

North Rode Newsletter

July/August 2026

What's on in North Rode
To subscribe or unsubscribe to this
newsletter mailing list,
Email: northrode@btinternet.com
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The UK has seen the hottest June day on record at over 36 Degrees Centigrade. Farmers can be seen taking advantage of the long dry hot days to cut and bale hay and animals are taking what shelter they can under trees and behind hedges. Details of our first ever Well Dressing are in this newsletter and we hope you will come along to support this community event. The next newsletter will be in September after a summer break.

Funeral

Sadly Tony Hayes of Lodge Cottage, Manor Park Road passed away suddenly on Saturday 6th June.



Our sincere sympathy goes to Tony's wife Lynda, their daughter Jenny and sons Steve and Tim. The *Celebration of Tony's Life Service* will be held at **St Michaels Church, North Rode on Friday 10th July at 11:45am.** (A private family committal will take place beforehand).

Tony served as a Trustee on the Daintry Hall Management Committee in the village for many years, volunteering his time and considerable skills as a structural engineer for the benefit of the community. Tony would be the first to assist on problems with buildings in the charity's care and was always willing to lend a hand to the Parish Council and to the Church at funerals and weddings. Tony was instrumental in obtaining planning approval for our new Pavilion, building which sadly he will not be here to see completed.

Happy Birthday!

Francesca Welford will be 4 on 29th July
Toby Thomas will be 3 on 31st August

Congratulations!

It is Chris & Kath Carlisle's Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 19th July. We wish you both the very best.

John Did It!

94 year old John Rowbotham, daughter Sue and 4 of his grandchildren headed over to Wales and rode the World's fastest zipwire on 7th June, to remember his friend Norman and managed to raise £3,500 to date for the East Cheshire Hospice. That's amazing - Well done John and family!



The Rector's Letter July/August 2026

It is remarkable at moments of crisis (personal and national) how the ancient wisdom of the Christian faith so often has profound comment to offer which transcends the centuries. I am writing this article the day after the Prime Minister's sudden resignation. When I heard the news on the radio, within seconds, one of the great sayings of Jesus came into my mind, *"A house divided against itself cannot stand."* Although Sir Keir Starmer is an atheist, it seems clear that he will have been as aware as any of that wisdom and concluded that stepping down from the most difficult job in the country might begin to heal his *"divided house"* and perhaps even our fragmented nation.

Of course, even the most experienced political commentators (and tabloid psychics!) cannot accurately predict what the formation of a new Government will mean for the future of our country. No doubt we shall have to live with some degree of uncertainty over the course of this summer, and beyond. One financial commentator I heard said, *"Uncertainty is the great destabiliser."* St. Paul wrote, *"If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall then prepare for the battle?"* As Christians we know that the best way to navigate the uncertainties of this life is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Saint Teresa of Avila lived in an uncertain world, in 16th Century Spain. A woman of strong character, shrewdness, intelligence and great practical ability, she wouldn't have made a bad Prime Minister! Teresa was a mystic and is remembered as a great spiritual writer. One of her most famous prayers is known as *"St. Teresa's Bookmark"*, which is full of wisdom for a time of uncertainty:

Yours ever,
Colin

North Rode Services July/August 2026

July 5th Trinity 5 Flowers: Rose Brocklehurst	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Sharon Oldfield Mary Hobson
July 12th Sea Sunday Flowers: Deirdre Sampson	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
July 19th Trinity 7	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
July 26th Trinity 8 Flowers: Bronwen Bebington	11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Winnie Bullock Mark Bullock
August 2nd Trinity 9 Flowers: Wedding flowers	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Shirley Tudor-Evans Charles Baxter
August 9th Trinity 10 Flowers: as last week	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Margaret Cann Diane Lowe
August 16th Trinity 11	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
August 23rd Trinity 12 Flowers: Elizabeth Allen	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Louise Jackson Yvonne Brown
August 30th Trinity 13	10.00 Benefice service Gawsworth HC (BCP)	Led by:.	The Rector
September 6th Flowers: Shirley Tudor-Evans	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Marilyn Ainslie Blanche Royle

St Teresa's Bookmark

"Let nothing disturb you.

Let nothing frighten you.

All things are passing.

God never changes.

Patience obtains all things.

Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God.

God alone suffices."



A big thank you to Mary Hobson, Rose Brocklehurst, Sue Bullock, Sheila Kidd and Helen Boxford for polishing the church candelabras and to Malcom Lowe for helping to take them down.

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

Well Dressing on 30th August – Plans are well under way for our Inaugural Church Lane Well Dressing in North Rode. Full details are in the brochure following in this newsletter and tickets will shortly be on sale for the Village Ceilidh taking place at Daintry Hall on the same evening.

Well Dedication and Village Picnic - We have arranged a road closure on Church Lane from 12 Noon to 4pm with assistance from Cheshire East highways under their social value programme, so that we can enjoy a village picnic in the street and enjoy the Well Dedication in safety. Entertainment will be provided by Leek Morris, who will also provide an opportunity you to join in!

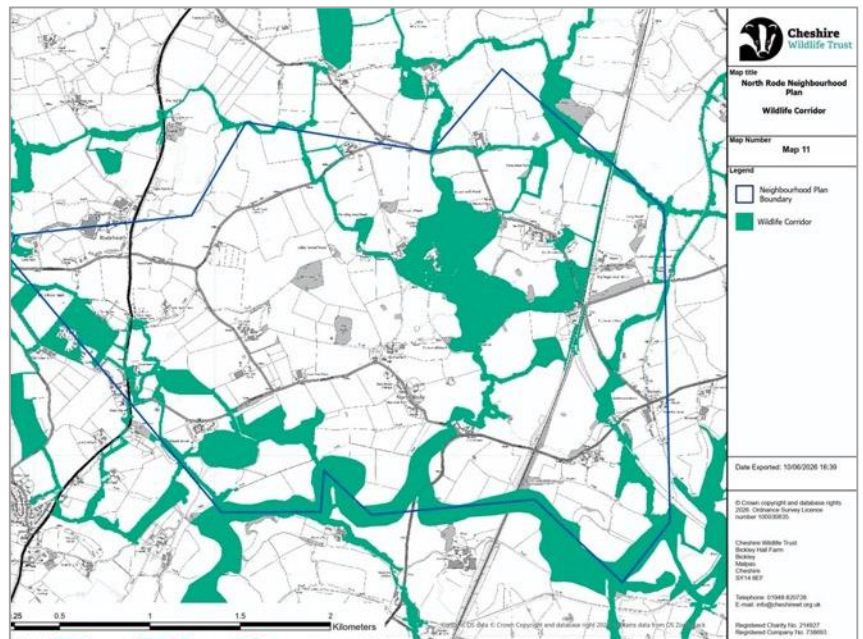


The Ceilidh in the evening promises to be a lively event with the six piece Maggoty Ceilidh band taking the stage to coax us into dance with their resident caller. Space will be limited in the Historical 19th Century Grade II Listed Building - once the Village School - so book your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Bring your own drink as it will be thirsty work!

We are looking for locals to join in and help at the well dressing workshops between Saturday 22nd and Saturday 29th, an opportunity to learn the centuries old craft of using flowers, leaves and other natural objects to create a pictorial scene to decorate or “Dress” our well. We are also looking for volunteers to help with setting up, decorating and clearing up after the Ceilidh, parking on the Sunday and tidying up verges and litter beforehand. If you would like to help, please contact Huw Williams on 07791717459 or huwwilliams200@gmail.com

Wildlife corridors

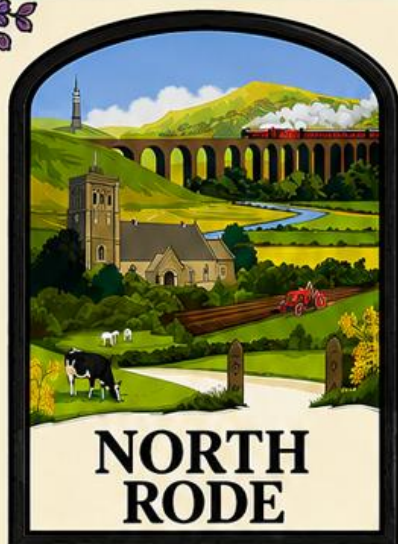
The Parish Liaison Group that North Rode PC is part of, commissioned Cheshire Wildlife Trust to map out wildlife corridors in North Rode and linking up with other parishes. Their report is now complete and maps issued. Not surprisingly, the main corridors in North Rode are along the River Dane and Cow Brook up to and around the Manor Lake and connecting to other mature woodlands. The Wildlife Trust would like to preserve, protect and improve these corridors and aim to expand them with new planting and improvements, such as new ponds and waterways. CWT say the main areas at risk are wildflower grasslands which become developed and they are keen to preserve these. They have a Farm Advisor, who can visit farmers and advise on possible grants that can be obtained to assist farmers help persuade them of the legacy they can create. Trees and hedges can also help to provide shelter to animals on hot days like we are experiencing at the moment. We are waiting on further details on this service and will advise in future newsletters. If you are interested and want to receive a more detailed copy of maps, please contact the Parish Council.



Highways

The highways drainage team have been at work on Church Lane emptying gulleys and jetting drains. We will wait to see if this has made any improvements.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 30th July at 7:30pm at Daintry Hall.



NORTH RODE INAUGURAL WELL DRESSING

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST – 12 NOON UNTIL 4PM

at Church Lane Well, Parking at Daintry Hall

Come along and help us celebrate the renovation of Church Lane Well at our Inaugural North Rode Well Dressing. This is a free event for all to enjoy.

- Blessing of the Well
- Picnic in the Street – bring your own tables, chairs, food and drink.
- Dancing in the Street - Leek Morris will be joining us



NORTH RODE WELL DRESSING WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST TO SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST – DAYTIME AND EVENINGS

This is your opportunity to learn how to Dress a Well and is open to anyone in the village to participate at workshops. Contact details below.

CEILIDH NIGHT WITH *Maggoty*



**SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST
FROM 7:30 TO 10:30PM**

at the old village school,
Daintry Hall, Church Lane, North Rode.

Come along and dance the night away with the renowned Maggoty Ceilidh band and their caller. Bring your own drinks to keep hydrated!

Tickets are limited due to space so book early.

**ADULTS £10
CHILDREN UNDER 15 £5**

EVENT ORGANISER: NORTH RODE PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Huw Williams for workshop info
and Ceilidh tickets on
07791717459



huwilliams200@gmail.com

North Rode Revival!

North Rode Revival 2026 was bigger and better than ever this year, with over 85 classic cars, traction engines, 3 bands, a flight simulator and a flypast. Over £3000 was raised for the East Cheshire Hospice and North Rode Village. It was great to see so many villagers come along and enjoy the day and a big thank you for the kind cake donations and support from Hilary Trueman, Shirley Tudor-Evans, Bronwyn Bebbington, Shirley Carlisle, Jenny & Cath Carlisle, Jane Arzoni, Joan-Marie Williams, Jackie Shaw, Georgia Riley, Michelle Camm and Laura Burton of Bond Street Brownies (there were other cakes dropped in on the day, where we didn't get their name – if this was you thank you so much!). Thank you to the volunteers who organised the event, help set up, take down and man the stalls on the day and special thanks goes to Mike Gilman who created and hosted this fabulous annual event.



Lots of Great Local Things to Do this Summer



FLASH DUCK RACE

Cash only please

Games BBQ Bar

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

GATES OPEN 3PM

1ST RACE AT 4PM

MANOR FARM, GRADBACH, SK17 0SU

Organised by Quarnford Memorial Hall. Use of field and facilities by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Tunncliffe.
For more information email info@flashvillagehall.net
Charity Number: 522713



REDESMERE FETE SAT 25TH JULY

Siddington Village Hall, SK11 9JR

Gates Open: **1pm**

Lake Procession: **1:30pm**



Eaton with Hulme Walfield Garden Party

Saturday 11th July, 1:30pm
At the Parish Hall, Eaton

A fun-filled afternoon of traditional activities and entertainment, with the Rose Queen and King procession and crowning, music, afternoon teas, ice creams, beer, Pimms, pony rides, face painting and children's games, grand raffle, tombola and much more.

Admission is £2 per adult with accompanying children free. Free parking opposite the church. All visitors very welcome



THE MARTON WAKES FETE

SATURDAY, 18TH JULY 2026 - 12PM

ROSE QUEEN & OAK KING PROCESSION (1PM)

GAMES BBQ RAFFLE DOG SHOW

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

LIVE MUSIC

HOG ROAST (AFTERNOON)

AFTERNOON TEA

INFLATABLES

LOCAL PRODUCE

ADULTS - £3
UNDER 15s - £2
UNDER 5s - FREE

RAISING FUNDS IN AID OF ST JAMES AND ST PAUL MARTON

CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

MARTON SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE, SK11 9HD

MACCLESFIELD AND DISTRICT SHEEP DOG TRIALS HOSTS...

THE ENGLISH NATIONAL TRIALS

Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th August 2026

Located on Bullocks Lane, Sutton,
Macclesfield, SK11 0HE

Dear Friends

As we approach the end of another wonderful school year, it is a fitting time to reflect on all that we have shared and achieved together. It has been a year filled with learning, laughter, friendship, faith, and so many memorable moments. Looking back, I am reminded once again of how blessed we are to be part of such an incredible school community.

The final weeks of term have been particularly busy and joyful. Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination, and sporting spirit. It was wonderful to see the children giving their all, encouraging one another, and enjoying the opportunity to participate. Thank you to all the families who came along to support and cheer them on.

We also enjoyed taking part in Pyjamarama Day in support of the Book Trust. The children (and staff!) loved coming to school in their pyjamas and sharing their enthusiasm for books and reading. It was a lovely reminder of the power of stories to inspire imagination and a lifelong love of learning.

One of the highlights for our younger pupils was the Year 2 Camp In experience. Originally planned as a camp out, the event was reimagined and proved every bit as exciting. The children enjoyed a special evening filled with activities, fun, and adventure, creating memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Our Year 6 pupils have had an especially memorable final term. They returned from their residential trip with smiles, stories, and a greater sense of confidence and independence. We have also enjoyed seeing them proudly wearing their Leavers' Hoodies, marking the beginning of their journey towards the next stage of their education. As they prepare to leave us, we thank them for the many ways they have contributed to school life and wish them every blessing and success for the future.

We are also delighted to welcome Becky, our new Mad House Manager, to the school community. Becky has already made a wonderful start and we look forward to all that she will bring to this important role.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for our Key Stage 2 production of Peter Pan, which promises to be a truly magical performance. The children and staff have been working incredibly hard, and we cannot wait to see all their efforts come together on stage at the end of this term.

As I reflect on the year as a whole, I am struck by how much we have accomplished together. Schools flourish when everyone works in partnership, and we are fortunate to have such awesome children, amazing staff, and supportive parents. There is a well-known African proverb which says: *"It takes a village to raise a child."* This perfectly captures the spirit of our school community. Every day, children benefit from the encouragement, care, and commitment of the many people who work together to help them grow and thrive. Thank you for all the ways you support our school and contribute to its success.

As the summer holidays approach, I hope all our families enjoy a well-earned rest and precious time together. Thank you for another successful and joyful year. May God continue to bless our school community, and may we never take for granted the privilege of being part of such a special place.

With best wishes for a happy and restful summer. See you all in September



Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher

North Rode WI Report

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



President Diane Lowe opened the June meeting giving out a number of apologies from members away on holiday. She welcomed four Visitors from the Village.

Our delegate from Middle Wyches WI had voted on two resolutions at the AGM - Toilet Accessibility and Women's Homelessness. The Toilet resolution was passed by a big majority. The

AGM was on Zoom on Thursday 4th June. Next year the AGM will be held in Hull. Thanks were given to Carrie Barton for table flowers, to Diane, Gloria and Jackie for cakes and various members for teas and Pam for the Raffle.

Dates for your Diary

- **Tuesday June 23rd** - Invite from Gawsworth WI Bingo Evening, 7pm £1 entry
- **Wednesday July 1st** - Cloud Group Lunch, Legs of Man, 12 Noon, £22.00
- **Tuesday July 14th** – Birthday outing to Port Sunlight and High Leigh Garden Centre. Payment needed to Jackie Spooner our Treasurer
- **Thursday July 30th** - An invite from Eaton WI to their Meeting at 7.30pm which will include Line Dancing and a Supper. Several Members are attending this evening

The Speaker for the Evening was Stuart Pyecroft, who gave a presentation on Wine Tasting. Stuart gave us a very detailed and interesting talk, including tasting of 2 red and 2 white Spanish Rioja wines. It was very interesting as Stuart had lived in the Rioja region of Spain. He told us about the politics and geography of the country and region. The Rioja region is a small province in North East Spain, with snowy mountains to the north following the River Ebro to the Mediterranean region. The wine growing area is divided into 3 Zones, Rioja Alta, Rioja Alavesa and Rioja Oriental. Rioja grapes are grown exclusively in the Provinces of La Rioja Navarra and Alava. Harvesting of the wine has an ancient lineage going back to the Dark Ages. Pam Robinson gave Stuart a big thank you for his most interesting talk and for the very welcome wine tasting. The Competition was for a wine glass. The winner was Jackie and second was Diane. The Raffle was won by several people.



The next meeting on Tuesday 14th July is our birthday outing to Port Sunlight. Details have been given to the members attending. August is our Annual Garden Party and more details on this are follow.

Visitors will be made very welcome at our September meeting on Tuesday 8th July, 7:30pm at Eaton Church and Community Hall.

Stop-Line No.6

Huw Williams

In the summer of 1940, news of emergency evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from the beaches of Dunkirk raised the alarming prospect of an invasion by the Nazi German army. There was an obvious and urgent need to build defences against this threat, and the result was the construction of Stop-Lines along vital man-made and natural features such as railways, canals and rivers and using the lay of the land. **North Rode** was at the heart of one of these defences – Western Command Stop-Line No.6, as it was located on the Macclesfield Canal, Churnet Valley Railway Line and the Stoke to Manchester Railway line.

The purpose of the Stop-Lines, was to block the progress of German armoured columns, setting them up for counter attack by mobile columns of our defending forces – a continuous anti-tank obstacle, natural if possible and covered by pill boxes (concrete fortifications for infantry men) and other prepared positions. The idea was to prevent the enemy from running riot over the country as had recently happened in France and Belgium.

Work began on Western Command Stop Line No.6 in 1940, running from Tamworth and along the River Trent west towards Stafford. From there, it followed the eastern side of Stoke-on-Trent up to the Macclesfield Canal (passing right through **North Rode**) before extending to Stockport and the southeast of Manchester. The pillboxes were constructed by the Royal Engineers and civilian contractors under the order of Commander-in-Chief Home Forces, General Sir Edmund Ironside.

The North Rode Pillbox still exists, but is obscured by the hedge opposite Wheatsheaf farm on the A54. A clearer view can be had from the nearby gate to the field on Station Road. It is a standard hexagonal Type 24 pillbox, bulletproof, designed with loopholes (firing slits) for rifles and light machine guns, and built to defend the canal to the East and the Churnet Valley Railway (now disused) to the West.



Lyme Green Pillbox is next along the line heading north and located on the Macclesfield Canal at the end of Gaw End Lane, and is defending both the canal and the railway line. It too is a Type 24 pillbox. Further north still, the remains of a pillbox is still evident on railway bridge embankments at Poynton on London Road South and I seem to remember another one on the Street Lane railway embankment in Adlington.

Bosley Reservoir Pillbox is a type 22 pillbox, and constructed near the eastern end of the Dam on Smithy Lane. It is now quite overgrown and difficult to spot, and seems to be repurposed as a private shed now. This pillbox was probably built to defend the reservoir. During the war, cables were suspended across the water to prevent seaplanes from landing, and some anchor points for these are still visible.



Rushton Pillbox is a type 24 pillbox, south of Bosley and is set on high ground at Hugbridge Farm overlooking and defending the River Dane crossing on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border. It is difficult to see during summer months due to plant growth, as it is a squat and largely underground structure. However, during winter is quite easy to spot from the A523 main road..

Rudyard Railway Pillbox is rather different. Built on the East side of the railway bridge carrying the Churnet valley Line (Now the Rudyard light Railway), it was designed to resemble a small cottage with a false pitched roof, now collapsed. There was another Type 24 Pillbox located next to the Station Hotel to defend the base of the dam, however this is now demolished and the hotel is now private apartments.



NOTE: Most pill boxes are on private land with no public access.

Pictures by Mike Searle & G Matthews

The Home Guard

The local home guard contingent, tasked with manning the North Rode and Bosley defences would have been made up of local men from these villages.

A story from the time is told that on one bright summer night, a local man Ted Fenton, who lived at Hyde Lea and was a goods vehicle driver for the nearby firm of Moss and Lovatt, was making his way home along Buxton Road when he was brought to a halt just before the newly constructed Pillbox in North Rode by the Home Guard. They were busily erecting an authentic haystack around the pillbox to conceal it from enemy aircraft. Others were digging pits in the road itself, the explanation being they were to take 'Dragons Teeth' in the event of an invasion (Dragons Teeth consisted of girders bent into a V shape, when the two ends were dropped into corresponding pits they sat proud like a tooth sticking out of the ground to halt vehicles). Ted could see men busily working around the nearby canal locks. Asking what was happening there he was told they were stretching nets across the canal to prevent U-Boats using the canal system to invade inland!

Local Air Raids

A large bomb was dropped near Lower House Farm in Bosley on Thursday 21st November 1940. Locals recalled that it created a massive crater and blew out all the farmhouse windows. The farmer, Sarah Arnold (68) was just heading for the shippon and her hip was broken by the blast, which also killed 2 cows. Mud was flung over a great area, and hit nearby farms at Pye Ash and Broad Oak, It was believed at the time that the German bomber was aiming for North Rode Viaduct which carries the main railway line from Manchester to London however it is more likely it was jettisoning bombs after a raid on Manchester or Liverpool.

ARP Wardens and Other Wartime Duties

As with many other villages at the time, many locals volunteered for civilian service to help the war effort. The 1939 registration documents shows the that the following North Rode villagers were doing their bit.

Norwood, Station Rd	Thomas Cooper	Haulage Contractor and Farmer	Air Raid Warden
Oaklyn, Station Rd	Joseph Cooper	Haulage Contractor and Farmer	Air Raid Warden
Ladderstile Farm	James Swindells	Dairy & Arable farmer	Air Raid Warden
Ethels Green Cottage	Rowland Hall	Advertising manager	Special Constabulary
Rode Hall Farm	Jesse Taylor	Farmer	Air Raid Warden
Astbury View	Arthur Brindley	Paper Stainer Asst	ARP Messenger
Astbury View	Herbert Brindley	Goods Vehicle Driver	Decontamination
Cloud View	Walter Wheelton	Dairy Farmer	Air Raid Warden
Rode Heath	Arthur Heath	Farmer	Air Raid Warden
Rode Heath Farm	Ernest Heath	Felling & Sawing Timber	Air Raid Warden
Chain & Gate	John Brocklehurst	Refuse Collector & Carter	Air Raid Warden
The Grange	Joyce Laurie	Unpaid Domestic	Billeting Officer
Grange Cottage	Frank Rogers	Gardener	Special Constabulary