

THE CALLING OAK

Issue 163– July 2026



Photo credit: Wendy Easter

Deadline for the July 2026 Issue is 14th July

Editor's email Editor@TheCallingOak.co.uk

Advertising: Advert@TheCallingOak.co.uk

To see this months issue online, and our catalogue, please visit:

TheCallingOak.co.uk

Note from the Editor

Hello again,

What a great day we had for the fete, the sun shone, the pimms flowed and the dog show was a go this year. Well done to all who made it such a lovely day. The planning for this takes so much time and energy that a big thank you really does need to go to all involved.

July is here already, where did the first half of the year go? Summer holidays are nearly here for the parents and kids . Sports days and end of school year trips are in full flow . The park is looking great for the school holidays and no doubt we will see lots of our young villagers up there over the summer holidays and the new play equipment is fab.

Apologies that this edition was a bit later going to print. Life has been pretty hectic for me of late (all good) but has just meant that I have not had time to finalise this edition in my normal timely manner. Apologies all round but I will always get there.

Till next month.

Louise

Looking for a peaceful time away and need a baby/dog sitter?

Hello All!

We have an exciting new update to our advert this month! Florian will now also be available for dogsitting/dogwalking, so if I am away with any events or University (from September), I will pass on any messages to him, so hopefully one of us is always around to help you out!

I have lots of experience with children of all age ranges and we both have lots of prior experience with dogs. We are available on both weekends and weekday evenings (and some weekday afternoons - if in doubt feel free to ask!).

Please contact us if you're interested.

For more details, you can reach us on 07512 757 434.

Thank you,
Sophie and Florian :)



From the Ace Team

Classic Cream Tea

Thanks to the fabulous generosity of everyone who supported this event, we are delighted to announce that we raised a fantastic **£1,226 for The FTD Brothers!**

With the weather being so unpredictable on the day, the venue was moved from the beautiful surroundings of Rowney Green House Farm to the warmer (and potentially drier!) Village Hall. As if by magic, several large plants were also transported to the hall (many thanks to Tony W) to help recreate the outdoor atmosphere. We think it worked—at least to some extent!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the afternoon: those who attended, those who were unable to make it but donated anyway, and those who helped behind the scenes in a variety of ways. Special thanks go to Sam and Andy, who did an excellent job running the raffle.

A big **"Thank You"** from the ACE Team.



Next ACE Event Saturday 17th October.

Although I may try to squeeze in another event before then—team permitting—our next planned ACE event is a **Fun Quiz Night on Saturday 17th October**, so please save the date.

We are hoping to raise funds for **Riding for the Disabled**, which operates at Seecham and is supported by at least two of our villagers: Maggie Moore and, more recently, Sue Dutton.

Further details will be announced closer to the event. If you are not already on the ACE email distribution list, which gives you advance notice of upcoming events, please speak to a member of the ACE team or text me on **07551 950840**.

Don't forget to get your tickets early so you don't miss out. Our last few events have sold out very quickly, which is incredibly encouraging.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

SMALL&SUNDRY PRESENTS...

NO PLACE LIKE HOME



A SMALL&SUNDRY PRODUCTION

**DIRECTED BY LAURY WIGGINS, TASHA LANE,
FRANKIE JOHNSON & ELEANOR VERNALLS**

PENRYN HALL - WINTERFOLD SCHOOL

11TH JULY 5:00PM

12TH JULY 2.30pm

**TICKETS £6 FOR ADULTS
£4 FOR CHILDREN**

**To book tickets visit allandsundry.uk
& Bromsgrove-school.co.uk**



🤡 smALL & Sundry Youth Group Presents: No Place Like Home! 🤡

Follow the yellow brick road and join the talented young performers of smALL & Sundry Youth Group as they bring ***No Place Like Home*** to the stage this July!

Packed with music, laughter, adventure and plenty of heart, this family-friendly production is inspired by the magical world of Oz and showcases the hard work, creativity and confidence of our amazing young cast.

Come along and support local young talent as they take you on a journey filled with memorable characters, colourful costumes and a reminder that there's truly ***no place like home***.

📍 Penryn Hall, Winterfold School

📅 Friday 11th July at 5.00pm

📅 Saturday 12th July at 2.30pm

Tickets: £6 Adults | £4 Children

For tickets, visit allandsundry.uk or bromsgrove-school.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!





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Rowney Green VILLAGE FETE 2026

What a wonderful day! ☀️

What a wonderful day we enjoyed at the Rowney Green Village Fete 2026! Blessed with glorious sunshine, the fete once again brought together villagers, families and friends for a fantastic day of fun, laughter and community spirit in the beautiful surroundings of our village park.

From the moment this year's fete opened, the park was buzzing with activity. Whether people were browsing the stalls, enjoying refreshments, catching up with neighbours or simply soaking up the atmosphere, there really was something for everyone. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces, along with new visitors, all making the most of a perfect summer's day.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make the fete such a success. To our volunteers, stallholders, prize donors, entertainers and everyone who came along to support the event – we couldn't do it without you. The generosity and enthusiasm of our local community continues to amaze us and is what makes the Rowney Green Fete so special year after year.

As many of you know, the fete is our biggest annual fundraiser for the village park. Every pound raised helps us maintain and improve this much-loved green space so it can continue to be enjoyed by everyone. We're currently adding up the final figures and will share the total raised as soon as everything has been confirmed.

*We're already looking forward to doing it all again!
Keep an eye out for the Rowney Green Village
Fete 2027, with the date to be announced soon.
We can't wait to welcome you back for another
fantastic day together.* ♥️





Rowney Green Fete 2026

Saturday June 20th saw yet another successful Rowney Green Fete. It was the fourth since the idea of holding a village Fete was revived.

There were the usual worries, during the two week lead up to the big day, would it rain, would it be too windy for the gazebo's, would it be too hot ?! Despite changing forecasts and a little early morning rain we had ideal weather.

The Fete started with the dog show and we thank Sara Corbett for judging the competition.



This years 'special guests' were local Councillors, Alan and Rachael Bailes and we thank Peter Garrett for transporting Alan and Rachel in his beautiful Old Ford car.

Attendance was once again excellent helped by the range of food and beverages available!

The Tombola was even larger than last year and Derek Bissell had worked so hard making the most exquisite bird boxes with the proceeds of the sales going to the park fund.



The kids had fun with the sack and egg and spoon races and the tug of war was, once again the star attraction !



Captain Hook tried to keep to the programme!

A Big Thanks must go to the amazing Fete delivery team who met regularly, from January, to plan all aspects of the day. Thank you, also to those who got involved on the day.

All monies received will go directly to help with the maintenance, running and improvement of the Park.

It has already been agreed to hold the 2027 Rowney Green Fete, so watch this space for an announcement of the date.

Also special mention to Devon and Hopwood tree services for their generous sponsorship of the event.

Will Savage (Leader Fete delivery team)



The 100 club

Thanks to all the members of the 100 Club for supporting the RG park

Remember numbers are half Price Until August 2026 £5 per Number



For cash sales please contact Richard Woodward, Will Savage, or Sue Dutton

Standing orders payable to the 100 club bank account.

Account Name: Rowney Green Village Hall Lottery

Sort Code: 54-30-35

Account No: 38776154

Payment Reference: "Your House Name or Full Name



Happy Birthday

Mortimer Dykes	14
Wilfred Wingfield	7
Isobel Chester	7

Wishing you all a great day



To add your child's birthday to future editions, please email the editor.



Need a helping hand?

If you have any odd jobs around the house or garden or need a babysitter, my name is Lucy Porter, I am 16 years old and would love to help. I am free most weekends, Friday nights and sometimes in the school holidays. I live on

Rowney Green Lane.

Call or text me on 07494267570 for more information.



Sassy Lassies

Our June gathering saw the Sassy Lassies swapping their usual chatter for paintbrushes as we enjoyed an evening of pottery painting. It was great fun unleashing our inner artists and discovering the surprising range of creative talents hidden amongst our members. Some masterpieces emerged, some abstract interpretations appeared, and all were created with enthusiasm!



Our painted pots are currently away being fired, and we eagerly await their return to see whether they belong in an art gallery or on a very forgiving windowsill.

Coming Up :

July 9th – Pizza, Pimms, Prosecco and a Live Performance

Join us at Jude's house, *The Shambles*, at 7.00pm for an outdoor summer evening of [Pizza, Pimms, Prosecco and a Live Performance \(with Kenyon\)](#). Don't forget your dancing shoes and a warm layer in case the British summer decides to remind us who's in charge.

Please bring your own glasses – we'll provide the contents! The cost is **£17 for members** and **£20 for non-members**.

August 6th – [Musical Memories](#)

Our August social evening will be hosted by Debbie at Woodbine Cottage from 7.30pm. We'll be enjoying an evening of Musical Memories, guaranteed to spark nostalgia, laughter and perhaps the odd singalong.

There is no charge for this event, but please bring your own drinks and glasses.



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Tel: 0121 445 2562

Mobile: 0797 1566843

In case you didn't make it to the history display at the fete, Michael Corfield has contributed a summary of some of the display.

The Village Pump

The classic village pump arrived with the expansion of the British iron industry. In the mid-1700s, industrial foundries began mass-producing cast-iron lift pumps. Cast iron was a game-changer: it was incredibly durable, completely waterproof, resisted rot, and could withstand daily usage. The lift pump is able to lift water from up to 25 ft (7.7m) below the ground.

It seems that the nearest thing that Rowney Green had to a communal "village pump" was the one in front of Mr. Newey's Cottage (now Lancaster House), which stood on the corner of Chapel Lane. Village Hall users had to fetch water for tea and washing up. Sadly, the pump was removed some years ago. There are however a number of properties in Rowney Green still with their own original cast iron pumps

The Hydraulic Ram

A different solution was used to provide forced running water to both **Rowney Green House Farm** and **Seechem Manor**. A hydraulic ram is a brilliant piece of Victorian engineering that requires no electricity or coal. It uses the kinetic energy of a flowing stream—utilising the "water hammer" effect—to automatically pump a portion of that water to where it is needed.

In the 1880s, a Hydraulic Ram House was built to the east of the village, located by a watercourse on the edge of Rowney Green over half a mile away from the properties! The Ram House with its pumping mechanism is still intact.

Mains Water (finally) Arrives

While Victorian cities were revolutionized by civil engineering and municipal water systems in the 19th century, rural England was largely left behind, relying on cast-iron or wooden pumps well into the 20th century.

Because Rowney Green historically originated around scattered 18th-century farming and gravel extraction, it lacked a dense, nucleated village centre. This layout made it incredibly expensive for the local Rural District Council to justify laying miles of water mains. In addition, mains water was often fiercely resisted by villagers who didn't want to pay higher local rates and insisted their well water "tasted better."

The sand and gravel hilltop of Rowney Green provided a natural filter for spring-fed streams (such as the one at Lower Rowney Green), meaning the local well water was generally perceived as passable, and the village remained low on the council's priority list for decades.

The definitive arrival of modern mains water to Rowney Green coincided with its transformation in the 1950s.

Post-World War II, the village underwent significant changes, evolving into a residential "ribbon development" as a wave of modern, large detached properties were constructed along the lanes. To make this post-1950 housing boom possible, the local authorities finally extended the main water grid from nearby Alvechurch into Rowney Green, rendering the old private hand pumps obsolete.



ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY usually meet at The Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.15pm.

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at the Village Hall on the second Thursday in June.

There is an outing arranged to Wollerton Old Hall on 8th July 2026, this is a very popular venue. I am sure all members will have a great day out.

Should you wish to become a member of the Society you would be most welcome; speakers are arranged for at least 8 months of the year and visits to various gardens are organised for the summer months. So you can see it is a very active and friendly Horticultural Society.

Our Flower and Producer Show will be on Saturday 5th September 2026 please visit our website for the Schedule and Entry Form. There are a variety of Classes so I am sure there is one you can find to enter.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874,



Welcome to Rowney Green Shared Church

Services are held on the second Sunday of each month at 9:30am and everyone is welcome.

Upcoming services will be:

**12th July, Methodist service
lead by
Rev Steve Levett**

**9th August, Church of England service
lead by
Rev Martin Allen**



A big welcome to Hannah and Adam who have recently moved to Home Meadow Barn all the way from Australia.

After spending a few years in Sydney and Mission Beach (the closest mainland point to the Great Barrier Reef) they have relocated to Rowney Green. Hannah grew up in Alvechurch and Adam in Liverpool.

Say hello if you see them around the village with their Australian Cavapoo Ziggy.

Rowney Green Chapel Updates



Some exciting and crucial changes have been made at the Chapel since last Christmas Day. After the Christmas service, Rev Steve Levett delivered some devastating news; the future of the chapel was in very serious doubt.

There were concerns centrally that the building itself needs some significant attention but more worryingly there was an urgent need to bolster the management structure by appointing more trustees to oversee and guide future developments and ensure the Chapel has a future in Rowney Green. For too long too many roles were being done by too few people with very little support. Things had to change and the timescale to turn things around

was extremely tight.

Meetings were arranged, crisis talks held and decisions made. It's with great pleasure that we can announce the Chapel now has a robust and enthusiastic Trustee body:

Minister (Chair)	Rev Steve Levett (Rev Rachel Borgars from 01/09/26)
Treasurer / Secretary	Andy Dunkers
Wardens	Nick and Stevie Prosser
Property / Safeguarding	Rick Chima
PCC Member	Rev Martin Allen
Trustees	Elizabeth Richmond, Will Savage, Wendy Easter
Circuit Steward	Vacant (to be filled by the Circuit)

There is still a vacancy for another Trustee, so if you feel this is something you would like to be involved with, please contact Andy Dunkers on andy1.dunkers@gmail.com for more information.

There are also changes to the services held. The Chapel as we call it, is officially Rowney Green Shared Church where the building is owned and maintained by the Methodist Church, but services are provided in partnership with the Church of England, enjoying close links with St Laurence Church in Alvechurch. In recent times the number of Church of England services dwindled until they stopped altogether but now we are happy to say that there will be at least one Church of England service per quarter alongside the Methodist services for the rest of the year.

Absolutely everyone is always welcome at the Chapel. The Trustees have been busy organising working parties to clean and spruce the interior and clear away invading foliage from the grounds. There is more to do and any help will be gratefully accepted! Do come and sit or wander around the grounds and we are working on plans that will allow us to open the Chapel during the daytime again.



OUR ANNUAL SUMMER OPEN DAY AT PECKWOOD FOREST SPACE 🌳

SATURDAY 25TH JULY!



FUN FOR EVERYONE -

BBQ, PICNICS, CAMPFIRE, CRAFTS, WALKS,
DELICIOUS HOME MADE CAKES, FACE PAINTING,
LIVE MUSIC, STORY TENT, BUBBLES & ICE CREAM!



EVERYONE WELCOME FROM 11AM - 3PM



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JESS - JESS.PECKWOOD@GMAIL.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @PECKWOOD FOREST SPACE

SOMETHING NEW FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS...

FOREST & FRIENDSHIP

AT PECKWOOD FOREST SPACE 🌿

THURSDAY 30TH JULY AND THURSDAY 6TH, 20TH & 27TH AUGUST.

6PM - 7.30PM



BRING YOUR PICNIC TEA &
JOIN US FOR A TIME OF EXPLORATION. 🌿

STARTING WITH A STORY... FOLLOWED BY:
CONVERSATION FOR THE GROWN-UPS... WITH REV ANNE 🌸
CRAFTS & CHAT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE... WITH JESS 🌸



PECKWOOD, ALVECHURCH B48 7QE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JESS - JESS.PECKWOOD@GMAIL.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @PECKWOOD FOREST SPACE

Rowney Green Useful Contacts

Alvechurch Parish council (RG Rep)	Wendy Easter	wendy.easter@alvechurch.gov.uk
The Calling Oak Editor	Louise Alcock	editor@thecallingoak.co.uk
Pilates	Steff Affleck	07759 590 830 www.steffaffleck.co.uk
Rowney Green Players	Sue Walker	0121 445 1562
Horticultural Society	Lindsay Smith (Secretary) Pat Davies (chairperson)	01527 592 874 07970 188 227
Sassy Lassies	Debbie Sally	07594 669166 07767 255728
Village Taxi	Clive	07907 928 399
Village hall chairperson	Mark Easter	RGPMHTrustees@outlook.com
Rowney Green Association	Chair — John Cypher	rowneygreenassociation@gmail.com
ACE Rowney Green	Jude Louise	07551 950 840 07815 069703
Worcestershire Wildlife	Tom Watkins	01905 754919 enquiries@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org
Newspaper delivery	Hillcrest stores	01564 823 866
100 club	Richard Woodward	07720 537269
Rowney Green Park	Pete Jeffs	07583 846121
Green Barn bookings	Jill Wallis	07931 868744
Village Hall Bookings	Sadie Dykes Annie Cowles	Admin@rowneygreenvillagehall.org

THE VILLAGE HALL -

Bookings July 2026

Contact the Booking Team: admin@rowneygreenvillagehall.org All bookings can be seen in more detail by

Time	Event	Time	Event
Wednesday, July 1		Wednesday, July 15	
6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopedre Dance MH	6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopedre Dance MH
Thursday, July 2		6:30pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MR
9:30am - 1:30pm	Art Class MH	Thursday, July 16	
Friday, July 3		9:30am - 1:30pm	Art Class MH
6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR	Friday, July 17	
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Fete Debrief Meeting MR	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR
Sunday, July 5		6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH
10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR	Saturday, July 18	
2:00pm - 4:00pm	All & Sundry MH	10:00am - 5:00pm	Private Booking MH MR SR
Monday, July 6		7:00pm - 10:00pm	Private Booking MH
10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR	Sunday, July 19	
12:00pm - 2:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH	Monday, July 20	
5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH	10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR
Tuesday, July 7		12:00pm - 2:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH
10:30am - 1:00pm	Home Educators MH	5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH	Tuesday, July 21	
7:00pm - 9:00pm	All & Sundry MH	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
7:30pm - 9:30pm	RGA MR	5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH
Wednesday, July 8		Thursday, July 23	
6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopedre Dance MH	9:30am - 1:30pm	Art Class MH
Thursday, July 9		Friday, July 24	
9:30am - 1:30pm	Art Class MH	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR
Friday, July 10		6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	Sunday, July 26	
6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR	10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH	Monday, July 27	
Sunday, July 12		10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR
10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR	12:00pm - 2:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
Monday, July 13		1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH
10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR	5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH
12:00pm - 2:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	Tuesday, July 28	
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH	5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH
7:30pm - 9:30pm	Trustee Meeting SR	Friday, July 31	
Tuesday, July 14		9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH

MH = Main Hall

MR = Meeting Room

SR = Social Room