

North Rode Newsletter

October 2025

*What's on in North Rode
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As the nights start to draw in and leaves are starting to turn, there is still much going on in North Rode. We have new arrivals into the village, a village luncheon to look forward to, an update on Daintry Hall plans and the final instalment of William Cumberlidge's fascinating history of North Rode.

Welcome & Farewell

Welcome to Rachel Massey and her two sons Oliver and Sam and to Bernie the horse, who have moved into Bell Farm on Shellow Lane from Prestbury.

Also, welcome to Malcolm and Nikki Kavanagh and their children Josh and Jasmine, who have recently moved into Ridgeway on Station Road.

Jasper Birthdays!

Birthday wishes to Jasper Edwards who will be 3 on 19th October and Jasper Petts, who will be 8 on 30th October.

With Sadness..

Lillian Cellario has sadly passed away on 18th September aged 94. She lived for many years at Gateway Cottage with her late husband Leo, before moving to Congleton.

We were also saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Molly Parrott in hospital on 5th Sept. She became a good friend of St Michael's, joining us when her husband Keith, a Lay Reader from Gawsworth, kindly took our services. Our deepest sympathy goes to him. The funeral after private cremation will be at St James' in Gawsworth on Wed. 1st October at 11.30 am. Be aware there are closures along the A536 Macclesfield Rd on that day.

St' Michaels Harvest Luncheon

This year's Harvest will be held at Gawsworth scout hut on 19th October. All are welcome at this relaxed afternoon luncheon and a great opportunity to meet up with your neighbours and other villagers. Details of where to get tickets are on the poster. A raffle will also be held on the day with many fabulous prizes.



Cleaning Help Needed!

'St Michael's Church is, geographically, in the centre of the village and, as such, is an important and iconic building. A small group of 'ageing' North Rode and Buglawton residents do their best to keep the church clean and tidy but some additional help to do this would be greatly appreciated. Duties are fairly light, no ladders involved and it takes a team of 2 people about an hour. Could you help 3 or 4 times a year? If you can please email Lynn Petts on lynn.petts@btinternet.com

Cattle Theft in North Rode

Between 7-9th September, a Hereford Heifer was stolen from a farm in North Rode close to Eaton. If you saw anything unusual on those days that might be relevant over this period, please report to the police via 101 using the crime reference 25000747078. This is the third Heifer to have been stolen from the same farm in recent months.



East Cheshire Hospice visit from North Rode Alpacas

Viv Darcy of Alpaca Amigos in North Rode recently brought smiles to the faces of patients and their families at the East Cheshire Hospice Sunflower Living Well Centre's Summer Party. One year old Alpacas Cola and Onyx were very well behaved and allowed everyone to stroke them. Well done Viv!



Safari Adventure Story – 10th Oct

Chris Candy is helping to raise funds for a digital girls school in Mombasa with a presentation night at Lower Withington Village hall on 10th October. There will be an auction on the night with some very nice prizes of holiday cottage weekends, beauty and nail treatments and lovely canvas prints of some safari photos. Please help Chris, who is often at the forefront providing support for North Rode events.

Second Hand Laptop Request!



		
Friday - October 10 - @ 7pm		
JOIN US <i>As we share</i>		Entry price £5
OUR SAFARI ADVENTURE		
<p>We are sharing our photos and memories. Hoping to raise funds for Digital Junior School in Diani Mombasa. A school run on a shoe string surviving only on donations, delivering a remarkable education, in extreme poverty.</p>	<p> Lower Withington village hall SK11 9DX</p>	<p> Bar available Raffle</p>
	<p>contact Nicola 07807040882 or Chris 07703473096 for any queries</p>	

Many North Rode residents have kindly supported Shirley Tudor-Evans's fundraising for The Saramek Trust through Christmas Fairs previously held at The Grange. The Trust was originally set up following her son Will's gap year teaching in Kenya back in 2006. To date 27 needy students have been sponsored through secondary school and university, the eldest of whom, Moses, an orphan, is now an electrician working for Tetrapak in Nairobi and has a family of his own. The youngest, Damaris, has just started at university and she has asked if she can be supplied with a laptop. If anyone has a good second hand laptop which they would be willing to donate, Shirley can arrange to have it cleaned and take out in the New Year. Any offers would be appreciated and please contact Shirley Tudor-Evans on 07778648088 or shirleytudor@btinternet.com

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



A Service of Thanksgiving, St. James' Gawsworth
 Sunday 2nd November 4.00pm. All Welcome.

The Rector's Letter October 2025

With summer fast becoming a distant memory and the leaves beginning to turn, October is traditionally the time when Churches across the country celebrate Harvest Festival. As I mentioned in last month's Newsletter, we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at St. James', Gawsworth at 10.00am on Sunday 5th October and St. Michael's, North Rode, on Sunday 12th October at 11.15am. Please bring along donations of food (tins/packets) and these will be given to our local Foodbanks.

The end of October, when the clocks change and the nights draw in, sees us enter the days of "Hallowtide", the season of "Remembrance". The word "Hallow" means to "Honour" and is now little used. We hear it more commonly in its verb form, for example, in the Lord's Prayer; "hallowed be thy name". It is a rather lovely word, as it seeks to set apart that which would otherwise be ordinary.

On All Souls Sunday 2nd November at 4.00pm there will be a special service, "Remembering Our Loved Ones", at St. James' Church, Gawsworth, during which we will remember before God those whom we have loved and lost. Those attending will have an opportunity to light a candle and place it upon the Altar. St. Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, at the end of Chapter Thirteen, sums up, in my view, the three fundamental pillars of life: "Faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."

As most of us know, bereavement is a very difficult journey to navigate. By gathering together and lighting a candle in memory of those we have lost, but still love, we will "Hallow" their names. If anyone would like a departed loved one to be remembered by name during the service, please write their name on the list at the back of the Church.

Yours ever, Colin

North Rode Services October 2025

October 5th Trinity 16 Flowers: Pam Robinson	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Diane Lowe Sharon Oldfield
October 12th Trinity 17 Harvest Festival Flowers: Bronwen Bebington and helpers	11.15 am Harvest Service	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Mary Hobson
October 19th Trinity 18	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
October 26th Last Sunday after Trinity Flowers: Hilary Trueman	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
November 2nd 4 th Sunday before Advent Flowers: Hilary Trueman	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Margaret Cann

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 077991717459

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

North Rode WI Report October

Secretary Pam Robinson writes

The President Diane Lowe welcomed our members plus visitors from Mossley, Gawsworth and Eaton WI plus other friends. In September we held our Autumn Lunch and afterwards had a lovely flower arrangement demonstration by Karen Salt of Rudyard Flowers. Karen is a Flower Farmer and Florist. Her flowers were beautiful, some were homegrown on her farm in Rudyard and displays she arranged for us were very natural. Karen does buy flowers in and when she first started her business, flowers were bought from a contact in Cornwall as they were able to supply in smaller quantities. This has now expanded as has her business. Karen explained that it is a bit of a learning curve, finding out by trial and error what grows well and what does not grow so well. Some of her Arrangements were included in the Raffle won by our Members and Visitors.



The meal was very well received and enjoyed by all who attended. The Competition was for a 'Small Flower Arrangement in a Mug or Jam Jar' and judged by Karen. This was won by Diane Lowe with Mary Hibbert second.

Dates for our diary

- Details about the CFWI (Cheshire Federation of WI) Autumn Meeting at the Storyhouse Chester on Monday 20th October were given out and 7 of our Members are going. There are still places on the coach for anyone who would like to go shopping in Chester.
- Our next Meeting is on Tuesday October 14th at 2pm, when our Speaker will be Peter Aston and his topic will be From Apples to the Saw Mill. The Competition will be for an item to include Apples.

Visitors are made very welcome 2nd Tuesday of the Month at Eaton Church and Community Hall 2pm in the Winter Months and 7.30pm in the Summer Months.

Defibrillator Information

For those new to the village, we have 2 defibrillators, both maintained by the Parish Council. One is at Daintry Hall by the church. The other is on Park Road, just to the right of the park gates.



Both defibrillators require an access code to open. If you dial 999, they will provide the code. The parish council has also produced for North Rode villagers, special key fobs with the code. If you would like a new or a replacement key fob, please contact huwwilliams200@gmail.com.

Police Contact Information

Whilst North Rode is deemed to be a very low crime area, there may be occasions when you wish to contact the police. They have provided the following contact information:



Our local PCSO is Amy Mair and our police area is Knutsford. If you follow Knutsford Police on Facebook, you will see updates on police surgeries and events for our area. Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team also have a very good Facebook page.

Daintry Hall Project Progress Report



Excavation and percolation testing at one of several locations to determine drainage parameters

We have made steady progress throughout the year regarding the Phase 1 pre-start conditions. Specialist reports have been commissioned to address tree protection and arboricultural requirements; also, ecological enhancements and habitat creation. A CCTV survey of the existing drainage system has been undertaken and a report prepared. The drainage strategy and its detailed design incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) is in preparation together with future management and maintenance proposals. Ground percolation tests were carried out recently using local resources – thank you Rob Thorpe and Mark Bullock.

In parallel to resolving planning issues, we have been exploring a range of alternatives for the construction of the Pavilion from traditional masonry, steel portal and also timber frame with an option to include an oak frame structure which introduces some interesting features. The final decision on what we can afford can only be made once the full cost implications of planning requirements have been determined. We will then be in a position to actively seek grant funding wherever this is possible.

We have also received preliminary proposals for sustainable MEP installations (mechanical, electrical and plumbing including an air source heat pump and underfloor heating system). Preparation of the building regulation submission has also been started. We are aiming for the submission to discharge the Phase 1 pre-start conditions to be made to Cheshire East Planning before the end of the year. Whilst it may appear that nothing much is happening, this is not the case. Much of the work to date has been carried out by Tony Hayes, and we are very lucky to have his expertise on our committee.

The planning permission granted at the end of last year included a total of 17 conditions of which 9 are ‘pre-start conditions’ which have to be discharged before any physical work can start. This has inevitably meant that the hoped for start and hence completion dates are further away than we would have liked.

The works are planned to be completed in two phases. Phase 1 – The Pavilion, its external activity area, the carpark alterations and access improvements from Manor Park Road, and Phase 2 – the renovation and extension of Daintry Hall itself.



Marton School



Dear Friends

As we begin this new school year at Marton Primary School, I am delighted to welcome 29 new children into our Reception class. They have already brought such enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy into the school, and we are excited to watch them begin their learning journey with us.

The coming months are always a special time in the school calendar. We look forward to many of our much-loved annual events and traditions that bring our children, families, and the wider community together. These occasions not only create lasting memories but also give us the chance to celebrate the hard work, creativity, and talents of our pupils.

We are also delighted to be running our **Little Seeds sessions** again this year – held on the **first Wednesday of every month** – welcoming pre-school children and their parents/carers into school for play, stories, and friendship. Looking ahead, we warmly invite prospective families to our **Open Sessions** for September 2026 entry:

- **Thursday 9th October, 1.30–2.15pm**
- **Tuesday 25th November, 9.30-10.15am**
- **Monday 8th December, 5–6pm**

MARTON
And District Primary School

Our school family exists to inspire and enable every child to grow from an acorn to an oak, whatever the future holds.

We would like to invite you to visit our friendly, rural, perfectly sized and happy school.

Open Day Sessions

Thursday 18th September 9.30am - 10.15am
Thursday 9th October 1.30pm - 2.15pm
Tuesday 25th November 9.30am- 10.15am
Monday 8th December 5pm - 6pm

Come and look around and see us hard at work!
Please contact us if you would like to join us.
If you are unable to make these dates, please feel free to contact us to arrange a visit.

Ofted
Good
Provider

01260 224482
admin@marton.cheshire.sch.uk
School Lane, Marton, SK11 8HD

Our Nurture Drive

At the heart of everything we do are our school values: **Sow, Nurture, Grow**. This year, as always, we are committed to sowing the seeds of learning and kindness, nurturing the unique gifts of every child, and helping each one to grow in confidence, knowledge, and character.

Mid-Day Vacancies

We are looking for Mid-Day staff to come and work at our beautiful school. Can you help?

Our children are delightful and we are looking for staff to help and support them at lunchtime each day.

- Monday to Friday 11.45am -1.15pm
- £12.65 per hour
- Immediate start
- Term time only
- Beautiful location

If interested please email Mrs Deakin our Headteacher on head@marton.cheshire.sch.uk ASAP. Any job offer is subject to satisfactory references as we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and encouragement. We are proud to be a school rooted in community, and we look forward to another year of learning, laughter, and shared achievement.

With best wishes,

Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher



North Rode Parish Council Report

Cheshire Devolution

Cheshire+ Warrington

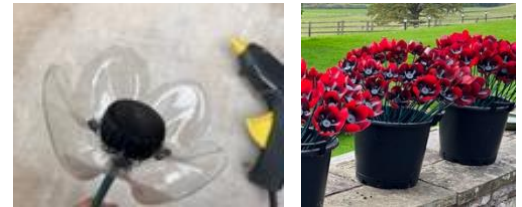
Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington unitary authorities have recently voted to proceed with devolution in Cheshire, which will involve the election of a Mayor in 2027. Cheshire and Warrington will receive £21.7million per annum over the next 30 years. The first instalment in 2026-27 will be £10.85million, in advance of inaugural Mayoral elections in May 2027. This would take our area's overall allocation to more than £650million in funding over the 30-year period. This funding is split 50% for capital investment and 50% revenue funding.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/website_information/trace.aspx

North Rode resident Steve Purdham, who is the Chair of Cheshire and Warrington Business advisory board, will be providing an overview of the benefits of devolution to our region at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Poppy Workshop

Confirming that the poppy making workshop will now be held on Saturday 18th October at Rode Hall Farm, between 12-4pm. If you are wanting to come along to help us make a memorable poppy display for our village, please contact huwwilliams200@gmail.com ASAP as space will be limited.



Recent Planning Applications

25/3417/LBC Colley Mill House Buxton Road, Listed Building Consent for General repair works
You can view applications online at: [Cheshire East Planning Applications](#).



HGV's & Traffic

Large trucks continue to pass through North Rode lanes occasionally, ignoring the very clear 7.5t weight restriction signs. If you see one, please make a note of the company and the registration if possible and report it to the parish council. We will log it and inform the police, who will discuss with the relevant transport manager. We have requested that Cheshire East highways commission a follow up traffic count survey on Bank Lane, to quantify overall traffic increase over the past couple of years. This will enable us to push for measures and try to reduce traffic volume on our rural lanes.

Defibrillators – During recent routine maintenance work on the Park Rd cabinet, we found that the combination lock could be temperamental. We immediately took steps to replace the lock to ensure that our defibrillators are always available if needed. If you unfortunately need to use one of our defibrillators or wish to report a problem with them, please contact a member of the parish Council as soon as possible.

Next Council Meeting

Our next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 6th November, at Daintry Hall at 7:30pm. All villagers are welcome to come along.

Huw Williams

Chairman North Rode Parish Council

THE HISTORY OF NORTH RODE, AS I KNEW IT FROM 1914 TO 1973 – Part 6

Written by W.L.Cumberlidge.

Continued.....

On the formation of the Macclesfield R.D.C., each parish appointed two representatives to meet with the Rating Committee to discuss any alteration in the Rateable Value of any of the properties within the parish. The two appointed for the parish of North Rode were Mr. A. Clayton [Rode Hall Farm] and Mr. Swindells who farmed at Ladder Stile Farm.

The parish made its own amusements with Whist Drives, Dances and Concerts given by local talent. The porters' room at North Rode Station was always filled to capacity during the winter months by youths of the village - standing room only! There was a good fire and they played cards, 1/2d nap, and talked about things that had happened in the village. The Station Master used to go on the 6.30p.m. train to Macclesfield and visited the Bull and Gate, if he was in a bad mood when he returned he would come to the porters' room and say, "Steps, you buggers" and they ran up the steps like March Hares.!

The Duties of Assistant Overseer.

Each half year every Parish received a Precept, demanding a certain amount of money, from the Cheshire County Council. In each of the half years the money had to be paid in two instalments - one in June, one in September, one in December and one in March. On receipt of these precepts, the Assistant Overseer had to levy a rate to cover these demands, together with any money needed to be spent in the parish, which included the money paid to the assistant overseer. The rates in each parish varied according to the amount demanded by the Cheshire County Council.

Upon making the rate, the assistant overseer had to go to the County Court in King Edward Street, Macclesfield, and swear to the magistrate that the rate you had levied would meet the requirements of the parish. When the magistrate had agreed with the assistant overseer on the amount of the rate, the assistant overseer went to Goodwins in the Market Place, Macclesfield, and had the Demand Notes printed together with the receipt book and envelopes. Then the demand notes had to be sent to each person levied in the rate book. After this the monies had to be collected and amounts entered in the cash book., the money was then taken to the District Bank, Macclesfield. At the end of the year the assistant overseer had to take his books to the Local Government Auditor for inspection. This continued until the formation off the Macclesfield R.D.C. in 1927. After 1927 the rate was made up by the Macclesfield R.D.C. and they supplied the demand notes, receipt book and cash book. Upon the R.D.C. taking over, they passed a resolution that no more Rate Collectors would be selected by the parish, and as each assistant overseer gave up the position or passed away, the position would be offered to one of the other collectors. The Hurdsfield collector, Mr. Turner, died and I took his place, then Mr. Middlewich, the schoolmaster for Marton, passed away and I was appointed collector for the parish of Marton. When it was reduced to seven collectors the Council decided to make them full time positions. I was offered one of the positions but refused it because of my long service on the railway with loss of pension rights. The two persons appointed were Mr. D.W. Murray of Prestbury and Mr. A.J. Bolshaw of Langley. They had to make out the demand notes, but no collections were made and the people had to take their rates to the R.D.C. Office.

The following is the rate account for North Rode, for the ½ year ending 30th September, 1917. The rate levied was 2/6d in the pound on buildings, and 113d in the pound on agricultural land. This is the total amount for the half year. Area of Parish 1497 acres.

Gross Rental.....	5087.	10.	3d.
Rateable Value	1834.	15.	0d.
Agricultural Land Rateable Value Of Buildings..	2458.	15.	6d.
Rate to be collected	422.	1.	1ld.

Chief Ratepayers

North Staffordshire Railway.....	177.	12. 6d.
Manor House	31.	7. 3d.
The Grange	16.	17. 6d.

The average rate payable by the farms varied between £10 and £16, the rates on the houses varied between 8s. and 10s. most being 8/2d. I am the only person living who was appointed by the overseers. During my 24 years as a Rate Collector I did not have any arrears or was ever asked for any excusables.

I think I will now close my account of North Rode, but before I finish I would like to make mention of my dear wife, Annie, who is buried in North Rode Churchyard. She did all the writing for me, making out the demand notes, and kept all the books until she died. When I look at the Register of Electors for 1973, I realise that I do not know a large number of the people who now reside in North Rode, nor do they know that I am the Parish Clerk.

To all those I have known, now departed, I wish Heavenly Blessing, and to all who now reside in the Parish and to all future generations, I wish Health, Joy and Happiness. I should like to close with the first verse of a famous hymn, written by William Bullock, with slight alteration.

"We love the Parish, O God,
Wherein thine Honour dwells,
The joy of our abodes,
May Heavenly joy excel"

Signed: W.L. Cumberlidge.

Postscript

I'm sure you will agree, especially those whose families have lived in the village for a long time and knew or are related to people mentioned, this has been a fascinating account of North Rode community life in the last century, and we are very lucky that William Cumberlidge took the time to record his memories for our benefit and place in parish council archives. William died on May 30th, 1979 aged 79 years and is buried alongside his wife Annie at St Michaels Church.

Next time you are passing the church, why not pop in to pay your respects and perhaps seek out William and the many other village characters mentioned in his account, that have helped to shape and make our village what it is today.

William Cumberlidge wrote further detailed accounts of railway life in North Rode in Parish Council notes and these will appear in future newsletters.

Huw Williams

