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Remembrance Day 1920 and 2020

Jane Hamlin

The Curry Rivel War Memorial was dedicated on 7th November 1920. This photo (right), which was taken two years later shows the crowd of over 200 people who attended the Remembrance Service.



This year, as you can see from the other photographs (below), far fewer people were able to attend. Because of the lockdown restrictions there was no official service either in the church or at the memorial.

At 11am there was the traditional two minute silence led by Derek Yeomans, and then wreaths of poppies were placed on the memorial just as in previous years.



General Sir John Learmont, President of the Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead Branch of the Royal British Legion, laying a wreath earlier in the morning. (Photo: Christopher Whitehead)



New Parish Clerk Appointed

The Parish Council have appointed a new permanent Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Lydia Mason (née Beaney), with effect from 16 November 2020.

Lydia will work with the Locum Clerk, Lisa Newby, for the next few weeks to facilitate a smooth handover. Lydia will take over fully after the next Parish Council meeting on 3 December 2020.

Lydia moved to Curry Rivel in 2013. A qualified chartered accountant, she has recently started working for herself and now, with a more flexible working lifestyle, feels the time is

right to commit more time to the village and its residents. She has many hobbies which include baking, gardening, growing your own and sewing, Councillors are delighted to welcome Lydia as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and look forward to working with her. The Parish Council wish to recognise and thank Lisa Newby for the very valuable support she has provided to the Council during this very difficult period and for the training and ongoing support provided to Lydia in her new role.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by email at curryrivelparish@outlook.com, or phone 07714 510828.

Parish Council Shorts

Since the last update the Parish Council has moved forward on a number of fronts:

1. We submitted three bids for funding under the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund. The applications cover feasibility studies for a car share scheme, a shared cycle/pedestrian path linking Curry Rivel to Langport and energy projects. The outcome from our bids will be known early in the New Year.
2. A volunteer footpath warden has been appointed who will be reporting direct to the Council on issues to do with our local footpath network. John Casebourne has already been in contact with local landowners and walkers. If you have seen a gentleman walking a little black dog most days whilst collecting litter, then that is John setting a wonderful example in keeping our village tidy.
3. The issues regarding the Speed Indicator Devices seem to have been resolved and the two units are operating

effectively and hopefully slowing down speeding traffic. It is hoped that the devices will soon be producing data to enable us to see the impact on average speeds as well as volumes of traffic.

4. The Curry Woods Conservation Trust has been awarded £12,000 by SSDC and is now planning the planting of trees.

5. At its most recent meeting, the Parish Council confirmed the appointment of Lydia Mason, a local resident, to the post of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the Curry Rivel website (www.curryrivel.org.uk).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 3rd December starting at the later time of 8 pm. The public are welcome to attend this meeting which will be by video conference.

The 200 Club Needs You!

Hazel Morris



2020 has certainly brought some challenges to us all and your Village Hall is no exception with virtually no bookings and yet the same running costs. The 200 Club gives you a great opportunity to not only help keep your hall in tip-top condition, but also to win as much as £120 in each of the twice yearly draws. Just £10 buys you a place in two draws and contributes £5 to the hall maintenance fund. The next draw is scheduled for mid-December so time is running out for you to grab your chance of winning one of the 13 cash prizes. To join the 200 Club and secure your tickets, please contact the 200 Club Administrator Hazel Morris (hazelmorris200@gmail.com). If you are already a member and need to renew your subscription, reminders will be sent soon but you can also contact Hazel to re-register. For hall booking enquiries please contact crvhbookings@gmail.com



Church services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at St. Andrew's (Curry Rivel), St. Martin's (Fivehead) and St. Catherine's (Swell)

Information, including about pre-booking, is on **page 17**





'Caring, Curious and Confident'

Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School Update

Ali Pook - Headteacher

Hello everyone

I am writing to you during difficult times. Nonetheless, I am delighted to be the Headteacher of Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School and Little Pips Nursery. Although I joined the school in April, in many ways this Autumn term has been another new start as we have been able to meet all the children and families for the first time.

I have worked in primary schools for 25 years: as a class teacher, Advanced Skills Teacher (AST), Assistant Head, Deputy Headteacher, Acting Headteacher and as a Headteacher in Burnham-on-Sea. As a young class teacher in London and as a teacher trainer in Nepal, I developed a love for teaching and learning that has continued and strengthened as my career has developed. During four years of headship, I have provided strong strategic leadership, always putting the children at the centre. My experience of being a Headteacher has taught me that a successful and happy school depends on a strong school community working together.

COVID risk assessments and implementing safer working practices have dominated our return to school of course. However, the children have settled back to the routine brilliantly and we are so grateful for the support of our families. We have adapted to the new routines of class bubbles, regular handwashing and additional cleaning; it is different, but teaching and learning continues, and the children are enjoying being back with their friends, being engaged in their lessons and being curious about the world around them.

We have introduced some new initiatives to help drive progress for our children, especially for reading, with the

purchase of new Big Cat phonics books and the Accelerated Reader scheme. All of the teachers are enjoying teaching PE (previously taught by coaches) under the leadership of our PE leader Mr Bridgeman. As I write this Mr Bridgeman is running a school 'Mini-Olympics' with each bubble competing in the house teams (Quantock, Polden, Mendip and Blackdown). Such inter-house competitions will run half-termly, ensuring all our pupils enjoy the experience of shared activity, team work and competitions. All our pupils also enjoy outdoor learning (in our amazing ground and orchard) and computing lessons (taught by our IT lead) to support learning across the curriculum.

As a church school, our links to the local community are so important. We are a 'caring' and 'compassionate' school, so it is vital the children have an understanding of the needs of others but more importantly that they have a chance to 'do' something. This year we received a record number of donations for our Harvest Festival, with food being donated to the Curry Rivel Food Bank. Rev Scott led our Harvest Festival service (via an on-line platform) and also led us in our Remembrance service in November. Daily Collective Worship continues as I lead assemblies from my office broadcasting to the classrooms (media training required!).

We have all embraced technology during this time and like many schools we are using remote learning platforms to support our learners - we have chosen 'Google Classroom' as this is the tool used at Huish Academy. It is all very new, but we are all learning together. It is a worrying time, but here at Curry Rivel School it is an exciting time as we go on a journey of improvement and development.

The school is a friendly and warm place, and certainly has a family feel. Please follow us on Facebook, visit our website and if you know anyone who is applying for a primary school place, please encourage them to come to our open day on 8th January - places must be booked.

Join the CRN team

Jane Hamlin

The Curry Rivel News Group is looking for a new member to join the team that produces the Curry Rivel News. The vacancy is for the role of Secretary, but specialist secretarial skills are not required – just sufficient to take the Minutes at our monthly meetings, and to participate in our discussions in making the CRN as interesting and informative as we can. We prefer to meet face-to-face for our meetings, but use Zoom if that is not possible. For more information contact Jane Hamlin at: curryrivelnews@gmail.com or phone 252946.

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Curry Rivel in Bloom

A flowering community

Our winter troughs and pots are all planted up now, thank you to those who helped with the planting. We have chosen cyclamen this year and hope they brighten up the village throughout the winter.

Due to lockdown and concerns about social distancing the service at the War Memorial was cancelled and people were able to pay their respects in their own time. The poppy wreaths were laid and are now securely tied up. Thanks to the British Legion ladies knitting poppies we were able to replace the poppies on the central post at the memorial and display the others around the garden. Due to the recent warm weather the gardens looked amazing with many flowers still in

cribsomerset@gmail.com

Gina Beauchamp

01458 762296

bloom. Thank you to all those who helped to tidy, weed and water the gardens all year and especially just before Remembrance Day. This year, due to Covid 19, there was no village judging by South West in Bloom. This didn't mean that we had nothing to do! CRiB kept busy by classifying our walks to the War Memorial and other places we maintain around the village, as exercise. We were careful to not have more than two people working in one area at once and always maintained social distancing. This meant that we were able to maintain the planting around the village all year round. We do not expect the competition to run in 2021 either, but we will still be busy around the village.

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Sticks & Stones

Emrys Evans & Denise Evans

Curry Woods Conservation Trust's December message

Peter Goodenough

In rounding up the year from the Trust's point of view I want to send two messages.

One, a huge thank you to everybody. The Trustees want to say how grateful we are for the support we have received and send best wishes to everybody reading this article.



Secondly, we recognise the devastating losses suffered this year by some of you in our community. I have shed more tears this year for lost friends than I

have done for decades. There are no trite platitudes. I, with the rest of the Trustees, will remember those dear friends for the rest of our lives; it is going to be a difficult Christmas for those families and there will be tears in this household when we toast their memory.

The Trust has achieved nearly all it set out to achieve in 2020 despite the unique National crisis. The community tree planting has had to be postponed - we don't have a date for this yet for obvious reasons. The plan for our volunteer army of planters is that each person will be given a target of 7 trees and 3 shrubs to plant. We will of course be supplying the plants, guards and stakes. One Trustee has bought a tree



planting spade which I am sure can be loaned. We will be able to supply a limited number of tools but if you can bring your own - great. The Trustees will provide a planting guide nearer the time and will be on hand to plant their own allocation and help with advice.



Social distancing will be maintained, and we suggest that all guidelines are followed. The plants are all British natives and I show a picture of a spindle tree in full fruit growing in the woodland margin as part of this article. We have also used this image to create a small number of Christmas cards as a pilot scheme to publicise the Trust. Obviously, we cannot approach the cost of the mass market producers and so we will have to sell them at £4 for 5 cards to cover costs.

You will soon be able to view the cards on our website at cwctrust.simplesite.com and if you want to support the Trust by buying a pack please email me PWGoodenough@aol.com. We will deliver!

So, as the work of many dedicated biochemists has developed vaccines - we will hope that next year brings an end to this emergency. Can the application of the scientific method overcome all of the many insults visited by mankind on this planet? There's a debate for the Oxford Union!

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AGRICULTURAL & EQUESTRIAN

A year in the CRIB Allotment

Nicky Barker

The year started with the Brownies and Rainbows planting seeds in pots to take home and grow on in March, unfortunately lockdown came and they had to plant them in their own gardens so we never did see who grew the highest sunflower!

We have been given a small extra plot by Simon Scarborough so with the help of Geoff Higson and a rotovator driven by Mr Tilley we got it cleared ready for planting. This has given us additional space for vegetables. Hedging along Red Hill Lane has been cut back and a lot of dead wood and old trees have been cleared which made our plot more open and we found we had snow drops in abundance. A pond was kindly dug out and installed by Lyndsey and Alice Ainsworth, our Brownie Leader and daughter. This has flourished. The birds love it and we have frogs, water boatmen, water snails and the occasional field mouse drinking from it.

At last the time came to plant out the raised beds, greenhouse and our extra plot with generous donations of seeds and plants from villagers and other allotment owners. These included parsnips, carrots, squash (pumpkins and courgette), tomatoes (red and black Brandywine, Orange Cherry and Sungold), green beans (French, runner and broad), onions (red and white), shallots garlic, potatoes and for the first time sweet potatoes. During the months of

lockdown Tina Geary and Liz

Rendell were often on hand with weeding and planting which again was much appreciated.

We were also given three rhubarb plants and we extended our apple orchard which has fruited very well this year, we had the apples pressed at Hecks Cider farm in Street and this resulted in 30 bottles of Apple Juice.

Everything has grown very well and we have been pleased to donate a lot of fresh produce to the village food bank including 8 pumpkins for Halloween!

We added to our water storage with a new tank collecting rain water off the greenhouse and shed roof, and compost bins were made and donated by Peter and Laraine Hayes which we are very thankful for.

In October next year's onions, shallots and garlic were planted; so, the cycle starts again and now that Autumn is here, we have started to harvest Brussel sprouts and cauliflowers. The flower bed still has Michaelmas daisies, begonias and dahlias giving us some colour and we have left the sunflower heads which have encouraged birds to feed on the seeds.

Many of the beds have been cleared now for the winter months, this has always been intended to be a village facility and it's with great thanks so many have given support over the last year. Volunteers and help are always welcome.

Curry Rivel
in Bloom

A flowering community

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The Curry Rivel, Hambridge and Drayton Food Bank Christmas Appeal

Steve Allinson

Many of us will perhaps be enjoying a somewhat different Christmas this year, and I obviously hope it will still be a peaceful and fulfilling time for all in our community. However, this edition of the CRN gives me an opportunity to remind all readers that the work of our villages' Food Bank is continuing and the needs of some in our community become even more stark at this time of year.

I thought it may be interesting to share several statistics around our volunteer work. The Food Bank has been operating now since the end of April, and we have been thrilled to receive financial donations in excess of £5,000, over and above so many food and other necessary items that are freely given each week.

As a group we are so grateful to those who have donated (and a number of our people support us on a very regular basis). Please remember that every financial donation (however small or large) goes totally into supplying food and other necessities for our clients. No administrative or other costs are taken as those of us who volunteer give our time and energies freely in terms of buying items, and then also receiving food that is so kindly donated as well as preparing, packing and delivering the food boxes every Wednesday and Saturday.

We believe that over this period we have prepared approaching 350 food boxes for our clients, and every one of them has been so gratefully received. The majority of our clients are family households, but not exclusively, so each box is often vital to several persons.

As I prepare this report, the group who volunteer has committed to continue the work for at least the next six

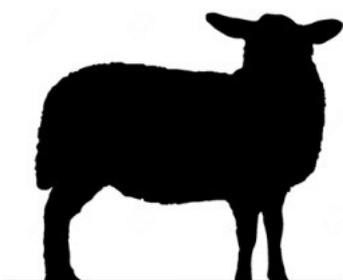
months, so we are seeking to put this work on a more formal footing and we shall be sharing more information on that in the near future.

You will have noticed that we are known as the Curry Rivel, Hambridge and Drayton Food Bank and that is because we really do work across all three villages. Some of our core group of volunteers are from Drayton and are a central part of our team. In addition, we are supported every week with regular donations from Hambridge, through our valued collection point at Hambridge Village Stores. It is a chance here also to thank Grace at the Village Stores who has organised a reverse advent calendar for us to take place throughout December.

The support of local business is really important to us, and I have previously expressed our huge gratitude to the lovely teams of staff both in Curry Rivel One Stop and at Hambridge Village Stores for all they do for us. Our work is spreading too, as this month we were very grateful to receive support from Black Sheep Butchers in Langport.

We believe the needs of our clients may well increase over the Christmas period, so every donation of items of food or money will be so gratefully received. We remain open to receive these every Wednesday and Saturday (12 noon - 1 pm) pre-Christmas up until and including Wednesday 23rd December. We hope we may be able to provide extra Christmas treats for those who need assistance at this time to make the holiday a little more special for them.

Happy Christmas from all who volunteer at the Food Bank; we very much appreciate your support. I believe it really does show the strength of community spirit in our village.



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Down but not out – The WI in lockdown (2)

Carolyn Paton

The November meeting of the WI – held virtually, naturally, was reversed, with business being dealt with at the end of the gathering. 19 members were able to access the zoom, and we were treated to an expert, clear and comprehensive illustrated talk by Wendy Richards-Wood entitled ‘Women in the RNLI.’

This history has been little documented. Many readers will be aware that an early pioneer was Grace Darling, whose dramatic rescue by rowing boat of 23 stranded sailors in 1838 was rewarded by Queen Victoria with a medal and a reward of £50 (then!) In general women were not viewed as having the strength and stamina to go out to sea on a lifeboat, though in fact their role in preparing the boats and launching/hauling in, was both heavy and dangerous, and by definition usually took place under appalling conditions. A few grainy photographs do exist of women doing this work, and indeed there is an account of women helping to haul a boat over a headland in order to make a successful launch. Superstitions abounded - it was believed that women aboard would jinx the success of the mission - unless they were naked... leading to a bare -breasted figurehead painted on the brow of many of the boats.

In 1891 women became the first fundraisers for lifeboats, holding a ‘Lifeboat Saturday’, and within 10 years, forming 40 Guilds to raise the necessary funds. In 1969 Elizabeth Hostveldt became the first trained female crew member allowed to command an inshore lifeboat, by now a fast rigid inflatable. These boats were introduced in 1963 and were lighter and easier for women to manoeuvre, though having gained a foothold, at this point the women quickly accessed the heavier all-weather boats and became more regular crew members.

Wendy went on to speak further about the RNLI today, and explained that there are around 500, (5%) females engaged in all aspects of the work, including that of design and manufacturing. Extensive work takes place training lifeguards, and there is also an international arm, which is engaged largely in teaching youngsters how to swim, as so many children drown unnecessarily. The organisation remains entirely funded by donations, legacies and so on, and is reliant on volunteers at all levels. The RNLI has suffered terribly from the current situation, as have so many charities, but is working to make up revenue where it can. In the pipeline is a ‘Launch a Memory’ scheme, whereby donors can sponsor the name of a loved one which is painted on the side of the boat. Ringing in our ears as Wendy concluded her presentation was the motto ‘Respect the Water’- one which is relevant to us all whenever we are anywhere near this wonderful and life-giving servant, which can be a terrible master if treated lightly. Wendy was deservedly applauded at the end of her talk.

The business section of the meeting was led by the President, Anne Geach (01458 253078) who was thanked and commended for her ability to keep the Curry Rivel WI ship afloat during these difficult times. Her regular newsletters to members and the efforts of the committee have kept us all well informed of activities and events both local and county-wide. Walkers have walked, coffee drinkers have drunk (in socially safe ways), readers have planned to group, bakers have baked, crafters have crafted, and future speakers have been contacted with a view to zooming with us all. Projects are afoot to contact each other between times, and to share an in-your-own-home Christmas celebratory event. The WI is alive and well.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SOMERTON U3A

Learn and Enjoy New Skills with Somerton U3A

Sue Haigh

Somerton U3A has enabled members to make friendships and participate in activities they enjoy and a chance to learn new skills. Due to the government guidelines we are unable to hold our monthly Friday meetings, but have recently introduced a monthly Zoom meeting.

The December meeting "Alternative Christmas Lunch" with entertainment by Fool's Gold, will be held on Wednesday

16th December at 11.00

We have over 50 interest groups a number of which continue to meet regularly by Zoom, or face to face where social distancing and guidelines allow.

Our monthly online newsletter gives members the opportunity to see what activities have been taking place.

For further information, or if you are interested in joining, visit the Somerton U3A website or email membership@SomertonU3A.uk

District Councillors' Report

Tiffany Osborne and Clare Paul

Once again here we are talking about planning.

It continues to lurch from crisis to incompetence and to add insult to injury SSDC and other surrounding districts have now received a letter from Natural England dated from August stopping all planning applications for the foreseeable future. It would seem that there is excessive polluting of the rivers due to nitrates and phosphates causing eutrophication - a build-up of algae leading to oxygen deficiency. No one wants our rivers polluted, yet this issue was highlighted over two years ago and nothing was done. Wessex Water, responsible for protecting our waterways, have said they can deal with this matter – but not before December 2024. Until then, it's anyone's guess as to what happens next. All builds are on hold – even those which should have been determined before the date of the letter. All SSDC are saying at the moment is that they are not the only ones caught up in this mess and are consulting lawyers. One thing for certain is that this isn't something that is going to be resolved anytime soon and is an almighty economic as well as environmental mess.

You may be aware that the National Census will take place on 21 March 2021. SSDC is assisting with information and promotion of the Census on behalf of the Office for National Statistics. It is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to gather a detailed 'snapshot' of the population of Somerset and its characteristics. The information collected is really important because it is used in planning and funding local services in our area, such as health, education and transport. It will be the first to be run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Finally, at the time of writing the TA10 postcode is now rated 'high' for Covid-19 cases in our area so please continue to adhere to the guidelines – hands, face, space – so we can get through winter safely.

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Ali Pook, Headteacher

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Contact:

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01458 252822 (Nursery)

E: curryrivelprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.curryrivelprimary.co.uk.

Tuesday Group

Barbara Lancey

It's been a while since my last contribution to the CRN. These strange times seem to do strange things to one's memory and achieving deadlines! Having so much time on my hands seems to make it worse.....how can that be?

Well, I am pleased to say that Tuesday Group members have continued to keep in touch, offering assistance, making each other laugh, having distance coffee, walking and talking, and generally looking out for each other where possible. Our lovely Jean (Secretary) took a break from producing the 'TG Times', which had been extremely popular and lifted spirits during lockdown, and we learnt a lot about each other too! It is hoped to produce a Christmas edition - it may even be in print by the time you read this!

I am sure I am not the only one who has done much more cooking and baking these past few months, and although not a great help to the waistline, it has proved mentally and physically stimulating and pleasurable, especially the 'experiments' which have *mostly* been successful and my husband is still alive to tell the tale! Anyway, I found one recipe (not one of my experiments) which was much scrummier than I was expecting, so I thought I would share it with you! Enjoy!

MARMALADE PUDDING!

Ingredients:

- Knob of soft butter
- About 300g marmalade
- 2 large eggs separated, plus 2 extra egg yolks
- 200ml double cream
- 100g caster sugar

- 1tsp orange flower water, whisky or Drambuie (optional)
- 150g White breadcrumbs, slightly stale is fine
- Icing sugar for dusting
- Cream, yoghurt or ice cream to serve

Method:

- Preheat oven to 180c/160c fan/gas 4.
- Butter a 1.5-litre ovenproof dish.
- You want the marmalade to have a loose consistency, like a thick compote. If it is very thick, 'let it down a bit by mixing with a little boiling water, then leave it to cool completely.
- Mix the marmalade with the four egg yolks, the cream, caster sugar and orange flower or alcohol, if using, until creamy and thoroughly blended.
- Set aside a heaped tablespoon of the breadcrumbs and stir the rest into the mix thoroughly.
- In a separate, scrupulously clean bowl, whisk the egg whites to soft peaks and gently fold them into the batter with a metal spoon.
- Carefully pour the mix into the prepared dish and sprinkle the reserved breadcrumbs over the top.
- Stand the dish in a roasting tin and pour boiling water from the kettle into the tin so it comes halfway up the sides of the dish, then carefully transfer to the oven.
- Bake for 50-60 minutes until set - it should have a little quiver about it and not be too solid.
- Remove the dish from the roasting tin.
- Dust the pudding with icing sugar and serve with cream, yoghurt or ice cream.

Deeeeeelicious!



'Save Our Crown' - fighting for our Fivehead pub!

Victoria Fransham

As reported in the November edition of the Curry Rivel News, The Crown Inn in Fivehead is one of the latest village pubs to threaten to close its doors. A Planning Application has been submitted for Change of Use to residential. These are very sad times for our village communities who have very few local amenities left.

Fivehead Parish Council have submitted an application to register The Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value (a CV).

In October, the 'Save Our Crown' (SOC) group circulated a survey to residents in Fivehead & neighbouring villages, to gauge possible interest in keeping a pub in Fivehead.

There were 173 surveys returned and over 96% of people said they will be sorry to see the pub go and 85% said they would use the pub regularly in future. Over 75% of responses mentioned that having a pub in the village influenced their decision on whether to live there.

Many people reported that the pub is the centre of village life and over 30 respondents said they would be open to working in the pub or helping in some way.

These are all very positive responses. We hope that, with the help of CAMRA and The Plunkett foundation, we will be able to open The Crown Inn as a community pub, for the residents of Fivehead & for those of all the neighbouring villages, including Curry Rivel!

Painter & Decorator

01458 250005

Free Estimates

**John
Monaghan**



Our Twinning with Chevilly is alive and well!

Victoria Fransham

Our French Twinning is alive and well!

We have not, of course, been able to hold any visits this year nor any social or fund-raising events. However, we are in contact with our French friends and in May we held a Zoom 'apéritif' with about 25 English and French friends & are planning another one late November. We hope to be able to resume all our activities in 2021 and even possibly have a visit in May 2021. In past years our activities have included: wine tastings, skittles evenings, quizzes, film evenings, curry suppers, barn dances & murder mysteries.

The President of the French Twinning, Bénédicte, wrote to us recently to give us some news from Chevilly. Below is an extract of her email. She says that all Twinning activities have also stopped there but enrolments for the English lessons have continued to

grow. Bénédicte mentions the Covid social distancing rules for the school children & teachers. She also requests an English penpal for a young French boy. Please get in touch if you are interested: 01460 281905

'Tout d'abord désolée pour ce long silence, pas beaucoup de nouvelles du jumelage tout est l'arrêté.

Nous avons quand meme eu une réunion pour l'organisation des cours d'Anglais , cette année 3 groupes :

8 jeunes de grande section maternelle CE2 ,

8 du cm2 et deux jeunes de 6 eme , un groupe adultes / 3ème de 8 personnes aussi .

Je pensais qu'avec le covid les inscriptions allaient diminuer mais les parents veulent que leurs enfants se remettent à niveau .

Les "barrières" ne sont pas si compliquées pour les jeunes, les



primaires ne sont pas obligés de porter un masque; lavage des mains avant et apres les cours obligatoire, Noelie (la prof) masque obligatoire; pas de distance " de securite " pour les jeunes. Lavage avec lingettes désinfectantes des chaises, tables crayonsentre les cours .

Pour les adultes masques, gel, désinfection des chaises et tables obligatoire. Si possible distance de 1 m mais pas obligé .

Un papa m'a demandé de prendre contact avec la présidente du jumelage coté Curry Rivel. Il désire que son fils (classe de CE2) corresponde avec un jeune Anglais'

Winter Hanging Baskets

Sylvia Goodenough

Sedgemoor Gardens Club held a Zoom meeting in November, with Louise Burks from the Gardens Group of garden centres showing us how to put together beautiful winter hanging baskets.

Both Louise and we were slightly nervous about how a demonstration would work on Zoom, as our previous speakers have given presentations using slides or PowerPoint, and it was a first for her too. However, a practice run beforehand soon sorted out any niggles and the demonstration went very well. Louise and the Gardens Group staff make up around 200 baskets every year, so she knows what she's talking about! She developed a basket in front of us, using a wire basket and moss to line it with - but

not just any moss, they have a supplier who sources really thick, long stranded moss from a secret place! It works really well and looks more attractive and natural than the alternatives.

Working from inside the basket she pushed plants through the moss, concentrating them on the front and sides and leaving a space at the back for watering- if that should become necessary over winter! Her range of plants was much wider than the standard pansies and violas, though they were there, but she included the like of primroses, ferns, grasses and miniature daffodils. She gradually built the sides up with more moss to support additional compost and then used the taller plants to increase the height still further, giving the basket a mounded top.

Louise kept up a running commentary and provided us with lots of useful tips as she worked. She answered several questions after her talk, and we all closed down our computers feeling inspired to get out there and make our own baskets!

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@naturally beautifulbeautysalon

Citizens' Panel

Emily Taylor (NHS Somerset CCG)

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for all the residents of Somerset. We are therefore seeking new members from across the county to help ensure that the voice of the local population is heard and influences developments.

As we face these unprecedented times and with technology rapidly transforming the core of everything we do, we have developed a website especially for Citizens' Panel members.

Here's a brief summary of what's included:

DISCOVER: Citizens' Panel Members can browse their personalized home page - Somerset NHS Citizens' Panel.

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LOOK AT: A range of documents including any recent surveys and the results, which Citizen Panel Members have taken part in. Any news, announcements and what's new.

Find direct links to useful websites.

Use the direct link provided to email the Engagement Team.

SHARE EXPERIENCES: Join the conversations - we have created a forum where information can be shared on health matters.

WHAT ELSE: You can subscribe to take part in future surveys and projects.

If you or a family member would like to become a member of the Somerset NHS Citizens' Panel, or you know of someone in our community that would be interested, please ask them to sign up. It's easy and only takes a few minutes just visit: <https://citizenspanelsomersetccg.uk.engagementhq.com>

Foundation Stage



Little Pips

Our Website
curryrivelpriamry.somerset.org.uk

We are open 5 days a week
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 From 3 months to 4 year olds
 50 weeks a year
 Located within
Curry Rivel Primary School
 For more details telephone
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Christmas Turkeys and Geese

Want to order your Christmas Dinner from a local friendly smallholding?

We are now in our sixth year of raising turkeys and geese for the Christmas table. Our turkeys are heritage breed Norfolk Bronze and our geese are Embden (all £10.50 per kg). These breeds are known for their excellent flavour and texture, and this, along with a life on our smallholding where the birds roam freely in our apple orchard, makes for a delicious bird perfect for Christmas dinner!! We only have 34 turkeys and 12 geese and we regularly sell out, so order yours now to avoid disappointment!

We also have pork and lamb raised on the smallholding so if turkey or goose isn't your thing, we could still provide your Christmas dinner.

Please email oldhealesmallholding@gmail.com or call 01458 253111 or 07801 367770 and ask for Jane or Simon and we will be happy to help.

Old Heale Smallholding 

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Grandpa's Trash

John Casebourne

Winter is just arriving. Nevertheless, a beautiful time of year. The hedgerows and verges are receiving their annual trim, exposing more litter in the undergrowth which is often cut up into small pieces as the cutter does its job. So I keep going with the picker stick to retrieve more litter before the spring growth begins once again to covers it up.

A carrier bag has printed on it, degradable, so why not dispose of it in the correct way rather than dump it in North St on the way to Drayton! It would have taken 75-100 years for the contents to decompose. If that wasn't enough another 5 Stella cans were picked up before I reached Drayton church. Then as I walked back to Brickwall Lane along Drayton Rd, the one in the hedge caught my attention along with another 3 before I reached the top of Brickwall Lane. There was even a carrier bag containing human excrement.

Lager tins are also dumped in Dyers Road, Butt Lane, Currywoods Way, Back Lane, the road to Wick from the A378, and the A378 to Langport from Curry Rivel along with all sorts of other litter. I say.... "are also dumped", because I pick up more lager tins than any other rubbish. It is ongoing, it never ceases. It really is a shame that some people don't fully appreciate just how long litter takes to decompose and how it degrades our towns and villages. So if you know of someone who regularly fly tips, including garden waste, or throws their rubbish out of the car window, please ask them to stop and consider the consequences of what they are doing. It requires everyone make a stand against littering.

On a brighter note; as well as being appointed voluntary footpath warden by our Parish Council, I have also been appointed as the Public Path Liaison Officer by Somerset County Council for our area. This is also a voluntary post and the SCC, would, I'm sure, appreciate your help to further the cause of keeping our local public rights of way free for everyone to enjoy and, where appropriate, help with any practical maintenance.

I wish to assist landowners, where I am able; to update the way marks, signs, other appropriate notices, which could advise the public concerning the countryside code and any other important issues along the public rights of way.

I'm here to assist where I can!

However, I don't have a crystal ball so please contact me by email; johncasebourne@sky.com.

I really do hope that Covid-19 doesn't spoil our Christmas family moments. So on a positive note; happy Christmas everyone. Remember the catch phrase, 'Every little helps'.

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St. Andrew's Church

Find us at: www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html and www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/



We warmly welcome visitors and new members of the community to any of our services and other events.

Church open for private prayer

Under the Covid regulations at the time of writing, St. Andrew's church **is** open for private prayer on **Wednesdays thru Saturdays from 10.00am - 4.00pm.**

December

Please note that any extension of Covid lockdown after 2nd December could result in cancellation of services.

Thursday 3rd

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP
(Note: **NOT** in the OSR but in Church)

Sunday 6th

10.00 **FH** - Family Service
10.45 **FH** - said Holy Communion
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Worship

Sunday 13th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP
11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

Thursday 17th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP
(Note: **NOT** in the OSR but in Church)

Sunday 20th

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer Worship
11.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service
11.45 **CR** - said Holy Communion

Thursday 24th - Christmas eve

11.15 pm **CR** - Midnight Communion
(pre-booking required, see next page)

Friday 25th - Christmas Day

8.30 **SW** - Christmas Communion Prayer Book
(pre-booking required, see next page)
10.30 **FH** - Family Christmas Communion (pre-booking required, see next page)

Sunday 27th

10.00 **CR** - United Benefice All Age Holy Communion

Scott's Spot



A Happy Covid Christmas?

Christmas is cancelled, they say. It just won't be the same with Covid stalking the streets and damping everything down. How can we properly celebrate if we're restricted to just 6 people meeting? How frustrating not to be able to meet with friends in the pub for a properly relaxed Christmas drink or meal. So sad that there will be no school nativity plays this year, complete with comedy camels and little girl angels. How disappointing that those Christmas parties can't really happen in the way we would like. How sad that those traditional carol services have been cancelled because we can't even sing. And what about the delights of Christmas shopping, all ruined by mask wearing, and social-distance keeping, and not being able to try anything on? No...despite the hope of effective vaccines on the horizon, the Covid-Grinch has stolen Christmas, and it just won't be the same. 2020 will be a Christmas to remember for all the wrong reasons. Perhaps you share some of those sentiments.

Well it need not be so. Because the real Christmas is all about light breaking in amongst the darkness of this world in a way that can illuminate and transform even the pains and frustrations of a pandemic.

St. Andrew's Rotas December

Flowers
To be allocated



Cleaning

5th - Anne Goff
12th - Jackie & John de Ronde
19th - Nicky Barker
26th - Liz Rendell



January 2021

Sunday 3rd

10.00 **FH** - All Age family Service
10.45 **FH** - said Holy Communion
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Service

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Scott's Spot ctd . . .

The Covid-Grinch has no power to alter, spoil, erase or cancel **anything** that Christmas is really about. The periphery may be restricted, but the heart of the Christian Christmas beats boldly on. Covid cannot alter the fact that the arrival of God's promised Saviour was long foretold. Covid cannot change the unique marvel of the 'immaculate conception' whereby a sinless Christ came amongst us. Covid cannot suppress the witness of Mary, with her faith so beautifully expressed through word and action. Covid cannot snuff out the angel's message to the shepherds that: **"to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."** Covid cannot erase the very good news that in the arrival of this baby, God's rescue mission for sinful humanity was launched. Covid cannot reduce the sheer love that stands at the heart of Christmas and points with anticipation to the adult Jesus who on Good Friday faced the death we deserved for our sin, and washed the guilty clean. We may not be able to sing of it together, but Covid cannot social-distance us from God's love, peace and hope, or from a real Christmas making a real difference to everything. *Joy to the world, the Lord has come!*

When, for you, the real Christmas fills your vision and shines like that magi-leading star, then it is entirely possible – no, entirely appropriate - to rejoice and know even a 'very happy Covid Christmas'.

My prayer for us all this Christmas: that alongside healing and safety we may also know a surprising richness, joy and peace that far surpasses expectations.
Amen.

Revd. Scott.

From St. Andrew's Registers

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

21st October - Service of Thanksgiving at Taunton Crematorium for Olive Elisabeth Martel († 4th October)
27th October - Service of Thanksgiving for Ruth Isabel Allcock († 11th October) followed by interment in St. Andrew's Churchyard

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services

Considering that the effects of Government Covid regulations on the number of people who can safely meet in our churches are likely to remain over the Christmas season, regrettably, attendance at the **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** services can ONLY be by **pre-booking**. See below how to book.

St. Andrew's Church

24th December 11.15pm contact:
Mr John de Ronde (01458 251355).

St. Catherine's Church, Swell

25th December 08.30am contact:
Mrs Anna Rees (01458 253067).

St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

25th December 10.30am contact:
Mrs Ellen Balmer (01460 281578) or
Mrs Trish Allen (01460 281674).

Bookings must be made **BY Tuesday 15th December** and seat allocation will be on a '**first come first served**' basis.

When attending, the main applicable Covid regulations are: wearing a face mask is mandatory; keeping 2 meters social distance (unless in a 'bubble'); use of hand gel before entering and leaving, and please do not attend if you or a member of your household is self-isolating or experiencing any Covid symptoms or has experienced any within the last 7 days. N.B. There will be no toilet facilities available.

A Christmas Greeting.

At the end of 'A Christmas Carol', Ebenezer Scrooge says this: '*I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.*'

Well, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in this Christmas we can still honour it in our hearts. From all of us at **Curry Rivel URC** may we wish all of you a peaceful, Christmas and if it isn't exactly as you would wish it to be, may you hold loved ones in your hearts and reflect on times past, times present and times yet to be.

**May the spirit of the Christ child be in
all your hearts this Christmas.**

A Different Christmas . . .

One of the things I will miss in the lead up to this Christmas is the annual Nativity service that takes place in one of our churches with a local nursery - it has been part of my calendar for many years and always brings a smile to my face.

United Reformed Church



December

*(Services start at 10.30, unless
indicated otherwise)*

Sunday 6th - Rev Rowena Francis

Sunday 13th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 20th - via Zoom

Thursday 24th - Christmas Eve **

Midnight service: gathering from 11pm
for Service at **11.30pm**

Sunday 27th - Rev Tim Richards

We are a small, inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability.

To join any of our services -Zoom or livestreamed from the Chapel- please email Steve Beney at stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk

Arrangements are provisional and may change due to the fluctuating Covid situation. Changes will be advertised on the URC Noticeboard.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799

****** Christmas celebrations & festivities are going to be different this year - it may be our intention to hold a Christmas Eve Service as usual but restrictions, guidelines, and the health of our members, may mean it does not take place. Please keep an eye on our external notice board for any changes.

One year amongst the shepherds, wise 'men', sheep, not forgetting Mary & Joseph we had a spaceman take part, not part of some post-modern interpretation but just an outfit a child had for a birthday and wanted to wear. We have also had Disney princesses in our pageant. Purists may object but I was delighted; after all, given the number of children who take part we tend to have more than our fair share of the aforementioned characters.

If you are thinking '*With attitudes like that how are our children ever going to learn the Bible stories*', then those of a sensitive disposition might wish to look away now.....

This should come as no surprise to anyone who has attended church regularly or taken the time to read the Bible themselves, these stories are powerful, wonderful, they do not lose their potency in the 21st century and they can still effect change in people.

But you do not find the traditional nativity story in the Bible, at least not as we tell it. It is an amalgamation of very different stories from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew gives us the visit of the Magi, the family have no need of an Inn they are already living in Bethlehem, and an Angel visits Joseph; Luke has Mary being visited by an Angel, the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the baby in the manger and visit of the shepherds.

Now, in one way none of this matters and yet in another way it does matter.

I shall still tell the traditional nativity story without feeling the need to explain the above to children, but we are exhorted to be childlike not childish and the Bible retains its power to speak into our world when we understand that translation, interpretation, and bias all play their part in how we read scripture. In this far from ordinary year, perhaps we can read these far from ordinary stories anew and find in them compassion for those who travel out of desire or necessity, a welcome regarded as outcasts (the Shepherds).

One more thing, we have no idea when Jesus was actually born, but what we do know is that he was born, that his words changed lives, his life, death and resurrection had an impact on humanity that has not been equalled and that the story is not only worth telling but so is seeking to emulate his example in our dealings with all people. Compassion is not just for Christmas or the pandemic; maybe we can make it systemic. This year, can we think about making connections with others more than just spending time with them, and maybe, whatever the restrictions will be when we get there, we can feel less pressured, take more time to reflect and celebrate the birth of Jesus, whenever he was born and wherever he first laid his head. **Rev. Tim.**



Christmas Recycling

Gina Beauchamp

With Christmas coming here are some ideas to recycle before and after Christmas!

- Sort out your decorations and take any unwanted ones to a charity shop.
- Sort out left over unwritten Christmas cards from last year, if you don't want to use them then a Charity shop would be glad to sell them on.
- Use last year's Christmas card front to cut up and make present labels.
- Try to find non plastic wrapping paper or alternative methods of wrapping, e.g. using brown parcel paper or even material that can be reused, tie with ribbon, wool or string.

The debate as to whether real Christmas trees are better for the environment than plastic is always ongoing. Plastic ones are not easily disposed of and chemicals are used in their manufacture, whereas real saplings are especially grown and give off more oxygen and use up more CO2 which helps the environment.

There will only be one green bin collection in December; on

Friday 11th, the next one will be on Saturday 9th January 2021. The following is from South Somerset District Council:

"Winter foliage and decorations of paper and card - especially home-made - beat plastic any day, as does a real tree unless your false one lasts for many years, and baubles that recycle - anything from buttons to old family photos.

After the celebrations, reuse and recycle all you can.

Got a lot? Drop all your recycling and rubbish off at a recycling site; except for three days - Christmas, Boxing and New Year - all are open on their usual hours.

Any food that cannot stay in the fridge or freezer can go in the food waste bin - or, if suitable, in your compost bin.

**If not in your compost bin or garden wildlife corner, this year Christmas trees must be taken to any recycling site or - if you subscribe - put out with your garden waste collection on 9th January 2021"*

Dear Editor

Beautiful journey

Have you ever travelled on the A31 from Farnham to Guildford? If so, you will have driven (or cycled?) along a section of the road called the Hog's Back. Some of the views of the surrounding panorama are quite impressive. But as most of us know, if you travel along the ridge from Curry Rivel to Wrantage on the A378, the views to the left (which is South) are really beautiful throughout the year, come sun, rain, mist or snow. But this ridgeway has no name - well not on my Ordnance Survey map. Which makes me think: if our ancestors can name mountains, hills, valleys and outcrops, why can't we do the same for those that are of particular note but are currently nameless? My suggestion would be The Swell Ridgeway because Swell Wood sits in the middle of the most beautiful section. I have no idea yet if this is either desirable or possible.

Nigel Grinsted



Christmas Lights

Sue Walsh

My brother Roy Webb is putting up his Christmas Lights at 37 Chatham Place again this year.

They are very popular and raise important money for charity. Many charities are struggling to raise funds this year because of the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Roy will be donating this year's collection to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, so come and admire the lights and support this important cause. The lights will be on from the beginning of December until the New Year from 4.30pm to 9.30pm.

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A family run 'home from home' in Langport for your dogs and cats, with plenty of space and cuddles!



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Free Mathematics Support

Curry Rivel resident, Roy Springett OBE BSc(Durham), is a retired RAF officer with over twenty years' experience tutoring mathematics.

In these difficult times, he is available to give help, free of charge, with any GCSE or 'A' level topic, question or past paper.

Email royspringett@gmail.com or call 252883 for more information.

WARNING

All the below events are subject to cancellation at short notice due to the Corona virus epidemic please contact each group for details.....Keep well, Keep safe

In December Regular Events



.....all postponed until further notice except shown....

MONDAY

- 9.45 Art Club
- 3.30 - 5.30 Messy Church (2nd only)
- 6.00 Pilates
- 6.45 Explorer Scouts

TUESDAY

- 10-12 Craft & Coffee (2nd only)
- 2.30 Forget-Me-Not-Café
- 5.45 - 8 Pilates
- 6.00 Cub Pack
- 6.30 Guides
- 6.30 Langport Youth Club
- 7.00 - 9.00 Short Mat Bowls
- 7.30 Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)
- 7.30 Tuesday Group (3rd only)

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 Mother and Baby Group
- 7.00 Line Dancing Classes
- 6.45 Scouts
- 7.30 Bell Ringing

THURSDAY

- 10.00 WI
- 2.00 - 4.00 Short Mat Bowls
- 4.30 Rainbows
- 4.30 Brownies
- 7.30 Parish Council (1st only) via ZOOM

FRIDAY

- 9.30-2 Get Together Club
- 7.30 Cinema Night

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts 01460 281184
- Rainbows 01823 698940
- Brownies 251953
- Guides 252901
- Langport Youth Club 0793 899 338

Sports Clubs

- Short Mat Bowls Club 251201
- Cricket Club 01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

- Flower Show 250311
- Out & About 252146
- Royal British Legion 01460 281115
- Twinning Association 01460 281905
- Women's Institute 259688
- Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton 252813
- PROBUS 252545
- Sedgemoor Garden Club 250091
- Heale Lane Allotment Association 741880
- Curry Rivel in Bloom 762296
- Get Together Club 251524
- Health Walks 250725
- Mother and Baby 07732 197030
- Forget-Me-Not-Café 252710 & 741606
- Inner Wheel 251940
- Tuesday Group 252657/252022

Arts

- Entertainers 250311
- Music Club 250863
- Dancing Classes 07730 755203
- Art Club 253126

Community Facilities

- Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk) 0771 6792760
- Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com) 741606
- Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com) 250655/253856
- United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc. 259391

Community Services

- Doctors 250464
- Police 101
- Yarlington Housing 01935 404500

Education

- Little Pips 252822
- Primary School 251404
- Huish Episcopi Academy 250501
- Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre 251055

Local Authorities

- Parish Council (Clerk) curryrivelparish@outlook.com 07714 510828
- District Council 0 1935 462462
- County Council 0300 123 2224

Religious

- Church of England Rector 251375
- Churchwarden 259003
- Secretary PCC 251355
- Organist & Bell Ringing 253856
- Flower Guild 252710
- Roman Catholic Church, Somerton 274008
- URC Minister 252799

Deadlines for January Edition

Advertising:	5pm Thursday 3rd December
Send to:	crn.nigel@outlook.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Tuesday 8th December
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

Do you pick up repeat prescriptions from Langport surgery? If so you can request your medicine to be delivered to Curry Rivel Post Office in the BP petrol station. When you reorder, simply ask for delivery to Curry Rivel PO (including reorders on the surgery website). The surgery delivers to the Post Office every Tuesday and Friday. And while you're in the Post Office you can pick up a cappuccino too!

Crazy Caterpillars You May Find In Your Garden

Everyone has seen beautiful butterflies like the Peacock and Painted Lady flying and flitting through the summer.

But, as we know, butterflies and moths only grow as

caterpillars when they chomp away mainly on leaves of various plants. Some caterpillars are astounding in their shapes and living habits. You could find most of these in your garden!

Lobster Moth



The Lobster Moth caterpillar feeds on the leaves of beech, oak and several other trees. Its crustacean look gave it its name. The moth is large and grey.

Puss Moth



The Puss Moth caterpillar is incredible. It feeds on the leaves of poplars and willows. The moth itself, while large, is a somewhat subdued grey.

Large Elephant Hawk Moth



It doesn't bite! The scary (to birds) Elephant Hawk moth caterpillar resembles a snake. It feeds mainly on rosebay willow-herb and fuchsia. The pink and gold moth is beautiful.

Swallowtail Butterfly



OK you won't see one in your garden today, but 200 years ago they lived on the Levels. The horn exudes a chemical to deter predators. It's UK's largest resident butterfly.

Thank you

Curry Rivel News Group would like to thank everyone for their contributions and advertisements over the last year; and we are particularly grateful for our large group of volunteer distributors. Very Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year Jane Hamlyn, Angela Edwards, John de Ronde, Mike Davis, Richard Wilkins, Rob Atkins, Hazel Morris, Nigel Grinsted and Mike Mason.

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