North Rode Newsletter

2026

What's on in North Rode
To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter mailing list,
Email: northrode@btinternet.com
Stories: huwwilliams200@gmail.com

Storms Austen & Boelo arrived at North Rode in late October and with the temperatures dropping we are all thinking about turning up the heating if we haven't already. The poppy displays are now all around the village with a spectacular new installation of over 1000 poppies on the church tower created by North Rode knitting group. See the article inside and a feature on the Purple Poppies by Sarah Booth. We also remember residents who have recently passed away.

Happy Birthday

Ron Barton was 80 on 18th October
Vinnie Wilson will be 2 on 9th Nov
Wren Doherty-Urban will be 4 on 18th Nov

Carol Singing

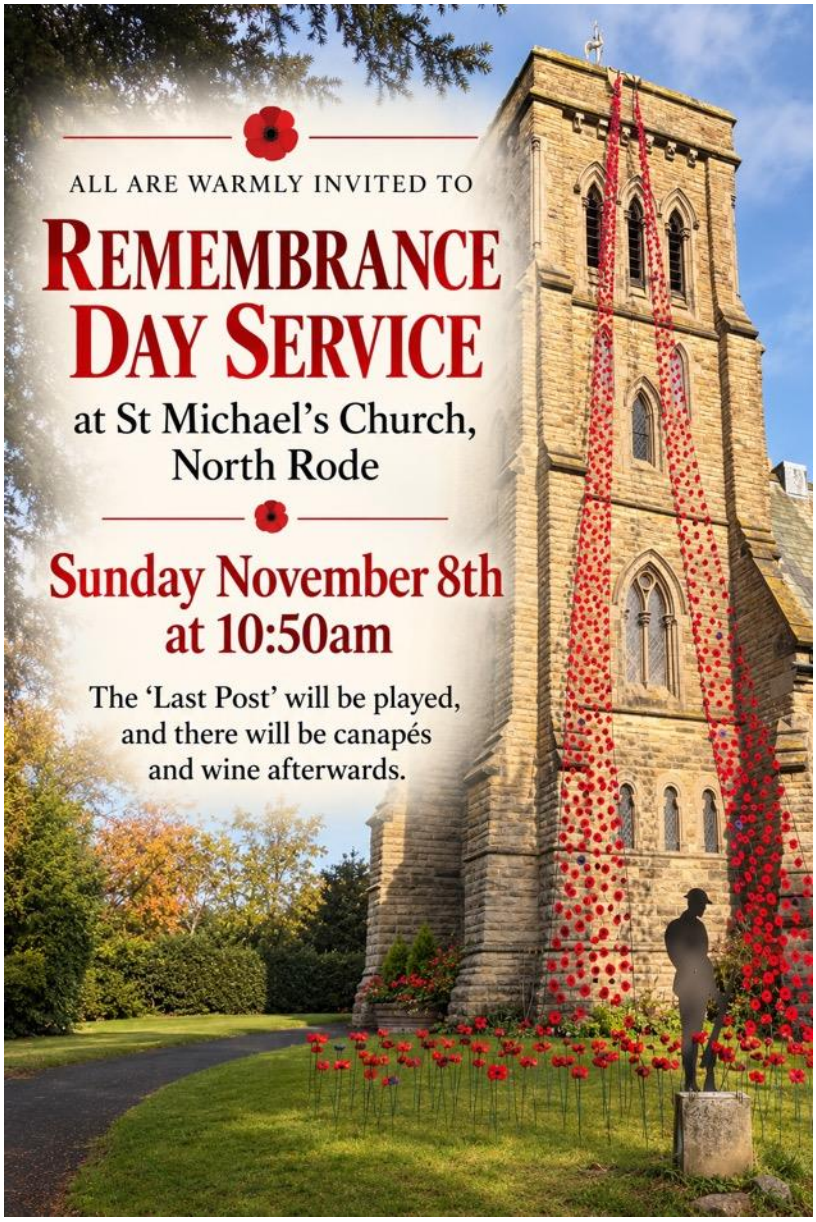


Would anyone like to host their neighbours as we travel the village Carol Singing this Christmas on Monday 21st December 2026 or even like us to sing to them individually? If so please contact Sue Bullock as soon as possible, who will be arranging the route!
susanbullock@btinternet.com
Tel: 01260 223388

Well Done Jen

Well done to Jen Baylis and Swanley Meadows for raising an amazing £6000 for the East Cheshire Hospice and the Christie at their Luxury Afternoon Tea event held in October.

North Rode Remembers



Marilyn Ainslie



It is difficult to imagine a North Rode without Marilyn who died suddenly on 29th September.

Marilyn in her professional life was a Member of the British Computer Society & the Chartered Management Institute. She worked for major software companies and independently for clients in the UK, USA and France specialising in programming and project management.

She moved to Gateway Cottage in 2004 and since then had been involved in many local events and had worked tirelessly on matters connected to the church and for many years was both a Church Warden and Treasurer. We owe her a debt of gratitude and send our deepest sympathy to her family.

Steve Walker



We report the very sad passing of Stephen Walker who lived happily with his wife, Janet, at Ethels Green Cottage on Church Lane for over 20 years. You may remember them as dedicated litter pickers for the area around Church Lane and the A54. On retirement 2 years ago, Stephen and Janet moved to Kirkby Stephen. Very sadly, Stephen became ill soon after their move and recently passed away, aged 72. The funeral was held in Dukinfield on 21st October. Steve's career was as a civil engineer and he was a dedicated golf player – travelling to his beloved Ashton-under-Lyme Golf Club every Saturday where he had played golf for most of his life. Stephen also enjoyed music and travelling abroad. Our sympathies are with Janet and the family at this very sad time.



What's on Locally This Month

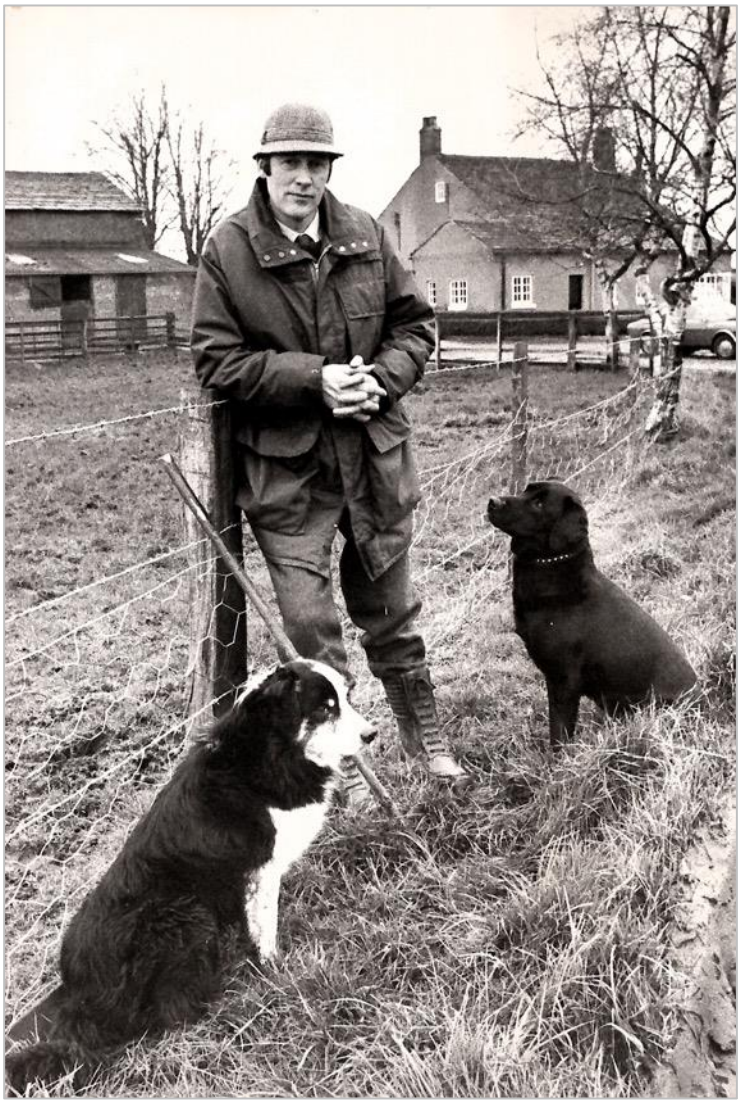


John Lea

By Martin Lea

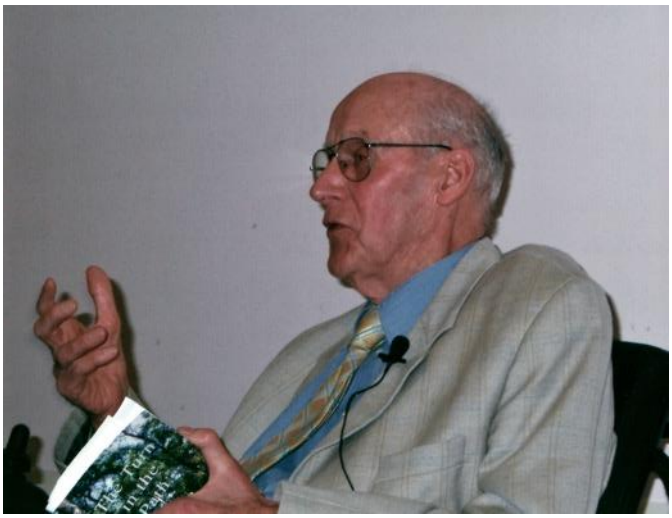
Cheshire farmer who defied polio to both farm and to represent his fellow farmers

John's life was defined by the polio he contracted at the age of 20. Previously very fit and active, he spent 16 months in hospital. Defying the doctors' opinion, he learnt to walk again although it took 3 years and he would always need a stick. He married Celia and, realizing that day to day farm work wasn't possible, they set out to buy a farm sufficiently large to require staff and let him step back from the physical work when he needed to. Eventually they settled on Shellow Farm, Gawsworth, which at over 200 acres allowed him to employ 4 staff.



This also allowed him to represent his fellow farmers, He was Macclesfield NFU chairman in 1973/74 and Cheshire chairman in 1975. As the Cheshire NFU delegate to London he became chairman of the Information Services committee in 1984 and would spend several days a week in London or even Brussels. He became involved with the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) and had a tremendous input in changing RABI's charter to include farm workers.

At the same time, he was a Methodist Lay Preacher for over 40 years which honed his speaking skills. He was always popular conducting Harvest Festival services at rural chapels. Retiring early on doctors' advice due to polio John took up many hobbies. He carved Shepherds crooks and wrote six books.



Grandchildren were often present helping him with many things that he shouldn't have been attempting. Loving to get about in the woodland he also developed some inventive ways to get his mobility scooter stuck often overturning it. Accompanying grandchildren were dispatched for help. He and my mum Celia enjoyed many days out in the Pennines. He also loved bird watching and their prize winning garden had bird feeders outside each of his windows.

John Lea, farmer, was born on June 23, 1935. He died on September 20, 2026, aged 91

John is also remembered for his fascinating Nature Notes which used to appear regularly in the North Rode Newsletter.

The Rector's Letter November 2026

As the leaves fall and the nights draw in, November brings a *"mood"* all of its own, one that invites us to pause and reflect. Within little more than a week, we observe All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Remembrance Sunday.

The month begins with All Saints' Day, followed by All Souls' Day. All Saints celebrates the great and famous figures of the Christian faith. Some of them we see depicted in stained glass windows. All Souls is more personal. It is the day when we remember the people who have shaped our own lives, parents, grandparents, partners, friends and neighbours who are no longer with us. As in previous years, at St. James' Church on 1st November at 4pm we will remember and light candles for our loved ones who have died, recalling, with thanks, the light and the love they brought into our lives.

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 8th November, and Armistice Day follows on Wednesday 11th November. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns of the First World War fell silent. Ever since, the nation has paused to remember the men and women of the armed forces, and the civilians, who have died in war and conflict.

The red poppy, which grew on the churned-up battlefields of Flanders, has become the symbol of National remembrance. On Remembrance Sunday we will join with communities throughout our country and gather at war memorials, to lay wreaths, read the names of the fallen and keep two minutes' silence. The moving words of Laurence Binyon's famous poem *"For the Fallen"* will be recited at services up and down the land:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them."

Yours ever,
Colin

North Rode Services
November 2026

November 1st All Saints Day Flowers: Hilary Trueman	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
November 8th Remembrance Sunday Flowers: Yvonne Brown	**10.50am** **Remembrance Service**	Led by: Sidesman: Reading: Bugler:	Mrs Hellen Watson Louise Jackson Geoffrey Allen Robert Heath
November 15th 2nd Sunday before Advent Flowers: Yvonne Brown	**No service at North Rode**	Gawsworth	**10 am** Holy Communion
November 22nd Sunday next before Advent Flowers: Margaret Cann	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Sharon Oldfield Margaret Cann
November 29th Advent Sunday Flowers: Margaret Cann	**10.30 am** United Benefice Service Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Charles Baxter
December 6th Advent 2	**11.15 am** Toy Service Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Mary Hobson Diane Lowe

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

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



A Service of Thanksgiving, St. James' Gawsworth
Sunday 1st November 4.00pm

North Rode Parish Council Update

Huw Williams – Chairman



Well Dressing and Poppy Displays

The parish council has actively been creating and supporting village events this year to promote community cohesion. The Well Dressing and Ceilidh in August was well attended and enjoyed by many villagers. The total funding provided by the parish council was £462, minimised by ceilidh ticket sales. The Parish Council has also provided funding of £187 for materials for the poppy workshops and for netting to create the fabulous displays now around the village.

Highway Issues



In 2025, Cheshire East Highways (CEH) promised to carry out a traffic survey in North Rode as part of the post -opening 5 year monitoring programme for the Congleton Link Road, which they had previously stated was required to determine the success of HGV and traffic reducing measures taken so far in North Rode and necessary to inform further work required if needed. After failing to respond to the Parish Council, we pressed for a response from CEH through our MP Tim Roca, who forwarded a message from CEH in September that this survey is not confirmed. The Parish Council is now actively pursuing CEH for a meeting and to carry out the survey and to include North Rode in the scope of monitoring directly. We are seeking assistance from our MP Tim Roca, who declined to visit North Rode but invited us to a meeting in January. To illustrate the extent of the traffic problem in North Rode, between the link road opening and up to September 2025, independent traffic data shows that there has been an overall increase in traffic of 67% on Bank Lane / Church Lane. It will be even greater now!

Peak Cluster

In October Cheshire East Council formally objected to the Peak Cluster pipeline proposals over concerns about potential implications for Cheshire East including public safety and environmental impacts. Our MP, Tim Roca also stated that he did not support the Peak Cluster pipeline proposals and that too many questions remain unanswered about the impact on our communities and countryside, public safety and particularly the financial case for the scheme. North Rode Parish Council has not objected formally to the project and has felt that it's limited resources are best spent on bringing the issues directly of concern to the landowners and parishioners affected by the pipeline to the attention of Peak Cluster and the Planning Directorate. Issues such as disruption to farming practice, damage to land drainage, road and traffic issues and the effect on wildlife corridors such as the River Dane. If you have any concerns regarding Peak Cluster that you think the parish council should be addressing, please contact clerk@northrodepc.co.uk.

Peak Cluster have just released a newsletter regarding face to face consultation and webinars in November seeking feedback on the revised route, above ground installations, block valve stations and temporary access areas. The closest event is in **Gawsworth on 20th November**. If you are concerned we urge you attend this or attend a webinar. Details on how to register are here: https://www.peakcluster-consultation.co.uk . In Summer 2027 there will be a full phase 2 consultation on the developed project design including the updated project boundary and the preliminary findings of our environmental assessments.

Recent Planning Applications

26/3553/VOC: Removal of Condition 1 on approval 24/2680C for material change of use of woodland and agricultural land to a wedding venue.

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st January 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

Poppies of North Rode



North Rode Knit and Natter Group and friends have been busy knitting over 1000 poppies over the summer and autumn. Also In October a plastic poppy workshop was held that produced a further 450 poppies to supplement the 650 produced over the last two years. This work has been recognised in Cheshire Life Magazine with a feature on the Poppies of North Rode.

North Rode does not have a cenotaph. As a rural community and farming a reserved occupation, North Rode was lucky to be a 'thankful village' in WW1 and WW2 . We have some truly spectacular poppy displays this year, installed by villagers and these are our memorials to the fallen. Nearby Bosley and Rushton have also produced great poppy displays to join up with our own. St Michaels Church has been decorated with poppies in Remembrance and 'Tommy' silhouettes produced by Malcolm Lowe and Huw Williams have also been placed in and around the church and at Daintry Hall and on Ethels Green.












CYCLISTS
RIDE WITH
CAUTION




North Rode


Parish of
North Rode


NORTH
RODE



Marton School

Dear Friends

As we reach the end of another busy and exciting half term, there is so much to celebrate and be thankful for in our school community.

We recently enjoyed our beautiful **Harvest Festivals**, which were filled with wonderful singing, thoughtful prayers and moments of reflection. With our school family continuing to grow, we held two celebrations this year to ensure that all our children had the opportunity to take part. Both services were truly special, and we were incredibly proud of the children.

A heartfelt **thank you** to all our families for their generosity and the bountiful Harvest gifts we received. Your kindness is greatly appreciated, and all donations will be delivered to **New Life Storehouse**, where they will help support local families in need. It is lovely to see our school community coming together to make a difference to others.

We have also introduced a new initiative in school to help keep parents informed when their child has had a minor accident or injury during the school day. Children will now wear a coloured **First Aid Band** as a helpful reminder to share the letter placed in their school bag with parents or carers.

- **Red – "I've bumped my head"**
- **Green – "I've been seen"**

We hope these bands will provide an extra way of keeping communication clear between school and home, ensuring parents are aware when their child has received first aid.

This half term, we also say a fond farewell to our wonderful School Bursar Mrs Laird , who has decided to take early retirement. She has been such a valued member of our school family, and her dedication, kindness and hard work will be greatly missed by us all. We would like to thank her sincerely for everything she has done for our school and wish her every happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter. We will all miss her very much!

Finally, as we head into the half-term break, we would like to wish all our children, families, staff and the wider parish community a happy, peaceful and restful half term. Thank you, as always, for your continued kindness, generosity and support.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!

Mrs Nevin Deakin Headteacher

North Rode WI Report

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



President Diane Lowe opened our Meeting which was our Autumn Lunch. She welcomed friends and visitors from Eaton WI, Mossley WI and Gawsworth WI. We welcomed CFWI Chair Ann Beckett as our Guest and several of our Members had been to the Autumn Meeting at the Storyhouse Chester. The Speakers there were very inspirational, especially Dr Mark Williams OBE. Much business was done as we were preparing for the lunch and our Speaker details will be given out at the November Meeting.

WI Jerusalem was sang and Harvest lunch was enjoyed by all who attended. Beef casserole and a lovely selection of desserts were provided by WI members plus cheese and biscuits. It was a very good lunch. The tables were decorated with small Floral arrangements in a mug which were part of our monthly competition. Our Speaker for the afternoon was Caroline from Sweet Snowdonia who delighted us all with handmade biscuits from her company based in North Wales. Caroline was an inspirational lady and very passionate about her work. The company had grown over the years but it was the first time she had done a presentation to a WI. Several ladies had a go at decorating biscuits which was great fun.







Orders were taken and Caroline will deliver them at our November Meeting, where we are having a Chocolate tasting and a quiz plus refreshments of savoury pies. It should be an interesting meeting. The Competition was for a Floral Arrangement in a Mug which Caroline judged .This was won by Hilary Trueman, second was Jackie Spooner. Our Christmas Lunch will take place on Thursday 10th December at the Legs of Man Smallwood Names and payment will be taken at the November Meeting.

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 10th November: November Meeting AGM, 12 noon.
- Tuesday 10th November: CFWI hosted zoom training on Artificial Intelligence by zoom, 7pm
- Thursday 19th November: Festive Fun Craft Workshops at Byley
- Tues 1st, Thurs 3rd and Sat 5th December: CFWI Christmas at White Friars, Chester.
- Thursday 10th December: Christmas Lunch at the Legs of Man, Smallwood.

Visitors are very welcome to our Meetings at Eaton Church and Community Centre. 2pm during winter months 2pm and 7pm during summer months.

Purple Poppies

Sarah Booth

Sarah, lives at Colley Mill House in North Rode and is Secretary for the Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society, whose donkeys have helped to inspire a National Tour of Purple Poppies. She tells us the story of these special poppies.

I am often asked, 'why Purple'? A colour traditionally linked to remembrance, it was the charity **Animal Aid** that originally drew attention in 2006 to animals that were the often the forgotten victims of war, by creating the purple poppy badge. It is said that approximately eight million horses, mules and donkeys, one million dogs and countless pigeons died during the First World War alone. Many more died in WW2 and in conflicts in more recent times. It was in 2024, that the gift of rather a lot of poppies and our love for donkeys inspired us to go 'on Tour', visiting Military Museums across the UK.



A cascade of purple seen at The Museum of The Queen's Royal Hussars in Warwick

When just over a 1,000 beautifully crafted, purple crocheted poppies arrived, from a group of makers in Richmond, North Yorkshire, symbolising the roles that animals have played in conflicts past and in more recent times, I knew that I must share them, they needed to be seen as each one is unique.

Given strong military connections, the poppies were secured onto camouflage netting from Catterick Garrison, my husband's suggestion that we take them 'on Tour' seemed particularly apt and where better to ask for them to visit than Army Museums that already had their own links to the roles of animals within their collections? We could combine forces and create amply curated, extremely interesting exhibitions and, in addition, bring in the role of the donkey.

Interest in the Poppies' Tour was infectious from the start. Once the word was out and people connected with the swell of worthy sentiment behind its mission - ergo to commemorate *all* animals that have served in conflict - we found ourselves creating a travelling display that would allow people to stop and contemplate the roles that animals and birds had indeed played in war. One that would also realise the importance of crafting/making as an avenue for expressions of remembrance. One that would allow us to encourage people of all ages and life experiences to become involved in future acts of commemoration with their own purple poppies and associated creations.

The Tour has grown in all aspects of its being and whilst the cascade of beautifully crafted purple poppies remains at its core, it is now accompanied by a stunning quilt – friends and members of the Donkey Breed Society from as far afield as Australia contributed squares commemorating animals involved in war for International War Animal Day (24th February) this year – an incredible horse's head crafted by D&T students from Burnham Academy in Slough, artwork from primary schools and Guiding groups, knitted work, felted work, glass work and much more.

Crafters, artists, teachers, vets, medics, historians, writers and many more skilled individuals have contributed their knowledge to the display. We visit schools, we offer craft workshops in the museums and communities that we visit and each exhibition is usually accompanied by at least one ‘Donkeys at the Museum Day’ where the public can meet local donkeys and find out about the roles of these amazing animals and others that served in wars past and in more recent times.

Our own donkeys serve as a constant reminder of the character of these wonderful equines. In war their sure footedness was of considerable benefit over rocky terrain, their narrow gait meant they could access trenches, carrying in supplies and extracting the wounded, and contributing their considerable empathy for humans as they provided companionship. We are so very proud to bring stories of individual equines to the public through our Tour.



School Visit to Alsager Primary School



A much admired horse's head made by students from Burnham Grammar, Slough seen at The Museum of The Queen's Royal Hussars in Warwick

We began in 2024 at York Army Museum and have since travelled to The Cumbrian Museum of Military Life, The Cheshire Military Museum. In 2025: The Museum of the Green Howards, The REME Museum, The Museum of The Queen’s Royal Hussars. In 2026: The Royal Three Counties Show in Malvern, The Museum of the Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire and a return to Warwick and The Queen’s Royal Hussars, until December. In 2027 we will begin the year at The Royal Welsh Regimental Museum in Brecon. **Long May the Tour Continue!**

Look out for the special Purple Poppies that appear amongst the various displays in North Rode!