

Rowde Village News



February/March 2026



Editorial

Welcome to 2026 and 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).

This issue we have the return of our 'Photo Memories' feature and this time it features a long time and well known resident of our village and the photo was taken around 80 years ago! Have a look at page 19 to find out who it is.

There's also a great report with photographs covering the excellent Festive Afternoon Tea laid on by The Mind Tree Cafe on page 26.

This year the village will again be host to the popular Rowdefest. It was a truly wonderful event last year but in order to make it as good again if not better we need more volunteers. If you would like to get involved go to page 26 to find out how.

Towards the end of 2025 we welcomed some new residents to the village in Haymeadow Way. There is just one new house still for sale though and you will find it advertised on page 16.

And finally I must thank all the readers who sent in several superb photographs for this issue. See them all in full colour on the front cover and inside front cover and also on the inside back cover. I hope to see many more great shots being submitted for future issues.

Mind how you go, Ed

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

Notice to contributors & advertisers

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

Contributors please also note:

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

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

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

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Cover Images

The superb front cover photograph was supplied by Victoria Francis and shows an early January view of our nearby canal.

The wonderful photos on the inside front cover were supplied by Lisa Taylor and show some of the amazing Advent Windows.

Finally, the super cool photos on the inside back cover were sent in by Susan Thompson, Suzanne Robbins, Corinna Fisher, Claire Fennell and Alan Reynolds.

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas Dinner we had at the Bear Hotel in December.

The first meeting of the New Year was held on January 13th in the Village Hall where we 'tackled' small intriguing Jigsaw Puzzles and reminisced over photo albums of events and parties we had taken part in during the many years the Ladies Club has been going.

Raffle winner was Mrs K Brock.

The next meeting will be held on 10th February in the Village Hall at 2.30pm when we will 'try our hand' at Origami.

Di Buckland

MONDAY CLUB NEWS

Bromham and Rowde Day Centre for Older People

It's been a busy and fun couple of months at the Monday Club. In November we were able to get out the Curling set (donated to us by the Phoenix Club) as we now have more space – it was a bit hit and miss but having got the hang of what to do, we'll make more use of it next year! We enjoyed a visit from Mistral, a wind instrument group that played familiar music and encouraged us to sing along.



There was a fun quiz too with each piece of music played having an animal somewhere in the title or lyrics of the song.

It was Christmas every week in December for Monday Club members! We loved hearing the children from St Nicks sing the songs they've learnt for Christmas this year, we had a Christmas Pass the Parcel, our customary Christmas Present Raffle and of course a delicious Christmas lunch cooked by Serena. It has become a tradition to invite our trustees, drivers and other volunteers to join us for Christmas lunch and this year Lesley made lovely table decorations for us and raffled a couple of beautiful arrangements which she



had showed us how to make. Last year we received generous donations from the Netherstreet Plant Sale and the Club House Café which helped to make possible our Christmas celebrations.

I hope you noticed our tree in the church Christmas Tree Festival - our theme this year was 'Bells ringing out for Christmas' – each member decorated a bell and together they made a pretty and colourful tree.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fundraising Morning in November when we raised almost £700, an amazing total! There was a lovely atmosphere and lots of visitors - we'll make it even bigger next year.

We were also delighted to win grants from The National Lottery Community Fund and from Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation for both 2026 and 2027 which will allow us to subsidise the cost of our delicious meals and help towards general running costs. We look forward to another year of friendship, fun and delicious food in 2026!

Remember, you can join us for coffee and chat from 10 am or come along later to enjoy a hot, home cooked meal. If you would like to come and join us, please contact: Carol on 01380 850925 or Cathy on 01380 850555



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ROWDE BOOK CLUB

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

BOOK REVIEW

'Remarkably Bright Creatures' by Shelby Van Pelt

This was the chosen book for The Rowde Book Club's November read. It is a novel which doesn't, I would suggest, fit neatly in any of the more common genres, but is perhaps best considered as 'quirky'. Those of us who had completed the read gave an overall ring of 8 out of 10. Others who had maybe struggled more to get into the book felt they'd enjoyed it sufficiently enough to wish to persevere to the end.

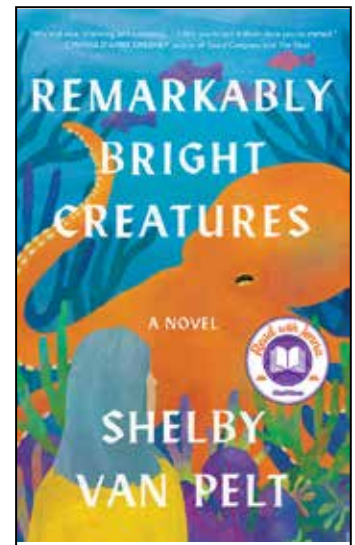
This book can perhaps be best described as a heart warming tale about a friendship between a 60+ grieving widow named Tova and an intelligent and witty Giant Pacific Octopus named Marcellus. Marcellus noticing Tova's sadness and grief at the loss of her son, Erik, and uses his sharp intellect to uncover the truth about Erik's disappearance decades ago.

When a young man named Cameron who is searching for his estranged father joins the night staff of the aquarium he too becomes entangled in the unfolding mystery.

The unlikely story weaves together Tiva's past, Cameron's search for family and Marcellus's observations, revealing connections and secrets.

Whilst the plot maybe considered rather thin overall the book provides an enjoyable read with the addition of some interesting and educational facts about Giant Pacific Octopuses.

Marion Hunt



CONCERT

with the
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(By kind permission of the PCC)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1st
At 2.30pm

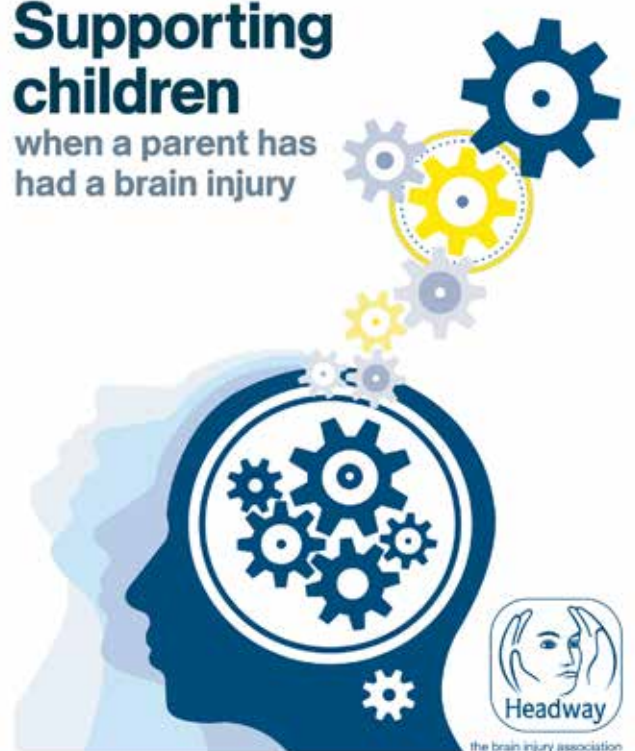
TICKETS £10 from Di.Buckland

01380722186 or 01380723049

Raffle Refreshments

In aid of Rowde Village Hall funds

Supporting children when a parent has had a brain injury



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

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

ROWDEY COW NEWS



Happy New Year to everyone! As I write the first article of 2026 it is a very dreary misty Monday morning but we still have some happy customers with hot drinks, cakes and delicious breakfasts!



The festive period was very busy with our Breakfasts with Santa enjoyed by lots of families. We hosted some Christmas parties and lunches and the School Holidays were one of our busiest ever.



We have just had our first Cars & Coffees meet of the year where Slip & Grip Car Club invite a variety of lovely cars to meet for coffees and breakfasts. There were Super Cars, Classic Cars & Racing Cars. This coming Sunday we have another group, the Pitstop, who are meeting here for coffees and breakfasts with another range of exciting cars for all our customers to enjoy. We are going to be welcoming a Classic Car & American Car Group in April and the MG car club also have started to meet here with their next one being on 14th February! We are open as normal when these events are on with the bonus of seeing some interesting cars while you are here!

We are looking forward to February Half Term where we will be holding some bird feeder making sessions for the children and on Shrove Tuesday we will have some amazing pancakes on the menu!

On a sadder note we were devastated about the passing away of our regular customer David from Furlong Close on the night of the Christmas Light Switch On. Thank you for everyone's help and understanding on the night and our thoughts go out to his family and friends. We were honoured to be asked to cater for his wake and it was a beautiful day where his life was remembered and celebrated by all. Thank you for all our customers' continued support and we hope to see you soon!

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NEWS FROM SILVERWOOD SCHOOL - ROWDE CAMPUS

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Executive Headteacher - Mr Sean McKeown



Rowde Campus was filled with festive spirit on Friday 12th December as pupils, staff, and visitors came together to enjoy our Christmas Market.

The event was a wonderful celebration of creativity, community, and Christmas cheer. The market featured a variety of festive stalls showcasing pupil-made creations, highlighting the hard work, imagination, and talents of our pupils.

It was the perfect opportunity to find unique Christmas presents while supporting pupil enterprise. Alongside the stalls, there were plenty of fun and games that added to the excitement of the afternoon.

Laughter and smiles could be seen across the campus as pupils and visitors joined in, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. The Christmas Market was a fantastic success and a lovely way to mark the start of the festive season at Rowde Campus. A big thank you to all the pupils, staff, and families who helped make the event so special.



In DoF, Yew class have been learning new cooking skills with Miss Jago using the Tangier. They have made hot dogs, chocolate pudding, and hot chocolate! It was really cold on the day they went out, but they kept warm by wrapping up well.

In Art, we have been exploring the work of Yayoi Kusama, a Japanese artist known for her striking, spot-covered artwork. We have been

inspired to recreate some of her designs using a variety of techniques. We started by copying her famous pumpkin designs and then went on to create Christmas cards, decorations, and even a brand-new sign for our classroom.

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.

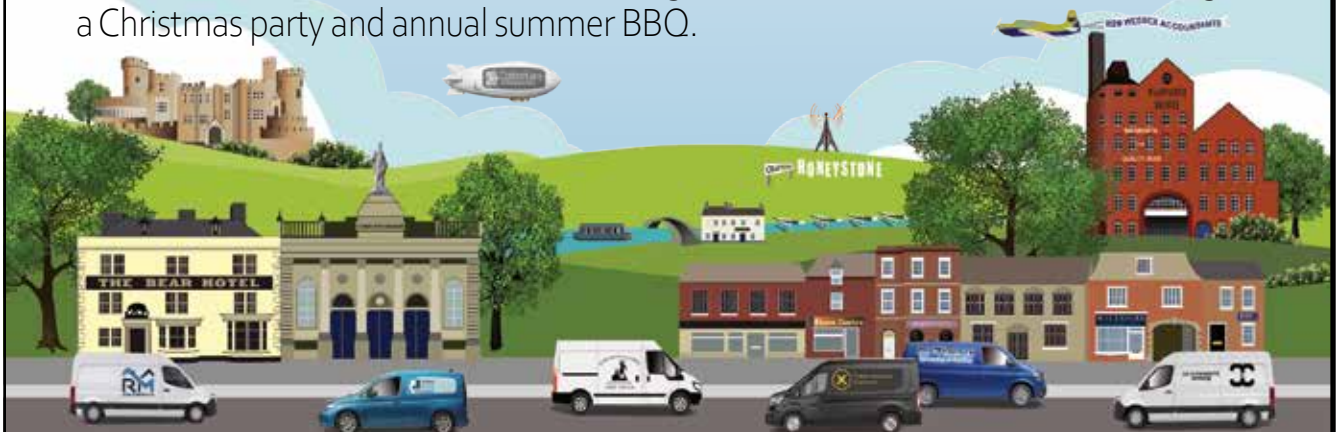
Training & Mutual Support

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



Although a little late, we would like to wish everyone in our community a very happy New Year from us all at Rowde C of E Primary Academy. As we begin 2026, it has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school and reflect on some wonderful experiences from the end of last year, alongside enjoying a very positive start to the spring term.

Just before the Christmas break, the whole school enjoyed our much-loved annual trip to the pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk. This is always a special occasion for us, bringing the whole school together to share laughter, excitement and a sense of tradition. The children (and staff!) had a fantastic time, and it was a lovely way to end a busy term (see photo above).



Our Year 4/5 class were also fortunate enough to visit Devizes Museum, where they took part in a fascinating workshop with Zoolab. The children had the opportunity to handle a range of amazing animals and learn all about how they live, how we can protect them and how to help them thrive in their natural habitats. It was an inspiring and memorable experience that brought their learning to life!

Last term, our Year 2/3 class produced some truly incredible Mayan weaving as part of their history learning. This project perfectly demonstrated our Rowde values, particularly determination, as the children carefully developed their weaving skills over time to create some beautiful final pieces. Their perseverance and pride in their work were wonderful to see.



NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future



At the start of this academic year, our whole school took part in an exciting cricket showcase led by a coach from Wiltshire Cricket. Each class learnt basic skills and rules of the game, with lots of enjoyment and enthusiasm along the way. It was a brilliant opportunity to try something new and develop teamwork and confidence.



Our forest school provision continues to thrive at Rowde, and we feel incredibly lucky to have such a rich outdoor learning environment. Mrs Barilli leads our forest school sessions and does an amazing job of ensuring the children are learning, having fun, and (seemingly!) getting muddy along the way. Willow class (Year 1) have been fully immersed in exploring the natural world this term: taking part in minibeast hunts, spotting fungi and rainbows, building dens, climbing trees and learning about our local environment. With the wetter weather, the ditch has provided opportunities for bridge building and learning how to check water depth safely before wading in. The Mud Tub has been a



huge hit, as has rolling on the grass to 'clean up' afterwards! Together, the children are developing our woodland area by planting saplings and bulbs and we are all looking forward to many more forest school adventures as the term continues.



We are delighted that our nursery is now fully up and running and growing in numbers. Using the philosophies of Montessori and the Curiosity Approach, the nursery environment allows children to lead their own learning through open-ended, thoughtful and engaging activities. Learning through play, nature and meaningful relationships is at the heart of everything they do. If you would like more information, please do get in touch via: rowdemanager@southhillsschool.com.

As we move further into the spring term, life at Rowde remains busy, purposeful and joyful, always guided by our Christian ethos and vision – to enable children to learn, grow and love. As always, every day at Rowde is an open day. If you would like to visit the school, see us in action, or support us in any way, please do get in touch at: head@rowde.wilts.sch.uk.

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher

NEWS FROM THE MIND TREE CAFÉ

Not for Profit



Fundraising - At 4pm on Sunday 26th April 2026, members of West Lavington Youth Club and The Mind Tree in Rowde will be abseiling 160 feet down King Alfred's Tower near Stourhead to raise funds for two vital local causes. The challenge will support West Lavington Youth Club, which provides a safe and inclusive space for young people, and The Mind Tree Counselling Service, offering essential mental-health support and community activities. Every donation will help continue their important work — thank you for supporting this brave fundraising effort. Please use the QR code below, go to our website or come into the cafe.



If you're finding winter particularly difficult, remember you're not alone. Winter can feel long and quiet for many of us. Shorter days, cold weather and less time outdoors can affect our mood, energy and motivation. Get daylight whenever you can – even a short walk or sitting by a window helps boost natural energy and mood.

Warm, nourishing food – January is often known as Soup Month, a lovely reminder of how comforting and grounding a warm meal can be. The Café offers homemade hearty soups that are affordable and tasty.

Keep gently moving – stretching, walking or light exercise supports both body and mind. We have several practitioners and therapists that can support you with this, e.g.... – Yoga, Pilates, massage, yoga4health etc, please see the website for more information or pop in and see us.

Stay connected – a coffee with a friend, a phone call, or popping into our community space can reduce feelings of isolation. We have a lovely selection of free books.

Blue Monday (mid-January) highlights the importance of looking after our mental health during darker months. Time to Talk Day (early February) encourages open conversations about mental health and checking in with one another. Why not buy a ticket for our next wellbeing seminar on the 3rd Feb at 9.30am – 1pm Cost £20.00. This three-hour immersive session will explore how our brain and survival instincts can work for us and not against us. For more information and to book your tickets www.themindtreecafe.org.uk

At The Mind Tree Café, we believe in the power of connection, kindness and community. Whether you're popping in for a cuppa, joining a group, or simply having a chat, you'll always find a warm welcome and a listening ear.

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/>

Events

Meditation - 5-week course starting 14th January 10am - 11.30. This group is suitable for beginners and for those with some experience. Cost - £50. Please visit our website to book your place and for more information - www.themindtreecafe.org.uk

Yoga4health - 6-week course starting 23rd January 9.30am – 11.30am. Manage stress better, relieve anxiety, feelings of isolation, learn about lifestyle changes to improve health. Cost - £60.00 Please contact Konnie Shankar. Konika.yoga4health@gmail.com

Wellbeing seminar with Audrey Stephenson. 7th February 9.30am – 1pm Cost £20.00. This three-hour immersive session will explore how our brain and survival instincts can work for us and not against us. For more information and to book your tickets www.themindtreecafe.org.uk (Selling fast)

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 mail laura.vesajoki@gmail.com or call 07393 137169”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

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

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ROWDE VILLAGE



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

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Rowde Parish Council – December Meeting Updates

Rowde Parish Council held two meetings in December:

- an Extraordinary Meeting on 1 December 2025, and
- the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 10 December 2025.

Extraordinary Meeting – 1 December 2025

Venue: Rowde School Hall

Attendance: 9 councillors present. Cllr Watts sent apologies.

The purpose of this meeting was to share the independent report with members of the public and to formally accept both the report and the councillors' summary. No comments were made on the report.

Reset and Restart Action Plan

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to adopt a **Reset and Restart Action Plan**, which will be used as a working document. Actions will be marked as complete (highlighted in green) as they are achieved. The Chair read through each action, and all councillors unanimously agreed to them.

Staffing Committee

A Staffing Committee was formed, consisting of: Cllr L Wills, Cllr S Rigby and Cllr T Lines

Public Questions

Residents raised several questions, including:

- **Previous Clerk and reparations:**
It was unanimously agreed that each councillor would send a written apology to the Locum Clerk for onward transmission to the outgoing Clerk. A formal apology would also be issued from the Council as a whole. Each email will be recorded on the Reset and Restart Action Plan for transparency.
- **Closure of social media channels:**
The Chair explained that this was part of the Reset and Restart Action Plan, intended to limit conflict. Social media may be reinstated once the situation improves.

Publication of the Action Plan

The Council unanimously resolved that the Clerk should publish the Reset and Restart Action Plan:

- on the www.rowdevillage.org website, with updates after each ordinary meeting.
- on village noticeboards.
- by sending regular updates to Wiltshire Council's Monitoring Officer

- by including a link in updates published in the village magazine.

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – 10 December 2025

Venue: Rowde Village Hall

Attendance: 10 councillors present

Minutes: The Council approved as a correct record:

- the minutes of the General Parish Council Meeting held on 8 October 2025, and
- the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1 December 2025.

Both sets of minutes were signed by the Chair.

Planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

It was noted that planning permission has been approved for the Rowde Sports Field.

Finance and Governance

- The Council approved the Locum Clerk's salary claim up to 9 December 2025.
- A grant application from The Mind Tree Café requesting £1,000 was considered. The application was unanimously refused, as a grant had already been awarded in January 2025 with the condition that no further requests be made for three years.

Budget and Precept 2026–27

The Council unanimously approved the **Precept for 2026–27** and instructed the Clerk to submit a Precept Demand to Wiltshire Council for **£59,506**.

NALC Civility and Respect Pledge

The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge. Further information is available on the NALC website.

Meeting Dates for 2026

The Council approved:

- meeting dates for 2026,
- a new start time of 7:00pm,
- no meeting in January 2026, and
- meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, with no meeting in August.

Community and Communication

- The Council unanimously resolved not to use social media or WhatsApp for Parish Council business for the remainder of the current term (until May 2026). This will be reviewed in May 2026.
- It was agreed that the Council should move to a new .gov website to align with council email accounts.

- The Clerk will use Facebook only to link to news items hosted on the new website.

Recreation and Wellbeing

Allotments:

- An update was received regarding planings for surfacing the allotment car park. Wiltshire Council will contact RPC when these are available.
- Hedgerow-cutting quotes were not all received and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Playing Fields:

(Cllr Dalley left the room.)

- The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the farm manager where the MUGA equipment is currently stored, requesting the return of certain items. Some items may be retained by the farm in lieu of any storage fees.
- Cllr Dalley will continue refreshing pitch markings. Requests for additional paint must be made in good time to the Clerk. Used paint tubs should be removed regularly.
- Councillors were reminded that no purchasing is permitted without explicit approval.

Playgrounds:

- No updates were available regarding the new barrier at Silverlands Playground.
- There was no update on plans for the inspection of skate park equipment.
- Following ROSPA inspection findings, the Council agreed that:
 - the Clerk will arrange online training for councillors wishing to join the rota for weekly visual inspections; and
 - the Clerk will obtain quotes for quarterly operational inspections.

Village Appearance

The Chair updated the meeting on the refurbished Silverlands Road noticeboard. Wiltshire Council is being consulted on whether it may be placed at the bus shelter near Conscience Lane.

Environment and Street Scene

The bin at Silverlands Play Area has now been added to Wiltshire Council's regular emptying schedule.

Rights of Way

- The Chair updated councillors on the Tanis footpath questionnaire; results will be shared at the February meeting.
- The Devizes Road footpath questionnaire has received a low response so far.

Transport and Traffic

LHFIG Requests:

Cllr Greenwood reported that advisory weight-restriction signs are to be installed by Wiltshire Council at the High Street entrance to Bunnies Lane.

Staffing

The Clerk confirmed they will remain as Locum Clerk for the time being to reduce staffing and associated costs.

Since December, the Staffing Committee has met to discuss appointing a permanent Clerk. It is hoped that a new Clerk will be in post by March 2026.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 7pm

Hot off the emails

I write to inform you of carriageway repair works programmed on Springfield Road, Rowde. these works involve an application of Micro surfacing, adjustment of ironwork and reinstatement of road markings where required.

The works will commence on Wednesday the 4th of February 2026 and will be completed by Sunday the 8th of February 2026 between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00

Due to the nature of the works and the local environment, the works will be carried out within a temporary road closure, to ensure that adequate health & safety is maintained for the contractor & local residents.

Road Markings and Ironwork adjustments may need to be completed at a later date.

Notice and Indicative Plan for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for A342 (Part), Rowde and Bromham commencing 17th March 2026.

To enable: Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway resurfacing and other associated works.

The closure can also be

found on one.network here:

<https://one.network/?tm=GB145977753>

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meeting dates can be found in the village diary on page 41 of the magazine.

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

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	cldr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Josh Wills	Vice Chair	cldr.j.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
John Dalley	Sports & Playing Fields	cldr.j.dalley@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Rigby		cldr.s.rigby@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Elaine Watt		cldr.e.watt@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Chris Greenwood	Neighbourhood Planning, Tree Officer, Roads & Transport	cldr.c.greenwood@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Shane Skelhorn		cldr.s.skelhorn@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Stuart Taylor		cldr.s.taylor@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ros Carine		cldr.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

Wiltshire Council

FOR SALE

3 Haymeadow Way, Rowde, SN10 2UL



This remaining 1-bedroom Wiltshire Council shared ownership home at the full market value of £190,000 is available to buy from **£19,000.00 with a 10% share!**

The property offers an excellent opportunity for buyers, **with a local connection to Rowde and the surrounding parishes** looking to step onto the property ladder.

The home is in a rural setting, offering generous room sizes, separate downstairs cloakroom, own private garden with patio area and allocated parking. The home features air source heat pumps, PV panels, highly insulated fabric within the structure and an EV charger to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

For information about Wiltshire Council's shared ownership scheme please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/housing-shared-ownership-properties or contact ResidentialDevelopmentTeam@wiltshire.gov.uk

ROWDEFEST

**Please save the date for RowdeFest this year, which
will be held from
1 to 7pm
ON SATURDAY THE 30TH OF MAY.**



**Music, stalls and food vans have been booked.
Fingers crossed for good weather!**

ROWDEFEST VOLUNTEERS



**We need some hands-on volunteers for
RowdeFest this year
Are you able to help?
If yes please email us on
rowde.events@yahoo.com**

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PHOTO MEMORIES



This photograph was taken about 80 years ago and shows Miss Anne Springbett, a teacher at Rowde School, with three of her pupils who had just passed their 11+ examinations. On the back of the photo the names of the boys are recorded: Gordon Underwood, Tony House and John Pearce. Copies of the photo had been requested at 10d each (just over 4 new pence).

The young woman is my mother who came to teach in Rowde at the end of the war. She married my father, Tom Davies, in 1950 and they both lived in the village where he also taught in the Junior School.

Mr Underwood lives in Springfield Road in Rowde and I recently took a copy of the photo to him. Gordon remembered the other boys in the photo well and shared some of his memories with me. I enjoyed talking to him and listening to his reminiscences.

Jane Baker

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



LEAVES OF WINTER TREES

A Poem By Alan Pengelly

Skeletal leaves of winters trees
Stark against Ice blue sky
Where red, yellow & gold danced on autumn breeze
Now earth's carpet they wither & die,

A shelter to all that lies below
A wealth of new life & winter store
Safe from all winter's cannon can throw
Till bountiful springtime shall restore,

Now winter solstice long since past
Short days long nights, New Years come & go
Maybe this year we'll hear the muffled silence
Of falling snow.



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February/March 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	
FEBRUARY		
Sunday 1st	(as Candlemas)	
8am	Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word	Rowde
Wednesday 4th		
11am	Mid-week Communion	Rowde
Sunday 8th	(2nd before Lent)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 15th	(Next before Lent)	
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Wednesday 18th	(Ash Wednesday)	
11am	Holy Communion with ashing	Rowde
<i>7.30pm</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 22nd	(1st Sunday of Lent)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
MARCH		
Sunday 1st	(2nd Sunday of Lent)	
8am	Communion (BCP)	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word	Rowde
Wednesday 4th		
11am	Mid-week Communion	Rowde
Sunday 8th	(3rd Sunday of Lent)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 15th	(Mothering Sunday)	
10am	Service	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Sunday 22nd	(Passiontide begins)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
Sunday 29th	(Palm Sunday)	
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i>	<i>Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Service	Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Monday 30th		
<i>6pm</i>	<i>Compline</i>	<i>Bromham</i>
Tuesday 31st		
<i>6pm</i>	<i>Compline</i>	<i>Bromham</i>

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

Church Opening Times

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

A Message from Rev'd Norma Fergusson

I'm writing this having just come back from holiday – we left on Boxing Day, so exchanged the exciting weather here for southern Spain, which was experiencing its coldest winter for more than ten years. No – I'm not expecting any sympathy, and it didn't stop us from having a wonderful time, but it is yet another sign of the way the climate is changing.

In school this term, the children are thinking about the need to respect and care for God's creation. As a church, we are being asked to do the same and the Church of England has published a list of Environment Days and Key Events for 2026. It contains everything from "Earth Hour" on 28 March (when we're encouraged to off non-essential lights between 8.30 and 9.30 pm) to "Buy Nothing Day" (28 November if you want to put it in your diary. Perhaps a not so subtle antidote to Black Friday?).

As an individual confronted with the enormity of climate change maybe I can't do much – but I can turn off a light switch. And that's a start.

I can't help wondering whether one of the problems with fighting climate change is that we're so overwhelmed by the enormity of the task that we forget how often it is the small things that make a difference. Bishop Bill Innd said once that it isn't the tasks which seem too big that are the problem, because there is always someone who will take on the challenge. It is the ones which seem too small. The things we don't bother with because they don't seem important.

I'm reminded of the story of the star fish on the beach – hundreds of them have been left stranded by the outgoing tide, and a small boy starts throwing them back into the water. A watching adult tells him not to bother – there are too many; he can't make a difference to the problem. The boy picks up another star fish and throws it into the sea. "I made a difference to that one."

Ash Wednesday is 18th February. Maybe there's something simple you could do (or not do) to help the environment? To find out more, look at churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme. Or you could ask the children! Whatever you do, thank you, and please do continue to pray for God's world.

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 the change of venue)

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

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

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

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

Rowde Church Café Tuesday 10:45 – 12 pm.
Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat.
Everyone welcome!

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

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

Souper Saturdays at St Matthew's, Rowde

The next date is 7th March.

Flower Arranging at Rowde

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

Choir at St Matthew's

We practice from 6pm-7pm on the Fridays prior to a 10am Sunday service. Please contact Nicola Brown at nicolabrown678@gmail.com or 01380 722406.

Bellringing at St Matthew's

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

Open the Book at Rowde

Contact Fran Hall on 07989758412.

Photography

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

Special Announcement

The Bishop of Ramsbury is delighted to announce that, subject to the usual processes, he has offered the post of Rector of Rowde and Bromham to Norma Fergusson who has accepted the post. Please pray for Norma as she prepares to take up this role. Timings of a licensing service will be shared once we have agreed these. My sincere and grateful thanks to all who took part in this process and have served the church so faithfully during a long vacancy. Thanks be to God.

CONTACT US

Rector: See above

Associate Priest: Vacant

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

Safeguarding Representative for Rowde:
Michael Cornwell 07388 224 129.

Benefice Facebook page

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

Benefice website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690

Diocese of Salisbury:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org>

Thursdays
9:30 am- 1pm



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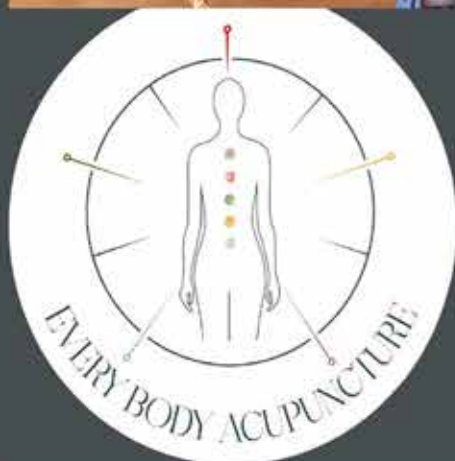


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Local News



NORMA APPOINTED RECTOR

Rowde PCC are delighted to report that Revd. Norma Fergusson has been appointed to the post of Rector of Rowde and Bromham. Norma retired as Vicar of the benefice of Shrivenham & Ashbury, Diocese of Oxford, in May 2024, and has been acting as Priest in Charge in Rowde and Bromham in a voluntary capacity since April 2025.



Norma and her husband Richard Fergusson (who is a lay minister) are pictured at Rowde's annual Candlelit Carol Service at St Matthew's Church on Sunday 21st December, where the announcement was made.

MISSING FROM ST MATTHEWS CHURCH



The image above is the top of the Verger's Staff that used to be housed in the nearest right hand side pew as one entered the church. The whole Verger's staff measured about 15 inches long from top to bottom.

Whilst there is little or no monetary value to the staff it has a functional role for special services and due to its age is of significant importance to St Matthews Church.

The Verger's Staff absence was first noticed at the end of a funeral service on Thursday 10 January though its disappearance may well have been days before.

The church has been thoroughly searched and the surrounding external areas checked as well.



May I ask all members of Rowde Village and the community to keep an eye out or listen to any conversation that might reveal its whereabouts.

Needless to say if the Verger's Staff were to be return anonymously the church would be very grateful

Michael Cornwell

St Matthews Church Treasurer

ADVENT WINDOWS



I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who got involved with the advent windows. The lights and windows were amazing! It was a great pleasure to photograph them and see everyone's creative ideas. I look forward to next Christmas! Seeing even more windows and creations, get thinking!

Lisa Taylor

(See the inside front cover for colour photos)

COME AND PRAISE

The next Come and Praise will be on Sunday April 26th at 2.30 pm in St Matthew's Church, everyone is welcome.

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

We held our Annual Community Carol singing on Sunday 7th December ably accompanied by members of The Chippenham Salvation Army Band. Unfortunately yet again the weather was rather inclement but that did not deter our efforts and we were able to welcome into our home a large group of villagers, friends and members of the Army. It was especially lovely to welcome a couple who have not long moved into the village. Everyone was in good voice and many commented that they look forward to this annual event and see it as prelude to their Christmas celebrations. Donations from the event were split equally between the Salvation Army and The Mind Tree Cafe.

You will all be warmly welcomed at this years event, date to be confirmed nearer the time.

Marion Hunt

CONCERNS ABOUT DOGS IN ROWDE

Concern were raised by farmers and dog walkers, after signs near a busy road were 'torn down'. The signs, which originally stood just off the A342 at Rowde, originally warned dog walkers and motorists of sheep grazing on land just off the busy A-road.

This was to make sure that the livestock was protected and to avoid unexpected conflict between grazing livestock and passing dogs. Police officers were called to the site on 19th January after the signs had been repeatedly "torn down." The incident, which has taken place multiple times, has raised serious safety concerns for dog walkers.

"We are aware that signage stating sheep are grazing on land off the A342 in Rowde has been removed a number of times and we have concerns that dogs could harm livestock, or the dogs could be injured due to farmers protecting their livestock." said a spokesperson for Wiltshire Police.

Removing signs that have been put up by recognised authorities is a criminal damage offence, and dog walkers in the Rowde area are being urged to keep their pets on a short lead until the culprit is found.



FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

What a wonderful time the seniors of the village had at the Festive Afternoon Tea - it



truly was an amazing afternoon. I would like to thank The Mind Tree Café for so kindly allowing us to use their premises free of charge, the two Lisas for giving their time, and



Claire for helping with the setup.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the day, baked cakes, made sandwiches, and supported the event in so many ways - you are amazing.

We are also very grateful to Sainsbury's, Calne, and Morrisons, Devizes, for their generous food donations, and to Rowde Parish Council for sponsoring the presents. Special thanks go to Father Christmas for visiting us during such a busy time, and to the Salvation Army Band for leading the carol singing. A special mention also goes to the Head Girl and Head Boy of Rowde Primary School for their help in serving teas and coffees after school.

A good time was had by all, and the afternoon was a great success

Geraldine White



FEBRUARY ROAD CLOSURE IN ROWDE

Surface treatment works are planned to take place on Springfield Road and Silverlands Road from 4th February for one to five days. The roads will be closed between 7am and 7pm each day and no parking on the roads will be permitted during those hours. Businesses will be open as usual and Wiltshire Council has apologised for any inconvenience.

UPDATE ON CANAL PLANS

Plans have been approved for changes at one of the busiest locations along the Kennet and Avon Canal

In July 2025, the Canal and River Trust applied to install new signage at the “spectacular”



Caen Hill Locks in Rowde and Devizes as part of its Give Campaign.

Eight new signs, which were given the green light by Wiltshire Council in December, will raise awareness of the trust's work and encourage public donations and volunteers.

The Caen Hill Flight comprises 29 locks, with a rise of 237 feet over two miles, making it one of the longest in the country, and is described as “one of the seven wonders of the waterway.”

It attracts visitors from across the UK and even abroad, and the Canal and River Trust says it is one of the busiest parts of its network.

The locks are maintained by over 100 volunteers, and this work requires “significant financial contributions.”

The trust says the Give Campaign is key to the maintenance of locations like Caen Hill because it faces a £300 million budget deficit over the next decade.

Plans submitted to the council said: “At a time when construction costs have risen significantly, combined with DEFRA’s decision in 2024 to significantly reduce our funding from 2027, we are facing an estimated £300 million deficit in our budget over the next 10 years. If we do nothing, this will have a very serious impact on our ability to maintain the network and keep our canals fully open. This project is fundamental to helping us raise charitable awareness so that we can begin significantly increasing public and corporate donations and grow our teams of local volunteers.

All the funds raised by the trust at each individual site will be allocated back to it, and therefore, new ‘Give’ signage will directly help to protect this special place for the local community, economy, and future generations.”

Devizes Town Council objected to the plans over fears they were “inappropriate”, but Wiltshire Council has since granted planning permission.

The objection said: “Devizes Town Council objects to this application as the proposed signs - highly prominent at this site - are not interpretive but seeking donations, which is inappropriate at this scheduled ancient monument.”

OBITUARY

Judith “JUDI” Johnson of Rowde passed away peacefully at Briggs Lodge, Devizes on 5th November 2025 aged 81 years.

Dearly loved Wife of David, much loved Mum to Lee and Verity, Nanny Ju-Ju to Olivia, Harry, George and James.

The funeral service took place on Friday 28th November at DJ Bewley Ceremony Room, Devizes. Donations in memory of Judi are for Briggs Lodge Residents fund c/o DJ Bewley Funeral Directors, 64 New Park St, Devizes, SN101DP Tel 01380 728008

The Big Little Things In Life!

by Zöe Rucker

RETHINKING IGNORANCE

I read something recently that made me rethink a word I've used my whole life: "ignorant."

It was an article by Brian M. Williams JD on Medium, built around one simple question:

"Of all the knowledge in the world, what percentage of it do you possess?"

At first glance it looked like a trick. It isn't. It's a way of showing how large the world is and how small our share of understanding really is. Not because we're stupid, but because nobody can know more than a tiny fraction of what exists.

I realised I'd always taken ignorance to mean "not knowing very much." That was the definition I grew up with. If you lacked information, you were ignorant. End of story.

Looking back, I can see how many of the familiar sayings from childhood pushed me towards that understanding. We grew up with lines like "Ignorance is bliss," "What you don't know can't hurt you," and "Curiosity killed the cat."

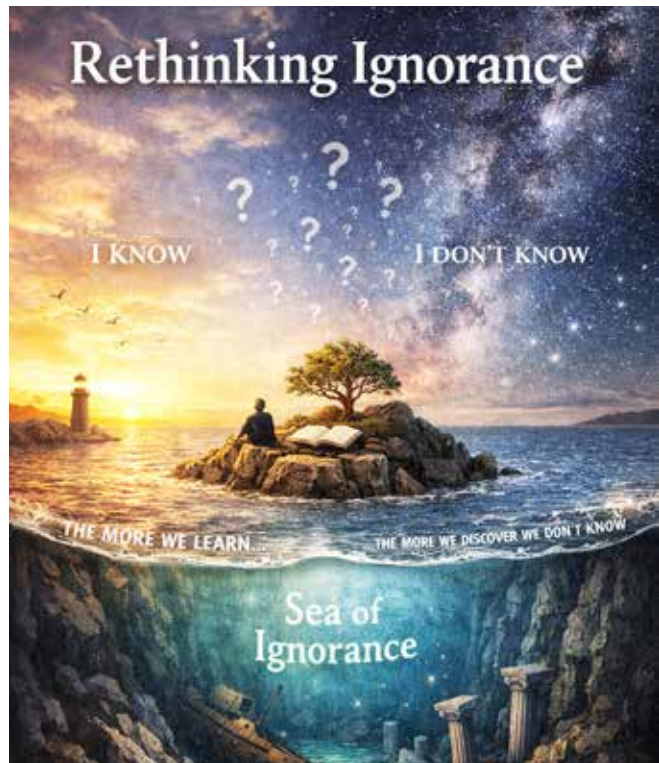
If you pushed for more, someone might say, "Don't ask questions you don't want answers to." And when all else failed, there was the very British full stop: "That's just the way it is."

None of these encouraged curiosity. They suggested that not knowing was the safer, more acceptable choice.

But Brian's question raised a different point. Ignorance, in his sense, isn't about how little you know – it's about how unaware you are of what you don't know. That was the part I'd missed.

This is where the references to Socrates, Einstein and Wheeler were interesting. Socrates famously claimed he knew nothing – not because he lacked knowledge, but because he recognised its limits. Einstein said no amount of experiments could ever prove him right, but one could prove him wrong. Both saw certainty as the real enemy of understanding.

The article also mentioned John Archibald Wheeler, an American physicist who worked on nuclear theory and black holes. Wheeler described our knowledge as a small island surrounded by a sea of ignorance –



and as the island grows, so does the shoreline. I liked that image. It captures the idea that every new thing we learn reveals more we haven't yet explored.

What struck me most was what certainty can turn into when it's left unchallenged. Brian wrote that ignorance leads to certainty, and certainty can lead to extremism. That's the far end of the scale: people so convinced they are right that there's no room left for questions or other perspectives. It made me realise that humility isn't just a personal virtue – it's a social safeguard.

At the other end of the scale is something more hopeful. Brian wrote about how we all depend on one another's knowledge – not just experts, but people doing their part in whatever field they know best. When we listen to each other's expertise, respect different experiences

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Our next lecture on Wednesday 4 February at 11am in the Assembly Hall, Melksham tells the remarkable story of Grace Darling. Her rescue of steamship passengers off the Northumberland coast brought her immediate international fame and artists have kept her in the public imagination ever since. So much so that she became the 'poster girl' for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

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

For details of the full lecture programme go to:
www.tasnorthwils.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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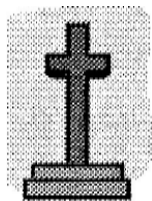
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Friday Afternoons
2pm – 4pm



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No charge to enter,
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for a donation

All Welcome!

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

For further details please go to

www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk/membership/

Organisations such as local history groups are charged £25 per annum, whilst individuals pay £14.

Please help us identify and study historic buildings throughout the county.



The Mind Tree Café



The Mind Tree Café is reaching out for your support

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

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

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



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



Low Cost Counselling

Life can sometimes feel overwhelming, whether you're dealing with stress, anxiety, loneliness, grief or big life changes.

Having someone to talk to can make a real difference.

At The Mind Tree Café, we offer low-cost counselling in a safe, welcoming and confidential space. Our counsellors provide a calm, supportive environment where you can speak openly, feel heard, and gain clarity at your own pace.

Please contact - enquiries@themindtreecafe.org or go on our website - www.themindtreecafe.org.uk

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE AMID UNCERTAINTY

As we move into 2026, the challenges facing policing and the wider Criminal Justice System remain significant - and they affect every community, including yours.

Financial pressures continue to bite. Rising costs and tight budgets mean police forces and partner agencies are working hard to maintain services with less flexibility. This impacts everything from neighbourhood policing and crime prevention to victim support and it's a reality we cannot ignore.

The Home Office's much-anticipated Policing White Paper, which was expected to set out a clear vision for policing reform and investment, appears to have been delayed further. Without this strategic direction, forces are left planning year-to-year rather than building for the long term, whilst navigating much speculation in the media of what reform could look like, including the suggestion of a reduction in the number of police forces and implementing regional ones. But without that white paper, clear direction from the Home Office and long-awaited detail, speculation is all we are left with.

I also continue to be concerned about the lack of commitment or confirmation from the Home Office on



what funding will look like from March for key national initiatives that we deliver locally, such as the Serious Violence Duty and ASB hotspot policing. This poses a real risk to continuity of services that make a tangible difference in our communities—such as street wardens, increased Wiltshire Police patrols in ASB hotspots, and specialist early intervention schemes aimed at supporting those at risk of committing serious violence.

These programmes are designed to divert individuals away from crime and help them make better life choices. Without clarity on future funding, these vital efforts could stall just as we are starting to see them having a positive impact.

Despite these challenges, I want to reassure you: your concerns are heard. My office continues to press for timely funding and clear policy direction. We are working with the Chief Constable and her operational teams to ensure that, even under pressure, the focus remains on keeping our communities safe.

Please keep sharing your views, because strong community voices help us make the case for Wiltshire and Swindon and in January, I will be consulting with you on the policing budget for the next year and your local priorities for community safety.

2026 will continue to provide significant challenge across the criminal justice system but with a partnership approach I will ensure our parishes remain safe places to live and thrive.

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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Bus Timetable

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

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

Key

x = Operates via A4, not Derry Hill village

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

R = Request set down only

A = Operates via A342, does not enter Bromham village

No service on Public Holidays

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

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

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

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The G&D Events

The Fabulous G&D Friday Night Happy Hour

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

Accompanied with Early Bird 'Pub Classics' menu for £12.50

Booking essential! 01380 723 053

Valentines at the G&D

Treat the one you love to a delicious romantic meal at The G&D Including a sharing surf N Turf platter & limited Ala Carte menu

Sunday Night Quiz

Every second Sunday is quiz night (Feb & March 8th & 22nd)

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

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

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15th March

Treat Mum to a 3 course set menu £35pp

Two sittings 12pm & 2.30pm. Bookings essential

By popular demand: Wednesday Early Birds 6 -7.30pm

Moules Marineres / Ham Egg & chips / Scampi & fries for £12.50

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

Please book to avoid missing out!

February and March Opening Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays : closed

Wednesday to Saturday : open as usual

Dear Rowde Villagers,

If you are new to the village please come and say hello. We would love to welcome you to our pub and restaurant. Pop in for a cheeky beer or glass of wine. Our Wednesday & Friday night early bird special are very popular with locals and great way to introduce yourself to the other villagers.

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

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

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

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

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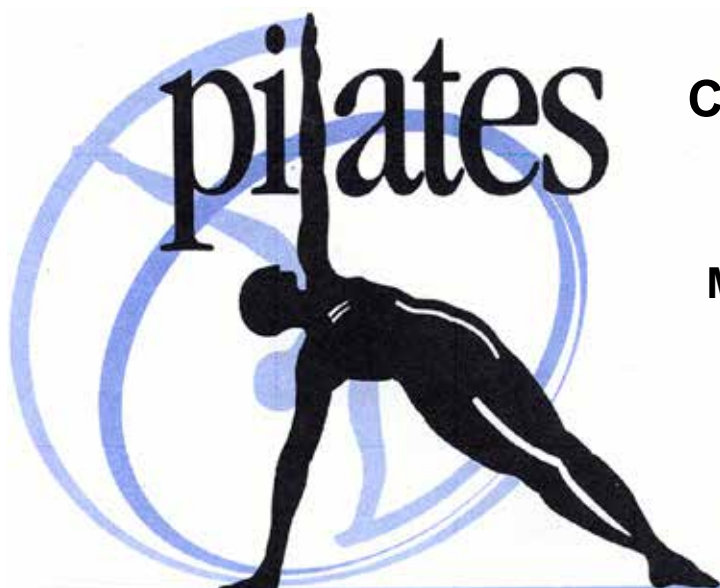
Please note that the information given and views expressed in this magazine are generally as supplied by the contributors. Our personal comments may sometimes be expressed in the editorial on page 3 and if our views are given elsewhere, they will be credited as so. In addition, much of the local news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

Alan Watters, Editor

Magazine Submission Deadlines (bi-monthly)

**15th March 2026, 15th May 2026,
15th July 2026, 15th September 2026**

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THE BEREAVEMENT HELP POINT

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

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

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sycamorecentre.devizes@yahoo.co.uk

www.careconfidential.com/devizes

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07762 382913

A Pregnancy Choices Centre

VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings 2026

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

Other Events

1st February - Concert - page 5
14th February - Valentines at the G&D - page 36
21st February - Talks on Local History - page 46
7th March - Souper Saturday - page 42
15th March - Mothering Sunday at the G&D - page 36
various March dates - Holidays & Cruises - back cover
9th May - Cosi Fan Tutte - page 40
30th May - Rowdefest - page 17
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: 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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Souper Saturday

at St Matthew's, Rowde

No Souper Saturday in February

Saturday 7th March

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



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

Cost : £4.00

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



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)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (easy this month)

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

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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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. Archaeologists have found a mummy in Egypt covered in chocolate and nuts. Experts believe it to be Pharaoh Rocher
2. The people of Dubai don't like the Flintstones but the people of Abu Dhabi do!
3. I asked my dog what two minus two was. He said nothing.
4. Have you heard of the new movie called Constipation? It hasn't come out yet!
5. A diner said to the waitress "can I ask you about the menu please?" She gave him a big slap! (think about it)
6. Two robbers were robbing a Majestic store. One picked up a bottle and said "is this whisky?" And the other one said "yes, but not as whisky as wobbling a bank!"

St Matthew's Church presents:

Two Talks on Local History

by Michael Cornwell

*former Chairman of the Rifles and the Royal Gloucestershire,
Berkshire and Wiltshire Regimental Association :*

Seeking Your Military Ancestors

concentrating on the First World War and before

on Saturday 21st February at 2.30 pm



The History of the Infantry Regiment

using the Wiltshire Regiment as the example

on Saturday 21st March at 2.30 pm

at St Matthew's Church, Rowde

Light Refreshments Provided

No Charge for Entry

but Donations in Aid of Church Funds Welcomed



HOLIDAYS & CRUISES

TRAVEL EXPERTS

www.exploreby.coach

BOOKING LINE 01225 865725

16 High St, Melksham | Open Tue - Sat, 10am - 4pm

All excursions & holidays offer hostess service onboard

Easter Mystery Weekend



Dep 3 April • 4 days

FROM £439pp

- Join us on an Easter mystery tour - where will we go?
- Based at a Warner Hotel



Switzerland The Golden Pass



Dep 8 July • 8 days

FROM £1495pp

- Excursion to chocolate factory
- Golden Pass train
- Lake Geneva cruise
- Based at Movenpick Lucerne

DAY TRIPS

*Entrance or lunch included

9 Mar	Mystery Tour & Lunch	●	£68pp*
10 Mar	Abergavenny on Market Day	●	£38pp
11 Mar	Sidmouth for the day	●	£39pp
20 Mar	American Road Trip & Tour	●	£72pp*
21 Mar	Seaton Tramway Experience	●	£62pp*
22 Mar	Tenby for the day	●	£45pp
23 Mar	Exbury Gardens inc. train	●	£65pp*
24 Mar	Swanage via Sandbanks Ferry	●	£42pp

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



THEATRE TRIPS TO THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME



12th August • £89pp



19th August • £75pp

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



Join at Rowde, Devizes & Bromham

