

Rowde Village News



June/July 2026

**The BIG
Summer Fête at
Furlong Close
in Rowde
SN10 2TQ**

FREE ENTRY

**Saturday
25th July
12.30pm to 3pm**

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Editorial

Welcome to another great edition of your Rowde Village News. In this bumper issue there are all the usual excellent reports and articles from the village's schools, clubs, societies and other organisations of course but the busy 'Local News' pages (24 to 27) kick off with a report and photographs all about the two Lisas from The Mind Tree Cafe and their amazing fund raising abseil. Well done to them both!

We will have just had Rowdefest in the village when the magazine comes out but we still have two more Summer Fetes to come! Find out all about the Rowde Academy Fete on page 12 and the Furlong Close Fete on page 2. Also in the village there will be Open Gardens on 27th June (page 31) and Open Studios on all the weekends in July (page 47). During the Devizes Arts Festival there are two events taking place with connections to Rowde. On 9th July, Ann Swan Botanical Arts is sponsoring a lecture where Professor Dave Goulson will be sharing his passion for bees (page 26) and on 13th June the band Nothing Rhymes With Orange will be performing and one of the band hails from Rowde (page 23). You can read about what happened at the Annual Village Meeting on page 16 and all about what's planned for the dual carriageway at the end of Marsh Lane on page 25. Finally, both the magazine and the Parish Council have urgent vacancies. Please have a look at pages 16 and 17 and see if you can help.

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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Front Cover Image

The superb front cover photograph was taken by Kat Miller at Manor Farm on the High Street

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

Email us at admin@bowelcanceruk.org.uk

ROWDE LADIES CLUB

The Ladies Club met in the Village Hall on April 14th and enjoyed playing two American dice games. The Raffle winner was Mrs. C. Morris. Next year the Ladies Club has been 'running' for 60 years but it was decided to 'celebrate' a year early so, a coach trip was organised to Mudeford Quays on May 12th. After a leisurely drive through the New Forest we arrived at our destination where members and several husbands took a stroll by the sea and enjoyed the sea breeze and a look around the quayside before the return journey. Many thanks to Mrs. Morris for organising.

Di Buckland

Souper Saturday

at St Matthew's, Rowde
6th June & 4th July
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

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting will
be held on June 17th at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

(See poster on page 42)

Di Buckland

T O'ROURKE

All plastering work undertaken

No job too small

FREE ESTIMATES



Contact Troy on:

01380 698993

or 07968 634689

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

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

***'Before The Swallows Come Back'* by Fiona Curnow**

The story follows Charlotte and Tommy—two children from very different worlds—who find a sanctuary in the woods near Charlotte's home. The initial setup of their friendship, bridging the gap between Charlotte's stable life with her father and Tommy's nomadic traveller lifestyle, showed promise. However, the book group members felt the marketing, likening the book to *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen, was misleading. It lacked the lyrical writing and immersive world-building that made Delia Owens' novel a success. The consensus was that the writing of this novel felt unpolished and that the plot relied on "traumatic and far-fetched" tragedies that felt more like forced plot devices than organic developments.

Suzanne Jacobs



***'The English Wife'* by Anna Stuart**

1940, England: Clementine Churchill is standing alone on a rooftop in London as bombs rain down on the city when a nearby explosion almost knocks her off her feet. Shaking, she rushes homewards to 10 Downing Street and breathes a sigh of relief when she sees the famous building is still there. It means the Prime Minister – her husband – is still alive!

This is a fictional novel inspired by the remarkable life of Clementine Churchill. It is a story of the power of love and courage. It is the story of how a husband and wife saved the world. It is a story like no other...

The book group members had mixed feelings about the book and they gave it an average score of between 6 and 7 out of 10.



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ROWDEY COW NEWS



As I write this it is raining and windy but we have been promised beautiful sunshine tomorrow ready for the bank holiday weekend so fingers crossed it will be perfect ice cream weather this weekend and then the following week for half term!

We have a tasty new Summer Menu and some exciting new ice cream flavours to enjoy over the next few weeks!

We are looking forward to welcoming Poppy's facepainting back in half term and we will be doing some arts and crafts including bird table making on the half term weekday mornings! We will be opening up our ice cream kiosk on the warmer days too.



We have enjoyed hosting the Pitstop Car Meets and Wiltshire Wheels Classic Car Meets on some Sundays throughout April & May and these will continue throughout the Summer the next one being this coming Bank holiday Sunday.



Our playground has been serviced and painted and ready for the half term – thank you for your patience with it being out of order this week but it has received some essential maintenance and TLC.

The animals are all out enjoying themselves in the fields now we have the nicer weather and the two new ponies, Lola & Raffles, have settled in really well.



We attended our first ice cream event of the year which was Silverwood Garden Fayre which we have really missed the last few years and were so happy to be a part of it now it is back up and running on the beautiful new site!



We are very much looking forward to attending the Rowdefest next week and hope to see everyone there! Sue

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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



Josh and pupils from Rowan Class proudly accepted a £215 donation from Greencore Desserts, supporting their learning and wider school experiences.

Sixth Form students from Exmoor Class spent Friday 15th May making birthday cards for Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.



Natalie Parker

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Garden Fair on 10th May. We had a very successful event and look forward to growing this event even bigger next year.

Silverwood Garden & Country Fair

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along
to the **Silverwood** Garden & Country Fair.
Your support made the day such a success.

We hope next year will be
even bigger and better!

We are delighted to say we think
we have raised over £2000!
All proceeds will go towards supporting
Silverwood School Charity trust projects
including the new Animal Resource Centre.

♥ *Thank you again* ♥
– see you next year!

Silverwood School, Rowde
Devizes SN10 2QQ
What3Words: LAYS.UNWIND.RAVEN

Supporting Silverwood School Charity Trust

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our bright start leads to their bright future



Although this half term has been slightly shorter, life at Rowde has certainly remained busy, purposeful and full of opportunity. As always, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm the children bring to their learning each day, alongside the confidence, teamwork and resilience they continue to demonstrate across all areas of school life. From scientific investigations and sporting opportunities to educational visits and practical learning experiences, there has been a real buzz across the school over the past few weeks and I love these opportunities to share a few highlights with you.

British Science Week

One of the recent highlights was British Science Week, which saw every class taking part in a whole-school engineering challenge. The children were tasked with designing and making their own paper boats using only paper and masking tape before testing how many marbles their creations could hold before sinking.



There was great excitement across the school as children experimented with different ideas, adapted their designs and worked collaboratively to improve them. The challenge provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore scientific thinking, forces and problem-solving in a practical and engaging way. More importantly, it reinforced the valuable message that learning often involves experimenting, adapting and trying again when things do not go to plan.

Alongside this, Cedar Class have continued their science learning through hands-on investigations linked to irreversible changes. The children explored what happens when materials change and cannot return to their original state. A particular highlight was mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to create a chemical reaction which inflated a balloon attached to a bottle.



The children were fascinated watching the reaction take place in front of their eyes and enjoyed discussing the science behind what they observed. Practical learning opportunities such as these play such an important role in bringing learning to life and developing curiosity within the classroom.

Sporting Opportunities and Teamwork

A few weeks ago, we were also delighted to welcome football coach Lee Whitcombe into school to work with every class across the day. The sessions focused on developing skills, confidence and participation rather than competition, ensuring that every child could fully take part and enjoy the experience.



It was fantastic to see 100% participation across the school, with children encouraging one another, challenging themselves and developing their teamwork skills throughout the sessions. The positivity and enthusiasm shown by the children was wonderful to see and a great day was had by all.

In Willow Class, the children have also been developing their confidence and coordination through gymnastics lessons using the PE apparatus. The children explored a range of movements and practiced travelling safely and with control across the equipment. It has been

NEWS FROM ROWDE PRIMARY ACADEMY (cont'd)

Our bright start leads to their bright future



children learning that a single stone weighs around the same as eight buses. They even attempted to move a replica Sarsen stone themselves — although quickly discovered they would need rather more than 24 children to do so!

Educational visits such as these are invaluable in helping children make meaningful connections with their learning and create lasting memories that bring the curriculum to life.

As we move towards the final part of the academic year, we continue to be incredibly proud of the way our children embody our Rowde values each day through their love, optimism and determination. We are also hugely grateful for the continued support from our families and wider community, which plays such an important role in making Rowde such a positive and special place to learn and grow. I'm sure many of you were aware, and took part in, our Easter Trial through the village — thank you.

We'd love to see many of you — all welcome — at our Summer Fete on Saturday 27th June. Please look out for the posters in the village and more information through our school newsletter.

As always, our doors remain open and we currently have spaces available across the school. If you would like to visit us, see the school in action or find out more about what we offer, please do get in touch at: head@rowde.wilts.sch.uk.

Kindest regards,

Alice Simpson, Head Teacher



lovely to see the children growing in confidence and independence whilst supporting and encouraging one another throughout the sessions.

Bringing History to Life

Poplar Class recently enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Stonehenge as part of their history learning. The trip provided a brilliant opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of the Neolithic period and experience first-hand one of the country's most iconic historical landmarks.

During the visit, the children created imaginative stories using Lego linked to Stonehenge and Neolithic life, explored replica Neolithic houses and learnt more about how people lived during this fascinating period of history. One of the most memorable moments was discovering the enormous scale of the stones themselves, with the



NEWS FROM THE MIND TREE CAFÉ

Not for Profit - Promoting Holistic Therapies in Rowde



As we move into June and July, many of us welcome the lighter mornings, warmer days and the chance to slow down a little. At The Mind Tree community Project, we continue to see how important community, connection and small acts of self-care support our wellbeing.

During the summer months, self-care does not have to be complicated or expensive. Sometimes the simplest things can make the biggest difference:

- Spending time outdoors and enjoying nature - we have a lovely outdoor area where you can sit and enjoy a coffee with nature.
- Taking a gentle walk in the fresh air - Jubilee woods and the canal locks are not far from us, so when you are out and about, pop in for a nourishing lunch or snack.
- Staying connected with friends, neighbours and family – Our café is the perfect place for meeting up with someone or getting involved in a workshop together.
- Drinking plenty of water and resting when needed - Keeping hydrated is important for both physical and mental wellbeing, especially during the warmer summer months.

June and July can also be difficult for some people.

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

Our Café is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 9.30am - 4pm. (Lunches finish at 3pm)

Come for a cuppa, stay for the calm.

QUIZ NIGHT - Our recent Fundraising Quiz night went well, and we raised money to support The Memory/dementia Café that is starting on the 22nd June. Keep an eye out for more dates coming soon.

MEMORY CAFE - We are happy to be working in partnership with Beyond Dementia in Devizes and starting our memory/dementia café on Monday 22nd June 9.30am – 11am. Once a month to start with and hopefully in the future be able to open fortnightly. A new group for people living with any type of dementia and their family carers in and around Rowde. This is safe space to meet new people and to share your stories in a friendly non-judgemental environment – and enjoying a drink and homemade cakes. A contribution of £2.00 per person. Booking is essential. Please contact Lisa G lisagurr@themindtreecafe.org or enquiries@themindtreecafe.org

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

Events:

13th June – 10am to 2pm - Fundraising Preloved Pop-up shop. This is in aid of the Memory/dementia café, we need donations of clean, good quality clothing, and some household items (no electrics), please drop off at the café when they are open on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays – 9.30am - 4pm. Come and grab a bargain and support us.

20th June - Breath-Body-Mind workshop - to relieve stress, anxiety, depression and trauma. Uniting Evidenced Based Science and Ancient Wisdom. Suitable for: Professionals: Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Yoga Teachers; other therapists Support workers: Anyone supporting community wellbeing; mental health Individuals: Anyone looking for an holistic approach for their own mental health. £25.00. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - book your place or for more information, contact: - Konika: 07956 983154 | konika.therapies@gmail.com

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

2nd August 2pm – 4pm. Fundraising Concert with The Choir Club. All proceeds go to The Mind Tree community project. £10.00 per ticket. A range of pop, soul, country, rock and gospel. To book your ticket – www.themindtreecafe.org.uk (Refreshments available to purchase during the break.)

19th September from 11am – Our annual Apple Harvest – come and help pick our apples in the orchard so we can continue offering our own Apple juice.

Meditation - 5-week course Register your interest - This group is suitable for beginners and for those with some experience. Cost - £50. for more information - www.themindtreecafe.org.uk

Death Café – Register your interest – This group is about a safe space talking about all aspects of life, death and dying and what really matters. We can discuss our own experiences and listen to each other over a coffee and biscuits. (This is not a bereavement group). For more information, please contact enquiries@themindtreecafe.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

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

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ROWDE VILLAGE



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

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Rowde Parish Council Update – April & May 2026

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

Wiltshire Council Updates:

Residents are encouraged to take part in Wiltshire Council's upcoming waste management survey, which will help shape future services. The Council has also advised that a booking system for Household Recycling Centres is expected to be introduced in the future, although no launch date has yet been confirmed.

Residents in areas with poor broadband coverage may also wish to explore the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, which remains open for applications until August 2026.

Planning Matters:

In April, the Parish Council considered retrospective application PL/2026/01535 at Ox Lea Barn Farm for the creation of a hardcore yard area around an agricultural building. Councillors unanimously agreed to raise no objection.

In May, a further retrospective application (PL/2026/02814) was received for a shelter on land near Homeleigh, Dunkirk Hill. As the plans arrived on the day of the meeting, councillors agreed to review and submit comments ahead of the June meeting.

Residents also attended the May meeting to raise concerns about the proposed access arrangements for the Furlong Close development. Concerns focused on access, drainage, and the impact on nearby properties rather than the principle of development itself.

The Parish Council also provided an update on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Regulation 14 consultation is currently hoped to begin by the end of May.

Street Scene and Environment:

The Council continues to review litter bin provision to ensure services remain cost-effective while maintaining village cleanliness. As part of this review, bins at Silverlands Park and outside Furlong Close have been removed. Additional collections have been requested for the Marsh Lane/ Rowde Court Road junction.

Residents are reminded that public litter bins are intended for small items only. Disposal of domestic household rubbish in public bins significantly increases costs to the parish.

Please report to the parish council or Wiltshire Council if you see anyone disposing of household waste in public litter bins,

Oak Trees, Grounds and Allotments:

The Parish Council remains responsible for three protected oak trees located at the allotments and sports field. Following professional assessment, safety works including deadwood removal and canopy lifting have now been completed on the sports field trees.

The large oak tree at the allotments will require a canopy reduction work later this year, subject to Tree Preservation Order approval. The area beneath the tree will also be permanently fenced to create a wildlife area.

Wiltshire Council has supplied road planings to improve potholes on the track leading to the allotments and sports field, with remaining materials to be used within the car park. Additional drainage works are also planned to reduce flooding problems around the site.

In May, councillors agreed to establish an Allotment Working Group consisting of councillors and allotment holders to help oversee the future management and development of the allotments as a community asset.

Footpath Safety:

The Parish Council continues discussions with Wiltshire highways officers regarding the condition of the footpath along Devizes Road near Dunkirk Hill. Councillors remain concerned about pedestrian safety due to the narrow footpath and overgrown vegetation and are seeking further resident feedback through the village survey. Responses can be sent to cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Speeding Concerns:

Data collected from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the A342 has highlighted serious speeding concerns, with speeds of up to 90mph recorded from vehicles travelling towards Devizes. Most of the excessive speeding occurs on weekday mornings between 05:00 and 06:30. Councillors described the data as extremely concerning and were disappointed to know that the community policing team have not completed a speed watch in the village since February 2026.

The parish council want to encourage more residents to volunteer for the Community Speed watch scheme. Chris Greenwood is the speed watch coordinator for Rowde and does this role as a parishioner and not as a councillor. He can be contacted by email cj_g@me.com

Highways Requests:

A request for a dropped kerb in Springfield Road, which councillors unanimously supported has been referred to LHFIFG, the second request for double yellow lines in Rowde Court Road will be referred to Wiltshire council highways. Cllr Dalley abstained from voting on this request. Some councillors raised concerns that parking problems could simply move elsewhere within the village.

Council Organisation and Recruitment:

At the Annual Meeting in May, Councillor L. Wills was unanimously re-elected as Chair. Councillor T. Lines was appointed Vice Chair following the withdrawal of Councillor J. Wills from the role.

Councillors also agreed to review their existing roles and responsibilities, moving towards shared portfolios with no individual delegated authority. A new portfolio covering community engagement and emergency planning is also being explored.

The locum clerk has been retained on a temporary basis for a further three months while recruitment arrangements continue.

Finance and Audit:

The Parish Council has been selected as part of a 5% sample for an intermediate audit review. The annual accounts for 2025–2026 were approved in May and are available on request, online and on parish noticeboards.

Recent approved expenditure included:

Parish Online Mapping – £108.00

Scribe Accounting Software – £58.80

Grist (Bin Collections) – £155.12

WALC Membership – £588.28

Countrywide (Small Grounds Maintenance) – £288.00

Countrywide (Large Grounds Maintenance) – £619.30

Rowde Village News – £125.00

The following invoices were presented at the

meeting as additional payments:

Tom Ashpole Tree Work – £900.00

Rowde Events – Hire of generator for the village fete – £50.00.

Councillors also approved a subscription to Civic.ly asset management software to assist with managing approximately £175,000 worth of parish assets.

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

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

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

Rowde Village News:

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

The parish council would like to thank Tekla Hicks for her time supporting the council as locum clerk. The recruitment for a permanent clerk will continue.

Church Flowers

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

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

Wiltshire County Councillor for Rowde

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

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

ROWDE VILLAGE MEETING – 13TH MAY

The annual Rowde Village Meeting took place on 13 May at the Village Hall. Although attendance was lower than hoped, the meeting gave residents the opportunity to hear updates on key parish matters and ask questions.

The Parish Council Chair delivered the annual report and reflected on the changes within the Council over the past year following the investigation into council matters.

She acknowledged that challenges remain due to differing personalities and working styles within the Council. However, she emphasised that most councillors remain focused, committed, and dedicated to improving the parish for residents.

The Chair also addressed the poor behaviour that led to the resignation of the long-standing Clerk, Rebekah. She stressed the importance of councillors recognising unacceptable behaviour and understanding the Council's obligations as an employer. She highlighted the work undertaken by the current locum clerk to strengthen the Council's administrative foundations and confirmed that both the Chair and Clerk are working closely with Wiltshire Association of Local Councils to support improvements in governance, procedures, and council operations.

As part of this work, the Parish Council has completed a significant review of its governance framework to ensure compliance with modern standards and best practice. The Council has also signed the Civility and Respect Pledge, demonstrating its commitment to maintaining positive and professional standards of behaviour.

Looking ahead, the Chair outlined several priorities for the coming year, including:

- Successfully recruiting a permanent Parish Clerk
- Ensuring all councillors undertake appropriate training and fully understand their responsibilities.
- Working with relevant authorities to address speeding concerns and improve road safety.
- Progressing the Neighbourhood Plan through the next stages of consultation and development

Councillor Laura Mayes provided an update on several Wiltshire Council matters affecting the parish. She advised that proposals to introduce three-weekly bin collections, along with a booking system for Household Recycling Centres, are likely to begin in the autumn.

Councillor Mayes also reported that the new Government has reduced funding for Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups (LHFIG), with budgets decreasing from £25,000 to £12,500. She further confirmed that the proposed speed limit reduction outside Silverwood School remains under consideration and continues to progress through the system.

During the public question session, a resident raised concerns regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, particularly the proposed access route for the planned Furlong Close development. Concerns were expressed about the possibility of access being created through the first cul-de-sac in Springfield Road from Marsh Lane. In response, Councillor Mayes informed residents that she would "call in" the matter for further consideration when the application is submitted.

AN APPEAL FROM YOUR MAGAZINE'S ADVERTISING MANAGER

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

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

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

Julie Baker (contact details on page 3)

ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL JOB VACANCY

PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO)

Rowde Parish Council (RPC) is seeking to employ a professional, highly motivated, and resilient part-time Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

This is a pivotal role serving a rural village with a strong commitment to its community and local environment

ABOUT THE ROLE As the Council's sole employee, you will be the head of administration ("Proper Officer") and the lead for financial affairs, responsible for the internal management and organisation of tasks and policies set by the Council. You will work from home, providing your own office space while the Council ensures you have the necessary support and equipment to perform your duties.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Administration:** Organise, prepare for, and attend Council meetings, producing accurate agendas and minutes.
- **Professional Advice:** Provide expert advice to 11 Councillors to ensure all decisions and actions are legal and compliant.
- **Finance (RFO):** Manage day-to-day finances using relevant software, lead annual budget setting (typically reviewed in October), and ensure VAT recovery and accurate financial reporting.
- **Project Oversight:** Implement Council decisions and oversee local projects, including participation in the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- **Statutory Compliance:** Serve as the primary officer for Data Protection (GDPR) and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.
- **Asset Management:** Manage Council facilities including open spaces, amenity areas, allotments, and the playing field.
- **Communication:** Update the village website with statutory documents and contribute a Parish Council summary for the bi-monthly village magazine.
- **Representation:** Attend external meetings on behalf of the Council, such as the LHIFG and Devizes Area Board

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

- **Experience:** We are seeking a clerk with experience of local government law, governance, and finance
- **Qualifications:** Ideally CiLCA qualified (or willing to obtain this within 12 months).
- **Communication:** Excellent managerial and administrative skills, with the ability to communicate succinctly and clearly, including by email
- **Resilience:** The ability to remain calm and professional during heated debates or challenging situations
- **Attributes:** Highly motivated, community-focused, and able to combine professional integrity with a collaborative and pragmatic approach

WHAT WE OFFER

- **Salary:** Salary will be negotiated based on experience and relevant national pay scales
RPC uses Nest for pension provisions
- **Working Hours:** Flexible working from home approximately 18 hours per week.
- **Supportive Environment:** We have established a dedicated Staffing & Finance Committee specifically tasked with Human Resources and providing the Clerk with formal management and support.
- **Professional Integrity:** RPC has signed the Civility and Respect Pledge and operates under a robust Dignity at Work Policy, ensuring a workplace based on mutual respect and a zero-tolerance approach to bullying.

HOW TO APPLY Please send your CV and a covering letter to: Cllr.I.Wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rowde Parish Council is an Equal Opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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June/July 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
JUNE	
Wednesday 3rd	
11am	Holy Communion Rowde
Thursday 4th	(Corpus Christi)
<i>7pm</i>	<i>Holy Communion Bromham</i>
Sunday 7th	(Trinity 1)
8am	Holy Communion (BCP) Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion Bromham</i>
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
Sunday 14th	(Trinity 2)
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde
Sunday 21st	(Trinity 3 & Father's Day)
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion Bromham</i>
Sunday 28th	(Trinity 4)
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde
JULY	
Wednesday 1st	
11am	Holy Communion Rowde
Sunday 5th	(Trinity 5)
8am	Holy Communion (BCP) Rowde
<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion Bromham (join with Methodist Chapel)</i>
10am	Service of the Word Rowde
Sunday 12th	(Trinity 6)
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde
Sunday 19th	(Trinity 7)
<i>10am</i>	<i>Holy Communion Bromham</i>
Sunday 26th	(Trinity 8)
<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) Sandy Lane</i>
10am	Holy Communion Rowde

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

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

Church Opening Times

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

A Message from Rev'd Norma Fergusson

Many years ago, we went to New York City. I didn't like it all that much – too big; too loud; too dirty. All in all, just too much. Fortunately, we were staying, not in the city itself, but on Governor's Island, out in the middle of the harbour. At the time, it belonged to the US Coastguard and, as Richard was attached to the US Navy, we qualified for accommodation. A short boat trip and a whole world away from Manhattan, even with the military, it was beautiful and peaceful: everything I needed to counteract the effects of being in the city. I think it's now open to the public for day trips, so worth a visit if you're ever out that way. I soon found myself relaxing and even able to appreciate the beauty of the New York skyline as the sun went down.

I was reminded of this by a thought from Di Williams in Labyrinth: Landscape of the Soul. She says:

In a world of electronic beeps and tunes
it is silence after all that feeds the soul.

Turn off the machines, embrace the
chattering mind that follows in their
wake and walk along gently into a
stillness, a space for peace.

Peace be with you. Blessings, Norma

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Growing in Faith, Wednesday evening 7:30pm – 9pm on Zoom (fortnightly, term time only). If you are interested in joining, please contact Ruth on ruthbray@outlook.com.

Bromham & Rowde Monday Club

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

1. Friendship, chat, fun and laughter.
2. Delicious two course home-cooked meal every week.
3. Games, talks, activities, music, movement.
4. Every Monday 9.30am-1.00pm in the Community Hub - transport available (£2).
5. £12 includes meal, tea/coffee/biscuits - with full funding available to eligible people.

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

Rowde Church Café Tuesday 10:45 – 12 pm.

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

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

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

Souper Saturdays at St Matthew's, Rowde
The next date TBC

Flower Arranging at Rowde

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

Choir at St Matthew's

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

Bellringing at St Matthew's

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

Open the Book at Rowde

Contact Fran Hall on 07989758412.

Photography

Photographs may be taken during services or events by a member of the Church; these may be used on our Facebook page, A Church Near You, The Hoot, Rowde Village News and/or other forms of media. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please speak to a member of the welcoming team on duty today, or contact the Benefice Administrator, Helen Rawlings on 07933 817816 or helen@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk.

CONTACT US

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

Associate Priest: Vacant

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

Safeguarding Representative for Rowde: Michael Cornwell
michaelcornwellrowdeparishsafeguardingofficer@rowdebromhambenefice.co.uk
or 07388 224 129.

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

Benefice website:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9690

Diocese of Salisbury:
<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org>

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Local News



GOING DOWN FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

Success – Lisa and Lisa from The Mind Tree Café completed their fundraising mission which was to abseil down King Alfred's tower in Somerset, and they managed to beat their target. Thank you to those of you who donated and supported them.



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

MAN ACCUSED OF MURDERING RUGBY PLAYER FROM ROWDE - UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

Source - Gazette & Herald

A man accused of murdering a Wiltshire rugby player will remain in custody after appearing in court. Michael Bretton, of Armoury Road in Shaftesbury, Dorset, appeared in Bristol Crown Court on Tuesday, May 5, charged with the murder of Craig Hurcombe, 39.



Craig Hurcombe

Craig, from Rowde, was found dead during a police search of the Roemead Road area of Gurney Slade, Somerset, after being reported missing on January 10.

Bretton, 40, was subsequently charged with his murder and denied the allegation during an initial appearance at Bristol Crown Court on Monday, March 2. His most recent court appearance was a case management hearing, during which he was remanded in custody, where he will remain until a further case management hearing scheduled for June 19.

Craig attended Sheldon School in Chippenham and was a popular member of Devizes Rugby Club for years. Fondly known as 'Hurcs', he represented all senior men's sides, clocking up hundreds of caps over the years.

A spokesperson for the club previously said it had been "shaken to its core by the devastating loss of one of our own in tragic circumstances."



A361 OVERHAUL PLANS PROGRESSING



Source - Gazette & Herald

Work to overhaul the dual carriageway after multiple crashes could start soon. The A361 Caen Hill near Rowde has seen many crashes over the years and the road's junctions with Marsh Lane and Devizes Road have been earmarked for changes.

As previously reported, there were nearly 30 crashes on the busy road between the junctions with Foxhangers and Mayenne Place and last year, Wiltshire Council announced it was moving ahead with plans to install traffic lights at Marsh Lane and Devizes Road.

Cllr Martin Smith, has reported that construction could begin before the end of the financial year. He said: "We remain in discussion with our contractor on the works phasing, and delivery is being programmed to begin during this financial year. The scheme is designed to improve safety on this busy route, including improvements to junctions, crossings, drainage, lighting and road surfacing.

The planned traffic lights would be sensor controlled to allow traffic to flow freely on the A361 when there are no waiting vehicles at the junctions.

The project is part of a £22 million investment in improving road safety which was announced in 2024 and additional upgrades which have been suggested for the A361 Caen Hill include safety barriers along the centre of the dual carriageway, enhancement to electricity cabling and street lighting in the area to boost visibility and drainage works to alleviate issues with standing water and flood risk on the road.

An improved pedestrian crossing and access to bus stops have also been proposed alongside the resurfacing of the route.

Last year, Wiltshire Council held a consultation on plans to reduce the national speed limit on the road to 50mph, while Devizes Town Council has pushed for action to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the town from Caen Hill.

YET ANOTHER ACCIDENT NEAR BEND!



I took these photographs on 12th April whilst out walking the dog to the Jubilee Woods. I couldn't find out any information on what happened but I do hope that nobody was seriously injured. It does highlight however how much something needs to be done about the vehicles speeding in and out of the village on Marsh Lane.

Ed (Editor)

MP DROPS IN AT CHURCH



During a recent visit to Rowde, our MP Brian Matthew came for a coffee and a chat at the Friday craft session in the church. He also enjoyed seeing the bell tower.

ANN SWAN BOTANICAL ARTS SPONSORS DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL

Do you love Bumblebees? Rowde's Ann Swan does and so does Professor Dave Goulson! Dave is Professor of Biology at University of Sussex specialising in bees and founded the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2006 which now has over 12000 members. He has published nine books and over 350 scientific articles and will be signing books at the Festival event.



Come and share his passion for bumblebees and other insects and learn how we can all help them thrive at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th June in the Devizes Town Hall Assembly Room.

Tickets £13 (£11 for Friends of Devizes Arts Festival) available from Box Office at Devizes Books or <https://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk>

Sponsored by Ann Swan Botanical Arts

TOURETTE'S AWARENESS MONTH

15th May to 15th June - Joinn the Teal Shoelaces Campaign for Tourette's Awareness Month. Laces are only £2 per pair and can be ordered from the Tourette Scotland website www.tourettescotland.org.



I met with Johnny Davidson MBE (the brilliant movie 'I Swear' is about him) at his home in Galashiels last month and gave him my original portrait of him and his lovely dog Suki which I drew based on a photograph taken on his phone 7 years ago when he was awarded his much deserved MBE. I also gave him some extra prints and some cards for him and his family. I must say what an honour and a pleasure it was to spend an afternoon chatting with such an amazing man.

Subsequently I have done another portrait of Johnny with Robert Aramayo, the brilliant actor who played the part of Johnny in the movie. Please keep an eye out for news coming soon of a grand auction which will include my original portraits of Johnny Davidson with Rob and with Suki to raise much needed funds for Tourette Scotland.

Meantime, please support this worthy cause by following this link: <https://www.tourettescotland.org>

Alan Watters (Ed)

ROWDE HAS A NEW SHOP!

The Cross Keys pub is now the Cross Keys Store and is open from 7am to 9pm Monday to Saturday and from 8am to 8pm on a Sunday. (More info in next issue).



COSI FAN TUTTE



On 9th May the White Horse Opera gave a stunning performance of *Cosi Fan Tutte* at St Matthew's. The audience really appreciated the humour as well as the amazing singing of the six soloists.

ROWDE REVELS



Inspired by the Bromham Bash, which is always a very entertaining evening out, in the autumn, some of us thought, "Why not the Rowde Revels?" With so much talent in Rowde, let's see what we can do? With a little persuasion, a very varied programme came together. Songs, sketches and poems, were performed as well as solo piano and classical guitar. A folk trio led

some singing of well-known songs and the evening ended with a flourish with a surprise performance from the church choir of "Right said Fred!"



Watch out for more Rowde Revels next spring, and maybe polish up your own party piece!

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The Big Little Things In Life!

by Zöe Rucker

When Gardening Doesn't Go to Plan

Gardening is one of the few things left where doing everything right still doesn't guarantee anything at all. Or does it?

We've planted carefully. Watered just enough. Checked on things more often than we'd probably admit. Encouraged our tomatoes to ripen, herbs to thicken, and flowers to bud.

It feels promising.

Until then something else arrives.

Slugs overnight. A cold snap that wasn't forecast. Gusts that flattens what looked perfectly strong the day before. Or simply... nothing. A plant that never does what it was supposed to do.

It's not dramatic disappointment. It's a sort of gentle "oh." Especially when we did everything right.

Most of life now works on response. We act, something happens. Send a message, get the reply. Order something, it arrives. Effort and outcome feel connected, if not guaranteed.

Gardening doesn't quite follow that agreement.

We do something now for results we won't see for weeks. We wait without being able to speed things up. And even then, it may or may not work.

It feels frustrating.

We look for what we missed. Too much water? Not enough sun? Wrong soil? Wrong depth?

And we still care. We still try. But we stop assuming that effort guarantees outcome. We begin to accept that some things sit outside our control.

And oddly, that makes it easier to start again.

Our attention changes too.

We start noticing things we would usually pass by. And that changes how the disappointment feels. It becomes expected rather than surprising, part of the process rather than something that has gone wrong.

We notice the birds that arrive before we do, the



sudden appearance of butterflies, the steady work of bees and the signs that something else has passed through overnight. All connected to our garden at whatever stage it's at.



It's a slower kind of looking.

And with that comes a sense that the garden is never entirely ours, even when we're the ones tending it.

Time feels different as well.

The garden doesn't offer immediacy, so we stop expecting it. Things take as long as they take. We have to work with their rules.

Some things don't work. Some surprise us. Some simply fail.

We move on. We keep going.

We plant again, even knowing something might undo it. We water, even if rain is coming. We put the effort in without any guarantee of what we'll get back.

So yes, gardening gives us colour, fresh air and something to look at from the kitchen window.

But it also alters how we think about time. It softens our need for control. It gets us used to a bit of uncertainty without making a fuss about it. That's not something we practise very often anymore.

And, in between what grows and what doesn't, is where an organic kind of enjoyment sits.

We accept what goes wrong, because things just don't always go to plan.



Our next lecture "The Brilliance of Brunel-the man who built the modern world. Ian Swankie" is on Wednesday 3rd of June at 11am in the Assembly Hall, Melksham. Ian Swankie is a Londoner with a contagious enthusiasm for art and architecture. He is an official guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Guildhall Art Gallery and St Paul's Cathedral. He is also a freelance London tour guide.

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

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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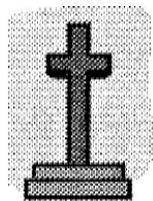
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for a donation

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 →



Memory Café

in partnership with Beyond Dementia

The Mind Tree Cafe in Rowde, SN10 2TQ

Last Monday of each month, 9:30am - 11:00am

Starts 22 June

£2.00 contribution per person - Refreshments included

A new group for people living with any type of dementia and their family carers in and around Rowde. A chance to meet new friends, find informal support and enjoy activities.

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

YOUR PCC PHILIP WILKINSON

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY!

Policing works best when it is rooted in the communities it serves. That is why I welcome the Chief Constable's announcement of Wiltshire Police's new priorities for the year ahead, which focus clearly on the things local people tell us matter most.

From April, Wiltshire Police will concentrate on three main areas: Safer Public Spaces, Reducing and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, and Improving Outcomes for Victims. These priorities will guide how officers and staff work day to day across our towns, villages and rural communities.

Keeping public spaces safe remains fundamental. This priority is about making sure people feel confident when they go about their daily lives—whether that's walking to the shops, attending local events or spending time in their neighbourhood. It includes tackling antisocial behaviour, knife crime and youth offending, and continuing to strengthen neighbourhood policing. Many residents tell me how important it is to see officers out and about locally, and that visible presence will remain a key focus.

The second priority, reducing and preventing violence against women and girls, reflects concerns raised by people across Wiltshire. Crimes such as domestic abuse, rape, stalking and harassment cause deep and lasting harm. Making this a core priority means working closely with partners to protect those at risk,



support victims and take firm action against those responsible.

Improving outcomes for victims underpins everything the police do. Reporting a crime can be worrying, and people deserve to be treated with care, respect and professionalism. This focus is about improving investigations, keeping victims informed and making sure they feel supported throughout the process.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I set the Police and Crime Plan, which sets out what residents should expect from their police service. These new operational priorities align closely with that plan and reflect our shared commitment to protecting the vulnerable, reducing harm and improving confidence in policing.

Policing faces real challenges, but clear priorities help ensure time and resources are directed where they matter most. I am confident that this approach will help Wiltshire Police continue to build trust, strengthen community links and keep our county a safe place to live, work and visit.

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Bus Timetable

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

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

Key

x = Operates via A4, not Derry Hill village

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

R = Request set down only

A = Operates via A342, does not enter Bromham village

No service on Public Holidays

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

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

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

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The G&D Events

G&D Friday Happy Hour & Early Bird Menu

Every Friday lunch & dinner! Happy Hour 5-8pm All House drinks, beer, wine & spirits are £4 Early Bird 'Pub Classics' menu for £15

Booking essential! 01380 723 053

Wednesday Early Birds 6 -7.30pm

Early Bird 'Pub Classics' menu for £15

plus 2 Grilled Ribeye steaks, chips & bottle house red £59

Sunday Night Quiz

Every second Sunday is quiz night (June 14th & 28th/ July 12th & 26th)

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

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

Sunday 26th July BBQ at 6pm – please book tickets

World Cup Final Sunday 19th July at 9pm

Bar opens at 7pm (we will screen all England games here at pub!)

G&D Darts board

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

April and May Opening Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays : closed

Wednesday to Saturday : open as usual

Saturday 20th June Chris Rocks Mini Festival

In aid of MND starts 4pm to midnight in Marston

Food & Drink plus 5 bands & DJ Joshy

Please see Chippy for more details

Dear Rowde, We are now open again on Tuesdays!!

We are now offering the Early Bird menu on Friday lunchtimes as

well as the usual evening service. G&D Darts matches will start

Tuesday 2nd June. Pub garden is looking wonderful so please come and make use of it, Pimms anyone? See you soon. Chippy & 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.

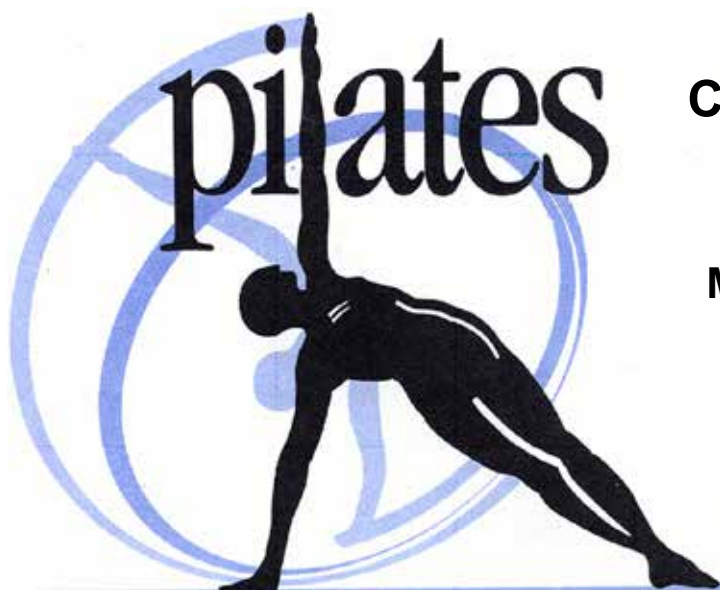
Alan Watters, Editor

Magazine Submission Deadlines (bi-monthly)

15th May 2026, 15th July 2026,

15th September 2026, 15th November 2026

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THE BEREAVEMENT HELP POINT

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

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

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

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VILLAGE DIARY

Parish Council Meetings 2026

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

Other Events

Tuesday mornings - Church Cafe - page 21
Friday afternoons - Craft, Coffee and Chat - page 21 & 29
3rd June - Arts Society Lecture - page 29
6th June - Souper Saturday - page 4
17th June - Village Hall AGM - page 42
20th June - Chris Rocks Mini Festival - page 36
22nd June - Memory Cafe starts - page 30
From 23rd June - Day Trips - back page
27th June - Rowde Open Gardens - page 31
27th June - Academy Summer Fete - page 11
29th to 4th July - Hamlet - page 40
July weekends - Rowde Open Studios - page 47
4th July - Souper Saturday - page 4
13th July - Nothing Rhymes With Orange - page 23
19th July - World Cup Final - page 36
25th July - Rowde Summer Fete - page 2
26th July - Sunday Night Quiz - page 36

ROWDE VILLAGE HALL

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17th

AT 7.30pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All welcomed

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marknash99@hotmail.co.uk

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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
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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.

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

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

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

*subject to eligibility

Sudoku (medium this month)

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

Last Month's Solution

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

Mini Sudoku (medium this month)

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

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

Last Month's Mini Sudoku Solution

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

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

Quick Reference Contacts and Village Guide

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

Agincare at Furlong Close

Tel: 721309

Allotments

Rowde Parish Council

Clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bell Ringing

Contact Michael Cornwell
on 07388 224129

michael.cornwell@btinternet.com

Charities

Silverwood School Charity Trust
silverwoodcharity@silverwood.

wilts.sch.uk

<https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/charity-trust>

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 Flowers

Caroline Keevil

ck@carolinekeevil.co.uk

Tel: 725483

Flowers for all occasions,
Weddings, Funerals & Anniversaries

Church Wardens - vacant

Doctor

For list of doctors contact the
Health Commission, Pans Lane,
Devizes, Tel: 0300 111 5717

Football

John Dalley, Tel: 727094

Footpaths

Please contact Rowde Parish
Council

Garage

Slades of Devizes Tel: 727755

Hospitals

Devizes Community Hospital
Tel: 723511

Chippenham Community Hospital

Tel: 01249 447100

Trowbridge Community Hospital

Tel: 01225 711300

Ladies Club

Held in Village Hall and meet at
various dates in the month at 2.30pm.

Mrs Di Buckland, Tel: 723049

Local Councils

Wiltshire Council

Tel: 0300 4560100

Devizes Town Council 722160

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: **07557887278**

cllr.l.wills@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk - Tekla Hicks

Tel: clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Playing Fields

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

Police

Devizes Police Tel: 101

Pubs/Restaurants

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

TAXI

J Dalley 07592 063789

Veterinary Surgeries

Estcourt - Tel: 723687

McQueens - Tel: 728505

The Paddock - Tel: 813202

Website

www.rowdevillage.org
rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com

SILLY JOKES

1. An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman walk into a pub. The barman says "What's this, some kind of joke?"

2. Oops, apparently it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority, so...

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Gurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, two Kiwis, a German, an American, a South African, a Cypriot, an Egyptian, a Japanese, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Swede, a Finn, a Dane, a Romani, a Bulgarian, a Swiss, a Greek, a Bulgarian, a Singaporean, a Norwegian, a Libyan, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Monk, an Italian, a Serb, a Russian and an Ethiopian walk into a pub.

The barman says, "Sorry, you can't come in here without a Thai"

LETTERS

A FILM CLUB FOR FURLONG CLOSE

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

The Friends and Families of Furlong Close group and two Rowde residents have very generously funded the initial purchase and the set up and ongoing costs of a seriously large television which has made this possible. The residents are able to choose themselves which film they would like to watch. If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist with setting up and serving food your help would be much appreciated.



SUMMER FETE

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

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

CALLING ALL ROWDE GARDENERS!

Are you proud of the garden you've created? Whether it's a blooming sanctuary, a clever small-space sanctuary, or a vegetable haven, we want to see it! We are looking for just one or two more gardens to join the Rowde Open Gardens on June 27th (1pm – 6pm).

Don't worry if your garden isn't "stately home" sized—we are looking for variety and plenty of interest to give visitors fresh ideas for their own patches. It's all about sharing the joy of gardening with the community for an afternoon. Please consider opening your gate for us!

If you're interested or want to chat about yours. Contact us by email on Rowde.events@yahoo.com



The Wiltshire Plough Boy

A poem by Rowde's Alan Pengelly



Spring time was waking
With blossom on the bough
When the fairest of the fair walk by
As I followed the plough
She was pretty as the primrose
Still wet with morning dew
So I vowed that I would know you
Before bluebells lost their hue.

And so the long warm days
Of summer they came
It was then I asked my true love
Would she take my name
For a thirst there was growing
And we drank deep from the well
What life lay before us
We could not foretell.

As autumn leaves fell to earth
Both yellow and red
A small chapel in our valley
Is where we were wed
As the circle of life
Turned round and around
To our given vows
We would gladly be bound

As the cruel cloak of winter
Lay on the land deep and cold
By the warmth of the hearth
Tales of old our children we told
And we knew deep in our hearts
As the seasons flew by our door
This love that is ours
Will forever endure

Oh when we lay as when
Neath the old rowan tree
I held you close
And you welcomed me
We will remember these moments
When our time does come
When we walk down that road
Into our setting sun

MOS 2026

*Open Studios Rowde
Exhibiting Artists*



14 *Geraldine
Francis*



12 *Suzanne
Jacobs*



13 *Hannah
Cantellow*

*Pick up the MOS brochure or go to
www.marlbroughopenstudios.co.uk
online for further details.*

**11AM - 5PM ON SELECT
WEEKENDS IN JULY**

**04.07, 05.07, 11.07, 12.07
18.07, 19.07, 25.07, 26.07**

STUDIO LOCATIONS

**NO. 11 MARSH LANE
NO. 12 PARADISE LANE
NO. 13 MIND TREE CAFE
NO. 14 MIND TREE CAFE**



11 *Ann
Swan*

HOLIDAYS & CRUISES

TRAVEL EXPERTS

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Dep 6 Jun 2027 • 7 days

FROM £1595PP

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- Excursion to Picos de Europa Mountains & Sky Safari
- Based at Olimpo Hotel

Bernina Express & Lindt Chocolate Museum Switzerland



Dep 28 Aug 2027 • 8 days

FROM £1479PP

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

DAY TRIPS

*Entrance or lunch included

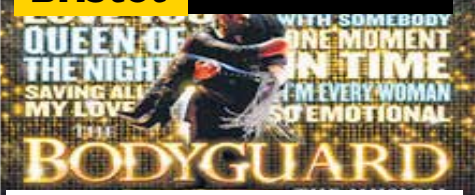
23 Jun	Shuttleworth Collection & Gardens	●	£62pp*
24 Jun	Brecon Canal Cruise & Cream Tea	●	£62pp*
27 Jun	Sir Harold Hillier Gardens	●	£52pp*
4 Jul	The Watercress Line Steam Experience	●	£72pp*
18 Jul	GWR to Broadway by Steam	●	£72pp*
19 Jul	Sunday Lunch at the Greyhound, Corfe	●	£68pp*
20 Jul	Kew Gardens	●	£68pp*

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



THEATRE TRIPS

Bristol 20 seats left



12th August • £89pp

Bristol 20 seats left



19th August • £75pp

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

