

Rowde Village News



**An Uneasy Paradise -
Living on the Waterways
Page 12**

February/March 2022



Covid-19 support in Rowde

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

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

01380 730078 or 01380 698567

or by email at

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

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

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Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Rowde Village News.

There's more good news from our clubs and societies on page 4 and you can find out what our two pubs are planning for February and March on pages 5 and 36. And yes, that includes Valentine's Day! The Rowdey Cow is also doing a Valentine's Meal and you can check out their menu on page 7.

Continuing the theme, our short story on page 42 is 'A short History of Valentine's Day!'

And our two schools are back in full flow now with excellent reports on pages 10 and 11.

Living on the Waterways' on page 12 has another two fascinating interviews with our friends on the Kennet and Avon canal, one of which provides us with a wonderful front cover!

In addition to all the other regular and excellent articles like 'Life on the Allotments' (page 25) and 'The Buzz of Bees' (pages 26 & 27), have a look at the new feature on page 43 which we have introduced to promote Arts and Crafts in the village.

Finally, if you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see in the magazine in future then please email me at watters.alan@gmail.com.

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 wonderful sepia tone photograph on the front cover was sent in by Sebastien Tickner. It shows Louise and Indra beside their narrow boat on the K&A canal (see page 12 for story).

The frosty shot of the Rowde allotments on the back cover was sent in by Sally Green. Nice shot Sally! (See her allotments report on page 25).

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

We have enjoyed a lovely ploughman's lunch recently.



Everyone got crafty just before Christmas to make some lovely Christmas tree decorations.



We currently have space for some new members. Why not come and join us? We meet every Monday 10-3, with a delicious two

course lunch and afternoon entertainment.

Caroline Culley 01380 850531

Please contact Carol, the Chair of Monday Club, to find out more.

Email: cmhindle@outlook.com

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

ROWDE TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

We met on December 1st for our Christmas Dinner at the Rowdey Cow which we all thoroughly enjoyed. This month it's meeting for coffee on January 25th at the Rowdey Cow and we will probably meet again in February for either Coffee or Tea.

Daphne Ellis, Secretary/Treasurer 722655

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

The Rowde Ladies met on December 14th in the Village Hall and enjoyed making a Christmas Floral arrangement. After the 'hard work' everyone enjoyed 'nibbles' and a drink.

The Ladies met again on January 18th (date changed) and this month welcomed Maureen Hiscock who kindly came along and showed us how to do Needle Felting. We were all impressed with the lovely animals she had made. Some of us may even have a go ourselves!! Raffle winner was Mrs D Ellis.

Next meetings will be held on February 15th and March 15th, both at 2.30pm in the Village Hall when we will either have a quiz or do craft work.

Di. Buckland

ROWDE BOOK CLUB

The book for January is 'The Spy and the Traitor' by Ben Macintyre. Meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month. Contact Ann on 01380 724788 for further info.

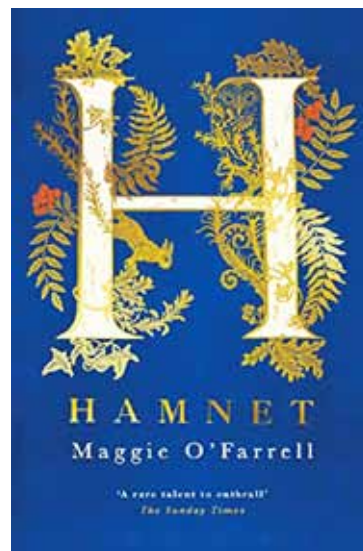
BOOK REVIEW

"Hamnet"

by Maggie O'Farrell

A winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020. This is a beautifully written, imagined account of Shakespeare's early life, his marriage and the sudden death of his son Hamnet in 1596 aged eleven. History has all but forgotten this son of Shakespeare remembered only in the title of his famous play. The language and descriptive skill of this book made it a joy to read and I found it particularly interesting historically as I had just read the brief biography of Shakespeare by Bill Bryon, another good read.

Ann Swan



CROSS KEYS NEWS

A Happy New Year to the people of Rowde from all of us here at the Cross Keys!



Although various restrictions and sensible caution meant that the Christmas period wasn't crazy busy for us, we still managed to pack in quite a lot of fun since the last issue of this mag. The Christmas and New Year's discos went down brilliantly, thanks to our TOP DJ, and we even got treated (?) to a bit of karaoke on the second occasion! 'Rock & Roll Bingo' was also very enjoyable and we look forward to hosting it again at some point in the coming months. All events will be announced on our Facebook page, Instagram (@crosskeysrowde), website (crosskeysrowde.co.uk) and on the signs outside the pub, so watch this space!

Speaking of events, we have also recently hosted a few parties in our spacious function room, both with and without the skittle alley set up. If you are interested in booking this space, which is perfect for birthdays, wedding anniversaries, club meetings or wakes, give us a call on 01380 739567 or pop into the pub and see us. Prices to be agreed depending on precise circumstances - for example, we can provide a buffet for a small charge - but they certainly won't break the bank.

Our Sunday carvery returned with great success after a short break for Christmas, and will be continuing as normal at 12-3 every week, despite the unfortunate fact that we do not currently have a permanent chef. We are working to get the kitchen open at different times as well, and we will let everyone know as and when there are any developments!



We have also been expanding our drinks menu by training Max to make a few new cocktails, including Espresso Martinis and the very popular Baby Guinness shots. Why not come in and try one? If you prefer a slightly different cocktail, don't worry, as there will be more where they came from very soon – any suggestions are very welcome! As ever, we also serve a range of non-alcoholic options and soft drinks, so there is something for everyone.



We are aware that bad weather has taken a toll on the outside areas of the pub, with the result that not all of it is looking its best. Rest assured that we know what needs to be done and how we're going to do it, but we're waiting until the weather improves to give our renovations their best fighting chance from the outset. In the meantime, we look forward to sheltering with you in the pub!

Thanks, Paul and the team

ROWDEY COW NEWS



We had a really fun Festive Period with lots of Christmas Parties and some very exciting visits from Father Christmas!

As we stayed open for much of the Christmas period we closed for 3 days in January to catch up with outstanding maintenance jobs. We are now back open in full swing 7 days a week. We would like to thank all of our customers for continuing to support us throughout the colder months and we can not believe how busy we have remained throughout January.

Our warming fire and Mark's delicious freshly prepared hot breakfasts and lunches and our barista coffees and Lou Collin's amazing cakes combined with the friendly front of house team headed up with Hannah have made a really lovely atmosphere here this Winter. Sunday Roasts in particular are proving really popular so please book your table in advance to avoid disappointment. We also have some wonderful Winter Ice Cream Flavours in our cabinet for you to enjoy alongside some warmer desserts.

As we come into February we are excited for our Valentine's Evening where we have a 5 course meal and live music – please call or message us to book your table as they are booking up fast. Then it will be half term and before we know it Spring will be here and Easter!

This year with the remaining cattle having all moved to their new homes we have managed to rearrange the barns so that people can still see the animals during our opening hours when the barn gate is open. We do ask that customers do not feed them or touch them and please use our hand washing facilities in the cafe after visiting.



Thank you again for everyone's support and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sue x



Valentines Evening at The Rowdey Cow
With a live classical guitar recital with romantic tunes by
local musician Andrew Hurst

Monday 14th February 2022

~ Complimentary Glass of Prosecco on Arrival ~

~ 7.30PM Arrival to Dine at 8PM ~

~ £29.95 Per Person ~

Starters:

'What's Mine is Yours'

A Sharing Platter of Deep-Fried Whitebait, Calamari & Panko Breaded Prawns with a Sweet Chilli Dip

'Fuzzy Duck'

Warm Smoked Duck Breast with a Grand Marnier & Orange Drizzle Served on a Bed of Mixed Leaves

'You're So Hot!'

Vegetable Pakora & Onion Bhaji with a Mint & Cucumber Yoghurt Dip

~ Amuse your Bouche with a Lemon Sorbet ~

Mains:

'Pork in Cider'

A Trio of Pork Medallions in a Dijon & Cider Cream Sauce

'You're a Catch!'

Seafood & Sweetcorn Chowder Served in its own Bread Bowl

'Fancy a Roll?'

Spinach, Mushroom & Brie Filo Roll with a Tomato & Basil Sauce

'Only Have (Rib) Eyes for You'

Local Rib Eye Steak in a Pink Peppercorn & Brandy Cream Sauce

'A Bit on the Side'

All Above Served with Sauté Potatoes, Heritage Carrots, Cavolo Nero & Herb Crusted Cauliflower

Dessert:

'The Fun Starts After 8'

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake with an After Eight Cream

'Feeling Fruity'

Winter Berry Eton Mess with Passionfruit Ice Cream

'Fancy a Fondant'

Chocolate Fondant Tart with Clotted Cream Ice Cream

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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 2021/2022 (bi-monthly)

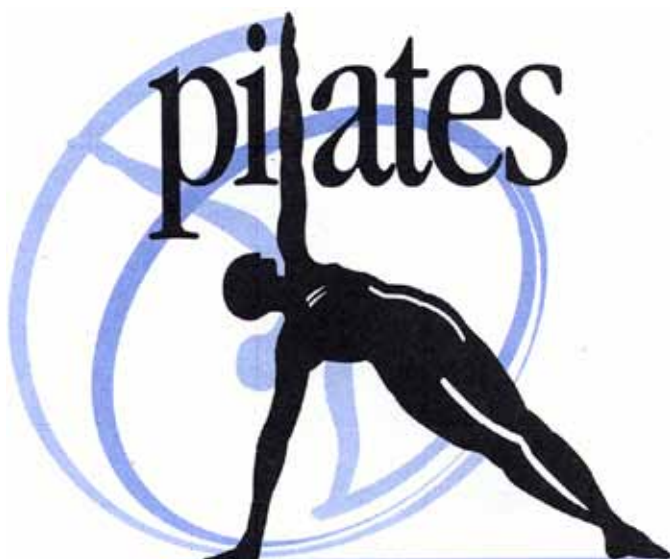
15th March 2022

15th May 2022

15th July 2022

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Tuesdays @ 6.30 pm

@ Charlotte School of Dance:

Improvers/Intermediates

Tuesdays @ 9.30 am

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

find me on INSTAGRAM: med.pilates or FB: Move Every Day Pilates

Devizes Almshouses



Devizes Almshouse Charity welcomes applications from people who would like to be considered for an Almshouse when a vacancy arises.

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Applicants already registered with the Charity do not need to re-apply.

An application form can be downloaded at;

www.devizesalmshouses.org.uk

Or from;

The Clerk to the Trustees
Devizes Almshouse Charity
Slade House, St James Gardens
Devizes. SN10 1EL

Telephone: 01380 736431

Devizes Almshouse Charity - Charity Registration Number 204453

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future

It has been a while since I've had a chance to write and update you all on what has been happening at Rowde Primary School. What an unusual winter it has been! We have, like everyone, been busy adjusting to the 'new normal' of Covid restrictions and limitations, and these have inhibited our wishes to get back out in to the village community. Even so, life at school has continued apace and much is going on to return the school to its very best.

In September we welcomed two superb new teachers to the school, Miss Adams and Miss Johns, who, in addition to teaching Years 3 and 4, have taken on the leadership of sport and music at Rowde. These are two areas in which we are determined to become a centre for excellence. Piano, guitar and singing lessons are back, we have a new Music curriculum in place for all pupils, Bath Rugby are now here every Thursday working with every year group and plans are underway for a summer-built Multi-Use Games Area. This 'MUGA' will also be available for community use. Before long, we will have musical and sporting facilities that are the envy of other schools – and our young people deserve nothing less.



Over the Autumn, Acorn were in installing new wi-fi and Interactive Smart Boards, and lots of new computers, laptops and iPads for the pupils to use. This was a considerable investment, but much-needed; the system had not been updated since the school was built!

We also managed, within the restrictions in place, to have an excellent Christmas week, with an online nativity, a visit from Santa Claus, the traditional



Christmas meal, and ice creams for everyone courtesy of the Rowdey Cow. We missed visiting St Matthew's, but hope to be back there very soon.

Other exciting projects soon coming to fruition include an Art project in collaboration with North Wilts Arts Society in the Spring, in which two visiting artists will work with children on pieces for inside and outside of school building, and a number of author visits. In February, we will re-start the Monday community lunches which some of you will have attended already, hosted by Year 6 pupils. Plans are underway too for the children to grow their own fruit and veg on the school site. For the first time since March 2020, it feels like a bustling school again.



Ofsted are yet to call, and the inspection cycle means it is likely that they will leave us alone for much of this academic year. This is disappointing, because three independent visits have confirmed that the school has addressed the shortcomings found in 2019, and is well on the way to being back to its best. It is reassuring that every visitor remarks upon how different the school now is; please do come and see for yourself.

Happy New Year from all of us at Rowde.

Jon Edy-Berry – Head Teacher

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

AN UNEASY PARADISE - LIVING ON THE WATERWAYS

SIMONA'S STORY



Simone, Jay, Luca and Lief

"The idea of living on a boat wasn't really on our minds before moving to Bath. We were renting a flat in the centre, yet neither of us felt comfortable in a town. We felt confined to this box with no garden. We'd just been travelling around Australia and India and missed the connection to nature, the freedom, harmony and fresh air that you get living in the countryside, where you can just walk out of your gate into a field or a forest. It's not easy to find that space if your living in a town or suburb, yet the house prices to be close to nature are extortionate – it's completely unaffordable, particularly for young people.

We'd taken a walk along the canal by Sydney Gardens and met a man called Simon who was a real character, he had some really nice things to say about the canal and it just felt like we'd landed. It was amazing to find somewhere affordable that we could live, surrounded by like-minded people, in nature. It was perfect, especially if you are already a traveller and you like that way of life – somewhere settled yet still able to move. There was something about the canal and the community here that we fell completely in love with.

It's a beautiful part of the country with a very broad spectrum of people living on boats

– something for everyone, someone for everyone. It's nice to have a space that feels safe for the children to grow up in. On a boat you're always aware of your resources and where they come from; you know not to waste water, you know what happens to your toilets, you're aware of your electricity and you don't just take these things for granted. We've been on this canal 18 years and though we now have a permanent mooring, we still feel very connected to the community and feel we made the right choice moving onto the canal all those years ago."

LOUISE'S STORY



Louise and Indra

"Life on the canal has offered us many gifts. It gives us the freedom to move whilst having the security of a home. It connects us with nature and forces us outside to experience the beauty of every weather. There's a lot of mud. And a lot of putting on and taking off of waterproofs, but it's a small price to pay to be a part of the magic of the landscape everyday. To be there in the first snow, unmuddied by a single footprint. To feel the quiet as the day reveals like frames in a silent movie - snowflakes falling on a frozen canal. And the joy. The joy of having the most wonderful friends and neighbours to share it with."



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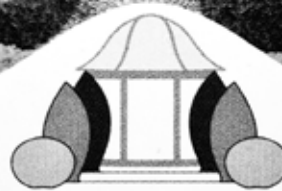
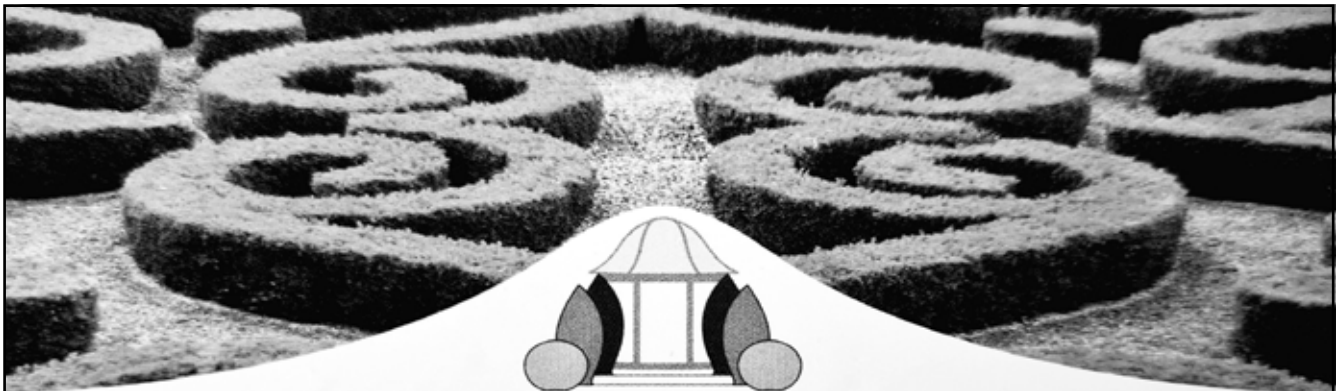
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Your Parish Council

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 December 2021 and 14th January 2022.

Our community

First Aid Training

The Parish Council is looking to fund a first aid course for residents. If you would be interested in attending a first aid course, please contact the Clerk, at rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com, or 01380 501919 to register your interest.

Update on Hft, Furlong Close – Cllr Mayes

Hft received a Notice of Decision before Christmas from the Care Quality Commission for Furlong Close to close. An appeal has been lodged against the decision. Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to actively search for alternative placements for Furlong Close residents while there is a prospect that Furlong Close would close. However, the Friends and Families group are working with a developer to purchase the land and business.

The Families and Friends liaison group continue to meet with Hft management fortnightly to be briefed on the progress of Hft's action plan to improve their CQC ratings. Wiltshire Council continues to meet with families to support them through the process.

Silverwood School

The building programme continues to go well. The project is on schedule to meet the current published timescales.

Key developments:

- Highways have approved the use of the Lodge entrance for all construction traffic, subject to the operation of a manually operated traffic light system (this will also minimise impact on other road users).

The Parish Council were concerned that a permanent second entrance is no longer being considered by Wiltshire Council.

Council tax – Village Precept

The Parish Council voted to increase the precept by 2%.

The precept for 2022 – 2023 will be £39, 026. Payments for band D households will increase by £1.54 per annum to £78.47/yr.

Wessex Water

Some residents have complained about a drop in water pressure in the village. The Clerk and Cllr Mayes have both contacted Wessex Water with regards to the problem. Wessex Water have equalized the water pressure between Rowde and Bromham, as there were some houses in Bromham which had very low water pressure. The resources have been shared equally between the two villages.

Planning

Neighbourhood planning

Rowde Parish has been asked to gather information on three topics: local green spaces; non-designated heritage assets; and F class buildings to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

The results from the 'Visioning event' which was held jointly in Rowde (on 6/9/21), Bishops Cannings and Devizes Town have been published. The level of participation from Rowde was high. These results will help to form neighbourhood planning policies moving forward.

Planning Applications

PL/2021/11921 Holm Leigh, Devizes Road, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2LU. This application is for retrospective planning to site a portacabin on the front drive. The Parish Council did not have any comments on the application.

Highways

- The Clerk has requested a metro count for Devizes Road (near to the Conscience Lane junction) to establish a fourth location for the Speed Indicator Device.

It was agreed to start the process of installing the Speed Indicator Device as soon as possible.

Discussion of work by Parish Steward

- It was noted that the pavement along Devizes Road to Dunkirk Hill has grown over again. The Parish Steward has already cut back the hedge along this path.

- The Parish Steward will also be asked to cut back the hedge that is overhanging the pavement at the entrance to the bungalows on Rowde Court Road (adjacent to the back entrance to St Matthew's Church).

- The Clerk was asked for the potholes in the layby on Devizes Road to be filled.

Footpaths & Cycleways

- A cost for tools which can be used by the footpath maintenance group has been obtained. It was proposed by D Pullen, seconded by C Greenwood, agreed by all Councillors to purchase the tools.

- It was recorded that a tree has fallen at the Hangings. The Parish Council will look at removing this.

- The Parish Council thanks R Hillier for the work that he has carried out on the ditch along the permissive path.

The Common

- It is reported that the work to lay fibre cable along the Common has resulted in damage to the grass verge. It has been scraped back and not re-laid. A Parish Councillor has requested that the verge is reseeded.

- People are parking along the grass verges along the Common and damaging the verge. The Clerk has been asked to purchase 'No Parking on the verge' signs.

- The Clerk has reported issues with fly tipping green waste in the ditches along the Common to Wiltshire Council.

- The Parish Council thanked F Drake & L Tovey for cutting the grass on the Common and for clearing the ditch during recent rainfall.

Play areas

Large playing field

Changing facilities are needed at the large playing field to facilitate use by the Club that currently uses the pitches. The Parish Council has discussed obtaining a steel container, welfare hut or mobile classroom to use as interim changing facilities. The space needs to be 40ft x 10ft and ideally would be sold on afterwards.

Other matters

- Dog walking is not permitted on any of the playing fields in the village. These areas are for sports and recreation, and it is really unpleasant to do this amongst dog faeces.

- A pedestrian barrier will be installed at the entrance to the playing field adjacent to the tennis court. This is to prevent vehicles from driving on the field.

- There are large potholes on the track to the playing field. J Dalley will lead a working party to fill these holes.

- The Clerk obtained three quotations for the work identified in the tree survey to be carried out. The Parish

Council decided not to accept any of the quotations and to carry out the work themselves. C Greenwood will form a working party to carry out the work.

- The Parish Council thanked P Dalley for repairing the Jubilee Gate.

Small playing field

Fencing

- The Clerk presented three revised quotes to remove the chain link fencing along the Tower View side of the playing field and replace with new. A preferred contractor was chosen, on the proviso that the price quoted included security fencing and that the start date can be arranged before Spring 2022.

The preferred contractor has confirmed that they will secure the site with Heras fencing. The lead time for installation was four to five weeks from the time that the order was placed.

There is a site meeting with the contractor on 20th January to establish which trees need to be kept along the hedge line.

Moving the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

- The MUGA post in front of the Tower View side fence will be moved and put into storage.

Silverlands Play area – update

The legal transfer for the play area has been lodged by Wiltshire Council with the Parish Council's solicitor. There are some covenants imposed on the future use of the land.

Funds will come to the Parish Council for the renovation and maintenance of the play area.

Allotments

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

The Parish Council thanked Jim Butler for this donation of bio digestate to allotment holders with a donation to Dorothy House.

Finance Update

Payment was approved for November invoices (total: £2,432.87 + VAT)

Admin costs: £1,280.26

Ground's maintenance & waste collections: £848.45

Christmas tree & allotments: £304.16

An additional invoice for £250 + VAT was approved for the felling of a tree at the edge of the large playing field.

Payment was approved for December invoices (total: £1,962.83)

Admin costs: £1,322.11

Village maintenance: £640.72

Parish Council income for November & December 2021

11/11/2021	Pitch hire	£116.84
09/11/2021	Interest	£0.06
30/11/2021	Interest	£0.32
09/12/2021	Interest	£0.06
31/12/2021	Interest	£0.30

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.

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ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

Philip Brown	Chair	p208brown@btinternet.com	07554 311726
Lisa Wills	Vice-Chair	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	Play equipment safety; Grounds maintenance	rpc.cstevens010@gmail.com	
Vacant			
Sally Green	Allotments; Rowde Primary School liaison	sallygreenrpc@yahoo.com	
Mandy Humphreys	Furlong Close liaison	loireuncorked@me.com	
Josh Wills	Playing fields; Youth Co-ordinator	rpc.joshwills@gmail.com	
Chris Greenwood	Neighbourhood Planning	cj_g@me.com	
Pat Bryant		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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February & March 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
Feb 2 11am	Coffee and Communion, Rowde
Feb 6 8am <i>10am</i>	4 before Lent Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Feb 13 <i>8am</i> 10am	3 before Lent <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
Feb 20 <i>8am</i> <i>10am</i>	2 before Lent <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Bromham</i> <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Feb 27 <i>8am</i> 10am	Sunday before Lent <i>Holy Communion, Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
Mar 2 11am <i>6pm</i>	Ash Wednesday Coffee and Communion, Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham (tbc)</i>
Mar 6 8am <i>10am</i>	Lent 1 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Mar 13 <i>8am</i> 10am	Lent 2 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde
Mar 20 <i>8am</i> <i>10am</i>	Lent 3 <i>Holy Communion (BCP), Bromham</i> <i>Holy Communion, Bromham</i>
Mar 27 <i>8am</i> 10am	Mothering Sunday <i>Holy Communion, Sandy Lane</i> Holy Communion, Rowde

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

Announcement made on 2nd January:

“Following the appointment process for the Team Vicar for the Clarendon Team, based in Alderbury, and Rural Dean of Alderbury, the Bishop of Ramsbury can now announce that he has appointed The Rev’d Ruth Schofield. This is subject to the usual statutory and legal process.

Following the normal notice period, it is anticipated that Ruth will move and be licensed to her new role after Easter.”

Events

Visit the Monks’ Choir

Did you see the Monks’ Choir in church last year? Our resident group of knitted and cardboard monks will be singing again this year from early December until after Christmas. They welcome visitors anytime. If you’d like to knit a monk, the choir is happy to add new members to their number! Email or call Rev’d Heather Smith for the pattern (heathersmithserjeant@aol.co.uk 07702 113544). Cardboard monks are also welcome.

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

Church Cleaning

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

Choir

Choir Leader: Vacant

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

Bell Ringing

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

Flower Arranging

Flower Guild Rota

6 & 13 February - Jayne Andrews-Wheeler

20 & 27 February - Jane Sartin

2 March - Ash Wednesday - LENT (no flowers until Easter)

27 March - Flowers for Mothering Sunday – volunteers

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: Rev’d Ruth Schofield:

07738 858909 / 01380 850191
revrschofield@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Heather Smith

07795 822515

Lay Minister: Caroline Culley

07557 983940

Church Wardens:

Vacant

Benefice Administrator: Sarah Bowler

07876 142112
sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Website: A Church Near You

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

Benefice Facebook page: Churches of Rowde and Bromham

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

A Message from Rev’d Ruth

Dear Friends,

Since Covid hit, in our house we’ve found ourselves watching more films at home, some old favourites, but mixed in with some new releases. Just a couple of weeks ago, our movie-night choice was “Don’t Look Up”, a film by Adam McKay, about a fictional disaster – an approaching comet on a collision course with the earth. The film follows a pair of scientists who first notice the comet, and their attempts to warn humanity. Spoiler alert – it doesn’t end well.

“Don’t Look Up” isn’t really about comets. It points to climate change, and ways in which the news media and governments fail to take proper account of the huge risks we face as a planet. It’s a heart-breaking story, but quite satirical too, and pokes fun at the personal ambitions and power struggles that ultimately end in disaster for everyone. It begs the question – what are we doing about the climate crisis?

I’ve heard it said that if we knew the risks that we face every day, we would never cross the road. And there is some justification for us needing to get on with our lives – there are plenty of struggles that we all face day to day. And yet that should always be balanced by looking out for the bigger issues that face us, especially if they are also issues of justice – the warming climate is already having an impact on the developing world, and on communities who can’t protect themselves.

Various Christian organisations are co-ordinating action to raise awareness of the climate emergency, such as Operation Noah and Christian Climate Action. Others encourage us to take action in our own lives, such as Eco Church and Christian Ecology Link. The more of us that get involved in looking at the problem with love for others in our hearts, the more likely I believe we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Rev’d Ruth

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

FUN COLUMN

Welcome to this month's fun column and as it's February we are featuring Valentines jokes.

1. Who always has a date on Valentine's Day?
A calendar.
2. What Valentine's message can you find in a honeycomb? "Bee mine."
3. Which Taylor Swift tune is the best couple's song for two ghosts to share? "Invisible String."
4. How did the coin propose to his girlfriend? He gave her a jingle.
5. What did one Hershey's bar say to the other who arrived long past their date time? "You're choco-late."
6. Why are artichokes so beloved? They're known for their hearts.
7. What did the love-obsessed candle say when it was lit? "I found the perfect match!"
8. What do you call a colourful heart that loves books? "Well-red."
9. How did the orca ask the other to be their Valentine? "Whale you be mine?"
10. Why did the magnet hit on the refrigerator? He found her to be very attractive.
11. What's the best recipe for a perfect morning on February 14? A hug and a quiche.
12. What did one piece of toast say to the other? "You're my butter half!"
13. Why didn't the two dogs make serious Valentine's Day plans? It was just puppy love.
14. Why did the dad approve of his daughter's goalie-boyfriend? He was a real keeper.
15. When do bed bugs fall in love? In the spring.

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

PHOTO FUN

This issue we have some more fun animal photos



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



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Local News



NEWS FROM OUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to see friends and family over the holiday period without too much disruption. I finally succumbed to Covid two weeks before Christmas but am fully recovered and looking forward to another busy year as your Wiltshire Councillor.



Have you ever considered becoming a foster carer? You may have seen a new campaign to find foster homes for 23 children and young people who live in the Devizes area. Wiltshire Council began targeting local areas this summer starting with Trowbridge. It's now hoping the campaign for the Devizes area will help local people who are thinking about fostering to take the next step by finding out more.

Foster carers do an amazing job but we need more people to step forward and take up this vital role. In return you will be provided with support, training and the right payments so that it can be a vocation. If you are over 21, have a spare room and want to help local children stay in the Devizes area, please visit www.fosteringwiltshire.uk or email fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk

As your Wiltshire Councillor, my 2022 to-do list includes resolving the continuing flooding and footpath issues in the area and championing speeding and road safety issues. I am also hopeful that we will receive positive news from the Department for Transport in relation to Devizes Gateway Station.

If you need support with Wiltshire Council issues then please contact me so I can help.

Laura Mayes

Wiltshire Councillor for Rowde

Mobile – 07855818343

Laura.Mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk

FURLONG CLOSE UPDATE

What a long road we have travelled since October 2020, when the families and residents of Furlong Close were given the shock news that Hft and Wiltshire Council had arrived at a joint decision to close Furlong Close down and force its vulnerable residents to move elsewhere.



As you know, the families and their supporters rallied, the local community came to our aid and we stopped what would have been a devastating trauma for the long-standing residents, who just want to stay in their long-term homes, with the carers they know, in a community which loves and respects them.

After a long struggle to get here, the families are now working with an investor in specialised supported housing and a well-established and respected care provider, to put the finishing touches to a plan to modernise and refurbish Furlong Close, so that it can be saved as a long-term home for the current and future residents.

A critical part of those plans is to preserve and enhance the links between the residents



and the local community and restore to Furlong Close many of the historical activities which were so important to the quality of life of the residents and their integration into the community life of Rowde and Devizes.

Soon, we will be seeking to engage directly with our supporters and the local community in Rowde about our plans, so that we can hear your views about how we could enhance Furlong Close as an asset both for the residents and the local community. If your readers have any thoughts about this, we would very much welcome hearing from them by email to me at mjssc@7thfloor.com.au.

The people of Rowde have the undying gratitude of the residents and their families for their support during this difficult time, which has sustained them and made it possible for us get this far.

Mark Steele

Families and Friends of Furlong Close

LOCAL CRISP PACKET RECYCLING!

You can't put crisp packets in your blue bin but the UK's largest crisp packet recycling scheme is now here and very near to Rowde!



Walkers® offers a simple and free crisp packet recycling scheme, which accepts all brands.

This is now the largest and fastest-growing scheme of its type in the UK, with more than 1,600 public drop-off locations nationwide. In fact, there is a public drop-off location within 4 miles of 80% of UK households

The nearest Community Recycling Point to Rowde is 35 Avon Road, Devizes SN10 1PR and there's 24 hour drop-off in the porch!

FRENCH LESSONS!

BROMHAM & ROWDE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We are holding conversational French lessons every fortnight. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Janet Giles. 01380 850327 or janetmgiles10@gmail.com

*Kind regards,
Janet Giles.*

OBITUARIES

Donald Morton SMITH

Donald Smith passed away peacefully at The Old Stables, Rowde Court on 6th December 2021. Devoted husband of Valarie and father of Richard and Robert and much loved by his grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family and friends. The Funeral Service took place at West Wiltshire Crematorium on Thursday 23 December 2021. Donations, if desired, in favour of the British Heart Foundation, can be sent to D J Bewley, Funeral Directors Tel: 01380 728008.

Charles Frederick PLUMB

Charles Plumb of Rowde passed away at Dorothy House on 22nd December 2021 Aged 90. Loving husband to Betty. Will be sadly missed by all the family. The funeral service was held at West Wilts Crematorium on 21st January 2022. Donations to Dorothy House Hospice please.

Desree UNDERWOOD

Desree Underwood (nee Sims) of Rowde. Gracefully and peacefully on 29th November 2021. Service at St. Matthew's Church, Rowde on Wednesday 29th December 2021 followed by committal at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington. Donations may be made to Camelot Care Home through John Stuarts Funeral Directors, Devizes.

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LIFE ON THE ALLOTMENTS

Happy new year to my readers! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

January and February are a quiet time up at the allotments. The ground is either too hard or too boggy to work and it's all a bit bleak to be honest! However, it's also a time of promise. The promise that better and warmer times are coming. You can see it in the new buds on the trees and the bulbs just starting to poke through the soil.

I didn't plant any winter vegetables this year but plenty of people did. I'm lucky to be still working my way through my autumn squashes and frozen rhubarb! There are plenty of winter veg that can be cultivated such as broccoli, cabbage, sprouts, kale and leeks. Maybe I'll give it a go next winter!!

Last year saw some big changes up at the allotments with the creation of a communal memorial area and children's garden. I have further plans for this year so watch this space!

If you are interested in finding out a bit more about the allotments and how it all works then please call or email me. My contact details can be found on the back page.

Until next time! Sally



Allotment Vacancies

Are you a keen
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sallygreenrpc

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Tel: 07824 832424

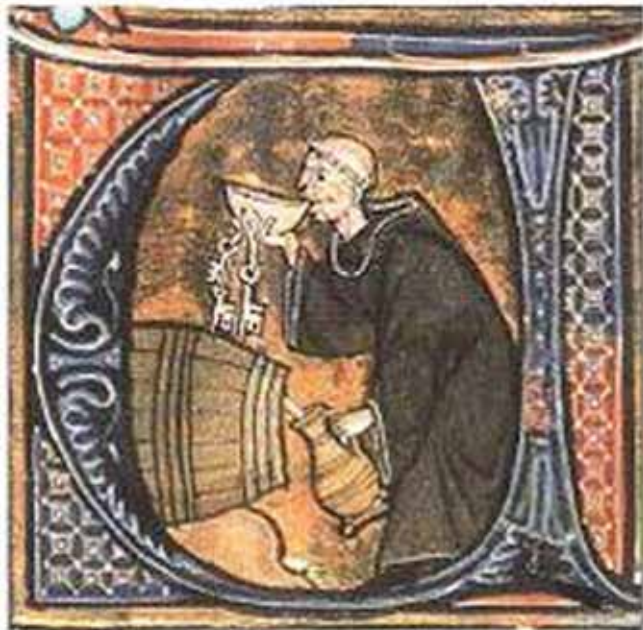


Rowde Parish Council

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Sweetness and Light

Current interest in what we can do for the bees has arisen from a concern for the environment and a need to protect our pollinators. However – in times gone by it was more about what the bees could do for us. Before cane sugar started to be imported from the West Indies, honey was the only available way to sweeten food. Used in cooking, brewing and medicines honey must have been a valued commodity and a rare treat. However, more valuable still was beeswax. With its uses including medicines, seals and above all candles, beeswax was traded across Europe and North Africa. Its quality was assured in this country by law and the Wax Chandlers guild – which is still in existence today. Candles made of beeswax burn with a clean flame and produce little smoke, in comparison cheaper tallow (rendered animal fat) candles, would be smoky with a strong and sometimes rancid smell. This meant beeswax candles were very desirable in religious (and rich) houses so bees and hives were often kept by monasteries and in wealthy homes, as well as by cottagers and farmers.



Sampling the mead

Beehives as we recognize them now started to be used in this country in the mid to late 1800s and, as they are very convenient for the beekeeper, their use spread rapidly. The bees don't care what they are in – as long as it is big enough (around 40 litres in volume), dry and defensible, they will set up home. Prior to this time wicker or straw baskets called skeps were used – like the woven straw hive shown in fig A. Skeps were almost entirely replaced by the beginning of the 20th century, although the odd beekeeper was still using them until the 1960s. One or two are appearing again, adopted by some 'alternative' beekeepers but they do present technical challenges.

Skeps were made from coiled straw or willow, bound together with willow withies. Sticks were sometimes pushed through the sides for the bees to perch on.



Fig A: Skep with Bees

The skep would need further weather proofing and several methods were used. It could be kept in a barn (sometimes a special one just for the bees); the skep could be cloamed (liberally coated with a claggy mixture containing mainly cow dung and allowed to dry); it could be covered with a hackle (a wigwam made of straw (see fig B)) or the skep could be housed in a bee bole (see fig C). This is an alcove in a wall - sometimes a house wall. Bee boles are of many designs and are found in many odd places: farms, cottages, monasteries and grand houses, all over the country with several dozen recorded in Wiltshire.

One of the main problems with the skep was harvesting the honey and wax, as the combs were firmly stuck in the skep by the bees and in practice the bees were often killed to get their produce (which



Fig B: Skeps under Hackles



Fig C: Bee boles in Ireland

is certainly frowned upon these days!). The honey would be drained out of the wax and the wax would be washed before further cleaning and making into candles. The washings would have a bit more honey added, a little yeast, fermented and matured, to make mead. Perhaps one reason why monks were thought to be merry!

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

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 2 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
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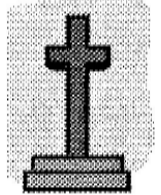
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LAURA MAYES

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Planning

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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

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

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How to register to be a blood donor?

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

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Theodora Wildcroft



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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.

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- **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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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

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For more information contact:

Yvonne 01380 723086

yve@thegablesdevizes.co.uk

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Early Birds are back! - Booking essential!

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G&D Fish pie – all £10

2 x Char-grilled Rib-eye steaks with chips & bottle house red £50

G&D Coffee Morning Wed March 9th (10am to Midday)

Come and join us for coffee, cake & friendly chat here at The G&D. We would like to make this a monthly event and that all profits will go to charity (promise not a new car for Chippy)

Cake donations are welcome!

St Patrick's Day Wine Tasting dinner

Thursday 17th March at 7pm

£45pp inc 3 course Irish themed menu, complimentary Black Velvet cocktail (Guinness & fizz) on arrival with then wine tasting of:
2 white wines, 2 rose & 2 red wines. Booking only.

G&D Mothering Sunday 27th March

Come and relax here at The G&D and let us spoil that special lady in your life – Midday & 3pm booking available.. Book ASAP!

G&D homemade soup of the Day

Delicious daily lunchtime soup & crusty bread

Eat in or takeaway - £5 each

Under 30?

Come and enjoy 25% discount off your total food & drink bill throughout Feb & March – bookings only (sorry not available Valentines night or Mothers day)

Thank you for your continued support and as always we look forward to seeing you at the pub.

Chippy & The G&D Team 01380 723 053



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**VILLAGE DIARY
Parish Council Meetings**

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

9th February, 9th March 2022, 6th April, 11th
May, 8th June, 13th July, **NO MEETING IN
AUGUST**, 14th September, 12th October, 9th
November, 14th December

Other Events

14th February - Valentines Evening - page 7
8/9 March - Nearly New Clothes Sale - page 2
9th March - Coffee Morning - page 36
17th March - St Patrick's Wine Tasting - page 36
27th March - Mothering Sunday - page 36
Every weekend in July - Marlborough Open Studios
Every Tuesday - St Matthew's Cafe - page 19

The Board Room

Reneleo House

46, New Park St,

Devizes

SN10 1DS

sycamorecentre.devizes@yahoo.co.uk

www.careconfidential.com/devizes

The
SYCAMORE
Centre

07762 382913

A Pregnancy Choices Centre

CARER CAFES BACK IN VENUES

It's been 21 months since the doors were forced to close on Carer Support Wiltshire's face-to-face carer cafes and support groups. The charity are now delighted to be able to welcome back carers for a cuppa, slice of cake and a chat at venues across Wiltshire.

Carer Support Wiltshire runs the cafes to give those people who care for someone the opportunity to meet with others who are in a similar situation to their own. Being a carer can be an isolating experience and carers may spend a lot of time at home if the person they care for has a disability or illness that makes it difficult for them to go out.

You must book your place in advance as numbers will be restricted to give everyone the space they require. Call 0800 181 4118 to book, or email admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk.

You can view all events taking place over the summer on the Carer Support Wiltshire website. Online catch-ups are continuing for those who prefer to continue meeting up online and details can be found on the website. There is also a cafe especially for parent carers to meet together.

Lansdowne Strand Hotel, Calne – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am-12

Angel Hotel, Chippenham – 3rd Monday of the month, 10:30am-12

Methuen Arms, Corsham – 3rd Thursday of the month, 10:30am-12

Bear Hotel, Devizes – 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:30am-12

Palmer Gardens, Trowbridge – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2-3:30pm

Parent carers café – 3rd Wednesday of the month, phone for venues/times

Kath Brice, PR & Communications Officer

Direct Line: 01380 819606



IN PERSON CARER CAFES ARE BACK!

We are reintroducing our in person Carer Cafés across Wiltshire. Not ready for in person cafes? We are still running virtual cafes too.

COVID RESTRICTIONS APPLY



The Marie Curie Urgent Appeal

Right now, more people need us than ever before. Our nurses, hospices and Support Line have been here through it all, day and night, caring for dying people with and without coronavirus. We urgently need your donations to help continue our vital work.

To donate go to <https://mariecurie.org.uk/donate/>



If you're living with a terminal illness or caring for someone, we're here with practical and clinical information, and emotional support.

We're here for family and friends too – no one is turned away, so please don't hesitate to call if you need us.

All the support we offer is free and open 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 11am-5pm on Saturdays. **Helpline 0800 090 2309**



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

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

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For more information, please contact
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**PLEASE REMEMBER
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Sudoku (difficult this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

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.

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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<i>And please remember to mention where you saw the advert when you contact any of our advertisers! Ed</i>	

Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide

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

Allotments

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

Pat Bryant **01380 698567**

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

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Hft Furlong Close (ex Self Unlimited)

Tel: 721309

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Liz Ibbetson, Tel: 720630

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TAXI

R H Reeves 725072

J Dalley 07592 063789

Toddler Group

Village Hall Thursdays 9.30-11.30

Tuesday Afternoon Club (60s+)

Held in Village Hall first Tuesday in the month at 2.30 pm.

Mrs D Ellis, Tel: 722655

Veterinary Surgeries

Estcourt - Tel: 723687

McQueens - Tel: 728505

The Paddock - Tel: 813202

Village Fete - Lisa Wills

Enquiries - Tel: 01380 730078

Website

www.rowdevillage.org

rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

or contact Rebekah 01380 720988

Youth Club

Iain Marr 07540017184

SHORT STORY

A SHORT HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY



Amid the celebrations of love, romance, and chocolate, a lot of the talk surrounding Valentine's Day focuses on the perception that it's a "corporate holiday" invented by brands in order to sell more cards, jewellery, and, yes, chocolate. Indeed, according to the National Retail Foundation, in 2020, Americans expected to spend a hefty average of \$196.31, a 21 percent over 2019's average of \$161.96. And total Valentine's Day spending in the United States was expected to top \$27.4 billion, up from 2019's record \$20.7 billion. Is any part of Valentine's Day's history authentically romantic?

Per History, the holiday's history and its patron saint are "shrouded in mystery," particularly since there are three different martyred saints named Valentine or Valentinus. According to one legend, Valentine was a third century Roman priest who secretly married couples after Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young men, because he thought single men made better soldiers. Another legend suggests that Valentine was killed for helping Christians escape Roman prisons and sent the first "valentine" to a woman who visited him while he was imprisoned, signing it "from your Valentine," a phrase that's still found on valentine cards to this day. Regardless of the origin stories, they all set Valentine up as a heroic, romantic figure, and by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most beloved saints of both England and France.

From Goat's Blood To Poetry

History goes on to note that Valentine's Day falls in the month of February possibly because of the Christian church's attempt to "Christianize" a pagan fertility festival called Lupercalia, which was celebrated during the ides of February, or February 15. This involved Roman priests, known as the Luperci, gathering at a sacred cave to sacrifice a goat, to encourage fertility, and a dog, for purification purposes. The priests would then take to the streets holding strips of goat flesh dipped in sacrificial blood and gently slap both women and fields with the goat hide to encourage fertility. The day supposedly ended with women putting their names in an urn, at which point

Rome's single men would choose a name from the urn and the couple would then spend the next year together, often marrying at the end.

Lupercalia was later outlawed near the end of the fifth century, at which point Pope Galasius declared February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day. The day's romantic connotations didn't begin until much later, perhaps connected to the belief from the Middle Ages that birds' mating season begins on February 14. The first mention of Valentine's Day as a day celebrating romantic love is thought to have come from Geoffrey Chaucer in 1375 with a line from the poem "Parliament of Fowles": "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." Written valentine greetings appeared in the 15th century.

The Oldest Valentine Is Very, Very Old



The oldest valentine that still exists today is a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife during his imprisonment in the Tower of London. The note resides in the British Library in London. By the middle of the 18th century, it was a common practice for friends and lovers to "exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes," per History, with printed cards commonly replacing letters by 1900. In the United States, Esther A. Howland is thought to have popularized the ornate and elaborate creations we associate with valentines when she started making and selling such cards in the 1840s.

Today, Valentine's Day is the second-largest card-sending holiday, after Christmas. Per Hallmark, about 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged throughout the world, and that doesn't count the little cards children traditionally give each other in classrooms via shoebox and construction paper "mailboxes." Hallmark first offered valentine cards in 1913 and began producing them in 1916, making the slightly cynical phrase "Hallmark holiday" simplistic when it comes to considering the long history behind Valentine's Day, but not entirely inaccurate when one considers how much money the company stands to make on a day when there are 145 million cards to be sold.

Rowde Arts and Crafts

This page has been created to promote arts and crafts in the village. We hope to feature more artists in future issues. If you live in the parish of Rowde and you would like to be featured here please email your details and an image to watters.alan@gmail.com

ANN SWAN

Ann is a well-known contemporary botanical artist and author of 'Botanical Painting with Coloured Pencils'. She has been awarded four RHS Gold medals, is passionate about coloured pencil and now teaches her techniques around the world mainly on Zoom.

Ann sells her originals, limited edition prints, greetings cards and giftware online at www.annswan.co.uk or you can visit her studio; ring 01380724788 or email ann@annswan.co.uk to arrange a visit.

Image: Parrot Tulips, coloured pencil drawing



ALAN WATTERS

Alan is a local animal artist and pet and people portrait artist. His Highland Cow drawing was recently awarded 'Best in Show' at the Lawrence Art Society Annual exhibition in Devizes Town Hall.

Alan sells his originals, limited edition prints and greetings cards online at www.alansfineart.com and you can pick up purchases in person at Rowde Court Studios on Marsh Lane in Rowde. And for portrait commissions please ring 07886870053 or email watters.alan@gmail.com for further information.

Image: Highland Cow, coloured pencil drawing

JILL MYERSCOUGH

Rowde artist Jill paints both landscapes and still life mostly in oil watercolour or inks. Her background in textiles informs her passion for interesting form, colours and textures with her inspiration coming from gardens and wild landscapes as well as her own collection of vintage decorative china. She has twice won first prize for landscape paintings based on the local area submitted to the annual exhibition at the Pound Centre in Corsham.

Jill works from her studio in Coach House Mews; Telephone 01380729319 or email jandrandh@gmail.com to arrange viewing.



