North Rode Newsletter

June 2025

What's on in North Rode
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We hope you like the new style of our newsletter. There is so much is going on in North Rode this Summer. There is the North Rode Transport Show on 7-8th June, The North Rode Railway Fete on Saturday 14th June, the North Rode Revival on Sunday 22nd June and our North Rode Well Dressing in late August. Who needs to go on Holiday!

Wishing you Well

We are very pleased to hear that Peter Brocklehurst is doing well and making an excellent recovery from his sudden illness. We wish him all the very best.

North Rode VE 80th Celebration

Many villagers joined together to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day on 8th June at the Church. We all enjoyed the mass poppy displays in the churchyard, the decorations and cheese and wine whilst listening to Churchill's VE day speech and watching images of that momentus day. We also listened to a tribute to the many that sacrificed so much to bring peace to Europe 80 years ago. More pictures are shown in the Parish Council report later on in this newsletter and on the parish council website at https://northrodepc.co.uk/



Church Flowers &Decorations

We get many comments praising our flowers, both inside and out, and our thanks go to those responsible, in particular Yvonne Brown for her beautiful arrangement on the Welcome table, and to Yvonne and Diane Lowe for filling the new outside tubs with such colour. Our appreciation also goes to Huw Williams for all his VE80 decorations.

Congratulations Winnie!

Congratulations to Winnie Bullock, daughter of Sue and Mark Bullock of Oaklands, North Rode, on becoming Chairlady of Cheshire Young Farmers Club in June, alongside Chairman John Manning. Winnie is organising a Chairpersons Charity Luncheon Sunday 17th August at Oaklands and will be inviting all villagers to join her. Details of tickets will be announced soon.



North Rode Transport Show

We've run a successful Refreshments stall with home baking in aid of the church at this event since it started about 10 years ago. Many of our customers return every year but we'll be missed this year. It's now time for a younger team to take it over with enthusiasm next year. The event is still worth visiting though! 7-8th June on Station Road.

The Rector's Letter May 2025

Some years ago, Rachel and I were fortunate to visit St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It is a huge, extraordinary building. The highly decorated Sistine Chapel, with its spectacular ceiling, painted by Michelangelo between 1508-12, was much in the news recently. This was where the Roman Catholic Cardinals met together, in a secret "conclave", to carry out the task of electing a new Pope. Interestingly, many of the Cardinals had watched the recent Oscar winning film "Conclave", based upon the thriller/novel by Robert Harris, apparently to try to gain some understanding of the election process. One Cardinal said of the film, "*It was a helpful research tool!*" What struck me after the election of Pope Leo XIV on 8th May was the outpouring of enthusiasm among Roman Catholics, not just the crowd of the 200,000+ faithful standing in St. Peter's Square, but around the world. Unlike the Church of England, it is quite impressive how quickly the Catholic Church appoints a new leader. When the name of the next Archbishop of Canterbury is eventually announced, after a vacancy of almost a year (having been elected by just seventeen people, meeting in a dull committee room in London), we will not see any white smoke, or crowds of Anglicans rejoicing openly in the streets. They do things differently in Italy.

All that said, while the story of Christianity in this country (not just the C. of E.) over recent decades has been a story of decline, it is good to report that this downward trend has somewhat reversed within the last few years. According to a recent "You Gov." survey, Church attendance in the UK has jumped by 50% in the last six years. Around two million people have begun attending some form of Church recently. The survey lists several reasons why people are giving Church a go: 1) *Satisfaction*. 75% believe the Christian faith gives their lives fresh purpose/meaning. 2) *Participation*. People enjoy being part of something bigger, are likely to volunteer, support charity work, including Foodbanks. 3) *Reflection*. Church gives space in a busy world to pause, think and be still. 4) *Connection*. Joining a community made up of diverse, supportive people. 5) *Celebration*. Sunday worship, music, singing and thought-provoking talks/sermons, all help to deepen faith in Jesus and his Good News.

While I very much doubt that there will ever be an Oscar winning film based upon the election of an Archbishop of Canterbury, as Anglicans we should be proud of the Church of England, which remains committed to "maintaining a presence in every parish" and offering a space where people may encounter the living God.

Yours ever,

Colin

North Rode Services - June 2025			
June 1st Easter 7 Flowers: Shirley Tudor-Evans	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Sharon Oldfield Blanche Royle
June 8th Pentecost Flowers: TBA	**11.15 am** Holy Communion Baptism Vinnie Wilson	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Lynn Petts Wilson Family
June 14th	**1pm** WEDDING Tom Howarth Isabella Dronsfield	Led by:	The Rector
June 15th Trinity Sunday	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	**10 am** Holy Communion **6 pm** Evensong
June 22nd Trinity 1 Flowers: Wedding flowers	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Shirley Tudor-Evans Diane Lowe
June 29th Trinity 2 Flowers: Deirdre Sampson	**10.30 am** N R Benefice Service Holy Communion	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Charles Baxter
July 6th Trinity 3 Flowers: Deirdre Sampson	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Bronwen Bebington Yvonne Brown

Marilyn Ainslie has stepped down as Church Warden after 16 years of service. A big thank you to Marilyn for all her work helping to look after our church. If you are interested in helping out with this role, please contact Diane or Marilyn to find out more. You don't need to be a regular churchgoer – everyone welcome! We're already grateful to Huw Williams for helping with the new look Newsletter.

Rector: Revd Colin Wilson 01260 223201
Warden: TBC
Secretary: Mrs Diane Lowe 01260 272576
Treasurer: Mrs Lynn Petts 01260 222902
Newsletter:
Mrs Marilyn Ainslie 01260 223346
Huw Williams 077991717459

http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk

North Rode WI May Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes

The President, Diane Lowe opened the May meeting, welcoming members to our Resolution Evening with a wartime buffet Tea afterwards to celebrate the recent VE Day on the 8th of May. Thanks were given to Diane Lowe plus others for the lovely Tea, to Mary Hobson for flowers, Freda Butler for the Raffle, Freda and Mary Hobson for Teas and Gloria, Diane Lowe and Mary Hobson for the cakes.

The April lunch was well attended and enjoyed by members and visitors and the recent WI Coffee Morning held at Gawsworth Methodist Church Hall was also very successful. North Rode WI were on the Cloud Group Bring and Buy Stall at NL Church recently and proceeds from that were successful with quite good sales

The Speaker for the Evening was very humorous and entertaining with much laughter from the audience. The NFWI AGM is a Zoom Meeting this year and arrangements are in hand for a Zoom meeting in Congleton Town Hall on Wednesday 4th June. Lunch is also provided. Names were taken for this Event. Our Quiz Team finished a Joint Third place recently. The Resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' vote was a unanimous. The Raffle was won by Jackie Spooner and the competition for a Necklace for the Gladys Dines Brooch was held over to the June Meeting. Dates for the Diary are:

- Eaton WI Afternoon Tea on 21st June at Eaton Church and Community Hall, 2pm, £15
- Gawsworth WI Summer Bingo Evening on24th June, 7pm, £1 Entrance
- Bosley WI Invite Outing to Trentham Gardens 26th June
- North Rode WI 98th Birthday Outing on Tuesday 8th July to Biddulph Old Hall Tour plus Afternoon Tea £25, Names were taken
- North Rode WI Garden Party on Tuesday 12th August at Eaton Church and Community Hall. Details to follow

Our next Meeting is on Tuesday 10th June when we welcome Nick Birchall from the Nantwich Cheese Shop. The Competition will be for Cheese Scones. Visitors are always welcome The Meeting will be 7.30pm – please note the time as we are in the Summer Months now!

Marton School

Dear Friends

This week our Year 6 children are doing their SATs Tests and we have been incredibly proud of them and all their efforts. Each morning the children arrived early to have a scrummy breakfast and all set down to the tests in a calm and sensible manner; we have been so proud them! As an end of SATS treat on Friday the children will have a movie night as our way of saying well done to them all.

The children have all enjoyed the beautiful weather and at lunchtimes been enjoying picnic lunches outside. We really make great use of the playing fields at school and it's wonderful to see the whole school playing together.

We are excited to be welcoming our new Reception children and their parents for their school visits and look forward to getting to know them all very soon. Little Seeds (every first Wednesday of the month) remains a regular fixture and we love the new relationships we have all built with new families. We will continue with Little Seeds next academic year too so please share this news with friends and family members.

We are delighted to inform you that our very own Mrs Taylor Potts and Mrs Hargreaves are taking on the 3 Peaks Challenge in May. Mrs Taylor Potts and Mrs Hargreaves will be joining The Milk Maid Marchers to take on this challenge and to fundraise for Marton F&F (our PTA) and The Farming Community Network. Please show your support and sponsor them by following this link https://martonfandf.co.uk/

With best wishes,



Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher

North Rode Parish Council Report

VE Day 80th Celebration

Some pictures of our VE 80th Celebration on 8th may. More pictures are shown on our website at https://northrodepc.co.uk/













North Rode Railway Fete 14th June 2024



Plans for our village fete, celebrating 200 years of the railway and the opening of our viaduct 176 years ago, are going well. We have arranged this event primarily as an informal afternoon for all villagers to bring their family and their friends and meet your neighbours. It is free to enter, so bring along your food and drink and lots of small change for the duck races. There won't be food and drink stalls or card machines, but there will be toilets!

You can enjoy your picnic to the sound of the Elworth Silver brass band playing in the marquee and take in the tranquilty of this beautiful setting alongside the River Dane, below this majestic old victorian viaduct. We are hoping to have a traction engine along and have arranged for train operators to blow their horns for us as they pass over - if we wave to them! Dress up in your finest victorian wear for a chance to win a prize and help add to the ambience of the day. Opportunities to pick your winning ducks in advance and if you are unable to attend will be announced soon! Any money that we make on the day will be going towards the care of our two defibrillators and future first aid training courses for our village. We are looking for volunteers to help for an hour on the day if you can – contact Huw (details below)

Welcome to our New Parish Councillor

We are very pleased to welcome Mark Bullock as a North Rode Parish Councillor, following his appointment at the Parish Council AGM on the 8th May. We are now back up to full strength!

North Rode Well Dressing – 23rd August to 7th September



We have now set a date for our very first well dressing. Workshops will be open to all villagers and will take place between 23-29th August, with the actual Well Dressing taking place on Sunday 31st August, when we will have a village picnic and arranged walks if the weather is fine. The display will remain in place until Sunday 7th September at the Church Lane Well. Put a note in your diary! Details of this event will follow closer to the time.

Annual Village Meeting

Over 30 villagers attended our annual village meeting. We were pleased to report that over the last year the parish council have been active with organising the D-Day 80th event, Poppy making workshops and displays, arranging the VE80th Celebration, installing new village signs, obtaining a new grit bin as well as actively pursuing drainage improvements and HGV traffic enforcement. Plans for the coming year were also presented. To see the full report on our activities why not visit the Parish Council Website at **https://northrodepc.co.uk**

Summer Litter Pick



We are arranging a litter picking event on Saturday 7th June, to clear out the verges and hedges ready for the summer peak! Focusing on the quieter roads within the village to begin with and If we get enough interest then we might tackle the busier main roads on a subsequent date. The plan is to start around 10:00, and pick for a couple of hours

The Parish Council have some picking equipment, bags and high viz vests available, although if you have your own then that would be fantastic. We also have some “Litter Picking in Progress” warning signs in key points to put out on the day to alert drivers to the activity. We will also dispose of everything afterwards. If you are available to help, please contact Cllr Jon Burwood by end of May and whether you need equipment. jon.burwood@icloud.com

Recent Planning Applications

25/1364/HOUS The Grange, Shellow Lane. Renovation and repairs to listed building
25/1424/FUL Thisilldous, Macclesfield Road. Change of use of an agricultural field to a dog exercise area,
24/2680C Bank Farm, Bank Lane. Change of use of woodland and agricultural land to a wedding venue

You can view applications online at: Cheshire East Planning Applications.

Next Council Meeting

Our next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 8th August, at Daintry Hall at 7:30pm. All villagers are welcome to come along.

Huw Williams
Chairman North Rode Parish Council
Huwwilliams200@gmail.com
Tel 07791717459

North Rode Revival – Sunday 22nd June!

The fabulous North Rode Revival returns a little earlier this year with more classic and competition car exhibitors than we've had on show before. There will be Live music from the fabulous Charley Farley Band and Olivia Robinson. ALPACA airways will be offering 15mins flights (for a £50 charity donation) in a light fixed or flex wing aircraft. These flights are hugely popular so why not book in advance by contacting Mike Gilman on 07914205654 to avoid disappointment. Be brave and take the opportunity of a lifetime to fly over your village!



For the animal lovers there's a chance to meet and feed the Alpaca's, fun and games for the kids (the big ones as well!), or simply relax with a cold drink and take in the atmosphere.

Refreshments will be available or you can bring your own picnic which makes it a fun and affordable family day out! Tickets are available on the door and entry is £10 per person and £5 for children aged 6-14 and free for children aged 5 and below. So all you need to do now is start planning what vintage outfit you'll wear as there will be a prize for the best dressed.



The North Rode Revival is on at: The Smithy, Station Road, North Rode, Congleton, CW12 2PD and will be a Cash Only Event.

The North Rode Revival is the brainchild of North Rode Villager Mike Gilman and was originally called the Alpaca Picnic. The event is put on by Mike's team of local volunteers and all proceeds go to the East Cheshire Hospice and for the benefit of the North Rode community.

If you would like to support this event, you can bake a cake or make a donation. Please contact Janet James on 07872 558531.

So please come along and enjoy this fantastic day and help support your community. Be brave and take the opportunity of a lifetime to fly over your village!

THE HISTORY OF NORTH RODE, AS I KNEW IT FROM 1914 TO 1973 – Part 3
Written by W.L.Cumberlidge.

Continued..... Next we come to the Vicarage which is situated in a very pleasant position and I have made mention of this in the account of the Vicar. Next we come to four cottages in two separate places. In 1914 these were occupied by the following:-

Mr. A Birch, the village tailor. He made suits and trousers and breeches for the people of the village and the surrounding district. Most of his work was hand done, and the material he used was so much better than the material used today, it was a job to wear it out. He had three sons and one daughter and all the sons went to work on the railway, Sydney as a Porter and Harvey and Fred as Clerks. Sydney left the railway and went to work in the stores at Parkside Hospital, Harvey was Chief Clerk at Macclesfield Central before moving on to the Great Central Railway. Fred worked at North Rode Station, subsequently becoming Station Master at Melton Mowbray and then to one of the Outer London Stations, from where he retired. The daughter married Mr. Colin Dawson.

The occupier of the other house was Miss Morris, of whom I know little. The occupiers of the other cottages were S. Gould and R. Colban. The Colban family came to North Rode due to the illness of Mr. Colban. He had two sons Ernest and Edward, and two daughters, Alice and Fanny. Edward worked at North Rode Station for a while and married Miss Bloor of the Chain and Gate. Ernest, who did not have good health, worked as a gardener, Fanny stayed at home and Alice worked in Goodwin's Wool Shop, Macclesfield, knitting stockings and afterwards she worked as a Porter at North Rode Station. After Mrs. Mottershead gave up the Post Office, Fanny and Alice resided at the Lodge and took over the duties of the Post Office. To my knowledge none of the family is still living. When I knew the occupiers of these cottages, they were Mr..Brindley, Mrs. Mottershead and Mr. Needham and his daughter. Mr. Brindley worked for the Cheshire County Council and had several children. On his retirement he looked after the churchyard, and when the village entered 'The Best Kept Village Competition', it was said that it was the best kept churchyard of any they had visited. Mrs. Mottershead, next door, kept a small shop which was also the Post Office. Mr. Needham was a retired Police Sergeant and took a great interest in the village. Apart from members of the Parish Council, he was the only person to attend the Parish Meeting.

We now come to the School and Schoolhouse, the teacher was Mr. Howard. He was very strict in his teaching and was always particular about handwriting, several of his scholars made good headway in life and made some good farmers. He was followed by Miss Greenwood assisted by Miss Bagnell.



Mrs Clowes and children in front of Daintry Hall School in North Rode just prior to closure

When Miss Greenwood retired she went to live in one of the Council Houses and then she emigrated to Australia. She was followed by Miss Knott and then by Mrs. Clowes until the school was closed, an account of which can be seen in the Minute Book of the Parish Council, along with a photograph which was taken by the B.B.C. on the closure of the school.

We next come to Yew Tree Farm that was occupied by Mr. J. Nield, who had two sons and three daughters. One of his daughters married Mr.Clayton and the other Mr.T.Biddulph who then resided at Pastures Farm, Gawsworth. After Mr.Nield died, his two sons went to farm in the Wincle District, the farm then being taken by a Mr. Smallwood who did not make a success of it and on the sale of the estate it was made into three small holdings. The tenants were Mr.Bostock, Mr.Bowyer and Mr. Wheel ton. Mr. Wheelton was not long at the farm, known as Cloud View and it was taken by Mr.E.Bayley. He is the area representative on the Cheshire County Council, Chairman of the Macclesfield Education Committee, in place of Mr.T.T.Shaw who was the Headmaster of the Macclesfield Grammer School,, he also has many other interests in public life, being a member of the Water Board and on the Management Committee of the new Marton School, this interest in public life takes up much of his time, When he retired, the farm was carried on by his son.

We now come to the Manor House which has changed hands on several occasions. The occupier after Mr.Forbes was a Mr.Taylor, then Mr AC.Scott then Mr.Parkyn and now Major Waite. I should like to mention Mr.Parkyn who took a great interest in the village. He was a member of the Parish Council and was very generous; he paid for the decorating of North Rode Church. He took a great interest in the Coronation celebrations, an account of which is in the Parish Minute Book. It was a great loss to the Parish when he left. Mr. Forbes had one daughter named Nancy who was of slim build and over 6ft. tall. She was very interested in the parish and in the countryside, and proposed that we join the Association of Parish Councils, North Rode being one of the founder members.



I should now like to mention the Lodge, North Rode, which was occupied by Mr. Tootal-Broadhurst's coachman, Mr. G. Bagnall. He was a well-built man and had two sons and three daughters. He considered his position as coachman to be one of the senior positions at the Manor House, but he was a very easy man to get on with. One of his sons, George, went to work for Sir Tootal at his Manchester Works, he has now retired and lives in Eaton. The other son went to work out of the parish and I do not know what happened to him. One daughter was for a time, a teacher at North Rode School under Miss Greenwood, with whom she resided. I have no recollection of the other two daughters. Upon Miss Greenwood's retirement they went to reside in one of the Council Houses and when Miss Greenwood emigrated to Australia, Miss Bagnal went as a housekeeper to Mr. W, Ford of Bramhall Farm until he sold his farm in 1970.

We now go to Keeper's Cottage which was occupied by Mr. W. Pointon, who was Head Gardener for Sir Tootal Broadhurst, and I regret to say I know little about him beyond the fact that he was a good gardener. The other two cottages were occupied by Mr. H.V. Fisher, who worked in the gardens, and Mr. P. Hinde, who worked at the Manor House. Up to the present date these properties have changed hands several times. As far as I know these cottages were sold with the Manor House, and the present owner is Major Waite.

..... to be continued in next months newsletter. Huw Williams