

North Rode Parish News April 2024

Welcome to this edition of the North Rode Parish News. Many events happening as the weather improves and the days grow longer. As you will receive this on Easter Weekend a Happy Easter, the time of new beginnings and also don't forget to put your clocks on one hour.

Following Huw Williams' fascinating article on his working life in this month's newsletter, please can we persuade more of you to contribute similar articles on subjects of your choice including hobbies, holidays or other experiences.

Birthday

Congratulations and best wishes to Madge Gilman who turns 90 on April 15th.

Events

We would draw your attention to the Spring Lunch and D-Day Commemoration posters, and advise you to get your tickets before they sell out.



North Rode Parish Council Update April 2024

Highways - Cheshire East Highways have been quite busy in March on Church Lane, with the sink hole being repaired, the gully grid in front of the well being repaired and the source of the leak below the church being identified and repaired with a new access manhole fitted for cleaning. In addition the remainder of gulleys have been emptied.

New direction signs have been installed on the A536 at the junction with Cocks Moss Lane, Pexall Road and Bank Lane by highways. We will be addressing the issue of worn out white road markings with CEH over the coming months. If there are any other highways issues you would like the Parish Council to look into, please do not hesitate to let us know.

6th June D-Day Commemoration – Plans continue apace for this event, including refurbishment and relocation of the village beacon. Church Bells across the country including at St Michaels in North Rode, will ring out for peace at 6:30pm. The Fish and Chip Supper (other options available) will be at 7pm, followed by a concert by the Wychcraft Big Band in the church at 7:30pm. Tickets for the supper and band will be £15 and include a donation to The Royal Naval Association, ABF The Soldiers Charity, RAF Benevolent Fund, The Merchant Navy Association and The Normandy Memorial Trust. The village beacon, along with others across the nation will be lit at 9:15pm and open to all. We hope that you can come along to commemorate this momentous day in our great nation's history and have an enjoyable evening in the heart of our village.

Full details including where tickets can be obtained are on the poster at the end of this newsletter.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next parish council meeting will be the AGM to be held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7:30pm at Daintry Hall. All residents are warmly welcome to attend.

Chairman NRPC Huw Williams

huwilliams200@gmail.com

The Rector's Letter – April

Because the diaries of many people often tend to fill up weeks in advance, I am taking this opportunity to mention our *Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)* which takes place on Monday 20th May at 7.30pm in the Church. The APCM is not a committee meeting. Alongside the legal function of electing Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) members, the annual meeting is open to everyone, and it gives us an opportunity to look back over the last twelve months and, importantly, look ahead to the future.

After the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, is it time that we went back to the traditional way of celebrating Holy Communion, with the cup of wine being offered to all? What is going well and what could be better? How might we attract more younger people and children? Like the majority of Churches across the country, our expenditure currently exceeds our income, and we need to address this with some urgency. Annual meetings give us the chance to listen to one another and share ideas. *All are most welcome to come along and share their thoughts on how we might go forward.* This year I think we might be able to produce a glass of wine and some nibbles during the meeting.

Our spiritual life reveals itself in so many different kinds of ministry, not least the correct preparation of the Church for each service, and then there's everything from cleaning, to flower arranging, maintaining the Churchyard, sidesmen duties, music, pastoral visiting, refreshments after special services, cake making, events organising, finance, brass polishing and cleaning gutters etc. That is a long list, but still an incomplete one. Our heartfelt thanks are due to *everyone* who has answered God's call to serve this community – your gifts are not going unnoticed!

Yours ever,

Colin

North Rode Services April 2024

April 7th Easter 2 Flowers: Sue Bullock & helpers	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Margaret Cann
April 14th Easter 3 Flowers: Anne Lever	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesmen: Reading:	The Rector Judy Howarth Blanche Royle
April 21st Easter 4 Flowers: Louise Jackson	11.15 am Morning Prayer	Led by: Sidesman: Readings:	Mrs Hellen Watson Shirley Tudor-Evans Bernard Lever Mary Hobson
April 28th Easter 5 Flowers: Anne Lever	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
May 5th Easter 6 Flowers: Anne Lever	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Bronwen Bebington Alastair Kennedy

Rector

Revd Colin Wilson 01260 23201

Warden

Mrs Marilyn Ainslie 01260 23346

Secretary

Mrs Diane Lowe 01260 272576

Treasurer

Mrs Lynn Petts 01260 222902

Magazine Contacts

Ms Kate Bean 01260 272723

Mrs Marilyn Ainslie 01260 223346

Easter Services

We look forward to welcoming all ages to our Easter Day service at 11.15, with fizz, soft drinks and canapés afterwards, also to our Good Friday Meditation. Because of poor attendance at our Lay Reader services on 3rd Sundays, these will be discontinued from June this year.

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



North Rode WI March Meeting

President Diane Lowe opened the North Rode March Meeting with a warm welcome to several Visitors and Apologies were read out. A Get Well Card had been sent by the Secretary Pam Robinson to Pauline Croft after her recent fall.

Our Speaker was invited to do his Talk and Slide Show before our Business Meeting. Peter Durnall showed us very impressive slides from the Manifold Valley first with some lovely scenery and wildlife birds etc. Peter showed us slides on Garden Birds and beautiful slides on the Skomer Islands. He is a very informative Speaker on all aspects on Wildlife etc and has won many Competitions in the past. His slides portray Nature as if you are actually there with sounds of the countryside and Birdsong.

The Competition was for a Bowl of Tete de Tete Daffs and Diane Lowe was 1st, Pam Robinson 2nd. Peter judged the Evening Bag Competition in memory of Gladys Dines and this was won by Carrie Barton.

Thanks were given out to Pam Robinson for the Table Flowers, Raffle Lillian Cellario, Teas Brenda Carey and Bronwen Bebington and Cakes Diane Lowe and Mary Hobson.

Pam Robinson gave Peter an Appreciative Vote of Thanks and tea was served afterwards followed by the Business Meeting. The Cloud Group Spring Meeting is at New Life Church on Wednesday 1st May 7.30 pm The Competition is for a Fashion Accessory from any Era. The Cloud Group Lunch is to be held at the Plough on Wednesday May 22nd.

North Rode WI Coffee Morning is to be held at Gawsforth Methodist Church Hall, on Thursday 2nd May. Several Dates for your Diary were given out Resolutions were discussed by the President but since the Meeting The Dental Health one has been chosen to go to the AGM in June at the Royal Albert Hall.

On the 26th March there is the Annual Council Meeting and Presidents Lunch.

The Literary Lunch 2024 is on July 17th with Milly Johnson as the Speaker.

Subscriptions are due next Month.

Our Speaker for April is Sarah Darlington on Jams and Chutneys her Company.

The Competition is for a Jar of Jam or Chutney. The Meeting is on Tuesday April 9th at 7.30pm Note the time as it is the Summer Months when we meet at 7.30pm.

All Visitors are most welcome on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at Eaton Church and Community Hall.

News from Marton School

Today (15th March) we have celebrated Funfest for Comic Relief and everyone has had a great day! We always love a theme day @ Marton and everyone loves to be involved. Thank you, Mr Stewart and awesome School Council, for organising today.

Our next theme event day to support F & F's Easter Bingo takes place on Thursday 21st March for 'Make the Rules' day; children will bring an Easter egg in exchange for some (mild) rule breaking fun! We also have our Easter bingo on Friday 22nd March @ 6.30pm to look forward too.

Our 'Friends and Family' (F & F) have been such a great support to school and we thank them for their ideas, enthusiasm, biscuits, Wonka bars and for their great fundraising! Their current project is raising much needed funds for playground equipment and we remain so grateful for their support.

Some of you will know I have continued to support St John's School in Sandbach and continue to do so. They have had a very challenging school inspection and I continue to support them during this time. St John's is just the latest school that I am supporting as I regularly support local and Diocesan schools. This week staff from St John's came to Marton and we loved showing them our school.

Wishing you all good wishes for Easter from all @ Team Marton!

Best wishes,

Mrs Nevin Deakin

Follow us on Twitter (X) @TeamMarton

It Shouldn't Happen to an Engineer!



So I finally retired in January 2024 after a long and varied career in the construction industry spanning nearly 42 years - the last of the slide rule generation! Engineering was a natural path for me to take, being a fan of Meccano and building bikes (Mechanical Engineer), Lego and damming streams (Civil Engineer). My mechanical engineering course at Manchester Polytechnic included a year working with the German company Otto Simon Carves, constructing a massive coke oven at Port Talbot steelworks. I was surprised to find that a very green 19 year old was allowed to wander about unsupervised on some extremely large and scary furnaces. My job was taking temperatures of coal burning at 2000 Degrees C through open lids on the

top, whilst trying to stop my boots sticking to the surface and from falling in. It was a harsh introduction to the Engineering world, when PPE seemed optional.

After graduating In 1982, I saw an advert in the Manchester Job Centre for a French company called Testconsult CEBTP (Centre Expérimental Bâtiment et Travaux Publics) which had just set up in a tiny office in Altrincham. As a junior technician I was introducing a new service carrying out non-destructive testing on foundations below ground using innovative French ultrasonic and stress wave techniques. The work involved checking foundations throughout the UK and on many key projects such as the Channel Tunnel, Canary Wharf, the M25 and increasingly on overseas visits. This was all before mobile phones and PC's. I remember a telex machine in our office being used to arrange visits around the globe and typists producing reports and trying to decipher my writing. Also many many stops at telephone kiosks across the country were needed to find out where the next job was. It's far too easy now with mobile phones!



Ground Penetrating Radar (as seen on Time Team) was being introduced to construction at this time. We rented some kit and learnt how to use it on the job. I spent a weekend causing traffic mayhem on Richmond Bridge looking for hidden voids, much to the annoyance of commuters, then a week scanning Greenham Common airfield looking for bulldozers, supposedly buried by the Americans after WW2, and much to the suspicion of the Peace Protesters, still camping at the gatehouse long after the Yanks had gone. I also spent a week surveying the Royal Exchange in Manchester after the Manchester IRA Bombing, looking for blast damage. However the only cracks I found were caused by the Luftwaffe a few years earlier!

Perhaps the most poignant job I had, was testing the damaged remains of the Whiddy Island oil jetty in Bantry Bay, Ireland. It was destroyed when an oil tanker caught fire in 1979 and tragically 50 men died. Working off small boats, in bad weather that kept ripping away test sensors was tough and was always with the events of that terrible disaster in my mind. We caught fresh mackerel for breakfast most days. In 1989, whilst working on a job in Limerick, I was out for an evening drink at a famous pub called Durty Nelly's, near Bunratty Castle. There I was, minding my own business, when I was approached by a lovely red-headed Irish girl who asked if I'd like a pint of Guinness – well the rest is history and Joan-Marie now lives here with me in North Rode!



Overseas visits were always a thrill for me as I love travelling, and this was at someone else's expense! Seemingly, without exception something always happened on each trip. Travelling to Bordeaux for a testing job, I saw my delicate new test equipment cartwheeling down a baggage ramp, and spent the next few days putting it all back together in my hotel room – I went everywhere after that with a comprehensive toolkit and soldering iron. I arrived for a job in Baghdad during the Iran – Iraq war, to be woken up on my first night by a guy standing by the swimming pool below my window firing off his Kalashnikov rifle into the sky, with the skyline behind lit up by anti-aircraft fire. I was given a helmet to wear out on the road construction site, next to a missile battery which was bit concerning. Even more concerning after I found problems with some highways foundations, the Iraqi Government official in charge of the project said I couldn't leave until it was sorted. I was never more relieved to be leaving anywhere I have visited either before or since.



In the USA, whilst checking foundations for a new railway bridge in Richmond City, Virginia, a large gang of youths passing nearby spotted me underneath and I heard them yell – “lets get him!” I jumped in my work jeep, with cables trailing and drove onto and down the railway track away from them, that was until I met a freight train coming the other way, so into the ditch I went.

Off the north African coast, a Tunisian Navy gun boat had been arranged by the local power company for me to check out some foundations off-shore, only for it to run aground coming to pick me up. The captain in his full naval regalia was rowed ashore in a tiny boat to apologise and arranged for a local fisherman's boat to be commandeered for me. I still remember the rank smell and cockroaches running around my feet whilst I worked. I was seconded to our parent company, the CEBTP in Paris (a part French government research organisation) for 6 months, where I was lucky to work on many French national monuments across the country in their Historical Buildings section and also improve my French fluency. I loved living and working in Paris, as does our eldest daughter Maeve who is currently working there.

In 1994, myself and two other engineers heard that the French wanted to sell the UK company, so we arranged a management buy out. It wasn't easy, and we all sold what we could to raise funds and I said goodbye to my trusty old MG Midget. We proceeded to grow the company organically from 10 to 150 people, with offices in Warrington, London, Ireland and Malaysia and site laboratories across many major infrastructure contracts in UK and Ireland. We developed new methods for checking post tensioned bridges, which had a propensity to collapse if not grouted up properly. Cleverly (well I thought anyhow) we used repurposed pressurised fire extinguishers and

Boyles law ($P1V1=P2V2$ remember your physics?) to check the volume of the voids in tendon ducts and repackaged them as void testing systems. During this period, I became MD and set up a new R&D and product development division, and proceeded to design and make specialist non-destructive testing systems for use in civil engineering, which are now used in over 75 countries worldwide. We set up resellers throughout the globe which I supported through talks and the presentation of a number of technical papers at conferences and exhibitions.



I was visiting so many countries at this point, my children thought I was a spy! With tales on my return of speeding across the Persian Gulf in fast work boats, being arrested by Police in Turkmenistan on the Afghanistan border and midnight taxi trips across bandit lands in the mountains of northern Albania to remote construction sites, I suppose I could see why! Somewhat ironically, my Grandfather received the MBE from King George VI in 1951, allegedly for services rendered to British Intelligence whilst serving with HM Government. He died when I was very young and my father, who also worked for the Government was not very forthcoming on the subject. Rather than the ubiquitous T-shirt, I would try to bring back a flag of wherever I visited – we have quite a collection now!



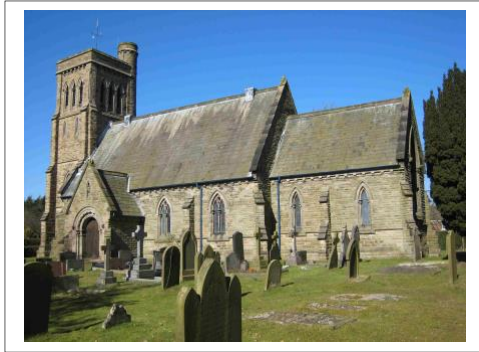
Whilst all this was going on, Joan-Marie was looking after our 3 children and pursuing her own nursing career specialising in Cardiothoracic Nursing in Liverpool and Manchester and latterly as a staff nurse at East Cheshire Hospice, where she still works. I really don't know how she did it all, especially as I seemed to be away on a "work holiday" whenever measles or other usual childhood illnesses struck. Eventually we sold the company in 2014 to James Fisher (Later to be sold to BES Group) and I become an employee once again, where I continued to run the Equipment Division and develop new systems. I also became a British Standard committee member and was responsible to developing new International standards for some of the tests we had developed.

I was very lucky to have had a fantastic boss and mentor in the early years, Richard Stain. He had worked in many countries, including Canada, Yemen and Iran since the 1970's and had and still has an incredible 'Can Do' attitude. He built a 40' yacht in his back garden and sailed it across the Atlantic - twice, and took me in it as co-skipper on the 3 Peaks Yacht Race – twice. We are still great friends and cycled the 175Km Ring of Kerry charity cycle together last year.

I continue to offer consultancy services in a highly specialised field of work on an ad-hoc basis, but I'm now really looking forward to new challenges.... perhaps learn the piano, sail more, cycle more, do the odd thing on North Rode Parish Council and with Daintry Hall Management committee and perhaps write a book! It could be a busy retirement, but apparently it all helps keep the brain agile!

Huw Williams, Rode Hall Farm

St Michaels, North Rode, Spring Luncheon



Sunday, 14th April
At Eaton Village and Community Hall

12:30 for 13:00 - until 16:00

Roast Leg of Lamb or Roast Chicken, Vegetarian Choice, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal vegetables, and gravy

(pre-order main course when purchasing tickets)

Assortment of Homemade Desserts
Tea/Coffee

Tickets £18.00, Children £10

Book your tickets early as limited availability

A Raffle will be held at the luncheon
(Raffle donations gratefully accepted contact Diane)

In aid of funds St Michael's Church, North Rode

**Tickets available from Diane Lowe – 07885553177, Shirley Tudor
Evans – 07778 648088, Mary Hobson – 01260 222855,
Bronwen Bebington – 01260 223253**

Please remember to bring your glasses and drinks

Email – lowe463@btinternet.com



North Rode



80th D-Day Commemoration

Thursday 6th June 2024

St Michael's Church, North Rode

Fish & Chip Supper* – 7:00pm

Wychcraft Big Band – 7:30pm

Lighting of Village Beacon – 9:15pm

*Sustainably caught cod, chips with choice of peas, curry or gravy (including heinz sauces, lemon wedges and tartar sauce). Alternatively there is sausage, or battered halloumi for vegetarians. Pre-Order choice with ticket purchase.

Bring your own glasses and drinks

Supper & Band Tickets £15.00*

Book your tickets early as limited availability. Tickets available From

Huw Williams – 07791 717459

Brenda Lomas – 07592 067153

Jon Burwood – 07944 956443

Organised by North Rode Parish Council, with assistance gratefully received from St Michaels Church PCC and Daintry Hall Management Committee

* £3 from each ticket will be support The Royal Naval Association, ABF The Soldiers Charity, RAF Benevolent Fund, The Merchant Navy Association and The Normandy Memorial Trust