

Rowde Village News



February/March 2024



Editorial

I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year despite the dreadful weather we have had lately and I welcome you to this bumper edition of the Rowde Village News.

This issue there are all the usual excellent reports and articles from the village's schools, clubs, societies and other organisations of course but there are also many additional interesting items and events covered in this issue.

The village was buzzing with activities over the festive period so we have published lots of your photographs taken during December and January on the inside front cover and also populated the outer and inner back cover with photos of the wonderfully decorated advent calendar windows.

You can read all about the well attended (despite the weather) Furlong Close Christmas Market on pages 28 and 29 and speaking of Furlong Close, you can read on page 29 what is happening with the project led by The Mind Tree Cafe to reopen the unused buildings that were not taken on by Agincare when HFT sold the site. I know they are doing all they can to get the rooms occupied again but they need more help. The proposed use of these rooms could be beneficial to us all so please consider what maybe you could offer in the way of help.

There's an update on the recently resurrected Community Speed Watch on page 30 and please think about joining their team as they still need more volunteers.

And finally, there were no letters received this time. Please do email us and let us know your views and concerns for future issues.

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 front cover shot was taken by the editor looking from the playing fields into the Happy Hooves farmlands.

The inside front cover is a montage of photos taken in and around the village during December and January. Thanks Tom Humphreys, Sue Clifford, Rachel Warde, Barbara Zaccarelli, Sue Thompson, Lisa Wills, Peter Hindle and Alan Watters for the photographs.

The back cover (outer and inner) show this year's amazing Advent Calendar windows. Thank you everyone who participated.

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

(See our poster on the opposite page!)

November and December were very musical months for Monday Club members. We were entertained by Sian and Rob, a lovely singing duo who sang songs from the shows and we enjoyed hearing the school choir singing a selection of Christmas songs that they'd learnt this year. We also did some singing ourselves - Cathy led a session of action songs which was great fun, as was Ann's version of The Days of Christmas, also accompanied by actions.



Our Christmas lunch was amazing - thank you Serena, and we were pleased that some volunteers were able to join us. A big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to help us in some way, we really do appreciate your support. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.



Monday Club would like to thank the Phoenix Club for donating their curling set to us - we look forward to trying it out in the new Community Hub.

We're always looking for new members so why not come along and join us. For more information contact:

Carol - 01380 850925 or Cathy - 01380 850555

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

At their meeting on December 5th there was a lovely smell in the Village Hall where the members were busy making pomanders with oranges and cloves. It is hoped these will last for many years producing a pleasant aroma.

The afternoon ended with a cup of tea and a mince pie.

Raffle winner was Mrs Stella Loader and the extra prize of a Poinsettia winner was Mrs Pauline Beale.

The first meeting of the New Year was held on January 9th when members met in the Village Hall and enjoyed a Quiz with the winners being Mrs S Loader and Mrs C Sault.

The Raffle winner was Mrs D Ellis.

Next Meeting will be on February 6th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall when we will be enjoying Pancakes and having a Beetle Drive.

Di Buckland

Tribute to Jill

How shocked and sad we were to hear of the sudden passing of our dear friend and founder member of Rowde Ladies Club, Jill Handy.

Jill would always arrive at our meetings with a cheerful greeting and a broad smile which we will sorely miss.

Once a year Jill and John invited the 'Ladies' to their beautiful garden at Westbrooke for an evening where we played games and enjoyed the lovely supper Jill provided for us. The money we raised was given at their request to the Bath Cancer Unit Support Group. This charity also benefited from the donations given by the many visitors who came to see the beautiful Christmas lights they put up around their garden which increased each year.

When Cromwell House (a Grouped Dwelling Complex) was in Springfield Road (where Wheelers Close is), the members 'put on' a Christmas entertainment for the residents for which Jill did most of the organising 'coming up' with some silly skits and poems for us to perform! The 'cast' probably had more fun 'backstage' than the audience!

Oh, Happy Times, we will miss you Jill.

Members of Rowde Ladies Club

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the urgent work carried out in the porch doorway and the work on the boundary wall.

Di Buckland



GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY AT MONDAY CLUB



I look forward to
Mondays!



It's so friendly
and welcoming!



Never a dull
moment!



The home cooked
food is delicious!



I go home smiling!

Why not come along and join us? To find out more about Monday Club, please contact :
Carol - 01380 850925 or Cathy - 01380 850555

ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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

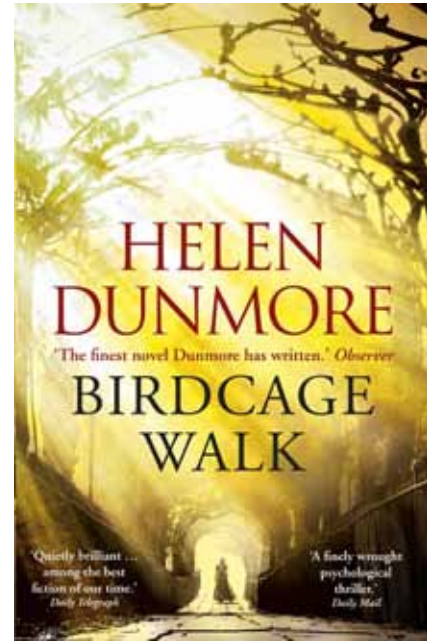
BOOK REVIEWS **'Birdcage Walk'** by Helen Dunmore

Set in Bristol in 1792 when Europe, and especially France, was seized by political turmoil and violence, the book concentrates on the lives of Lizzie and her husband John Diner Tredevant. Lizzie has grown up in radical circles and her mother is a prolific pamphleteer on societal change. 'She is writing about equality, the rights of women and the poor, and about the damage to society caused by hereditary privilege' says Dunmore. Diner, her anti-hero, opposes this radicalism and sees his wife as his property and his inferior.

Diner is a widower and an ambitious property developer in Bristol. His first wife was French and the cause of her death was surrounded by mysterious circumstances. He has everything to lose if Britain goes to war with France because of the French revolution; and that risk of war looms over the lives of Diner and Lizzie throughout the book. As his financial circumstances get worse, his behaviour becomes more unpredictable and threatening. There evolves a real sense of oppression in the relationship between them and Lizzie becomes concerned for her safety.

By and large, everyone enjoyed the book, partly because of the familiarity of the Bristol setting but mainly because, as one critic said, '[her] elegant prose and brilliantly researched detail [makes] a devastatingly good novel'.

Delia Merison



MEET YOUR LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS



You are invited to meet with PCSO Yarranton and PCSO Watts on Saturday February 10th 2024, from 6.00pm – 7.00pm in Rowde Village Hall. This is an opportunity to have a chat with your local community police officers and to bring anything that you are concerned about to their attention. Everyone is welcome to attend!



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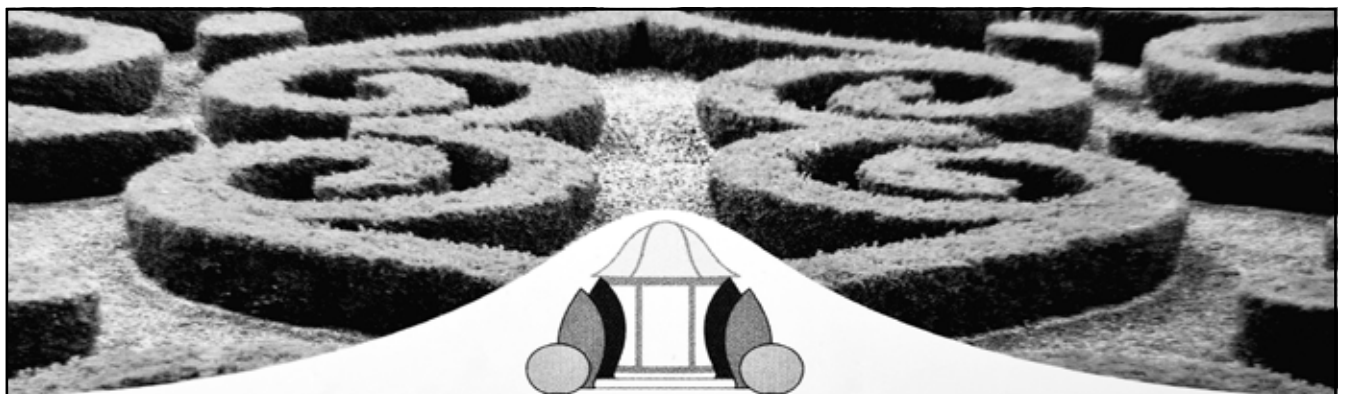
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ROWDEY COW NEWS



As I am writing the first article of 2024 Christmas and New Year is already feeling a long time ago and we are busy preparing for Valentine's and February Half Term!



The crisp, cold mornings with beautiful blue sky is the perfect way to start the year. The fire in the café is lit and hot coffees and soup and delicious lunches and Sunday roasts all proving very popular with our customers.

Yesterday we had our Environmental Health routine visit and retained our 5 star rating Food Hygiene rating which is no surprise with the hard working team we have here striving for perfection.

Christmas was so much fun with the Breakfasts with Father Christmas in the Function Barn proving a magical success (a special thank you to Father Christmas who was amazing as ever)! We also held some lovely Christmas Party evenings with buffets and 3 course meals.

The Church held their Crib service here on Christmas Eve and despite the wet weather was very well supported and enjoyed by everyone.

Another development is that the Rowdey Cow has moved with the times and you can now reserve your table online via our website or Facebook!



The pigs and the donkeys and ponies are tucked away in the barn this winter and all the animals featured in our Christmas animation created by Zakea Page who is a budding award winning film creator who worked with us last year. This can be seen on our Facebook page.

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and new year and look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Sue

ROWDEY COW

Valentine's **MENU**

2 Courses £28.95 3 Courses £32.95

Pre-Order Required

STARTERS

Baked Camembert to Share Served with Crusty Bread & Butter
Creamy Garlic Mushrooms Served on Toasted Sourdough
Chicken Liver Pate Served with Red Onion Chutney & Toasted Sourdough

MAIN DISHES

Chicken Supreme Served with a Garlic & Thyme Cream Sauce

Pan Fries Seabass in a White Wine Sauce

Mediterranean Vegetable Tart

(All Served with Dauphinoise Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables)

*Flat Iron Steak Served with Chunky Chips, Grilled Mushroom
& Cherry Tomatoes on the Vine with Choice of Stilton or
Peppercorn Sauce
(£3 Supplement)*

DESSERTS

Trio of Rowdey Cow Ice Cream

Red Velvet Cake Topped with Chocolate Sauce

Ferrero Rocher Cheesecake

Cheeseboard for Two (£3.50 Supplement)

Taking Bookings Now!

01380 829666

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future

Firstly, although a little late, a very happy new year from us all at Rowde C of E Primary Academy! We have really enjoyed our return to school after Christmas and New Year. We planned lots of great trips and experiences in January and, as always, are prioritising the children's lessons and areas of learning.

Just before the Christmas holiday, we had another Quality Assurance visit from an active Ofsted inspector. She is employed by the Trust to visit schools and monitor the quality of education. She spent time doing 'deep dives' into Maths, History and Early Years. She was really positive about the consistency and quality of teaching she saw – explicitly commenting on the continued and ongoing improvements since her earlier visits. She was particularly impressed by our new Early Years learning space and the teaching and learning she observed for our youngest children. Once again, every child she spoke to confidently said there was no bullying at Rowde and that they feel safe. This corroborates with our recent pupil survey results where to the question, 'I feel safe and cared for at school' 73% of our pupils 'strongly agree' and 27% of our pupils 'agree'. As we continue to wait for the official Ofsted visit, this quality assurance is useful to recognise how far we've come and identify some areas to continue to develop – we really hope we get the inspection we're due soon, though we know it will be by the end of this academic year (July 2024).

First Aid Training



Although it is covered in our Key Stage 2 curriculum, we have always felt that our teaching and learning of First Aid needed to be improved. As a result, we invited Mini First Aid in to do an additional basic first aid course with Years 3 to 6. The children learnt about how to assess a situation, the importance of getting help and calling 999, the recovery position, CPR and what to do if someone is choking. We will repeat this annually so, even if it is just a refresher, the children will become confident in these basic essentials.

Exciting Art Project for Oliver Beer



We are so excited about this! Just before Christmas, every child at our school created a 'still' from the Aristocats animation. They traced the outline and then had free-reign to colour and create their own version of the piece. The artist, Oliver Beer, will use these stills to create a new version of the animation and, as a piece of art, it is going to be in an exhibition in New York in the Spring. You can see a previous example here: <https://vimeo.com/884477729/8626fbcbaa?share=copy>



The children loved creating their stills and, hopefully in a future issue, we'll be able to share the finished animation!

Dauntseys Art Outreach

As I've explained before, we work closely with Dauntseys School making the most of their facilities and opportunities. In December, two of their Art

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future



teachers came to Rowde and taught the children how to screen print, using leaves from the school site, and how to use texture and contrasting colours for effect. The children loved making their wreaths which made great Christmas presents!

Imperial War Museum Trip

At the very beginning of term, Year 6 had a brilliant day at the Imperial War Museum in London. A long way to go for a day, but the coach journey took them past all the key landmarks of London and so they were able to see the city too, which they loved! In the museum, they saw artefacts and took part in the interactive displays which connected with their learning during terms 1 and 2 on

WW1 and WW2. It is a great experience for our Year 6s and ensures that all Rowde pupils get to go to London and see the sights before the finish their time with us.

Birch Class RE learning

This term, our Reception class are learning about different celebrations both across the world and in different religions during their RE lessons. They have used masks to act out the story of the Chinese Zodiac and, inspired by 2024 being a year of the dragon, the worked together to use the resources in the classroom to make their own dragon and parade the school corridors!

As we move into Spring, we are looking forward to more trips, visits and exciting learning opportunities. Life at Rowde is very busy but always focused on our Christian ethos and vision – to enable children to learn, grow and love. As always, every day at Rowde is an open day. If you would like to see us in action, or think you could support in anyway, please get in touch: head@rowde.wilts.sch.uk

Kindest regards,

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher

NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Our value for this term is Honesty

We have had a big focus on reading at school with lots of reading taking place at home with the school mascot – Toothless the Dragon, both students and staff taking part!



Silverwood took part in the Into Film Festival, an initiative providing young people to access visual literacy through film, with students attending a free cinema showing for the Cineworld viewing of Aardman animation's Early Man.



Teresa Ollerhead



Rob Hunt DipPFS

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Your Parish Council

Please visit the rowdevillage.org website, the Rowde Parish Council Facebook page and the village noticeboards for a full set of minutes and confirmation of forthcoming Parish Council meetings.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the minutes, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by email: rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com or on: 07752 724096

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council met on 13th December 2023 and 10th January 2024

Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council which can be filled through co-option. If you can spare an evening a month and are interested in what happens in your village and you want to hear about it first, join the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Police in the Village

Your local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will be visiting Rowde Village Hall on Saturday 10th February, from 6.00-7.00pm. Please come along to visit to discuss any matters of concern.

Horses abandoned on the Common

The Parish Council would like to thank Louise & Fraser for feeding and caring for horses that had been abandoned on the Common. The horses have now been reclaimed.

Fete!

Save the date: Saturday 1st June 2024.

If you would like to help plan for the events and get involved with this happy village event, please contact Barbara Zaccarelli (barbarazaccarelli@yahoo.com, tel: 01380 726316).

Precept – your Council tax

The Parish Council debated the current economic situation for residents, countered by the Parish Council having more physical responsibilities.

The Parish Council voted to increase the precept by 4%. The precept was set at £40,553.64. This equates to a £3.14 per year increase for a band D house.

Flooding

There was considerable flooding in the village on 4/1/24. Some properties on Silverlands Road were in danger of being flooded. L Wills (Chairman) has met with a representative from Aster who has agreed to clear their culvert behind the houses in Silverlands/Springfield Road.

There was further flooding down towards the Common. C Greenwood noted that the weir is not able to take all of the water.

It was noted that if the drains are flushed on a regular basis, there would be less burden on the weirs and brooks. Wiltshire Council advises Rowde Parish to draft a flood plan, or they are unable to provide assistance.

The Parish Council has purchased sandbags for residents in Silverlands Road to use in case the situation occurs again.

Speeding

Concern was raised again about speeding through the village.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been moved back to Devizes Road. There have been some issues with the batteries not charging. This is being investigated.

Data from the Speed Indicator Device has been submitted to the Police for November 2023. It was not possible to

submit data for December 2023, as there have been problems with the device.

C Greenwood has completed the second part of the Community Speedwatch course and will arrange a meeting of volunteers. The camera is shared with Seend and also Brickley Lane.

Cllr Mayes updated the Parish Council with information from the Police and Crime Commissioner, as speeding is ultimately enforced by the Police. The Police issued 192 speeding tickets in 2021 for the whole of Wiltshire. By comparison, they have issued 4,400 tickets in September 2023 alone.

Highways

Devizes Road pavement to Dunkirk Hill: the new Highways representative, Andrew Cadwallader has been asked to look at the pavement to Devizes, with its encroaching verge. The footway needs to be cleared using mechanical means. Wiltshire Council's

JCB budget is currently taken up with drainage issues. A. Cadwallader has said he will try to promote the site for work to be done. He will arrange for the path to be weed killed in the meantime.

Conscience Lane Road surface: The road surface is completely breaking up in sections. It has been resurfaced in recent years with a new micro surface material. The faults have been raised with the major maintenance team for Wiltshire Council.

C Greenwood raised continuing issues along Devizes Road, with the manmade ditch along the highways adjacent to Buena Vista. It was also commented that the road signage needs to be improved on the road, as there was recently a car accident with someone exiting onto Devizes Road.

Planning

Application on build on land off Sands Lane

Changes to NPPF (National Policy Planning Framework) now say that any local authority at the regulation 19 stage, no longer have to provide 5-year land supply but instead can provide a 4-year land supply. Wiltshire has a 4.8-year land supply and is now only required to demonstrate a 4-year land supply.

Any application not determined pre-19th December now has to be determined against the new NPPF. The Sands Lane planning application is being reviewed by Wiltshire Council's planning department.

Rowde's housing target will not change. There is still the requirement for Rowde to build 47 houses by 2038.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Mayes for all of the work that she has done.

Reed Place/Haymeadow Way

Ten houses will be erected on land there; made off site and assembled on site. Preparatory groundwork began before Christmas. An access route has been created to the site. The entrance has been fenced off. It is the intention to start the groundwork and drainage by mid-March 2024. It is hoped that the homes will be in place by the summer.

Planning Applications

- PL/2023/07208: Land adjacent 35 Tower View, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PS. Outline application with all matters reserved for erection of a Dwelling. Deadline for comments: 30th November 2023. Deadline extended to 15/12/23.

No further information was available from the applicant at the time of the meeting. In light of there being no further information on the application, the Parish Council has rejected the application.

- PL/2023/10282 Lower Farm, Devizes Road, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2LX.

Prior approval Part 3 Class R: Agricultural building to a flexible commercial use. Consultation. Deadline for comments 28th December 2023. Further to application

- PL/2023/04363 for retrospective permission to erect a building and change 2x agricultural buildings into flexible use, commercial units. Approved on 13/11/23.

The Parish Council had no objection to the application.

- PL/2023/10214 Ox Lea Barn Farm, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2BQ: Consultation - Proposed agricultural building for the storage of machinery and provide a workshop. It was noted that the building will be positioned so that it does not have a big impact on the landscape. It will appear in line with the other buildings there, when viewed from the permissive path. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

- PL/2023/10050 Old Brickyard, Caen Hill, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1RD. Full Planning: Proposed erection of a storage building (B8 USE). The Parish Council wished to know what the storage building was going to be used to store.

- PL/2023/10987: Hedgerow removal notice CONSCIENCE LANE/FOLLY ROAD/HOPTON ROAD/HORTON ROAD, DEVIZES, SN10 2EU, Removal of sections of hedgerow: Conscience Lane - 5m Folly Road - 85m Hopton Road - 15m and 3 trees Horton Road - 30m and 3 trees: re: National Grid VIP project.

C Greenwood noted that Wiltshire Council has not set up the application properly for it to be viewed. A question was asked about whether there are TPOs on the trees noted for removal.

- Footpath diversion order: Rowde Path No.32. Modification Order 2023

Reference planning application: PL/2023/01643. ROWD32 starts on Conscience Lane opposite Iron Pear Tree farm: re: National Grid VIP project. The Parish Council did not object to the application. This will be a permanent diversion.

- PL/2023/10020: Full Planning: Mill Cottages, Conscience Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2JD. Consultation - Replacement of 2 no. existing two storey semidetached cottages with new two storey single dwelling, together with related external works and revised driveway access. The Parish Council did not have any comments to make.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Some representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met on 20/11/23 to discuss progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. Since that meeting, Aecom, the company commissioned to look at site selection, has submitted their draft document. The Group met again on 18/1/24.

Village Appearance

- A complaint has been made about debris left behind on the High Street pavement from a tree that was felled in Maundrell Close. This has been reported to Aster.
- C Greenwood noted that the Devizes in Bloom competition has been opened up to the villages. If residents have a nice garden, they are able to enter the competition.

Allotments

The ground is currently wet. M Somerville was thanked for all of his hard work at the allotments, including enclosing the memorial plot at the entrance to the allotments.

Finance

November 2023 invoices (total: £2,811.18)

- Admin costs: £1,953.81

- Ground's maintenance: £786.43
- Christmas decorations for tree: £70.94

It was asked whether the Parish Council are purchasing another speed indicator device. It has been agreed in principle to buy another device. It has been agreed to monitor the usage of the current Speed Indicator Device first.

December 2023 invoices (total: £2,643.86)

- Admin costs: £1,942.39
- Grounds maintenance: £701.47

There was an additional invoice approved for Rowde Village Hall: £72.00 (for 4 sessions)

Christmas: It was remarked how beautiful the tree had been and that the lights had been good. The Parish Council thanked Jonathan and Melissa again for the tree, and C Greenwood for taking down the Christmas tree lights and some of the branches. L Wills has arranged for the Christmas tree lights to be PAT tested.

It was suggested that the Parish looks at the possibility of planting some Christmas trees.

Stay Connected!

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

Facebook page: Check out the Parish Council's Facebook page for news and events. Managed by L Wills and A Humphreys.

Contacts: The Parish Clerk can be contacted at rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com, or by telephone: 07752 724096 in office hours. Parish Councillors can be contacted through the contacts page of this magazine.

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: 07752 724096.

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 on page 41 of the magazine.

We invite all villagers to attend, to observe and to make use of the public question time in the meeting.

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

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Mark Somerville	Allotments, Safety	jhsgardenservices@yahoo.com	
Mandy Humphreys	Website, Social Media, Furlong Close liaison	rpc.mandy.humphreys@gmail.com	
Josh Wills	Playing fields; Youth Co-ordinator	rpc.joshwills@gmail.com	
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Vacant	Speed Indicator Device		
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Wiltshire County Councillor for Rowde

Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Councillor	laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk	
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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL - Useful phone numbers

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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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December & January Worship in Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane

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



Date/Time	Service	
February		
Sunday 4th	(2nd before Lent)	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 11th	(Next before Lent)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Saturday 18th	(Lent 1)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 25th	(Lent 2)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
MARCH		
Sunday 3rd	(Lent 3)	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 10th	(Mothering Sunday)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 17th	(Lent 5)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 24th	(Palm Sunday)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 31st	(Easter Day)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde

Everyone is very welcome at all our services.

Please visit www.achurchnearyou.com for more information, check our church noticeboards or contact the Benefice Administrator at sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com.

Church Opening Times

Rowde Church: Mon to Sat 10am – 4pm;
 Sunday 10am – 4pm or after morning service.
 Bromham Church: Daily 9am – 5pm
 Sandy Lane Church: Daily 9am – 5pm

A Message from Revd. Heather

As I write we have just passed the so-called Blue Monday. It falls on the third Monday of January and is supposedly the most depressing day of the year. I feel grateful that I didn't notice! Perhaps I was too busy trying to navigate floods, and anticipating promised snow -which never happened here in Wiltshire.

But everyone's experience is different, and there may be some in the village who struggle to get through the winter. While struggles with floods and weather may be obvious, the private challenge of depression or low mood may not be

so apparent to others. Look out for those around you who may need help. Perhaps just a regular visit for a coffee may make all the difference.

At St Matthew's we're still without any sign of a new rector, but we're keen to provide support and friendship to those who need it. If you would like someone to visit, do let us know. The Christian faith is all about supporting and caring for one another, whether the person who needs help has faith or not.

I can't end this note without paying tribute to Jenny Lund, who died before Christmas and whose funeral was attended by more than 120 people. She gave much to the village and will be missed by her family and all her friends

Revd Heather Smith

Associate Priest

Rowde and Bromham

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Rowde Church Café Tuesday 10:45 – 12pm.

Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat. Everyone welcome!

Craft, Coffee and Chat at St Matthew's, Rowde Friday 2pm – 4pm

Bring your own craft project or join in our jigsaw. All welcome! No entry fee. Coffee and cake available for a donation.

Souper Saturdays at St Matthew's, Rowde First Saturday of the month, 12 – 1pm

Come along and enjoy a choice of two soups (always one vegetarian choice) with a roll. Donation to St Matthew's welcome.

Growing in Faith Wednesday evening 7:30pm – 9pm on Zoom (fortnightly, term time only). If you are interested in joining, please contact Ruth on ruthbray@outlook.com.

Flower Arranging at Rowde

Please contact Caroline Keevil on ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk or call 07860 148407.

Choir at St Matthew's

We practice from 6pm-7pm on the Fridays prior to a 10am Sunday service. Please contact **Nicola Brown** at nicola_brown@talk21.com or 01380 722406.

Bellringing at St Matthew's

Please contact Michael Cornwell at michael.cornwell@btinternet.com or 07388 224129.

Open the Book at Rowde

Contact Fran Hall on 07989758412

CONTACT US

Rector: Vacant

Associate Priest: (Funerals, baptisms and weddings) Revd Heather Smith on 07702 113544 or revheathersmith@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: Sarah Leckie sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

During the current vacancy, please contact Revd Heather or Sarah if you wish to enquire about a baptism, wedding or funeral.

Safeguarding Representative for Bromham and Rowde: Phil Bayley 01380 859569

Benefice Facebook page Churches of Rowde and Bromham: www.facebook.com/groups/439328832796693

Benefice website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690

Diocese of Salisbury: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org>

To donate over the phone, please call us on 0203 735 5444. Please leave a voice message if necessary and we will call you back to take your payment.



Church Flowers

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: Caroline Keevil on 01380.725483 or ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk

Craft, Coffee and Chat
at St Matthew's Church,
Rowde

Friday Afternoons
2pm – 4pm



All Welcome!

No charge to enter,
coffee and cake available
for a donation

EATING OUT & ABOUT

Seend Café



Only five minutes drive from Rowde you can find a lovely little cafe situated within the post office and general store on the Trowbridge road in Seend.

Parking outside on the A361 is limited but there are more parking places just round the corner in Dial Close.

Google Reviews:

Fantastic! Lovely cafe, fresh food, great value for money and wonderful company. Delicious coffee. A definite bonus for the Seend community and passers by.

Kirsty Wells

Lovely quiet small cafe attached to village shop and Post Office. Made to feel very welcome. Simple menu but that's good in a place like this. Nearby church yard provides some great views as well.

Jim Gordon

Footnote: I was there recently. The lunches, coffee and cakes were excellent and the friendly atmosphere made it a great little place to pop in for lunch or coffee and cake with the added bonus of being able to pick up a few essential provisions whilst there. They also have a good selection of greetings cards and crafts products by local artists. Ed

LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE

Rowde Hall Cottage
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(Opposite Cross Keys)
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davidb.rowde@gmail.com
£5 for a 12oz jar (340g)



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We will reply with a link to the application form.
If you prefer you can telephone 07494-240622

YOU CAN APPLY FROM 25TH FEB. UNTIL 30TH APRIL 2020



Wiltshire Mid Branch
Registered charity no. 205925

Working together
to help you
and your pets



Registered charity no. 203644

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.



FUN COLUMN

This issue we have some Valentine's jokes:

Did you hear about the two radios that got married? The reception was amazing.

What did one plate say to the other on Valentine's Day? Tonight, dinner's on me.

What did one tangerine say to the other on Valentine's Day? Orange you sweet?

What did Han Solo say to Princess Leia on Valentine's Day? Yoda one for me.

What did the two rocks pledge at their wedding? To never take each other for granite.

What did the omelette say to the toast on Valentine's Day? You're eggs-actly my type.

Why can't deer kiss? Because they have buck teeth.

What do you call two birds in love? Tweethearts!

You ever wonder how to find a date for Valentine's Day? It's easy, just take a look at the calendar.

Are you the internet? Because I'm feeling a connection.

I was wondering why my feet got cold. Then I remembered you knocked my socks off.

What did the magnet say to the fridge? I find you so attractive.

Did you hear about the love affair between the sugar and cream? It was icing on the cake.

What do astronauts say to their sweethearts? I love you to the moon and back.

Who's Cupid's favourite rock band? Heart.

What's Cupid's favourite candy? Hershey's Kisses.

Why was the ghost sad on Valentine's Day? He didn't have a boo.

Why does Cupid like lettuce? It's got a heart.

What did one pig say to the other? Don't go bacon my heart.

What's a bread loaf's favourite song? "All You Knead is Love."

Did you hear about the spider wedding? Yes, they're newly-webs.

Did you hear about the vampire wedding? It was love at first bite.

What did the grizzly say to the panda? You are beary special to me.

What do you call it when two boats fall in love? A row-mance.

How did the telephone propose? With a ring.

Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef? They'll dessert you.

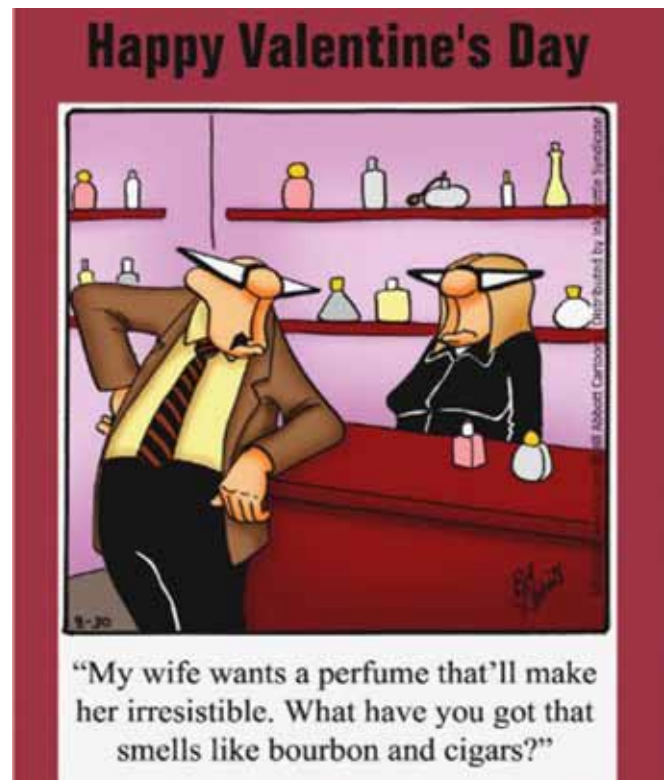
What did one tomato say to the other on Valentine's Day? I love you from my head to-ma-toes.

What did the acorn say to the tree? I'm fallin' for you.

What did the thread say to the needle? I am sew into you!

FUN PICS

This issue we have some Valentine's cartoons:



ORIGINAL PET and PEOPLE PORTRAITS



Colour or mono portrait of a person, pet or horse by local artist Alan Watters. Original portrait, two prints and three greetings cards included in the package. My waiting list is currently around October but a voucher can be supplied to be given as a present if required.

Call or text Alan on 07886870053 or Email watters.alan@gmail.com for more information or text/email a good photo for a quote. Website: <https://alansfineart.com/>

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES



Are you a keen gardener who needs more space? If you are interested in renting an allotment, please contact: Rebekah Jeffries rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com
Tel: 01380 501919 Rowde Parish Council

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w: www.northwessextherapies.com

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

As I write this, spring seems a long way off, but amongst the dead leaves and stems of last year, the first signs of new life are showing. Snowdrops, aconites, hazel are out; soon to be followed by crocus and willow. The honey bees in my hives are at their lowest numbers but the queen is starting to lay eggs to produce new bees ready for the spring flowers. The old beekeeping saying is that bees make bees, to make bees, to make bees to make honey. So the bees being raised now will raise the next generations of bees rather than be storing honey. Bees need energy and protein to raise bees. The honey stored last summer will provide the energy but the protein comes from pollen. Some pollen is stored but it will be getting stale by now and some protein is stored in the bees! (In the autumn the bees bred to last the winter gorge on pollen and store the protein in their blood.) But that can only last so long. On mild days the bees will be out scouring the country side for pollen bearing flowers and bringing in the rich, fresh pollen. Spring is when bees can starve so to help the honey bees, bumble bees and all early pollinators the things to plant are snowdrops, crocuses, hellebores, mahonias and if you have the room, hazels and willows.



Hairy footed flower bee



Honeybees on a crocus

On mild days all through the winter honey bees will fly out for short periods. They will collect water (honey needs diluting before they can digest it) and they will go on 'cleansing flights'. Skip the next bit if you are squeamish. The bees are clean animals - they don't defecate in the hive unless they are very ill. The faeces are stored in their rectum which can expand and fill up to three quarters of their abdomen – so when they get a chance – they take it!!



Bufftailed bumblebee

You may see honey bees out and about all winter on nice days but only fairly close to their homes. From February (in these increasingly mild years) and certainly in March you will start to see Bumblebees in the garden. Amongst the first to be seen are early bumblebees (*Bombus pratorum*) quite small with an orange tail and yellow bands on its body. The big bumbles you see will be buff tailed (*Bombus terrestris*) or white tailed bumblebees (*Bombus lucorum*) - very difficult to tell apart. They will be queens looking to find a new home to start their colonies; and when their colonies are big enough they will disappear inside leaving the foraging to their smaller workers. Some solitary bees are also early starters, with the wonderfully named hairy footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*) being amongst them. They particularly like lungwort (soldiers and sailors) so grow a patch of those and you will see them. Only the male has the hairy feet however.



Early bumblebee

If you are interested in the world of bumblebees and wildlife, have a look at the excellent Bumblebee Conservation Trust website. It is a really good resource. Also the Wildlife Trusts have a good website for more general wildlife interest. BWARS (the bees, wasps and ants recording society) has slightly more detailed info and with good maps on distribution etc. Roll on spring!

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

Local News



ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS



As last year's Rowde Advent Calendar Window was such a success, I decided to organise it again for Christmas. I contacted all the people who kindly did it last year and a few more also got in touch and we got our necessary quota of 24 windows which was an improvement on last year's frustrating 21 windows. This year, people really made a massive effort and everywhere looked fabulous. Thanks to all involved in making the effort and I hope others enjoyed seeing them.



Mandy Humphreys

(see more photos on page 47 and back cover)

LOOKING AHEAD - THE ROWDE VILLAGE FETE

Summer is coming! Remember those warm days and picnics and the Rowde Village Fete, which will be on Saturday June 1st.



Last year's event

It's time to plan the event. We are looking for new ideas for games and stalls and anything else to make it a great day for our village to get together and have fun. If you can contribute in any way, please call Barbara 726316 . We will start planning meetings soon.

LOCKS AT ROWDE SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE IN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER



Devizes was the subject of a feature by the Express on New Year's Eve in which the town was called the West Country's "best kept secret".



The town was lauded for its “streets lined with independent shops and ample walking destinations”, all of which were said to be enhanced by a “friendly atmosphere.”

Another feature singled out for praise was the walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal taking visitors down to the “amazing” Caen Hill Locks at Rowde.

SKYLINE TO BE TRANSFORMED BY NATIONAL GRID WORKS

Plans to transform the skyline have been approved with construction set to begin this year.



Wiltshire Council has granted National Grid planning permission to remove 4.6km of existing overhead high voltage electricity lines from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.

In total 13 pylons will be replaced with underground cables, and National Grid says the project will enhance the landscape of the picturesque skyline.

The overhead line set to be axed currently runs east from the Rowde side of Roundway Hill and Covet to a field just north of the Kennet and Avon Canal, near the Bridge Inn on Horton Road.



Before!

After?

Construction is due to begin during the first quarter of 2024 following preliminary archaeological work at selected locations, which should have started in January. It is hoped the project will be completed and all 13 pylons removed by the end of 2026.

Chris Baines, chair of the VIP project’s national independent Stakeholder Advisory Group, said: “I am delighted that following this important decision, we are one step closer to transforming this beautiful landscape.”

CRIB SERVICE AT THE ROWDEY COW

On Christmas Eve, St Matthew’s held the traditional Crib service at the Rowdey Cow, which provided a lovely backdrop for the nativity story.



The event was very well attended, starting in the cafe with the first part of the story and then processing to the barn to complete it. As is customary, children dressed up as Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angels and together with parents joined in with responses of ‘Awful’ or ‘Awesome’ as the story unfolded.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING WITH CAROLS



The animals in the barn created a fitting atmosphere of sounds and smells, reminding us of the stable where Jesus was born. Thank you Rowdey Cow for once again hosting a lovely Christmas event.

Barbara Zaccarelli

AID FOR UKRAINE

If you have been following the story about Rowde's link to Aid for Ukraine, here is the latest update I have received since the last issue of the Rowde Village News:

Here are a few pictures from the trip to Ukraine at the end of November. David was interviewed by the Ukrainian equivalent of the BBC about the work he has been doing - and hopes to continue.



He is grateful for the support of Polish/Ukrainian friends when he is there to help with sorting out aid and packaging it up into smaller bags to be distributed directly to people who need it most, and the ongoing support of his American partners, Mike and Kelvin.



The physical and emotional toll of the war can be seen everywhere - not just in ruined buildings but also on people's faces and the long walls of remembrance in every town - commemorating those who have fallen but also seeking information about those who are missing.



There is some comfort for them in knowing that they have not been forgotten by other people just like them almost 2000 miles away.

Susan Gaston

RECORD BREAKING AMOUNT RAISED FROM DOROTHY HOUSE RAFFLE



A cheque for £3,425 was recently handed over to Dorothy House. They were so pleased with the amount raised so big thanks go out to everyone that helped raise this fantastic amount.

The Dorothy House Raffle tickets were sold at £3 each from the Bromham Clubhouse Cafe, directly from Sharon and her family and online through social media groups including 'Rowde All About It'. This was the fourth year that Sharon and her family have organised a raffle and the amount raised this time smashed the £2,662 raised last year. Every penny goes to Dorothy House in memory of Sharon's dad Frank Hammond.

There were 68 wonderful prizes of which donations were received from D Hammond, S Smith, A Napier, L Mayes, J Fowler, S Lynch, B Crew, J Armstrong, S Cleverley, J Reeves, R Dalley, Route 2 Fitness, Westbrook Pub Bromham, The Rowdey Cow and Kew Electrical.

Sharon Smith

BURST MAINS WATER PIPE CAUSES HAVOC IN FREEZING TEMPERATURES

On 17th January mains water was cut off throughout most of the village after a mains pipe burst near The Cross Keys (unoccupied ex pub).

Chris Greenwood promptly posted this on local social media – “Urgent Warning! There is water flooding down Devizes Road from Ox House towards Tanis and it’s going to freeze over!”

Highways were quickly alerted and Water Board staff attended the scene.

Tracey Lawrence later also commented on ‘Rowde All About It’ – “The road has been gritted and traffic lights have been put in situ.”

Wessex Water delivered bottled water to residents in Furlong Close and some other residents offered their own stocks of bottled water to others in the village.

Water was cut off for most of the day but came back on the same evening and this message from Wessex Water was then sent out – “Supply has been restored but pressure may be low and water discoloured (help at www.wessexwater.co.uk/discolouration) for up to one hour. Sorry for any inconvenience.”

PYLON REMOVAL WORK STARTED



This is the beginning of the huge amount of work that will be involved in making the temporary road for all the heavy machinery required to remove the pylons and put the cables underground by Roundway Hill. They have laid a track made of metal panels at the side of Wiltshire Concrete and some of the heavy machinery is in place. Presumably work will soon commence in earnest.

Mandy Humphreys

FURLONG CLOSE CHRISTMAS MARKET



Finally, after over two years of disruption and the lifting of restrictions imposed on us all by Covid, it was possible to re-instate the previously long-established Christmas Market at Furlong Close on 12th December.



So much support for the event pushed the boundaries of Marsh Hall and we overspilled into a very smart marquee, courtesy of Big Jugs, and an additional gazebo which was home for the afternoon to Gemma and her miniature pigs who were very amenable to a cuddle, which served as a cosy hot water bottle for the lucky recipients to ward off the freezing temperature!

We were very grateful for the support from the noble souls who braved the cold weather to man their stalls in the marquee. A wonderful selection of items, perfect for Christmas presents, were available which included Colin Davies’ pyrography art and Pauline’s varied and beautiful crafts. Fiona from FG Artisan Designs brought along her unique jewellery, and stood alongside Emma and Laura with their entrancing Gonks, as well as glass and artwork from Jane Garbutt and Libby, and Lucy with her tempting bags of sweets. David and Nicola Brown brought their very delicious local honey and also on offer was a variety of items made by the residents of Furlong Close.



Meanwhile Marsh Hall was equally abuzz!! Carolyn Mallam brought along a selection of her jams, chutneys, mincemeat and mince pies; Cecilia Gillington very generously donated a wonderful selection of homemade cakes, sitting alongside Alan Watters with his artwork, handmade lampshades from Sam Nicol, and Bill Jackson with a tempting variety of items from Rode. Stunning hand blown glass items were available from Marion and Emma Constance from Emany hand blown glass and beautiful jewellery from Lizzy Gerwat.

Needless to say to accompany tea and coffee there was the most amazing selection of cakes on offer, courtesy of Candy Andrew and others, along with pulled pork rolls, all accompanied by mulled wine, so no-one went away hungry. All this activity was serenaded by Ros Jackson and her friends who provided some atmospheric Christmas music, and jolly Santa Claus Ho Ho Hoed! his way around the site with a gift for all the children. Those who were particularly lucky were able to take home a raffle prize courtesy of John Gale's huge choice of items.

The Mind Tree Café was represented by Lisa Gurr, Lisa Newton and Katie Blake who presented their flier outlining the principles behind their proposed plans for the currently redundant buildings at Furlong Close, along with a variety of craft items.

So altogether, despite the inclement weather, a happy day was had by all. All being well the Furlong Close Christmas Market will return again in 2024, bigger and better, and hopefully considerably warmer too!

A date for your diary: SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024, FURLONG CLOSE SUMMER FÊTE!

Trish Gange

THE MIND TREE CAFÉ CIC

Promoting holistic Therapies at Furlong Close, Rowde.

A not-for-profit community interest company set up with the purpose of promoting mental health and well-being in a variety of ways.



Success is in community not in isolation.

The last few months have been extremely difficult. We have had some help, which we are very grateful for, but mostly it is Lisa and Lisa working long hours to get this project off the ground and still support ourselves with our private practices separately. We had hoped to be up and running with the low-cost counselling service and some events but having no running water or heating is proving difficult to resolve.

Our landlord has given us a reduced rent but is unable to offer further support. Their position is they cannot invest in the building so unless we fix the water and heating situation the building is likely to fall into further disrepair and benefit no-one.

Thank you to all those who have donated to the go-fund me page. We have been able to meet some of the costs of professional fees, which was our original request. The professional fees have been a solicitor to work on the lease and a survey to ensure the building was structurally sound. Our second request was for support with the plumbing and heating. Our go-fund-me link is given below and if you or anyone you know can contribute, large and small donations are very important to our success, so if you can spare £5 or something more, please consider us.

go fund me page – <https://gofund.me/bcc39437>

These are our thoughts with regards to plumbing and heating -

Plan A is that a big building company we have been talking with will fix our plumbing and heating free of charge as part of their corporate social responsibility – basically doing a good deed.

Plan B is we raise enough money to pay for work on the pipes and heating. We don't have a clear idea of the cost so we need to pay for a survey to ascertain the cost.

We have approached lots of funders and companies locally but none of them are prepared to support plumbing and heating. If you know of anyone who would or if anyone would run a fund raising event, please contact us.

Email – enquiries@themindtreecafe.org

And exciting news – thank you so much to Heidi and Chris a very talented local business – ARTHE who have produced our website for free. We can't thank you enough. Here it is

<https://www.themindtreecafe.org>

Follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/themindtreecafe>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/themindtreecafe>

ROWDE COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



Happy New Year from your Community Speedwatch Team. The Speed Indicator Device has developed a few problems, which we are currently working on, and it may require servicing, as it is now approaching its first birthday. It has been extremely useful in providing Wiltshire Police with data relating to speeding through Rowde - which is still a significant problem.

The Police Enforcement Team have been active in their efforts to reduce speeding outside the School, however it is still proving to be a problem in other areas. Marsh Lane, the High Street, and even parts of Springfield Road are areas which still suffer from inconsiderate and at times dangerous driving at speed.

We are intending to conduct a Training/ Refresher day early in February, in order to prepare for some active CSW sessions throughout the next few months. I'm also hoping that we can arrange for a presentation by Wiltshire Police - possibly at the School, where parents and parishioners can benefit from seeing the results of information we have compiled over the past 12 months.

If anyone is interested in joining our growing team, please contact me by email or telephone, as we are always in need of willing volunteers to support our efforts.

Many thanks,

Chris Greenwood, CSW Team Leader

cj_g@me.com

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PHOTO MEMORIES

Gordon Underwood has given us some photos of old Rowde for inclusion in the magazine.

Thanks for sending them in Gordon!

If anyone has any old photos of Rowde or locations near here, please send them in, Ed



...AND DID YOU KNOW?

THE TIME LINE OF ROWDE AND ROUNDWAY

Note that dates etc marked (?) are uncertain

400 BC (?) - Celtic Iron Age Fort built on Roundway Hilltop - Possibly an original White Horse was cut on the southeast side at this time (?). The Spring and Well at the foot of the hill was thought to be a sacred place (?) where votive prayers/offering to a Celtic Goddess were made, possibly the water nymph 'Coventina', water spirit 'Anahita' or a local 'matrae' - a well mother such as 'Ancasta' (?).

55/54 BC - Julius Caesar invades Britain

43/84 AD - Roman Conquest and occupation of Britain.

84/100 AD - The roads are built and settlement starts.

100/150 AD - Celtic and Roman population and religion integrates. Pagan Celtic beliefs are matched to Roman Gods. The word pagan is effectively Latin for 'Country Bumpkin' as they did not at first worship the Roman pantheon of Gods but they merged successfully. Villas are built and healing/sacred springs and wells are 'modernised'. Bath is a good example, becoming Aque 'Sulis'/'Minerva'.

313 AD - Roman Empire allows Christianity.

380 AD - Christianity becomes the empire's edicted religion.

409 AD - The Roman Empire abandons Britain to the 'dark ages'.

1000 AD (?) - Rowde has a Saxon Church. The well is still sacred but now called 'Mother Anthony's Well'.

1086 AD - The Domesday Book records Rowde as 'Rode' which is Anglo-Saxon meaning 'Reedy'. It has an Anglo-Saxon church and priest and is a

large village with two mills and much ploughed land. Population of several 'households' and four slaves! Devizes is not in the Domesday Book as it did not exist before the Norman castle was later built there.

1642/51 AD - English Civil War. Cromwell built a wooden fort on the site of the Iron Age one.

1643 AD - The Battle of Roundway Down - Royalist's Victory. Was fought on the fields just north east of the fort. The hills adjacent to the immediate north of Oliver's Fort are called Beacon Hill and Kings Play Hill. A little further on you are on the old Roman road to London, skirting Morgan's Hill, so called because:

1720 AD - John Morgan hung for murder of his uncle. The gallows were erected here. A large crowd watched the hanging.

1840 AD - The burial of an Anglo-Saxon lady found on the down. She was wearing gold jewellery.

1845 AD - White Horse originally cut on the southeast face of the hill by Devizes shoemakers (?) but this is possibly still an old folk legend (?).

1983 AD - Areas around Roundway Hill used as a set in the film of Orwell's '1984'.

2024 AD - The view you see from the Rowdey Cow!





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

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

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

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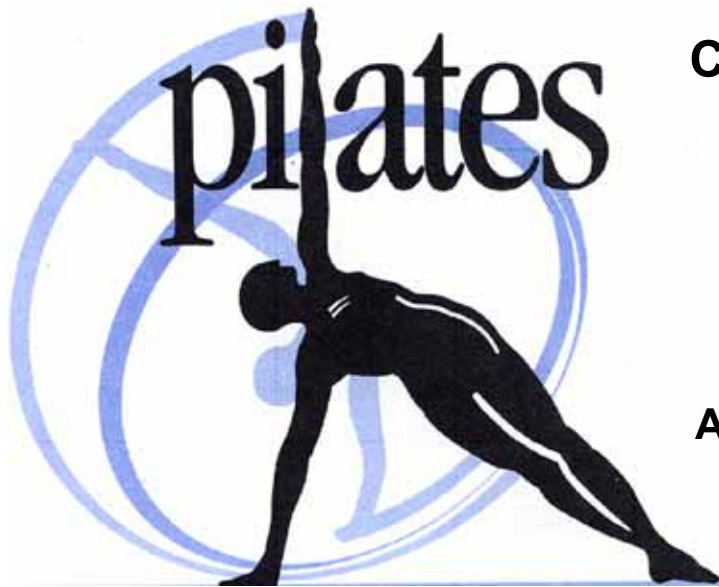
Please note that the information given and views expressed in this magazine are generally as supplied by the contributors. Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news 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 2024 (bi-monthly)

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

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YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

Delivering a police service which meets the needs of its communities has never been more important – or challenging. I know residents want greater public engagement with officers, more public access to officers and an increased officer presence at community level.

Wiltshire Police is addressing this with the introduction of a new operating model with neighbourhood teams providing visible, neighbourhood-focused, policing and delivering a recent improvement programme to provide a better-quality service 999 and 101 callers.

My commitment has been to invest in mobile police stations so our rural communities receive the same level of service, improve Melksham Custody so it is fit-for-purpose and the future, invest in training facilities to provide an exemplary environment to equip our police officers to keep you safe and to challenge the force to consistently provide a quality service to residents – regardless of location.

All of this is underpinned by the importance of investment in police 'estate' to support the delivery of a policing service I know our residents want - and deserve.

My newly-launched Estates Strategy sets out this vision. I believe Wiltshire Police will be better equipped to provide the policing service our communities want if they have the infrastructure which supports them to respond more effectively and efficiently.

The strategy ensures we have well-placed police stations and hubs providing a base for our staff to work smarter, adapt to changing crime and, more importantly, ensuring that not only will communities be safer but they will start to feel safer too.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson has invested in the next generation of police officers by funding improvement works of the Learning and Development facilities at Wiltshire Police's Devizes HQ.

Mr Wilkinson approved plans to refurbish the department in April last year as an interim solution before more major, long-term works are completed at Devizes HQ.

He recently paid a visit to the Learning and Development facilities to see the finished improvements and spoke to trainers and student officers about how they are finding working in the newly improved facilities.

Mr Wilkinson said: "The new Learning and Development facilities at Devizes HQ are now one of the best I've seen – and trainers and student officers alike feel much more motivated.

"Ensuring the force have the right tools, equipment and facilities for the job is a main priority of my Police and Crime Plan, and also enables our force to deliver the uplift numbers that we require to maintain each year.

"I've invested in the next generation of police officers who I am confident will now invest their careers into making Wiltshire a safer place to live, work and visit."



Work was completed to transform the sports hall and old helicopter hanger into Operational Training Facilities to enable training teams to deliver more robust, two-day Public and Personal Safety Training and First aid training courses.

The improved space is also better equipped for scenario based training with a full black wall room set-up with padded walls and is a modern learning environment for all police officers taking courses like Taser or Method of entry.

Classrooms in the Learning and development building also underwent extensive refurbishment, with new carpets, furniture and updated audio-visual equipment being installed in each classroom.

Neighbouring police forces will also be able to benefit from the newly refurbished facilities as the space will be available to rent.

David Eddy, Head of Learning and Professional Development at Wiltshire Police said: "The improvement works carried out on the facilities within Learning and Development have transformed our learning space and made it a much more inviting and supportive environment for our officers and staff to train in. It is far more appropriate for their training needs and will support our vision to become a centre of excellence. We are very grateful for the investment from the PCC.

"This interim solution was a cost effective way to address our training needs and will now enable us to run all of our training to the highest standard, using up to date equipment for years to come. This will in turn, enable our officers and staff to get the best possible start to their careers and ensure that they provide the best level of service to our communities."

Applications to become a police officer are currently being accepted.

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

On Thursday, 4th January, I was travelling back from London with my husband having celebrated his 60th birthday. We caught the 5pm train from Paddington and were feeling upbeat. Unfortunately, the journey took a turn for the worse, we got caught up in the flooding, and were stationary for 6 hours whilst things were sorted.

Whilst we waited on the tracks, I was contacted by Rowde residents who were experiencing their own problems, particularly in Silverlands where houses were at risk of flooding. I was able to contact the Wiltshire Council Highways team to ask for their assistance, but of course they were overwhelmed with calls from all over the county. I am very grateful for residents who

came together to help on the night, but it is clear we need to prevent future floods, so I have formally requested for Rowde Parish Council to start work on creating a Flood Plan for the village. I will work with the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council to understand the causes, and agree what needs be done if there is a flooding again.

You'll be pleased to hear my husband and I got home at 2.30am having been left at Didcot Parkway at 12pm!

As ever, please contact me if you have any issues so I can help.

**Councillor Laura Mayes,
Wiltshire Councillor for Rowde**
laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk

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The G&D Winter Events

G&D Friday Night Happy Hour

Every Friday night 6-8pm All House drinks, beer, wine & spirits are £3.50. Accompanied with a weekly rotating Gourmet Burger or Fish 'N' chips for £12.50 Booking essential! 01380 723 053

Sunday Roast at The G&D

Proving to very popular, our Sunday three course menu is £29.50 Main courses include roast beef, lamb, pork & ½ chicken & also two fish main course specials – Booking advisable!!

Social Events at The G&D

Every Monday night is Crib practice 6.30pm til 8pm

Every second Sunday is quiz night
(February 4rd & 18th/ March 3rd 17Th & 31st)

Bar opens at 7.30pm – Quiz at 8pm

Every Wednesday is Pasta night – Meat, fish & vegetarian
(please book)

Friday 16th February: Gin Tasting & Tapas Supper
(5 different gins accompanied with 3 course Tapas Menu £60pp)

February and March opening days

Monday & Tuesday : closed

Wednesday to Saturday : open as usual

Sunday : lunch only

Dear Rowde Villagers,

Thank you again for all your support you give the G&D! The Friday Happy Hour (6-8pm) has been an amazing success! It's great to see so many locals back in the pub. Please don't forget you are always welcome for a quick drink or just a light snack. This year I will celebrate 20 years at the Pub...!

(I dont believe it either) so a good old Summer party will be on the cards! (watch this space...) Also it goes without saying a massive thank you to the fabulous G&D team, I simply couldn't do it without them! Thank you Amy, Syd, George and all the team! Cheers Chippy

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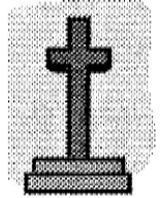
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The Arts Society North Wiltshire

We are a friendly group who enjoy hearing about a wide range of arts based subjects. Many people from this area and beyond appreciate them – do come and join us! We meet in the Assembly Hall, Melksham from 10.30am for coffee followed by a one hour lecture at 11am.

For more information go to
tasnorthwilts.org.uk

February 7th:

The Borgias

by

Julian Halsby

March 6th:

Secret Art of the Passport

by

Martin Lloyd



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Please note that our Rowde Village website manager is Mandy Humphreys and she can be contacted by email at loireuncorked@me.com

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VILLAGE DIARY

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7th February, 13th March, 17th April, 8th May, 12th June,
10th July, no meeting in August, 11th September, 9th
October, 13th November, 11th December 2024.

Other Events

7th February - The Borgias (at the Arts Society) - page 38
10th February - Meet your local police officers - page 6
14th February - Valentine's at Rowdey Cow - page 9
16th February - Gin Tasting & Tapas Supper - page 36
6th March - Secret Art of the Passport - page 38
Every Tuesday - St Matthew's Cafe - page 19
Every Friday - Craft, Coffee and Chat - page 19

Medals for Rowde's Children!

Rowde Parish Council have purchased Coronation medals and we still have some available.

If your child is 16 or under, lives in the parish of Rowde and hasn't already received their free medal, please message Lisa Wills on rpc.lisa.wills@gmail.com to arrange delivery.

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Sudoku (medium this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

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.

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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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

Please contact Rowde Parish Council

Bell Ringing

Contact Michael Cornwell on 07388 224129
michael.cornwell@btinternet.com

Charities

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

Church Coordinator

Benefice Administrator:
Sarah Bowler 07876142112

Church Choir

Contact Nicola Brown:
nicola_brown@talk21.com
01380 722406

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

Please contact Rowde Parish Council

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 and meet at various dates in the month at 2.30pm.
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 - **Lisa Wills**
Tel: **01380 730078**
Clerk - Mrs Rebekah Jeffries
Tel: 07752 724096

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, currently for sale
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
Alan Watters, Tel: 07886870053

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

Agincare at Furlong Close

Tel: 721309

Church Flowers

Caroline Keevil
ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk
Tel: 725483
Flowers for all occasions,
Weddings, Funerals & Anniversaries

TAXI

R H Reeves 01380 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

Website

www.rowdevillage.org
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com
or contact Mandy Humphreys by email at loireuncorked@me.com

Youth Club

Josh Wills
rpc.joshwills@gmail.com

mander duffill

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GET IN TOUCH:

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DEVIZES OFFICE

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-  45 New Park Street
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