

Rowde Village News



August/September 2026

Top tips to improve your mental wellbeing

There are little things we can all do to take care of our mental wellbeing.



Just like our physical health, it is important to look after our mental health. This can help us to learn new ways to cope with life's challenges and lead happier, healthier lives.

Simple changes can make a big difference – here are six areas that can help you look after your mental wellbeing:



1. Being aware of unhelpful thoughts

Learn to ask yourself whether your thoughts are helpful or not? Is there a different way to see the situation? What would you say to a friend?

2. Focus on now

Spend time focusing on the present instead of getting stuck on the past or worrying too much about the future. You could try relaxation techniques and mindfulness.

3. Getting enough rest

Make sure you have enough down time before bed and a good sleep routine with a regular bedtime and wake up time.

4. Connecting with others

Make time for socialising with friends and family or online communities where you are able to talk about the way you feel.

5. Living a healthy lifestyle

Eating well and getting enough exercise for your physical health can help to boost your mental wellbeing too.

6. Do something for yourself

Have some 'me time' by spending regular time on the things that make you happy, whether that's a hobby, trying something new or relaxing.



**Better
Health**

**every mind
matters**

If you or someone you trust has a smart phone or computer and can access the internet, do visit www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/ for more tips and information on caring for your mental health, and find what works for you. You can also get access to the internet at most local libraries.

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 busy 'Local News' pages (24 to 28) feature great reports on the Rowde Open Gardens (pages 24 & 25) and Rowdefest (pages 26 & 27).

August is National Wellness Month and we have a poster on the opposite page with some great tips to improve your mental wellbeing!

This issue we have the return of 'The Editor goes Out and About'. See where he went this time on page 10.

The Parish Council would like you to complete a survey about the controversial Dunkirk Hill Footpath between Rowde and Devizes. It's on page 16 so please fill it in and return it if you can.

The Rowde Academy Friends and Teachers (RAFT) group have published a review of their last year of fundraising in the form of a colourful poster. Check it out on the inside back cover.

I would like to make an urgent appeal to our readers for someone to please consider helping out the magazine team by taking over the Advertising Manager Role. Your free magazine cannot exist without someone in this voluntary role so do have a look at our 'advert' on page 17. And finally, we have a great team of volunteers who deliver your magazine to your door but we are currently short of two people. If you live in either the High Street or Scholar's Lane areas and could spare a half hour or so every two months please contact Tim, our Distribution Manager (contact info on this page).

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.

Contents

August/September 2026

Rowde all about it (pages 4 & 5) *News and views from village clubs and organisations*

Rowdey Cow News (page 6)

Rowde Primary Academy (pages 8&9)

Silverwood School (page 10)

The Editor Goes Out & About (page 10)

News from The Mind Tree Cafe (page 12)

Rowde Parish Council (pages 14 to 16)

The St Matthew's Pages (pages 20 & 21)

inc. Church Rotas and details of Services and Events

Local News (pages 24 to 28)

The Big Little things in Life (page 29)

Your PCC & Wiltshire Councillor for Rowde (page 31)

Bus Timetable (page 33)

Village Diary (page 41)

Sudoku (page 44)

Quick Reference List of Advertisers (page 44)

Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide (page 45)

Letters & A Poem by Alan Pengelly (page 46)

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Front Cover Image

The front cover photograph was taken by the editor at the Rowde Academy Summer Fete.

Join #teambowelcancer

We want a future where nobody dies of bowel cancer. Our campaigners work with us to help save lives and improve the quality of life of everyone affected by bowel cancer. Together we can make real change happen by championing early diagnosis and access to best treatment and care across the UK.

Email us at admin@bowelcanceruk.org.uk

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

Mornings are always packed with activities at Monday Club and as usual, there's been lots to enjoy over the last couple of months.

One very popular activity is Members' Music Choice which has begun to take on different forms. We have a topic, the most recent one being Film Music, members select a favourite song or piece of music associated with that topic and then Keith collates these choices together with YouTube clips, which we then view over the course of a few weeks. Not sure what our next topic will be, but suggestions are welcome.



In house entertainment is always welcome, Denis shared some amusing poems from the original Bromham Owl and Kate showed us some slides of the many beautiful birds she saw while visiting Gambia, Western Africa. We also welcomed back Chico, his first time in our lovely new hall, who entertained us with songs and stories from the 1950s and 60s.

A big thank you to Brenda who put together a beautiful arrangement for the 'Bring me Sunshine' Flower Festival in church during Carnival weekend – her Monday Club arrangement had pride of place on the front!

If you would like to come along and join us or maybe just pop in for a coffee and chat either come along from 10am or contact Carol on 01380 850925 or Cathy on 01380 850555.

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

At their meeting on June 9th in the Village Hall the members enjoyed a game where they were given a word and asked to make up a sentence from the letters in that word. It was surprising what funny results materialised!

There were several members Birthdays and Anniversaries which we celebrated with a 'cuppa' and cake!

Raffle winner was Mrs. S. Loader.

In July, members and friends were invited to Poulshot and thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in the lovely garden of one of their members. The weather was beautiful and we all again enjoyed the lovely Tea and Cakes!

The 'What the Farmer grows' quiz was won by Mrs. S. Loader and Mr. J. Swift.

The next meetings will be held on August 11th and September 8th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Di Buckland

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 17th. It was disappointing that there was such a poor attendance but hopefully everyone considers that the hall is being run successfully.

At the first Committee Meeting after the A.G.M. the Officers were elected:

Chairman: Mr. B. Cross.

Treasurer and Booking Clerk: Mrs. M. Burbidge.
Secretary: Mrs. D. Buckland.

Committee: Mr. C. Greenwood, Mrs. S. Rigby and Mrs. S. Robson.

Devizes Good Afternoon Choir

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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

'This Must Be the Place' **by Maggie O'Farrell**

Six of us gathered to discuss Maggie O'Farrell's novel, and it's fair to say the evening was as varied and layered as the book itself!

The novel's unusual structure divided the group. For some of us, this approach paid off beautifully. The way we gradually piece together characters' stories and connections through chapters that jump between different times and locations felt rewarding and cleverly constructed. One member found the movement back and forth through the decades actually less disorienting than in O'Farrell's other novels.

Others, however, were less convinced. Words like "bitty", "tedious" and "confusing" were said. One member became quickly lost among the many characters and timelines, and even switching to the audiobook offered no salvation — finding that equally hard going.

Where there was more agreement was that the novel is undeniably complex and ambitious. Whether that ambition succeeded is another matter entirely.

Our verdict: A genuinely thought-provoking read that will enthrall some and frustrate others.

A score of 6/10

Liz Denbury

'The Elephant Whisperer' **by Lawrence Anthony**

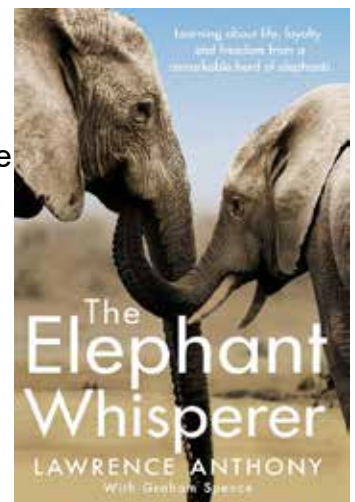
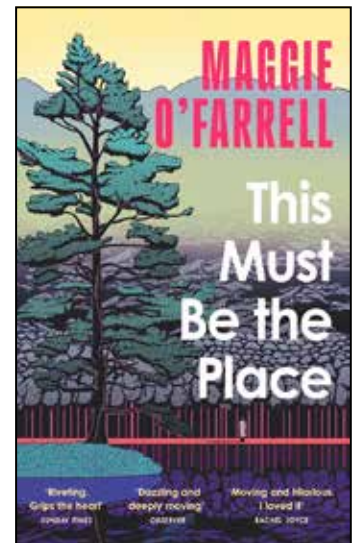
Lawrence Anthony was a conservationist, renowned for his work rescuing animals at the Baghdad Zoo at the height of the US-led Coalition invasion of Iraq in 2003. Before that he was living and working in South Africa, where he bought Thula-Thula, a 5,000 acre game reserve.

If you like elephants this is a magical true story recounting the beautiful but nerve-wracking journey Lawrence embarked upon to earn the trust of a small, highly unpredictable and seemingly dangerous herd of elephants to save them from being culled. It gives great insight into the behaviours, rituals and emotional lives of this close family of elephants and the encounters with them plus his experiences of the local tribal conflicts, encounters with poachers, snakes and dangerous fires.

This book has been described as a non-fiction gem and is both gripping and very moving in parts.

Most of us enjoyed the read and rated it 8/10.

Ann Swan



ROWDEY COW NEWS



We have had some beautiful sunshine throughout June & July which has been great for ice cream sales and kept us all very busy! The heat wave in June was a bit too much though and we were left without our main ice cream cabinet for some time as it struggled to keep cool with the heat and needed some repairs but fortunately our kiosk freezers just kept going! We had to close the kitchen early for a few days as temperatures soared to over 40 degrees on some afternoons and fans would not even touch it. Thankfully most people were very understanding.

following weekend we had the Pitstop's Car Meet held with Griffin Classics which was just as busy again! So many amazing cars came to visit it was an incredible sight! We are looking forward to greeting the car meets back again over the next two weekends.



We started our welcoming Wednesdays in conjunction with the Marmalade Trust who help to combat loneliness. We provide free pastries and people can sit together and chat and bring their crochet and crafts every Wednesday morning 9.30am-11.30am. These are becoming increasingly popular and we will be continuing throughout the school holidays. We also give free babycinos every Tuesday mornings for our toddler Tuesdays!



The Rowdefest was amazing and so well attended! We then attended Lions on the Green, Rowde School Fete and Heddington Steam Rally all of which we were so lucky with the weather! We have All Cannings Fete this weekend and then Furlong Close Fete and Calne Bike Meet the following weekend.

We are currently bringing the ponies in most days due to the heat and we have been watering the pigs to keep them cool as our main concern is to keep the animals as comfortable as possible in the heat.

We did a great collaboration with the Gourmet Brownie Kitchen in Devizes and used her delicious brownies in our ice cream and we are looking to do a Gourmet Brownie Kitchen Ice cream sundae next!

As we approach the school holidays we are planning lots of activities for the children. The students at S B Mentoring, who are our new function barn residents, have made an exciting new trail which is free to our customers in the first part of the school holidays. We then have Jefferson's Fair midway through the holidays and then the latter part the children can enjoy our Elsie's Crafts on weekday mornings. Please keep an eye on our social media for updates!

Father's Day was one of the busiest days we have ever had which was held in conjunction with the Wiltshire Wheels Car Meet where there was a fantastic selection of classic cars and we had a special burger and a beer deal for lunch for the Dad's alongside our normal Sunday brunch and lunch menus. Then the

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Sue

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NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future



Hello from Rowde C of E Primary Academy!

It hardly seems possible that another school year has come to an end! As always, the final few weeks have been incredibly busy, but also full of celebration, reflection and pride. Looking back over the year, I'm incredibly proud of everything our children, staff and wider community have achieved together.

One of the things I'm most proud of is that Rowde continues to go from strength to strength. At a time when many schools are facing falling pupil numbers, we are delighted to be growing. Thanks to the continued support of Acorn Education Trust, we will begin September with six teachers, allowing us to create two smaller Year 5/6 classes and provide even more personalised teaching and learning. We are also looking forward to welcoming new members of staff to our team as we continue our journey of improvement.

At Rowde, we believe children flourish when they are given opportunities to learn, grow and love. This year has been another wonderful example of that. From adventurous residential visits and performing on stage, to sporting events, curriculum enrichment and everyday moments of friendship, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, determination and kindness.

As always, we'd like to thank everyone in the village who continues to support our school. Whether you've attended one of our events, donated prizes, volunteered your time or simply encouraged us along the way, your support makes a genuine difference to our children.

Every day at Rowde is an open day and we'd love to welcome prospective families into school. You can also keep up to date with everything we're doing through our Facebook page and weekly newsletters on our website.

Here are just a few highlights from another fantastic year at Rowde.

Year 6 – A memorable farewell

Our Year 6 children have certainly finished their time at Rowde in style! They enjoyed an unforgettable residential, challenging themselves through a wide range of adventurous activities and showing the resilience, courage and teamwork that we are so proud of.

Back at school, they took to the stage in their Stranger Things-inspired production, *The Wrong Way Round*. Performing to two full halls of family and friends, they entertained everyone with confidence, humour and energy. Throughout the week they demonstrated exactly what makes this class so special: encouraging one another, working as a team and making the very most of every opportunity.

As they prepare to move on to secondary school, we wish every one of them the very best for the future.



They have made a fantastic contribution to Rowde and will always remain part of our school family.

Just another lunchtime at Rowde...

Sometimes, the moments that best capture life at Rowde aren't the big events, but the ordinary moments that happen every single day.

One lunchtime recently, I looked out across the playground and was reminded just how special our school community is. Children were reading together, creating games, chatting with friends, looking after younger pupils, building, playing football and simply enjoying being children. Everywhere I looked there were smiles, laughter and kindness!



We often say that learning extends far beyond the classroom and lunchtime is a wonderful example of that. It's where children develop friendships, learn to solve problems together, show compassion and demonstrate the values that underpin everything we do at Rowde.

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future

Alongside this, we continue to invest in our school environment to make it an even better place to learn. This year has seen further improvements to our school site, including a new perimeter fence, helping to create an attractive, welcoming and secure environment for our children and families.

Bringing learning to life

We are passionate about bringing learning to life through memorable experiences that inspire curiosity and deepen understanding.

This term, our Year 4/5 children explored one of the biggest challenges facing our world as part of their learning about renewable energy. Working alongside experts from the local solar farm, they investigated how wind turbines generate electricity before designing, building and testing their own turbine blades.



The workshop challenged the children to think like engineers, using teamwork, creativity and problem-solving to improve their designs before putting them to the test. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life and inspire our children to think about how innovation and technology can help care for our world.

Sport and wellbeing

Sport has once again played a huge part in school life this year. Our youngest children represented Rowde brilliantly at the Key Stage 1 Dance Festival at The Forum in Bath, performing with confidence, enthusiasm and huge smiles on one of the biggest stages many of them have ever experienced.

We also welcomed local football coach Lee Whitcombe back into school to lead inclusive coaching sessions, encouraging even more girls to participate in football whilst helping every child develop confidence, teamwork and a love of being active.



Our annual Sports Day once again brought the whole school community together, with inclusive activities, traditional races and families joining us to celebrate the children's achievements throughout the day. Whether children were competing in races, trying a new activity or simply cheering on their friends, it was a wonderful celebration of participation, perseverance and teamwork.

Can you inspire our children?

This autumn, we'll be holding a Careers Week, where children will have the opportunity to meet people from a wide range of professions and learn about the many different career paths available to them.

We're always amazed by the breadth of experience within our local community, and we'd love to hear from anyone in the village who would be willing to come into school and share a little about what they do. Whether you're a farmer, engineer, healthcare professional, artist, business owner, tradesperson, scientist, emergency service worker or anything in between, every career has a story to tell and every visitor helps broaden our children's horizons.

You certainly don't need to think your job is "interesting enough"—children are naturally curious and love hearing about the different ways people contribute to their communities. Even spending 20–30 minutes with a small group of children can have a lasting impact and inspire future ambitions.

If you would be interested in supporting our Careers Week, and could be available on Monday 19th or Tuesday 20th October, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me at head@rowde.wilts.sch.uk and I'll be in touch with more information.

Looking ahead

As we prepare for another exciting year, we'd like to thank our children, staff, governors, families, volunteers and the wider Rowde community for helping make our school such a special place to learn.

We wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces in September.

As always, if you would like to come and see us in action, every day at Rowde is an open day. We currently have spaces in several year groups and would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school.

Kindest regards,

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher

NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Duke of Edinburgh

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils who recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. They showed outstanding teamwork, determination, and resilience throughout, and should be incredibly proud of all they achieved.



Sports Day

We were also delighted to host four fantastic Sports Days across all ages, phases, and pathways. Pupils demonstrated our school values through their enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination while encouraging one another to achieve their best. The positive atmosphere made each event a wonderful celebration for all involved.



Prom 2026

We were delighted to celebrate our 2026 leavers at the school prom on 8th July. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on their achievements, celebrate their successes, and wish them every happiness and success for the future.

Example of our school value of Kindness.

When Henrietta the chicken was feeling poorly, a pupil in Pear Class was very worried about her. With the help of her mum, she made a get-well card for Henrietta to help cheer her up.



Well done, to this pupil for being such a wonderful role model for our school values.

Natalie Parker

The Editor goes out and about Roots Farm Shop & Cafe SN10 3PU

We recently popped in to the farm shop and cafe and very much enjoyed the visit.

Roots Farm Shop is a proudly independent, community-focused farm shop dedicated to offering fresh, locally sourced produce and handcrafted goods. Nestled in the heart of the countryside, Roots celebrates the best of British farming by working closely with nearby growers, artisans, and producers to bring seasonal, sustainable food to your table. And the cafe wasn't bad either!



Supporting children

when a parent has had a brain injury



This booklet has been written primarily for the families and carers of a child whose parent has had a brain injury. It gives information about how children of different ages are affected by a parent having a brain injury and offers suggestions of how to talk to and support the child.

To download this FREE BOOKLET go to www.headway.org.uk

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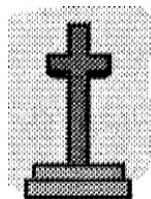
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St Matthew's Church, Rowde Musicians wanted!

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

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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.



NEWS FROM THE MIND TREE CAFÉ

Not for Profit - Promoting Holistic Therapies in Rowde



Well Summer has landed hot and fast. Remember to take care of yourself and those around you. Drink plenty of water and keep in the shade.

People living with dementia can be particularly vulnerable in hot weather, as they may not always recognise when they are becoming too hot or dehydrated. A friendly check-in, offering a cool drink, or helping them find a shaded place can make all the difference.

While summer can feel uplifting for many, others may struggle with loneliness, anxiety, caring responsibilities or low mood. This is why community support remains so important. If you are in struggling and finding life difficult, we offer low cost counselling, from £25.00 per session, face to face and online, Monday to Friday - please contact us on enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or go to our website - <https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

Our Café is open

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

9.30am – 3.30pm (Lunches finish at 2.30pm)

Come for a cuppa, stay for the calm.

During the extreme heat the Café will be providing a cold menu and lots of delicious cold drinks, pop in and try our Strawberry Frappe, or our Garden Mojitos.

If you have any other fundraising ideas that would benefit The Mind Tree Café Community project, please let us know.

Our Memory Café is on the last Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays), with the next 24th August and 28th September - 9.30am – 11am. A new group for people living with any type of dementia and their family carers in and around Rowde. This is safe space to meet new people and to share your stories in a friendly non-judgemental environment – and enjoying a drink and homemade cakes. A contribution of £2.00 per person. Booking is essential. Please contact Lisa G lisagurr@themindtreecafe.org or enquiries@themindtreecafe.org

We have our three wonderful inhouse artists who have different workshops happening over the summer, why not book with a friend and then have a delicious lunch in our Café - please contact them –

Hannah Cantellow – printmaking Workshops - <https://www.hannahcantellowstudio.co.uk/>

Cathy Pearce – Pastels workshops - <https://www.cathypearce.co.uk/>

Geraldine Francis – Ceramics Workshops - <https://www.geraldinefrancisceramics.co.uk/>

If you would like to hire Ash studio for your meeting or group, we have competitive prices. For more details and availability - enquiries@themindtreecafe.org

Events

25th July. 12pm – 3pm. The Mind Tree Café and Furlong Close Summer fete – There are lots of crafts stalls and fun. We are looking forward to seeing you. Our Café will be open for homemade cakes, lunches and good tea and coffee.

Please check out our website for more events and classes coming soon – themindtreecafe.org

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

Massage therapy – Every Body Acupuncture is pleased to be offering massage therapy sessions at Mind Tree Café, creating a calm and welcoming space for relaxation and recovery. Treatments are available on Wednesdays and include Tui Na massage, hot oil massage, reflexology, and cupping therapy, all tailored to support both physical and emotional wellbeing. www.everybodyacu.co.uk

Create Hope Counselling service is a Christian charity offering emotional support to children, young people, and families, as well as therapeutic training to equip lives for good. We recognise that every family is unique, and finding the right support for the challenges you're facing can often feel overwhelming. Please visit the website - <https://www.createhopeuk.org/>

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

Monday Mornings - 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

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

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

Website <https://www.themindtreecafe.org>

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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 Update – June and July 2026

Parish Council meetings are held at the Village Hall at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding August. Members of the public are always welcome to attend. Minutes are available on the website and on parish noticeboards, and printed copies can be requested from the Clerk.

Parish Council Interim Arrangements

Following the resignation of the Parish Clerk on 29th May 2026, the Parish Council has put temporary arrangements in place to ensure the continued smooth running of council business. Councillor Lisa Wills has voluntarily taken on the day-to-day administrative duties, including responsibility for GDPR compliance, while Councillor Tom Lines has resumed his previous role as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

Both roles are being carried out entirely on a voluntary basis, meaning there is no additional administrative cost to the parish during this transition period.

The Council continues to work closely with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) to ensure appropriate professional guidance and legal compliance throughout the recruitment process.

Recruitment is progressing well, with seven applications received by the 30th of June 2026. An Extraordinary Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12 August at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall to consider the applications and make an appointment. The Council's aim is to have a new Parish Clerk in post by September 2026.

Planning Matters:

The Council has recently considered a number of planning applications and continues to monitor wider planning policy affecting the parish.

Recent Planning Applications

- **Smithwick Farm:** The Council considered an application to change the use of a building from ancillary staff accommodation to a short-term holiday let and raised no objections.
- **35 Tower View Road:** A part-retrospective application for a large mobile home to be used as an annexe was reviewed. The Council ratified a response expressing concerns about its visual impact, together with the proposed screening and landscaping, particularly on entering the village.
- **Lower Farm, Devizes Road (Padel Court):** Following the submission of amended plans and additional information, the Council ratified a decision to raise no objection.
- **Land near Homeleigh, Dunkirk Hill:** The Council submitted a formal response

identifying several significant anomalies within the application and requested further investigation by the planning officer.

- **Silverwood School:** An application for three temporary classroom buildings, associated fencing and outdoor learning spaces was considered, with no objections raised.

Neighbourhood Plan

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan has been delayed, with the anticipated Regulation 14 consultation moving from May 2026 to later in the year. The delay followed the late submission by Devizes Town Council of additional documents relating to proposed town centre retail policies.

With Wiltshire Council's new Local Plan now underway, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is also reviewing the implications for the draft plan before consultation proceeds.

Household Waste

The Council continues to experience problems with domestic household rubbish being placed in public litter bins, resulting in unnecessary costs to the parish.

To help address the issue, the Council is investigating the installation of segregated recycling bins in public areas to encourage the appropriate disposal of glass and plastic.

Residents are encouraged to report anyone disposing of household waste in public litter bins to either the Parish Council or Wiltshire Council.

Footpath Safety

The Parish Council remains extremely concerned about the condition of the footpath along the A342 (Devizes Road), describing its current state as "appalling".

A continuing disagreement exists between the Parish Council and Wiltshire Highways regarding responsibility for improvements. Wiltshire Highways considers that the route does not experience sufficient pedestrian use to justify the cost of maintenance. The Parish Council strongly disputes this view, believing that the low level of use is a direct consequence of the path being extremely narrow, heavily overgrown and, in places, unsafe to use.

To help demonstrate the level of local concern, a questionnaire has been included in this edition of the magazine. Residents are encouraged to complete it and return their responses. If you have photographs showing the condition of the footpath, please email them to the Parish Clerk.

Community Engagement

The Chair is introducing a few improvements to the Parish Council website aimed at increasing transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

One initiative is the publication of a councillor attendance register, enabling residents to see each councillor's attendance at meetings and level of participation in Council business. This will also help ensure that comments made to residents accurately reflect discussions and decisions taken at meetings, particularly where a councillor may not have been present.

Councillors have also been invited to provide a head-and-shoulders photograph for publication on the website. Although this is not a legal requirement, it is intended to help residents identify those elected to represent them.

Recent discussions highlighted the importance of suitable identification after a parishioner was unable to verify whether someone claiming to be a councillor was, in fact, a serving member of the Council. While private contact details and home addresses remain protected, the Chair considers that a simple head-and-shoulders photograph provides valuable reassurance and transparency without compromising personal privacy.

As well as the pre-approved regular payment schedule the council approved the following expenditure for June and July.

June 2026

£1,500.00 – Purchase of a 32 ft × 10 ft former toilet block for conversion into changing facilities at the sports field (approved but not yet paid).

£174.95 – Football goal for Silverlands Park.

£144.00 – Legal and administrative reference book.

July 2026

£750.00 – Training package provided by Chargs.

£100.00 – Land Registry and associated documents relating to ownership matters on the Common.

£125.00 – Production of the bi-monthly Parish Council update.

The clerk can be contacted at:
clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

The chair can be contacted at:
cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rowde Parish Council website:
<https://rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Rowde Village News:

<https://rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk/village-magazine/>

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

PORTFOLIO	PORTFOLIO HOLDER
Finance & HR	Cllr L Wills, Cllr J Wills, Cllr T Lines, Cllr S Rigby
Governance & Policies	Cllr S Rigby
Recreation & Playgrounds	Cllr J Dalley, Cllr S Taylor, Cllr R Carine, Cllr C Greenwood
Allotments	Cllr J Wills, Cllr Watt, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Carine
Highways & Rights of Way	Cllr C Greenwood
Grounds Maintenance & Parish Steward	Cllr T Lines, Cllr S Taylor, Cllr J Dalley, Cllr C Greenwood
Planning	Cllr C Greenwood, Cllr R Carine, Cllr L Wills
Speeding & SID	Cllr T Lines, Cllr J Wills, Cllr C Greenwood
Waste Management	Cllr T Lines, Cllr J Wills, Cllr J Dalley
Community Engagement & Emergency Plan	Cllr L Wills, Cllr S Taylor

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

Help Protect the Footpath Between the Rowdey Cow and Devizes

Rowde Parish Council is reaching out to the community again as the previous questionnaire only received a handful of responses, we are trying to collect evidence about the footpath between the Rowdey Cow and Devizes.

Wiltshire Council Highways has suggested that this footpath is infrequently used. The Parish council believe that the path's poor and unsafe condition is the reason fewer people use it today.

We need your help to demonstrate how important this route is to our community. The information collected will be submitted to Wiltshire Council as evidence to support our request for repairs and ongoing maintenance.

1. Do you currently use the footpath between the Rowdey Cow and Devizes?

- ☐ Yes, regularly (at least once a week)
- ☐ Yes, occasionally (at least once a month)
- ☐ Yes, but only a few times a year
- ☐ Not currently

2. Before the footpath deteriorated, how often did you use it?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Never

3. If you do not currently use the footpath, what is the main reason? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ The surface is unsafe or in poor condition
- ☐ It becomes muddy or flooded
- ☐ Vegetation makes it difficult to use
- ☐ I do not feel safe using it
- ☐ I use another route instead
- ☐ I was unaware the path existed
- ☐ I have mobility issues
- ☐ Other:

4. If the footpath were repaired and properly maintained, how likely would you be to use it?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Quite likely
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Not at all

5. What would you use the footpath for? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Accessing Devizes
- ☐ School journeys
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Other:

6. Approximately how many people usually walk with you?

- ☐ Just me
- ☐ 2 people
- ☐ Family group
- ☐ Walking group

7. Have you ever chosen not to use the footpath because of its condition?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please tell us why:

8. Have you experienced any of the following?

- ☐ Slips or falls
- ☐ Having to turn back
- ☐ Having to walk on the road instead
- ☐ Difficulty with a pushchair or wheelchair
- ☐ Difficulty due to overgrown vegetation
- ☐ None of the above

9. How important is this footpath to the community?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important

10. Please share any comments or experiences that demonstrate why this footpath matters.

Optional

Postcode:

Age Group:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18–34
- ☐ 35–54
- ☐ 55–74
- ☐ 75+

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses will help Rowde Parish Council demonstrate the importance of this footpath and support our request for essential repairs and continued maintenance.

If you can, please take a photo of your completed questionnaire and email it to clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

In person you can cut it out of the magazine and give the completed questionnaire to any councillor, or bring it along to the meeting on the 9th September 2026.

If you need someone to collect the questionnaire from you then please call 07594652519.

Saturday October 24th 2:30pm

St Matthew's ★ ROWDE

A Concert with the

DEVIZES good afternoon CHOR

and Special Guest

- TENOR -

Carlos Alonso

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AN APPEAL FROM YOUR MAGAZINE'S ADVERTISING MANAGER

After nearly 16 years in this volunteer role I am stepping down as Advertising Manager of the Rowde Village News. 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)

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August/September 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	
AUGUST		
Sunday 2nd	(Trinity 9)	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word	Rowde
Wednesday 5th		
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 9th	(Trinity 10)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
<i>4pm</i>	<i>Evensong (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
Sunday 16th	(Trinity 11)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 23rd	(Trinity 12)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 30th	(Trinity 13)	
10am	Holy Communion fifth Sunday	Rowde
6pm	Devizes Deanery Evensong	Venue TBC
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 2nd	Wednesday 2nd	
11am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 6th	(Trinity 14)	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word	Rowde
Sunday 13th	(Trinity 15)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 20th	(Trinity 16)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 27th	(Trinity 17)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion & Harvest	Rowde

Please contact either Rev'd Norma Fergusson or Helen Rawlings the Benefice Administrator if you wish to enquire about a baptism, wedding or funeral.
Email: vicar@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
Mobile: 07799 545035
Email: helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
Mobile: 07933 817816

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

Some of you may know that our daughter lives in Spain. We visit as often as we can, but my Spanish is still pretty abysmal. Part of the reason is that, most of the time, the people we meet wish to practice their English rather than suffer my feeble attempts to order a cerveza, vino blanco and a café solo! But I hope I get brownie points for trying and I certainly find that por favor, gracias and lo siento seem to get me a long way.

We've also learned to recognise some of the signs that govern daily life. "Wait here", "Wait your turn", "Wait until there's space" and so on. A whole lexicon of "Waits". But the Spanish word used for all of these is "Espere". And, though my Spanish may not be good, my O-level Latin is sufficient to tell me that "Espere" has the same root as the Latin for "hope". So the Spanish, whenever they wait, always wait in hope. Theologically, it's spot on, of course. We live in the between times (between the first and second comings) and wait in hope for Jesus to return; but in a world which seems to get grumpier as it gets busier, maybe an attitude of waiting in hope might make us a little kinder to, and more patient with, one another?

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

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 TBC

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: Rev'd Norma Fergusson
vicar@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
or 07799 545035

Associate Priest: Vacant

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

Safeguarding Representative for Rowde: Michael Cornwell
michaelcornwellrowdeparishsafeguardingofficer@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
or 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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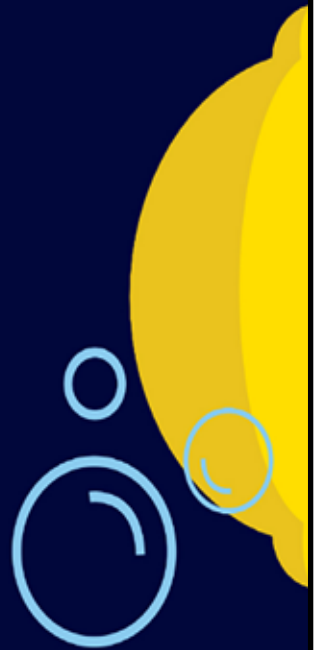
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AID FOR UKRAINE

If you have been following the story about Rowde's link to Aid for Ukraine, here is the latest update I have received from David Gaston:

A while ago we received a message from a Ukrainian soldier thanking us for a gift that saved his comrade's life. The gift was something I am asked for more than anything else. A tourniquet. An item that costs about £30.00. Every soldier should carry at least one. They are the difference between living and dying. Why these? They can be applied one handed if necessary and they are more effective than other designs. The three for a tenner version break; the windlass (the twisting bar) snaps when pressure is applied, rendering them useless. I'm going back to Ukraine in a few days with my friend Graham and hopefully two vehicles filled with equipment. We have been asked by soldiers fighting in the north east of the country if we can take some tourniquets. Please help us to do this. I know I am asking the same people who have already been so generous, but if that's you, give someone you know a poke and ask them to do something amazing - buy a tourniquet! Please. And to those of you who continue to give, thank you - you are helping to save lives every day.

Editor's Note - you can donate at www.gofundme.com/f/davids-drive-transport-and-aid-for-Ukraine

or by using this unique link <https://gofund.me/abb36add8>



David Gaston has crossed into Ukraine over 50 times, delivering aid and moving refugees

ROWDE OPEN GARDENS

The village of Rowde enjoyed a glorious afternoon of sunshine as residents and visitors came together for the annual Rowde Open Gardens event, celebrating beautiful gardens, homemade refreshments and a wonderful sense of community.



Under bright blue skies, guests spent the afternoon exploring a selection of stunning private gardens, generously opened to the public by Ann Swan & Alan Watters, Caroline Keevil and Jill & Robin Myerscough. Each garden offered its own unique charm, showcasing colourful planting, carefully tended borders and peaceful spaces that were admired by all who attended.



The centrepiece of the afternoon was Caroline Keevil's beautiful garden, where visitors gathered for afternoon tea and coffee beneath the welcome shade of a magnificent, mature



magnolia tree. The picturesque setting provided the perfect place to relax and enjoy a delicious selection of homemade cakes, generously baked and donated by members of the local community. Served on elegant vintage china, the refreshments were a particular highlight of the day and were warmly appreciated by guests, adding a touch of timeless charm to an already delightful occasion.

The event was a wonderful success, made possible by the generosity of the garden owners, the talented bakers and the many volunteers who helped throughout the afternoon.



The event raised £300 which was donated to the Mind Tree Cafe.

ROWDE ROAD CLOSURE

Drivers have been warned to expect delays on the A342 between Bromham and Rowde.



The busy road, which links Devizes to Chippenham and Calne, will be hit by overnight closures at the start of September while Wiltshire Council carries out carriageway resurfacing.

These closures will be in place from September 2nd until September 4th, between the hours of 7pm and 6am. They will stretch from the road's junction with The Pound to its junction with Cock Road.

During this time a long official diversion route will run from Calne to Avebury via the A3102 and A4, and down to Rowde through Devizes on the A361 and A342.

A council notice told drivers to expect delays in the area during the closures. It said: "This order will come into operation on September 2, 2026 and the closure will be required between the hours of 7pm and 6am until September 4, 2026. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The order will have a maximum duration of 18 months."

WORLD CUP SWEEPSTAKE



On July 18th, Bernie was pleased to announce that Julie Baker was the winner of the 2026 World Cup sweepstake fundraiser, in support of Dorothy's House and hosted at the George & Dragon. Thanks to Bernie's efforts, the village raised a wonderful £190, which will be presented to Dorothy's House next week. Thank you on behalf of Bernie to everyone that bought a ticket.

Clare Tilley



ROWDEFEST

Come one come all, to Rowdefest Day,
Where bunting flaps and children play,
The green is packed from end to end,
For village folk, the fete's a friend!
Ruby Derbyshire takes the stage,
Her voice the talk of every age,
Then Barrelhouse takes up the beat,
And gets the crowd back on their feet.
The smell of Boigners fills the air,
While Wood fired pizzas' stall draws stares.
Doughy, cheesy, cooked with care,
Worth the wait, beyond compare!
Down by the ropes, a woolly star,
The sheep gets sheared (it didn't go far),
It's fleece falls soft upon the ground,
While young and old all gather round.
Devizes Morris dancers leap,
With bells and sticks and clatters deep,
Hankies waving dancers proud
Putting on a show for the crowd,
And round the stalls there's treasures found,
Jams and crafts and cakes abound
A tombola, a lucky prize,
A treat to catch the shopper's eyes,
So raise a glass to Rowdefest cheer,
The best day of the village year,
With music mutton, dough and dance,
Long may the fete have half a chance.

Liz Denbury





Thank you Rowde and friends for again making this year's Rowdefest a successful event. Also thanks to our volunteers, who supported the committee with running the day. We were blessed with good weather once again and could donate £450 to the Rowde Village News and £450 to St Matthew's restoration fund.

We would like to thank Brenda Pearson for serving teas in the church for the last three years, Angie Griffin and Debs Sims for organising the children's games.

As these three valuable members of our committee are stepping down, we have vacancies for people who might like to join our team to help with the planning and running of the event. The members of the committee now are Sue Robson (secretary and treasurer) Geraldine White, Liz Denbury, Darren Worren and Barbara Zaccarelli. Also people who can give an hour or two on the day are very welcome and needed. The more help we have, the more we can do to make each year special. The date for next year is Saturday June 5th. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with us by emailing rowde.events@yahoo.com



OBITUARY

Marianne Elisabeth Eccles nee Randall (formerly of Rowde) died peacefully and serenely at Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley on 3rd July after a long battle, bravely fought. Beloved wife of Colonel Robin Eccles, mother of Annelisa and Katherine and proud Granny to Susie and Tom. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her UK and Danish families and friends. Funeral and service was held at St Mary's Church, Market Lavington on Monday 20th July.

A Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for Marianne Elisabeth Eccles



25th September 1947 - 3rd July 2026
St Mary's Church, Market Lavington
Monday 20th July 2026 at 2pm

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The Big Little Things In Life!

by Zöe Rucker

Whatever Happened to Everything Else?

As I write this, the World Cup dominates the headlines. Wimbledon has begun. Political commentators are speculating endlessly about who will become Britain's next Prime Minister. Thousands of students are sitting A-levels, GCSEs and university exams that may feel life-defining.

By the time you read this, these stories will have disappeared from the front pages, replaced by whatever comes next.

But today they seem to occupy every conversation, every news bulletin and every social media feed, giving the impression that little else is happening. Recently I came across a psychological term: the availability heuristic. It isn't exactly the sort of phrase that trips off the tongue but, now I know what it means, I keep noticing it everywhere.

Developed by psychologists Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman in the early 1970s, it explains why we judge the importance or frequency of something by how easily examples come to mind. When one subject dominates our conversations, television screens and social media feeds, it becomes readily available in memory. Before long, it starts to feel as though it is dominating life itself.

The clever part is that we don't even realise we're doing it. Wimbledon is a perfect example. For two weeks, it can feel as though tennis has temporarily moved to south-west London. Centre Court dominates television schedules, newspapers report every upset and triumph, and players who are unfamiliar for most of the year suddenly become household names.

Yet tennis hasn't stopped everywhere else. Local clubs continue to play. Coaches still run lessons. Junior tournaments still take place. Professional tournaments continue around the world. Tennis hasn't become Wimbledon.

Our attention has.

And it isn't just the headlines that do it.

A gardener recently asked whether we'd had any problems with box tree caterpillars. I felt rather pleased to say we hadn't. After more than 30 years, our hedge had always been perfectly healthy.

The following week, half of it seemed to disappear before my eyes. I found myself peering into other people's hedges, wondering whether theirs were



under attack too. Suddenly, every mention of box tree caterpillars caught my eye. It felt as though the garden was under siege.

Of course, they weren't suddenly everywhere. They had simply become part of my world, so my brain started noticing them.

Meanwhile, millions of other things are happening too.

That doesn't mean the headlines are unimportant.

The World Cup matters to football supporters.

Choosing a Prime Minister matters to everyone.

These are significant events.

The availability heuristic reminded me that what has my attention isn't necessarily what matters most.

There are countless stories that receive little attention simply because they are quieter: acts of kindness that don't make the news, friendships, community projects, and the ordinary moments that make up most of our lives.

Maybe one of the characteristics of Rowde Village News is that people don't necessarily read it the day it arrives. It sits on the kitchen table. It gets picked up with a cup of tea. Old editions are kept for memories, points of reference.

That's where the availability heuristic feels very human. You could be forgiven for thinking this article is about sport, politics or psychology. But really, it's about perspective.

Perhaps the next time I become convinced that one story is the only story, I'll stop and ask myself: whatever happened to everything else.



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Please go to our website

<https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

or use this QR code →



Memory Café

in partnership with Beyond Dementia

The Mind Tree Cafe in Rowde, SN10 2TQ

Last Monday of each month (ex bank holidays), 9:30am - 11:00am

Next sessions will be 24th August and 28th September

£2.00 contribution per person - Refreshments included

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Booking essential - please contact Lisa G for more information and booking - lisagurr@themindtreecafe.org

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

Volunteering

In June we marked Volunteers Week, and it was an important opportunity to recognise the contribution made by those who give their time to support policing and community safety across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Volunteers play a practical and valuable role within both Wiltshire Police and my office. From Special Constables, Police Support Volunteers to Independent Custody Visitors, Animal Welfare Scheme volunteers and community-based roles, they provide additional capacity and insight that strengthens the service we deliver.

Some support operational policing, others bring professional expertise or assist with engagement and scrutiny. Independent volunteers help ensure transparency and accountability, while others work more directly with communities, helping us stay connected to local priorities and concerns.

Within the OPCC, volunteers are also an important part of how we engage with the public and maintain independent oversight. Their involvement helps ensure that different perspectives are heard and that our work reflects the needs of the communities we serve.



Volunteering is a significant commitment, often alongside work, study or family responsibilities. It is not something people have to do—it is something they choose to do. That choice, and the time given as a result, makes a clear difference.

Volunteers' Week is a chance to acknowledge that contribution. The support volunteers provide is valued, and it is an important part of the wider policing picture in Wiltshire.

We will continue to ensure that volunteering opportunities are accessible, well supported, and aligned with the needs of our communities.

To everyone currently volunteering across Wiltshire Police and the OPCC—thank you for your continued contribution.

You can watch videos on each volunteering role and find out more on my website:

<https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteer/>

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:

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Facebook:

Laura Mayes – for Bromham, Rowde and Roundway

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I'm Norm! Help!

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Dad keep's going on about ...

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- **Commercial Mortgages**
- **Residential Mortgages**
- **Buy to Let**
- **Lifetime Mortgages**
- **Bridging Loans**
- **Remortgages**
- **Building's & Contents**
- **Life Insurance**
- **Critical Illness Protection**
- **Wills & Estate Planning**
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Mum Says "if you want to go for a walk, don't get him started on Business Finance."...



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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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Wednesday Early Birds 6 -7.30pm

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Every second Sunday is quiz night (Aug 16th & 30th Sep 13th & 27th)

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

Sunday 30th August BBQ at 6pm – please book tickets

Wine Tasting & Dinner

Saturday 12th September 6.30pm

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£60pp, limited availability please call to book!

G&D Darts Every Tuesday Evening 6-8pm

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August & September Opening Hours

Mondays : closed

Tuesday to Saturday : Lunch & Dinner & Sunday Lunch only

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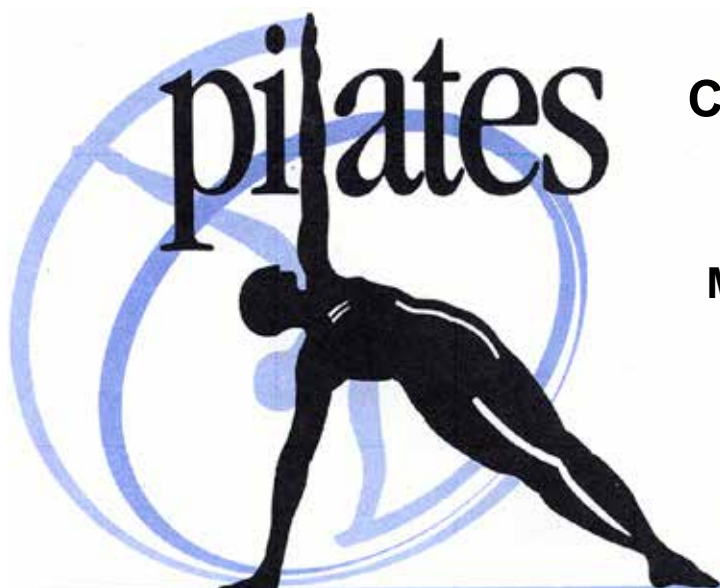
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Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the
editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they
will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news items
is sourced directly from other publications and the internet. We
therefore apologise for any inaccuracies published but regrettably
we have no control over this possibility happening. We will
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Alan Watters, Editor

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VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings 2026

(All Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Village Hall unless otherwise notified)

9th September, 14th October, 11th November,
16th December.

Other Events

Tuesday mornings - Church Cafe - page 21
Friday afternoons - Craft, Coffee and Chat - page 11
24th August - Memory Cafe - page 30
30th August - Quiz and BBQ - page 36
12th September - Italian Aircraft Presentation - page 18
12th September - Wine Tasting & Dinner - page 36
28th September - Memory Cafe - page 30
24th October - Good Afternoon Choir in Concert - page 17
Various dates - Holidays & Cruises - back cover

Italian Aircraft

Saturday September 12th, 2.30pm

a presentation by Carlo Zaccarelli

Italian aircraft designs, 1920-2026

St Matthew's Rowde



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Devizes, SN10 2EU.



NASH LAWS & HEDGES

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING SERVICES

Garden services we offer

- ➡ Lawn cutting, of all sizes
- ➡ Ride on Mower work
- ➡ Lawn Scarifying
- ➡ Strimming
- ➡ Hedge cutting and Hedge reductions
- ➡ Shrub cutting
- ➡ Garden clearance

Please contact Mark for a free quote on

07894546453 or email

marknash99@hotmail.co.uk

The Steppin'Tones

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**



HERE TO TAKE THE LEAD

STRUGGLING TO WALK YOUR DOG?

If you're over 65 or terminally ill, our volunteers can help!



NEW FRIENDS WAITING!

01736 757 900
ADMIN@CINNAMON.ORG.UK
CINNAMON.ORG.UK

ACTIVE PLUS



Are you age 60+?

Come and join our friendly exercise class and help maintain/improve your mobility
(Exercises may be done seated or standing)

Mondays
2.30pm – 3.30pm
followed by coffee/tea and a chat at Rowde Village Hall

Cost : £4.00

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



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

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)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (easy this month)

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

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

Quick Reference List of Advertisers

Advertiser Page

FOOD:

Farm Fresh Local Produce 35

FUNERAL DIRECTORS ETC:

M J Sly (Memorial Stonemasons) 11

John Stuart Funeral Services 13

D J Bewley Funeral Directors 7

MTM Memorials 39

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Dolman Audio Visual (Audio repairs) 28

Lendology.cic / Wiltshire Council 43

Mander Duffill Chartered Accountants 34

Wiltshire Buildings Record 11

Michael Williams Financial Services Ltd 19

Holistic Massage Treatments 40

Lee Short - Financial Services 32

Holidays & Cruises back cover

Barndance/Ceilidh Band 'The Steppin'Tones 42

Lemon Cleaning Services 23

BP Bodyworks - vehicle repairs 23

Picture Framing 18

Pet & People Portraits 40

HOUSE MAINTENANCE:

Painter & Decorator (Lawrence Plumb) 39

Plasterer (T O'Rourke) 28

Caroline Flack Soft Furnishings 13

Building Contractors (Gaiger Brothers) 7

KFR (used furniture and white goods) 42

Gray & Amor Ltd, Property Renovation 17

Willow & White Cleaning 28

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

Nash Lawns & Hedges 42

PUBS/RESTAURANTS/CAFES/B&Bs:

The Rowdey Cow 41

The George and Dragon 36

The Mind Tree Cafe 30

HEALTH AND FITNESS:

Active Plus for over 60s 43

The Tranquil Moment Health & Beauty 41

Wiltshire Mind 40

The Sycamore Centre 28

Pilates Classes 38

North Wessex Therapies 39

Cathy's Yoga Classes 37

The Five Elements Retreats (Holistic & Reiki) 32

Affordable Acupuncture 22

Foot Health Practitioner 42

PETS & LIVESTOCK:

Whistley Canine Country Club 41

Pup Suey Dog Grooming 13

Dog Walking 43

MISCELLANEOUS:

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 7

Nursery - Townsend Barn 37

Canal Boat Rental - Foxhangers 38

Arts Together - Ageing Creatively 40

Logs and Kindling 13

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

Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide

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

Agincare at Furlong Close

Tel: 721309

Allotments

Rowde Parish Council

Clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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/](https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/charity-trust)

charity-trust

[www.facebook.com/groups/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/silverwoodchar)

silverwoodchar

Church Coordinator

Benefice Administrator:

Helen Rawlings

helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk

Church Choir

Contact Nicola Brown:

nicolabrown678@gmail.com

01380 722406

Church Flowers

Caroline Keevil

ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk

Tel: 725483

Flowers for all occasions,

Weddings, Funerals & Anniversaries

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

Monday Club (Rowde & Bromham)

Bromham Community Hub 10am to 1.30pm

Carol 01380 850925

Cathy 01380 850555

Neighbourhood Police Team

Jo Newbury Rural Beat Manager

PCSO Georgina Dodd Ring 101

Google Devizes NPT to contact on

[www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/devizes)>devizes

Parish Council

Chair - **Lisa Wills**

Tel: **07557887278**

cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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/Cafes

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: 07710542653

Alan Watters, Tel: 07886870053

Rowde Village News

Alan Watters, Tel: 01380 724788/

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

Shop

Silverwood School

Head Teacher

Tel: 850309

TAXI

J Dalley 07592 063789

Veterinary Surgeries

Estcourt - Tel: 723687

McQueens - Tel: 728505

The Paddock - Tel: 813202

Village Website

www.rowdevillage.org

rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

SILLY SUMMER JOKES

1. How do celebrities stay cool in the summer? They have many fans.
2. What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing. It just waved.
3. Have you ever seen dogs wearing swimsuits? Apparently they are quite fetching!
4. Where do surfers get their degrees? At boarding school.
5. Who do you call to clean the ocean? Mermaids.
6. Why aren't lobsters generous? Because they're shellfish.
7. Where do boats go when they're sick? To the dock.
8. What kind of ship sits on the seabed and has anxiety? A nervous wreck.
9. Why did the whale blush? It saw the ocean's bottom.

LETTERS

RAGWORT PROBLEM

Walking my dog this morning, I came across a couple merrily pulling up ragwort weeds and laying them in the ground saying they were poisonous, trying to do a good deed. The only problem is my dog would normally not go near them when growing as normal but happily played with one laying on the ground. These are very toxic to animals long after being pulled from the ground. Beware and I intend to contact the Council to make them aware of this potentially hazardous situation.

Geoff Brooks

MAJOR SOLAR ECLIPSE

On the 12th August at around 19.13pm (Rowde) time dependant on where you are, you will see the biggest solar eclipse in the UK since August 11th 1999 when a total eclipse took place in Cornwall. It won't be a total eclipse in the UK but very very close to it. The sun will be covered by the moon from anything between 87.98% in Shetland to 97.92% at Dursey head, Dursey Island (which you can visit by cable car) in South West Ireland. Here in Rowde it will be covered 92.68% by the moon. In mainland Britain Pordenack Point just 0.7 mile south of Lands End it will be covered 95.93% at 19.16pm. It will go dark somewhat but not as dark as totality, the sun being a very very small crescent, but only look at it with special glasses, looking at the sun directly will damage your eyes. Note it on your calendar and lets hope it is a clear sky in the evening.

Nicholas Lyles

DUNKIRK HILL PAVEMENT

The hedgerows up Dunkirk hill have been cut, we can once again walk to Devizes.

Nigel Ashby

Editor's Note: *Subsequent feedback suggests that the problem has not been solved by this work and much more needs to be done (check out postings on the 'Rowde All About It' Facebook group and please complete the survey form on page 16).*

RAFT

(Rowde Academy Friends & Teachers)

Hi Alan

I am on the Rowde Academy Friends and Teachers and thought it might be nice to include our Year in Review for the village news. The support of the businesses, families and wider Rowde community have enabled us to provide so many wonderful things to enrich our children's education.

Blurb:

Thank you Rowde! As you can see your generosity has enabled RAFT to provide memorable experiences, learning opportunities and important equipment.

(see opposite page)

A huge thank you to our incredible group of volunteers who have stood out in the blistering heat of the fete, tamed disco goers and made sure a hall full of excited children were served breakfast with Santa. Your hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed.

Next year promises to be bigger, brighter and bolder so if you want to make a difference and get involved then please get in touch. We would love to welcome you onto the team.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page - RAFT Fundraising - for what we have got planned. Have an awesome summer.

Many thanks,

Nicky Johnson

The loss of a dear companion, Sam

A poem by Rowde's Alan Pengelly

I'm sad Sam

I'm so sad Sam

I remember blue bell woods

Primrose streams

The magic meadow

Nose to the ground

Spin around

Chase your shadow

Only you were you

Someone to talk to

And with those soft spaniel eyes

You would answer

Yes I'm so sad Sam and yet so glad Sam

For all the love that you gave

That's now taken away

And that's our sorrow

For you are with us today

As you were yesterday

And will be through

All our tomorrows

I'm so sad Sam

2025
-
2026

RAFT FUNDRAISING

A year in review!

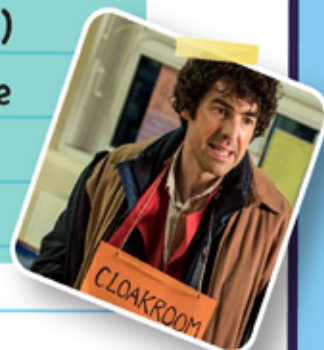
EVENTS...

- The Great Rowde Bake Off
- Autumn School Disco
- Breakfast with Santa
- Bingo Night
- Crazy Hair Day
- Easter Trail
- Summer Raffle
- Fete
- Summer Disco

OUR LOVELY VOLUNTEERS HELPED US



- serve refreshments at the Nativity
- (the school remake, not the original)
- man the stands at the Summer Fete
- run the Tombola at Rowdefest
- keep everyone happy at the discos



WE HAVE...

- covered travel to the Panto for the whole school
- 100+ interval ice-creams
- emergency Training from Wilts Air Ambulance
- new books for each class library
- a fridge for KSI
- subsidised 5 Christmas Parties
- subsidised 5 End of Year Parties
- restocked the school library with exciting new books
- 50 sets of Waterproofs for Forest School
- secured Forest School provision for all classes for 2026/2027

THANK YOU!

TOGETHER WE HAVE TURNED FUNDRAISING INTO
OPPORTUNITIES. RAFT HAS SPENT **£5487**
ON OUR CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT!

Easy Fundraising
has raised

OVER £500

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

DAY TRIPS

*Entrance or lunch included

9 Aug	Forest of Dean & Sunday Lunch	●	£65pp*
10 Aug	Weymouth for the day	●	£45pp*
11 Aug	Cheddar Gorge & Weston Super Mare	●	£45pp*
17 Aug	Royal Mint & St Fagans	●	£75pp*
18 Aug	Mystery Tour with Fish & Chips	●	£68pp*
1 Sep	RHS Wisley Flower Show 2026	●	£65pp*
8 Sep	National Guide Dog Training Centre	●	£55pp*
9 Sep	Tiverton Horse Drawn Barge	●	£69pp*
24 Sep	West Somerset Railway - Fish & Chips	●	£109pp*
25 Sep	Stratford Cruise & 2 Course Lunch	●	£92pp*
27 Sep	Malvern Autumn Show 2026	●	£68pp*
28 Sep	Dobbies & Cotswolds Outlet Village	●	£25pp

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



Derbyshire Dales Explorer



**FROM
£455PP**

Departs 4 Sep • 4 days

- Visit to Chatsworth House
- Excursions to Hartington and Ashbourne
- Based at Stuart Hotel, Derby

Switzerland

Lindt Chocolate Experience & Bernina Express



**FROM
£1479PP**

LAST 4 SEATS

Departs 28 Aug 2027 • 8 days

- Iconic trip on the Bernina Express
- The Lindt Chocolate Experience
- Chur and the Arosa Line
- Five nights and free time in Davos

Bristol Limited seats



28 Nov • £90pp

Bristol NEW DATE!



28 Oct 2027 • £104pp

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



Join at Rowde Cross Keys, Bromham, Devizes & Melksham