

Rowde Village News



December 2022 / January 2023



Christmas Party Buffet Package at The Rowdey Cow



£12.50

plus vat
(£15 inc vat)

Per Person



Festive Buffet

Mulled Wine or Cider on arrival

Mini Yorkshire Puddings with Beef & Horseradish Sauce

Pigs in Blankets with a Mustard Mayonnaise Dip

Assorted Sandwiches

- Turkey & Cranberry
- Ham & Wholegrain Mustard
- Cheese & Tomato
- Egg & Cress
- Tuna & Sweetcorn Mayonnaise

Roasted Vegetable Quiche (vegetarian)

Vegetable Spring Rolls with a Sweet & Sour Sauce Dip

Profiterole & Chocolate Sauce

Mince Pies



Available for Private Hire. Our newly refurbished Function Barn for 40 plus guests.

Paying bar available with choice of alcoholic, hot and soft drinks.

Drinks package includes half a bottle of wine (per person) and still or sparkling water jugs on the table. £6.50 plus vat (£7.80 inc vat) per person

Dance floor & Music

included at no extra cost

Editorial

Welcome to this festive edition of the Rowde Village News.

There are all the usual excellent reports and articles from the village's schools, clubs and other organisations.

The local news pages (24 to 27) make interesting reading and there are very good letters from readers on page 42.

There are also some great tips for online Christmas shopping on page 36 and a very inspirational Christmas story on page 13.

This year we have seen a positive outcome from our efforts to save Furlong Close for its residents but we still have a way to go as we need to find viable, sustainable options for the non-residential facilities. FAFF have therefore joined forces with Community First to conduct a feasibility study - see how you can help and get involved on page 42 and on the outside and inside back cover.

Reflecting on the outgoing year, the post-pandemic recovery has been underway in many countries in 2022, but the year hasn't been without its fair share of other challenges both here in the UK and throughout the rest of the world. I can only pray that in the coming new year these challenges can be overcome and that the future will be much brighter.

This said, the magazine team wish you all a very merry Christmas and we hope that 2023 brings you all you wish for.

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 Image

'Rainbow over new construction at Silverwood school'

The front cover photograph was submitted by Teresa Ollerhead, Senior Administrator of the Rowde Campas at Silverwood school. It's a cracker Teresa!

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

On 11th October the 'ladies' plus several visitors met in the Village Hall and all thoroughly enjoyed a musical afternoon singing a variety of songs accompanied by one of our member's husband John Swift who also produced song sheets so we had no excuses not to know the words!! Raffle winner was Mrs C Sault.

At the November meeting in the Village Hall members under the guidance of our member Carol Morris made fancy boxes which they filled with 'goodies'!

Next meeting will be held on 13th December in the Village Hall when we will be having a Christmas Afternoon tea and again singing Christmas songs accompanied by John plus hopefully a solo celebrity spot!!

The Ladies Club wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Di Buckland

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

During October and November we have been entertained by the grandson of one of

our members who is a fantastic pianist and our favourite ukulele player. We have been carrying on with our regular seated exercises, which helps to keep everyone's joints moving. Our lunches have included roast pork with all the trimmings and chicken and leek pie, not to mention the lemon possets and autumn pudding for dessert. We meet every Monday 9.30 – 1 in the Clubhouse in Bromham.

Transport is available. Do contact us if you would like to come and see if you would like to join. **To find out more about Monday Club, please contact Carol - 01380 850925 or Caroline - 01380 850531.**

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to apologise to all hall users for any inconvenience caused through the lack of hot water recently. A new Combi Boiler is being installed which will hopefully solve this problem and also give us a nice warm building. This work should be completed by the time you read this.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Rowde Village Hall Management Committee



HIRING NOW

Various roles available

INCLUDING VACANCIES AT FURLONG CLOSE IN ROWDE!

0800 0588 515

APPLY TODAY



THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Mind your Beeswax!

We all know that the bees make honey but another valued product of the hive is beeswax.

Prized since prehistory, beeswax has been used for many purposes. Most famously beeswax is used for high quality candles. At one time all candles used in the Catholic Church had to be beeswax. The monks kept bees not for the honey but for the wax; to make candles which burnt with a clear smokeless steady flame. The trade in beeswax started in ancient times with the Egyptians using it in mummification, medicines and also paints, some still colourful after thousands of years. The Romans took tribute from some tribes in beeswax and in England, The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers is the oldest English trade guild, with a history that can be traced to 1371. Other uses for bees wax which are still current, include wood and metal work, waterproofing products, medicines, adhesives and polishes.

Beeswax is a cocktail of over 300 constituents and is used by the bees to make the familiar hexagonal honey comb. The bees use some areas of honeycomb to store honey (!) and other areas to raise young bees. Bees will make wax in warm weather when there is plenty of food coming in to the colony and there is need for more room for young bees and storing food. So effective is the bees use of wax that a pound of wax can hold twenty to thirty pounds of honey. Compare that with glass jars, where a pound of glass jar will hold just over 2 pounds of honey.

Making wax needs lots of energy. A pound of beeswax needs five to eight pounds of honey to produce it. The worker bees that make the wax tend to be younger bees. When they are building new comb they prepare by stuffing themselves (engorging is the technical term) with honey (nectar alone is not rich enough) and get really hot by vibrating their large flight muscles. The bees then hang in chains or 'festoons' (Fig A) near where the work is to be done. The flakes (Fig B) of almost clear wax are squeezed out from special glands



Fig A: Festooning bees - these girls are getting ready to store honey



Fig B: Pure Wax flakes with a penny for scale

undereath the bees' abdomen, grabbed by the back legs and passed up to the front legs and on up the chain to the workers at the top where the flakes are chewed and moulded into place (Fig C).



Fig C: Bees building honeycomb - a team event

If conditions are right the bees can produce a hives worth of wax comb in a week.

No wax is being made at this time of year. The bees are now largely in winter mode with occasional flights in mild weather to get water and go to the loo. There may be a few young bees still being raised but the colonies will be shrinking in numbers to minimize the food consumed through winter. The hive is now ready for winter Cracks and gaps have been sealed up by the bees. The main job is to keep safe and warm, and eat a little honey now and then. Not too bad a way to spend winter.

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

ROWDEY COW NEWS



We had a lovely busy half term with lots of fun with our annual pumpkin trail and Halloween Craft sessions. We also had the pleasure of hosting Adam & Ginny's Wedding Reception in the café in October which went really well and was enjoyed by everyone.

Our Function Barn is almost ready and we have our first Business Conference with full catering on the 1st December for 70 guests. We also have some Christmas parties booked in already. There is capacity to seat up to 70 guests cabaret style with an 85 inch TV presentation screen and a lovely bar area too.

With the colder weather setting in we have brought most of the animals in and they can be seen in the barn. You can meet our 2 newest residents Molly and Rosie the Kune Kune Pigs as well as the ponies, donkeys and goats.



We have had lots of exciting ice cream flavours on the Specials including Jaffa Cake, Salted Caramel Brownie, After 8, Smarties and Caramac. We are currently working on our Festive flavours ready for December.



As I write this we are busy preparing for Christmas. We have a few tables available for Christmas lunches but all of our Christmas party evenings have sold out although we do have evenings available for large group bookings either for a Christmas Buffet or 2 or 3 course meals. Most of the Breakfast and Teas with Father Christmas have sold out.

After the busy Christmas lunches and parties and Father Christmas visits we are finishing off the Christmas run up with the Church Crib Service being held at the café on Christmas Eve at 2pm where everyone is welcome. The café will then close at 3pm and we will be closed 25th -27th December and then back open as normal on the 28th December onwards.

Sue

THE ROWDEY COW CHRISTMAS MENU

Starters

Roasted Curried Butternut Squash Soup served with warm sourdough

Warm Smoked Duck Breast & Fig Salad with a balsamic glaze

Deep Fried Panko Breadcrumbed Brie served with a cranberry & port compote

Classic Prawn Cocktail served with brown bread & butter



Mains

Roasted Butterbasted Turkey Breast served with pigs in blankets,
sage & onion stuffing & cranberry sauce

Roast Sirloin of Beef served with Yorkshire Pudding & horseradish sauce

Seared Sea Bass Fillet on Fondant Potato with prawn, parsley & hollandaise sauce

~Spinach & Brie Filo Parcel with a Tomato & Basil Sauce

All of the above served with Roast Potatoes, Parsnips & Seasonal Vegetables



Desserts

Christmas Pudding served with brandy cream and custard or ice cream

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake with Winter Berries

Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding served with ice cream or custard

Trio of Rowley Cow Ice Cream

Followed by Coffee & Warm Minced Pies

3 Course Adult - £26.95

2 Course Adult - £20.95

3 Course smaller portions / children - £18.95

2 Course smaller portions / children - £14.95

What's on...



At The Rowdey Cow over Christmas

Full details on each event to be released over the next couple of weeks

9th December - Evening bookings for 2 or 3 course Christmas meals

- Music and dancefloor
- Large and small tables available to book

14th December - Evening bookings for 2 or 3 course Christmas meals

- Large and small tables available to book

15th & 16th December - Tea with Santa (afterschool)

- Includes mini disco and gift

17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd December - Breakfast with Santa

- Includes animal feeding experience
- Gift for child to take home

24th December - Rowde Church Nativity held at The Rowdey Cow

25th December - Closed for Christmas Break

26th December - Closed for Christmas Break

27th December - Closed for Christmas Break

28th December - Normal opening hours

Other evening options are available for private functions -
Christmas meals with option of music and dancefloor



black sheep first response

event first responder

Tom Humphreys

www.blacksheepforstresponse.com

info@blacksheepfirstresponse.com

Tel: 07581538543

mander duffill

— Est 1947 —


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NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future



At Rowde C of E Primary Academy, we are fast approaching the festivities of this busy time of year. We are very much looking forward to our first nativity for a number of years! Our first term was brilliant as we embedded some more positive changes including our play pod, behaviour system and starting swimming lessons at Dauntsey's' pool. We've also been very busy with open events and sharing our great school with prospective parents. As a C of E School, we are keen to have a strong Christian ethos, with a foundation of core values and love. We are also using our new house system as an opportunity to encourage student leadership and courageous advocacy. We have house captains who lead our assemblies and events, and we have followed a democratic process for each house to choose a charity they'd like to support, which you can see below:

Green House	Yellow House
Oceana	Shelter
Blue House	Red House
WWF	Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Each house is now planning their first fundraiser and we have an advent table-top sale and a pyjama day coming up soon. We also celebrated Children in Need wearing spots to be Spotacular and are proud that we raised over £100. We were actually live on BBC Wiltshire and had a very special visit from Pudsey – we felt very lucky!

As a school, we are trying to get the balance right between planning events and opportunities for our pupils, whilst not asking for too many financial contributions from our families when everyone is feeling the pinch. One way we

can do this, is by engaging with Dauntsey's outreach events. Already this year, we've visited for an art and photography workshop with our Year 5s and a woodland adventure with our Year 2/3 class. You can see just how much fun was had from the smiles in the photos!

We were also fortunate to have volunteers



NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future



their PE and Sport provision. Our Year 6 teacher, Miss Johns, is our PE lead and she is working hard to improve our teaching and learning of physical education, but also ensuring our children have the opportunity to play competitive sport and learn from expert coaches! Last term, we hosted a Year 5 and 6 football tournament which we won... We are looking forward to the Year 3 and 4 one in the new year. We have also had expert cricket coaching with Vicky from Wiltshire cricket this term and the children are learning lots, even how to bowl properly.



from Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA) come and hold a lantern making workshop at school ahead of the lantern parade in town. We had 25 children, with their parents, all working together to make some beautiful lanterns which will – undoubtedly – look beautiful when they're lit. There really is a feeling of the school being more 'open' this year, with lots of family events. Finally, the magic of our primary school is returning after some challenging years of school improvement but, more notably, the pandemic. As you may know, schools get funding to support



As always, you are welcome to come and visit our school. As a small team, we don't have great capacity to offer lots of extra-curricular clubs, so if you have any relevant skills and/or know anyone in the community, please get in touch! As I mentioned last time, the school website has a wealth of information about us as a school, the classes and curriculum and our vision, values and ethos. We are also now using the calendar function and updating frequently with upcoming events. If you have minute, do take a look: www.rowde.wilts.sch.uk
Alice Simpson, Acting Head Teacher

NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



We have been busy in school, Life Skills day was enjoyed by the pupils; taking part in a range of activities including, cleaning, cooking and practicing skills on the bikes and trikes.



We held Remembrance Day with pupils making Poppy displays and attending a special assembly.

The new build is definitely progressing now and it is incredible to see how quickly this is taking shape.



Children in Need was a huge success in school with pupils dressing up and joining the disco streamed across the school sites for them all to have some fun.

Teresa Ollerhead



INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Truce

by David G Stratman

(From his book We Can Change the World)

It was December 25, 1914, only five months into World War 1. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."

"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.

A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each



other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peacemaking to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Not many people have heard the story of the Christmas Truce. On Christmas Day, 1988, a story in the Boston Globe mentioned that a local FM radio host played "Christmas in the Trenches," a ballad about the Christmas Truce, several times and was startled by the effect. The song became the most requested recording during the holidays in Boston on several FM stations. "Even more startling than the number of requests I get is the reaction to the ballad afterward by callers who hadn't heard it before," said the radio host. "They telephone me deeply moved, sometimes in tears, asking, 'What the hell did I just hear?'"

You can probably guess why the callers were in tears. The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.

The G&D Christmas Events

Christmas is coming!

We are now taking Christmas party bookings (available from November 22nd right up to Christmas eve!)

Our super delux 3 course Christmas menu is £35pp

The newly refurbished private dining room ideal for parties up to 20 people.

(Sorry we are closed Christmas Day)

Village Special :book by end of October & receive a complimentary glass of Fizz per person

Our Annual Village Christmas Carol Supper Sunday 18th December (tbc) from 4pm

Meet from 4pm for complimentary mince pies and mulled wine in the G&D terrace & car park. The St Matthews Church service is at 6pm then head back to the G&D for a 2 course roast turkey supper with all the trimmings and a selection of shared puddings £21.50pp book now.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Chippy & The G&D Team 01380 723 053

Your Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Since the last edition of the Rowde Village News, the Parish Council met on 19th October and 9th November 2022.

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council. These have been advertised by Wiltshire Council. The positions can be filled at the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 14th December 2022.

Housing & Planning

The Parish Council meeting on 9th November was dominated by discussions on the proposal to build on land off Sands Lane.

The Chairman of Bishops Cannings Parish Council was invited to attend the meeting, as a member of the Devizes Neighbourhood Area Steering Group, to discuss the work that he has started on the 'Green Infrastructure Audit' for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The group who attended the Parish Council meeting strongly argued that the field off Sands Lane, where development has been proposed, should be included in the green infrastructure audit. It was agreed at this meeting that the land could be included in the audit for assessment.

Please see the full minutes (on the website, Facebook page, or noticeboards) for more details of the discussion on land off Sands Lane.

No planning application has been received to build on this land.

- The Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continue to meet regularly with members of Rowde Parish Council, Bishops Cannings Parish Council and Devizes Town Council.
- Reed Place: Wiltshire Council said at the time of the meeting in October that they were negotiating the grounds work contract to build houses off Reed Place. Eligible people need to be registered on the Homes4Wiltshire website in order to apply for one of these new homes.
- Extension of alcohol licence for the Rowdey Cow: the Rowdey Cow made an application to vary their premises' licence, to extend their current alcohol licence to the area previously managed by the Spotty Dog. They have requested to vary their own application to include the shop and car park area. Parish Councillors supported the application.

Furlong Close

The new site owners, SSH, are looking for people to use their assets: Marsh Hall, the Orchard, workshop, administration offices for lease of individual hire (see back cover).

Wiltshire Council – Cllr Mayes provided the following information:

Cost of Living Support: Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses and communities for those who are struggling with the cost of living – there is detailed information online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support.

Assistance has already been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund (£2.7m to vulnerable households), the Council Tax Energy Rebate to residents in Council Tax bands A-D and the School Holidays Activity and Food programme. The discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme for households in bands E to H is now open for those

in receipt of Council Tax reduction, or if the property has been adapted to accommodate a disabled person (including severe mental disabilities).

The £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme is payable to every household – the discount will be applied to monthly household electricity bills for 6 months from October 2022 – you will receive £66 in October and November and £67 in December, January, February, and March. The discount is paid monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card. Prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that will need to be redeemed.

Alongside this, the Government's Energy Price Guarantee – the "Energy Price Cap" ensures that a "typical" household will pay no more than £2,500 per year until April 2023 when there will be a Treasury-led review into how energy bills are supported going forwards. Some households in our area are off the gas grid, and rely on heating oil or LPG, in addition to electricity. The Government is also providing an additional payment of £100 to compensate for the rising costs of these other fuels and Danny Kruger MP is pressing Ministers for more detail about how this payment will be distributed.

In the meantime, Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses (including schools) and Wiltshire Council staff. Area Boards are being asked to work with their communities to ensure that local support is in place for the most vulnerable, including food banks. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is supporting residents with financial wellbeing concerns. The 09:30hrs restriction on concessionary fare bus passes has been lifted, so that they can be used at any time and Warm and Safe Wiltshire will continue to offer free and impartial energy advice to reduce fuel poverty.

Silverwood construction: The building work continues to go well, and Wiltshire Council is confident everything will be ready for September 2023 opening.

~ A question was asked by a member of the audience about Wiltshire Council's proposal for trial running the new minibus drop off system.

~ Members of the Parish Council have been invited to a topping out ceremony at Silverwood School on 8th December 2022. The Chairman & Vice-Chairman have agreed to go.

Speed watch

The current Speed watch Team Leader, T Jeffries, is stepping down from the position after eight years. The Parish Council expressed their thanks on behalf of the village for all of the work that T Jeffries has put into the scheme and helping to keep speeding down in the village.

The Parish Council is working towards purchasing a Speed indicator Device which will be rotated around three locations in the village.

It was agreed at the Local Highways Footpaths Infrastructure group (LHFIG) previously CATG, that a slot has become available for funding the infrastructure for a Speed Indicator Device. It is anticipated that the funding will be in place by the end of the financial year.

Footpaths

A local resident has kindly offered to take an overview of our footpaths and maintenance that may be required.

If anyone has already kindly offered to help with the footpaths team, your details will be shared with the new

team member. If you are interested in helping out from this point, please contact the Clerk in the first instance. We ask for your help in keeping an audit of our footpaths. If you are out walking and spot a problem with a footpath, for example if signage is not clear or the pathway is overgrown, please can you report it to us. If you could take the "whats3words" code – it would be really helpful for us to find the exact location (link below to download the app). <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app> Also (if possible), please can you include a photo with the description of work needed? It would be very helpful when deciding what tools are needed before the group set out. Thank you for your help in making our footpaths accessible.

Silverlands Play area

The Parish Council is looking at refurbishing the existing equipment and purchasing new items.

The grassed areas have been fed and weed killed.

Coronation Celebration

There will be a village celebration on Monday 8th May 2023 to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

Finance Update

Payments were approved for September 2022 invoices (total: £3,561.30)

Admin costs: £1,688.69

Ground's maintenance: £862.61

Allotments: £48

Playground repairs: £962.00

Payments were approved for October 2022 invoices (total: £2,634.05)

Admin costs: £1,721.64

Ground's maintenance: £862.41

Poppy wreaths: £50.00

Christmas is coming

The Parish Council has ordered the village Christmas tree. This will be sited at the Village Hall.

B Zaccarelli has designed a Christmas banner which will be located on the Hill.

A Humphreys is organising a village Christmas advent calendar and is looking for volunteers to decorate one of their windows which can be revealed on a particular day in advent. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mandy at: rpc.mandy.humphreys@gmail.com Rowde Parish Council wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Note: the next Parish Council meetings will be on:

Wednesday 14th December 2022, 7.30pm

Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7.30pm for precept setting

All meetings in the Village Hall unless otherwise notified.

Stay Connected!

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

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

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

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

My Wiltshire App

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

Concerns

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

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

Police Matters

If you need to report a crime:

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

It is possible to follow the Police on:

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

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

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

Dates for the diary

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

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

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL - Useful phone numbers

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

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

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Vacancy	Footpaths, Bridleways		
Chris Stevens	Village Appearance and Safety	rpc.cstevens010@gmail.com	
Barbara Zaccarelli	Village Events	barbarazaccarelli@yahoo.com	01380 726316
Vacancy	Allotments		
Mandy Humphreys	Furlong Close liaison, Website	loireuncorked@me.com	
Josh Wills	Playing fields; Youth Co-ordinator	rpc.joshwills@gmail.com	
Chris Greenwood	Neighbourhood Planning, Tree Officer, Roads & Transport	cj_g@me.com	07525 185514
Pat Bryant	Planning	rpcpatbryant@outlook.com	01380 698567
Rebekah Jeffries	Clerk	rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com	01380 501919

Wiltshire County Councillor for Rowde

Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Councillor	laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk	
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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. Please visit our website, for the latest information on our services:

Everyone is very welcome at all our services



Date/Time	Service
December 4 8am 10am	Advent 2 Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde Holy Communion, Bromham
December 11 8am 10am	Advent 3 Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane Holy Communion, Rowde
4pm December 17	Carol Service, Sandy Lane
6pm December 18 10am	Nine lessons and Carols, Bromham Advent 4 Holy Communion, Bromham
6pm December 24	Carol Service, Rowde Christmas Eve
2pm 11.30pm	Nativity, Rowdy Cow Midnight Mass, Bromham Midnight Mass, Rowde
December 25 8am 10am	Christmas Day Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane Holy Communion, Rowde
January 1 8am 10am January 8 8am	Holy Communion, Bromham Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde Holy Communion, Bromham Epiphany Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane
10am January 15	Holy Communion, Rowde Epiphany 2
10am January 22 8am 10am January 29 10am February 5 8am 10am	Holy Communion, Bromham Epiphany 3 Holy Communion (BCP), Sandy Lane Holy Communion, Rowde Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) Holy Communion, Bromham 3 Before Lent Holy Communion (BCP), Rowde 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

Church Opening Times

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

Rowde Church - Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm As far as possible, will be open on Sundays.

Bromham Church - Daily between 9am and 5pm

Sandy Lane Church - Daily between 9am and 5pm

Events

Regular Activities

Rowde Church Café on Tuesdays 10.45-12:00

Come and join us for coffee, cake and time to chat. Everyone welcome, from anywhere in the benefice!

Open the Book

For more information, contact Fran Hall:
07989758412

Growing in Faith

Are meeting on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. Anyone is welcome and if you wish to join us please contact Ruth Bray for the Zoom link for the week on 01380 859847 or ruthbray@outlook.com

Mothers' Union

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

Choir

Choir Leader: Nichola Brown

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

Bell Ringing

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

Flower Arranging

27 Nov & 4 Dec – Liz Ibbetson

11 Dec - Caroline Keevil

17 Dec – Arranging for Christmas – all helpers

1 Jan - Christmas flowers

8&15 January – Jill Myerscough

22&29 January – Jane Sartin

New members are most welcome to join the team.

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

Contact Details

Rector: Vacant

During the vacancy please contact:

Revd Heather for matters relating to baptisms and weddings

Caroline for funerals

Associate Priest: Revd Heather Smith

07702 113544 revheathersmith@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Caroline Culley

07557 983940 carolineculley1@outlook.com

Churchwarden (Bromham)

John Drew 01380 850908

Sandy Lane (pro warden)

Ernest Escott 01380 850405

Benefice Administrator: Sarah Bowler

07876 142112

sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Safeguarding Representative for Bromham and Rowde: Phil Bayley: 01380 859569

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/>

St Matthew's Crib Service

Saturday 24th December 2pm

**Come and join us at
the Rowdey Cow!**

Hear the Christmas story

Meet the Rowdey Cow animals

**Children - come dressed as Mary,
Joseph, a shepherd, king, donkey
or sheep if you would like to**

Service outdoors

Wearing wellies recommended!

Everyone welcome!

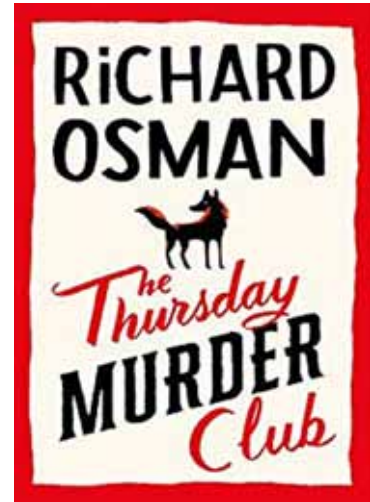
ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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

BOOK REVIEW

'The Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman

Our read for September was 'The Thursday Murder Club' by the ubiquitous Richard Osman suggested out of a curiosity as to its amazing popularity (now to be made into a film!!). Not everyone enjoyed this rather strange whodunnit set in a retirement home. Some positive comments were "cleverly written", "easy to read", "short chapters" and "undemanding". On the negative side views such as "divorced from reality", "depressing", "pedestrian writing", "childish in places" with "much irrelevant content". It certainly promoted a lot of discussion at the end of which we were still none the wiser as to its enormous popularity other than the popularity of the TV personality author!!



In October we had the choice to read anything from the pen of Maggie O'Farrell. In sequence the following books had been read and were marked out of 10:

'After You'd Gone' – 9

'The Distance Between Us' – 7

'The Hand that First Held Mine' – 9

'Instructions for a Heatwave' – 7

'This Must be the Place' – 7

'Hamnet' – 8

'The Marriage Portrait' – 8.5

It will be a free read for November and our December meeting will take the form of a festive celebration at The George and Dragon so 'Happy Reading' through 2023 everyone.

Ann Swan

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FUN COLUMN

This issue we have a few festive jokes:

What is the best possible Christmas present? A broken drum - you just can't beat it!

Did you hear about the man who stole an Advent calendar? He got 25 days.

Why did the scarecrow get a big Christmas bonus? Because he was outstanding in his field.

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "I'll never part with it!"

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? Because it soots him.

What do you call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby over the Christmas holidays? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

What did Santa and his wife do when they wanted to split up but couldn't find a divorce lawyer in the North Pole? They got a semicolon instead. They're great for separating independent Clauses.

What did one snowman say to the other? "Is it just me, or do you smell carrots?"

Where do Santa and his elves go to vote? The North Poll.

What's Santa Claus's favorite type of potato chip? Crisp Pringles!

What's Santa Claus's favorite track and field event? North Pole-vaulting.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing - it was on the house!

What do you call a Yeti with a six-pack? The Abdominal Snowman!

What is a vegan's favorite Christmas carol? "Soy to the World."

How does the snow globe feel this year? A little shaken.

Who is a Christmas tree's favorite singer? Spruce Springsteen!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What was Santa's favorite subject in school? Chemis-tree!

What is Santa's dog's name? Santa Paws!

What's every elf's favorite type of music? Wrap, of course.

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? Rude-olph.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Ice Krispies.

How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer.

PHOTO FUN

This issue we have a few amusing winter photos



Carer Support Wiltshire needs you!

We are a Registered Charity (No 1092762) helping unpaid carers to access services information, education and training, respite and breaks from their caring role. We are currently recruiting for three Trustee roles with commercial and financial experience including a Treasurer. In addition, we have several other part time and full time job vacancies.

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

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

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES



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

Tel: 07824 832424 Rowde Parish Council

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Local News



AID FOR UKRAINE



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

David returned to the UK following another week in Ukraine driving aid to areas which have been difficult and sometimes dangerous to reach. He has been working with aid workers he has met on previous trips and Tony, who has connections that allow the group to travel to areas that are restricted. He writes as follows:

"During the last few days we have travelled widely, having been permitted by the Ukrainian army to go where few are now allowed or willing to go. The people who still live in dangerous places are mostly the vulnerable - the elderly, the sick, those unable to look after themselves. Now, of course, they are vulnerable to Russian aggression, the cold, lack of food, clean water, medication.

Tony points out a little girl's smiling face looking out at us from an apartment block window as we pass the contents of our van to waiting firemen; they distribute aid in this frontline town. She watches as we leave a little stack of food and sweets for her on the steps of her building. She won't come down for them until we've left. The streets are mostly deserted and covered in glass, rubble, possessions blasted from wrecked apartments, people's lives blowing in the breeze. A ghostly figure peers out of a first floor window,

an elderly woman peering anxiously from behind nets. I walk across and wave; she smiles as I point the camera at her and she half hides behind the net. I blow her a kiss and she grins and waves back.

One of the fireman, who has lived here all his life, takes me into the theatre, until recently the pride of the town; it is a burned out shell. Blackened statues line the once grand staircase. The stage has gone and light floods in through holes in the walls and ceiling illuminating the blackened rubble. 'We had plays and dance here' says the fireman. 'It was beautiful'.



Once the aid is emptied out of the vans the firemen exchange uniform badges with us. They stand around, smoke, shake hands, smile and laugh. An old man shuffles by paying no attention and a group of women in headscarves and carrying shopping bags wander across the deserted junction apparently unconcerned that every few seconds the deafening percussive shriek of outgoing artillery is followed by the howl of incoming fire.

'Would anyone like tea?' enquires the fireman.

The Russians are fewer than two miles away and we sit in the fire station rest room to drink tea and dunk biscuits.

As we drive away from the town, a Ukrainian missile howls out of woodland to our right, trailing a dazzling tail; it arcs high and is gone in a moment.



Later, far away from the madness, we deliver the last of our medical supplies to a hospital. We are taken down hushed, shadowy corridors. 'Are you treating mainly trauma victims?' we ask. 'No. Everyone here is suffering with severe shell shock'. I have to remind myself that it is 2022."

The vast majority of aid agencies have long since left eastern Ukraine. The only relief for people who can't leave frontline villages and towns is provided by Ukrainians and a small number of volunteers, the latter relying almost completely on donations. On this trip, every item of food was bought with financial donations; the medical aid was bought by American donors and some given by a hospital in Kyiv and the clothes were donated by my neighbours. Transport, planning, logistics, equipment, expertise and so on were supplied by the amazing team of volunteers who are prepared to take risks every time they set out.

Thank you so much to everyone who has shared the appeal for funds to buy Marina the Minibus. In the last ten days we have raised almost £2000; so together with the money that was left over after the previous trips plus a bit of borrowing, David is now the proud owner of a minibus!

Each trip to take aid and help people to move costs between £1000 and £2000, by the time ferry travel, fuel and food for refugee families is paid for, while we are helping them to reach family, sponsors and safety. This is why we have increased our goal to £10,000; the total raised shows what has been donated through your fantastic generosity, but does not show that most of these gifts have already been spent on taking aid over the past few months. All the funds are administered by Fairfield High School and will be audited; every penny donated is used to get food, clothes and medical aid to people in Ukraine.

A minibus full of aid can reach parts of Ukraine that are not easily accessible by other means and crucially, can keep families together as we move them to places of safety. Going forward, we are investigating charitable status to maximise donations and ensure that we can

continue to help as much as we can for as long as possible. Please continue to support us by sharing this post as widely as you can, so that we can keep Marina on the road in Ukraine, bringing help to as many people as possible as they endure both the conflict and the cold winter weather which is on its way. Thank you.

As I write, £6,938 has been raised of the £10,000 goal so if you can donate something please go to the website:

www.gofundme.com/ff/davids-drive-transport-and-aid-for-ukraine

A MAN SUFFERED A HEAD INJURY AFTER A FIGHT INVOLVING 20 PEOPLE



Police were called to Devizes town centre in Wiltshire at around 17:00 GMT on Thursday 17th November.

It is believed to be linked to a disorder near the Market Place on Wednesday, which police are also investigating.

A man attended hospital for a head injury and two people were arrested on suspicion of actual bodily harm, police said.

They have now been released under investigation.

"Extra patrols are being made and the teams are working closely with partner agencies to tackle those involved," said a spokesperson for Wiltshire Police. "We will not tolerate this behaviour and we take a zero-tolerance approach to these offences," they added.

Police are asking for anyone with information to get in touch.

RARE BREED EWES IN ROWDE



Dear Rowde Residents, we would like to say a huge thank you to the Rowdey Cow who will be allowing our little flock of rare breed pregnant Oxford Down ewes to graze at the farm until Christmas. Please do come and see us while you are enjoying your ice cream. The sheep may be a bit shy at first as they are not used to lots of people. Can we also politely remind local dog walkers/owners of your responsibility when your dog is near any livestock. Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and sadly the last prosecution in Rowde was in 2017. Please feel free to read the information we will post on the gate about this fantastic breed of sheep and we hope you enjoy meeting them.

Jonathan Mills

BOUNDARIES DUE TO BE REDRAWN

Constituencies could be changed in Wiltshire as boundaries are due to be redrawn across England. The Boundary Commission for England has published new proposals for border changes across the country.

According to the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS), the government wants to redraw boundaries to equal up the size of constituencies to between 70,000 and 77,000 voters. Under the plans MP James Gray's North Wiltshire constituency would be divided in two - the northern half, with places such as Cricklade and Minety and Purton, joining with parts of Gloucestershire including Cirencester. The southern half of North Wiltshire, including Royal Wootton Bassett and Calne would be included in MP Michelle Donelan's Chippenham constituency.

But Ms Donelan would lose Bradford on Avon and Melksham to a new constituency of Melksham and Devizes, which, as the name suggests also includes Devizes.

That means the current constituency of Devizes, whose MP is Danny Kruger, would logically need to be renamed. It would become East Wiltshire, losing its western fringe, but picking up some of South Swindon. East Wiltshire would also pick up Amesbury from MP John Glen's Salisbury patch, which would not lose much else.

MP Andrew Murrison's current patch of South West Wiltshire, which would retain its name instead of the commission's original suggestion of Trowbridge and Warminster, would lose a chunk in its south east to Salisbury.

A final round of consultations will run until 5 December and the final report is expected in June 2023.

COUNCIL PLEDGES £4M TO BUY HOMES FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Plans to spend £4m buying houses for Ukrainian refugees in Wiltshire might not be enough, given how many people could need help, a council is told.

Wiltshire Council said it was using government cash in an "innovative way" to stop refugees living on the streets. It acted after fears some people who agreed to host refugees for six months did not wish to continue hosting.

Potentially 879 refugees were in need of accommodation but "£4m might only buy 16 homes" councillor Ian Thorn said.

Stone Circle director and Wiltshire Council Liberal Democrat leader Mr Thorn added: "The average house price in Wiltshire is probably £200,000-250,000. If we've got around £4m to put in, we can only buy around 16 houses which is a fairly small number given the number of Ukrainian families and that quite a lot of hosts have decided they don't want to be hosts anymore."

Councillor Ruth Hopkinson (Lib Dem) said: "With the best will in the world, it's going to take months to get who knows how many houses and the crisis is now. We've got potentially 879 refugee guests needing accommodation now. Additionally, we don't know where these new houses will be. They are unlikely to be close to where these people are getting jobs."

At present 879 refugees are being accommodated in 377 Wiltshire households. The council has received £5.9m in 2022 from the government to help Ukrainian refugees who came to the UK after Russia invaded in February. It has spent £1.1m of that total, according to the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

The remaining cash will be put into Stone Circle Housing Company - a firm which the council created to buy accommodation for the county's residents - which will buy the houses. Council leader Richard Clewer (Cons) said the council was using the funding in an "innovative way" to help the refugees.

The council had previously promised to put down a deposit and one month's rent for refugees threatened with homelessness who could not afford to themselves.

NUMBER OF WILTSHIRE DOG-ON-DOG ATTACKS 'JUMPS DRAMATICALLY'

The number of dog-on-dog attacks in Wiltshire has "jumped dramatically", according to dog wardens.

There have been 324 attacks reported so far this year in the county, compared to 255 in the whole of 2019.

Dog warden team leader, Clair Francis, said four dogs had been killed in attacks in the past two months, which was "really unusual". She advised people to keep their pets on leads and make sure they have the right collar, harness and leader.

"Certain dogs were bred to hunt and so when they see a small fluffy dog they go running after it. There are more dogs around because



during Covid they became very popular and their value went up," Ms Francis said.

According to the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS), there are currently two dog wardens in the county but a third is being recruited. Their main role is to seize stray dogs.

Ms Francis said some people who had not had dogs before were not aware of how to control them. "Because of lockdown many dogs were not allowed near other dogs, so they're not used to it," she said. "Your own might be friendly but other dogs might not be and if you spot signs of aggression take your dog to a professional trainer," Ms Francis added.

Animal behaviourists have reported a surge in requests for help with dog aggression after the pets' lives have been turned upside down, following lockdown.

CAROL SINGING



Carol Singing Around Rowde - 6pm, Wednesday 21st December - in aid of Devizes Food Bank

Who would like to do some carol singing around the village this Christmas? We have lots of Carol sheets at St Matthew's church, and are happy to provide hot chocolate afterwards.

Nicola Brown



National
Trust

National Trust Avebury: What's on Christmas 2022

Our main visitor offer:



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Step back in time with a visit to the manor, where each room is furnished in a different time period, reflecting the lives of the people who have lived here for the last 500 years.



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Alexander Keiller Museum

Find out all about the archaeology of the Avebury World Heritage Site. This small museum is filled with fascinating artefacts that have been discovered through past excavations.

Christmas What's on:



The story of The Nutcracker at Avebury Manor

19 Nov—1 Jan, 11am—4pm, free with entry (closed Wednesdays and 24, 25, 26 Dec)
Once again the manor is decorated with delicate hand-crafted ornaments, with each room dressed to reflect a part of The Nutcracker story. Join Clara and her Prince as they travel through magical realms to journey's end at the Sugar Plum Fairy's castle.
More info at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



Meet the Sugar Plum Fairy

26 & 27 Nov, 3, 4, 10, 11, 17-23 Dec, various times, £10 per child, booking essential
Bring your children to meet the Sugar Plum Fairy, who will read them the magical story of The Nutcracker. Through the story they will journey through fantastical realms, ending at the fairy's castle. Includes a Christmas gift.
More info and booking at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



Wreath-Making Workshops

4 & 5 Dec, 10.30am - 2pm, £55 per person, booking essential
Nothing says Christmas is here like a handmade wreath on your front door. Join us to make your very own wreath using natural foliage and Christmas decorations.
More info and booking at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



National Trust

National Trust Avebury: What's on Christmas 2022



Christmas Market

3 Dec, 4-6pm (market continues on 4 Dec, 10am-4pm)

The lovely atmosphere of the old barn makes it a perfect place to buy your Christmas presents from a range of local gift stalls. With Christmas music, twinkling lights and festive food and drink. On Saturday there will also be family activities.

More info at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



Winter Warmer Walk

12 & 15 Dec, 10.30am– 12.30pm, £15 per person, booking essential

Dr. Nick Snashall, National Trust Archaeologist for the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, leads this fascinating walk in Avebury's stone circle. Includes a festive drink, mince pie and £15% discount in the shop

More info and booking at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



Crafty Christmas

17-30 Dec, 11.00 am– 3-00pm, £3 per child

Fun Christmas craft activities for children throughout the festive period, held in the historic barn area. Suitable for children aged 3+

More info at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury



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LAUNDRY & IRONING

**Christmas Carol Service
at St Matthew's Church
6pm Sunday 18th December
All Welcome!**



Come and join us at St Matthew's Church for our Carol Service

All welcome!

If you really enjoy singing carols, would you like to come and join us for two practices on Friday 2nd and 16th December (evening), as well as for the carol service? We can always use more singers, just for Christmas, for our friendly choir!

No audition!

For more information contact Nicola Brown

01380 722406

nicola_brown@talk21.com

Carols and Cake

Come and join us at

St Matthew's Church

10.45-12 Tuesday 13th December

For coffee, cake and join in singing your favourite
Christmas carols





Carol Singing around Rowde

In aid of Devizes Food Bank

Meet beside Silverlands Play Park
at 6pm on Wednesday 21st December

Taking a route along Springfield Road, Rowde Court Road and
ending up at St Matthew's church for hot chocolate

Listen out for us between 6pm and 7.30pm!
Donations of cash or food for Devizes Food Bank gratefully
received

Or come and join us – for the whole session, or just for a few
carols! All welcome!

For more information contact Nicola Brown
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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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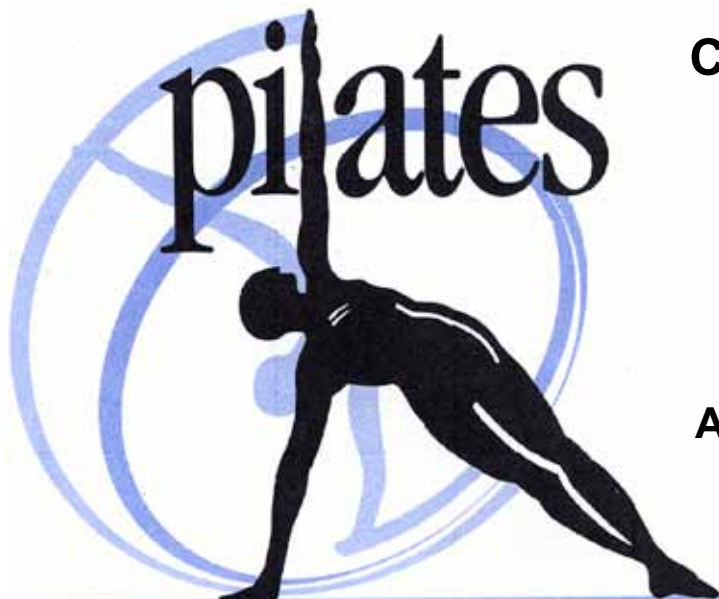
Please note that the information given and views expressed in this magazine are generally as supplied by the contributors. Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news 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 2023 (bi-monthly)

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

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YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

Policing has been under the microscope in the last year and I don't see this scrutiny letting up any time soon – and neither should it.

The public want their police force to keep them safe, protect vulnerable people, put victims first, catch the criminals responsible, produce quality investigations and lock the bad ones up.

Wiltshire Police has had its fair share of criticism. It has received a poor PEEL inspection report and is currently in 'special measures'. I can reassure you progress is being made and my scrutiny of that performance is ongoing.

We have had some solid successes too. You told me road safety and speeding was a key concern. I have committed investment into the roads policing unit, increasing the number of officers and cars by 20%.

We also tripled the capacity of the speed enforcement team, with extra police staff and state-of-the-art cameras. With this joined up approach, there are more traffic officers on our streets and there has been an increase of 42% of the number of people caught speeding and given tickets.

There is still more to do but our roads will become safer as the deterrent of speeding tickets and prosecution starts to bite.

The rural crime team has also doubled since I committed investment in the team and in extra equipment. I was also pleased with the force's commitment to visit all victims of home burglary – let me know if this doesn't happen and I will act on your behalf to scrutinise that commitment.

We are also in the process of recruiting the next Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police and I hope to have them



confirmed in post by mid January. We look forward to welcoming them to the county.

In the meantime, our current Chief will carry on implementing the improvements needed to satisfy HM Inspectors and provide stability so the force can continue making Wiltshire safer for all.

Please also make sure you take part in my survey, taking place in December and January, which will ask you about your confidence levels in Wiltshire Police and about the policing precept for 2023/24.

It is important we capture as many people's thoughts as possible and you will find this on my website from mid December.

As ever, I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and new year.

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.



NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for someone who likes hares, highland cows, penguins, pandas, polar bears or leopards or famous people like David Bowie or Bob Marley?

Limited edition art prints (mounted or framed) by local artist are available now for local collection or delivery.

Also, my Pet Portrait waiting list is up to May/June 2023 but vouchers are available for giving at Christmas.

Have a look at website www.alansfineart.com or contact Alan on 07886870053 or watters.alan@gmail.com



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

A Happy New Year to you all! I also hope you have a good Christmas and are able to spend time with family and friends. 2022 was a tumultuous year – a war in Ukraine, economic and political uncertainty, rising energy, inflation and interest rates, and the increased cost of living. We are all hoping for some stability in 2023 but I realise there are residents who are struggling.

Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses, and communities - there is detailed information online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk Please do take a look, as there may be additional help available for you and your family.

Assistance has already been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund (£2.7m to vulnerable households), the Council Tax Energy Rebate to residents in Council Tax bands A-D and the School Holidays Activity and Food programme. The discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme for households in bands E to H is now open for those in receipt of Council Tax reduction, or if the property has been adapted to accommodate a disabled person (including severe mental disabilities).

The £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme is payable to every household. The discount is paid monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card. Prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that will need to be redeemed.

Alongside this, the Government's Energy Price Guarantee – the "Energy Price Cap" ensures that a "typical" household will pay no more than £2,500 per year until April 2023 when there will be a Treasury-led review into how energy bills are supported going forwards.

If you need help, or you know someone is struggling with the cost of living, then please contact me and I will help find the right support.

As ever, if there are any issues relating to Wiltshire Council business then please contact me at laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk and I will do my best to support you.

Councillor Laura Mayes

LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE

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ONLINE CHRISTMAS BUYING TIPS FROM MARTIN LEWIS

- The 'abandon your basket' trick (to possibly get 20% off H&M, Asos and more). Log in to your online shopping account, add what you want in the basket, then fail to finish and companies often send you discount codes to tempt you back.
- Teach kids about spending money safely online. 'Not-for-profit Internet Matters' has a FREE 10-point guide with tips to help young people build good online money management habits, including how to spot online scams.



- Trick to get free delivery even if you don't quite make the threshold. Check what you need to spend to get free delivery (for example, £50 at John Lewis, £40 at Asos or Matalan), and if you're just below it, add an extra item you'll use which costs less than the delivery charge to get you over the threshold. You'll have bought more but paid less. For Amazon, there's even a nifty free delivery tool which helps you find cheap items to hit its £20 threshold.
- Shopping for Christmas presents you're planning to post? It's almost always cheaper to send direct. But if you want to send them yourself, Royal Mail will collect for free until 31 December - though be aware of any strikes that may cause delays.
- New - Unique MSE Amazon Warehouse Discount Tool. A not too taxing way to hunt big discounts from Amazon's little-known discount outlet... Amazon Warehouse is a section of the giant e-tailer's site that resells returned or slightly-damaged items, such as laptops, kitchen appliances or tablets, at knockdown prices.
<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/amazon-warehouse-discount-finder/>
- Of course, never assume Amazon is cheapest (even through the 'warehouse'), and always compare prices elsewhere before buying.

Above all, before you buy anything:

If you are short of money then ask yourself -

- Do I need it?
- Can I afford it?

If you are not short of money then still ask yourself –

- Will I use it?
- Is it worth it?

And finally, the legal position if you change your mind:

You've a right to change your mind online (but NOT in store). Many assume shops have to refund items that are the wrong size or colour - this isn't the case. It's worth knowing the law....

- **In-store purchases:** You've NO RIGHT to change your mind, you can only return faulty goods. This said, some stores do allow no-fault returns, but it's not the law.
- **Online purchases:** You DO have a right to change your mind - you've legally got 14 days to tell them and 14 days after that to send it back (there are exclusions, the main ones being personalised or perishable items).

4CHILDREN



What your 4Children Children's Centre offers

Groups and services that run from your local centre are designed for families with children under five. Your centre can provide you with information or advice on all aspects of family life, so drop in to visit us or call one of our staff team.



For further information or to get involved, telephone 01380 739835



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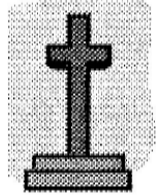
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Phone 01225 706532

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Cost : £3.00

For more information contact:
 Yvonne 01380 723086
yve@thegablesdevizes.co.uk

Lending with Heart and Mind

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

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

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


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

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

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

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St Matthew's Flower Arrangers

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

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

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

wb.ibbetson1@btinternet.com

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ROWDE VILLAGE



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

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

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Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue



On-call firefighter recruitment

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

arts
together

...ageing creatively

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

COULD YOU PLEDGE SOME TIME AND HELP BY?

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

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liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk / 07780860922

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VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings

(All Wednesdays 7.30pm - venues to be confirmed.
Please check noticeboards and website for location)
14th December, 11th January, 8th February, 8th March,
19th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 13th September,
11th October, 8th November, 13th December.

Other Events

2nd & 16th December - Carol singing practices - page 30
18th December - Christmas Supper - page 13
13th December Carols and Cake - page 30
21st December - Carol Singing - pages 27 & 31
24th December - Crib Service - page 19
8th May 2023 - Annual Village Celebration - page 42
Every Tuesday - St Matthew's Cafe - page 19

LETTERS

NEW DATE FOR OUR VILLAGE CELEBRATION

As we have a special bank holiday to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles on Monday May 8th 2023,

We will change the date of our Village Fete and have one big celebration in May.

Barbara Zaccarelli

CARER CAFÉ REOPENS

Carer Support Wiltshire are pleased to be reopening their popular carer café in Pewsey adding to their cafes already taking place monthly in Chippenham, Marlborough, Devizes and Amesbury. The Pewsey café will take place on the first Tuesday of every month - starting on Tuesday 3 January 2023 - between 10.30am and midday at Pewsey Methodist Church, North Street.

Carer cafes are spaces where unpaid carers, those who are supporting a friend, neighbour or family member, can meet for cake and a hot drink to speak with others who are in similar situations and to recharge. The cafes are free to attend and there's no need to book. A trained volunteer will be on hand and there are no expectations placed on attendees. Some people like to talk about and exchange information relating to their caring role and others just come to meet new people and have some time out.

If you need more information, or are an unpaid carer who is not currently registered for support with Carer Support Wiltshire, please call 0800 181 4118 or email admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk.

And if you would like opening times of the other Wiltshire cafes please have a look at <https://carersupportwiltshire.co.uk/whats-on/>

Kath Brice

FANTASTIC SUPPORT FROM ROWDE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Editor,

First ,may I thank you and all the Rowde Village Magazine volunteers for all the encouragement and support you have given to the Save Furlong Close campaign during the past two years, That We Saved Furlong Close is down in no small measure to the fantastic support given by you and the people of Rowde and beyond,

Yet again we, the Families and Friends of Furlong Close, are asking for your help and you have yet again most generously given prominent space in your magazine to our drive to find viable, sustainable options for the non-residential facilities at Furlong Close.

Your readers will see that the FAFF have joined forces with Community First to commission a feasibility study which has been canvassing local ideas and opinions. A team of interviewers is out and about in Rowde and the surrounding area. The Families thank everyone for their help in this venture.

It is our hope that the wonderful facilities at Marsh Hall, the Administration Block of offices, the commercial kitchen, the cafe area, the fully-fitted craft and woodwork shops and so much more can be re-purposed for the benefit of all, but it is essential that for that to happen any solution is commercially viable and has a mid to long- term future both for the site owners, Specialised Supported Housing, and for the organisations and/or businesses who take it on.

With very best wishes

Antonia Field

Chair Families and Friends of Furlong Close

(see inside and outside back cover, Ed)

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 0800 181 4118

Rowde Community Speed Watch Team



Do you think speeding is a problem in our village?

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

To get involved please contact

Tony Jeffries at

wajeffries888@gmail.com or

phone 01380 729989

ORIGINAL PET and PEOPLE PORTRAITS



Colour or mono portrait of a person or pet by local artist Alan Watters. Original portrait, two prints and three greetings cards included in the package.

My waiting list is currently around May 2023 but a voucher can be supplied to be given at Christmas if required.

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To apply for financial help to have your cats neutered, and, if you wish, micro-chipped at the same time, please send a blank e-mail to cnwiltson@gmail.com 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 2023



Wiltshire Mid Branch
Registered charity no. 205925

Working together to help you and your pets



Registered charity no. 203641

Sudoku (medium this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (medium this month)

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

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

Quick Reference List of Advertisers

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TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:	
Dolman Audio Visual (TV & Hi Fi repairs)	46
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HOUSE MAINTENANCE:	
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Gray & Amor Ltd, Property Renovation	20
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Tree Surgery - Tom Ashpole	23
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The Rowdey Cow	2, 7, 8, 41
The George and Dragon	13
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Whistley Canine Country Club	41
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Nursery - Townsend Barn	23
Canal Boat Rental - Foxhangers	32
Car Sales, MOTs & Servicing	38
4Children	37
Arts Together - Ageing Creatively	40
Logs and Kindling	39
<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

Please contact Rowde Parish Council

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

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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

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 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
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

Hft Furlong Close (ex Self Unlimited)

Tel: 721309

St Matthew's Flower Guild

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

TAXI

R H Reeves 725072
J Dalley 07592 063789

Toddler Group

Village Hall Thursdays 9.30-11.30

Tuesday Afternoon Club (60s+)

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

Veterinary Surgeries

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

Website

www.rowdevillage.org
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com
or contact Rebekah 01380 501919

Youth Club

Josh Wills
rpc.joshwills@gmail.com

DOG WALKER / PET CARE SERVICES

Does your dog spend too much time home alone? Do you find it hard to fit in regular daily exercise for your dog amongst the stresses of everyday life? Let me help you! I'm a dog walker with over 10 years' experience working with dogs and other animals. I have worked for guide dogs and have been a supervisor at a busy kennels, as well as years helping at veterinary practises. My passion for animals runs very deep and their care and welfare is of up most importance to me. I am experienced, offering a professional, caring and friendly service to dogs & their owners of all Breeds I am fully insured and first aid trained. I have a Facebook page where you can see reviews and updates of your dogs on their walks. www.facebook.com/boopeeandfriends/ My website is www.boopee-and-friends.co.uk. Feel free to message me via website or on my Facebook page. Alternatively you can call me on 07368635866.

Dolman Audio Visual

Berhills Lane Farm, Sells Green, Seend
provides
reliable and effective repairs
& maintenance to Hi-Fi &
video equipment

by knowledgeable and friendly technical staff
at our well-equipped service department

Please contact

Maggie or Peter

Phone/Fax: 01380 828524

Email: peterdolman@btconnect.com

T O'ROURKE

All plastering work undertaken

No job too small

FREE ESTIMATES



Contact Troy on:

01380 698993

or 07968 634689

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

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

CLOSING DOWN SALE

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

How to advertise here for FREE:

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

PLEASE REMEMBER

to mention where you
saw the advert when
you contact any of our
advertisers!

**MOST BUMBLEBEE QUEENS NEST
JUST BELOW THE GROUND OR
UNDER PILES OF BRUSH IN WINTER**



**LEAVE THE LEAVES. BAN THE LEAF BLOWER.
IN THE SPRING, AVOID RAKING, TILLING AND
MOWING UNTIL THE QUEENS EMERGE FROM THEIR
WINTER NESTS IN MAY.**

Can you help us shape the future of Furlong Close?

**COMMUNITY
FIRST**

Community First

Community First is a registered charity (288117) based in Devizes. We support people, places and communities in Wiltshire and Swindon. We work with organisations including charities, partners and groups to speak to residents (like you) about ideas you might have for improvements in your area, or opportunities to get involved in community projects.

One of the ways we do this is through door-knocking. Our trained Community Organisers visit a local town, village or community and knock on doors to speak to residents. This is a good way to make sure we listen to a variety of people and get as many views and ideas as we can.

Furlong Close

You may already be aware of a campaign to save Furlong Close from closure. Thanks to the hard work of residents and campaigners, the future of the Furlong Close site is now safe. Community First is working with The Families and Friends of Furlong Close and Specialised Supported Housing to identify how the underused or vacant parts of the site may be utilised.

Our Community Organisers will be visiting Rowde to carry out listening activity in mid-late November. We will also be hosting a series of listening events with Furlong Close residents, staff and key partners in December.

Image: Furlong Close site



Our Community Organisers



Katrina Watson



Sam Lloyd

Katrina and Sam will be visiting your neighbourhood in November to listen to residents' views. They will be wearing Community First badges and we have included their photos (left) so you can recognise them if they knock on your door. Listening activity dates for the project are included below.

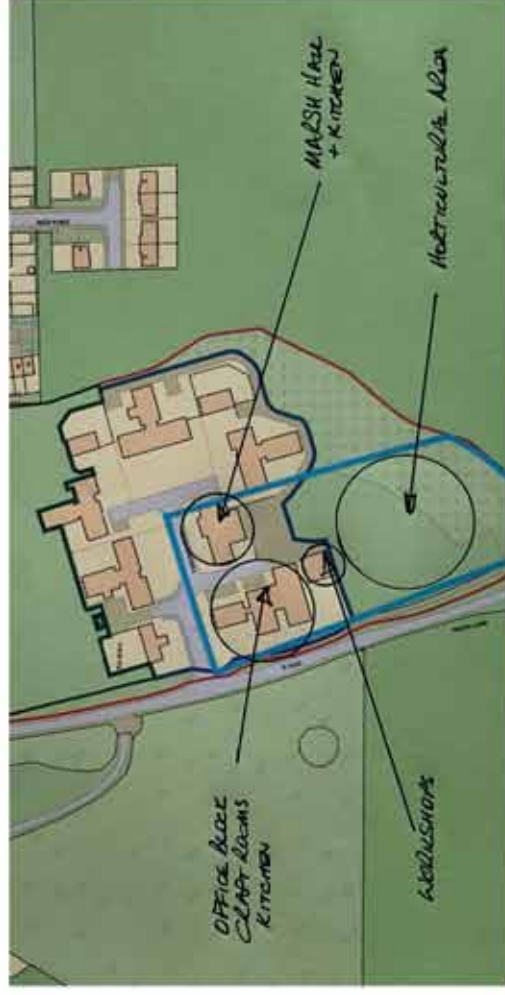
Listening Dates:

Date	Listening Activity
14th November	Door-knocking (Rowde Residents & Key Local Partners)
15th November	Door-knocking (Rowde Residents & Key Local Partners)
22nd November	Door-knocking (Rowde Residents & Key Local Partners)
23rd November	Door-knocking (Rowde Residents & Key Local Partners)
24th November	Door-knocking (Rowde Residents & Key Local Partners)
7th December	Day of Listening (Furlong Close Residents and Staff)
12th December	Open Event (Key Partners)

About Furlong Close

Furlong Close is a former Residential Care Home now being repurposed to Supported Living for 30 residents with special needs housed within the existing residential bungalows. The site is owned by Specialised Supported Housing and operated by Inclusion and Agincare.

This change has meant that some of the land and buildings formerly utilised; a communal hall, offices, occupational workshops, commercial kitchens and horticultural land are now vacant and seeking new uses.



Furlong Close is a large site with many possibilities for future use. We are hoping to get some ideas on how the site can be utilised so that the underused or vacant facilities can be used for the benefit of the residents and the wider community.

Contact Us

If you have ideas that you would like to share, please email:

- Katrina Watson: kwatson@communityfirst.org.uk
- Sam Loyd: siloyd@communityfirst.org.uk
- Or call: 01380 722475

You can find out more about our work on our website:

www.communityfirst.org.uk



COMMUNITY
FIRST

Furlong Close Community Engagement

Your Voice

Your Views

Thanks to the hard work of the Rowde community and campaigners, the future of Furlong Close is safe. We would like to hear your thoughts, ideas and vision for the development of this important community site.