

Rowde Village News



April/May 2026

Silverwood Garden & Country Fair



Sunday 10th May 2026
10am to 3pm

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Editorial

Welcome to another great edition of your Rowde Village News. In this bumper issue there are all the usual excellent reports and articles from the village's schools, clubs, societies and other organisations of course but the 'Local News' pages (24 to 27) will give you an insight into the great entertainment lined up for this year's Rowdefest. It was a truly wonderful event last year but in order to make it as good again if not better we need more volunteers. If you would like to get involved, go to page 26 to find out how. And why not get involved in this year's Open Gardens too? Read all about it on page 26.

I would also like to draw your attention to a couple of local vacancies within the parish. One for a new PC Clerk (see details on page 42) and the other for the Distribution Manager post here on the magazine team (see page 16 for more details). We are very sad to see Julie give up her role on the team but we thank her for the exceptional and valuable contribution she has given to the magazine and the village over the last 15 years. We will certainly miss her.

A new event I am looking forward to will be 'Rowde Revels' (see the poster on page 17) where we are all invited to celebrate local talent with music, poems and sketches. And finally there will be a fund raising Quiz Night at the Mind Tree Cafe on 17th April. You will find all the information about it in the poster on the inside back cover.

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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The Magazine Team

Alan Watters (Editor)

Tel: 01380 724788

Email: watters.alan@gmail.com

Suzan Jackett (Assistant Editor)

Tel: 01380 729791

Email: suzijj@rocketmail.com

Julie Baker (Advertising Manager)

Tel: 07796690413

Email: juliebaker72@yahoo.co.uk

Tim d'Estrube (Distribution Manager)

Tel: 07919362975

Email: RowdeVillageNewsDistro@yahoo.com

Front Cover Image

The superb front cover photograph of our church was taken by Ebony Carter

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ROWDE LADIES CLUB

On February 10th in the Village Hall the Ladies Club met and 'tried their hand' at Origami (paper folding) under the 'Expert Eye' of one of the members Mrs .S. Loader. Some of the finished results were very good and we all enjoyed the afternoon. The Raffle winner was Mrs. P. Phillips. At the March meeting again in the Village Hall, we had an Easter Quiz with the winners being: Mrs. P. Phillips and Mrs. R. Stevens. The Raffle winner was Mrs. S. Loader.

The next meeting will be on April 14th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Programme to be announced. For the May meeting members will be having a trip to Christchurch.

Di Buckland

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

After a slow start in the sale of tickets there was a good attendance at the Concert on February 1st in St. Matthew's Church (by kind permission of the PCC) when the Wiltshire Police Band gave another very enjoyable afternoon performance in aid of Village Hall funds.

Pieces played ranged from Gershwin, The Beatles to the Paddington Bear Theme with an arrangement by one of the band members.

The Committee would like to say thank you to the PCC, The Police Band, and all who attended or who helped to make this event so successful.

Di Buckland

Church Flowers

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy flower arranging. It is fun, not onerous, no big commitment and an opportunity to keep our Church bright and welcoming to congregations, the Café on Tuesdays, the Friday afternoon tea party and visitors. We especially need more flower arrangers for the big Church Festivals. If you might consider joining us, please contact Caroline Keevil on 07860.148407 or ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk

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LAURA MAYES

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(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

ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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

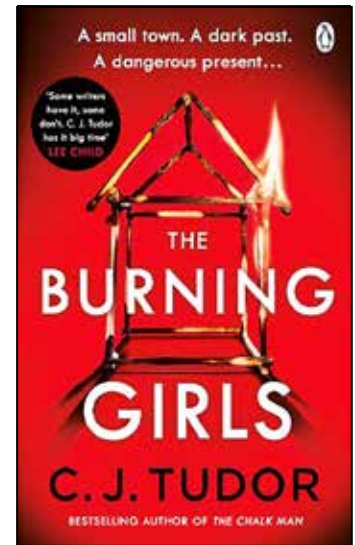
BOOK REVIEWS

'The Burning Girls' **by C J Tudor**

This is a dark mystery set in the small village of Chapel Croft. The story follows Reverend Jack Brooks and her teenage daughter Flo, who move there hoping for a fresh start after trouble in Jack's previous parish. Once in the village, Jack discovers a long and disturbing history: Protestant martyrs burned centuries earlier, two teenage girls who vanished in the 1990s, and more recent deaths that seem linked to the same sinister past. As Jack tries to piece together what really happened, strange occurrences and unsettling secrets emerge, suggesting the village is still haunted by its history.

The book had very mixed reviews with one member giving it a rating of 9/10 and another 7/10 whilst the majority were less generous and ratings were as low as 1/10. For many of us, this was because the story felt as though it left too many loose ends unresolved, the characters were often difficult to like or relate to, and the plot at times stretched plausibility. While a few readers enjoyed the dark atmosphere and twists, the overall feeling in the group was that it was quite dark and macabre — definitely not a book to pick up just before going to bed.

Geraldine White



'The Women' **by Kirstin Hannah**

Though our January read was written about a period in living memory for most of our members, this novel nevertheless falls into the 'historical' genre, covering the years of America's involvement in the Vietnam war.

The main protagonist, Frances 'Frankie' McGrath, is from a sheltered and privileged middle class background. Unquestionably patriotic and keen to find a purposeful role, she enlists for medical duty in 'Nam and is thrust into the horrors of nursing on the front line, as unready and unprepared as the troops she is there to help.

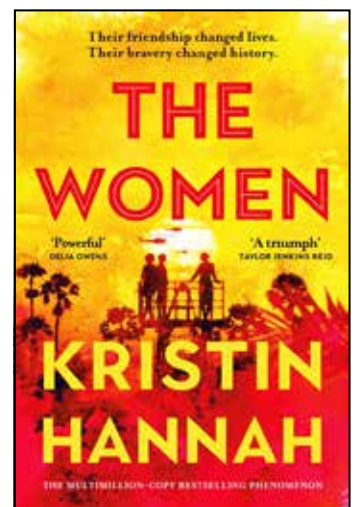
The first half of the novel covers her time in Vietnam in a very graphic and convincing way, her rapid maturity and loss of innocence being particularly deftly portrayed. The mass casualties of war and Frankie's developing relationships and inevitable losses make this a very emotional read.

We were all surprised by the reaction of the general public to the veterans on their return home, not something made known at the time, and the failure to support them through their PTSD and addiction issues was an upsetting revelation. Especially shocking was the refusal to acknowledge any presence or contribution by women in that war.

After focusing on Frankie's difficulties in adjusting to life back home, the novel fast forwards to a time when these issues were nominally addressed nationally. The sudden wrapping up with a fairly unlikely encounter felt clumsy and one of the few criticisms we had of this otherwise excellent read.

Highly recommended.

Karen Lawrence Bright



ROWDEY COW NEWS



As I write this we have just had Mother's Day 2026 which was a lovely busy day with Carl's kitchen team doing an amazing breakfast, brunch, lunch and a special Afternoon Tea Package too! We have a nice few days of sun forecast and then the Easter Holidays soon to follow.



Easter Holidays will include 2 car meets, a free Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Crafts as well as some visits from the Easter Bunny and of course some wonderful Easter Inspired Ice Cream Flavours. Lydia has been busy making our ice cream while our Ice Cream Queen Karen has been away. Now Karen has returned and Lydia is assisting Kelly-Anne in heading up our wonderful Front of House Team.



On 29th March the Pitstop Car Club are holding a Cars and Coffee Meet here and then will continue to do so on the 4th Sunday of every month. They have an exciting array of cars from Ferraris to vintage cars and work vehicles which you can look around while the café is open as normal.

On Easter Sunday we are holding our first ever Classic Car Meet with Wiltshire Wheels 9.30am-12pm. They are meeting here with their classic cars & bikes and interesting motors – café open as normal for customers



February Half Term was a lot of fun with Elsie helping our younger customers make little cheerio bird feeders and we'll be looking forward to doing more of the same with our Easter Craft sessions!



The ponies and donkeys are able to enjoy more time out in the fields now that the weather is improving and fields are drying out. We hope to be able to move the pigs outside too soon. The baby peacocks are growing into beautiful young birds and their feathers and plumes are starting to flourish.



We look forward to welcoming you here soon & wish everyone a Happy Easter
Sue

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NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Silverwood Featured in RHS Wellbeing Blueprint

Exciting news! Tim and Jenni have been working with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the Wellbeing Blueprint study, exploring how our gardens and outdoor spaces support pupils' and staff wellbeing.



The Silverwood case study highlights the walled garden, animals, and woodlands, showing both the rewards and challenges of working with nature.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps make our outdoor spaces so special!

Read the full case study here:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing/blueprint/example-wellbeing-gardens/silverwood-school>

Bantam Eggs in the Feed Shed

We currently have some fertile bantam eggs incubating in the animal feed shed! If all goes well, the chicks should hatch in 21–23 days possibly over half term. We will keep you posted.

Plane Class Celebrates World Book Day

Plane Class had a fantastic day celebrating World Book Day! We started with a story and some playtime in the climbing trees, then enjoyed our reading lesson outside in the sunshine.

After lunch, we visited the local bookshop in Devizes, practicing our road safety, showing excellent manners, and using the Silverwood values of cooperation, kindness, and courage to choose a new book each with their vouchers.



Bantam eggs



Plane Class

Natalie Parker



Rob Hunt DipPFS

Phone

07970 256287

Email

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NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future

Although it feels like the year is flying by, it has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back after half term and see such a positive and purposeful start across the school. There has been a real buzz of learning in every classroom, as always, with children enthusiastic, engaged and loving the signs of spring!



Before half term, we marked Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme of belonging. The children spent time reflecting on what it means to feel safe, valued and included, and how we can ensure that Rowde is a place where everyone feels they belong. This was beautifully captured in our whole-school 'We Belong Together' display, where each child contributed a piece to a collaborative jigsaw. Seeing these individual pieces come together to form one shared display was a powerful reminder of the importance of community, individuality and connection.



Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences. Our whole school came together to celebrate both World Book Day and World Wildlife Day. World Book Day was, as always, a highlight, with children and staff sharing a love of reading through creative activities, storytelling and some fantastic costumes. Alongside this, a pupil-led initiative for World Wildlife Day saw the children raising funds for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, demonstrating both compassion and leadership. Two children, Alfie and Isabelle, wanted to raise money for Wiltshire



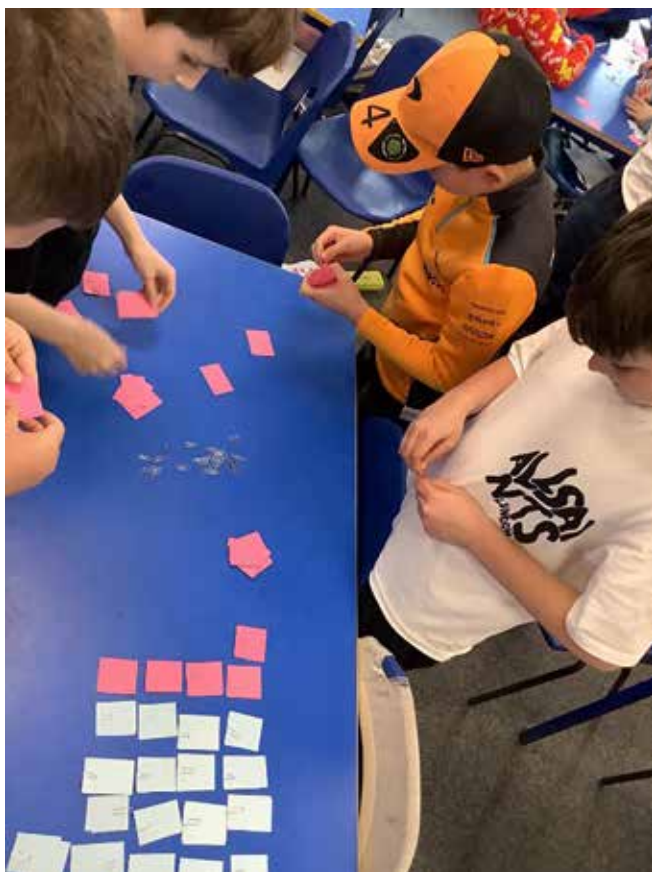
Wildlife and so they planned for children to donate £1 to design and create a badge of their favourite animal which they then wore for the day!

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future



Learning across the curriculum has continued to be brought to life through hands-on opportunities. From science workshops exploring fascinating concepts, to design projects using digital tools to create detailed Greek temples, the children have approached their learning with curiosity and enthusiasm. We were lucky to welcome science teacher, Mr Bone, from Devizes school who led a brilliant workshop all about reversible and irreversible changes, linking perfectly with the Year 4 and 5 current science unit. Theo shared some of the highlights with me afterwards. The class cooked an egg to demonstrate an irreversible change, talked about chemical equations, and even explored ammonia at the molecular level using pieces of paper to represent N_2 and H_2 . One of the favourite moments was a bottle that looked like normal water but turned bright blue when it was shaken! The children clearly loved the session and took a huge amount from it!



We have also enjoyed coming together as a community through a range of shared events. A particular highlight was our dance group performing at the Dauntsey's Dance Show. The children represented the school beautifully, performing with confidence, energy and real pride. It was wonderful to see them step onto a larger stage, showcasing their hard work and teamwork, and embracing the opportunity to perform in front of a wider audience. Experiences such as these are invaluable in building confidence and creating lasting memories.



We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our wider community. Generous contributions from RAFT have enabled us to refresh our class libraries, further nurturing a love of reading across the school.

As we move further into the term, life at Rowde remains busy, purposeful and full of opportunity. We are proud to see our children continuing to demonstrate our values of curiosity, resilience and kindness in all that they do. As always, our doors are open and we currently have spaces available in every year group. If you would like to visit the school, see us in action or find out more about what we offer, please do get in touch at: head@rowde.wilts.sch.uk.

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher

NEWS FROM THE MIND TREE CAFÉ

Not for Profit - Promoting Holistic Therapies in Rowde



Spring at The Mind Tree project is a reminder that, just like nature, we can begin again—finding light, connection, and comfort in the small, shared moments.

As the days grow longer and the first signs of blossom appear, spring gently invites us to slow down and begin again. After the darker months, the extra light and warmth can lift our mood, boost energy, and bring a renewed sense of hope. Which I know a lot of us having been waiting for.

April is Stress Awareness Month – A great opportunity to encourage conversations around managing stress and self-care. The Mind Tree offers low cost counselling which can help you if you are feeling stressed, and anxious etc, please contact us on enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or go to our website - <https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

Connect with others – Meet a friend for a coffee or check in with someone—it can make a big difference. Our Spring and Summer Café opening hours from April 2nd are 9.30am to 4pm, (Kitchen closing 3.15pm) Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. We have a tasty menu and affordable prices.

Move your body – Light movement like stretching, yoga, or walking can boost both physical and mental wellbeing. We have several practitioners and therapists that can support you with this, e.g. – Yoga, Pilates, Energy healing, please see the website for more information or pop in and see us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you are a local business, organisation, or individual who would like to support something truly meaningful, we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to create a welcoming Memory Club/Café in Wiltshire—a space where people living with dementia, along with their families and carers, can feel supported, connected, and less alone.

We have applied for some funding to help us get started, but with a little extra support from our community, we can bring this to life and make a real difference to those who need it most.

We are also in need of bulbs, plants, soil, and seeds to help us in our orchard and our planters, if you have extra stock or know of a company that can help us, please can you ask them.

EVENTS

Easter Family Fun

Saturday 28th March 11.30 - 4.30

Easter family fun day at The Mind Tree Café, Your day includes treasure hunt around our orchard, teddy bears picnic and lunch box for children and 1 raffle ticket towards winning your own bear. With a free show from DOCA - presents PifPaf theatre with Toast. A magical 50 minute musical performance with sweet treats. £7.00 per child.

Fundraising QUIZ Night (see also page 47) Friday 17TH April 7PM - 9.30PM

Join us in our Quiz night to fun raise for our Memory café starting in June. The Mind Tree Café will be supporting people with Dementia and their Carers/family.

The night includes Quiz and a grazing table for all the guests. Teams of 2-4 let us know when booking. Please bring your own alcohol if you want and soft drinks will be available on the night. £20.00 per person all proceeds go to the memory club.

Register your interest - Death Café. Chill out and chat about life, death and everything in between. Please contact enquiries@themindtreecaf.org

Register your interest - Meditation at The Mind Tree Café, 5 week course. This group is suitable for complete beginners and for those with some experience who would enjoy meditating with others. Please contact - enquiries@themindtreecaf.org

Affordable Community Acupuncture – Every Thursday morning, 10 am - 1pm To book your space, please visit the website www.everybodyacu.co.uk

Our resident Artists - Cathy, Hannah and Geri, have workshops available, pop in and have a chat with them and I will be organising a list of their workshops, which you will find in the foyer soon.

Saturday Mornings - Energy Healing Treatments, please contact Laura via mail laura.vesajoki@gmail.com or call 07393 137169"

Massage and Aromatherapy with Nalini – every Thursday, for more information and to book an appointment, please contact - <http://www.naliniwellness.com/> Tel: 07432 404229

Monday Morning - Yoga with Naomi - 10am – noon. For more information and to book a place please call Naomi on 07727 124097.

Monday Evenings - Pilates, please contact Suzan via email suzijj@rocketmail.com or call 07833 976362

Monday Evenings- PSG Choirs, please contact www.psgchoirs.co.uk or phone Will Blake on 07751 697388

Tuesday Evenings - Yoga, please contact Ginny via email yogawithginny@gmail.com or call 07973 517029

Tuesday Morning Pilates – 9am – 10am please contact - Mia MacAllister on miamacallister@outlook.com

Book -[https://naturesresonance.as.me/schedule/2ffb94ab/?appointmentTypelds\[\]=90220688](https://naturesresonance.as.me/schedule/2ffb94ab/?appointmentTypelds[]=90220688)

*Please check with the instructors before attending for spaces and suitability.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

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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!)**

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Rowde Parish Council Ordinary Parish Council Meetings – February & March 2026 Summary

Locum Clerk

The Staffing Committee met to interview candidates for the permanent role of Parish Clerk. Three applications were received; one candidate withdrew and another did not respond. Mrs Hicks, who has been serving as Locum Clerk, remained the only candidate and meets all required criteria.

The Committee had intended to recommend her appointment at the February meeting. However, following an email from a councillor expressing concerns, some disagreement arose within the Council.

Mrs Hicks subsequently advised the Chair that she did not wish to be considered for the permanent role at this time. She suggested the Council determine whether to:

- retain her as Locum Clerk,
- operate without a Clerk,
- re-advertise the position of Locum Clerk

At the February meeting, the Chair expressed the view that re-advertising would be unfair given Mrs Hicks' contribution and experience. It was therefore agreed to retain her on a three-month rolling contract, to be reviewed before the Annual Meeting.

At the March meeting, the Chair provided an update, including:

- Two councillors raised queries regarding the recruitment process and the Locum Clerk's hours.
- It had originally been agreed that the role required 10 hours per week; however, it was felt this was no longer sufficient for the workload.
- Following discussion, it was RESOLVED (9 votes for, 1 abstention) that the Locum Clerk's hours be increased to 20 hours per week. This decision will be ratified at the April meeting.

To ensure transparency and avoid future queries, it was agreed that recruitment for a permanent Clerk will recommence:

- Vacancy advertised until 21 April 2026
- Interviews from 28 April 2026
- Recommendation to be presented at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May 2026

Concerns were also raised regarding the membership of the Staffing Committee. To clarify:

- It was RESOLVED to increase the committee to four members.
- Three councillors stood for the additional position. Cllr Skelhorn received 1 vote, Cllr Greenwood received 3 votes and Cllr J Wills received 5 votes.
- Following a vote, Cllr. J. Wills was appointed as the fourth member.

Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is hopefully going to be presented to the Parish Councillors at the end of April.

Following this, a parish consultation event will be held to allow residents to view the draft plan and understand the proposed policies. This will form part of the Regulation 14 consultation stage, during which parishioners will have six weeks to review the document and provide feedback. This feedback will then be considered before the plan progresses to the next stage of the process.

Within the last ten days, Nick Church from Gaigers has contacted the chair regarding the site at Furlong Close. They have already met with residents and their families and have requested a meeting with the councillors. Cllr L Wills, Greenwood and Carine will meet with Gaigers, as this site is included within our Neighbourhood Plan.

Community & Communication

Updated Contact Details

The Parish Council now has a new correspondence address:

PO Box 5045, Devizes, SN10 9EU

All councillors are now using official @rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk email addresses.

New Website: The new Rowde Parish Council website is now live. It provides access to council information, including meeting agendas published in advance. The Council aims for the site to be a valuable community resource and welcomes: local news, community events and village club information to contribute or make enquiries, please contact: clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meeting Dates for 2026

- Meeting start time of 7:00pm
- Meetings to take place on the second Wednesday of each month
- No meeting in August

Recreation & Wellbeing

Allotments

- A new PiCUS tree survey has been requested for the oak tree.
- In the interim:
 - o Plot 12 will not be renewed
 - o HERAS fencing and signage will be installed
 - o Users are asked to remove non-Council items from the shed

Once the survey is received, the Council will review findings and recommendations.

- An Allotment Working Party was established (unanimously approved).
 - o Terms of Reference to be presented in April
 - o Members: Cllrs. Watt, Carine, Taylor and J. Wills

- Improvements to the allotment car park surface were agreed.
- o Works to be carried out by Cllrs. Wills, Greenwood, Taylor, Dalley and Skelhorn
- o Budget approved up to £550
- Following advice from Wiltshire Council, it was unanimously resolved not to proceed with additional signage for the car park.

Playgrounds: Two new policies were unanimously adopted: Playing Field Hire Policy and Playing Field Risk Management Policy

Village Appearance: A refurbished noticeboard has been installed at the bus shelter near Conscience Lane.

Environment & Street Scene: Wiltshire Council has agreed to replace the litter bin at Cock Road with a larger capacity bin due to frequent overflow.

Rights of Way; The Devizes Road footpath questionnaire has received a low response rate and will be promoted in the village magazine.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on: Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 7:00pm



Stert Country House Collectibles & Car Boot Sale

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Elaine Watt		cllr.e.watt@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Chris Greenwood	Neighbourhood Planning, Tree Officer, Roads & Transport	cllr.c.greenwood@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Shane Skelhorn		cllr.s.skelhorn@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Stuart Taylor		cllr.s.taylor@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ros Carine		cllr.r.carine@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tekla Hicks	Clerk	clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Wiltshire County Councillor for Rowde

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

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

AN APPEAL FROM YOUR MAGAZINE'S ADVERTISING MANAGER

After nearly 16 years in this volunteer role I will be stepping down as Advertising Manager of the Rowde Village News at the end of May. I feel the time has come to hand over the baton to someone new. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Alan and Suzan (and numerous Distribution Managers) but I am ready to step away.

It would take up a couple of hours a week, (pro-rotta), you would need a computer/laptop and printer and a basic understanding of word and excel. Responsibilities include communicating with advertisers, raising and chasing invoices, paying the printers, keeping a record of the accounts and banking cheques when required

I would be more than happy to show you the ropes and be on hand for any help or assistance while you get to grips with the role. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel that this is something you would be interested in and I will answer any questions that you have.

Julie Baker (contact details on page 3)

St Matthew's is inviting you to a celebration of talent, with music, poems and sketches.



ROWDE REVELS

Sat. April 11th

St Matthew's 7.00pm

Admission £5 at the door



Refreshments and raffle



It's more fun to join in, so let us know what you or your group can do, or just come along for a great evening out.



Call Carlo and Barbara Zaccarelli 726316
to be in the program



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The Hare

A poem by Rowde's Alan Pengelly



Beneath vast wide open skies
A shallow form in fields he hides,
A threat to nothing man or beast
Yet prey to talon,gun and teeth
Always alert,ever tense
Lighting speed it's one defence
A life that's short,lived on nature's brim
The gentle hare my heart dose win

(PS - Raising hare by Chloe Dalton is a good read)

STOP HARE COURSING!!!

The Board Room

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April/May 2026 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	
APRIL		
Wednesday 1st		
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
<i>7pm</i>	<i>Tenebrae</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Maunday Thursday		
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
<i>7pm</i>	<i>Holy Communion then watch until midnight</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Good Friday		
<i>10am</i>	<i>Children's Service</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
2pm	Hour at the Cross	Rowde
Holy Saturday		
<i>7pm</i>	<i>Service for Easter Eve</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Easter Day		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 12th		
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 19th		
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 26th		
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
2.30pm	Come and Praise	Rowde
MAY		
Sunday 3rd		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service	Rowde
Wednesday 6th		
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 10th		
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion followed by APCM	Rowde
Thursday 14th	Ascension Day	
<i>7pm</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 17th		
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
<i>6pm</i>	<i>Service followed by APCM</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 24th	Pentecost	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion with Baptism	Rowde
<i>6pm</i>	<i>Evensong (TBC)</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 31st		
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>

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 helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk.

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 Rev'd Norma Fergusson

I have always loved the Scottish islands. The Isle of Bute (basically Glasgow and turn left if you don't know it) was a feature of family holidays throughout my childhood. Sometimes Dad would drive, but on special occasions (or so it seemed to me at the time) we would take the paddle steamer Waverley from the centre of Glasgow. There were still shipyards on the Clyde in those days and it was truly magical. Since then, I have come to love the Island of Iona for its stark beauty and deep spirituality. It's what they call a "thin place" where earth and heaven meet. The spirituality of the Iona community speaks to my soul. The liturgy is sometimes stark and challenging, as you would expect, but always rooted in love and hope. Every morning, their "thought for the day" comes by email and I thought I would share this one with you. I don't know what the weather will be doing as you read this, but this morning, as I write, there are signs of spring everywhere. Easter is coming and I pray that you, also, will find the confidence to dare to hope.

A feeder of sunflower seeds
attracts, not scarlet cardinals,
bluebirds, or indigo buntings,
but chickadees, juncos, titmice,
appropriate decorations
for a decimated season.
The swoop and flutter
of their small, grey lives
dances through deadness,
animates winter trees.
They dare me to hope
that hidden somewhere
in empty branches
buds might be waiting.

Bonnie B. Thurston, from *From Darkness to Eastering* (Wild Goose Publications)

Blessings, Norma

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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.

Bromham & Rowde Monday Club (Please note the change of venue)

Here are the five things that you need to know about what we do to entice you to come and join us!

1. Friendship, chat, fun and laughter.
2. Delicious two course home-cooked meal every week.
3. Games, talks, activities, music, movement.
4. Every Monday 9.30am-1.00pm in the Community Hub - transport available (£2).

5. £12 includes meal, tea/coffee/biscuits - with full funding available to eligible people.

Contact Carol Hindle (01380 850925) or Cathy Welch (01380 850555) for more details or to book your place.

Rowde Church Café Tuesday 10:45 – 12 pm.

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

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

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

Souper Saturdays at St Matthew's, Rowde

The next date is 2nd May (no event in April).

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 nicolabrown678@gmail.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.

Photography

Photographs may be taken during services or events by a member of the Church; these may be used on our Facebook page, A Church Near You, The Hoot, Rowde Village News and/or other forms of media. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please speak to a member of the welcoming team on duty today, or contact the Benefice Administrator, Helen Rawlings on 07933 8171816 or helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk.

CONTACT US

Rector: See above

Associate Priest: Vacant

Benefice Administrator: Helen Rawlings
helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
or 07933 817816.

Safeguarding Representative for Rowde:
Michael Cornwell 07388 224 129.

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>

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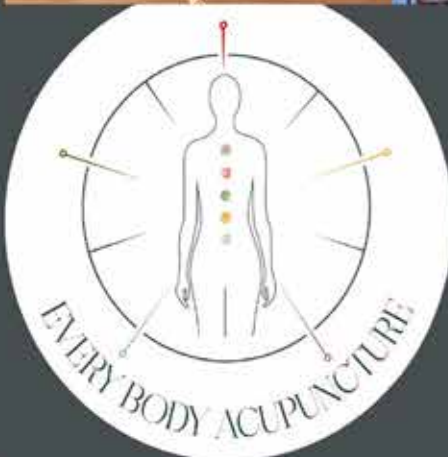


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ROWDEEFEST



Sat. 30th May 2026, 1pm-7pm
The Small Playing Field, Rowde



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Local News



More about the entertainment at Rowdefest by Darren Worrow

Hello Rowde! I'm delighted to have been asked to organise the music at Rowdefest again this year.

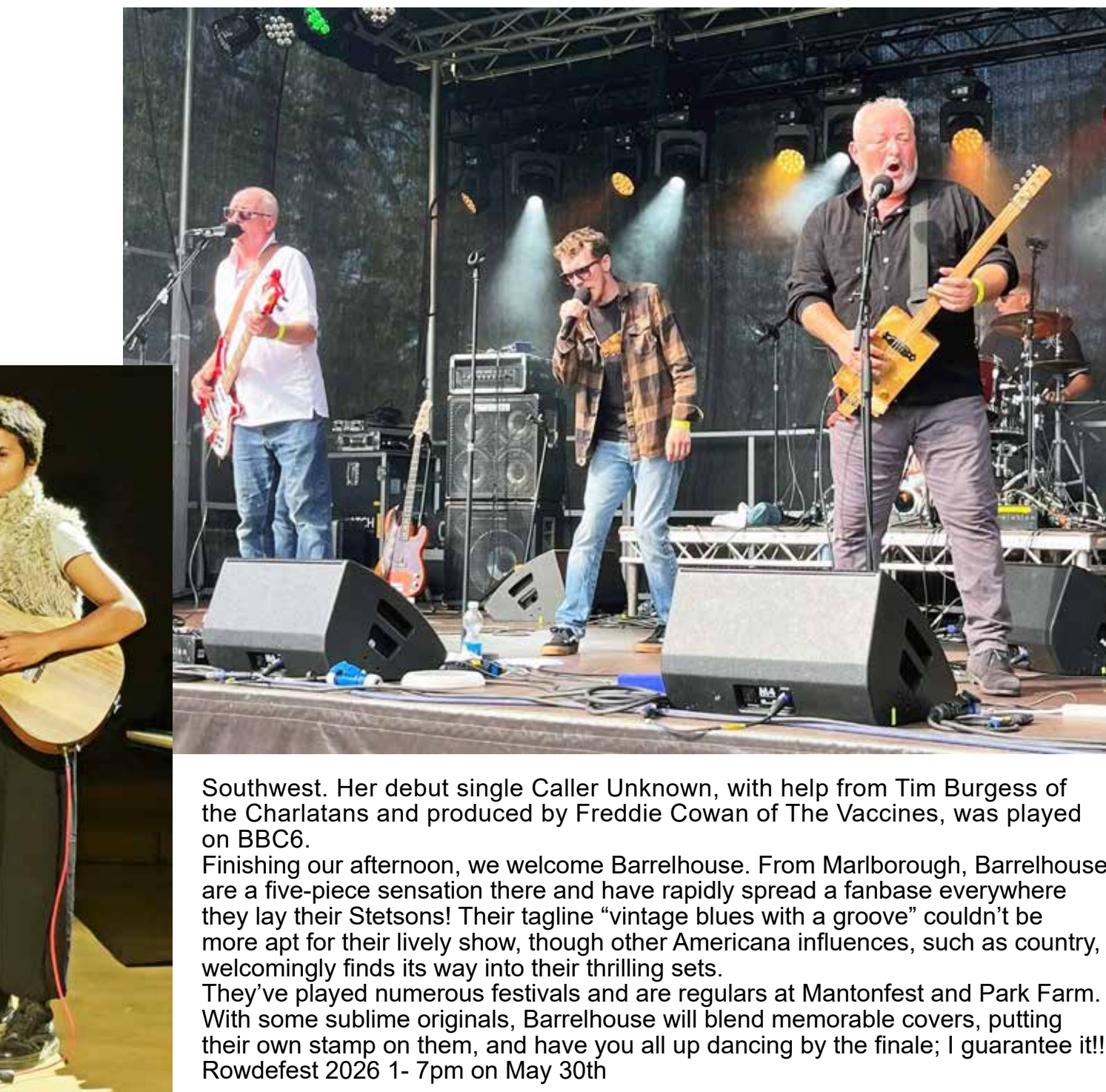
Last year we presented an amazing lineup, but it was a squeeze fitting five acts in. This year I present only three, but rest assured, they will play longer sets and are among the very best in Wiltshire.

We welcome back the Devizes Jubilee Morris Dancers. They were brilliant last year, and we even had some audience participation! I do hope you'll join in again.

I'm honoured to bring young multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter Ruby Darbyshire to Rowdefest. Ruby is phenomenally talented, and can adapt from folk, jazz, to contemporary music. You may have seen her playing bagpipes, you may have seen hold a crowd spellbound with her original compositions or lively and carefully selected covers.

Originally from Scotland, Ruby grew up playing music anywhere she could, from her first performance at the Edinburgh Fringe, to Celtic Connections, and many folk festivals. Ruby is currently based in the





Southwest. Her debut single *Caller Unknown*, with help from Tim Burgess of the Charlatans and produced by Freddie Cowan of The Vaccines, was played on BBC6.

Finishing our afternoon, we welcome Barrelhouse. From Marlborough, Barrelhouse are a five-piece sensation there and have rapidly spread a fanbase everywhere they lay their Stetsons! Their tagline "vintage blues with a groove" couldn't be more apt for their lively show, though other Americana influences, such as country, welcomingly finds its way into their thrilling sets.

They've played numerous festivals and are regulars at Mantonfest and Park Farm. With some sublime originals, Barrelhouse will blend memorable covers, putting their own stamp on them, and have you all up dancing by the finale; I guarantee it!!
Rowdefest 2026 1- 7pm on May 30th

ROWDEFEST 2026 - MAY 30th - 1pm TO 7pm



We're looking for volunteers to help make this year's event a fantastic success! If you'd like to get involved and support the community, we'd love to hear from you (We especially cake bakers, people to donate plants, help to set up and take down and helpers on the stalls). Contact us at rowde.events@yahoo.com

Join us and be part of something special!

ROWDE OPEN GARDENS 2026 - 27th June - 1pm to 6pm

Are you proud of your garden? Would you consider opening it to visitors as part of this year's Rowde Open Gardens? It's a wonderful opportunity to share your hard work, inspire others, and be part of a lovely community event. If you're interested and would like to find out more, we'd be delighted to hear from you - Email: rowde.events@yahoo.com



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Carlo Zaccarelli, who has now lived in the village for 9 years, celebrated his 80th birthday in March, with some of his family. His children and grandchildren are spread over 4 continents. It makes the timing of family weekend zooms a bit tricky.

He wanted to celebrate at home, so that he could watch Italy play in the Six Nations Championship. Fortunately, Italy won that match and so the celebrations could continue all day.

MAN ACCUSED OF MURDERING A WILTSHIRE RUGBY PLAYER FROM ROWDE TO STAND TRIAL.

Source - Gazette & Herald

In January, Michael Bretton, of Armoury Road in Shaftesbury, Dorset, was charged with the murder of Craig Hurcombe, 39.

Craig, from Rowde near Devizes, was reported missing on January 10 and, following searches of the Roemead Road area of Gurney Slade, Somerset, his remains were found.



Craig Hurcombe

Bretton, 40, denied the charge of murder during an appearance at Bristol Crown Court on Monday, March 2. He will now stand trial over the allegation and his next appearance in Bristol Crown Court, for a case management hearing, has been scheduled for May 5 this year. In the meantime, he has been remanded in custody. A provisional trial date of Monday, July 13, was set earlier this year.

Craig was a popular rugby player who attended Sheldon School in Chippenham and was a prominent member of Devizes Rugby Club for years.

Since his death, many people and teams across the area have paid tribute to him. Craig's mum, Nicola, and dad, Paul, released a tribute remembering their son as a hardworking and ambitious man.

They said: "Craig was the perfect son and an independent man, and we are living with unimaginable loss and a huge hole in our lives which we will never come to terms with. Craig is survived by eight nieces and nephews, Skye, Maddie, Riley, Tillie-Mae, Archie, Harvey, Oakley, and Brodie, who miss him and cannot understand why he is not there to play with them. Skye, the eldest niece, has lost her best friend, whom she spent a lot of time eating out and going to watch Bath Rugby with. Craig was very hardworking, ambitious, and very well thought of in his circle of work, especially his boss, who has expressed his gratitude for all Craig did for the company."

Craig was described as a keen sportsman from the age of 11 and played rugby for Chippenham Rugby Club and Wiltshire and Dorset until the age of 18.

As an adult, he developed a "tight network of friends" during his time at Devizes Rugby Club and became the club's vice president. Fondly known as 'Hurcs', he represented all senior men's sides, clocking up hundreds of caps over the years. A spokesperson for the club said it had been "shaken to its core by the devastating loss of one of our own in tragic circumstances."

OBITUARY

Dr John Burton Land (formerly of Rowde)

John, aged 82, died peacefully at home on 21st February after a four year journey with blood cancer. Beloved husband of 52 years to Caroline, loving father and grandfather. John was a passionate biology teacher who believed education was more than just a syllabus. A beekeeper, DIY guru, botanist and gardener. Cremation was at Charlton Park Crematorium, Andover on Friday 20th March, family flowers only.

The Big Little Things In Life!

by Zöe Rucker

Why We Love a Blooper: The Comfort of Watching Something Go Wrong

There's something I've noticed about holiday storytelling. I wait, almost politely, for the parts that didn't go according to plan. The missed transfer. The bit where someone forgot their suitcase, locked themselves out of a villa in swimwear or ordered something they didn't like on a foreign menu.

I want to say I relish the lovely bits. But really, I'm listening for errors.

Why?

Why do the background falls become the highlight of the family album? Why do we pay to watch actors fluff their lines? Why does an establishment embarrassment — a dignitary tripping on steps, a microphone left on — have more impact than years of uneventful competence?

I don't think we consciously wish for things to go horribly wrong. But something in us relaxes when they do.

Perfection is exhausting to observe. A flawless holiday can feel mildly oppressive. A polished public figure creates distance. Everything tidy reminds us of the pressure to also be tidy.

And most of us are... not.

So when something slips — a speech falters, a heel catches — something inside us exhales.

Because we recognise ourselves.

Psychologists call it *schadenfreude* to describe pleasure at someone else's misfortune. It's an uncomfortable word. What we often feel is simpler: relief. A quick internal check that says, I'm safe.

When the powerful wobble, hierarchy flattens. When the glamorous forget their lines, they become accessible. When perfect couples fracture, the rest of us feel less defective.

The blooper collapses the illusion.

We spend much of life watching performances of curated holidays, filtered relationships, institutions presenting competence. Social media has trained us to consume smoothness.

But smoothness is not memorable.

Rupture is.

We don't love failure. We love survivable failure.

We laugh at someone falling, but only if they stand up.

We retell the holiday disaster, because everyone got home.

We replay the embarrassment, when it doesn't cause real harm.

The blooper must threaten order without destroying it.

A recent video my daughter sent me made me laugh for an embarrassingly long time. She had propped up her phone to show me a new outfit. Confidently she stepped back and tripped straight into the open suitcase behind her. That was funny enough. But it was her recovery that stayed with me. The way she rose from potential permanent embarrassment into instant composure. The joy those 15 seconds gave me felt wildly disproportionate to the many perfectly executed outfit videos before it.

Because what we are really watching for is resilience.

There may be something deeper at play too like a small rebellion against control. Much of life demands composure. We edit, suppress, rehearse. When something drops — a laugh at the wrong time, a public stumble — it feels authentic.



Alive.

It reminds us that humans are not machines. That authority is not invincible. That life is not smooth.

In a strange way, the mistake restores balance.

And yes, if I'm honest, there's reassurance in knowing that even the polished can misjudge a step. It recalibrates the scale.

But the most generous explanation is this: we love bloopers because they are evidence of effort.

An actor can only fluff a line if they were trying to deliver it.

A cake can only collapse if someone cared enough to build it.

A holiday can only go wrong if someone planned it.

The mistake proves the attempt.

And perhaps what lingers longest is not the fall itself, but the way someone gathers themselves and carries on.



St Matthew's Rowde invites you
to come and join us on

Sunday April 26th at 2.30pm
to

Come and Praise

An informal time of singing joyful songs
for all ages.

Come and sing, come and clap,
or
just come and listen to
singing accompanied by our pianist
Lorraine Schulze with Alan Pengelly on guitar.

There will be a chance to chat and share over a
cuppa and cake afterwards.



Our next lecture "The Healing Power of Plants" is on

Wednesday 1 st of April at 11am in the Assembly Hall,

Melksham. The talk will examine how mankind has exploited the healing power of plants for thousands of

years and show how they are now used extensively to

relieve pain, heal wounds and cure diseases.

Attend your first lecture for free, regular guests £8.

For details of the full lecture programme go to:

www.tasnorthwilts.org.uk



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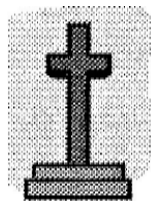
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St Matthew's Church, Rowde Musicians wanted!

We have a lovely piano, organ and electric keyboard at St Matthew's, and as a result of advertising in this magazine, we are now lucky enough to have a pianist who plays for one service a month.

Now we are just looking for someone to play occasionally (perhaps once a month, or less frequently) to cover the remaining Sundays, or when we have extra services.. This would mean acting as accompanist for church services (usually on Sunday mornings) and possibly choir practices (currently on Friday evenings) at St Matthew's Church.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact:

Nicola Brown (choir leader) on 01380 722406

or at nicolabrown678@gmail.com

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

Friday Afternoons
2pm – 4pm



Bring your own craft, or join in with
our jigsaw

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

All Welcome!

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.



The Mind Tree Café



The Mind Tree Café is reaching out for your support

Together, we can make sure no one in our community faces loneliness or struggles with their mental health alone. Your donation helps us offer low-cost counselling, wellbeing activities and a welcoming café space where everyone feels seen, heard and supported

If you're able to give, big or small, it will truly make a difference

Thank you for helping us bring comfort, connection, and hope to those who need it most



Please go to our website
<https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>
or use this QR code →



Low Cost Counselling

Life can sometimes feel overwhelming, whether you're dealing with stress, anxiety, loneliness, grief or big life changes. Having someone to talk to can make a real difference.

At The Mind Tree Café, we offer low-cost counselling in a safe, welcoming and confidential space. Our counsellors provide a calm, supportive environment where you can speak openly, feel heard, and gain clarity at your own pace. Please contact - enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or go on our website - www.themindtreecafe.org.uk

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

Wiltshire PCC welcomes strengthened Victims' Code delivering swifter justice for children

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner has welcomed the Government's renewed Victims' Code which promises clearer rights, stronger support and faster justice for child victims across England and Wales.

The updated Code includes the creation of the first ever child friendly version, developed hand in hand with children and young people to ensure they understand their rights and know how to access support following a crime. It will set out, in simple and age appropriate language, what help is available and how victims can be referred or self refer to specialist services.

It also proposes enhanced communication standards across the criminal justice system, including more direct contact between police or probation officers and victims aged 12 and over, where appropriate, helping to give children greater dignity, autonomy, and safety as they navigate the justice process.

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson said: "I fully welcome these strengthened commitments to child victims. Too many young people struggle to navigate a justice system that feels complex, intimidating and overwhelming. Creating a child-friendly Victims' Code is an essential step forward—one that puts children at the centre of their own journey to justice.

"Here in Wiltshire, we are committed to ensuring that every child who becomes a victim of crime gets the clarity, compassion and support they deserve—from the moment they report an incident through to recovery. We will work closely with our partners to make sure these national improvements translate into real, practical change for families locally."

The OPCC will continue working with Wiltshire Police and local commissioned services to ensure the Code's strengthened standards are fully reflected in local practice.

Debbie Beadle, CEO of FearFree, which supports young victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and stalking in Wiltshire, said: "Every year, we support thousands of children who are victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and we witness first-hand the additional trauma that navigating the criminal justice system places on them.

"We welcome the renewed Victims' Code and view it as an important step towards ensuring that every child receives the support they deserve. We urge continued focus on placing children's rights, voices, and wellbeing at the heart of every decision within the criminal justice system."

First Light provides an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service for children, young people and adults across Wiltshire, and also operates the county's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

CEO Lyn Gooding said: "Children who have experienced sexual violence deserve a justice system that speaks their language, not one that silences them



with complexity and jargon. The updated Victims' Code is a meaningful step forward, and as the organisation delivering both ISVA and SARC services in Wiltshire, we will make sure it translates into real, tangible change for the young people we support."

The updated Code sits alongside the national Understand Your Rights campaign, now running across England and Wales to ensure every victim - whatever the crime - understands the support they are entitled to. At the same time, a national consultation is inviting views on proposed revisions to strengthen victims' entitlements, improve communication from justice agencies, and establish clearer minimum standards of support across the criminal justice process.

Victims, families, professionals and the wider public are encouraged to share their views before the consultation closes on 30 April 2026. You can take part here: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/>



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Bus Timetable

Weekday	33	33	33	x33	33	x33	33	x33	33	33	33
Chippenham Rail Stn	06:55	-	-	10:15	11:05	12:15	13:05	14:15	16:00	16:35	17:30
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 8	07:00	08:35	09:35	10:21	11:11	12:21	13:11	14:21	16:08	16:45	17:37
Chippenham, Cemetery	-	08:38	09:38	10:24	11:14	12:24	13:14	14:24	16:11	16:48	17:40
Derry Hill, School	07:09	08:44	09:44	10:30	11:20	12:30	13:20	14:30	16:17	16:54	17:46
Sandy Lane	-	-	-	10:34	-	12:34	-	14:34	-	-	-
Calne, Strand	07:15	08:52	09:52	-	11:26	-	13:26	-	16:26	17:03	17:52
Bromham, Greyhound	07:27	09:06	10:06	10:40	11:40	12:40	13:40	14:40	16:40	17:17	18:02
Rowde, Cross Keys	07:34	09:13	10:13	10:47	11:47	12:47	13:47	14:47	16:47	17:24	18:09
Devizes, Market Place, Bus Island	07:40S	09:18	10:18	10:52	11:52	12:52	13:52	14:52	16:52	17:29	18:14

Weekday	33	33	x33	33	x33	33	x33	33	33	33	33
Devizes, Market Place, Pelican	07:55	09:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	13:25	14:25	15:13S	16:10	17:45	18:15
Rowde, Cross Keys	08:01	09:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	15:18R	16:15	17:50	18:20
Bromham, Greyhound	08:10	09:37	10:37	11:37	12:37	13:37	14:37	-	16:22	17:57	18:25A
Chittoe Turn	08:15	09:42	10:42	11:42	12:42	13:42	14:42	-	16:27	18:02	18:29R
Calne Strand	08:27	09:51	-	11:51	-	13:51	-	-	16:36	18:09	18:37R
Sandy Lane	-	-	10:44	-	12:44	-	14:44	-	-	-	-
Derry Hill, School	08:33x	09:57	10:48	11:57	12:48	13:57	14:48	-	16:42	18:14	18:42R
Chippenham, Cemetery	08:39	10:02	10:53	12:02	12:53	14:02	14:53	-	16:47	18:18	18:46R
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 3	-	10:07	10:58	12:07	12:58	14:07	14:57	-	16:51	18:21	18:49R
Chippenham Rail Stn	08:50	10:12	11:03	12:12	13:03	14:12	-	-	-	18:25R	18:52R

Key

x = Operates via A4, not Derry Hill village

S = Operates to/from Devizes School at 0743 and 1510 on schooldays

R = Request set down only

A = Operates via A342, does not enter Bromham village

No service on Public Holidays

Saturday	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Chippenham, Rail Stn	07:20	08:40	09:40	11:25	13:25	15:25	17:10
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 8	07:24	08:45	09:45	11:32	13:32	15:32	17:16
London Road, Cemetery	07:27	08:48	09:48	11:35	13:35	15:35	17:19
Derry Hill, School	07:33	08:54	09:54	11:41	13:41	15:41	17:25
Calne, Strand	07:39	09:02	10:02	11:49	13:49	15:49	17:31
Bromham, Greyhound	07:51	09:16	10:16	12:03	14:03	16:03	17:43
Rowde, Cross Keys	07:58	09:23	10:23	12:10	14:10	16:10	17:49
Devizes, Market Place, Bus Island	08:03	09:28	10:28	12:15	14:15	16:15	17:54

Saturday	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Devizes, Market Place, Pelican	08:10	09:35	10:35	12:35	14:35	16:35	17:55
Rowde, Cross Keys	08:15	09:40	10:40	12:40	14:40	16:40	18:00
Bromham, Greyhound	08:21	09:47	10:47	12:47	14:47	16:47	18:07
Calne, Strand	08:32	09:59	11:01	13:01	15:01	17:01	18:19R
Derry Hill, School	08:38	10:05	11:07	13:07	15:07	17:07	18:24R
London Road, Cemetery	08:43	10:10	11:12	13:12	15:12	17:12	18:29R
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 3	08:47	10:15	11:17	13:17	15:17	17:17	18:33R
Chippenham, Rail Stn	08:52R	10:20	11:22	13:22	15:22	17:22	18:38R

Sunday	x33	x33	x33	x33	x33
Chippenham, Rail Stn	09:32	11:32	13:32	15:32	17:32
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 8	09:37	11:37	13:37	15:37	17:37
London Road, Cemetery	09:40	11:40	13:40	15:40	17:40
Sandy Lane	09:47	11:47	13:47	15:47	17:47
Bromham, Greyhound	09:53	11:53	13:53	15:53	17:53
Rowde, Cross Keys	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:00	18:00
Devizes, Market Place, Pelican	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:05	18:05
Sunday	x33	x33	x33	x33	x33
Devizes, Market Place, Pelican	08:55	10:55	12:55	14:55	16:55
Rowde, Cross Keys	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:00	17:00
Bromham, Greyhound	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:07	17:07
Sandy Lane	09:14	11:14	13:14	15:14	17:14
London Road, Cemetery	09:21	11:21	13:21	15:21	17:21
Chippenham Bus Stn - Bay 3	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:25	17:25
Chippenham, Rail Stn	09:30	11:30	13:30	15:30	17:30

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The G&D Events

G&D Friday Happy Hour & Early Bird Menu

very Friday night 5-8pm All House drinks, beer, small wine & single spirits are £3.50.

Accompanied with Early Bird 'Pub Classics' menu for £15

Booking essential! 01380 723 053

Wednesday Early Birds 6 -7.30pm

Moules Marineres / Ham Egg & chips / Scampi & fries for £15

2 Grilled Ribeye steaks, chips & bottle house red £55

Please book to avoid missing out!

Sunday Night Quiz

Every second Sunday is quiz night (April 5th & 19th/ May 3rd, 17th & 31st)

Keep an eye on Rowde all about it for any changes/updates!

Cheese plates £3.50 at half time Bar opens at 7pm – Quiz starts at 8pm

May Bank Holiday BBQ & Quiz

Sunday 3rd May

BBQ at £6pm @ £15pp then Quiz at 8pm as usual

Please book BBQ &/or Quiz tables

G&D Darts board

We now have a darts board set up in the Terrace – please come and play! We have our own G&D darts or bring your own

April and May Opening Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays : closed

Wednesday to Saturday : open as usual

Dear Rowde,

Here comes the Sun! The garden is looking lovely and ready for those lovely warm evenings with a Pimms or pint of beer...

Our Wednesday & Friday night early bird specials are very popular with Rowde locals and great way to meet other villagers.

See you all very soon, Chippy and The G&D Team

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Wednesday 6.00pm-7.15pm

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WE NEED YOU!

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

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

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

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

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the information given and views expressed in this magazine are generally as supplied by the contributors. Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news items is sourced directly from other publications and the internet. We therefore apologise for any inaccuracies published but regrettably we have no control over this possibility happening. We will however publish corrections notified to us as soon as possible.

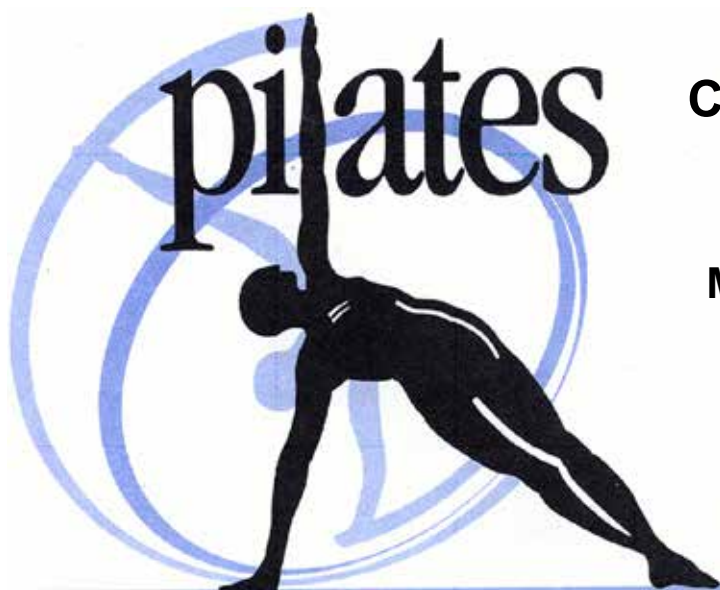
Alan Watters, Editor

Magazine Submission Deadlines (bi-monthly)

15th May 2026, 15th July 2026,

15th September 2026, 15th November 2026

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THE BEREAVEMENT HELP POINT

The Bereavement Help Point in Devizes is a community based drop-in service where all people who are bereaved are welcome. It's a space to meet and talk with others who may be experiencing similar thoughts and feelings, in an informal and supportive setting. All sessions are free of charge and there is no need to book, just come along.

Where: The Bear Hotel, Market Square, Devizes SN10 1HS

When: First and third Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

To find out more visit: dorothyhouse.org.uk or phone 0345 0310 555 or 0800 181 4118



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

For more info about our activities or being involved

liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk / 07780860922

www.artstogether.co.uk Registered Charity 1109432



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Mobile Library



The mobile library visits Rowde every four weeks on a Thursday, and can be found parked on the High Street opposite Springfield Road between 9.30am and 10am on the following dates: 2nd April 2026, 30th April 2026 and 28th May 2026.

The bus contains a wide range of books for children and adults, is dyslexic friendly, and has a hearing loop and a lift for wheelchair access. Books can be renewed on the bus, on the website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries), or by calling the Chippenham library on 01249 650536.



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VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings 2026

(All Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Village Hall unless otherwise notified)
8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September,
14th October, 11th November, 16th December.

Other Events

1st April - The Arts Society Lecture - page 29
2nd April - Mobile Library visits Rowde - page 40
11th April - Rowde Revels - page 17
17th April - Fundraising Quiz Night - pages 12 & 47
21st April - PC Clerk Vacancy closing date - page 42
26th April - Come and Praise - page 28
30th April - Mobile Library visits Rowde - page 40
9th May - Cosi Fan Tutte - page 46
2nd May - Souper Saturday - page 42
3rd May - BBQ & Quiz - page 36
10th May - Garden & Country Fair - pages 2 & 46
16th May - Collectibles & Car Boot Sale - page 15
28th May - Mobile Library visits Rowde - page 40
30th May - Rowdefest - pages 23 to 26
Tuesday mornings - Church Cafe - page 21
Friday afternoons - Craft, Coffee and Chat - page 21 & 29

JOB VACANCY PARISH CLERK AND RFO

Rowde Parish Council are seeking to employ an experienced part-time Parish Clerk and RFO (Responsible Financial Officer)

Working closely with a team of 11 Parish Councillors, the residents of the village and other stakeholders, the key responsibilities of this role include:

- Organising, preparing for and attending council meetings.
- Implementing council decisions and overseeing projects.
- Managing correspondence and communications and acting as the primary contact for enquiries.
- Provide professional advice to Councillors to ensure that all decisions and actions taken are legal and compliant.
- Lead the preparation of annual financial reporting and budget setting.
- Management of the day-to-day finances of the Council.
- Maintain accurate records, filing systems and statutory documents.

Additional responsibilities include:

- Updating the village website with statutory documents.
- Contributing a Parish Council summary for the bi-monthly village magazine.
- Participate on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- Attending meetings on behalf of the Council such as LHIFG & Devises Area Board.
- Preparing tenders for 3rd party works and managing the process.

What we're looking for:

You will be an experienced and resilient clerk with a sound understanding of local government law, governance, and finance. Ideally CiLCA qualified (or willing to obtain this within 12 months), you will combine professional integrity with a collaborative and pragmatic approach.

You should be highly motivated, community-focused, and possess excellent managerial, administrative, communication and organisational skills.

Benefits:

- Indicative salary scale SCP 24-28 dependant on experience and qualifications.
- Flexible working - approx. 20 hours per week – home working.
- Opportunities for on-going professional development.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter to:

Cllr.I.Wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Closing date 21st April 202

Souper Saturday

at St Matthew's, Rowde

Saturday 2nd May

12 noon to 1pm

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(always at least one
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Barndance/Ceilidh Band

We are up to a six piece band based in the Frome and West Wilts area with particular connection to Rowde and Bromham.

Our excellent dance caller can guide you through dances with clear, easy to follow instructions but above all, makes it a fun experience. Don't worry about going wrong - we all do!

We also give people a break by providing songs or tunes between dances, if desired.

If you want to provide your own playlists, please give plenty of notice.

Our band works within a 30 miles radius of Frome and we are also happy to do fund raisers at concessionary rates, occasionally.

**Contact us on 01749 850727
or Email: 55ksar2050@gmail.com**



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Come and join our friendly exercise class and help maintain/improve your mobility
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Mondays
2.30pm – 3.30pm
followed by coffee/tea and a chat at Rowde Village Hall

Cost : £4.00

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

ACTIVE PLUS



SPEEDING IN ROWDE

Rowde Community Speed Watch Team & Speed Indicator Device



The Parish Council has a Speed Indicator Device in the village to warn drivers of the speed that they are travelling. This device needs to be moved every 3 months.

If you feel you could help with this task, we would love to hear from you.

Community Speed Watch is another way to tackle speeding motorists to keep our village safe.

Can you spare an hour or so a month to be part of the Community Speed Watch Team? Training will be given.

To get involved, please contact: Cllr Chris Greenwood at
cj_g@me.com or
phone 01380 722466

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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.

Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU

*subject to eligibility

Sudoku (medium this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (difficult 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.

		3			
		2			3
	4			2	
6					5
				1	
			5	4	

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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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

Silverwood School Charity Trust
silverwoodcharity@silverwood.
wilts.sch.uk
[https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/
charity-trust](https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/charity-trust)
[www.facebook.com/groups/
silverwoodchar](http://www.facebook.com/groups/silverwoodchar)

Church Coordinator

Benefice Administrator:
Helen Rawlings
helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk

Church Choir

Contact Nicola Brown:
nicolabrown678@gmail.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 - Tekla Hicks
Tel: clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Playing Fields

For playing field bookings please
contact the Parish Council Clerk
clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Police

Devizes Police Tel: 101

Pubs/Restaurants

George & Dragon, Tel: 723053
Rowdey Cow Cafe, Tel: 829666
Mind Tree Cafe, Tel: 07506 402081

Rowde Book Club

Ann Swan, Tel: 01380 724788

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

J Dalley 07592 063789

Toddler Group

Village Hall Thursdays 9.30-11.30

Veterinary Surgeries

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

Website

www.rowdevillage.org
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

Youth Club

Josh Wills
rpc.joshwills@gmail.com

SILLY JOKES

1. What do you call a magician who has lost his magic? Ian.
2. A man who swallowed a box of scrabble tiles is experiencing severe bowel movements. Doctors say his next bathroom visit could spell disaster.
3. I no longer have winter fat, I now have spring rolls.
4. I told my doctor I think I'm shrinking. He said I needed to relax and be a little patient.
5. A rare worn down pencil belonging to William Shakespeare has been unearthed. Experts aren't sure if the pencil is 2B or not 2B.
6. My new girlfriend works at the zoo. I think she's a keeper.
7. RIP Steve whose wife sent him out to buy some sewing thread but he ended up in the pub all day. Gone but not for cotton.

LETTERS

A FILM CLUB FOR FURLONG CLOSE

The residents at Furlong Close have now thoroughly enjoyed two film nights in Marsh Hall, preceded by supper, and this is now intended to become a regular monthly event.



The Friends and Families of Furlong Close group and two Rowde residents have very generously funded the initial purchase and the set up and ongoing costs of a seriously large television which has made this possible. The residents are able to choose themselves which film they would like to watch.

If anyone could be interested in volunteering to assist with setting up and serving food your help would be much appreciated.

SUMMER FETE

We will be holding the next Summer Fête on Saturday 25th July and help with this is always welcome as well!

If either or both of these could be of interest please contact Trish on 01380 698451 or email trishgange@icloud.com. Thank you.

GARDEN & COUNTRY FAIR



Silverwood Garden & Country Fair – Sunday 10th May 2026.

Join us for a wonderful community day out at Silverwood School in Rowde on Sunday 10th May from 10am–3pm.

There will be plants, crafts, food, Pimms, and plenty of children's activities, making it a great day for families and garden lovers alike.

Entry £5 per person (under 16s free)

All proceeds support the Silverwood School Charity Trust, helping children with disabilities and special needs.

If you're interested in exhibiting or having a stall, please contact: silverwoodGCfair@gmail.com

Come along, bring friends and family, and help support a fantastic local cause!

(See poster on inside front cover)

COSI FAN TUTTE

Don't panic if you haven't managed to see White Horse Opera's fabulous production of Cosi Fan Tutte yet, there is another opportunity on 9th May at St Matthews's Church Rowde at 7.30pm.

With a hilarious English translation by our dear friend the late Graham Billing and absolutely stunning music by Mozart this show is perfect for all the family.

Tickets are available from Devizes Books and www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

Please come and join the fun while raising funds for the church.



PLEASE REMEMBER

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

QUIZ NIGHT

FRI 17 APRIL



Mind Tree Cafe, Rowde

7pm - 9:30pm

Teams of 2 - 4

Prizes!



Tickets £20 a head

Enjoy our event with a shared grazing table for all guests, with full dietary options provided.



All Funds Support the Memory Cafe



A warm, safe social space for people with dementia and their carers — run by The Mind Tree CIC, a local not-for-profit community interest company providing low-cost counselling and holistic mental health support across Wiltshire.



Can't scan? Visit <https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

HOLIDAYS & CRUISES

TRAVEL EXPERTS

www.exploreby.coach

BOOKING LINE 01225 865725

16 High St, Melksham | Open Tue - Sat, 10am - 4pm • By appointment only - call to arrange

All excursions & holidays offer hostess service onboard

COACH HOLIDAYS

JUST A SELECTION OF OUR COACH HOLIDAYS IN THE UK AND EUROPE!

- | | | | |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| 2 Aug | Titanic Museum - Belfast & Dublin
5 days • Based at The Lodge Hotel, Colraine | £795pp |  |
| 21 Aug | Beamish & Holy Island
4 days • Based at Holiday Inn - Scotch Corner | £475pp | |
| 12 Sep | Austria - Almbtrieb - Cows Return 4 SEATS LEFT
10 days • Based at Hotel Tirolerhof, Oberau | £1565pp |  |
| 4 Oct | The Lancashire Explorer
5 days • Based at Mercure Hotel, Dunkenhall | £495pp | |

DAY TRIPS

*Entrance or lunch included

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|---|--------|
| 2 Apr | Arundel Castle - Tulip Season | ● | £72pp* |
| 22 May | Fish & Chips Saunter | ● | £62pp* |
| 23 May | Weald & Downland - The Repair Shop | ● | £59pp* |
| 25 May | Brecon Mountain Railway | ● | £65pp* |
| 27 May | Forde Abbey House & Gardens | ● | £62pp* |
| 28 May | Compton Acres Gardens | ● | £49pp* |
| 23 Jun | Shuttleworth Collection & Gardens | ● | £62pp* |
| 24 Jun | Brecon Canal Cruise & Cream Tea | ● | £62pp* |

● Good availability ● Under 20 seats ● Under 10 seats ● Limited



THEATRE TRIPS

LESS THAN 20 SEATS **London**



ABBA Voyage
ABBA Arena, London

18th Oct • 1 day • £129pp

LESS THAN 20 SEATS **London**



THE PARTY & ABBA Voyage
ABBA Arena, London

5th Dec • 2 days • £379pp

Become a travel club member to make savings on the prices shown



Join at Rowde, Devizes, Melksham, Bromham and Chippenham.

