

North Rode Newsletter

May 2026

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

We hope you are all enjoying the longer, warmer and sunnier days that are starting to appear, hopefully the start of a wonderful summer. Bluebells are in abundance and some cherry blossom is still clinging on despite windy days. Many in the village are busy planning events this year and seeking assistance. Please come forward to help with these if you are able and you will be made very welcome. We have another article about one of our long standing villagers to enjoy this month, which you are certain to find very interesting and entertaining.

Welcome Betty!

James Doherty & Martha Urban are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Betty, born Sunday 19th April 2026 weighing 3.58kg a sister for Wren

Cleaning Help Needed

Another plea for help to look after St Michaels. Our church is a focal point for many occasions in the village including weddings, funerals, village meetings, carol services and ecclesiastical services. Please offer your help, no matter how much time you can offer – every little bit helps!

Our beautiful candle lit chandeliers are in need of polishing and we can get these taken down for you. Please email Lynn Petts at:
lynn.petts@btinternet.com.

Funerals

Sadly the large Gilman family have lost three of nine siblings recently and funerals with burials were held for two of them in a packed St Michael's church on 17th and 20th April. Hilda Brown, who passed away on 16th March aged 95, was a regular member of the congregation while she could still drive from Leek. She was buried with her husband Reg. Her elder brother Arthur died on 27th March, the day before his 100th birthday. He and Madge missed being able to come to services latterly.

Our sincere sympathy goes to both families, especially Arthur's widow Madge. Both services were supported by excellent Gilman singing, and Arthur's grandson Danny sang *The green green grass of home* beautifully at Arthur's.

Happy Birthday!

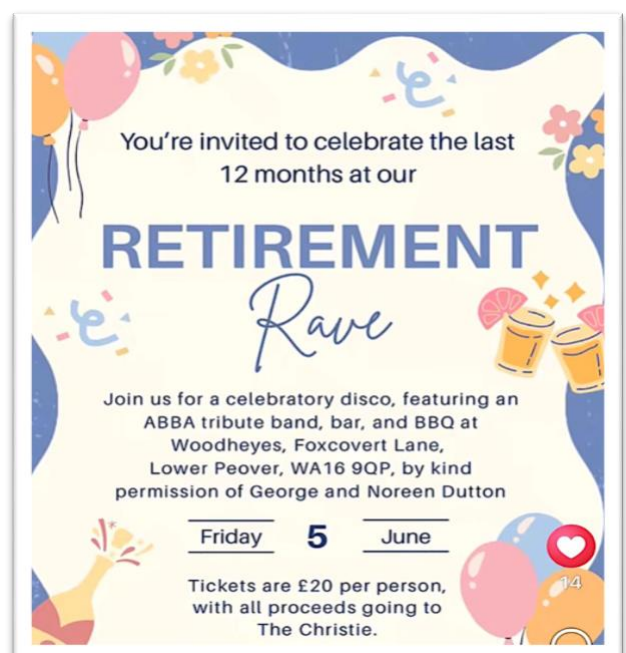
Jensen & Macauley Thorpe are 13 on 2nd May and Malcolm Kidd has a special birthday on 11th May. Apparently it begins with a 7!

Vintage Rally 6/7 June

The Village PCC refreshments tent, with home baking and hot drinks, has always been a welcome feature at this event, and profitable, raising much needed funds to support our church. We no longer have enough people to organise it, so would be delighted if anyone else would take it on. Plenty of support available! Please contact Marilyn@ainslie.org.uk

Retirement Do!

Winnie Bullock has organised a Retirement Rave on 5th June to celebrate her year as Chairlady of Cheshire YFC with Chairman John Manning. Proceeds to The Christie. Contact Winnie on 07740 088865 for tickets.



The Rector's Letter May 2026

Firstly, I must congratulate our flower arrangers for decorating the Church so splendidly for Easter Sunday. Years ago, I once tried my hand at Church flowers and while folk were very kind about my feeble effort, I resolved to leave this important work to those blessed with the requisite skills henceforth and for evermore!

This month the Easter story moves forward as we celebrate Christ's Ascension and the "Birthday" of the Church on Whitsunday, nowadays often called "Pentecost" (meaning fifty days after the Resurrection), followed by Trinity Sunday on 31st May. For the first time in many years there will be a service (sung Holy Communion) for the whole of the Macclesfield Deanery on Ascension Day, Thursday 14th May 7.30pm at St. Peter's, Prestbury, the preacher will be the Rural Dean. All are welcome and refreshments will follow the service. On Whitsunday 24th May Jesus' disciples were blessed by the Holy Spirit, and they went out from Jerusalem and spread the Good News, passing on the Spirit to others, a process which continues in our own day. St. Michael's will host a United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am on Trinity Sunday when we will be joined by friends from St. James', Gawsworth.

Finally, please make a note of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 10th May. This will take place at 12noon following a shortened Holy Communion service. As last year the meeting will be in the context of a bring-and-share lunch. (There may even be a glass of wine on offer.) This is an important occasion in the Church calendar when we elect Churchwardens and representatives for the Church Council. It is disappointing that we are currently without any Wardens. Almost one-third of all Churches in England are now in the same situation. More volunteers are needed to help do the jobs that must be done to keep the doors open.

St. Michael's Church has served the people of North Rode for many generations, offering a sacred space for Sunday worship, Christenings, Weddings, Funerals and private prayer. Villagers have gathered within its splendid walls to celebrate National occasions and hold parish meetings. It would be very sad indeed to see the Church closed, perhaps sold off like so many redundant Churches and turned into a house. The APCM is also an opportunity to review the past year and raise issues for the Church Council to consider during the coming year. Please do come along and show your support.

Yours ever,

Colin

North Rode Services May 2026

May 3rd Easter 5 Flowers: Margaret Cann	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Allen
May 10th Easter 6 Flowers: Anne Lever	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Diane Lowe Rachel Wilson
May 17th Easter 7	No service at North Rode	Church AGM Gawsworth	In the Church 10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
May 24nd Whit Sunday Flowers: Louise Jackson	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Louise Jackson Margaret Cann
May 31st Trinity Sunday Flowers: as last week	10.30 am Benefice Service Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Robert Heath
June 7th Trinity 1 Flowers: Hilary Trueman	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Marilyn Ainslie Myrtle Bullock

Annual Meeting

St. Michael's Parish Church, North Rode
Sunday 10th May
12.15 in the Church, after the service

All Welcome!

You can be added to the church electoral roll in order to vote for officers etc if you wish

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

The annual parish meeting will be held at 7pm at St Michaels Church in North Rode on **Thursday 7th May**. All villagers are welcome to this community meeting to find out about activities and plans for the village and to give your feedback and ideas.





NORTH
RODE

Annual PARISH MEETING

 **THURSDAY
7TH MAY** |  **7PM
TO 8PM** |  **ST MICHAELS
CHURCH**

All residents are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting for North Rode to hear about Parish Council activities over the past year and future plans.

There will also be short presentations on the Daintry Hall development and how Cheshire and Warrington Devolution might affect our area.

This is an open community meeting and an opportunity to get involved, share ideas and discuss matters that might concern you in the village and to enjoy some

Cheese and Wine.



		
REVIEW OF PAST YEAR AND FUTURE PLANS	CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON DEVOLUTION	DAINTRY HALL PROJECT UPDATE

The Parish Council AGM will follow on from the Annual Parish Meeting. *Members of the public are welcome to stay on to observe if they wish.*



The Bluebells are Out!



Native Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Bluebells are starting to appear everywhere around North Rode and are particularly spectacular if you walk through the park down to the lake. They are a quintessential British wildflower, with the UK home to nearly half of the world's population. They are considered a key indicator of ancient woodland, meaning their presence often suggests the area has been wooded since at least 1600.

This delicate blue wild flower has played an influential role in folk culture and some of the names it's been given offer an insight. The earliest British botanists called them crowtoes, but they've also been called cuckoo's boots, wood hyacinth, lady's nightcap and witches' thimbles. For such a pretty flower, the folklore is rather gloomy. There was a belief that bluebells were used in witches' potions. Others believed that anyone who wanders into a ring of bluebells will fall under fairy enchantment, or that anyone who hears the ringing of the flower's bell will be visited by a malicious fairy and die soon after.

Native bluebells are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is against the law to intentionally pick, uproot, or destroy them. Bluebell colonies take a long time to establish. They are extremely slow-growing, taking 5 to 7 years to flower from seed. If their leaves are crushed by trampling, they can die back and may never recover, so watch where you step!

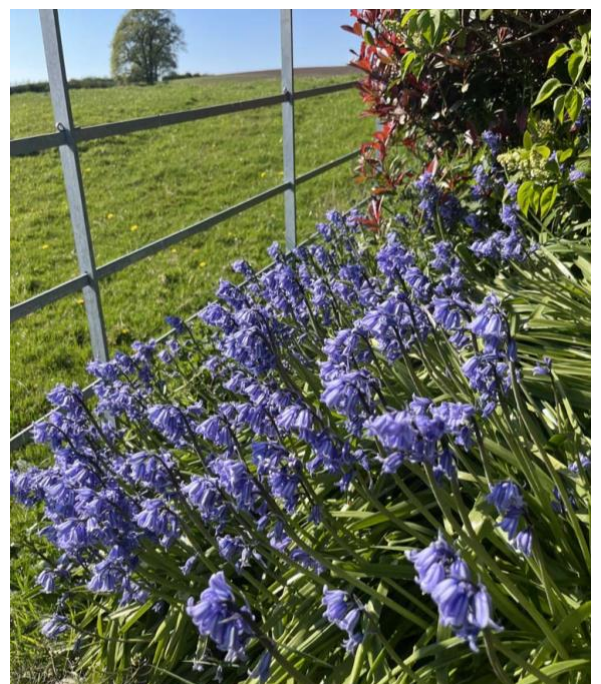
Historically, bluebell bulbs were used for their sticky sap, the bulb contains mucilage and inulin which served as glue for fixing feathers to arrows and in bookbinding. During the Elizabethan era, this starch-like juice was also used to stiffen the fancy ruff collars.

Bluebells were not often used medicinally given that the bulb is poisonous. However, researchers are looking into the bluebell's highly effective animal and insect repellent properties and there is a possibility that certain bluebell extracts could be used to combat HIV and cancer.

While the native **English bluebell** is the most celebrated, there are also non-native varieties and hybrids. The Native Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) has deep violet-blue flowers that are narrow with straight sides and the petals curl back at the edges. The flowers will droop to one side of a curved stem. They have a strong, sweet scent that makes woods smell amazing on a sunny day and creamy-white pollen. Leaves are relatively narrow, around 1-1.5cm wide.

The non-native **Spanish Bluebell** (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), introduced into Britain in the 17th century, has escaped from gardens and begun to mix with and threaten the native species. It has paler blue, pink, or white flowers that grow all around an upright stem. They have little to no scent and blue or green pollen. Spanish bluebells tend to have much bigger leaves.

The **Hybrid Bluebell** is a mix of the two that can be difficult to identify, as they can show features of both, such as partially drooping heads or intermediate leaf widths. Leaves are generally bigger and they have no scent.



Hybrid Bluebells

North Rode WI Report

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



The President opened the April Meeting in the evening as we are now in the Summer Months and from April to September we meet at 7.30pm. Several apologies were read out. Thanks were given to Members for the Table Flowers Teas Cakes Raffle etc. The Treasurer gave out that our finances were quite healthy and Members brought the new NFWI Form back with their Payment of £50.00 for the WI Sub. We have subsidised this year only by £4.00.

Dates for the Diary

- **Thursday 23rd April** - Our Annual Coffee Morning Gawsorth Methodist Church Hall. Offers of Plants cakes Raffle Prizes were welcomed.
- **Wednesday 6th May** - Cloud Group Spring Meeting 7.30pm at NLChurch. North Rode are on duty with the Competition Table. The Speaker is Richard Hazelwood who is a Singer and a Brat Pack style vocalist Tickets are £8.00.
- **Wednesday 1st July** - Cloud Group have a Summer Luncheon booked at The Legs of Man, Cost £22 Several Members paid a deposit.
- **Tuesday July 14th** - Our Birthday Outing to Rudyard Lake with a Cruise and Afternoon Tea. The other option was to visit the WI Museum at Llanfair PG in Anglesey plus Afternoon Tea but Members voted for the visit to Rudyard.
- **Thursday 30th July** - Eaton WI have invited Members to A Line Dancing Evening and several Members wished to attend.

Our Speaker for the evening was Eddie Rush on Bee Keeping. Eddie had been keeping Bees for 40 years and his hobby had been very rewarding, an obsession at times. He was extremely knowledgeable about Bees and Members were fascinated about the life of a Bee. He had about 10 Hives and he talked to his Bees There was a parasite in the Isle of White many years ago which killed nearly 90% of the Bee Population and there are no British Bees in the UK, they are imported from Holland Denmark and Italy. Their sense of smell is six times better than a dog and the Queen Bees usually live between 4 and 6 years. Eddie brought Jars of Honey which he had made and the flavour was very different, tasting of horse chestnut as it had been made in the Autumn. Pam Robinson gave Eddie the Vote of Thanks for a very interesting and very informative Talk about Bee Keeping of which Members had very little idea.

The Raffle was won by Jackie Spooner and the Competition for an item with a Bee Decoration was won by Jackie Spooner and second Pauline Croft. The next Meeting is on Tuesday May 12th 2pm at Eaton Church and Community Hall. It is Resolutions Month and the one which won the most votes was More Toilet Accessibility. We are also having a CPR St John's Ambulance Talk and visitors are very welcome on the second Tuesday of the Month 2pm Winter Months and 7.30pm in the Summer Months.

Marton School



Dear Friends

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school after the Easter holidays, and it has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their summer uniforms. The summer term is always a particularly busy one, with many exciting activities and events planned, and we look forward to sharing these with our wider community.

Recently, our pupils enjoyed a fantastic Network Rail Day. A huge thank you goes to Mr Marks for organising such an engaging and memorable experience for everyone involved. Photographs from the day, which capture the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the children, are available on the school's Facebook page.

We are always keen to promote a love of reading and greatly value the support of families in helping children develop this important habit. To further celebrate reading, we will be taking part in The Book Trust's Pyjamarama

Day on Friday 12th June. Children and staff will be invited to come to school in their pyjamas for a £1 donation, helping more children experience the magic of books and stories.

Samples of the new school uniform are currently on display in the school foyer for any families who would like to view them. The new uniform will not become compulsory until September 2027, although items are already available to purchase from DP Sports for those who may wish to update sooner.

We are also pleased to share news regarding our Governing Board. As only one nomination was received for the recent Parent Governor vacancy, no election was required. We are delighted that Amy Rudgyard will continue in this role. Amy brings a wealth of experience to the Governing Board, and we are very grateful for her ongoing commitment and service to the school.

Following Primary Offer Day, we are excited to be welcoming many new families into our school community. Information regarding transition visits will be shared with families shortly. Our Little Seeds sessions and Open Dates for September 2027 are also now available on the school website.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new Mad House Manager, Becky Hargreaves. Becky will be joining the team in the coming weeks and will work closely with Jess to ensure a smooth handover. We are confident she will continue the excellent work already established.

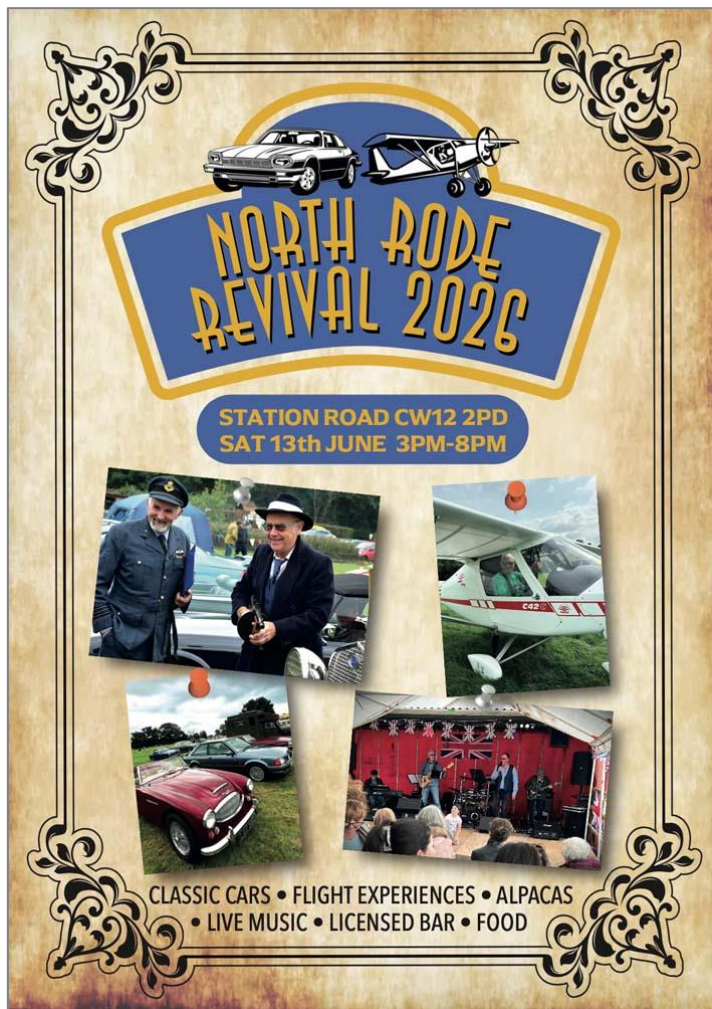
Thank you, as always, for your continued support and interest in the life of our school.

Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher

Marton & District C.E. School logo in the top left corner. The poster features three circular images: a child in a green cap reading a book, a wooden picnic table outdoors, and a bulletin board with photos. The text reads: **Marton's Little Seeds Stay and Play at Marton Primary School**. Dates: Wednesday 7th October, Wednesday 4th November, Wednesday 2nd December, 9.30am - 10.30am. It invites parents to join for a fun morning with a bacon butty/snack. Contact details: 01260 224482, admin@marton.cheshire.sch.uk, School Lane, Marton, SK11 9HD. Includes a QR code and 'Sow Nurture Grow' logo.

Marton & District C.E. School logo in the top left corner. The poster features a large background image of a green field with a tree and a circular inset showing a school playground. The text reads: **MARTON And District Primary School**. It invites parents to visit the school, described as friendly, rural, and perfectly sized. **Open Day Sessions** are listed: Monday 14th September 9.15 - 10.00am, Wednesday 14th October 1.30pm - 2.15pm, Tuesday 10th November 9.15am - 10.00am, Tuesday 8th December 5pm - 6pm, Friday 8th January 9.15am - 10.00am. Contact details: 01260 224482, admin@marton.cheshire.sch.uk, School Lane, Marton, SK11 9HD. Includes a QR code, 'Sow Nurture Grow' logo, and an Ofsted Good Provider badge.

North Rode Revival 2026 – Saturday 13th June



NORTH RODE REVIVAL 2026

STATION ROAD CW12 2PD
SAT 13th JUNE 3PM-8PM

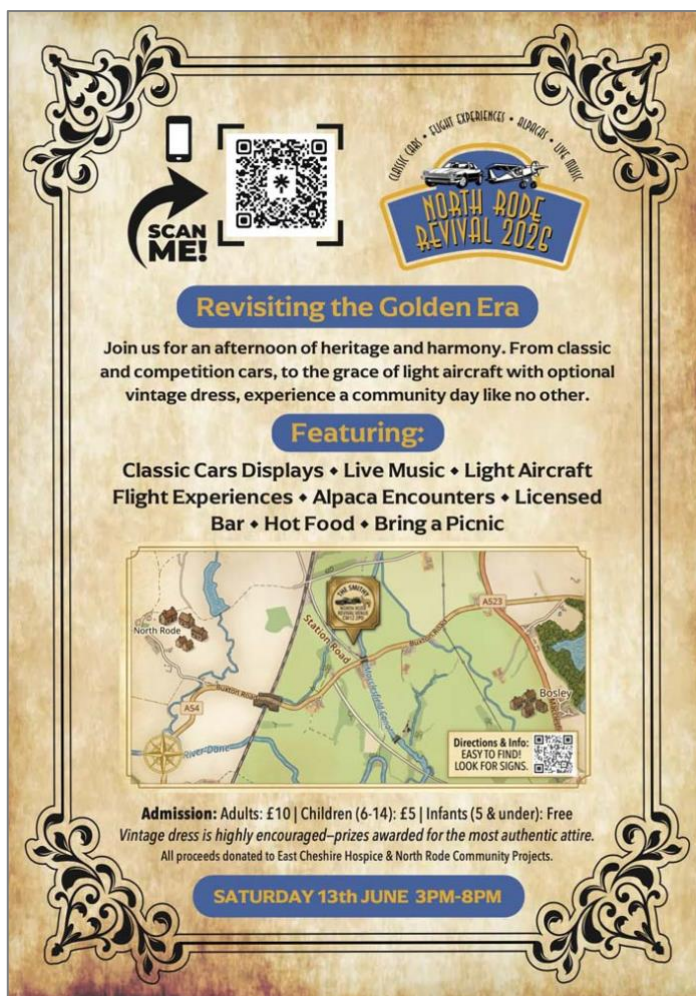
CLASSIC CARS • FLIGHT EXPERIENCES • ALPACAS
• LIVE MUSIC • LICENSED BAR • FOOD

North Rode Revival is our village festival. Organised by villagers and their friends in the vintage car and light aircraft world to bring you a great afternoon and evening out. This year will be bigger and better with a licensed bar and three live music acts. Come for a flight and maybe see your house from the air!

All the proceeds are split between the East Cheshire Hospice and North Rode Community Funds so you'll be supporting great local causes as well.

With this years' North Rode Revival date now set for Saturday 13th June and less than 6 weeks away, the Revival Team want to reach out to villagers and invite you to get Involved - We'd love your help. Would you be interested and able to: Help with planning, set up, or support on the day, Support via donations – baking, plants, or tombola prizes (we're open to ideas) or come along for an hour or two to enjoy our community event.

We'd love more villagers to be involved in this years' event so please contact Janet James 07872 558531 or Mike Gilman if you can get involved.

SCAN ME!

CLASSIC CARS • FLIGHT EXPERIENCES • ALPACAS • LIVE MUSIC

Revisiting the Golden Era

Join us for an afternoon of heritage and harmony. From classic and competition cars, to the grace of light aircraft with optional vintage dress, experience a community day like no other.

Featuring:

Classic Cars Displays • Live Music • Light Aircraft
Flight Experiences • Alpaca Encounters • Licensed Bar • Hot Food • Bring a Picnic

Directions & Info:
EASY TO FIND!
LOOK FOR SIGNS.

Admission: Adults: £10 | Children (6-14): £5 | Infants (5 & under): Free
Vintage dress is highly encouraged—prizes awarded for the most authentic attire.
All proceeds donated to East Cheshire Hospice & North Rode Community Projects.

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 3PM-8PM

My Story

Shirley Tudor-Evans

When Huw suggested I write 'My Story' for the Newsletter I thought it might not be of much interest, but I happened to be looking up some details about a Great Uncle at the time, and one story led to another, so I decided to write it down for my children and grandchildren anyway.

Great Uncle Leonard Moon died of his wounds at Salonika in Greece in 1916. He had played cricket for England and his brother Billy was a fine footballer - and until not long ago the youngest goalkeeper ever to play for England. One of their sisters was my grandmother. I remember when I was quite young overhearing someone saying 'I think she's got the Moon eye' and I used to look in the mirror to see if I had a strange eye!

I loved my sport – my father ran a successful boys' preparatory school in Kent, on the south east coast and so I was lucky enough to have use of the sporting facilities there. I thought the boys had such a wonderful time that I begged my parents to send me away to school at 7 but I had to wait till I was 8! I admit to being homesick initially – I missed the dogs and my pony, as well as my parents! My older brother was already away at school but I was very happy and enjoyed all the sport. I still have my 'best friend' who I met 70 years ago and is my son Will's godmother.

My parents were very involved in the running of the school so Tom, my brother, and I had a nanny - in fact two, as my mother's old nanny lived with us and apparently the two used to argue a lot! My parents were very honoured when the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester chose to send their sons, Prince William and Prince Richard there. (The Duke was the younger brother of King George VI). They used to come and stay in my parents' house to visit the boys and I have found their signatures eleven times in our Visitors' Book. They just signed Henry and Alice which is the norm for royals. They would bring their chauffeur and Lady in Waiting and I remember my father saying he had to get in a good supply of whisky and water biscuits for the Duke. They invited us to go to St James' Palace for the Coronation in 1953 when I would have been 7 and I remember seeing the Duchess having her hair done and the Duke appeared in his dressing gown – not sure why I remembered that but I did! And of course my mother and I always curtsied when we met them!

When I was nearly thirteen I went on to my senior school, Benenden, also in Kent about 50 miles from home and in 250 acres of lovely parkland. Princess Anne joined the school in my penultimate year which caused great excitement - she settled in very quickly as far as I can remember. The following year she was joined by three other Princesses, two of Haile Selassie's of Ethiopia grandchildren and the King of Jordan's sister, Princess Basma. Otherwise there were hardly any students from overseas whereas I gather now there are quite a number with two of the new buildings named after generous Far Eastern parents.



On the Fencing Team – 3rd from left

At Benenden I continued to play lots of sport, representing the school in lacrosse and tennis (we didn't do athletics which I had done at prep school). Also fencing and I won both the Kent Junior and Senior Championships. I continued to fence for a while after I left school and represented England at Under-21 level against France and Belgium but I gave it up not long after when asked to train for the World Youth Championships – I just wasn't committed enough to spend weekends training in London. I also missed Madame Perigal terribly, our wonderful red headed fencing instructor who rolled up her carpet in her house in Notting Hill to give evening classes. She died shortly after I fenced for England.

I left Benenden after A levels and went to Paris and attended a course at the Sorbonne – I'm afraid I didn't attend very much of it! A great school friend was there at the same time as an au pair and one day we decided we would like to go to some of the dress shows so rang Givenchy and Dior to say we were studying fashion and could we come to a dress show and surprisingly they said yes which was rather fun although we did feel a bit out of place!

While I was in Paris I had an interview to work as a 'counsellor' in a French speaking summer camp in the States. The Director of the camp said 'est-ce que vous jouez au tennis?' to which I replied 'oui' and I got the job! I spent eight idyllic weeks on Lake Champlain in Vermont, getting paid for what I much enjoyed doing, teaching tennis and at the same time learnt to water ski and sail. I was in charge of a chalet of seven 14 year olds. The other counsellors were either French or American.



'Lady C' our '56' Pontiac in for repairs!

The next summer I persuaded two other friends who had also been in the tennis team at Benenden to join me at Ecole Champlain. While there we bought a '56 Pontiac for 75 dollars off the odd job man at the camp and 'Lady C' took us 15,000 miles in 3 months round the States. Our initial plan was to drive to Mexico but one friend's parents sent us a newspaper cutting about the white slave trade there with a note 'you have been warned'. We collected addresses along the way so most nights had a roof over our heads and the Americans couldn't have been more hospitable. But some nights we spent in the cheapest motel we could find and some nights in campsites in the open air – before it got too cold! One friend, Bud, left us in San Francisco to return home but Rachel and I continued and eventually sold the car to a Harvard drunk for 25 dollars. By that time she was only just roadworthy – with holes in a rusty floor and the speedometer didn't work but we had already found out that the bonnet flew up once we hit 60 mph. I kept in touch with some of the campers and one wrote to tell me she had been expelled from her school for 'smoking grass' – at the time I didn't know what she meant and had visions of her lying in a field setting fire to the grass! That would have been 1967 and nice little English girls hadn't come across marijuana – well I hadn't anyway!

Going back a little to May 1965 when, as a Debutante I attended Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball at the Grosvenor House in London. I still have the brochure listing all the debutantes, of which there were about 300, one of whom was Camilla, now our Queen, though I didn't know her at the time!

Once back from the States my mother persuaded me to do a secretarial course for which I have always been grateful – even though the shorthand teacher said Pitman would rise from the grave if he saw my shorthand. One summer I did some temping work and had a job with the jeweller, Richard Ogden, in the Burlington Arcade. He asked me to come and work for him over the following Christmas and I stayed on and helped sell some of the beautiful, many antique, engagement rings, for which he was famous. I am still in touch with two of the other 'shop assistants' one of whom started the Wedding Ring room there. My happy time at Ogdens coincided with the Pancake Race down the Arcade which I won, narrowly beating the actress Nicola Pagett and I think we made it on to the 6 o'clock News!



Burlington Arcade Pancake race – in the middle!

I had itchy feet and once I had saved up enough to buy a round-the-world ticket I set off with a view to working in Australia. In those days as long as you didn't exceed a certain mileage you could make any number of stops within a year I think. So I went via friends in the States, a school friend living in Vancouver and stopped briefly in Hawaii before Sydney where another school friend was working. I did temporary secretarial work there in between travelling – one extraordinary coincidence was bumping into a cousin of my mother's in Cooktown, one of the most northern parts of Queensland, who was sailing round the world singlehanded – I had no idea he was doing this and only found out having seen his name in the Visitors' book in the only restaurant there. Carolyn, another school friend I was travelling with at the time, and I had a brilliant time on the Great Barrier Reef – quite stunning fish and coral. I went on a bus to Ayres Rock and Darwin and also visited New Zealand and eventually headed home in time for Christmas having been away for nearly a year. This time via friends of my parents in Kenya, an old Ogdens friend who was living in Rome, and my prep school friend who was by then married to a naval officer stationed in Gibraltar.

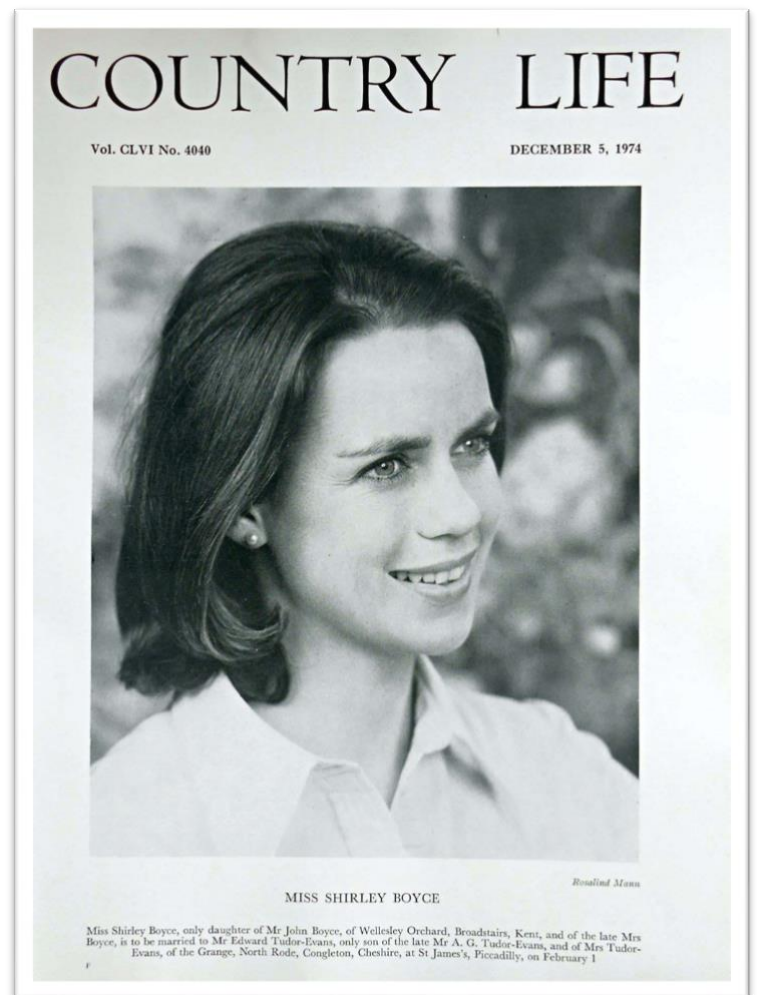
Back to London where Richard Ogden kindly said 'treat this as your second home' so more happy times there. I remember one of his clients was a Norwegian shipping owner and said he wanted a diamond necklace and mentioned a price - £10,000. Richard found one for him and he then said could he have another one! Cary Grant had also been a client -just before my time. He came to see Richard one day, and Richard buzzed Edna, the wonderful cockney cleaning lady, and asked her to bring up a cup of tea for Mr Grant. When she arrived with the tea Richard said ' Mr Grant, Edna has been dying to meet you ' whereupon Cary Grant said ' and I have just been *dying* to meet you too Edna'! Apparently Edna nearly dropped the tray in excitement!

I then decided to do a ski season running a chalet but had hardly got out there before my mother died very suddenly of a heart attack aged 69. This was a huge shock – she had always been so fit. I went home to keep an eye on my father who had retired in 1968. He was the same age as the Queen Mother and died in 1977 aged 77 by which time my brother was married and had two children.

Edward and I were married in 1975 and needless to say my father most definitely approved of him! We met through mutual friends in London and I was lured up to Cheshire where I had only been once, to the Grand National!

We spent just over 4 years renting The Old School House in Swettenham – no central heating and I got chilblains for the first time in my life – but fun times and then moved into The Grange as my mother-in-law said she was rattling around. We converted Grange Cottage for her but very sadly she too died very suddenly, of an aortic aneurism, after only two years there. Happily she knew that Rowena was on the way and Rowena was born October 1982 and William in July 1986.

The Grange was a brilliant family house and also leant itself to many events, fundraising and otherwise, but after Edward died in 2021 I knew it was time to move on and was lucky enough to find The Whittle where I moved at the beginning of 2024. No dogs for the first time in my life.....



A 'Girl in Pearls' celebrating my engagement to Edward