07780860922

www.artstogether.co.uk Registered Charity 1109432



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FUN COLUMN

Welcome to this month's fun column where we are featuring hot weather jokes.

What are the best kind of letters to get in hot weather?
Fan mail!

A man wins the lottery -

He bursts into his bedroom and screams to his wife WOW, I won! I finally won the lottery! Pack your bags quick . The woman all excited replied should I pack for cold or hot weather? To which the man said I don't care as long as you are out of the house by noon!

Two fortune tellers are talking about the weather. The first one says it's going to be a hot winter. The second one replies "Yes, reminds me of the summer of 2093."

Due to the hot weather and water shortage in Ireland the Dublin swimming baths are closing lanes 7 & 8!

I just bought a new hat..... with a built-in fan that keeps my head cool during hot weather. It really blows my mind.

Right after takeoff, a pilot comes on the microphone to welcome his passengers. Thank you for flying with us. The weather is.... Then he suddenly starts screaming while still on the mic, OH MY GOD! IT'S BURNING!, IT'S BURNING!!

Then silence.

A few seconds later, he comes back on and says, I'm terribly sorry about what happened. I spilled some scorching hot coffee on my lap... you should see my pants!!

A voice from the back of the plane yelled, "Why don't you come here and see ours?!"

He says "the thing I love most about this hot weather is the crop tops and short skirts ...but my wife won't let me go out in them!"

Do you have any jokes to tell? Send them in!

PHOTO FUN

This issue we have a few fun animal photos



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



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Full details are on our website carersupportwiltshire.co.uk/aboutus/jobvacancies or for more information, please contact kerryw@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

If you are an unpaid carer and need some support, please call 0800 181 4118. We would love to hear from you!

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES



Are you a keen gardener who needs more space? If you are interested in renting an allotment, please contact: Sally Green sallygreenrpc@yahoo.com

Tel: 07824 832424 Rowde Parish Council

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SHORT STORY - THE GOOD OLD DAYS

An old friend of mine from my teenage years in Scotland sent me this the other day and it brought back memories of the good old days.

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favourite 'fast food' when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him.

'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously.. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'home,'" I explained. !

'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school (they didn't have a car)... I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10.

It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 PM, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 am. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people...

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers -- I delivered newspapers morning and evening, seven days a week. I had to get up at 6 every morning.

Film stars kissed with their mouths shut.

At least, they did in the films. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or almost anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some

of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died recently) and he brought me an old lemonade bottle.

In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea.

She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

-Headlight dip-switches on the floor of the car.

-Ignition switches on the dashboard

-Trousers leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.

-Soldering irons you heated on a gas burner.

-Using hand signals for cars without turn indicators.

'Older Than Dirt' Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember, not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the bottom.

1. Sweet cigarettes
2. Coffee shops with juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. Party lines on the telephone
5. Newsreels before the movie
6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning.

(There were only 2 channels [if you were fortunate])

7. Peashooters
8. 33 rpm records
9. 45 RPM records
10. Hi-fi's
11. Metal ice trays with levers
12. Blue flashbulb
13. Cork popguns
14. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young

If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older

If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age

If you remembered 11-14 = You're positively ancient!

I must be 'positively ancient' but those memories are some of the best parts of my life.

Local News



WE SAVED FURLONG CLOSE!



How did we do it? Well here goes:

And with many, many thanks to Alan Watters and the Rowde Magazine whose support throughout has been invaluable in ensuring that friends and neighbours have been kept fully informed on the progress of the campaign.

We are being asked: how is it that the "Save Furlong Close" campaign has succeeded when so many other similar campaigns have failed?

The answer, I believe, lies in three things, a clear and determined objective, serendipity and luck.

But to start at the beginning,...

On October 13th 2020 the families of 34 vulnerable, learning disabled people learned to their horror that their loved-ones were to be "evicted" from their homes, where many had lived happy, fulfilled and meaningful lives for more than 20 years, and were to be re-located around Wiltshire. This, families were told, would be in the "best interests" of their loved ones as the residential care of the past 28 years no longer met with Care Quality Commission approval.

Simultaneously the same news was delivered to the residents of Furlong Close. Those able to understand the message were distraught, in the words of one "We thought we were going to be thrown out onto the streets"; self-harm and psychotic episodes were just the most extreme responses. There followed miserable months of uncertainty for residents, their dedicated care staff and their families.

And this all in the midst of a pandemic which had locked down these much-loved, special people, deprived them of their work, volunteering, Church-going, horticulture and leisure activities and, most distressing of all, cut all physical contact with their nearest and dearest.

Their families, parents and siblings, are no longer young. Parents are in their 70s and 80s, one distraught mother, who was in her 90s, died not knowing what the future would hold for her beloved only child.

Where once there had been a successful, vibrant fellowship of residents, staff, families and supporters, the years since Hft took over Furlong Close from Self Unlimited (formerly CARE Cottage and Rural Enterprises) had seen fewer and fewer get-togethers. Family members had lost touch and few now had any contact with others.

In this isolated, Covid-restricted atmosphere parents and siblings anguished alone. Distraught, terrified for their loved-ones, some in panic, some suffering consequential physical and mental health reactions.

For me, the first 24 hours brought panic attacks and nightmares. All I could visualise was my 64-year-old Down's brother, now on the downward slope of Alzheimer's Disease, being dragged out of the security and familiarity of his home of 28 years. Uncomprehending, terrified, beside himself in an agony of uncontrollable distress.

Then anger took hold. Anger that anyone could suggest that such a decision could be in his "best interests", let alone a decision made by a charity which always said it put the people it cared for at the centre of all it did!

I am one of those people who cannot do nothing. I have to do something...

I did two things: I set about trying to find legal representation to challenge the Hft decision and I set about trying to find other family members. Neither proved easy.

I made contact with two of the best-known firms specialising in Public Law and although both gave me a sympathetic hearing, both told me they did not have the capacity to take on the case in the time available. They were in lock-down, everyone working from home, everyone was in crisis to a greater or lesser extent.

LADY LUCK TAKES A HAND

Googling frantically, I and my husband Gerry came across the campaign group Rescare who



recommended a barristers' chambers, 39 Essex Chambers. I rang, spoke to the senior clerk. Yes, they did have a barrister who could look at the case the following day, and yes, she did think it might stand up.

Did I have a solicitor to brief? Well, no, I said. Leave it with me, said he. And that is how one legally-aided Furlong Close resident came to be represented at Judicial Review by Polly Sweeney of Rook, and Irwin Sweeney and Katherine Barnes of 39 Essex Chambers.

I had one contact from the good old CARE days and I rang her to ask if she could put me in touch with any other family members. She could provide little information but gave me the names of one couple who had a child at Furlong Close. It was a relatively unusual name combination, so I Googled again. Came up with six matches with phone numbers and picked up the phone to the contact living closest to Rowde.

Bingo! Contact made and from there I was able to make contact with half a dozen others.

All elderly, all feeling terribly isolated and afraid and powerless to prevent the disaster which threatened their beloved adult children.

Five days later we met, IT novices all, in our first of many Zoom calls.

THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF FURLONG CLOSE FIND THEIR VOICE

At that first Zoom we drew comfort from companionship in adversity. We had been told that the emptying of Furlong Close would be completed in nine months. The first round of letters sent to Hft Trustees, local councillors, MPs begging for support in our plea for delay in the implementation of the Hft decision produced virtually no response. We needed time. Time to mount a campaign to at least delay the closure while we tried to persuade Hft to think again.

Coming from a family background stuffed full of lawyers I argued that recourse to the Law was our one hope of creating delay. And so it proved. The JR process bought us time.

Trish, mother of KG, courageously volunteered to represent her daughter as litigation friend and, having been awarded legal aid, her request to apply for Judicial Review went before the High Court, Queen's Bench Division Administrative Court. It was by no means certain that this request would be granted since it is only public bodies which can be subject to JR.

In the case of The Queen (o.a.o KG) and HF Trust Limited (Defendant) and Wiltshire Council (Interested Party), the Judge ruled that in this case Hft was acting in the role of a public body and the Judicial Review was granted. Opening the hearing, having reviewed all the submissions, the judge said he had once before heard such a case and had hoped never to hear another, describing the situation as a "shambolic mess".

KG's mother never got her day in court. Days before the Review hearing in July 2021 Hft agreed to set aside its October 2020 decision to close Furlong Close. If Hft persisted in its desire to close down Furlong Close it would have to begin the process from the start, this time with the legally required consultation process, a requirement the charity had failed to meet first time round.

We knew from the start the JR could not stop an eventual closure, but it bought the Families precious time.

And the Families made full use of that time.

Lady Luck played her part at the start of the fight-back, and was to continue sprinkling her magic, but Serendipity also took a starring role.

Days, or rather nights, after the now notorious October 13 letter had dropped on the doormat the phone rang late one evening as I and Gerry were preparing to go to bed. An Aussie down the line was ringing to offer whatever help he could in trying to get the decision over-turned. Mark Steele was a newly-retired Australian barrister related by marriage to one of the Furlong Close residents.

Mark brought an expert legal mind, superb letter writing skills, forensic examination of all arguments and a calm diplomacy capable of bringing the most inalcitrant to the negotiating table.

In the weeks and months that followed the application for JR the small, distressed group of family members gradually grew as word spread and parents and siblings made contact and joined the action. Some arrived, relieved to have found emotional support and practical activity to fight the closure, others were more cautious, clearly sizing up the group to gauge whether we were a gang of hopeless optimists on a hiding to nothing, or whether we did indeed have a coherent campaign to promote.

From that group of family members a core group of nine emerged and with that group came a set of professional skills which gave our campaign the strength and breadth necessary to go into battle. For me this is the most extraordinary thing to come out of the past 20 months.

How is it that a group of strangers, whose only connection is a learning disabled family member, can produce all the skills needed to defeat not only the intentions of a national charity but also the policies of a vast unitary authority, Wiltshire Council? And in doing so drive through a solution ultimately embraced by Hft, Wiltshire Council and the Care Quality Commission?

As the Letters Ahead of Action dropped onto the doormats of Hft and Wiltshire Council in November 2020 a firestorm of social media protest hit the virtual airwaves, orchestrated by our daughter Emily, son Alex and their cousins Jessica and Harriet. Through Twitter and facebook we reached a countrywide network of support and on to the scene came Wiltshire Councillor Anna Cuthbert representative of the constituency in which Furlong Close is situated.

To say that Anna stuck her head above the parapet is an understatement. She came right over the top, incurring the wrath of some of her Conservative colleagues and forfeiting her political career as a result. With Anna came experienced knowledge of the make-up and workings of Wiltshire Council, established Press contacts, an unshakable determination to represent the interests of her Furlong Close constituents and an energy and determination which drove us all.

I have already reported on Trish Gange's courage in going to Law. Her seemingly unshakable composure, her quiet consideration of all the many arguments which have flown back and forth within the Core Group and her sensible responses have kept us all in line. She is a master of organisation and in her quiet way has organised two street protests, the first of which outside Furlong Close brought two police vans to the scene, apparently to break up a very small "crowd" of pensioners, a vicar and Father Christmas (the RVN editor)! Also a May 2021 Council Election Day rally and, most recently, a joyous celebration of the Platinum Jubilee for residents, families and staff at Furlong Close. She has masterminded the distribution of hundreds of stickers and 22,000 leaflets!

Enter John Gale, a retired accountant who with his wife Dianne has run a Gateway Club for learning disabled people for more than 20 years. Their son has lived at Furlong Close for many years and is a much-loved local rambler, meeting and greeting friends and neighbours on his daily walks around Rowde and surrounding countryside. John and Dianne were among that despairing group who first Zoomed in October 2020.

Furlong Close was purpose-built in the early 1990s by the charity CARE as a "village" community for 39 learning disabled and autistic adults with gifts totalling £1.75m from the Freemasons. One of a number of such "villages" across southern England. CARE's founding principles were to give a home-for-life to learning disabled adults who were to enjoy meaningful working and social lives in the wider community with personal respect and dignity. This was a visionary concept in the 1960s post-war era and led the way in the drive to close down the large mental hospital institutions to which so many learning disabled children and adults were condemned to live out their, often short, lives.

The early beneficiaries have become what is dubbed "the survivor generation"; those learning disabled adults

who have now out-lived their parents, an outcome due in no small part to the pioneering vision of CARE and other charities.

John brought his administrative skills and spreadsheet expertise to the front line and became our "membership secretary", a task which in the early days required almost weekly updating as news of the campaign spread and more and more family members joined our group. He has been assiduous in mustering data which we have needed to promote our cause and inform our decisions and actions. He has combed through balance sheets and Company House records and has provided much insight into Furlong Close life.

More than any of us it is John who has railed against the injustice of a charity which was handed Furlong Close when it took over from Self Unlimited in 2015 deciding to close it down and ultimately sell it off.

As the campaign started to attract public attention, largely due to two young Wiltshire Gazette and Herald reporters who followed our story in print and on line, so the powers that be at Wiltshire Council and Hft began to take note. They were not coming out of this story well.

Add to that our petition on change.org to "Stop the Closure" was gaining momentum and ultimately was signed by more than 43,000 people. Amanda Humphreys, a local resident and activist, had picked up the story on Twitter and made contact offering to set up and run the petition. With her hard work and considerable help from our ever-growing list of supporters the numbers of signatures and incredibly supportive comments multiplied.

With the approach of Christmas Trish and Anna masterminded a protest video filmed at the entrance to Furlong Close and starring Father Christmas, aka Alan Watters a staunch supporter who through his editorship of the Rowde Magazine gave the Families space to report on the campaign and its progress as 2020 headed into 2021 and 2022.

This and a second video increased the reach of our campaign and attracted many thousands of clicks and likes as petitioners and crowd funders rallied to our cause.

Ours was a depressing story which has been played out, and sadly continues to be played out, across the country. The protests and campaigns to stop such closures ending almost always in failure and the disruption and distress attendant upon those failures.

Hft, who up until then had pretty much blanked all letters and appeals to reconsider, to consult - the reason Hft gave was the on-going legal proceedings - held a families' Teams meeting during which the senior officers, led by CEO Kirsty Matthews listened to the concerns of family members.

Devizes MP Danny Kruger contacted the campaign, at first to discover what we were about. As the campaign progressed he offered support in finding a solution to the impasse. A significant number of Wiltshire councillors began to indicate their support for our campaign. Liberal Labour and Independents gave us their support, as did a number of members of the ruling Conservative group. The then-Council Leader and the chief executive held two Teams meetings with Mark Steele. But the cross-world talks produced little in the way of comfort despite Mark's considerable negotiating skills

By the beginning of 2021 our core group had been joined by Phoebe and Tony Hall. They had observed our campaign during a couple of "Listening to your Concerns" Teams meetings held by Wiltshire Council's Adult Social Care officers for families. Phoebe and Tony had clearly been sizing us up and finally they came on board.

Tony, formerly Director of the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, and Phoebe formerly Assistant Chief Inspector of the Dept. of Health Social Services Inspectorate, brought with them understanding and experience of the inner workings of social services departments and of regulatory inspection practices in adult social care. Phoebe's brother is a contemporary of my brother and both started adult life with CARE in Devon. Phoebe served for many years as a CARE Trustee.

Tony and Phoebe joined our Core Group. They listened, they offered opinions and sage advice, contributed to tactical planning, and it was when, finally, Hft decided that talking to us might be a "Good Thing" that they swung into action, heading a Liaison Group, building bridges, voicing concerns and ultimately smoothing the path towards our goal, to Save Furlong Close.

But I am getting ahead of myself.

As the May council elections approached, subjecting all Wiltshire's councillors to re-election, we began to plan our own election campaign. The local BBC radio news took the Furlong Close campaign as one of their "election" stories. Liberal Democrat candidate Mark Mangham volunteered to stand in the Bromham, Rowde and Roundway ward, vacated by Anna Cuthbert, against the Conservative candidate Cllr Laura Mayes.

This magazine's editor Alan Watters designed 'Save Furlong Close' stickers and talked its printers Jam Print, into supporting the Families by printing a thousand of them at cost and within days they appeared in windows, on doors, stuck to waste bins, car windows, even a milk float, throughout the Rowde area and into Devizes.

At the same time the Core Group took the decision to pay for two wraps, four pages of Families and Friends' campaign material published as a wrap-around the Wiltshire Times and published on the two Thursdays leading up to election day. The Families were calling on voters to "Stop this Now!" and to "Show you Care!"

A true-blue ward, Mark had no chance of winning but was prepared to give Laura a run for her money. From a standing start canvassing on the Liberal manifesto and supporting the Families', Mark achieved a very respectable 500 votes to Laura's 1500 or so.

The Conservatives were returned once more to form a majority Conservative-led Council, but in the days that followed the pre-election leadership was replaced. Wiltshire now had a new Council Leader and Laura Mayes, now representing Rowde, became deputy-leader and the Cabinet was re-shuffled. Laura now offered her help in achieving some sort of resolution for the Furlong Close residents.

In the early months of 2021 our Core Group ranks had been swelled by the arrival of Kate Kennedy and George Batten.

Kate, the youngest of our team who has a Down's brother, also a veteran of CARE, proved to be a

powerhouse of business expertise and IT know-how. She despaired at the fumbling attempts of her much-older colleagues to get into virtual meetings, to find the links, to use their on-line Calendars – a personal campaign she continues to wage.

Her initial instincts, voiced at the first "Listening to Your Concerns" teams meeting, had been "if this has got to happen, let's just get on with it." Practical, positive, authoritative. I have yet to ask her what changed her mind, but change she did.

With her background in management consultancy and an expert in business strategy, she is Managing Director and COO of SME Capital, Kate was the obvious choice to lead our Tender sub-group.

To explain...

In March 2021 Hft, thwarted in its desire to close down Furlong Close and withdraw care from the residents, was engaged in heated discussion with Wiltshire Council over how and why Wiltshire and Hft had arrived at this impasse. The Charity threw in the towel. Hft gave Wiltshire Council notice that it was going to withdraw not just from Hft Rowde (Furlong Close) but also from all its commissioned services in the county.

CQC regulation insists that a care provider cannot withdraw care until a new provider has been registered, so although Hft could not immediately abandon Furlong Close, it was clear that a new provider had to be found at least to fill the interim period during which the future of Furlong Close continued to hang in the balance.

Stakeholders, in this case family members, have a legal right to be involved in the local authority tender process and Kate, George - of whom more later - John and Trish were nominated to represent the Families. The first Tender process failed to find a taker. So did the second.

Our hearts sank. The future looked very bleak. But every cloud has a silver lining and in our case that came in the person of Helen Jones, Wiltshire Council's Chief Commissioning Officer.

Despite the failures to find a replacement care provider the Tender Group had built an excellent working relationship with Helen based on mutual respect and trust which has proved to be a major factor in the Families' campaign success.

The May elections proved to be a turning point. With a new Leader, new deputy leader and reshuffled Cabinet we had an opportunity to renew our efforts to press our case.

What had become clear was that it is not enough to protest on the streets, gather signatures, distribute leaflets and shout from the rooftops. You have to have a solution and you have to drive that solution to conclusion. No one else is going to do it for you.

During the dark winter months of 2020/21 an email asking for advice to the Down's Syndrome Association brought a swift reply from their specialist housing adviser Chris Watson who indicated that there might just possibly be someone who might just possibly provide a solution.

The reason given by Hft for closing down Furlong Close had been that the CQC would no longer support the "campus" style sites which current policy decree do not

provide the “best outcomes” for people with learning disabilities. Hft neglected to say that CQC’s policy as outlined in “Registering the Right Support” is not to disrupt lives where care is acceptable.

At the time the CQC’s overall rating for Hft Rowde was “Requires improvement” although care provided and responsiveness to needs were rated “good”. Sadly the CQC ratings steadily deteriorated over the subsequent months until the service was finally rated “Inadequate” in September 2021.

The Families needed a miracle!

That “possible solution” was provided by Specialised Supported Housing whose founder Grant Livingston had grown up with a brother with learning disabilities. Grant had retired young, in his early 40s, having decided to leave his career working in financial services with a focus on property and infrastructure management and to devote his energies, and money to finding a new approach to housing for vulnerable adults. Grant and his co-director Andrew Powell have set about finding a new way, a better way, to approach housing for vulnerable adults.

To those of us whose only experience of care for our special people is through residential care in homes, “villages”, communities, all now out of favour because they are deemed to be campus-style institutions, Supported Living is a loaded concept. It conjures up a vision of our loved-one living alone or sharing a small flat or house on a housing estate in a town cared for by visiting carers.

But Supported Living is the direction in which local authorities and care providers are inexorably moving and it is the drive to the Supported Living model that is ultimately responsible for the closures of care provision like Furlong Close. The attraction for local authorities is that it saves them money. Residential care packages are fully funded by local authorities, they are expensive. Supported Living costs are split between central government which through the benefits system pays all the accommodation, service and hotel costs, leaving just the cost of the individual care packages to be funded out of Council Tax.

It is always claimed that Supported Living will lead to “better outcomes”, that it will promote independence, that those disabled people will be empowered and enabled to make their own decisions, live their lives as they wish to live, fully integrated into the wider community. But for those of us whose family members have significant learning disability this sounds like a cruel sentence to loneliness and possibly neglect and abuse. The wider community is not always very nice to those who are “different”.

So it was with dismay that our families greeted Grant when they met him on one of our regular Zoom meetings at which he set out to describe his vision for Supported Living. At the time Grant was generously offering to come on board as a specialist adviser to our group. The prospect that he and Andy might take on Furlong Close was not on the horizon.

Grant did however speak to our Fairy Godmother, Helen Jones, and from that conversation and conversations with the Core Group the germ of an idea started to emerge.

What if SSH were to acquire Furlong Close and over time re-model and transition the five bungalows from residential care to Supported Living?

I have left George until last. George has a Down’s son who has lived at Furlong Close for about 7 years. I worked out who he was because Batten is a fairly unusual surname and a bit of investigation revealed that a George Batten had been Chief Officer at Wiltshire County Council and a civil engineer by trade. He had run a marathon to raise money for Self-Unlimited. He was a man who would be very useful to our campaign. But where was he? He hadn’t responded to our call to arms. Clearly he was lying low.

I don’t remember how it was that George joined our ranks, but when he did he brought expertise in the planning, development and building industries and a wide network of family, friends and acquaintance in Wiltshire, and in Wiltshire Council.

George and Kate spoke the same language as Grant and Andy. Over the months, involving considerable due diligence and discussion, a plan started to form. A plan which might, just might, provide a new approach to provision for those with significant learning disabilities and autism.

As 2021 drew to a close discussions with Grant and Andy continued, slowly it became clear to families that if Furlong Close was to be saved for our special people compromises would have to be made. We could not expect the good old days of CARE to be restored. Indeed some of us were beginning to think the unthinkable; that change in the structure of care was not only desirable, but also overdue.

We had entered a period of grave uncertainty. CQC ratings for Hft Rowde were slipping, Hft was determined to withdraw all its Wiltshire care provision and there was no obvious future for Furlong Close.

Wiltshire Council Adult Social Care services, in line with its duties under the Care Act, started the process of finding alternative accommodation in Supported Living flats and houses in the county. Where possible it was hoped that our special people could be re-located with their chosen friends, but there were no guarantees.

Families were coming under pressure from Wiltshire Adult Social care and from Hft to co-operate in care needs assessments ahead of offers of “suitable” new homes. It rapidly became clear that suitable alternatives were in short supply, if not non-existent.

The Families campaign hinted at a plan, that a strategy was being developed to Save Furlong Close. Our families, now representing all but a couple of residents, set about a dogged campaign of resistance to any Wiltshire Council or Hft attempts to promote the move-ons, despite what felt like veiled threats that good opportunities could be missed if families did not co-operate.

The families held their ground. We searched for support beyond Wiltshire and were extremely fortunate in being introduced to Dame Philippa Russell, Chair of the Government’s Standing Commission on Carers and Vice-President of Carers UK. Dame Philippa has championed our cause, taking time to speak to MP Danny Kruger and to Cllrs Laura Mayes and to her

colleague Cllr Jane Davies, Wiltshire Cabinet member for Adult Social care.

We needed time, and we did not have much of it. "Where's the plan?" was the question we were constantly being asked. "Show us your plan!"

Truth be told the "plan" was very much in its infancy. There was a huge amount of work to be done in putting together the essential components : assured Care Quality Commission registration, continued commission of places by Wiltshire and the other 14 local authorities who funded placements, purchase from Hft and future care provision and housing management.

From the outset family members had been trying to make contact with the CQC, hoping to enlist support for Furlong Close based on the CQC's declared policy of not wishing to disrupt the lives of people living in "legacy" residential homes where care is acceptable.

Although "Care" ratings remained "Good", Hft Rowde was being marked down in other areas and was rated overall "Inadequate".

When CQC inspectors go on site they interview a selection of family members to get their views on the care provided to their loved ones. Our families described the fulfilling, meaningful lives their loved ones had lived as full, valued and active members of their local Rowde community. They stressed their praise for the dedication of the on-site staff to their loved ones' well-being, especially during the continuing pandemic. And we pressed to be put in touch with the senior inspection team managers, pointing out the huge disruption and distress which closure would cause to vulnerable people who had made their homes at Furlong Close for up to 28 years.

Our pleas were heard and Amy Jupp, CQC Head of registration South, agreed to meet the Core group. Amy listened, she heard what we said. The upshot was that CQC told us it wished to be involved and informed from the start of any plans which might be evolved for the future of Furlong Close. CQC would take a guiding role to ensure that once a plan was submitted and new registration requested everything would be in place for a smooth transition.

That conversation was picked up by Anna Villette who has nurtured and maintained close communication with the CQC throughout. A connection which has proved invaluable.

By now Mark had established a positive dialogue with Hft and agreement was made to set up a Liaison Group between Hft managers and the Families headed by Tony Hall to build communication and ease the now hoped-for transition from Hft to SSH and their partners Agincare and Inclusion housing association.

By this stage Hft was finally talking to the families. Mark's diplomatic approaches to CEO Kirsty Matthews were bearing fruit and a dialogue was developing. Simultaneously Kate and George were building trust with Helen Jones at Wiltshire Council and the Families continued to maintain public pressure and individual passive resistance to oppose any residents being moved from Furlong Close.

Cllr Laura Mayes, now deputy leader of Wiltshire Council, was offering support. MP Danny Kruger was

offering support. Helen Jones, in her role as Director of Commissioning, was giving support, the CQC was giving support. The plan was up and running.

Then to the horror of the Families a further CQC inspection downgraded Hft Rowde's rating to "Inadequate" with the threat of imminent closure which such a rating can bring in its wake.

Hearts sank. Just at a point where we had a viable plan for a visionary future for Furlong Close it looked as though it had all been for nothing .

The relationships so carefully developed over months paid off. CQC heard our pleas, Hft pulled out the stops and the Families were given a rare window of opportunity to make our plans good.

There have been many hurdles to overcome. Moments of elation, moments of absolute despair when the whole enterprise teetered on the edge of collapse. At no point up until the very last minutes, have the Families been able to feel confident that Furlong Close would be saved.

It has been a tortuous road. The anxiety ,and at times despair, have threatened the physical and mental health of us all. But the indomitable spirit of the parents and siblings who have spent their lifetimes fighting for the rights of their special people has won through. David has defeated Goliath.

It is not the future the Families and Friends set out to achieve 20 months ago. Back then we wanted to restore the good old days of the CARE community which has given so much to our special people. But we have travelled a very long road since then. We have understood the financial imperatives, we have cajoled and persuaded the CQC and Wiltshire Council to accept that Furlong Close can be a beacon of excellence in the provision of Supported Living for learning disabled and autistic adults for the foreseeable future.

This is a new venture, a new concept and there are still uncertainties and problems to overcome. But the future of our own special people is now safe. They can stay in their own homes, living alongside their friends and neighbours in Rowde. And there will be an outstanding Supported Living provision for those to come.

I started out by saying that I attribute the success of the Families and Friends campaign to "Save Furlong Close" to a clear and determined objective, to serendipity, the coming together of a group of people who melded into one united campaign and produced all the necessary skills to drive it through, and to the luck we have had in finding so many wonderful people who have shown us the way.

I would add to those the sheer determination of the families, the dedication of the on-site staff who have supported our loved-ones to live composed and tranquil lives through the horrors of the pandemic, the fears of closure and the loss of their own jobs.

And to the remarkable support of almost the entire community of Rowde and Devizes and the surrounding areas.

Antonia Field, Families and Friends of Furlong Close

Nota Bene

Since 2019 I am aware of the closure of two similar residential care homes and the currently threatened closure of three others. There may well be many more.

.....AND FURLONG CLOSE UPDATE!

In October 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, the vulnerable residents of Furlong Close, their families and friends were thrown into a state of desperate anxiety and despair at the shocking news that Furlong Close was to be closed down and its 30 residents forced to leave their happy and settled home.

Since then, as you all know, the friends and families of the residents have been campaigning, with the support of the local community to stop the closure and put in place a plan for Furlong Close to be acquired and modernised, so that it could remain the settled and secure home of its vulnerable, long-term residents and an asset for the future care of adults with learning disabilities in Wiltshire.

I have been writing for several months now to say that the families have been 'finalising' those plans. I am now delighted to report that those plans have been finalised and implemented and that Furlong Close has indeed been saved!

After a long and twisting road, the site has now been acquired by a new owner, Specialised Supported Housing (<https://specialisedsupportedhousing.co.uk>) and a new care provider, Agincare (<https://www.agincare.com>) has taken over the provision of care to the residents. This will allow our vulnerable relatives, many of whom have lived at Furlong Close for more than twenty years, to remain safe and secure in their homes, amongst their long-term friends and in the care of the wonderful carers that they have come to love and trust.

This wonderful and important victory, against all the odds, will spare our loved ones the trauma of having their happy community broken up, to be scattered across the country to new and strange places, away from their friends and long-term carers. It could only have been achieved with the wonderful support of the people of Rowde and Devizes, who rallied around the vulnerable residents in their time of need. As Mahatma Gandhi once memorably said: "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members". The local community of Rowde and Devizes can be proud that it has more than measured up to that standard and we are profoundly grateful.

On a more sanguine note, we are now appealing to the community for ideas to support keeping Marsh Hall and the other facilities at Furlong Close (i.e. the workshops, meeting spaces, horticultural facilities and commercial kitchens) operating vibrantly. In the current economic environment, their continuation cannot be assured without community support and any local groups who have ideas about how these facilities might be used for the benefit both of the residents and the local community are asked to please contact Trish Gange on trishgange@icloud.com.

Thanks to you and the Rowde Village Magazine for your support over the last 2 years.

Yours sincerely, Mark Steele from the FFFC group

OBITUARY

Stephen Adams

ADAMS Stephen of Rowde formerly Devizes. It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Stephen. A much loved Husband, Brother, Father, Grampy and Great Grampy. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

POLICE ISSUE E-FIT AFTER 'GARDENER' SWIPES CASH FROM ELDERLY LADY

Police have issued an e-fit of a man they wish to speak to after a woman in Trowbridge had a 'large amount' of cash taken from her home. The woman, in her eighties, believed the man was a replacement gardener.



He attended her home in Summerleaze on June 30th at around 11am. She realised the money was missing later in the evening.

The man reportedly told the elderly woman he was her replacement gardener so please be aware and make checks if anyone turns up in your area claiming to be a replacement gardener.

PC Daniel Jackson, of Wiltshire Police, said: "This type of crime is absolutely disgraceful – to target a vulnerable elderly woman in this way is something that I know will cause a lot of upset and concern amongst our community. Please be reassured that we take reports of this nature seriously and are following up all lines of enquiry. We'd urge anyone with information to get in touch."

Anyone with information should contact Wiltshire Police on 101 quoting incident 5420068985. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Rowde Parish Council has purchased a commemorative mug for every child born after August 2006 that lives in the parish.

If you know of any children in the parish that hasn't received a mug, then please contact me so that I can arrange for them to receive one.

Lisa (Rowde Parish Council)
07557887278/rpc.lisa.wills@gmail.com

CARER SUPPORT

If you look after, or help to look after, someone who could not otherwise live independently without your support, then you are an unpaid carer. You might be caring for a partner, parent, child, friend or neighbour who is elderly, has a disability or an illness – including a mental health illness or an addiction to alcohol or drugs.

If you look after someone you love or care about you might not consider yourself a carer. Caring is something we do often without question, or the need for a label. But it can be useful to acknowledge your role so that you can ensure you're receiving all the support available to you and taking care of your own needs.

Carer Support Wiltshire offers advice and support to those who are caring for someone. This often starts with an assessment to determine what impact a carer's role is having on their own health and wellbeing. They run a number of groups and carer cafes where carers can meet up and offer support to one another. These groups can help with feelings of loneliness and isolation that many carers experience. There is always a member of CSW staff or a trained volunteer on hand to answer any questions you may have and often there are guest speakers too. To find out more call 0800 181 4118 or visit carersupportwiltshire.co.uk.

Events near you

Devizes support group, 10.30am-midday, The Bear Hotel, 2-3 The Market Place, 16 Aug, 20 Sep

Devizes parent carer group, 10.30am-midday, The Bear Hotel, 2-3 Market Place, 17 Aug, 21 Sep

Marlborough carer café, 10.30am-midday, The Jubilee Centre, 28 High St, 23 Aug, 27 Sep

Devizes bereavement help point, 10.30am-12.30pm, Bear Hotel, 2-3 The Market Place, 2 Aug, 6 Sep

Run in partnership with Dorothy House Hospice, this is a community based drop-in service where all people who are bereaved are welcome.

Devizes carer café, 10.30am-midday, The Bear Hotel, 2-3 The Market Place, 7 Sep

Kath Brice

**PR & Communications Officer
Carer Support Wiltshire**

kathb@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

0800 181 4118

01380 871690

www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

OUR JUBILEE PICNIC

Rowde villagers were not put off
By awful weather forecasts,
We turned up in our numbers,
With umbrellas, hats, and flasks.

Did you know that Archie Combe
And dancers are from Rowde,
And Arthur Plumb was born here,
He surely pleased the crowd.

We raised a lot of money
For our chosen charity,
From raffle, plants and buzzing bees,
Donations and the tea.

This year was very special,
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee,
Let's do it all again next year,
I hope you will agree.

If you have any good ideas,
Of what to do next year,
Please let the Parish Council know,
Or leave a message here.

We have a lovely village,
Of which we can be proud,
Together we can do great things
Here in our home of Rowde.



So, thank you to the many people who gave their time, experience, and energy to plan and volunteer at the event, as well as those who ignored the gloomy weather forecasts and came along with their picnics. This all contributed to the friendly atmosphere of the afternoon, making it a memorable, joyful time together. Well done Rowde!

We can look forward to many more events together in the future, starting with the evening party on September 10th. Please do reach out with your ideas for our community, and of course, volunteers are always welcome.

Barbara Zaccarelli

Please go to the inside front and inside back covers to see a selection of excellent readers' photographs taken in Rowde over the days of the Jubilee celebrations.

Ploughman's Supper

in aid of St Matthew's Church

Friday 9th September 2022

At the Village Hall, Rowde
@ 6.00pm

Traditional Ploughman's
Followed by a selection of Puddings

Raffle with lots of lovely prizes!

Please bring your own glasses and drinks

Tickets: ADULTS £10 / CHILDREN (Under 12) £5
Must be bought in advance please!

Please contact Nicola Brown
01380 722406
07999 923607
nicola_brown@talk21.com

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

You will already be aware the police force watchdog HMICFRS has placed Wiltshire Police into 'special measures' as a result of its performance.

The Inspectorate's report is a sobering read and is highly disappointing, as I know it will to our county's residents. It's especially disheartening because I know Wiltshire Police has many dedicated officers, staff and volunteers, working hard to deliver a quality, efficient, frontline service.

But this report makes it clear - there are areas of concern Wiltshire Police need to address: victims of crime, vulnerable people and our communities deserve better.

You had told me this in volume when I was on your doorstep and the results of my countywide survey and consultation only confirmed this, as well as from local councillors and MPs, on the policing service they were getting.

It was fortunate those areas highlighted by the Inspectorate's report had already been picked up as part of my own strategic assessments of the Force and it meant this shaped my Police and Crime Plan and influenced the robust and challenging scrutiny sessions I hold with the Chief Constable from the outset.

We now have a police and crime plan which ensures Wiltshire Police will meet and deliver those priorities influenced by you, focused on delivering a service the public want and prioritising those crimes that matter most to communities.

My role as PCC is to scrutinise the policing service provided, to challenge where I see performance issues and then support the Chief Constable and Force to implement change and improve in times like these.

The necessary remedial measures needed to make the improvements highlighted in the report are already in progress and my immediate priority is to ensure that Wiltshire's Chief Constable, and his senior leadership team, move with focus and speed, particularly in the Force's response to the public and to vulnerable people and victims, in dramatically improving performance and the quality and effectiveness of investigations.



My aim, alongside the Chief Constable, is for Wiltshire Police to prioritise those crimes which matter most to communities so we can satisfy the Inspectorate but, more importantly, we can satisfy you as residents

Working together, the Chief Constable and I have already agreed on a back-to-basics reset for the Force so I can assure you the process of change is already progressing.

I expect to see a tangible change in service delivery and the Chief Constable has reassured me the necessary changes are in place. I will be receiving regular progress reports from him, and his senior leadership team, to ensure those remedial actions are completed as soon as possible.

Thankfully many residents do not need to use our policing service frequently but when they do, the service they receive should be a quality, frontline, response. I will continue to ask for those assurances on behalf of Wiltshire's residents and ensure Wiltshire Police is delivering on behalf of all of the communities it serves.

Contact Information:

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07384 820760

emma.morton@wiltshire.police.uk

Wiltshire Buildings Record, a charity that has a growing and very detailed database of the county's vernacular buildings – and which is based at Chippenham's History Centre – is seeking new members.

For further details please go to

www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk/membership/

Organisations such as local history groups are charged £25 per annum, whilst individuals pay £14.

Please help us identify and study historic buildings throughout the county.



LAURA MAYES

YOUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR ROWDE



Please contact me if you have any Council issues including:

Planning

Housing

Education

Highways – potholes, road schemes, speeding

Fly tipping and waste

Adult Social Care

I am here to offer advice and support so please get in touch:

Email: Laura.Mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 07855 819343

Facebook: Laura Mayes – for Bromham, Rowde and Roundway

I am sure the Queen was thinking of communities like Rowde when she hoped her Platinum Jubilee would be an opportunity to make happy memories! The Rowde Village Fete to celebrate this momentous occasion was fantastic. It was brilliantly organised by Rowde Parish Council and despite the lack of sun, happiness glowed from everyone. I loved judging the Jubilee Hat competition (a first for me!) and seeing villagers laughing and joining in with all the fun. It would be great to make it an annual event to bring the community together. It has been a busy few months with much political uncertainty nationally, but Wiltshire Council business continues as usual. I recently knocked on doors in Springfield Road, Wheeler Place and Ferris Close to meet residents to discuss local issues. I plan to do more of this in the village so hope to see you soon. I regularly attend Rowde Parish Council to give updates. At last night's meeting discussions included the Neighbourhood Plan, Silverwood School development, Furlong Close, and overgrown pavements. If you need support on Council issues then please contact me at laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk or leave a message on 07855 819343.
Councillor Laura Mayes

Trevor Hale

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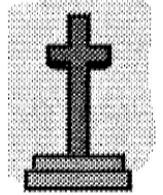
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Melksham
SN12 6LA

Email: counselling@wiltshiremind.co.uk

Phone 01225 706532

Reg Charity Number: 1113751 Reg Company Number: 5498430

Are you age 60+?
Come and join our friendly exercise class and help maintain/improve your mobility (Exercises may be done seated or standing)
Mondays
2.30pm – 3.30pm
followed by coffee/tea and a chat at Rowde Village Hall
Cost : £3.00
For more information contact:
Yvonne 01380 723086
yve@thegablesdevizes.co.uk



Lending with Heart and Mind

Wiltshire Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners.*

If you have lived in your home for over 5 years and:

- Are over 60; or
- Are in receipt of State Benefits; or
- Have children under 16 living with you.

You may be eligible for a home improvement loan to keep your home warm, safe, and suitable for your needs.

Lendology CIC work in partnership with Wiltshire Council to deliver the council subsidised loan scheme. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying.

To book a no-obligation assessment, or for more information, visit www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099.

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St Matthew's Flower Arrangers

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy flower arranging. It is fun, not onerous and an opportunity to keep our Church looking as it should – in particular at the time of special festivals.

As with any village some of our members move on to live elsewhere and new families move in. There have been quite a few changes during the two years of the pandemic.

We would welcome new members and, if you might want to consider joining us, please contact: Liz Ibbetson on 01380 720630 or

wb.ibbetson1@btinternet.com

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ROWDE VILLAGE



Have you visited the village website yet? You will find it at www.rowdevillage.org
(Amongst many other things, you can see your Rowde Village News in glorious full colour!)

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

The footpath team are ready!

We have bought the tools, read the maps and know some of the areas need attention. Our footpath team are ready to go out into the wilderness. Thank you to those people who have volunteered to join the team already - we will be in touch with you again very soon.

We could do with a few more pairs of hands though. Are you keen to work outside? Would you like to help to fix our bridges, re-instate our stiles and cut back hedges to make the footpaths accessible and safe for everyone to use?

Please contact the Parish Clerk for details on how to get involved at: rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com
tel 01380 501919

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



Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue



On-call firefighter recruitment

Would you like to help your local community as an on-call firefighter? Many of our on-call stations across #Dorset & #Wiltshire are looking for new crew members. To find out more about the role of on-call firefighters and see which stations are recruiting, visit our website <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/>

School's out: Join us for Summer of fun at Avebury

23 Jul—31 Aug—download your planner at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Avebury

Families can take part in a full schedule of events and activities to keep them entertained all summer long. From mini-digs, to '50 things' activities, nature walks, wellness activities and more.



Wellness Mondays

Join us in the Church Garden of Avebury Manor where children can relax with some free yoga, reiki and EFT sessions.



Wild walks Tuesdays

You can take a self-led nature walk around Avebury using one of the explorer packs or bingo sheets. What can you discover?



Wednesday playdays

With a range of free activities during the holidays children can build dens, try an obstacle course or have fun playing with puppets.



Thursday mini-digs

Children can find their inner archaeologist by digging to find things hidden in their trench—what lies beneath the sand?



50 Things Fridays

Why not make friends with a bug, build a home for wildlife or make a mud creation? There's lots of fun to be had on Fridays.



Every day

Why not borrow one of the family backpacks in the garden and become a nature explorer? Or pick up a family trail from Visitor Reception. There's one to cover the whole site as well as discovery booklets for the stone circles.

Find out more at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



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(All Wednesdays 7.30pm - venues to be confirmed.
Please check noticeboards and website for location)

**NO MEETING IN AUGUST, 14th September,
12th October, 9th November, 14th December**

Other Events

9th September - Ploughman's Supper - page 32

10th September - Village Party - page 7

3rd June 2023 - Annual Village Celebration - page 7

Every Tuesday - St Matthew's Cafe - page 18

LETTERS

JUBILEE THANKS

I would like to thank all those who donated such wonderful prizes for the Raffle held on the Saturday of our jubilee celebrations. At the same time, I must also apologise to those whose donations were not on display on the day as, in the rush of getting ready, some were left in my car! They are in a safe place for the next village fundraiser.

Thanks to the very hard work of Barbara Zacharelli and her team the fantastic sum of £443.75 was raised for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme which is an amazing result. What a wonderful day, in fact 4 days, we all had.

Rosie Berry

The Jubilee quiz at the George & Dragon was a lot of fun, even with the Jacobbeans winning the booby prize! The BBQ they put on was an amazing spread of delights.

Many thanks, Liz Denbury

SUPPORT TO SAVE FURLONG CLOSE

I attach an update on the Saving of Furlong Close.

Thank you so much for your outstanding support over the last 2 years. You have contributed well above and beyond any call of duty and your role both at the Village magazine and in mustering literally thousands of extra signatures for the petition were pivotal.

Many thanks and I look forward to meeting you when my wife and I visit Wiltshire at the end of the year!

Mark Steele FFFC (see page 30)

UKRAINE DONATIONS IN ROWDE

Dear All

Just to let you know that we have delivered the latest car load of items from Prospect House in Rowde to Taras and the Ukraine donation centre in Swindon. It was all very gratefully received and will be sorted for onward transmission either to refugees or to the Ukraine itself. Thank you very much for your generous contributions.

The cautiously optimistic message from our local windowcleaner Taras is that he is starting to clean windows again and he very much hopes to be in Rowde for two or three days a week soon. He knows we can't wait to see him again! Please pass this encouraging news on to anyone you know who is a client of his.

His sister, with her daughter, has now arrived in the UK; his father is on his way and should be here soon. His mother continues to remain in Ukraine.

As we continue to live our 'normal' lives here in the UK the daily news about the suffering of the Ukrainian people is unimaginable for us. Let us hope that our donations have made a small difference to a few of them.

Also a big thank you to all those who may have donated from outside Rowde, including a lady called Natalie who has moved to Mkt Lavington but saw the editor's message on FaceBook and brought bags and boxes of goodies!

Best wishes,

Marianne Eccles

...AND FROM OUR WINDOW CLEANER:



I'm proud to know a place like Rowde and I would like to say a deep thanks from the bottom of my heart for the lessons I have learnt from your community. Lessons about how a community together can achieve great things. From all my family here and in Ukraine we are so grateful for your amazing support and we give great thanks to all the people of Rowde.

I'm proud of Rowde!

Taras Pavlyk (originally from Kyiv in Ukraine)

Rowde Village News Pledge

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Alan Watters, Editor

Rowde Community Speed Watch Team



Do you think speeding is a problem in our village?

Can you spare an hour or so a month to help tackle speeding in our community?

To get involved please contact

Tony Jeffries at

wajeffries888@gmail.com or

phone 01380 729989

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Sudoku (medium this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

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.

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide

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

Allotments

Sally Green

07824832424

or sallygreenrpc@yahoo.com.

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

Church Coordinator

Benefice Administrator:

Sarah Bowler 07876142112

Church Choir

vacant

Church Wardens

vacant

Doctor

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

Football

John Dalley, Tel: 727094

Footpaths

Debra Pullen

rpc.dpullen@gmail.com

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

Chair - **Philip Brown**

Tel: **07554 311726**

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: 078366506000

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

Silverwood School

Head Teacher

Tel: 850309

Hft Furlong Close (ex Self Unlimited)

Tel: 721309

St Matthew's Flower Guild

Liz Ibbetson, Tel: 720630

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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

Website

www.rowdevillage.org

rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

or contact Rebekah 01380 501919

Youth Club

Josh Wills

rpc.joshwills@gmail.com

DOG WALKER / PET CARE SERVICES

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/

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

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Please contact

Maggie or Peter

Phone/Fax: 01380 828524

Email: peterdolman@btconnect.com

T O'ROURKE

All plastering work undertaken

No job too small

FREE ESTIMATES



Contact Troy on:

01380 698993

or 07968 634689

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

8x100 gm. balls of Deramores Studio acrylic double knit yarn, shade Butterscotch, all the same dye lot and in original packaging (shop price £2.10 a ball) £10 01380 721422

Drum Kit for sale. 5-piece drum kit drum by Gear4music, blue. Suitable for beginners and experienced drummers. Comes with a stool, 5B drumsticks, drumheads, and a drum key. Cymbals included are 14" hi-hats, one 16" crash, and an 18" crash/ride. Excellent condition, some minor marking on cymbals. Price £160, offers considered. For more information, please contact Patricia on 07884962079.

LARGE COMPOST BIN

Free to collector in Rowde

Contact Pat on 01380 723436

CLOSING DOWN SALE

This year I have decided to close down my eBay fine art shop (I'm getting too old) so I have greatly reduced the starting prices of all my listings. Grab a bargain plus save on postage too by going to <https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/alansfineart> to view online or email me watters.alan@gmail.com to discuss anything you are interested in.

STOP PRESS - FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ALL PROCEEDS FROM SALES ON MY EBAY SHOP WILL GO TOWARDS UKRAINE RELIEF FUNDRAISING

How to advertise here for FREE:

If you live locally and have an item to sell then just contact Julie on juliebaker72@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07796690413, giving a brief description of the item, the amount you would like for it, and a contact telephone number (name optional). 'Wanted' ads also accepted. **Note - private advertisers only**
Please also let us know whether your item sells or not so that we can either remove it or keep it in for subsequent months

**PLEASE REMEMBER
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The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations



Thank You Rowde Thank You Rowde Thank You Rowde Thank You



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