

Rowde Village News



December 2025 / January 2026

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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 there are also several interesting articles in the 'Local News' pages (24 to 27).

There are reports on Rosie Dalley from Furlong Close who has won a national award on page 24, an update on the construction work at The Cross Keys on pages 25 and 26 and you can read all about the recent Christmas Market on page 26.

The Rowde Parish Council is featured quite prominently in this issue (pages 14 to 19). They have a Pavement Survey on page 17 for you to fill in and return and there is a precis of the recent 12 page Independent Parish Council Investigation on page 19. There is also a job advert for a new Parish Clerk on page 18. Rebekah Jeffries left her post at the end of November after 13 years of loyal service to the PC and to the village and she will be hard to replace.

Sadly, we have recently lost two well known and loved Rowde residents (their obituaries are on page 26). David Harries was a long time resident of Furlong Close and he was chatting and joking with me only a couple of days before he passed suddenly while on a visit to The Rowdey Cow. He was also telling me how much he misses his mum and now he will be very much missed in the village. We were equally shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Sheila Lee who was until recently a long time resident of Springfield Road. Sheila was always stopping me in the street for a chat and telling me how much she enjoyed reading the Rowde Village News and that she particularly loved seeing the cover photographs. Finally, on behalf of the magazine team, can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we hope that 2026 will bring you all you wish for.

Mind how you go, Ed

This magazine is brought to you thanks to Jam Print Design & Printing and all the advertisers

Notice to contributors & advertisers

This magazine is generally printed in black and white in hard copy and delivered free to every home in the parish but additionally it is hosted on the **Village website** in full colour. If anyone does not wish any particular details (photographs, names, contact details, etc) to appear on the World Wide Web then they are advised not include them in their submissions, thank you.

Contributors please also note:

The deadline for articles and any changes to advertisements is the 15th of every second month.

Inserts: Due to the extra work created by inserting leaflets into the magazine and the fact that the team is already stretched, we very much regret we are unable to accept requests of this nature except in very special circumstances, when there will be a small charge.

Views expressed in this magazine are those of its contributors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the magazine's editorial team.

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Cover Image

The lovely front cover photograph was supplied by Sue Thompson and shows the Crib Service which took place at The Rowdey Cow last winter.

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

On October 7th the Rowde Ladies Club met in the Village Hall and all enjoyed creating from Air Baked clay various items mainly Christmas Tree decorations.

The Raffle winner was Di Buckland.

The ladies met again on November 11th in the Village Hall and 'stretched their minds' finding the answers to two quizzes, one on Halloween and the other on Sweets and Chocolates.

Winners were:

Halloween Quiz - Mrs. C. Sault and Mrs. S. Loader

Sweets Quiz - Mrs. P. Phillips and Mrs. K. Brock

Raffle winner - Mrs. S. Loader

The next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner at The Bear Hotel in Devizes on December 3rd.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 13th 2026 at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, programme to be arranged.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR 2026 FROM THE LADIES CLUB

Di Buckland

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

Unfortunately, the Ploughman's Lunch due to take place in October was cancelled due to the lack of support.

Another Concert with the Wiltshire Police Band will take place on February 1st 2026 at 2.30pm in St. Matthew's Church (by kind permission of the P.C.C.) Tickets £10 (See separate poster).

It is hoped to have a Jigsaw and Book Sale in the New Year.

THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Di Buckland

Waiting

A poem by Rowde's Alan Pengelly

Reading out of date magazines
Staring through cracked window panes
At seldom changing scenes
Nothing is moving
Except shadows on the wall
Lifeless slaves unto the sun
At its constant becond call
Waiting
Seems I've been waiting all my life
In shop queues and all those waiting rooms
At the altar for my wife
Perhaps there's an art to waiting
To be revealed at some future date
Till that time comes I'll just twiddle my thumbs
Hang around and wait

CONCERT

with the
WILTSHIRE POLICE BAND

At

St. MATTHEW'S CHURCH
ROWDE

(By kind permission of the PCC)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1st

At 2.30pm

TICKETS £10 from Di.Buckland

01380722186 or 01380723049

Raffle Refreshments

In aid of Rowde Village Hall funds



Christmas at St Matthew's, Rowde

Sunday 21st December

6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve-Wed 24th December

2.30pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

**9.30am Christmas Morning
Communion**

All services will be in church

Everyone welcome!

ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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

BOOK REVIEWS

'Demon Copperhead' by Kiran Barbara Kingsolver

Winner of the Women's Fiction Prize of 2023 and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2023.

This is a modern retelling of 'David Copperfield' by Charles Dickens. Demon is the narrator of his own story, which begins with his birth to a single mother in the poor ex-mining area of Lee County in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia and ends in his young adult years when, after many traumas and tragedies including recovery from drug addiction, Demon is at a more hopeful stage in his young life.

This is a long book (546 pages!) but is a compelling and strongly written story, which I would heartily recommend. Kingsolver has given Demon a distinctive voice through which we learn about his childhood living in poverty, becoming an orphan at a young age, experiencing a defunct fostering system and living in a part of the US which is blighted by the exploitation of so many by the drug companies pushing their addictive opioid painkillers. While Demon faces so many set-backs, and you cannot help but feel desperate for him to find a way out, there is humour and love throughout and ultimately some hope for his future. The book's blurb describes it perfectly: 'suffused with truth, anger and compassion, Demon Copperhead is an epic tale of love, loss and everything in between'.

Suzanne Jacobs

'War Doctor' by David Nott

This autobiographical work by general and vascular surgeon, David Nott, follows 25 years of his experience performing life-saving surgery in war zones, including Aleppo and Sarajevo. It brings to life the difficulties of working with minimal equipment and drugs, often in circumstances of extreme personal danger.

Inevitably, this is a traumatic subject for all the loss and suffering brought to mind, all the more so in the light of ongoing conflicts, but the majority of our group felt this was a worthwhile read, despite the lengthy descriptions of surgeries.

Peppered with touching anecdotes, notably the late Queen Elizabeth's intuition and kindness when Nott was her guest at a dinner at a particularly challenging time in his life, this is a celebration of courage, compassion and the addictive allure of danger.

Karen Lawrence Bright

'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey

Samantha Harvey's *Orbital* is a captivating exploration of space, human connection, and the profound reflections that come from being far away from Earth—physically and philosophically. The book sparked a divided discussion in our book club, with half of us fully absorbed in its contemplative journey, while others struggled to maintain interest. It's one of those books that you either connect with or you don't, and that's okay.

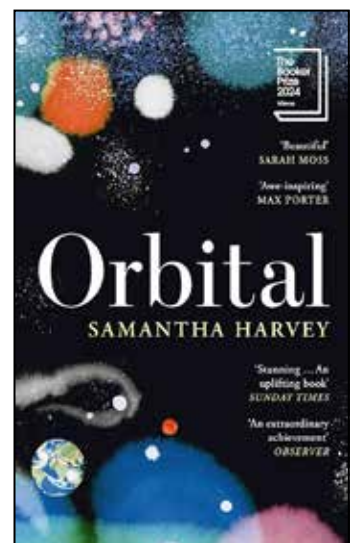
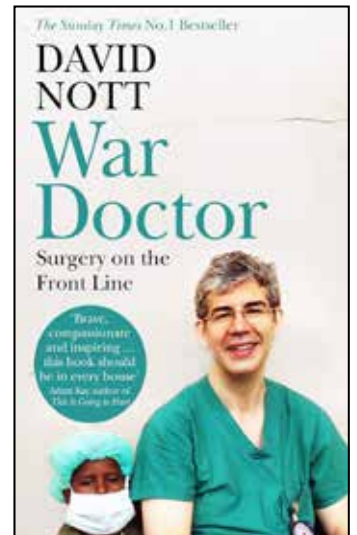
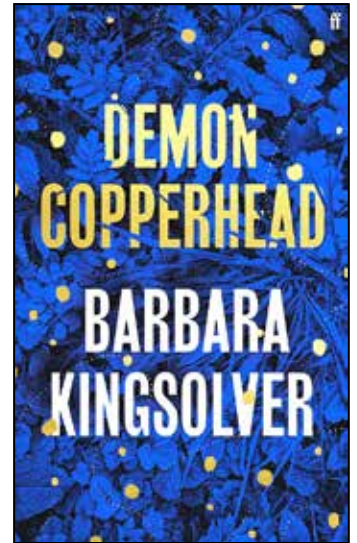
At just under 300 pages, *Orbital* is a relatively short read, but it punches far beyond its length. The narrative takes place aboard the International Space Station (ISS), following six astronauts from various countries—Russia, Japan, Italy, the U.S., and the U.K.—during their 3-6 month stint in space. The book captures 24 hours in their lives, cycling through their routines, reflections, and the physical realities of zero gravity.

The sense of wonder is palpable as the astronauts orbit Earth, reflecting on the magnificence of the planet below. As they move through different time zones and experience the constant contrast between light and dark, there's an almost meditative quality to their thoughts. Despite their distance from Earth, it becomes clear that the planet's politics, human flaws, and desires remain ever-present in their thoughts.

Despite its fascinating premise and some beautiful, thought-provoking moments, *Orbital* is not a book for everyone. The pacing can feel slow, and the introspective tone may not be what some readers are looking for. However, for those who enjoy a deep, meditative look at humanity, space, and the philosophical musings that come from a moment of stillness, this book is a rewarding experience.

In conclusion, *Orbital* gives readers a taste of the awe and wonder that space offers, along with a stark reflection on the human condition. Whether you finish it or not, it's one of those books that encourages reflection long after you put it down.

Suzanne Jacobs



ROWDEY COW NEWS



As I write this we have been excitedly preparing for our first ever Rowdey Cow Christmas Light Switch on event – the forecast is looking dry so we are hopeful it will be busy! Our new extension in the café is almost ready where we have joined the two rooms together and we are so pleased with how it looks and with the extra space it has created!



From 21st November we are selling Wiltshire Christmas Trees so come and choose yours now! We can organise local delivery too. They are beautiful Nordman firs and a donation of £5 is made to Dorothy House with each tree sold!



The October Half Term was really nice and busy and the pumpkin carving proved to be a real success with the kids!

We have still have some spaces for our popular Breakfast with Santa events in December – you can book this on our website. It is in the main café



and it includes a continental breakfast with option to upgrade on the day. The children get to meet Father Christmas and get a story and a gift and it will be a magical experience.



Karen is busy creating new ice cream flavours and I have just seen a big delivery of After 8s arrive so looking forward to that one! There will also be minced pie ice cream, Baileys Ice Cream, Kinder Bueno & more! With Christmas fast approaching you can stock up on your takeaway ice cream and we are also selling Festive Gift Vouchers! Carl has created a lovely new Winter Menu including some festive additions with the amazing Festive Pie containing a creamy leek sauce with turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing and cranberry sauce and the Festive Ciabatta and also sides of roast potatoes, pigs in blankets and sprouts.

The animals are coming in more now that the weather is cold and wet but you can still see the pigs and donkeys in the barn.

Thank you for your continued support and please do let us know what you think of our new extension!

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The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust provide a Courtesy Home Security Service for elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged people living in Wiltshire, who have become, or are at risk of becoming victims of house crime or domestic abuse.

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NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Chestnut Class have been excelling in English, producing impressive work describing Beowulf's bravery and strength.

Silverwood now has five Sixth Form classes — four at Rowde and one at Chippenham — each with dedicated buildings fostering independence. Sixth Formers enjoy a relaxed, real-world learning environment, with no uniform, their own common room (including an Xbox), and self-designed logos. Pupils choose afternoon options, participate in weekly work experience, and engage in community activities. This term, they have helped at a local fish shop and joined a Bike Club with adaptive bikes. Shared



resources between campuses focus on life skills, with Rowde pupils looking forward to experiences like bodyboarding.

We also welcome our new Year 7 Formal learners, who have settled confidently, embraced routines, made friends, and engaged enthusiastically in learning.



Plane Class have adapted beautifully to their new classroom, demonstrating teamwork and cooperation through paired and group activities. They've enjoyed hands-on learning experiences, including farm visits, bike and trike rides, and exploring outdoor spaces.

Natalie Parker



Business ^{over} Breakfast

Friendly & Supportive Business Networking In Devizes

Who are we?

Business over Breakfast (BOB) is a friendly and supportive group which has been helping businesses get established and thrive for over 15 years. We meet twice a month at the Bridge Inn, Devizes, over breakfast to exchange referrals and share good business practices.



Why join an established business group?

Business Referrals

Referrals are passed between members during each meeting so in essence the whole group can become members of your local sales team!

One Member Per Business Type

Only one member per business type in BoB means you can build a network within and around the group as the exclusive supplier and expert in your field.

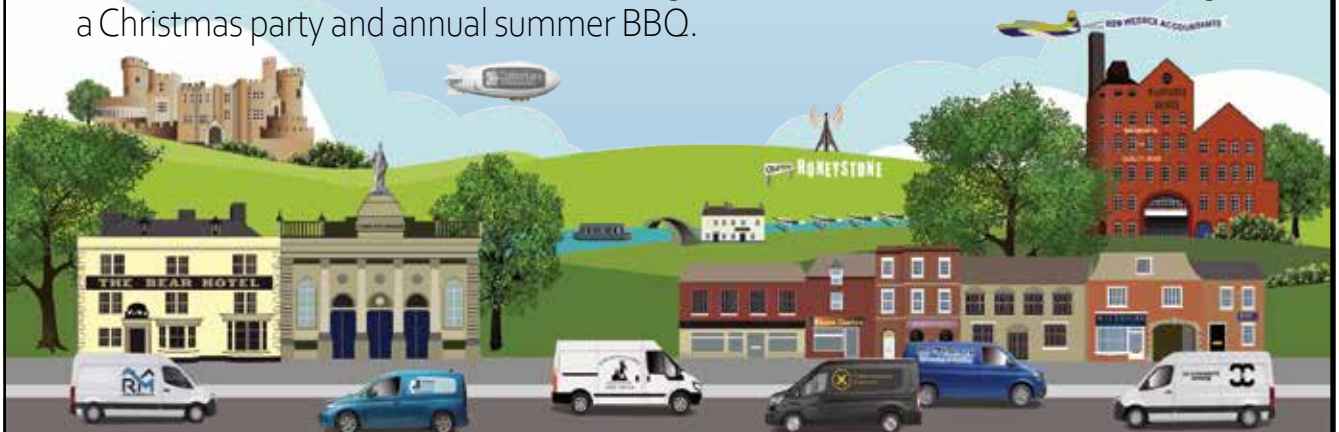
Training & Mutual Support

We have a series of training events and encourage members to have their own 121 meetings to build strong and mutually supportive business relationships.

Great Fun Breakfast



The quality of the BoB breakfast is renowned and there is always good-humoured banter. We also meet outside the meetings for 121s and social events, including a Christmas party and annual summer BBQ.



To arrange a visit and to ensure that the category you are interested in is available please email us today.

e: committee@bob-devizes.co.uk

w: bob-devizes.co.uk

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future

At Rowde C of E Primary Academy, we are well and truly settled into this academic year and can already feel the festive season approaching! The school is full of that familiar seasonal excitement, and the children are busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations. On Friday 19th December, we will be holding our Christmas Church Service at St Matthew's Church, and everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we come together as a community to reflect, sing and celebrate.

This term, we have enjoyed a number of successful open events for both current and prospective families. It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors into our school and to share the wonderful learning taking place in every classroom. If you would like a tour, or would simply like to come and see us in action, please do reach out – our doors are always open. We are also delighted to share that our nursery is now open, offering places for children from 2 years old. Our partnership with South Hills is already enriching provision for our youngest children, and you can find out more about the nursery here: <https://www.southhillsnursery.co.uk/locations-wiltshire>

We were also incredibly proud of the generosity shown by our families and wider community during our Harvest celebrations this year. Thanks to the kindness of everyone who donated, we were able to give nearly 70kg of much-needed items to support people in the Devizes area. It was truly heart-warming to see our community come together to help others – thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

Our Forest School provision continues to go from strength to strength. After the success of last year's fundraising, we now have a fantastic range of equipment that has transformed our outdoor learning environment. Our Year 4/5 class embraced their term in the woods with enthusiasm, and this term our Year 2/3 class are spending every Friday morning exploring the Forest School area – building shelters, learning new skills and deepening their understanding of the natural world. It has been a joy watching the children grow in confidence and independence through this experience.



We were also thrilled to host another hugely successful Bake Off event, raising over £300 to support school projects. The standard of entries was, once again, incredibly impressive – the creativity and effort from our families never fails to amaze us. A huge thank you to our judges: Julie Baker, Chair of our Academy Council, and Nicky, our wonderful cook and cleaner. They had the difficult task of selecting winners from a table full of unique and delicious bakes!



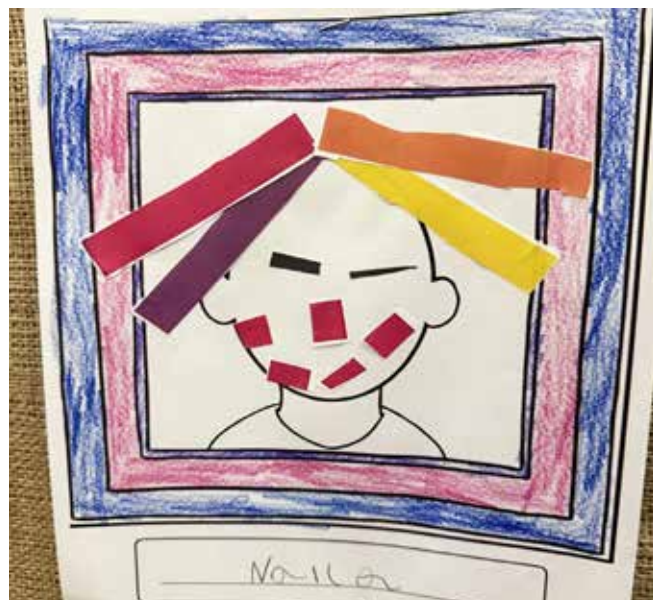
NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future

In October, our Year 6 class enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London. Their visit to the Houses of Parliament brought their learning about British democracy to life, and they asked some brilliant questions during their tour. They also visited the Imperial War Museum, which gave them a powerful insight into their history learning on WW1 and WW2. These experiences are so valuable in helping pupils make meaningful connections between classroom learning and the wider world.



Lower down the school, our Year 1 Willow Class have been busy producing some fantastic art. As part of their unit on illustration, they studied the work of Lydia Monks and then created their own mixed-media self-portraits. The results were full of personality, colour and character – a wonderful celebration of individuality and creativity.



As always, we continue to look outward to our community and develop opportunities for partnership and engagement. If you have skills, time or connections you would like to share with the school, or if you might be interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you. You can also stay up to date with our events, achievements and celebrations by visiting our website or following us on Facebook.

<https://www.rowde.wilts.sch.uk/>

As we move towards the end of term, the excitement is building for all our festive activities – from class celebrations and creative projects to our much-anticipated Christmas Service. It is a special time of year to come together as a school and community, to celebrate all we have achieved so far, and to look with hope and joy toward the year ahead.

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher



NEWS FROM THE MIND TREE CAFÉ



It costs over £9000 per month; to run our project and we do not get regular funding, so to help us to keep supporting the community. We need your support. Please donate to our GoFundMe page or pop it into the café.



Our community café is now open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 10am - 3.30pm



We have a new member of our café team – Claire who is our new senior, some of you may know her from the Rowdey Cow.

Low cost counselling service

If you are in struggling and finding life difficult we offer low cost counselling, please contact us on enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or go to our website - <https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

Recent and upcoming events and services

On 22nd November we held our annual Christmas Market with Furlong Close residents and The Mind Tree Café. We had a variety of different stalls, music and a raffle and our Café was open so that visitors could have lunch or a snack in between buying all their Christmas presents.

Our annual Christmas wreath workshop is on 6th December from 11am - 2pm. All materials are included (we only use natural materials). This is a fun and relaxing workshop, no perfection required. Hot drink and mince pie included. Price



is £43.00 and all proceeds will go back into The Mind Tree Café. To book and pay please contact Lisa and Lisa enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or our website - <https://www.themindtreecafe.org.uk/>

On 17th December we are working in partnership and holding the afternoon tea for the older adults of Rowde in The Mind Tree Café. 3pm - 5pm. More information coming soon.

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

Saturday Mornings - Energy Healing Treatments, please contact Laura via email laura.vesajoki@gmail.com or call 07393 137169 – Trained in Pranic Healing (an energy healing modality) since 2015, Laura now mixes Pranic Healing with her own intuitive healing abilities that opened up four years ago. She channels through the universal energy called prana to bring forth a gentle yet powerful healing field. Laura has previously worked in Belgium and in France.

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

Massage and Aromatherapy with Irene – every Friday, for more information and to book an appointment, please contact - ireneburford@sky.com
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

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

Working in Partnership

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

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

Follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/themindtreecafe>

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/themindtreecafe>

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**Funerals Arranged
24 Hour Service
Private Chapel of Rest**

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

Signing off...

I will be leaving my post as Clerk to Rowde Parish Council. Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my role over the past 13 years. Please continue to support Lisa in her role as Chairman and our team of Parish Councillors. They are all volunteers who give up their time and energy to help make Rowde a better place.

Thank you, Rowde.

Rebekah

Your Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by email: clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk or on 07752 724096

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council met on 8th October and 12th November 2025.

Your Parish Council Team

New Councillor

Rowde Parish Council welcomes Ms. Ros Carine onto the Parish Council through co-option.

The Parish Council now has a full complement of Parish Councillors at 11 members.

Please note, all Parish Councillors have new email addresses. Details can be found under Councillors' contacts.

New Clerk

A locum Clerk has been appointed and will support Rowde Parish Council in the interim. Please look out for the job advert on page 18.

Investigation

Councillors agreed for an investigation to be held into the conduct of the Parish Council. A precis of this report is shared on page 19.

Wiltshire Council update - Cllr Laura Mayes

- Cllr Mayes noted that the consultation on speed reduction on Caen Hill is still live. Everyone is encouraged to respond to the consultation.
- There are still plans to reduce the speed limit outside of Silverwood School. It has been agreed by Wiltshire Council that the funding will come out of the Highways budget. There will be a Traffic Regulation Order published in February/March 2026.
- Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan update: the draft plan is being revised by Wiltshire Council with a call for further sites and a revised definition of traveller status. The consultation will begin all over again next year. Responses that were submitted to the previous consultation will not be carried over. It will be necessary to respond again with any views on the new consultation.

At the Parish Council meeting, the following items were discussed:

Highways & Footpaths:

Local support needed for pavement re-instatement of Devizes Road. Please see page 17 for a questionnaire on the use of the pavement along Devizes Road. Please send in your responses to the questionnaire as it will help to build a case for Wiltshire Council to repair and widen the pavement to allow residents to walk safely to and from Devizes.

Tanis footpath

A survey will be circulated soon to residents who live in Tanis to gauge support for a long-planned footpath from the Devizes Road to Tanis. Everyone in the village is welcome to respond to the questionnaire with their thoughts (the survey will be available on the Rowde Parish Council website and Facebook page).

If the footpath goes ahead it will help to create a circular route around the village for walkers whilst ensuring safety for residents who live in Tanis and who walk into the village or to the bus stop.

The Parish Council has requested a speed review for the village. Metro counts have been installed on main roads in key locations to monitor speed and volume of traffic.

Amenities

Residents are encouraged to sign up for fibre optic broadband!

There is a minimum threshold of interest before internet providers commit to connecting fibre in rural areas. If you are interested in this service, signing up shows that there is demand in the area. If only a handful of households sign up, the provider can not cover their costs to make it worthwhile.

Wi-fi at the Village Hall

S Rigby is investigating having wi-fi installed at Rowde Village Hall. This was discussed and agreed at the Village Hall committee meeting in October. It will be necessary to order business wi-fi. The Village Hall must be registered with Royal Mail before wi-fi can be installed. S Rigby will discuss this with the Village Hall Committee at their meeting in December. The cost is estimated to range from £23 +VAT to £31 for 67 megabytes.

Planters

Residents of Manor Lane will be contacted about the maintenance and upkeep of the planters on the High Street at the entrance to Manor Lane.

Noticeboards

Sydenham's kindly donated materials for use to install the new bespoke noticeboards. J Dalley was thanked for arranging this. New bespoke noticeboards have been installed on the High Street, Silverlands Road, and at the Village Hall. The noticeboard that was at Silverlands Road has been refurbished by the Men's Shed. It is hoped that this will be relocated next to the bus stop on the High Street.

Other Highways matters

- A request has been made for a further weight restriction sign for Bunnies Lane (High Street entrance)
- The Parish Council has asked Aster to deal with a tree that is growing through a wall at Maundrell Close onto the High Street.
- The Parish Council has also asked Aster to cut the ivy down from the trees that border the driveway to the Church.
- S Skelhorn was thanked for carrying out repairs to the potholes on Sands Lane track.

Sports Field

- Devizes town Youth Football club have been using the pitch at Sands Lane for their matches.
- A pedestrian barrier will be installed at the foot entrance to the large playing field to stop unauthorized vehicles entering the field.
- A 'Walk and Run' group will be starting on the large laying field. If you are interested in joining, please contact Lisa Wills at: cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Playgrounds

- Thank you to S Skelhorn for plans to carry out maintenance and recommendations from the RosPA report on the play equipment at Tower View play area. Thank you too to S Skelhorn for obtaining security fencing which can be used to fence off the play areas when the repair work is taking place.

- There are plans to create a goal post on the grassed area at Silverlands. There has been discussion about whether the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) frame removed from the Tower View play area in 2022 at the request of the Parish Council, could be repurposed for this.
- Residents are respectfully reminded not to walk their dogs through the children's play areas in the village or the large playing field. These are areas for everyone to keep healthy and active without the health risks that are associated with dog waste.

PLANNING

Planning applications

- PL/2025/04873 Football Ground, Sands Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2QW. Full Planning application: Proposed sports pavilion to support playing field. Original deadline for comments 23/9/25. There is a re-consultation on this application. Changes have been made to include Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to counter the effect of development on site. UK planning law now requires most developments to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) meaning the site must end up with more or better habitats for wildlife than before development. New deadline for comments is 27/11/2025.
- PL/2025/07721 Silverwood School, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2QQ. Listed building consent. Three replacement external doors within the Stable Block of Rowdeford House. Confirmation that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.
- PL/2025/07596 Seven acres dog field, Dunkirk Hill, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2LU
- One non-illuminated directional sign to be installed at/near the entrance to Seven Acres Dog Field. Deadline date 14/11/25. It was confirmed that the landowner is planning to install a small directional sign. The Parish Council had no objections to plans for the sign.
- PL/2025/08524 11 Scholars Park, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2AH Consent
- under Tree Preservation Orders T1 Walnut - Reduce by 30% to suitable pruning points and back to boundary, giving clearance to buildings. T2 Sweet Chestnut - Reduce by 30% to suitable pruning points and back to boundary, giving clearance to buildings and OH cables. Deadline date for comments 19/11/25. The Parish Council supported the application and had no objections.
- PL/2025/07091 Householder planning permission Rear extension, replacement windows, internal alterations and replacement roof structure to outbuilding. Prospect House, Cock Road, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PP
- Also, PL/2025/07368 Listed Building Consent for same works above. Prospect House is a Grade II listed building. Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer has filed a detailed response to the application. The Parish Council did not feel that it has the expertise to comment on listed building development and agreed to submit a no comment response with reference to the Conservation Officers' report.
* This application has been amended. The new deadline for comments is 4/12/25
- PL/2025/06173 - Caen Hill Locks on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Consent to display an advertisement. Various non-illuminated signs in the vicinity of Caen Hill Locks on Kennet & Avon Canal. The Parish Council had no objections to the signs.
- Notice for Lime Down Solar Park planning application. Register for Interested Parties open from Thursday 30 October 2025 to Friday 09 January 2026. Background: Lime Down Solar Park is a proposed large-scale renewable energy project in Wiltshire, England, designed to generate

solar power and store energy through advanced battery systems. It is being considered as a nationally significant infrastructure project, meaning it will go through a formal examination and approval process. It is located near Malmesbury, across five sites (called Lime Down A-E), situated north of the M4 and around villages such as Sherston, Norton, and Hullavington. It will cover around 2,000 acres of land with solar panels. The project is at the pre-examination stage with the UK Planning Inspectorate.

- A resident asked the Parish Council about the progress of development at the former Cross Keys pub. The ground has been cleared for the first house to be built. It is reported that a contract has been signed with Premier. The owners of the shop will live above the shop.
- Neighbourhood planning – update on meeting from 16/9/25 – Rowde Parish Council still attends the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings. Work needs to be done to create other policies to represent Rowde's views and plans for their future, which would be included in the plan

Allotments

- The memorial plot has been cleared and restored. Thank you to S Skelhorn for obtaining turf which was left over from the recent Haymeadow Way development.
- Allotment inspections: on 1st November 2025, the new allotment representatives J Wills, S Taylor and E Watt inspected the allotments. It was reported that most plots are actively being worked. There are a few plots that have excessive waste left on them. One plot is reported to have an unsafe structure on it. There are some water pipes which need lagging, the central pathway needs levelling in some places, the hedge that borders the site needs to be topped, and rubbish under the oak tree needs to be removed. There is some work needed on some of the plots before they can be re-let in March.

* There will be regular allotment inspections moving forward, taking place in April, July and October.

Finance

Payments

Monthly invoices for September 2025 (total: £3,585.22)

Admin costs: £2,323.99

Ground's maintenance: £1,190.70

Village repairs: £70.53

Monthly invoices for October 2025 (total: £4,029.63)

Admin costs: £1,910.08

Ground's maintenance: £1,130.50

Village repairs: £357.05

Election fee: £440

Governance (email accounts): £192

Further invoices were approved at the meeting totaling £240.32

External auditor report on Annual Return 2024-25 It is noted in the external auditor's report that the internal auditor has not provided a conclusion on the following internal controls objectives: in respect of information on the website, and in respect of trust funds. The Clerk can confirm that all required documents are on the council's website. The Parish Council does not have any trust funds.

Community

The Rowde Events Committee together with the Mind Tree Cafe are hosting the village seniors to a Christmas tea at the Cafe on December 17th, at 3.00pm. They are especially inviting those who live alone to come and enjoy the celebration. A Committee member has been visiting those on the list to see if they need transport. There is a meeting of volunteers at the Mind Tree Cafe on November 24th at 7.00pm to make final plans for the event.

Remembrance: Thank you to former Parish Councillor Chris Stevens who laid the wreath on behalf of the village on Remembrance Sunday.

Memorial to Tom Wheeler: The Parish Council honoured former Parish Council Chairman Tom Wheeler with a memorial plaque and by planting a tree in the churchyard when he passed away. The memorial plaque has weathered over time. The Parish Council has purchased a new memorial plaque for the family and to honour Mr Wheeler.

Stay connected!

Website at rowdevillage.org

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

Contacts: The Parish Clerk can be contacted at the new email address of clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk or by telephone: 07752 724096 in office hours. Parish Councillors can be contacted through the contacts page of this magazine.

My Wiltshire App

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

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Concerns

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

You can contact us through the Rowde Parish Council Facebook page, or by e-mail: clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk, or by telephone: 07752 724096.

National Grid

If you have any questions for the VIP project team, or if residents experience any problems with heavy construction vehicles on Conscience Lane please call 0330 134 0051, or email: visualimpact@nationalgrid.com.

Police Matters

If you need to report a crime:

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

It is possible to follow the Police on:

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

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

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

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meeting dates can be found in the village diary on the back page of the magazine.

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

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

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

Lisa Wills	Chair / Social Media	cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Josh Wills	Vice Chair	cllr.j.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
John Dalley	Sports & Playing Fields	cllr.j.dalley@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Rigby		cllr.s.rigby@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tom Lines		cllr.t.lines@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mark Somerville	Allotments, Safety	cllr.m.somerville@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
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

Rowde Resident Pavement Survey: Devizes Road to Devizes

Wiltshire Council requires evidence of community need to justify repair costs for the Devizes Road pavement. This survey aims to gather feedback from Rowde residents about how often the path is used, what barriers exist, and whether improvements would encourage greater use. Your input is vital — thank you for taking part!

1. How often do you use the Devizes Road pavement to walk to or from Devizes?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ A few times a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Occasionally (less than once a week)
- ☐ Rarely or never

2. What is your main reason for using the pavement? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Commuting to work or school
- ☐ Shopping or errands
- ☐ Leisure walking or exercise
- ☐ Visiting friends or family
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Other (please specify):

3. If you don't use the pavement regularly, what puts you off? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Poor surface condition
- ☐ Safety concerns (e.g. traffic, lighting)
- ☐ Accessibility issues (e.g. uneven ground, overgrowth)
- ☐ Lack of signage or wayfinding
- ☐ Weather exposure (e.g. no shelter)
- ☐ Prefer to drive or use other transport
- ☐ Other (please specify):

4. If the pavement were improved (e.g. resurfaced, better lighting, clearer signage), would you be more likely to use it?

- ☐ Yes, definitely
- ☐ Possibly
- ☐ No, it wouldn't make a difference

5. Do you have any suggestions or comments about the pavement or how it could be improved?

Thank you for your time and feedback. Your responses will help demonstrate community need and support funding decisions for footpath improvements.

Please return your questionnaire to 21 Conscience Cottages, Devizes Road, Rowde
or by email to: cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rowde Parish Council

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL

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 & Devizes 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 dependent on experience and qualifications.
- Flexible working - approx. 20 hours per week – home working.
- Opportunities for ongoing professional development.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter to:
cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

FULL PUBLIC STATEMENT ON INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Rowde Parish Council has received the independent investigation report conducted by Mr Peter Finnis of CHRGS, commissioned to examine concerns about councillor conduct, divisions within the Council, and the treatment of the Parish Clerk, who recently resigned after 13 years of dedicated service.

Mr Finnis, an experienced former District Council Chief Officer and Monitoring Officer, reviewed extensive documentation, including emails, WhatsApp messages and Council minutes, and interviewed the Clerk and the majority of councillors. His findings raise significant concerns about behaviour, culture and governance within the Council.

KEY FINDINGS

PERSONAL CONFLICTS

The investigation found significant personal conflict between two councillors, described as a deep-seated dislike that has adversely affected the functioning of the Council. The report concludes that these individuals have, at times, used their positions as councillors to pursue personal disputes. This behaviour is inconsistent with the responsibilities of public office and raises concerns about their motives for serving.

Evidence reviewed shows WhatsApp and email exchanges that breached the Code of Conduct multiple times. The investigator notes that such behaviour is wholly unacceptable, and that unless this conduct stops immediately, the Council will struggle to function effectively.

POLARISED DIVISIONS

The personal conflict has resulted in other councillors becoming aligned with opposing sides, creating a divisive and unproductive environment. This “camp” mentality has made effective decision-making extremely difficult.

DISRESPECT AND POOR CONDUCT

The report highlights repeated instances of disrespectful behaviour. In particular, one councillor’s conduct was described as aggressive, disruptive and consistent with bullying and harassment. This behaviour has significantly contributed to the breakdown in the Council’s working relationships.

TREATMENT OF THE CLERK

The investigation found multiple occasions in which the Clerk was treated inappropriately, including being unduly pressurised, confrontational behaviour and unfair criticism. Some conduct crossed the threshold into bullying and harassment. These behaviours were a major factor in her decision to resign.

PROCUREMENT INTERFERENCE

During a recent procurement process, concerns were raised about the conduct of certain councillors. The investigator found no evidence of wrongdoing by the Clerk and confirmed that all procedures were followed correctly. Of particular concern, the report identifies that one councillor introduced unfounded allegations questioning the Clerk’s honesty and integrity. No evidence supported these claims, and the investigator concluded that the accusations were inappropriate and damaging. It was noted that the unfounded personal attacks on the Clerk are serious breaches of the code of conduct.

APOLOGY TO THE CLERK

On behalf of Rowde Parish Council, I, as Chairman, acknowledge the investigator’s findings that the Clerk was subjected to unacceptable treatment, including bullying and harassment and was unduly pressurised.

I therefore wish to issue an unreserved apology to the former Clerk for the distress and harm caused.

The Parish Council expects the Councillor concerned to provide a clear and direct apology to the Clerk, acknowledging the inappropriateness of their actions and the impact on her wellbeing and on the Council’s reputation.

COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT

Although the Parish Council has not yet met to discuss the report, I am committed to addressing the issues raised.

For a copy of the full report, please contact cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07557 887278, and a hard copy can be delivered.

Lisa Wills, Chairman of Rowde Parish Council

December 2025 / January 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
DECEMBER	
Wednesday 3rd	
11am	Mid-Week Communion Rowde
Sunday 7th	(Second of Advent)
8am	Holy Communion (BCP) Rowde
10am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
3.30pm	<i>Christingle</i> <i>Bromham</i>
Thursday 11th	
2pm	<i>Mothers Union Service</i> <i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 14th	(Third Sunday of Advent)
8am	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i> <i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde
4pm	<i>Carol Service</i> <i>Sandy Lane</i>
Saturday 20th	
6pm	<i>Carol Service</i> <i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 21st	(Fourth of Advent)
10am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Bromham</i>
6pm	Carol Service Rowde
Christmas Eve	
2.30pm	Crib Service Rowde
4pm	<i>Crib Service</i> <i>Bromham</i>
11.30pm	<i>Midnight Mass</i> <i>Bromham</i>
11.30pm	Midnight Mass Rowde
Christmas Day	
8am	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i> <i>Sandy Lane</i>
9.30am	Holy Communion Rowde
11am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Bromham</i>
JANUARY 2026	
Sunday 4th	
10am	<i>Morning Prayer</i> <i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
Sunday 11th	(Baptism of Christ)
8am	<i>Matins (BCP)</i> <i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
Sunday 18th	(Epiphany 2)
10am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 25th	(Epiphany 3)
8am	<i>Holy Communion(BCP)</i> <i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde

Everyone is very welcome at all our services.
Please visit www.achurchnearyou.com for more information, check our church noticeboards or contact the Benefice Administrator at 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

As I write this, Richard and I have just come back from a couple of days in London. It feels longer – isn't it strange how, sometimes, even a short break can lift your spirits and give you a different perspective? The main purpose of the trip was to see the musical, Paddington. I know ... but being older doesn't mean you have to lose your sense of joy and wonder, and that's especially important at Christmas time, when so often we are trying to create joy for others. How can we create something we don't feel? Well, that's my excuse, anyway!

We were not by any means the oldest couple there, nor were we the only ones without children. I'd thought we might have felt undressed without a child, but fortunately not, and the children in the audience were just as captivated as we were. As they left the theatre, souvenirs and sandwiches in sticky hands, their eyes sparkled as brightly as the Christmas lights above the Strand.

On Sunday we went to services at Southwark and St Paul's Cathedrals. A different sort of magic there as the Southwark choir sang music by Tomas Luis de Victoria and two young people were baptised. Old enough to have made the decision for themselves, you could see the wonder in their eyes, too, as they stood on the threshold of a new life of faith. Meanwhile (and I'm sure he will forgive me for this thought) at the other end of the spectrum, the Ven David Lowman (former Archdeacon of Chelmsford) reflected that it was almost exactly half a century since he had sat in St Paul's with 31 other ordinands, also on the threshold of a new life of faith. But he wasn't so much looking backwards as forwards – forwards to the next adventure. The next exploration.

So here we are, on the threshold of another Christmas. Perhaps of another adventure: another step in our journey of faith. I pray that, whatever you're doing, you will have an opportunity to experience anew the magic and joy, the awe and wonder, of what John Betjeman called "this most tremendous tale of all .. a baby in an ox's stall. The maker of the stars and sea, become a child on earth for me."

Christmas Blessings

The Rev'd Norma Fergusson

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 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 Bromham 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 – 12pm.

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

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

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

Flower Arranging at Rowde

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

Choir at St Matthew's

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

Bellringing at St Matthew's

Please contact Michael Cornwell at michael.cornwell@btinternet.com 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 on the day, or contact the Benefice Administrator, Helen Rawlings on 07933 8171816 or helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk

CONTACT US

Rector: Vacant

Associate Priest: Vacant

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

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

Safeguarding Representative for Rowde:

Michael Cornwell 07388 224129

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>

Thursdays
9:30 am- 1pm



@ The Mind Tree Café CIC, Furlong Close, Rowde
Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2TQ

AFFORDABLE ACUPUNCTURE

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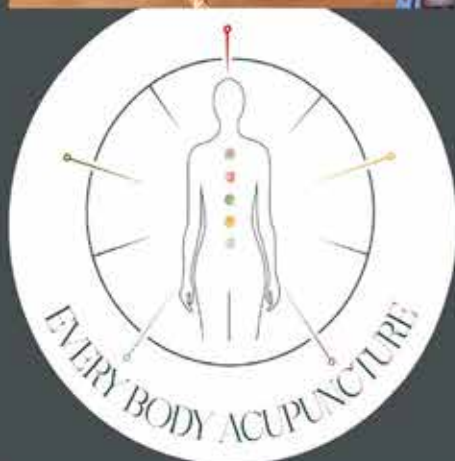


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Rob Hunt DipPFS

Phone

07970 256287

Email

rob@mwfs.co.uk

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Local News



FURLONG CLOSE ROMPS HOME IN NATIONAL CARE AWARDS

Care and support workers at Furlong Close supported living service in Rowde beat off stiff national competition to be first across the line at the annual Agincare Heroes Awards.

Manager Rosie Dalley collected the 'Outstanding Leader of the Year' award, in recognition of her passion, commitment, and exceptional leadership which ensures everyone at Furlong Close has the chance to live their life to the fullest.



Photo - Agincare Heroes Awards Outstanding Leader 2025 winner Rosie Dalley, manager of Furlong Close in Rowde, with Agincare Chairman and Founder Derek Luckhurst and Chief Executive Raina Summerson.

Following hot on Rosie's heels were her Furlong Close Team who were Highly Commended in the Care and Support Team of the Year award category. Furlong Close provides a home for people living with learning disability, autism spectrum condition, or physical disability centred on an ethos of personalised care and fostering independence, enabling residents to lead fulfilling lives as part of the wider community.

Rosie and her team received glowing submissions from friends and family of those they support as well as colleagues, and health and social

care partners when nominations opened for the Agincare Heroes Awards earlier this year.

Rosie said: "Winning an award for my leadership is a highlight of my career so far. Inspiring and leading people is a passion of mine, and having my work recognised is truly wonderful. However, the work that goes into making Furlong Close so special is by the staff team and each one of them makes a difference to a person's life daily, and we have individuals living their most authentic lives. We promote independence and the ability to reach personal goals with our dedicated staff team, and that's why having the Furlong Close team highly commended is absolutely deserved, and I couldn't be prouder of them all."

The awards highlight the ongoing success story at Furlong Close since it was saved from closure thanks to a concerted campaign by families, friends, and the local community; it was also recently awarded a 'Good' rating following inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

The Furlong Close team joined Agincare team members from over 100 locations nationwide at the prestigious Chewton Glen Hotel in the New Forest, for the leading care provider's national awards.

Winners in 11 award categories collected a specially designed trophy or Agincare Hero medal, honorary certificate, as well as a bouquet and financial reward from Agincare Founder and Chairman Derek Luckhurst and Chief Executive Raina Summerson.

The awards were supported by main sponsor Brakes Foodservices, Blueleaf Care, Bates Office Services, Advania, Mediahawk and NH Maintenance.

For more information or to find out who all the award winners are go to www.agincare.com/heroes

UPDATE ON WALKING FOR CHARITY

Maureen Hiscocks (recently turned 90!) and her daughter Jackie Wiltshire had hoped to raise £150 for Cancer Research UK but I am so pleased to let you know that they have, at time of going to press, raised £1520.28!

Well done to them both, what they have done in celebration of Maureen's 90th birthday is totally amazing and a thank you goes out to everyone who helped them achieve their goal! **Ed**



FAREWELL TO PARISH CLERK



Rebekah Jeffries is sadly leaving her post as Rowde PC Clerk at the end of November after 13 years of loyal service to the village. She will be very much missed. The photograph shows her being presented with flowers and a gift by Rosie Berry at the November Parish PC meeting. Rebekah asks that we continue to support Lisa Wills in her role as Chairman and also our team of Parish Councillors. They are all volunteers who give up their time and energy to help make Rowde a better place.

NEW LOCUM PARISH CLERK

Tekla Hicks is joining us as Locum Parish Clerk from 1st December. She is an experienced clerk who is currently working on her CiLCA qualification and she supports a number of parishes locally. She has strong links with the village, has worked in Devizes for many years, has two grown-up children and lives in Edington with her husband and Miniature Schnauzer (who rules the roost). She is looking forward to supporting Rowde Parish Council.



CROSS KEYS – PROJECT UPDATE FOR PREMIER SHOP AND ACCOMMODATION UNITS

A significant amount of work has already taken place, including:

Demolition of the kitchen extension, part of the skittle alley, the former village shop and outbuildings.

Rebuilding of the end wall of the skittle alley.

Installation of a new foul drainage system to replace the previously failing infrastructure.



Upcoming Works

Over the coming weeks, the following works will be carried out:

Installation of a new storm water system, which will be connected into the Wessex Water culvert at the top of Marsh Lane (in the lane nearest the convenience store). Traffic management measures will be required to allow this to take place safely and are being arranged through Wiltshire Highways. Works are scheduled to begin during the week commencing 8th December 2025 and may extend into the following week if required, although we are keen to minimise any disruption due to the cost of equipment and impact on traffic flow.

During this period, we will also need to take back control of the car park opposite the pub. Residents will be required to stop using the car park from Monday 8th December. Once the storm water connection is complete, surfacing works around the convenience store will be undertaken.

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to confirm that a new tenant has been appointed and is planning to begin refit works shortly, with the intention of opening the shop early in the New Year.

Other Notices

We will also be stopping up the pavement around the car park opposite the store. Notices will be displayed at the car park and in the Village Hall, setting out the area affected and inviting comments from residents. These may be made either directly to the Secretary of State or to the project lead, as indicated in the notices.

Further updates will continue to be shared as the project progresses.

HIGH SPEED FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

Residents are encouraged to sign up for fibre optic broadband! There is a minimum threshold of interest before internet providers commit to connecting fibre in rural areas. If you are interested in this service, signing up shows that there is demand in the area. If only a handful of households sign up, the provider can not cover their costs to make it worthwhile.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Once again, despite the inclement weather, the wonderful local community turned out to support our Christmas Market at Furlong Close.

The Mind Tree Café opened their doors to offer a variety of items for sale, including jewellery from Mark at the Button Tree Shop and knitted items from June at the Potting Shed. Candles and artwork were for sale, along with refreshments, and Christmas music was provided by the Salvation Army Band.



Marsh Hall was abuzz with a selection of items from Burch's Beautiful Boxes, Carolyn's delicious jams, marmalades and mince pies, Emany glass, Steve's honey, Fiona's jewellery, Jane's wool crafts, Colin's pyrography, Christmas cards and paper craft by Mike, a variety of unusual crafts from Pauline and Mich, and woodturning from Mike. All this sitting alongside the not to be missed raffle, bric-a-brac and books for all ages and interests. And of course the essential tea and most delicious cakes, along with hot dogs and hot soup to keep out the chill from the rain! Meanwhile Father Christmas wandered through the throng ensuring that all the children had a special balloon to take home.

A huge thank you to all our stallholders who have said they love to come along because of the nature of Furlong Close with its friendly and caring atmosphere.

This is a true community event and much enjoyed by everyone involved.

We all send very best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

OBITUARIES

Sheila Mary Lee



In loving memory of Sheila Mary Lee, recently of Springfield Road, Rowde, who sadly passed away on 15th November 2025.

She will be deeply missed and remembered with love and laughter by all of her family and friends.

The funeral service is to be held at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington on Friday 12th December at 2pm. Family flowers only. Any donations kindly given in Sheila's memory are for the RNLI C/O A.P McDonald Funerals, Devizes

David Harries



Photo - David's weekly visit to his mother's grave

On the 21st of November David Harries, a resident of Furlong Close, passed away. He will be greatly missed by all of his friends at Furlong Close and beyond and we know he was loved by many in the community of Rowde and Wiltshire.

INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS ON A361 AT ROWDE JUNCTION AND BEYOND

There has been an alarmingly high number of accidents at or near the Rowde turnoff from the dual carriageway recently. The following is a report on just one of them (source - Gazette and Herald).

Pedestrian killed in Devizes crash as Storm Claudia batters county

An woman in her eighties was 'struck by multiple vehicles' in a fatal crash on Caen Hill on 14th November - but only one stopped at the scene.

At the time, Wiltshire Police revealed some details about a serious road traffic collision on the A361:

Wiltshire Police launched a forensic collision investigation. As a result, the major route was shut in both directions overnight. However, only one of the vehicles stopped at the scene and work is ongoing to identify others involved in the fatal incident.



"Other vehicles are thought to have been involved but haven't stopped at the scene", according to a force spokesperson.

They added: "It is possible that the drivers are unaware they have struck someone and officers are urgently appealing for them to come forward."

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The Big Little Things In Life!

by Zöe Rucker

CRUELTY MAKES NOISE, KINDNESS MAKES PROGRESS

It's easy to believe the world's lost its way. Cruelty shouts loudest; outrage fills the headlines. But behind the noise, everyday kindness is still quietly at work - small, human actions proving that decency hasn't disappeared, it's just less broadcast.

We're living through an age of overload. Bad news arrives faster than our thoughts can form, and it's easy to feel blind-sided - convinced that selfishness has won. Yet if you shift your focus, even slightly, you start to see a different picture: people doing what they can, where they are, to make things better for someone else.

It doesn't take much to prove that people are, at heart, kind. Look closely and it's there in the smallest gestures - the neighbour who leaves a box of apples outside the gate, the stranger who lets someone go first in the queue, the volunteer who checks in on an elderly neighbour. None of it makes news, yet together these moments of quiet generosity remind us that kindness hasn't gone anywhere.

The world can still feel hopeful and restorative - not because people have changed, but because they keep showing, in the simplest ways, that they care: A café that lets customers "pay it forward" for the next person in line. A shop offering free school uniforms or warm coats, no questions asked. A local group matching lonely residents with neighbours for Sunday lunch. These aren't headline stories, but they tell the truth of who we still are - decent, imaginative, quietly resourceful.

Across the county, small acts are filling the gaps where systems fall short. There are free pantries and community fridges in towns like Calne, Purton, Malmesbury and Swindon stocked with donated food that anyone can take home. Volunteer drivers from Community First based in Devizes give lifts to hospital appointments for those who'd otherwise miss them. Repair cafés in Corsham and Trowbridge host volunteer teams for broken household items and torn clothes, keeping dignity intact along with the objects.

And beyond these gestures, something else is stirring - a social conscience that feels more practical than political. Teenagers organising period-product drives for classmates. Retirees mentoring young people who've fallen through the cracks. Strangers raising rent deposits for families escaping homelessness. It's not grand policy, but it's real change, built from the ground up.



What links all of this is scale. The people doing these things aren't trying to solve the world; they're responding to what's in front of them. The person dropping off food is already passing by. The shopper buying an extra coffee is already in the queue. The volunteer making a call to someone lonely is already at home, phone in hand. They're not going out of their way, they're already there and able. That's the heartbeat of hope - not denial of what's wrong, but determination to do something right, however small.

Because while it's true that cruelty makes noise, kindness makes progress. It's there in every meal shared, every coat donated, every act that says "you matter" without needing thanks. These are the Big little things - the quiet decisions that build a gentler, fairer society one human moment at a time.

WHITE HORSE OPERA - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tickets are now on sale for a gorgeous Christmas Concert on Friday 12th December 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church (Nice and warm!)

Includes Allegri's Miserere, Vivaldi's Gloria, pieces from Handel's Messiah and many more beautiful works.

Refreshments will be served

Tickets £15 from Devizes Books and [https:// www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera)

Our next lecture on Wednesday 3 December at 11am in the Assembly Hall, Melksham is designed to get you in the Christmas spirit. Entitled "A Bit of a Carry On" it tells the remarkable story of Carry On actor Peter Butterworth and his wife Janet Brown, Britain's first female impressionist

You can attend your first lecture for free, regular guests £8. You can also join us for Christmas drinks after the lecture.

For details of the full lecture programme go to: www.tasnorthwilts.org.uk



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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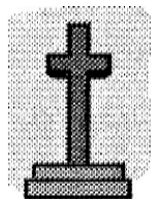
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Wiltshire Buildings Record, a charity that has a growing and very detailed database of the county's vernacular buildings – and which is based at Chippenham's History Centre – is seeking new members.

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.



The Mind Tree Café



This Christmas, 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 this Christmas

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 →



Cross of St. George, Stolen

A poem by Rowde's Liz Denbury

They wave the flag like a warning,
red cross sharpened into a blade.
Not patriotism, but possession,
not pride, but fear,
stitched into chants that spit at strangers
who arrive with hope in their hands.

This cloth once meant a home,
a street to walk, a place to work,
a place to raise your children safe.
Now it flares above headlines,
above fists that sneer "Go back."
A flag turned fence.
A flag turned weapon.

But borders are not sacred,
and the soil does not speak in blood.
England is richer for every accent,
every dish simmering in another's kitchen,
every prayer rising in another tongue.
The flag should fly for them too - the ones
who came seeking shelter,
the ones who build,
who heal,
who dream beneath the same grey skies.

We must tear the symbol back
from the fists of fascists,
lift it high not as a gate,
but as an open door.
For the truest patriotism
is welcome,
not exclusion.

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

Wiltshire shortchanged by national police funding formula

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I remain deeply concerned that the existing national police funding formula, established by Tony Blair's government is seriously disadvantaging Wiltshire Police and limiting the service that we can provide our communities. The government's central grant allocates us approximately £115 per head of population while the national average is £164. The current police formula does not recognise the reality of policing a largely rural county, across a wide area, with diverse challenges: rural crime, county lines, cyber crime, serious violence, mental health, victim support, and more. Without stable, fair and long-term commitments to funding, we are pushed into short-term fixes that slow innovation and jeopardise technology investment.

I have written to the previous and current police ministers and home secretaries asking them to address the disparities in police funding. Both the previous government and this one may appear annually to allocate the police more money, but in fact they do not cover inflationary pressures and increasingly expect PCCs to increase local taxes to compensate for this reduction in central funding - placing the burden on residents.

Over the last year Wiltshire Police has squeezed out just about every possible cost efficiency through their Financial Review Programme - cutting estate and fleet costs, departmental staffing reviews and tightening procurement. But there is only so much that can be trimmed before it begins harming the core service.



We also face a workforce challenge: bringing in new officers is important, but retaining experience, investing in training, and giving officers the tools they need is critical.

I applaud the progress Wiltshire Police has made under Chief Constable Catherine Roper - being removed from 'special measures' and achieving service improvements locally. Residents are telling me that they feel safer, yet none of that is guaranteed unless our funding is fair and sustainable.

This is not about balance sheets - it is about service. An outdated and unfair funding formula means slower responses, fewer officers visible in our communities, overworked teams, and delayed investigations. Wiltshire residents deserve policing that delivers and keeps them safe and that is what I am fighting for.

I will continue to campaign for multi-year settlements and reform of the funding formula to reflect the true demands of modern policing. I'm committed to ensuring that Wiltshire has the resources it needs to be safe and well served.

LAURA MAYES YOUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR ROWDE



Please contact me if you have any Council issues including: Planning, Housing, Education, Highways (potholes, road schemes, speeding), Fly tipping and waste, Adult Social Care.

I am here to offer advice and support so please get in touch:

Email: laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 07855 819343

Facebook: Laura Mayes – for Bromham, Rowde and Roundway

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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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The G&D Winter Events 2025/2026

Friday Night Happy Hour Drinks 5pm – 8pm

House beers, single spirits & sml wines £3.50 each. Limited Early Bird tables throughout December Booking essential 01380 723053

Christmas Menu & G&D Vouchers

Our delicious Christmas menu is now online to view!

If you're looking for a special gift idea this Christmas we are offering Rowde Villagers an extra 20% on any vouchers purchased.

G&D Quiz

Sunday 14th & 28th December / January 11th & 25th

Cheese plates £3.50 at half time

Bar opens at 7pm – Quiz at 8pm (Prizes for the winners!)

New Years Eve 2025!

This year we would like to invite as many locals as possible! We are offering a 3 course sharing style menu with hog roast as main course @ £45pp. Bar open for drinks from 8pm with food served at 9pm.

St Mathews Carols & G&D Village Supper Sunday 21st December

Meeting at the G&D for complimentary mulled wine & mince pies from 4.30pm Carols service starts at 6pm

2 Supper sittings at either 4pm or 7.30pm after Carols

Roast turkey, chocolate roulade & cheese selection

£29.50pp plus drinks & 12.5% service

December & January Opening Hours

Monday 1st, 8th, 15th December we are closed

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December open for lunch & dinner

Christmas Eve open 12 to 11pm (Food 12-3 / 6-9)

Christmas Day & Boxing Day : Closed

Open 27th /28th/29th & 30th as normal

New Years Eve Open from 8pm – Closed New Year Day

Mondays & Tuesday throughout January: closed

Happy Christmas to you all! As always, Thank you for your continued support! And lets have lots fun in 2026! Chippy & The G&D Team



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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.

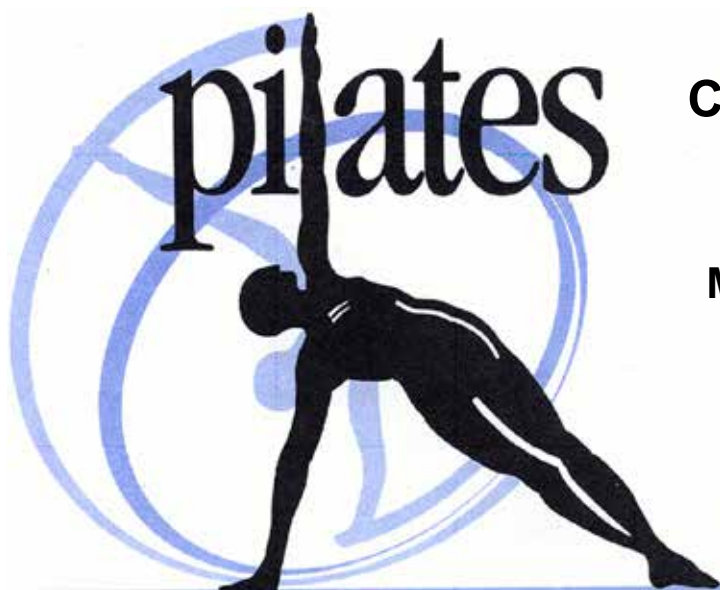
Alan Watters, Editor

Magazine Submission Deadlines (bi-monthly)

15th January 2026, 15th March 2026,

15th May 2026, 15th July 2026

Move.Every.Day.



Currently running classes:

Improvers & Intermediates

Mondays @ 5.30pm & 6.30pm

**@ The Mind Tree Cafe,
Furlong Close, Rowde**

For any enquiries, including new Beginners classes

email suzijj@rocketmail.com Tel: 01380 729791

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

Heather Smith
North Wessex Therapies
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mindfulness - stress management**

**Face to face appointments now available at The Therapy Rooms, 32
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**anxiety - stress - phobias - chronic pain - habits - poor sleep
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Call for a chat or email

t: 07702 113544

e: heather@northwessextherapies.com

w: www.northwessextherapies.com

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

COULD YOU PLEDGE SOME TIME AND HELP BY?

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

For more info about our activities or being involved

liz.lavender@artstogether.co.uk / 07780860922

www.artstogether.co.uk Registered Charity 1109432



Holistic Massage Treatments in Rowde

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Wiltshire Mind



Your Local Mental Health Charity

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COUNSELLING SERVICE

A safe, confidential and personal place to talk, and help you to move forward

A low cost counselling service in the community for all

Initial Assessment Free of Charge

For further information please contact:

Wiltshire Mind
24a High Street
Melksham
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Email: counselling@wiltshiremind.co.uk

Phone 01225 706532

Reg Charity Number: 1113751 Reg Company Number: 5498430

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www.whistleykennels.co.uk

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tranquilmoment@live.co.uk

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WILTSHIRE SN10 1RY

The Board Room

Renelec House

46, New Park St,

Devizes

SN10 1DS

sycamorecentre.devizes@yahoo.co.uk

www.careconfidential.com/devizes

The
SYCAMORE
Centre

07762 382913

A Pregnancy Choices Centre

VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings 2025

(All Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Village Hall unless otherwise notified)
10th December.

Other Events

3rd December - Arts Lecture - page 29
6th December - Souper Saturday - page 42
12th December - Christmas Concert - page 28
17th December - Free Afternoon Festive Tea - page 12 & 46
21st December - Christmas at St Matthew's - page 4
21st December - G&D Village Supper - page 36
31st December - New Years Eve at the G&D - page 36
3rd January - Souper Saturday - page 42
1st February - Concert with the Wiltshire Police Band - page 4
Friday afternoons - Craft, Coffee and Chat - page 21 & 29
Tuesday mornings - Church Cafe - page 21

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: 11th December 2025, 8th January 2026, 5th February 2026, 5th March 2026, and 2nd April 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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01380 720722 / 720200

Unit 6B, Hopton Industrial Estate,
Devizes, SN10 2EU.

Souper Saturday

at St Matthew's, Rowde

Saturday 6th December

Saturday 3rd January

12 noon to 1pm

Come along and enjoy
a choice of two soups
(always at least one
vegetarian choice)
with a roll



Donation in aid of St Matthew's welcomed

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)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (medium this month)

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

			2		6
	5				
		6			
				1	
5	2		4		
		4	5		2

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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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 did the mummy cow say to the calf? It's pasture bedtime!
2. What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is very heavy, the other is a little lighter!
3. How did the barber win the race? He knew a short cut!
4. What do you call people who really like tractors? Protractors!
5. What did the traffic light say to the car? Don't look, I'm changing!
6. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.
7. What did one plate say to another? Dinner's on me.



FREE FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

with carol singing, music and a raffle

on

Wednesday the 17th of December 3pm to 5pm

At the Mind Tree Café, Furlong Close, Rowde

If you are over 75 and find it hard to get out, are feeling isolated or would just like get to know people in the village and have a fun afternoon or if you know someone who would love to come.

Please book your space now . . .

by phoning **07887396231** and ask for Geraldine

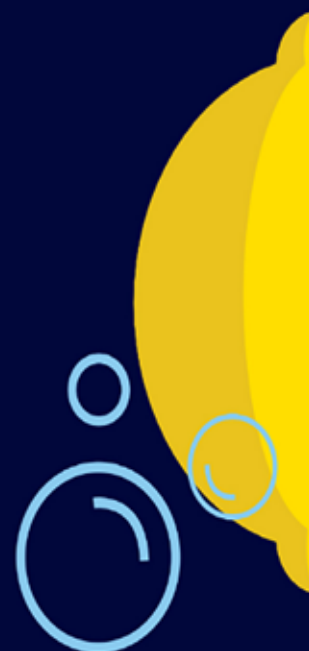
*Let us know if you need a lift or have any
allergies.*



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🌐 www.lemoncleaningservices.co.uk

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DAY TRIPS

*Entrance or lunch included

23 Nov	Forest of Dean & Sunday Lunch	£62pp*
3 Dec	Longleat Festival of Lights 2025	£85pp*
6 Dec	Birmingham Christmas Market	£35pp
8 Dec	Blenhiem Palace of Oz & Xmas Market	£78pp*
19 Dec	Mystery Christmas Market Tour	£38pp
20 Dec	Festive Christmas Lunch Cruise	£98pp*
10 Jan	New Forest Tour & Lymington	£38pp
24 Jan	Cadbury Garden Centre & Scenic Tour	£35pp*
15 Feb	Birmingham International Tattoo	£89pp*

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



HOLIDAYS IN UK & EUROPE

Whitby Festive Break Dep 12 Dec • 4 days From £359pp

Looe Weekend in Cornwall Dep 27th Mar • 4 days • From £469pp

Tenby, Saundersfoot & Pictou Dep 15th May • 4 days • From £495pp

Jacobite Trains of Scotland Dep 4th June • 7 days • From £1159pp

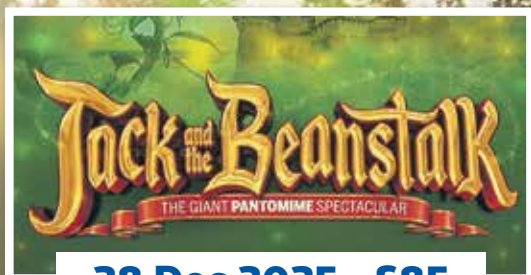
Dutch Rail & Sail Volendam Dep 19th Apr • 5 days • From £995pp

Switzerland The Golden Pass Dep 8th Jul • 8 days • From £1495pp



THEATRE TRIPS

TO THE
BRISTOL HIPPODROME



28 Dec 2025 • £85



Limited seats

5th May 2026 • £125

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



Picking up at the Cross Keys, Rowde, Devizes & Melksham

