NORTH RODE NEWSLETTER – MAY 2025

Following the Easter gatherings, our thanks go to the Revd Anne Freestone for taking our well-attended Easter service. We now look forward to the Parish Council VE Day 80 event in May and the Railway Fete in June and hope you will join us in the promised heatwave!

Birthdays

Best wishes to Jensen & Macauley Thorpe who will be 12 on 2nd May.

Macclesfield Canal Breach

Many of you will be aware of the canal closure between Cowley Bridge(51) and Bosley Lock 12 on the Macclesfield Canal, due to a breach in the western embankment. The moored boats have been moved, the canal has been emptied, with the fish being saved, and the towpath closed to pedestrians, cyclists and dog-walkers.

The latest update from the Canal & River Trust is that following access agreements with landowners, work is due to start week commencing 28th April. Based on their initial repair plan, they are now expecting the canal to reopen for navigation on 20th June 2025. Meanwhile the new swing bridge at Fool's Nook is due to open before the end of April, albeit with nowhere for boaters to go until the end of June if they do pass though!



North Rode WI April Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes:

The April Meeting of North Rode WI was our Spring Lunch followed by a talk and presentation by Clare and Mike from the Edge Distillery Astbury and a Gin Tasting. The Lunch was well received by all our members plus lots of visitors were welcomed: Susan Leicester our WI Advisor and Vivien Lee WI Trustee and WI Advisor plus friends and members from other Wis. The talk by Clare and Mike again was very interesting and we tasted 5 small amounts of Gin including Rhubarb, Berry, and Orange Gins plus plenty of Tonic Water. People who had not been before were very impressed with the Gin and the presentation. The Tables were decorated with jam jars filled with spring flowers. Raffle Prizes were won by our members and also guests. The weather was also kind, very sunny and warm. A few notices were given out before we had the lunch.

An invitation had been received from Gawsworth WI to a Summer Bingo Night on Tuesday 24th June 7pm £1 entrance in Gawsworth Village Hall.

Eaton WI are holding a Prosecco Afternoon Tea on Saturday 21st June, cost £15 at Eaton Church and Community Hall.

Cloud Group spring meeting is Wednesday 1st May and North Rode WI are on the Bring and Buy Stall. Members were asked to bring items for this. The Speaker is Rob Mason Northern Humour.

On the 7th May we have our yearly Coffee Morning at Gawsworth Methodist Church Hall 10am. Helpers and items for the Stalls needed.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th May 7.30pm (note the time). This is Resolutions Evening. The Competition will be Gladys Dines Brooch competition. Please bring a piece of jewellery, costume jewellery, necklace.

There is to be a Zoom Meeting at Congleton Town Hall on June 4th to view the NFWI AGM as there is no face to face AGM this year. More details to follow.

Visitors are made very welcome at our meetings, 7.30pm during the summer months and 2pm during the winter months at Eaton Church and Community Hall.

The Rector's Letter May 2025

As we grow older, no doubt some of us look back and remember certain people who guided us, offering their wisdom and advice when we needed it. My maternal grandmother was a Christian and I often say that I *"caught"* my faith from her. She was a gentle, kind lady, and very wise. I remember her saying, on several occasions, *"people no longer have beliefs, they only have opinions."*

Recently my wife and I went for a meal at a local pub and, while standing at the bar, I got into conversation with someone who expressed negative opinions on our current society and the wider world, which made me think about the polarisation which seems to be taking place in our society. Particularly troublesome is the attitude that a certain opinion is correct and that everyone else is wrong. From politics to religion, sport to sexuality, almost every area of public debate has become a toxic arena where people hold to certain views and often aggressively reject the views of others.

As Christians, we know that this is wrong. Jesus taught us that in gentleness and mercy there is great blessing to be had, that traits such as kindness and gentleness are to be encouraged and treasured. St. Paul writing to the Church in Galatia said that when we become Christians, God's Spirit works within us to produce fruit, *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".* Can you imagine a world where everyone's point of view was listened to and respected?

One of my favourite prayers is by St. Ignatius of Loyola: *"Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen."*

May we be known for our gentleness, humility, kindness, patience, and may God richly pour into our hearts His Holy Spirit to bear fruit in our lives.

Yours ever,

Colin

North Rode Services
May 2025

May 4th Easter 3 Flowers: Elizabeth Allen	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
May 11th Easter 4 Flowers: Elizabeth Allen	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Louise Jackson Myrtle Bullock
May 18th Easter 5	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	**10 am** Holy Communion **6 pm** Evensong
May 25th Easter 6 Flowers: Shirley Tudor-Evans	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Rachel Wilson
May 29th Ascension Day			
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

http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk

Rector 01260 223201	Revd Colin Wilson
Warden 01260 223346	Mrs Marilyn Ainslie
Secretary 01260 272576	Mrs Diane Lowe
Treasurer 01260 222902	Mrs Lynn Petts
Magazine Contact 01260 2233	Mrs Marilyn Ainslie

North Rode Parish Council
May 2025 Update

North Rode Viaduct Fete 14th June 2024

Details of the fete are on the poster below. This is an informal afternoon for the village to come together and celebrate the 200th year of the Railway and the opening of our viaduct. Elmsworth Brass band will be playing and there will be duck races for adults and children. Bring your own food and drink and any proceeds made from the duck races, will go towards North Rode community projects such as the well dressing later this year, upkeep of our two defibrillators and future first aid courses we would like to run. If you are interested in helping out on the day with marshalling cars and running duck races etc, please message our parish council clerk Brenda Lomas at clerk@northrodepc.co.uk.

New Parish Boundary Signs

We have recently purchased three additional parish boundary signs for Shellow Lane, Cocksmoss Lane and Bullgate Lane to complete our signage project. These have recently been installed by parish councillors and volunteers at locations agreed with CE Highways.



Cllrs Brian Evans and Georgina Bailey at work on Bullgate Lane

Flowering Cherry Trees in the Park

It is lovely to see a number of cherry trees flowering around the village at the moment, including the the three planted in the park to commemorate our late Queen Elizabeth II in 2023.



Parish Council Vacancy – We currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are interested in joining and feel you are able to commit time and enthisiasm to help make our village a better place, please contact our Clerk, Brenda Lomas at clerk@northrodepc.co.uk or chairman Huw Williams at huwwilliams200@gmail.com. For further details.

Roads – We are currently liaising with Highways to resolve the ongoing drainage leak on Church Lane

VE Day 80 Celebration and Annual Parish Meeting on Thurs 8th May

See programme and details on the poster below

The celebration starts with a flag raising in the morning and bell ringing at 6:30pm in the evening followed by the annual parish meeting which is open for all villager. Come along to hear what you parish council has been doing and is planning to do over the coming year, and for you to have your say, we'd welcome your contribution and suggestions. This is followed by Parish Council AGM. **Cllr Huw Williams**





VE Day 80 in North Rode

8th May at St Michaels Church

9:00am Raising the VE Day 80 Flag

We will join the nation with raising the VE Day flag at St Michael's to mark the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day. A sea of poppies will be planted to commemorate those that gave their lives to achieve peace in Europe.

6:30pm Ring the Bells in Celebration

The church bells will ring out at St Michaels at North Rode, along with many other around the country to celebrate this day.

7:00pm VE Day 80 Tribute followed by

North Rode Annual Parish Meeting

Meet your parish councillors, hear what your Parish Council has been doing for the village over the last year and find out what our plans are for the coming year. Have your say and enjoy some cheese and wine.

Also, a representative of Daintry Hall Management Committee will provide an update on progress towards our new Village pavilion and the redevelopment and renovation of Daintry Hall.

North Rode Parish Council AGM

The Parish Council annual general meeting will take place. All are welcome to stay if they wish and listen to proceedings

---

Organised by North Rode Parish Council - clerk@northrodepc.co.uk



North Rode Railway Fete

2pm on Saturday 14th June at North Rode Viaduct
Colley Mill Farm, Buxton Rd, North Rode, CW12 2PH

Join us to celebrate 200 years of the railway in Great Britain on the 176th Anniversary of the opening of North Rode Viaduct, at the exact spot of the original Victorian ceremony held on 14th June 1849!

Bring your own picnic and listen to the Brass band playing as trains pass over the historic structure above. We might even get a whistle if you wave!



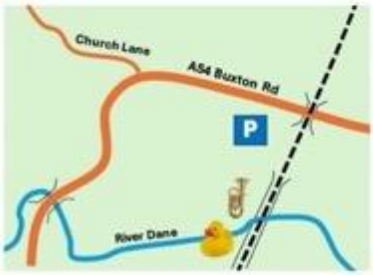
BEST VICTORIAN COSTUME COMPETITION



DUCK RACES ON THE DANE RIVER FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN



ELWORTH SILVER BAND IN THE MARQUEE



LOCATION PLAN

Free Entry - Duck race proceeds in aid of North Rode community projects

---

Organised by North Rode Parish Council - Contact clerk@northrodepc.co.uk

THE HISTORY OF NORTH RODE, AS I KNEW IT FROM 1914 TO 1973 – Part 2

Written by W.L.Cumberlidge.

The vicar of North Rode was the Rev. Julian Harvey. He was a moderately tall, thin man and his wife was also tall and thin. He was well liked in the village, he liked the people of the Parish to go to Church and they attended well. The Church had its own choir and it was said that the Vicar never took any fees for weddings or funerals for any residents of the village. He had a coach with a horse called Admiral, the coachman being Mr.Betts. When Admiral died he had it buried in the Vicarage grounds. After Mr.Harvey's death, the Rev.W.O.Evans became the new Vicar but he died at an early age and the Vicar of Bosley took on the Parish of North Rode as well as his own. The North Rode Vicarage was sold to Mr.P.Wallen. The Parochial Church Council expected to get the proceeds of the sale for the benefit of the Church, but the Church Commissioners took them.

Sir Tootal Broadhurst, Mr.Midwood and Mr.Moseley, used to travel to Manchester by the Stafford to Manchester Express train. It was booked to stop at North Rode by signal - the station had to inform the signalmen if they were travelling. The Guards were J.Morgan and J.Harper, their uniform, supplied by the North Staffordshire Railway, was very elaborate and they took a great pride in it. J.Morgan was an Ex guardsman and he used to jump out of the train and salute them which was very much appreciated and was well rewarded at Christmas time.



North Rode Railway Station

Mr.Cooper of the Smithy, North Rode, was a man of medium height and of thin build, his wife was tall and slim, they had two sons and one daughter. I used to call at the Smithy and see him shoe the horses and mend agricultural instruments. When the Motor came into use he closed the Smithy and went into the road haulage business which now goes under the name of "Cooper and Sons". The sons have each built a house in the village and still reside there.

Mr.L.Malkin, of Wheatsheaf Farm, was a man of quiet disposition and it was nice to have a talk with him. I understand that in the distant past this was a public house known as the Wheatsheaf, from which it gets its name. He bought his farm at the sale of the estate and it was farmed by his son until 1966, when he sold it.



The Smithy, Station Rd, North Rode

In the three Railway Cottages, lived Mr.Forrester who had two daughters .Mr.Preston, who had one son who was cashier at Thompsons Corn Mill at Bosley - he used to do a bit of dealing on the Stock Exchange and he told me to invest what little money I had in Alsops Brewery and Lever Bros. Which I did, he said he had been successful in most of his deals. Mr.Pickford lived in the other cottage, he had an only child. Mr.Pickford was the Foreman Platelayer.

Mr.Forrester and Mr.Preston were Signalmen, Mr.Forrester working his 10 hours duty in North Rode Junction and Mr.Preston worked 4 hours in North Rode Junction and 4 hours in Sutton Crossing the other 2 hours being spent in travelling between the two boxes. The other signalman was Mr J.Kennerley who worked the other 10 hours in North Rode Junction. He resided in Bosley.

We next come to Ladder Style Farm, farmed by Thomas Heath, a quiet man, but interesting to talk with. When Mr. Heath retired, the farm was taken by Mr. Swindells, who had three sons and one daughter, when Mr.Swindells died the farm was carried by his son James Stanley Swindells who farmed it until 1970 when he sold it and went to live at Silver Birches, Marton Lane, which he had built. The other sons I lost sight of but the daughter, Miss. F.E.Swindells, lives at 100, Crompton Road, Macclesfield. She has a beautiful contralto voice and in one of the visiting preachers in the Macclesfield District.

The next farm was Colley Farm, which was farmed by Mr.D.Wyche - I did not know him well in 1914 - he dies shortly afterwards, and the farm was carried on by his two sons, John and Jim. He also had a daughter who kept the Alexandra Cafe, in the Market Place, Macclesfield., she subsequently married Mr.G.M. Shaw, of Dob Ford Farm and gave up the business; it is now a Chinese Restaurant, Ming Yin. John was a well-known character in the village and married the governess at the Oaklands. They left the Parish and went to farm in the Wincle area.

We now come to Colley Mill which was occupied by Mr.L.Street. Mr.Street was a well-known character in the village and was self-employed being the Wheelwright and Joiner. It was interesting to watch him making the cart wheels and putting on the iron bands that were placed round them. He had a large sandy coloured beard, of which he was very proud. The Daily Herald published a book on the history of Rural England and they came to take a photograph of him, which was very good, he looked a typical countryman. There was a photograph included in the book but it was not the one of Mr.Street and in my opinion not as good. He had several children and it was a great pleasure to

have a talk with him and hear of the past history of North Rode. The Colley Mill is listed Grade 3 whilst Colley Mill Bridge listed as Grade 2 in the Environments List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. At one time, I was told, it had a Water Wheel driven by the River Dane, I am unable to say if this was absolutely correct.



Colley Mill on the River Dane

At the junction of the Congleton - Buxton road with the road to North Rode Church was a Toll House which was controlled by a gate, this has long since been pulled down. A Mr. Berrisford, who at one time worked for the Daintrys, told me that one night Lord Harrington passed through the village and insisted that he pay the toll, which was much to the amusement of the then Squire of North Rode.

We next come to Yew Tree Cottage which is one of the oldest cottages in North Rode and was occupied by Mr. Brown who worked on the estate and was well liked. He died shortly after I came to North Rode. He had three sons - George, Arthur and Jim; Arthur and Jim all their working lives on the railway, Arthur being Passenger Agent at Crewe and Jim was Chief Clerk there. After the death of Mrs Brown, Arthur stayed on at Yew Tree Cottage, he had married one of the daughters of Mr. Seal, who was Head Gardener for Mr. Midwood.. They provided afternoon teas and did quite a good business. The Parish Council has recommended that this cottage be placed on the list of Architectural and Historic Buildings. He left the house and it was sold to Mr. Jotham who has since died, and it is now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Mortimer, Mr. Jotham's daughter and her husband.

The next place of call is Rode Hall Farm, which was occupied by Mr. A Clayton, a very shrewd man with whom it was a pleasure to talk. He had three daughters, Winifred, Iris and Doris. One married Mr. Bullock who now resides at the Oaklands and another married Mr. Naden who resides at Bank Farm, the other daughter was, I believe, a schoolteacher. Mr. Clayton told me that his father before him had farmed at Rode Hall Farm, he was Mr. Enoch Clayton and his name appears in the Parish Minute Book and he took great interest in the Parish. When Mr. Clayton retired from farming he let the farm to Mr. J. Taylor and he told me that he had found a good tenant who he considered to be a better farmer than himself.



Rode Hall Farm

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