North Rode Newsletter

October 2026

What's on in North Rode
To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter mailing list,
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Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in fast and there is a chill in the night air. We have a mystery poem, important updates about the new pavilion and a Peak Cluster route change and we are revisiting a story about an alleged murder in North Rode!

Happy Jasper Birthdays!

Jasper Edwards is 4 on 19th October
Jasper Petts is 9 on 30th October

Happy 40th Anniversary!



Tony Waller and Judith Shaw were married on 20th September 1986 at St Michael's Church, North Rode, Judith then lived at Dobford Farm with her parents Ruth and John Shaw, a well-known couple in the village. Judith and Tony started their married life in Eaton, they then moved on to Bosley and eventually to Drove Hey farm in Sutton where they still live today. They have two children, their son Richard and daughter Alison and a grandson Siddy. Their celebrations included a family party on the day, a holiday with friends in Cornwall and are soon to jet off on a trip to Italy. Congratulations to you both and may you enjoy many more happy years together.



Harvest Luncheon

All are welcome to this year's Harvest Luncheon which is on 11th October and will be held at Eaton Village & Community Hall at 12:30. Book early as space is limited and tickets sell out quickly. There will be a raffle and all monies raised will go towards St Michaels Parish Church in North Rode. All details are on the poster below:



Congratulations!

Shirley Tudor-Evans is celebrating the birth of her new Grandson Argo Julian Tudor-Evans. Argo arrived on September 16th at home in Bali, to proud parents Will and Fathia and elder brother Olix Edward.

Wedding at St Michaels

The wedding took place on Saturday 1st August 2026 of John Nixon & Georgie Johnson-Greening. John's grandparents, John & Christine Bullock, lived in North Rode and were active members of the church for many years. John is the sixth generation to be married at St. Michael's. Following the service a reception was held for family & friends in a marquee at Bosley. They have set up home in Rudyard and enjoyed a two week honeymoon on safari in Kenya. We wish them all the very best for a happy & healthy life together.



Are You The Mystery Poet!



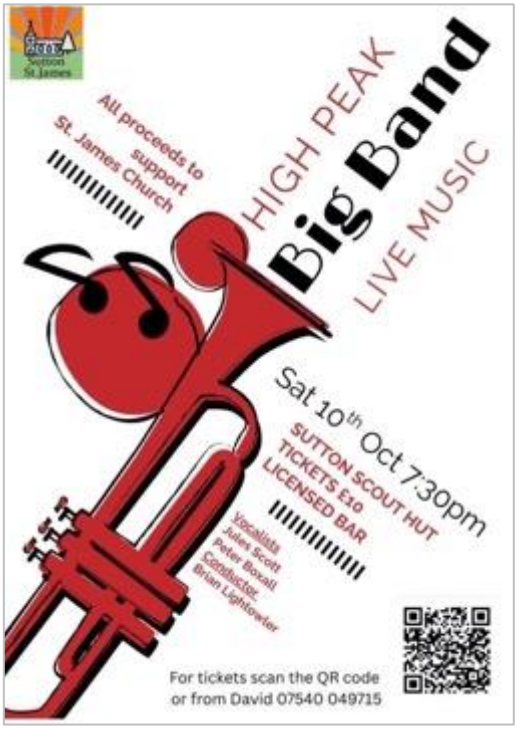
A red book packed full of lovely poems was recently passed to Rose Brocklehurst. It was found at the book stall at Key Green Chapel recently. One of the poems was about North Rode, and Rose is intrigued to know if the writer lives or lived in North Rode and if they or their family have lost it! If you recognise the book or poem below, please contact the newsletter team or Rose Brocklehurst.

North Rode

Our dear North Rode is a pleasant abode
Where most of us children dwell
And go where we may for a year or a day
No place can we love so well

The Park, the Lake a sweet picture they make
And the rippling brook beneath
Field, wood, and lane, the bright river Dane
And the Cloud with it's crown of heath

We love them all and the church so tall
And the school across the way
Where each day we return our lessons to learn
And the playground where we play



What's on Local in October



The Rector's Letter October 2026

With the long hot summer behind us, October is traditionally the month when Churches around the country hold Harvest Thanksgiving Services. This year has been particularly difficult for our farmers, experiencing severe drought, affecting crop yields, livestock, the dairy industry etc. Many farmers are struggling to make a profit and stay in business.

Meanwhile, the farming work carries on, tilling the fields, sowing crops for next year's harvest, repairing boundaries, servicing farm equipment and no doubt doing many other things those outside the farming community know nothing about. In 1980 UK farmers produced 78% of our food, now the figure is 60%. Perhaps the Government will recognise that "Food Security" is as important as "Defence Security" and do more to support UK famers.

Harvest Thanksgiving is perhaps the one time of the year when many people will pause, think about where their food comes from and the people who work so hard to produce it. Being thankful goes to the heart of the Christian faith. Saint Paul was always giving thanks, especially for the people he had met, who welcomed and supported him during his many journeys around the Eastern Mediterranean. He appreciated the good in others and their work to help others and make life better.

As a young boy, my parents taught me the discipline of writing "Thank You" notes after Christmas and birthdays. But, whether by text, email, `phone call, letter or a card, receiving a "Thank You" is always welcomed. At a time of increasing division within our society, I wonder if we could begin to take better stock of the positives/blessings in our relationships more, and, importantly, show and speak our thankfulness and appreciation. That would surely change our lives, and society, for the better.

Yours ever,
Colin

North Rode Services
October 2026

October 4th Trinity 18 Flowers: Pam Robinson	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Sharon Oldfield
October 11h Trinity 19 Flowers: Bronwen Bebington and helpers	**11.15** Harvest Service Followed by Harvest Lunch 12.30 for 1 pm	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Charles Baxter
October 18th Trinity 20	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	**10 am** Holy Communion **6 pm** Evensong
October 25th Trinity 21 (last) Flowers:Hilary Trueman	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Diane Lowe Geoffrey Allen
November 1st All Saints Day Flowers:as last week	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts

If anyone would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or while in hospital, please contact the Rector.

Rector: Revd Colin Wilson 01260 223201
Enquiries: Mrs Diane Lowe 01260 272576
Secretary: Mrs Diane Lowe 01260 272576
Treasurer: Mrs Lynn Petts 01260 222902
Newsletter: Huw Williams 07791 717459
http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk

North Rode Parish Council Update

Huw Williams – Chairman



Well Dressing

We are pleased to say that North Rode received many congratulatory messages for it's well dressing last month, including a full page write up in the Congleton Chronicle, which hopefully you managed to get a copy of. There is also a story on this event and other village events on the parish council website at https://northrodepc.co.uk.

We are already thinking about ideas for and a theme for next year's well dressing!

Peak Cluster Route Change



Peak Cluster have just released details of changes to the project route. This has narrowed the working corridor and for North Rode, the route now heads North West towards Tidnock Farm, just after Manor Farm and avoids a route around Gawsworth (see red boundary on the diagram to the left). You can view the interactive map on the Peak Cluster website. The consultation process will be as follows:

October 2026: Further information on proposed changes and details about how to participate in consultation events.
November 2026: Consultation opens on the proposed locations for the Project's pipeline infrastructure including above ground installations and block valve stations, temporary construction areas and access arrangements in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire.
January 2027: Consultation opens on the proposed locations for the Project's pipeline infrastructure including above ground installations and block valve stations, temporary construction areas and access arrangements for the Wirral.
Summer 2027: Full phase 2 consultation on a further developed project design including the updated project boundary and the preliminary findings of our environmental assessments.

Highway Issues



New Gulleys on Bank Lane

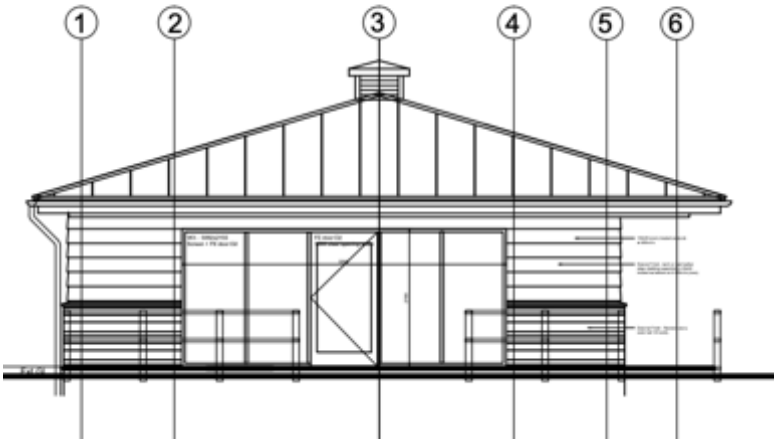
Work has recently been carried out to improve the gulleys and drains on Bank Lane, following on from jetting carried out last year, which has already seen an improvement and reduced flooding in heavy rain. Church Lane also benefited from a further water jetting of drains just below the well. A long standing water leak just below the vicarage was reported to United Utilities, who carried out a repair, only for a further leak to appear in the road opposite Rode Hall Farm. It must be said that the condition of the road due to heavier traffic than it was designed for, both in terms of volume and number of HGV's must be a contributing factor to failing drains and water main damage.

Recent Planning Applications

25/2142/FUL – Ladera Lodges - Retrospective planning for 6 additional lodges – Approved subject to conditions.

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd October at 7:30pm at Daintry Hall**. Everyone is welcome to come along, and there is a session at the start for you to voice any concerns you may have. You can also raise any concerns you have about the village at any time by contacting a parish councillor or emailing the parish clerk at clerk@northrodepc.co.uk

Daintry Hall Management Comittee Update



The current Daintry Hall Management Committee has the following trustees: Mark Bullock, Colin Wilson, Huw Williams and David Shaw (Treasurer). We were very lucky to have David come on board last year, when Lynn Petts stepped down after many year of sterling service. The passing of Trustee Tony Hayes recently was a massive loss for us, as he was a driving force for many years and was key to obtaining planning permission for the new development and put in place many critical steps for our project. We have taken stock and are now moving forward again.

Work is starting on the new Pavillion shortly. We have moved the Nursery School wild play area closer to the Hall, and this will enable ground work to commence for the car park, drainage and pavilion, without causing any disruption to the Nursery. We are also working submisison of Building Regulation calculations and drawings to enable the structure to be accepted, ordered and installed

We are very pleased to anounce, that we have been able to secure **£50,000** of grant funding for the Pavilion from Tarmac under the Landfill Communities Fund to cover the electro-mechanical element of the pavilion project (i.e. heating, lighting, kitchen and toilet facilities). This is a massive boost and will enable us to proceed with our project in confidence.

The committee is also responsible for maintenance of Daintry Hall School (used by the Nursery) and the School House. You may have noticed this year that as part of a range of improvements to the School House on Manor Park Road, we have replaced all the external windows, doors and facia boards and recently re-rendered the property, as well as improving insulation.

We've gone poppy mad!

North Rode Knit & Natter are getting closer to their target 1000 knitted poppies for November with assistance from North Rode WI ladies. A successful trial run has been carried out at the church recently with netting supplied by the Parish Council. It will be a sight to behold and complement the poppy displays that will also be put up around the village around 24th October.



This year's plastic poppy workshop will be held at Rode Hall Farm at 1pm on Saturday 17th October. If you are interested in seeing how we make the poppies and want to come along and help us put them together, please contact Huwwilliams200@gmail.com. We too are hoping to have a total of 1000 to put out this year!

Cheshire Life magazine recently came along to interview the Knit & Natter ladies and find out about our poppy displays and why they are important for a village such as ours, that doesn't have a war memorial. An article will be appearing in the November edition, which will be coming Friday 23rd October.

Marton School

Dear Friends

Autumn at Marton

There is something particularly beautiful about Marton in the autumn. As the leaves begin to turn and our school grounds take on their wonderful autumn colours, school life is as busy and vibrant as ever. Our children have settled beautifully into the new school year and it has been lovely to see our Marton family spirit shining through.

Our Enrichment Day was a particular highlight. The day brought children of different ages together, with our older children working alongside and supporting our younger pupils. There was team spirit in abundance, and we were incredibly proud to see our children showing such kindness, encouragement and leadership. These are the moments that make our school so special.

We were also delighted to celebrate the achievements of our children through the Summer Reading Challenge at Congleton Library. An amazing 34 Marton children took part this year — around 16% of our pupils — with children challenged to read six books over the summer. We are so proud of their enthusiasm for reading and the certificate we received from the library is proudly displayed in school.

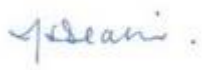
Our children continue to think about others and make a difference beyond our school gates. Our School Council supported Jeans for Genes Day on 18 September, helping to raise money and awareness for children affected by genetic conditions. We are always proud when our children understand that even small acts of kindness and generosity can make a real difference.

Looking ahead, our Ethos Group will be hosting a Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon on Friday 2 October. We look forward to welcoming families and members of our community for coffee, cake and conversation, whilst learning more about Fairtrade and how our choices can make a difference to others around the world.

We have also been celebrating someone very special to our school community. We gave our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Sue Furness, our Chair of Governors, who has been a governor at Marton for an incredible 25 years. Sue gives so generously of her time, wisdom and support and has been a wonderful champion of our school and our children. We are incredibly grateful for all that she does for us.

As we begin this new season, we are reminded once again of what makes Marton so special — our children, our families, our staff and our wider community working together. And, of course, we cannot forget just how resplendent and beautiful Marton looks in the autumn sunshine!

There really is no place like Marton.



Mrs Nevin Deakin Headteacher

North Rode WI Report

Secretary Pam Robinson writes

The September Meeting was opened by the President Diane Lowe. Thanks were given out to Diane Lowe for Table Flowers, for Teas to Jackie and Carrie, for cakes to Pauline plus other Members and for the raffle to Pam. A vote of thanks was given by Pam.

The Garden Party was a very pleasant afternoon held at The Stables on a very warm and sunny afternoon. There was good food and good company. We welcomed Ann Beckett our CFWI Chairman plus Irene Goodwin the Eaton WI President plus other guests.





On WI Day on 16th September several members plus visitors had lunch at the Lion and Swan in Congleton, which was very well received by all who attended and the food and service very good.

Several Invitations had been given out for our Coffee Morning on 24th September, which was a very successful morning.

The speaker for the September meeting was John Gibb who was talking about Bells and Bellringing. It was a fascinating subject. John had slides of very very old Chinese Bells. During the evening some Handbells were brought out and some members tried to get a tune from them which caused much laughter - more practice was needed! John is Master of the Bell Tower at St Peter's Church and has been a Bell ringer for very many years but younger people are needed to carry on this very worthwhile tradition. Pam Robinson gave John and his young helper Marie a very warm Vote of Thanks. The Raffle was won by Marie and also Enid Jones. The Competition was won by Mary Hobson and second was Hilary Trueman.





Dates for your Diary

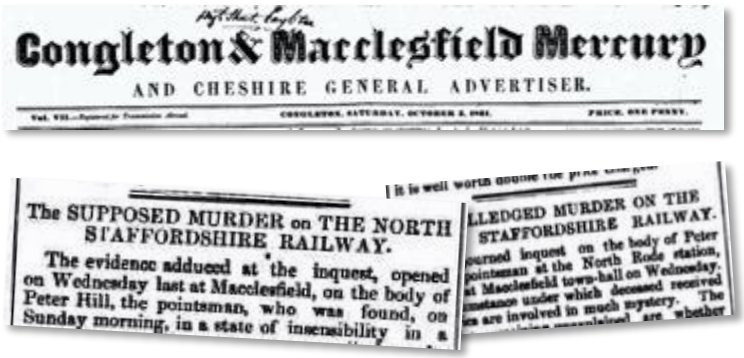
- **Monday 5th October**: The CFWI Autumn Meeting will be at the Storyhouse in Chester. Interesting speakers including Baroness Floella Benjamin, a well-known personality and life Peer. Several of our Members will be attending this event.
- **Saturday 10th October**: An invite has been received from Gawsworth WI to a Coffee Morning from 10am to 12noon. Cost £1
- **Tuesday 13th October**: North Rode WI are holding an Autumn Lunch at Eaton Church and Community Hall at 12 Noon. Tickets are on sale at £22 .00. The Speaker is Lesley from Sweet Snowdonia. Details can be had from our committee members. This is a very popular event and visitors are very welcome but will need tickets. The competition is for a Floral Arrangement in a Mug.

Our next Meeting will be the Autumn Lunch on Tuesday 13th October at Eaton Church and Community Hall. Tickets for this will be needed.



Alleged Murder of North Rode Railwayman

Huw Williams



Congleton & Macclesfield Mercury
AND CHESHIRE GENERAL ADVERTISER.

The SUPPOSED MURDER on THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

The evidence adduced at the inquest, opened on Wednesday last at Macclesfield, on the body of Peter Hill, the pointsman, who was found, on Sunday morning, in a state of insensibility in a

LLEDGED MURDER ON THE STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

In the early hours of Sunday 29th September 1861, Peter Hill, a Railway pointsman at North Rode Station, and resident of one of the Railway Cottages on Buxton Rd, was found injured on the railway, close to the Moss Rose about 2.5 miles from North Rode Station, and died of his injuries the following day.

The incident was initially reported as murder on the evidence of the victim himself, who was able to tell his story before he died. Peter Hill told the doctor called to treat him that he had been accosted by a group of trespassers whom he took to be poachers, and that when he told them to leave he was set upon and left unconscious across the line in a position where he would have been killed by the next train. Fortunately none had passed when he was found. He was initially expected to live, but continued to sink and expired the next day.

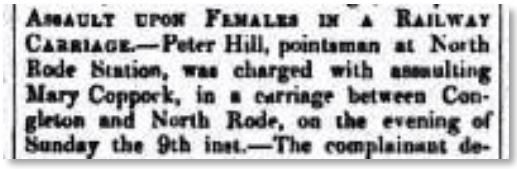
Several young men on the way home nearby, heard shouts of "Murder" and "Assist me" and found him insensible and laid out across the railway line between 4 and 5am. All they could get out from him was that he was walking home towards North Rode, when he met a man who called out to him 'Hillo, old stick I" th' mud, what are you doing here?' and said they gave him a push and knocked him down. He then rambled on about trains, as though he was on duty.



North Rode Station looking North from Southbound platform

At the initial inquest at Macclesfield Town Hall, Mr Bland, the surgeon who attended the victim at the scene, showed that the injuries could not have been caused by the buffers of a luggage train that had passed earlier and the jury's opinion was that he had come across and been set upon by poachers and left unconscious on the line, as evidenced by footprints and signs of a scuffle by the tracks. The inquest was adjourned for further evidence and to apprehend the guilty parties. At the adjourned inquest, it was heard that Mr Hill was last seen at about 1 o'clock on Sunday morning close to Brunswick St in Macclesfield, and that the deceased had admitted to the Mr Bland that he had been drinking. It also heard that a train had passed where he was found only half an hour before. Fresh evidence came from a stoker of a train (John Taylor) upon which it was attempted to get the deceased, who said he had asked Mr Hill "what had done it" who replied "Either an engine or a train". The coroner observed that it was impossible to reconcile the two statements given by the deceased, who's death to say the least, was a mystery.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found Dead" and no explanation was given as to the manner in which the injuries caused death, which still remains open.


ASSAULT UPON FEMALES IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—Peter Hill, pointsman at North Rode Station, was charged with assaulting Mary Coppock, in a carriage between Congleton and North Rode, on the evening of Sunday the 9th inst.—The complainant de-

However, Peter Hill did have form. According to a report a couple of years earlier in the ***Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury*** on Saturday 15th October 1859:

'*Peter Hill, pointsman at North Rode Station was charged with assaulting Mary Coppock, in a carriage on the 7:20pm train from Congleton to North Rode on the evening of Sunday 9th October 1859. The complainant, stated that she and her two companions had not been seated long, when the door of the carriage was opened by a rough-looking man, in a state of intoxication. Shortly after the train started he put his hand on the back of one of the other females and commenced rudely pulling the complainant by the shoulders. She told him to "sit down and for the shame of himself; or she would tell his wife of him" he replied "he had no wife, nor ever had!". The Mr Cooper, appearing for the defendant alleged that the charge was instigated by Miss Coppock's Father after the defendant had previously denounced him as a poacher, and called on Mr Hawkins, the Station Master who spoke highly regarding the defendants character during the last 7 years. The Bench, fined the defendant 10s and costs and one months imprisonment, adding that the defendant, as a servant of the Railway company, ought to protect passengers, not insult them!'*



Railway Cottages, Where Peter Hill lived, looking north on the Uttoxeter branch line, towards North Rode station from the nearby Buxton Rd Bridge

The 1861 census for North Rode shows that Hugh Coppock was a farmer of 50 acres, who had a daughter Mary, aged 20, living on Buxton Rd, between William Clowes at the Smithy on Station Road and William Pownall a railway worker, who would have lived in the same row of cottages as Peter Hill – so very close to the victim. It is probable that Hugh Coppock's address was Wheatsheaf Farm. He is no longer shown as living here in the 1871 census.

The remains of Peter Hill, aged 38, were interned at North Rode St Michael's Parish Church on 3rd October 1861. I have tried to locate his grave, but without success. Perhaps it was a simple grave that is now grown over. His wife Sarah and her four children must have left the village soon after, as their cottage would have been provided for railway workers. The 1871 census shows Sarah Hill living in Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, with her eldest son Thomas – who was a fireman on the North Staffs Railway.



Express train at North Rode Signal Box, where the Uttoxeter line joined the main line, south of North Rode Station – now no longer in existence.

Note: This is an update of a story that appeared in a North Rode newsletter a few years ago, with additional information and colourised photographs.