

THE CALLING OAK

Issue 165 – September 2026



Deadline for the Sept 2026 Issue is 18th Sept

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,

September is here once again, kids are back to school, the nights are certainly getting longer and the leaves are already showing signs of Autumnal colour. Hopefully we will start to see the lawns turn green again now that we have had some rain.

What a Summer it has been! I don't recall it ever being so hot and so dry for so long. It certainly makes a change to not be referring to the rain although I was complaining about the lack of it due to the garden suffering. It was just a shame the rain all fell over the bank holiday weekend. Normal service resumes I suppose.

Till next month.

Louise

SEPTEMBER AT PECKWOOD FOREST SPACE

FOREST CHURCH GATHERING
4PM ON SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
LED BY JESS, MARTIN & JOEY 🌿

THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST JOINT SERVICE
WITH ROWNEY GREEN CHAPEL &
ALVECHURCH BAPTISTS. THE THEME OF LEAVES! 🍂



SEEDS AND SAPLINGS
TUESDAY 8TH & 22ND SEPTEMBER
10.30AM - 11.45AM
FOR CHILDREN AGED 5 & UNDER.
COME & EXPLORE THE WOODS WITH YOUR
GROWN-UP - GAMES, SINGING AND
STORYTIME 🐻

WANDERING AND WONDERING
THURSDAY 10TH & 24TH SEPTEMBER
THE GATES WILL BE OPEN FROM 11AM UNTIL 1PM
COME FOR A WALK FOLLOWED BY SOUP &
WONDERING CONVERSATIONS IN
THE RANCH HOUSE FROM MIDDAY 🍷



PECKWOOD, ALVECHURCH B48 7QE

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

The 100 club



Congratulations to all the winners and thank you all for your support of the Rowney Green Park

The renewal of your membership numbers are due by the end of August 2026

Same price as last year £10 per membership number max 6 numbers per house

Again thank you for your support

The 1st draw for the new year will be September 2026. Payment can be made by bank transfer to the account below

Account Name: Rowney Green Village Hall Lottery

Sort Code: 54-30-35

Account No: 38776154

Payment Reference: "Your House Name or Full Name"

Or cash payments to the following
Richard Woodward Windrush
Sue Dutton
Will Savage
Pete Jeffs

We will be announcing soon the improvements made to the park from the 100 club profits.

This autumn the RGA (with the help of specific donations from Will Savage and Tom Webb) will be purchasing a further 2000 Narcissus Tete a Tete Daffodil Bulbs.



Over the last few years, the planting of daffodils around the village has been very popular and it is hoped that we will have many planting volunteers again.

If you know of a specific area in the village that would benefit from the Spring appearance of these bright and cheerful flowers, and would like to take part, please let me know – either directly (0791 331 4366), or by email to rowneygreenassociation@gmail.com, or just post something on the village WhatsApp Chat.

Michael Corfield

Rowney Green Park

A BIG THANK YOU to all who turned out to water the trees and plants in the park during the dry spell.

Thank you to the organisers Pete Jeffs, Tony Walli and Will Savage.



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 :)



Happy Birthday

Lottie Poole—age 9

Finlay Renshaw—age 7

Wishing you a great day

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



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Rowney Green Lamb

Would you like to try our locally reared lamb? Available to buy late Oct/early Nov but taking orders now.

Comes butchered with joints individually boxed, so ready for you to put straight in the freezer.

£180 for a whole lamb or £95 for a half.

Call, text or email me to discuss.

Andy

Cherry Tree Farm

Tel:

0780 3702319

Email:

andy1.dunkers@gmail.com



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.



ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



On **Saturday 5th September 2026** we will be holding our 82nd Annual Flower & Produce Show at the Village Hall.

It will be open to the public at 3.00pm. Refreshments are available and the prizes will be presented by Amelda Brown, Actor of Stage, Film and tv. Everyone is welcome so please do come along.

Our usual monthly meeting will be held on the second Thursday of the Month on 10th September at 7.15pm and our Speaker is **Lucy Hartley** and her topic is

"No Just My Garden - Nurturing a shared Ecosystem".

Lucy has always been a keen gardener but began her professional life as a secondary school science teacher and taught for seven years before starting a family. She has always enjoyed art as a hobby and on returning to work Lucy chose to combine these interests and re-train as a garden designer. An artistic eye, horticultural and design knowledge enables Lucy to find aesthetic solutions to all manner of garden problems. *In her talk this month, Lucy explores garden friendly wildflowers, some of the less visible life in the garden, how it interacts and the way a gardener can nurture their patch to support or drive this biodiversity through the way they garden and the choices they make.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 8928784.



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Tel: 0121 445 2562

Mobile: 0797 1566843

Tickets Only £10pp

Includes a plate of Indian Savouries & Salad

A FUN QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 17th October

Rowney Green Village Hall

Bar open 6.45!

**Quiz starts 7.30pm
(maximum 8 per team)**

Deb 07594 669166

Jude 07551 950840

RDA



Raising money for

Risingbridge

Riding for the Disabled



Why not come along to our **Fun Quiz on Saturday 17th October?**

Bar opens at 6.45pm. Quiz starts at 7.30pm.

The questions have been set by the one and only Pete Knight, who many of you will know from the monthly quiz he used to put in the Calling Oak, and that's not all! There'll be one or two new elements to the evening, so expect a few surprises along the way!

Gather your team (maximum of 8), bring along your thinking caps and join us for a fun evening of questions, laughs and a little bit of friendly competition. Don't worry if you don't have a full team, I'm sure there will be people we can add.

Tickets are just £10 per person and include a delicious plate of Indian savouries & salad — think samosas, pakoras etc!

Best of all, every penny of profit raised from the evening will go to Riding for the Disabled — a charity very close to our hearts. Our very own Maggie Moore has been involved with Riding for the Disabled for many years, and more recently Sue Dutton has also become involved.

So come along, have some fun, enjoy the quiz and tasty treats, and support a fantastic local cause at the same time!

See poster for ticket details & don't leave it too late!

The ACE Team



Risingbridge for the Disabled. "It's What You Can Do That Counts"

Risingbridge Riding for the Disabled Group provides riding therapy on a Wednesday morning during term time for Harbury Special School. Our riders are aged between 7 and 11 years old and benefit from both the mental and physical stimulation our session provides. We are based at Woodgate Valley, Bartley Green, B32 3DS.

We are a registered charity and fundraise to cover all expenses, the school only having to provide transport for the riders. Our group is run entirely by volunteers. We have five ponies and can have 10 riders sharing the hour session. Our aim is to provide a stimulating session with use of games and riding skills incorporating numeracy, language skills and fun. The riders can work through our skill level workbooks and achieve their Riding for the Disabled badges for riding and horse care.

If you would like to see a video-based insight into what an RDA session looks like and the benefits for the participants, you could look at the Video **RDA Transforming Lives Across the UK** on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvKAgHu9tlg>

Maggie Moore / Rachael Mead Risingbridge Riding for the Disabled Group

(a separately registered Member Group of Riding for the Disabled Association, reg. charity no. 1074321).

The Andrews and Shaw Families of Wood Cottage, Lower Rowney Green

By Gill Alleeson

I want to show you a photo of the Shaw and Andrews families outside their home in Lower Rowney Green. Of course, the original was in black and white but you can see much more detail now that it has been colourised.

It was taken in about 1895 and feels like one of those Harry Potter moments where, in a second, the people will look up and wave to you. At first glance, these are country folk. James Shaw is leaning on a pitchfork. His mother-in-law, Harriet Andrews, aged about 73, is seated. She is a strong woman, the matriarch of the family. She owns Wood Cottage, a freehold house with land. It was left to her by her son, Thomas Andrews who died in 1861. In 1919, she will leave it to her daughters, including Sarah, pictured here.

Born in West Heath in 1822, she married Joseph Andrews, a market gardener, in 1841. When her husband died, her daughter, Sarah, moved in with her, together with Sarah's husband James Shaw and their young family. In this photo the children are now young adults. Sarah, is standing behind her mother, Harriet. The women are wearing white aprons. They take in laundry, fetching the water from the enormous pump in front of the house. Harriet Andrews will live until the ripe old age of 97. She will still be working when she reaches eighty nine. As well as helping with the laundry business, she makes nails in one of the outbuildings, a trade taught to her by her parents, James and Mary Buckley, also nail makers.

The eldest daughter, Emily Jane Shaw, helps her mother Sarah and so does Sarah's other daughter, Phoebe. Emily marries in 1900 and moves to Somerset with her grocer husband, Gordon. Phoebe Annie Shaw is about 15 in the photo. She will still be a laundress, living with her mother in Wood Cottage, at 40 years of age. The eldest son, Joseph Andrews Shaw, stands on the far right of the photo, while his younger brother, James Edwin Shaw, is in the middle. Margaret Shaw, a teacher, is missing from the photo. Perhaps she is the photographer?

The scene looks very rural. The men in the photo have their sleeves rolled up. They seem used to hard work. However, all is not what it seems. While the women work from home, these men do not have agricultural jobs. They are part of the industrial revolution that has swept Britain. They all have a connection with its metal industries. James Shaw (the elder) is a platelayer for the railways, providing vital links between Redditch, Birmingham and the wider world.

His oldest son, Joseph Andrews Shaw did his apprenticeship at 15 and works for Milward's in Ipsley making the brass fittings for fishing rods. He will marry in 1901. Sadly, Joseph will lose his first wife, Jessie, in the winter of 1910. followed swiftly by his baby daughter, Mercy, only two months old, and born just before Christmas. He and his daughter, Ruth (born in 1908) will move to nearby Ivy Cottage with his second wife, Caroline from Bournville (a former metal worker).

In 1912 Joseph and Carrie will have a son, Ralph James Shaw. He will be baptised in Alvechurch. After his grandmother, Harriet's death in 1919, Joseph Andrews Shaw will make a sworn deposition so that, in addition to her own share, his mother, Sarah, can buy the shares in Wood Cottage left to her sisters. Sarah will remain at Wood Cottage for a further ten years.

The young boy, James Edwin Shaw (maybe fourteen in this photo) has probably left school by now. He becomes a mechanic specialising in engineering. By 1911 his metal work skills include those of a smith. He will move to Chatham, in Kent, with his wife, Ellen, and their two young children, Arthur and Iris, to become an engine fitter for H.M. Dockyard.

Margaret Shaw, the teacher, will marry Robert Burman, a manufacturer's clerk. Robert's father, Richard, is a farm bailiff living at Rowney Green Lodge. In 1911 Margaret and Robert make their home at Ferndale, Rowney Green. Next they will move to Swan Street, in Alvechurch. However, in 1939, as a widow, Margaret will return to Rowney Green, to Ambleside on Chapel Lane. She will live there with her children, Annie and Philip (both single). At 46 years of age, her son, Philip Burman, is a poultry farmer.

When Sarah dies in 1929, age 76, the property, now at least 100 years old will be sold. By 1930 the Shaw and Andrews families will no longer own Wood Cottage, Fast forward forty years and it will have fallen into such disrepair that it will be completely demolished. Nothing will remain but a bit of old fire grate in the ditch and a few bits of pottery from previous owners. In 1972 the land will be divided and part will be sold as a building plot.

I have many photos of the new house built on the site. I know it well. I live there.



Wood Cottage c.1895 The Andrews and Shaw families.
Colourised by Michael Corfield.

RGA Proposals for some road signage changes



Following the refusal by WCC to support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village, the RGA has turned its attention to the village road signage to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

It is hoped that improved signage will help drivers who are unfamiliar with the village to have more awareness of the hazards and drive appropriately. (Although there will always be some drivers who have little regard for road safety regardless of signage).

Too much signage can result in “street clutter” and information overload. To minimise this, a number of signs not related to road safety have already been removed.

Two documents have been sent to Councillor Alan Bailes who is very supportive of our requests and will ensure that WCC Highways assess them for suitability. It may be that they suggest alternatives to hopefully reach the same outcome.

The highlights of the proposals are :

Rowney Green Lane

- 1 additional “Warning Horses” sign
- 2 additional “Warning no footpath” (parent-child image) signs
- 1 additional “Warning Deer” sign



Minor relocation of 2 current signs

The Holloway

- Current “Give Way” sign (which actually refers to the junction at the bottom of The Holloway), is misleading and should be moved to be closer to that junction.
- The white lines dividing the carriageway on the road bridge leading to the “pinch point”, should stop at least 20m before they currently do. This would allow/encourage drivers to move to a position on the road where they can see beyond the “pinch point” more easily.

Replace the current “Oncoming vehicles in middle of road”, with a new “Give way to oncoming vehicles” sign

The documents can be viewed in detail by visiting the RGA section of the village website– or if you prefer just message one of the Committee to have copies sent to you.

Rowney Green Shared Church

We are very excited for the month of September as this is when we get to welcome our new permanent Methodist minister for Rowney Green.

As you know, Rev Ruth was with us for many years and was a much loved member of the community. She played a huge part in Rowney Green Village life, not just taking Sunday services but also officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals, she was also passionate about the Peck Wood services and introduced Lights Up event for many years. In Rev Ruth's absence, Rev Steve Levett stepped in to become our permanent Methodist Minister and crucially, was instrumental in helping us to save the Chapel from imminent closure.

Both these wonderful Ministers have now retired and we are very happy to meet Rev Rachel Borgas who will be taking her first service at the Chapel on 20th September at 9:30.

We hope to be able to include a short biography of Rev Rachel in next month's Calling Oak, but in the meantime, do come along to September's service and join in welcoming her to Rowney Green. We know she will come to love the village as much as Rev Ruth and Rev Steve do.



Rowney Reads Book Club



*the idea of Sassie Lassies,
based on their recent successful
one-off Book Club evening.*

You are welcome to come along on
Wednesday 11th November, 7.30 - 9.30 pm,
at Bleaklow (Ruth's house),
to discuss the novel *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall.

Bring your own drinks and glasses.

For further information, phone Ruth on 07500 182 050



Welcome to Rowney Green Shared Church

**Services commence at 9:30am until
10:30**

Everyone is welcome.

**The next service will be:
20th September,
Methodist service
lead by
Rev Rachel Borgas**

**Rowney Green Shared Chapel, Rowney Green Lane, Rowney Green,
Alvechurch, B48 7QH**

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	TBA	
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@worcestershirowildlifetrust.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	Annie Cowles	Admin@rowneygreenvillagehall.org

THE VILLAGE HALL -

Bookings Sept 2026

Contact the Booking Team: admin@rowneygreenvillagehall.org All bookings can be seen in more detail by visiting www.rowneygreen.org "Village Hall/Booking Availability"

Time	Event	Time	Event
Tuesday, September 1		Wednesday, September 16	
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH	6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopredre Dance MH
7:30pm - 9:30pm	RGA MR	Thursday, September 17	
Wednesday, September 2		2:00pm - 3:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
7:00pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MR	7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH
7:30pm - 9:30pm	Sassy Lassies MH	Friday, September 18	
Thursday, September 3		9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Horticultural Society MR	Saturday, September 19	
Friday, September 4		2:00pm - 5:00pm	Car Park Booking
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	Sunday, September 20	
6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR	10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Horticultural Society MH MR	2:00pm - 6:00pm	All & Sundry MH
Saturday, September 5		6:30pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MH
8:30am - 5:30pm	Horticultural Society MH MR	Monday, September 21	
8:30am - 4:30pm	Horticultural Society SR	10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR
Sunday, September 6		1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH
10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Group SR
2:00pm - 6:00pm	All & Sundry MH	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
6:30pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MH	5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH
Monday, September 7		8:00pm - 10:00pm	RGP MH
10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR	Tuesday, September 22	
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Group SR	10:45am - 1:30pm	Home Educators MH
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Home Educators MR
5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Guitar Group SR
8:00pm - 10:00pm	RGP MH	5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH
Tuesday, September 8		7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	Wednesday, September 23	
10:30am - 1:30pm	Home Educators MH	6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopredre Dance MH
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Guitar Group SR	Thursday, September 24	
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH	7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH
Thursday, September 10		Friday, September 25	
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry SR	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Horticultural Society MH	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH
Friday, September 11		Sunday, September 27	
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR
6:00pm - 11:00pm	Goat & Trousers SR	2:00pm - 6:00pm	All & Sundry MH
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Goat & Trousers MH	6:30pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MH
Sunday, September 13		Monday, September 28	
10:00am - 1:00pm	Church Group MH MR SR	10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR
2:00pm - 6:00pm	All & Sundry MH	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH
6:30pm - 9:30pm	All & Sundry MH	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Group SR
Monday, September 14		3:00pm - 5:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR
10:30am - 12:30pm	Coffee House SR	5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Move It Or Lose It MH	8:00pm - 10:00pm	RGP MH
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Group SR	Tuesday, September 29	
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Caretaking MH MR SR	9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH
5:45pm - 7:45pm	Pilates MH	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Guitar Group SR
8:00pm - 10:00pm	RGP MH	5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH
Tuesday, September 15		7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH
9:15am - 10:15am	Pilates MH	Wednesday, September 30	
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Guitar Group SR	6:15pm - 7:45pm	Riopredre Dance MH
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Pilates MH		
7:00pm - 10:00pm	All & Sundry MH		

MH = Main Hall

MR = Meeting Room

SR = Social Room