



North Rode Newsletter

July/August 2025

*What's on in North Rode
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As promised, it has been a busy June in North Rode with a Fete, Vintage Revival, Baptism and a Wedding and still much to look forward to through the summer and into Autumn. The next newsletter will be in September and we look forward to hearing about your summer stories then.

Baptism Celebrations

James and Alice Wilson are making sure the Kidd family aren't short of potential farmers! We were delighted to welcome at the church plenty of the Kidd family and friends for the baptism of another son Vinnie, grandson of Sheila and Malcolm, on 8th June.



The photo includes the godparents and Vinnie seems to have enjoyed being the centre of attention. With thanks to the family for the photograph.

Charity Luncheon – 17th August

We reported last month that Chairlady of Cheshire Young Farmers Club, our Winnie Bullock, alongside Chairman John Manning, are organising a Charity Luncheon on Sunday 17th August at Oaklands, in aid of The Christie Charity. Full details of the luncheon are on the full size poster on the back page. Please come along and support this worthy cause.

Congratulations!

Francesca Welford will be 3 years old on 29th July and on 31st August Roger & Julie Egglestone celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Wedding Celebrations

The last Howarth event at the church was Jerry's funeral about 18 months ago, so we were delighted to welcome the family again for his grandson Tom's wedding to Isabella Dronsfield on 14th June.



The church was full for the happy occasion and the white flower arrangements were stunning. With thanks to family for the photograph.

The Rector's Letter July 2025

In the 1979 Monty Python film *“Life of Brian”* the Leader of the People’s Front of Judea, *“Reg”* (played by John Cleese), asks his band of supporters the question, *“What have the Romans ever done for us?”* He is expecting negative replies but instead gets a series of positive answers. The legacy of the Roman Empire is still with us today and includes the months of our calendar year. The summer months of July and August were named in honour of the Roman General Julius Caesar and the Emperor Augustus.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us in Chapter 3, *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”* Traditionally, the months of July and August are the holiday season for many people. What are your childhood memories of summer? As a teenager, my weeks away from school were largely spent helping a farmer bring in the harvest. It was a good apprenticeship for later life. Driving a tractor and trailer, often very late into the night, was hard work but also great fun, plus I got paid for my labour. The best bit came once *“all was safely gathered in”*, burning the stubble, which nowadays is banned. From about the age of fifteen I would drive a Land Rover around a field with a burning tyre attached to the back on a long chain, it was quite exciting, especially on days when the wind suddenly changed direction.

As we grow older time seems to pass more quickly, hopefully we learn that there is a right time for everything. Occasionally it is good to pause and reassess our lives and priorities, perhaps contemplate the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another. The summer season will give many of us the opportunity to do just that and to enjoy some quiet space in which we can hear God’s gentle whisper and seek His will for our lives.

Yours ever,

Colin

North Rode Services July/August 2025			
July 6th Trinity 3 Flowers: Deirdre Sampson	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Bronwen Bebington Yvonne Brown
July 13th Trinity 4 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Sharon Oldfield Geoffrey Allen
July 20th Trinity 5	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
July 27th Trinity 6 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
August 3rd Trinity 7 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Diane Lowe Margaret Cann
August 10th Trinity 8 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Louise Jackson Charles Baxter
August 17th Trinity 9	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
August 22nd	2pm WEDDING Robert Thorpe & Victoria Burgess	Led by:	The Rector
August 24th Trinity 10 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Alistair Kennedy
August 31st Trinity 11 Flowers:	10.00 am Gawsworth Benefice Service H C	Led by:	The Rector
September 7th Trinity 12 Flowers:	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Bronwen Bebington Anne Lever

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

<http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk>



North Rode WI May Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



The President Diane Lowe opened the June Meeting welcoming several visitors. We had quite a few apologies from our members. Thanks were given to Mary Hibbert for the table flowers & raffle and Diane Lowe and Jackie Spooner for refreshments. The Speaker for the evening was Nick Birchall Co-owner of The Cheese Shop in Nantwich. He was born in a farming family but went to live and work in London with Paxton and Whitfield and regularly delivered cheeses to Buckingham Palace. Cheshire Cheese is one of the oldest Cheeses in British recorded history. The Romans had taken Cheshire Cheese back to Italy and had been mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1066. He told us the UK produce more cheeses than any other country. He returned to Cheshire and went on to open a Cheese Shop in Hospital Street Nantwich. The Shop hosts many events and stocks many deli items including Port, wine, and beer. Members tasted three cheeses, Bournes Cloth Bound Cheshire Cheese, Anne Clayton's Crabtree, and Nantwich Blue this is made at the Hartington Creameries, they were delicious and accompanied by wine or fruit juice. The shop holds a variety of functions and the website is worth investigating.

The vote for the Woodland Trust Tree to be planted for the 110-year anniversary was held over and will be held in August at our Annual Garden Party. Nick judged the Competition for the Gladys Brooch, and the winner was Pat Lovatt. The competition for Cheese Scones was won by Diane Lowe, Second was Hilary Trueman and several raffle prizes were won during the evening. The NFWI AGM was held via Zoom at Congleton Town Hall on Wednesday 4th June with the Resolution Bystanders can be Lifesavers.

Dates for the diary :

- Eaton WI Afternoon Tea 21st June 2pm Eaton Church and Community Hall
- Gawsworth WI Bingo Evening 24th June, entrance £1.00 7 pm.
- Bosley WI Invite Trentham Gardens on Thursday, 26th June.
- Our Annual Garden Party is on Tuesday 12th August at 2 pm at Eaton Church and Community Hall visitors welcome.

Marton School

Dear Friends



Summer activities have well and truly begun and it's glorious to see the children outside and enjoying our beautiful grounds. This week it's Sport Day and we organise a traditional sports day full of various activities and races and there is always much joy around. There's a healthy level of competition and children participate in their House Teams wearing their coloured house team tops. Our wonderful Friends and Family (PTA) provide great refreshments throughout the day and it's a date we all look forward to!

We had the pleasure to meet our new Reception children this week along with their parents and there was much excitement at school. Our annual staffing letter was sent to families last week with details of staffing and we'll now look forward to our annual Move Up Mornings next week. How quick does the school year pass!

Our Year 6 children are in their final weeks of primary education and there is much talk of the Leaver's Assembly, Leaver's books and memories being discussed. It seems five minutes ago these children came for their school visits with their parents!

Tomorrow we have a special Art themed day for children to produce some special pieces of art work and we hope some of these lessons will extend outside. We're all about providing our children with meaningful and exciting activities to inspire their learning. Our next Little Seeds takes place on Wednesday 2nd July and we will then resume these after the long summer holidays. Our first Little Seeds of the new school year will take place on Wednesday 1st October; please do share this date with family and friends.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nevin Deakin'.

Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher

North Rode Parish Council Report

North Rode Railway Fete



The Railway Fete held on 14th June was a resounding success and a full report is given separately. We raised enough funds on the day from the duck races to replace the pads on our first installed defibrillator at Daintry Hall. Whilst the purpose of the fund raising was to raise funds for defibrillator maintenance, our other just as important aim was to bring together North Rode villagers for a fun community event. I think that we succeeded with this also.

North Rode Well Dressing – Sunday 31st August



Our first North Rode Well Dressing ceremony will take place on Sunday 31st of August at 1pm. Please put this date in your Diary! The day will start with meeting at the church, a short walk to the renovated well on Church Lane then unveiling of the dressed display. This will be followed by a picnic in the grounds of St Michael's Church then a circular walk through the park, along Shellow Lane and back to the church. The well dressing display will remain in place until Sunday 7th September.

We will be having a workshop to decorate the well dressing boards on **Saturday 23rd August** at Rode Hall Farm. If you are interested in taking part in the workshop and learning how it is done, please contact huwwilliams200@gmail.com.

Summer Litter Pick

Unfortunately the litter pick arranged for 7th June was cancelled due to forecast heavy rain. Behind the scenes, the parish council carries out risk assessments for all events we organise to ensure the safety of participants and minimise risks and it was decided that heavy rain would have impaired visibility of motorists and increased risk to pickers. Cllr Jon Burwood will be organising another date for the litter pick, and details will be circulated separately.

Recent Planning Applications

25/2142/FUL Ladera Luxury Lodge Retreat, Regularisation of site layout with and additional 6 retrospective units. 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

North Rode Railway Fete



North Rode Railway Fete on 14th June brought together villagers old and new on the fields below North Rode Viaduct on the River Dane at Colley Mill Farm. The sun came out as did a variety of extravagant victorian costumes reminiscent of the time of the original opening ceremony. We all enjoyed the delights of a large brass band courtesy of Elworth Silver Band as we ate our picnics in the sunshine.



As promised, railway operators entered into the spirit of the 200 Year of Railway Celebrations by giving us a friendly toot as they passed. Cross Country Trains went above and beyond and were tooting away all day in salute to our Fete. Avanti trains also tooted away as they passed. We were also graced by the presence of two traction engines and a steam wagon, organised by Will Woodward from across the valley, who got into the spirit of the day by tooting back at the trains – a spectacle to behold!

Best dressed Victorian Lady was won by Karen Barton, who looked very elegant in her blue outfit. Best dressed Victorian Gentleman was won by Mark Bullock, resplendant in his Sherlock Holmes outfit and our best dressed Victorian Child went to Blossom Reid of Station Road. But hats off to everyone who made the effort and came in their wonderful costumes. The duck racing went mostly to plan, with a few mishaps by the ‘duck chasers’ ensuring no ducks were stuck in back eddies or dead pools and that all made the finish line. Who can forget the running commentary given by Sue Bullock on the last race of the day!

A massive thanks go to Brenda and Tom Lomas for allowing us to use their fields and stream access and for helping so much to put this event on. Many more pictures of this memorable day are shown on the parish councils website at <https://northrodepc.co.uk/>

North Rode Revival 25

The North Rode Revival returned again on 22nd June to raise funds for the East Cheshire Hospice and North Rode village causes. The revellers enjoyed music played by the Charley Farley rock band and singer Olivia Robinson and were treated to the sight of both classic and competition cars and bikes. More details will be in the next newsletter.



THE HISTORY OF NORTH RODE, AS I KNEW IT FROM 1914 TO 1973 – Part 4

Written by W.L.Cumberlidge.

Continued.....We now go to Bank Farm which was let to Mr. Slater, who left it soon after I came to North Rode. The farm was taken over by Mr. J. Hadfield who married Lucy, daughter of Mr. W. Ford of Bramhall Farm. He was tall and of a slender build and not used to farming. He liked to talk about politics, being a strong supporter of the Conservative Party. He considered all railwaymen supported the Labour Party, and whenever he came to the station he would give us lectures on the Conservative Party. He bought the farm at the sale of the estate, but a few years later sold it to Mr. A. Clayton and went to live in the Lancashire area, and has since passed away. Mr. Naden, who married one of Mr. Clayton's daughters, and his son now farm Bank Farm between them, the son living in the farmhouse and Mr. Naden, Snr. in a bungalow he had built beside the farm. Mr. Naden is now Council Representative on the Macclesfield Rural District Council, taking the place of Mr. T. Biddulph who had been the representative since North Rode was granted representation on the Council.

We now go to Rode Heath on which there are two smallholdings. One was occupied by Mr. G. Buckley and the other by Mary Dale. I did not know much about them in 1914 as I had not started to collect the rates. When I started to collect the rates, one was occupied by Mr. A Farrell and the other by Mr. J. Dale, who I presume, was related to Mary Dale, both were very nice people to meet and Mr. Dale still lives there and has a haulage business. Mr. Farrell died and Mrs Farrell sold the smallholding to Mr. AP.Carman.

We now go to Rode Heath Farm which consisted of three houses and each was occupied by one of the Heath brothers who carried on a business of Timber Merchants. They always made me welcome when I collected the rates.

The next call is at the cottage at the end of Marton Lane. Mr.F.Stubbs lived there but I did not know him, later it was occupied by Mr.&Mrs.S.Nuttall who were a very nice old couple living there in retirement.

The next call is at Marton Lane Farm, Mr.J.C.Foden was there in 1914, then Mr.Heath took over. He had three daughters. Elsie was a school teacher at Eaton School, Molly worked at home on the farm and Hilda married Mr.J.S.Swindells. When Mr.Heath died, they built a house in Marton Lane, the two Miss Heaths still live there, their mother having passed away several years ago.



Picture courtesy of CAMERA

We now come to the Chain & Gate Public House which was also farmed as it had 59 acres of land attached to it. The local farmers used to frequent it as it was the only public house in North Rode, It was kept by Mr.J.Bloor and when I went to collect the rates he would often give me a glass of beer, he was very interesting to talk with. He said that in the olden days a toll had to be paid to enter North Rode and that a chain and gate was placed there so that people would have to stop and pay the toll and that was how the public house got its name. You have only to go about 20 yards in the Macclesfield direction and you are in the Parish of Gawsworth. After Mr.Bloor's death the Chain & Gate was taken over by Mr J.Brocklehurst, then Mr.N.Hazeldine the present tenant. Part of the land is owned by Mr.G.Plant who has built up a large haulage business owning several vehicles which are very modern.

We next call at Rode Heath Farm which was a small holding occupied by Mr.S.Mountfort. He had one son and three daughters, I can only remember one daughter, Freda, who married Mr.E.Bayley who I have previously mentioned. They were always very friendly to me when I called for the rates and on one occasion he took me into an outhouse and showed me some bottles, on stone slab, which I thought contained herb beer. He had a glass and I thought him very sparing with it when he only half filled it for me. After I had drunk it he told me it was Potato Wine and a short time after it took effect on me and I was part drunk. On the sale of the Estate he bought the holding and stayed

on after his wife's death but he later met with an accident in Congleton which proved fatal. The person who bought the farm after Mr. Mountfort's death, had it modernised and made a large profit on it.

The next farm to call at is Bramhall Farm which was occupied by Mr. W. Ford who had two sons and two daughters. The sons were Isaac and William and the daughters, Lucy and Nellie. As well as farming he was the Cattle Dealer for the District. Isaac bought cattle for him in Ireland. Mr. Ford was a genial man and took to me because he had some relations named Cumberlidge who had a very good business as Pork Butchers in Hyde. When the war was on he gave me potatoes and eggs and offered me an acre of his farmland on which to build a house. I did not accept his offer because I was not married. I was always made most welcome when I visited the farm and have very happy memories of the Ford family. After Mr. Ford's death, Mrs. Ford and the son, William, carried on the farm until 1970 when he sold it. He retained one field and now resides at Congleton. He wanted to build a bungalow on the field and had the plans passed but then decided to remain at Congleton and get married. When he lived at the farm, his housekeeper was Miss Bagnall. The present owner of the farm is Mr. Gilman.

Next we come to the two cottages in Pexhall Lane, occupied by Thomas Dale and R. Pickering. Mr. Dale worked in the gardens at the Grange and Mr. Pickering at the Manor House. They were very pleasant and welcomed me when I went to collect the rates.

The next two cottages in Pexhall Lane were occupied by Edwin Bowyer and William Dale, Mr. Bowyer worked at the Manor House and Mr. Dale for Cheshire County Council as a roadman. Both were very nice to know.

Mr. Lomas farmed Rode Green Farm, he had two sons and three daughters. The sons were Thomas and Jack and the daughters were Doris, Eileen and Phyllis. Thomas got married and went to reside at Colley Farm when Mr. Wyche left it. He died at an early age and his son now farms there. The son Jack, never married. The daughters married Mr. Trueman, Mr. Bloor, Mr. Twemlow. Mr. Trueman, who married Eileen, now resides at Rode Green Farm, having come from Cow Brook Farm, Gawsworth, which his family had farmed for several generations. Mr. Jack Lomas, having now retired, lives at one of the cottages near Rode Green Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Lomas, Senior were of a quiet disposition and it was a pleasure to talk with them.

We next come to Rode Green Cottage which was occupied by Mr. S. Gould and it was a pleasure to call at the cottage. The present owners are Basil Jeuda and his wife Diana. Mr. Jeuda was Labour Candidate at the 1965 General Election but was unsuccessful and then in 1971 his wife contested the seat, she too was unsuccessful. The seat was vacated by Sir Arthur Vere Harvey on his elevation to the peerage - he became Lord Vere Harvey of Prestbury. He had served the Macclesfield Division for over 20 years. •

Dob Ford Farm was farmed by Mr. G. M. Shaw who married Miss Wyche and they had two sons. When Mr. Shaw died, the farm was carried on by Mrs. Shaw with help of the sons and the sons continued after the death of Mrs. Shaw, John Wyche living at the farm and his brother David living at Brentwood, North Rode. Mr. Hadfield Snr. was a great Methodist and services were held in his house each Sunday, during his lifetime. Mr. Hadfield, Jnr. married the daughter of Mr. L. Mason, cattle dealer, of Bosley. He was a good judge of cattle and sheep but came to a sad end in Bosley Reservoir. When the Misses Hadfield left the farm it was taken by Mr. T. Biddulph. Mr. Biddulph now lives in a new house near the farm and he has taken a great interest in the welfare of the parish, being a Parish Councillor since the Parish Council was formed and also represented North Rode on the Macclesfield Rural District Council. His son now resides at the farm.

We then come to Grange Cottages which were occupied by Mr. Beal and Mr. Hill. Mr. Beal was Head Gardener for Mr. Midwood, he had one son, Edward, and two daughters, Lillian and Madge. He was a stout, pleasant man and it was a pleasure to talk to him. Mr. Hill was a small, thin man, he was groom to two polo stallions for Mr. Midwood. He was a happy man and was a star turn at the concerts which were sometimes held in North Rode School.

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

JOHN AND WINNIE INVITE YOU TO THEIR

CHAIRPERSON'S CHARITY LUNCHEON

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE CHRISTIE

Sunday 17th August 2025 • 12 for 12:30

Tickets £30

Oaklands, North Rode, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2PH

W3W: wagglled.shrimps.lovely

To book your tickets contact:

*Winnie on 07740088865 or chairlady@cheshireyfc.co.uk
or John on 07735838803 or chairman@cheshireyfc.co.uk*



**The Newsletter team wish you all a very pleasant
Summer and see you again in September!**