

February 2017



## Bee Champions Down on the Home Farm

The Bees' Needs Champions Awards, hosted at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, brings together 30 champions to celebrate bee-friendly initiatives, from playgrounds to parks and farms to famous shopping streets. Amongst those Champions are the Lang brothers, Henry and Richard who jointly run the 1000 acre Home Farm in Curry Rivel.

Over 25 years ago, Henry and Richard started to notice a decline in the biodiversity on the farm, notably a fall in the abundance of cowslips, grey partridge, skylarks, butterflies and bees. Growing up on the farm, and seeing an amazing array of wildlife as children, prompted the Lang Brothers to try to actively preserve and encourage wildlife for future generations, as Henry said, 'with some careful consideration and planning we set out to prove that it's possible to successfully run a conventional arable farm that not only maintains, but actively promotes, a healthy and thriving environment for plants and wildlife. The two don't have to be exclusive of one another'.

Apart from some old hedges, traditional farm buildings and a run-down cider orchard, there were no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), no Local Wildlife Sites and no ancient woodland. Whilst simultaneously running a profitable farming business the brothers embarked on a programme to increase biodiversity on the farm.

Over the last 25 years the following large-scale projects have been undertaken;

48kms of wild flower margins have been created around fields, 42 acres of wild flower meadows created, 46kms of traditional English hedgerow managed/restored, 15 acres (14,000 trees) of native woodland established, 3 traditional cider orchards re-planted, 7 ponds and lakes created

for wildlife, 10 acres of wild bird seed plots and lapwing and skylark plots established.

As a result, there has been a big increase in bumblebee numbers and the brothers are especially proud to have probably the rarest UK bumblebee, the Shrill Carder, thriving in the field margins. Butterflies are now abundant with the scarce Brown Hairstreak and many others colonizing the hedgerows and margins. The Home Farm is also of national importance for rare arable plants, notably the critically endangered 'Shepherd's Needle'. Large numbers of voles live in the wildflower margins, the main food source for barn owls, which has led to 74 barn owl owlets recorded by the Hawk and Owl Trust over the last 6 years.

In the future the Langs plan to establish over 8 acres of nectar flowering plot meadows to produce high levels of essential food, ensuring that the bumblebee and other pollinator numbers keep on rising, as they need all the help they can get!

### *Henry and three of the owlets 2013*



# District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

## *The Future of the Bell Hotel*

Early in January I had the opportunity to meet with the new owners of The Bell Hotel. They are extremely keen to begin work on the building as soon as possible with immediate importance focusing on the need to correct the structural issues, which are clearly affecting the property, before it truly starts falling apart. They also wish to re-roof the entire site to make it water tight so no further damage can be inflicted. Furthermore, they wish to clear the whole site of the mass of vegetation surrounding it as well as clear everything from the inside of the building to enable them to undertake a detailed structural survey. At the same time they will submit detailed drawings to SSDC.

Currently there is a café in the plans but they would like to request a change of use to a residential unit due to a café and

pub now in business in the village which weren't in existence when the original designs were put forward. It is their intention to keep the property after the renovation so the houses and flats would be for rental and not sale. They are open to private rental but would like to discuss with SSDC the possibility of renting it to them for social housing. They stressed how they wished for the project to remain part of the community even to keeping the name, The Bell, for the new properties.

Of course, with this being a Grade II listed building it will not be an easy property to repair but it is hoped with their experience and enthusiasm and full support from SSDC our village can finally have The Bell Hotel restored once again.

If you would like any further information then the owner, Tarun Agrawal, is happy for you to contact him directly on tarun\_agr@hotmail.com.

## Parish Council Shorts

### of the January meeting

Madelaine King-Oakley

#### Grant applications

The Parish Council budgets to spend £4,000 a year to give grants to community groups in the village. Applications are now discussed at the March and October meetings. A form can be found on the Curry Rivel website under the Parish Council menu. Please submit them to the Clerk (Jenny Ludgate) by the third week of the month prior to the meeting.

#### Setting the Precept

The precept was increased by £500 pounds, which will be about 20p for each household.

#### Curry Rivel in Bloom

A grant for £400 has been generously given by NISA (petrol station) for planting the war memorial. A group have been working hard to give this area a facelift and will look amazing this year. There will be the flowers popping up in new places in the village and we make it an even lovelier place to live.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7:30pm in the village hall. You are most welcome to attend.

## Grab a Grant

**N**eed new equipment?  
Have ideas to help your group but need finance?

The Parish Council will be considering applications at the March meeting.

To find out if your group can benefit visit  
[www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council/grants](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council/grants) or contact Jenny Ludgate on 01458 251432 or email [clerk@curryrivel.org.uk](mailto:clerk@curryrivel.org.uk)

The Deadline for applications by 23 February.



### Deadlines for March Edition

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<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm Tuesday 14 February
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# Growing Your Own

Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

**A**t the time of writing we are in the cold snap of early January and we, like everyone we meet it seems, are suffering from nasty colds and wondering if we will ever feel like doing a day's work in the garden again! However, hopefully by the time you are reading this we will be busy out there as there is plenty to be getting on with in February. The spring bulbs that are even now starting to appear will be above ground and the flowering snowdrops and crocuses should be a promise of things to come.

February is the last chance to tidy up borders by removing any remaining dead heads from perennials and top dressing to provide fresh nutrients. Lawns can be aerated and scarified in dry conditions before lawn sand is applied. Fruit trees can be pruned though not if there is a forecast of frost. If you haven't already started sweet peas growing in pots in the greenhouse, sow seeds now outdoors in their flowering position. The young plants from the greenhouse should also go out into their final positions now, with a head start on seeds. Now is also the time to prepare seed beds elsewhere and, as always, there is plenty of weeding to be done!

February is potato month - buy your tubers and start to sprout them in a light frost-proof area. We like first earlies like Foremost, Rocket (very quick but not quite so tasty!) or Arran Pilot for the joy of small, new potatoes. Plant them from the end of February to late March and they'll be ready to harvest in about 10 weeks from the planting date. We also plant second earlies and maincrop varieties to keep us in spuds all year round but if your space is limited we recommend going for the luxury of your own first earlies and then relying on shop-bought later on. The Sarpo series of blight-resistant maincrop varieties produce enormous crops and eliminate the risk of losing your crop to blight if we get a period of warm, damp conditions.



Early peas and beans can be sown

under glass in February - ideally outside under good clothes but also in pots in the greenhouse. Dormant overwintered plants such as fuchsias should be potted on, moved to a light position and sprayed with water to encourage growth. Prune greenhouse climbers but keep watering to a minimum and ventilate well on mild days. Seeds of many half-hardy annuals can be planted under glass this month - seed packets tell you which ones this applies to.

Our village horticultural event this year is our entry into Britain in Bloom South West. There is more about this elsewhere, but please don't forget to think purple and gold when organising your planting for the summer. The competition for the Curry Rivel in Bloom trophy 2017 is for the best frontage display in purple and gold during July - so get planning!

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## Curry Rivel in Bloom News

website: [curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com](http://curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com)

Gina Beauchamp

Only five months to go until judging begins. It's hard to imagine planting up pots and troughs for display in the summer at this time of year, but it will soon be upon us!

Following on from the interesting article in January's CRN about the monument, readers may remember that the purple and gold theme for planting comes from the colours of William Pitt's livery, and it was exactly 250 years ago this year that he came to the village to claim the Burton estate and the building of the monument was started. To help with your planting scheme there will be a plant sale of purple and gold plants in the centre of the village on Sunday 14 May, more details in future editions of the *Curry Rivel News*.

We are very grateful to Mr James Duder of County Stores, owners of the petrol station, who will be making a financial

donation towards the war memorial new planting scheme. There will be an official presentation to the Curry Rivel in Bloom group at the end of February when the petrol station will be relaunched as a BP garage. Look out for the purple crocuses planted by the Twinning Tree next to the petrol station, they should be flowering by now!

To find out more about Curry Rivel in Bloom join us for an open meeting in the village hall on **Wednesday 22 February at 7.30 in the Chatham Room**. All are welcome.

The Agenda will be as follows;

Welcome.

What is Britain in Bloom all about?

Progress so far.

What members of the community can do.

Question & Answer session. AOB.



## What do you think should happen to The Bell Hotel?

Our District Councillor, Tiffany Osborne, has interesting news about the future of the Bell Hotel on Page 2. The new owners would like it to remain part of the community. What does that mean to you? What do you think should happen to it? What new role for it would make it a valuable asset for our village. As Tiffany has pointed out the owners would welcome practical ideas and comments from villagers. You can contact them directly on: [tarun\\_agr@hotmail.com](mailto:tarun_agr@hotmail.com), or you could share your ideas by writing to [curryrivelnnews@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelnnews@gmail.com)



## Probus

The January meeting of Langport and Curry Rivel Probus Club, which was held at the Kelways Inn in Langport, enjoyed an illustrated talk by Roger Marsh on "The Coaching Age".

We were taken back to when it took five days to travel by stagecoach from London to Plymouth, with horses having to be changed every ten to fifteen miles at the many wayside coaching inns, some of which could stable 100 horses. These journeys were long, uncomfortable, and offered the possibility of meeting local highwaymen en route! And nowadays we grumble about the M5!

Probus is a mixed club for retired and semi-retired

PROfessional and BUSiness people, who miss the friendliness and fellowship of the work place. We're open to both men and women, we're non-political, non-sectarian, and are not involved in any charitable activities. We're just an easy-going bunch who enjoy a monthly get together, an interesting talk, and a nice lunch.

We would really like a few more members, so if this sounds like something you would enjoy, have a chat with our Hon. Secretary Paul Crocker on 01458 25 25 45 or have a look at the Club's web site at

[www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk](http://www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk)

# Langport & District History Society

## Minions Moor

Barry Winetrobe

The Society's first meeting of 2017 featured an illustrated talk by a regular speaker, the ever-popular Peter Stanier, on 'England's richest historical landscape: Minions Moor, Cornwall'.

Peter justified this grand claim by describing the wealth of historical and geological material within just one square mile of this part of Bodmin Moor. He has traversed this patch of Cornish moorland for many years, and has written a book on it, *The Minions Moor*, which is now in its third edition (available from St Ives Publishing). 'Minions Moor' is his own unofficial name for this area, which he hopes may eventually be formally adopted in Ordnance Survey maps! For the talk, he took us on a circular tour, starting from the village of Mionons and up to Stowes Hill, with its many fascinating features, and back.

The features of interest ranged from prehistoric remains - such as cairns, and especially notable Bronze Age stone circles, of which *The Hurlers*, and its accompanying pair of standing stone pillars, *The Pipers*, is the most spectacular - to evidence of more recent industrial activity, especially tin mining and granite quarrying.

The land on and around Stowes Hill encompassed much of this long,


rich history, especially remains of quarrying and mining, and the related infrastructure, such as various railways, pumping stations and workers' cottages. Aerial and satellite imaging showed up many of these features, including rail lines, dykes and mineshafts, not all of which would be fully understood or appreciated at ground level.

Probably the most spectacular feature of Minions Moor is the Cheesewring, a remarkable granite outcrop on Stowes Hill, which looks like a multiple layer of huge flat stones piled high. Its unique shape and structure is the result of weathering and erosion. Like many of the natural or other features of the area, the Cheesewring comes with its own myths and legends, seeking to explain their formation and possible functions. Not surprisingly, Druids are often involved in such tales.

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 February, when Rob Curtis will speak on 'Inner Sanctums'. It is free to members (annual membership is £12): non-members are welcome, admission £2; refreshments available. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, [suzannestanden471@btinternet.com](mailto:suzannestanden471@btinternet.com)). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.

  
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## Movies in the Village Hall

[mvhcurry.wix.com/films](http://mvhcurry.wix.com/films)

### Sully: Miracle on the Hudson (12A)

**Saturday 25 February**

**(not on a Friday!)**

**T**om Hanks stars as Captain Chelsey Sullenberger ("Sully") in this edge-of-seat drama based on a true story. In January 2009 Sully and First Officer Jeff Skiles set off on a US Airways flight from La Guardia airport. Three minutes into the flight both the Airbus A320's engines are disabled. Judging that they cannot reach nearby airports safely, Sully takes the decision to make an emergency landing on the River Hudson. All 155 passengers and crew survive and the press and public hail Sully a hero.

However, the experience leaves him with PTSD and he subsequently has to face an inquiry. The investigating board points to pilot error, which could end his career.

Stars: Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart and Laura Linney. Directed by Clint Eastwood.

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £7 are available at the door. Don't forget we have our new annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

*Coming soon: The Girl on the Train (Emily Blunt), Collateral Beauty (Helen Mirren, Kate Winslet), Lion (Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman) & Jackie (Natalie Portman)*



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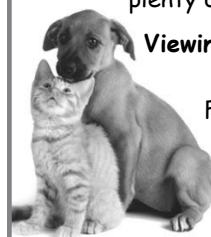
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## Butternut Squash Cottage Pie

A tasty twist on the traditional

### Ingredients

For the topping

1 medium sized butternut squash,  
peeled and the seeds removed  
30g (1oz) butter  
Pinch of ground ginger

for the filling

1tbsp olive oil  
1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed  
1 onion, peeled and roughly chopped  
2 carrots, chopped  
1 celery stick, chopped  
250g (8oz) lean beef mince  
400g tinned chopped tomatoes  
1-2tsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 fresh bay leaf  
150ml (5fl oz) vegetable stock  
1 sprig fresh rosemary  
Tabasco, to taste  
Flat-leaf parsley, roughly chopped

## READERS' RECIPES?

### Method

Heat the oven to 200°C (gas mark 6).

For the topping, cut the squash into chunks and spread on a baking tray. Drizzle lightly with oil and roast for about 25 minutes, or until tender. Mash with the butter. Add the ginger and season with a little salt and pepper.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a frying pan over a low heat and fry the garlic, onion, carrots and celery for 7-10 minutes, or until softened. Add the beef and fry until coloured, breaking up any lumps with a fork. Add the chopped tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce, bay leaf, stock and rosemary, then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 4-5 minutes until the liquid has reduced by half. Season to taste with a dash of Tabasco and salt and pepper. Stir in the parsley.

Spoon the beef mixture into a medium pie dish and top with the butternut mash. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

Serves 4

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If you can TWAM something, or if guidance on suitability would help, please contact your local representative :- Eric Richardson tel. 01458 252788 or email. [ericliz@btinternet.com](mailto:ericliz@btinternet.com)



## Big Breakfast Raises over £1000

Roger Hampton

**A** big thank you to everyone in the village for supporting the Christmas BIG Breakfast in December.

A record £776 was raised on the day, and an additional micro sponsorship of £300 was provided by sausage maker 'debbi&andrews', giving a total of £1,076 towards redecorating the 100 year old Village Hall.

The BIG Breakfast has now become a great community event, and the Committee of the Village Hall look forward to everyone's continued support in the future.

## Village Hall Winners

**T**he 200 Club draw took place at the Big Breakfast in December and £415 was shared between the following winners. £120 Mr M Harding; £75 Mrs S Hembrow; £60 Mrs K Gardener; £40 Mr M Davis; £25 Mrs A Hembrow; £17.50 Mr G Leigh ; £15.00 Mr A Cilia; £12.50 Mr J Whitehead; £10.00 each to Mr P Crocker; Mr L Lisowski; Mrs J De Ronde; Mrs L Deacon; Mrs M Osborne.

The committee would like to thank all members for their continuing support. If you would like to be in with a chance of winning units at £10 each can be purchased from Mrs Ashton on 01458 251877

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## New text number to combat rural crime - 81819

A new text service has been launched recently to help prevent and detect rural crime. Rural communities and businesses are asked to help by providing information and intelligence about suspected crime in their area. The new number will allow the public to text information directly to the Police Rural Crime Team, who will be able to assess and action the intelligence quickly and efficiently.

Inspector Joanna Mines, from the Rural Crime Team in Somerset, said: "We are trialling the number for three months. "We want to hear from anyone who has information about any suspicious or potentially criminal activity in their area, for example - details of people/ vehicles seen behaving suspiciously, potentially stolen goods or livestock being offered for sale either to the public or at markets, sightings of stolen vehicles we might put out an alert for. "No matter how small or insignificant people may think information is, it may be a vital piece of a jigsaw

that helps us fill in the gaps and either prevent a crime or bring offenders to justice. We have had real success using a text number to facilitate reporting of drink drivers in the past and we hope this will prove as effective."

Anyone can use it if they have information about rural or agricultural crime in their area, and isn't just for Watch members. The number won't be monitored 24/7 but the team will be looking at it when they are on duty, it therefore shouldn't be used for reporting crimes, or anything which requires an immediate police attendance. In those circumstances please dial 999. The new number is 81819, please text any information you believe could either help prevent or detect a crime in your area.

You can still pass on information via the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

## LANGPORT AND SOMERTON INNER WHEEL

November was our annual Charity Lunch. President Angie's charity is Freewheelers, and she was able to present our guest of honour, Rob with a substantial cheque after his short talk about their work. It was well attended and guests enjoyed spending their hard earned money on the raffle and tombola which realised a good sum for charity. Last year it also succeeded in the club gaining two new members through this lovely event.

December saw our Christmas lunch with friends and family go with a swing, with much chatter [the men were as bad as we women!] paper hats and crackers, a must for this event each year and great fun – the cracker

jokes went from one end of the tables to the other and Christmas cards were in an abundance.

Our January meeting concluded with a beetle drive, with one member now the proud owner of the booby prize!

This last year we donated to several charities, had some really interesting talks and a few outings as well as some light hearted inter club activities.

As we progress into 2017 we would like to extend an invitation to you ladies to contact our President, Angie Saunders on 01935840130 if you would like to know more about our club which meets each month in Langport.

## Get Out & Get Together



### February

3rd Visit from Def Plus and Ian Williamson - trekking tales

10th games

10th Neal Clark -

photographer of the Levels

24th games

### March

3rd games

10th Airs & Graces - singing duo

17th games

24th Malcolm Gregory - the Keyboard Man

31st games

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## Curry Rivel W.I.

With no speaker at our January meeting, we were able to spend more time catching up after a busy Christmas and New Year. At this time of the year, we also get a chance to choose which resolution we would like to go forward to the Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June. The resolutions are quite 'wordy' but the two most popular this time were on alleviating loneliness and banning microfibres in clothing. Each member gets a vote and these are forwarded on to County and then to National. The most popular one, or sometimes two, are then presented to the Annual meeting. We then debate them in more detail and tell our representative whether we want to support them or not.

On a lighter note, we all brought a photograph of ourselves as a baby, and tried to guess who they were. This proved very difficult as, not surprisingly, most of us seem to have changed beyond recognition! We have a competition every month, usually a hand-made item or an item connected with the speaker. Points are awarded and added up through the year and the winner receives a cup. The winner for 2016 was Jo Cave, who also won it last year. We finished the meeting with a Beetle Drive, which is always a lot of fun, and the winner of this was Jan Miller.

In the coming weeks we have more walks and pub lunches, our sewing group (now known as 'Needles and Natter' to include knitting, sewing, tapestry or any needles) is meeting twice a month, and we are planning more visits, especially to local places of interest.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday February 9th, in the Village Hall. The speaker is Audrey Mansfield who will be talking about 'Somerset Floods'. If this is of interest to you, come along at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email [jackiegerman@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiegerman@hotmail.com)



Jo Cave WI competition winner for the second year running

## Make money from your spare room

Find out how to do this by booking a place on a 2 hour session on **20 February at 5:30pm** in the Village Hall which will demonstrate how Airbnb and other platforms can be a brilliant way to make cash out of your spare room. The Government's Rent a Room Scheme lets you earn up to £7,500 per year tax-free from letting out a bedroom in your home. This session will show you ways you can maximise income from your home and how it can help your local community.

Somerset Business Agency, based in Langport at The Great Bow Wharf who operate on a not-for-profit basis, is running the session. They provide advice, guidance and support to individuals, micro businesses and start-ups as well as those businesses looking to grow.

The cost is £5 and you can book your place by googling

Somerset Business Agency click on Contact us and fill in the details and tell them that you would like to attend in Curry Rivel.

Eventbrite. Click on the 3<sup>rd</sup> entry (avoid the Adverts) Eventbrite, Discover Great Events and then type in "Make money out of your spare room" to buy your ticket.

Refreshments will be available. This session is being supported by your Parish Council to encourage businesses in Curry Rivel. Further information from Madelaine King-Oakley 253976



Get ready!  
Join the Litter  
Heroes of  
Curry Rivel  
during the  
weekend of  
3-5 March

Speedwatch December Results					
Date December	Location	Start (All Sessions 1 hour)	Total Vehicles	Good drivers	Number of Speeders
1st	Westfield Lane	8.00am	Cancelled due to fog		
6th	Churchway	3.00pm	522	99.0%	5
16th	Townsend	8.00am	361	97.5%	9
21st	East of Shell garage	12 noon	506	99.6%	2
<p><b>A busy month for everybody so only 4 sessions scheduled</b>  <b>Pretty good on the 21st. Well Done. But not so good along Townsend.</b>                      Anybody who would like to help keeping Curry Rivel safer                      please contact (its only an hour each month)</p>					
<p>Robert Crowley 01458 259434</p>					

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**PRESENT**

**ROBIN HOOD**

THURSDAY, FRIDAY &  
 SATURDAY

16<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup> and 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
 2017 @ 7.30pm

MATINEE ON SATURDAY AT  
 2.30pm  
 In CURRY RIVEL VLLAGE HALL

Tickets available from The  
 Firehouse in Curry Rivel;  
 Greenslade Taylor Hunt in  
 Langport and on the door  
 Tickets: Adults £6.00 and  
 Children £3.00

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# Letters to the Editor



## Litter Bins and Fly Tipping

Dear Editor

I wanted to express my interest in the litter bins that have appeared around the Village.

Great, we now have a bin by the Townsend bus stop where the children wait in the mornings, so less rubbish which was previously placed down the side of bus shelter. Lovely that we also have a bin by the Eastfield, both of which now can accept dog poo!

However, whose bright idea was it to remove the dog bin on the green at Chatham Place and replace with NOTHING??

A lovely green where children congregate and play all through the year, popular with dog walkers too. In place of a bin for the children's rubbish and dog mess there is a notice which directs people to the nearest bin by the bus stop!

You can see the problems that could occur.....

- rubbish that some may throw on the floor because of nowhere to put it
- no bin for dog mess, will people pick up after their animals and take it with them?
- infections that this could cause children and animals if left on the green
- children bringing home dog mess when they have accidentally stepped in it!

Is this a council's decision? I would be interested to know what your readers' thoughts are on this matter.

Kind Regards

Caroline Kenshole

## Christmas Lights for Charity

My brother Roy Webb decorated his house in Chatham Place with Christmas Lights again this year and raised £235.73 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and we would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and support.

Sue Walsh

Dear Editor

I'm getting sick and tired of the village becoming a dumping ground for dog mess and rubbish. As I walk around the village, increasingly I have to avoid several instances of dog mess which have been left there by irresponsible dog owners. I am not aware that we have packs of wild dogs running around Curry Rivel so it must be from domestic dogs. There are lots of notices around the village which have been displayed by SSDC in recent months reminding people to 'pick up' and there was a reminder in the CRN only 2 months ago. These reminders shouldn't really be necessary as surely this is one of the basic legal and moral responsibilities of owning a dog? Sadly, this problem has become worse over the last year. I know that the majority of dog owners are responsible and do pick up after their dogs but do you have a dog and aren't doing the decent and responsible thing?

Why do people think it's ok to dump rubbish? This afternoon whilst walking along Furlong Lane we discovered 2 old Miele washing machines plus the packaging (polystyrene, plastic and cardboard) from at least one new Miele washing machine which had been dumped at the side of the lane. I suspect that this is probably not the person who bought a new washing machine but maybe the tradesperson who fitted it and didn't want to pay disposal charges. Have you had a new Miele washing machine installed recently and 2 old ones taken away?

I don't think the Britain in Bloom judges will be very impressed if they see such things!

*Name and address supplied*

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# Bins in Chatham Place

## Reply from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear Residents

It was my bright idea, which I did raise at a Parish Council meeting, as part of the work to improve the availability of litter bins around the village. Litter bins and dog bins are emptied by South Somerset District at no cost to the Parish Council but the number is limited. I found out that we are able to put dog mess in the normal litter bins (but please, not the one outside the One Stop). So where there was a dog mess bin as well as a litter bin the dog bin has been removed (for example Parsonage Place) and a new litter bin placed somewhere else in the village. The dog bin in Chatham Place was replaced by a new litter bin by the bus shelter, which serves many more people. This is not far from Chatham Place and those residents can put dog mess and rubbish their own black bin at home.

I do agree there is a problem as the Parish Council receives complaints about rubbish from people all over the village. I wonder why rubbish has to be dropped and not disposed of correctly in a litter bin or the bin at home. There are now many more litter bins around the village catering for dog mess and rubbish. So, there is no excuse for dog owners not to pick up mess. It is not only children who step in it. I did, on the village green one dark evening, so I feel very strongly about this topic and I always pick up after my own dog.

I do apologise for any inconvenience to you and other residents. Please see below the map of where all the bins are located around our village.

With best wishes,  
Madelaine King-Oakley

## Pilates

*Mo Masrour Pilates Foundation*

*Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)*


5.45pm – 6.45pm (All levels)

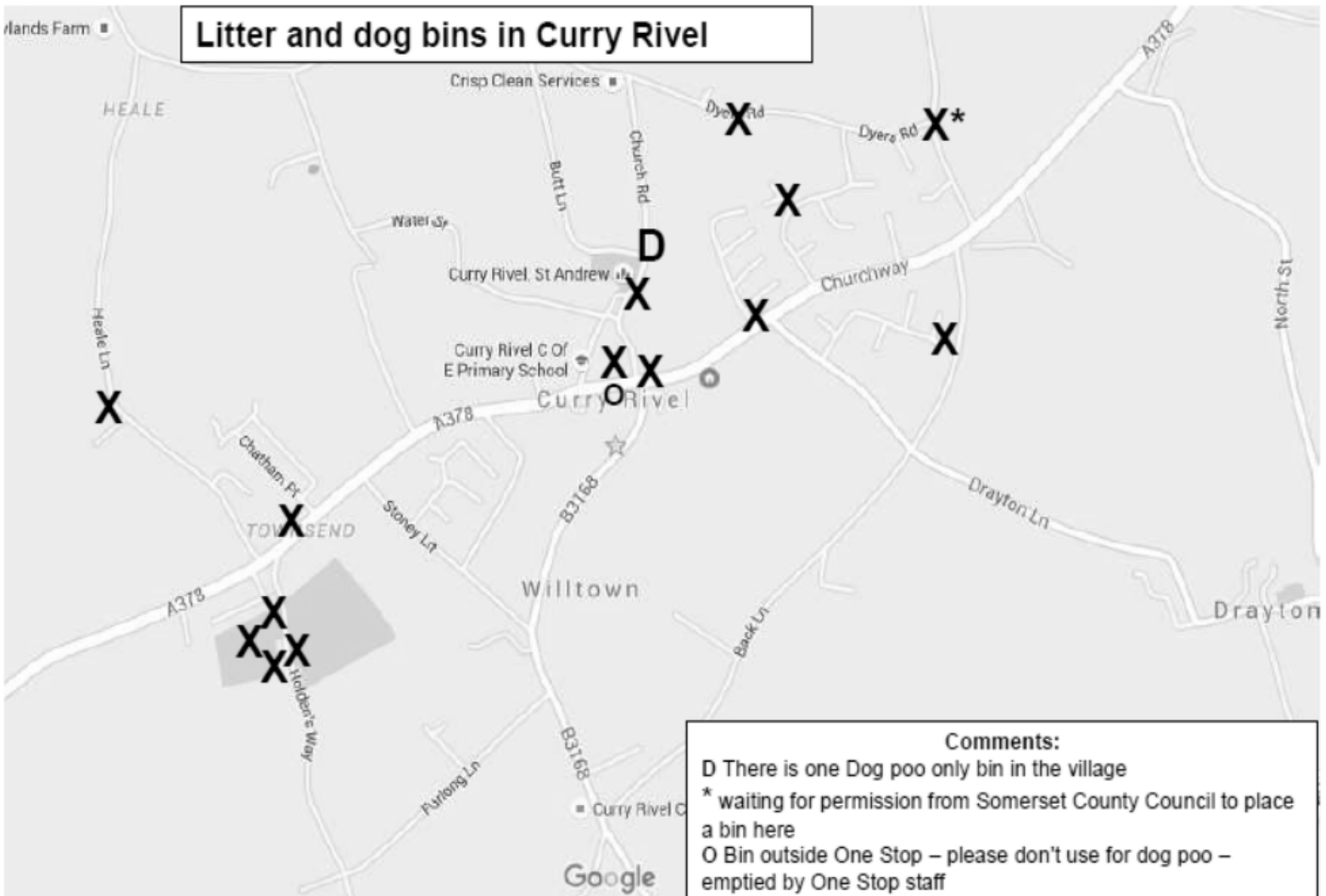
7.00pm – 8.00pm (Intermediate)

*Private sessions 1 to 1 also available*

Contact **Mo** for details on: **07815748518**

[mospilates@yahoo.com](mailto:mospilates@yahoo.com)







## St. Andrew's Church



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

### February

#### Thursday 2nd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 5th - 4th before Lent

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Worship

#### Thursday 9th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 12th - 3rd before Lent

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion

BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

6.00 pm **FH** - Evening Prayer CW

#### Tuesday 14th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

#### Thursday 16th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 19th - 2nd before Lent

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service

11.15 **CR** - Short Communion CW

#### Monday 20th

3.30-5.30 pm **CR** School Messy Church

#### Thursday 23rd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 26th - Next before Lent

9.15 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

11.00 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

### March

#### Wednesday 1st - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm **CR** - Ash Wednesday

Evening Service

#### Thursday 2nd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

**CR** = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

**CR OSR** = St. Andrew's Old School  
Room

**FH** = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

**SW** = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

## Scott's spot

### Science vs. God Brittle Shields 2



In August I wrote an article entitled 'Brittle Shields', where I listed phrases that are often repeated as reasons given to side-step the 'God issue'. "There's no proof for God", "science has disproved God", "so many different religions, they can't all be right", "all religion is brain-washing", "look at the harm done in the name of religion", etc. This month's Scott's Spot becomes 'Rector's Reasonings' again, and returns with Brittle Shields 2, that '**science has disproved God**'. Perhaps this will help...

This is one of the most common misunderstandings. The statement has its root in the idea that as scientific understanding of the universe grows, so God's place in it shrinks. So is this true?

Well no, because this idea is based on the wrong understanding that the concept of 'God' is used to explain what science hasn't yet discovered. By this way of thinking, only the gaps of scientific knowledge are explained by the works of God, and as new discoveries are made, so the role of God shrinks. Thus people start to think that science is replacing or disproving God.

But that's not what Christianity claims. Christianity does **not** claim that God is the explanation for what we **don't** understand, but rather that the existence of God is the best explanation for what we **do**.

Science is amazing and awe-inspiring, but Christians don't need to be wary of it or think of it as an enemy of faith, because actually science is not in the position to prove or disprove God. As the renowned scientist and atheist Karl Popper stated "*Science can do neither of these things.*" And yet it's amazing how many people will claim to be atheists because they 'believe in science'. If that's you, do you really think that Christians don't? Did I use a laptop to write this, or just pray it onto the page?!

So Christians don't need to be wary of science, and those who seek to set science against faith as enemies, are mistaken. Christianity and science sit in two different categories between which harmony is quite possible. Science is about the exploration and understanding of the universe around us, something that could be thought of as 'thinking God's thoughts after Him'. Science is ultimately a description of the way things are; it's concerned with the '**how**' questions.

The problem comes when people decide science can also do philosophy as well – effectively the study of '**why**'. Science deals with 'how' questions, but to say that it can answer questions like, '**why** is there something rather than nothing?' or '**why** do we love or experience beauty or have hope, or can forgive?', well these are beyond the scope of science.

One author put it this way: '*When people put their hope in science to answer everything, (or indeed as a shield against the possibility of God) they become like a young lad who thinks that his Dad could beat up everyone else's Dad, because, y'know, it's their Dad.*' Like even the toughest or coolest or brightest of Dads, science has its limits!

Science as: 'thinking God's thoughts after Him'. Writing in the Times the Oxford University Professor of Mathematics, John Lennox, expressed this position well: '*The more Isaac Newton understood of the mathematical structure of the universe, the more he admired the creative genius of God, not the less.*'

With blessings to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott Patterson

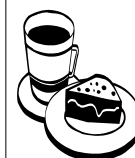
### 'Drop-In' at St. Andrew's OSR

will start again on

**Tuesday 14th February**

**10.30 - 12.00.**

Freshly baked cakes and beverages are served in a friendly & welcoming gathering of people who meet for an informal chat.



Please come and join us -  
all are welcome.

**Shrove Tuesday - 28th February**

Shrove Tuesday, or 'pancake day', is the last day before Lent, which for Christians is traditionally a time of abstinence with the purpose of practising self-discipline before God. Lent can also be a time for doing 'extra' things - perhaps putting aside more time for prayer, meditation or Bible study.



Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday as they contain fat, butter and eggs, which as 'rich foods' were once considered 'forbidden' during Lent. 'Shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive', which means 'to confess', and so on this day, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins, so that they were forgiven before the start of Lent.

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

A special annual service to celebrate this day will be held in **St. Andrew's Church**, at **2.00 pm Friday 3rd March**, with refreshments afterwards.

The theme for this year is

**'I am being unfair to you'.**

This service, which is inter-denominational, has been prepared by Christian women of The Philippines.

All are welcome - men, women, and children.

Anyone who is willing to present a reading or help with some preparations, please contact Mrs Rowan Patterson on 01458 - 251375.

**St. Andrew's Rotas February**

**Brass** - Carol Haines

**Flowers**

4th & 11th - Angela Cole

18th & 25th - Lyn Cotterill

**Cleaning**

4th - Liz Rendell

11th - Jackie & John de Ronde

18th - Nicky Barker

25th - Lynne Comley



**From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals**

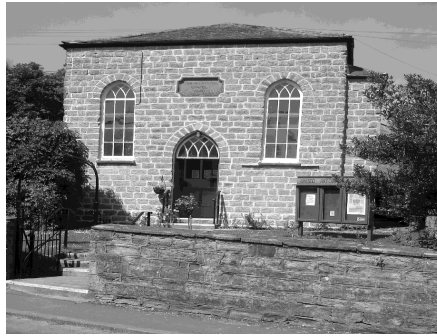
*May God grant them eternal rest.*

26th January - Funeral Service of

Mrs Tilly Isaacs

(† 4th January)

**United Reformed Church**



**February**

*(Services start at 10.30)*

**Sunday 5th** - Rev K Coles

*incl. Holy Communion*

**Sunday 12th** - Rev Rowena Francis

*Sunday School for over 3s*

**Sunday 19th** - Rev Jeff Armistead

**Sunday 26th** - Joining with

Langport URC

We are an 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. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards

01458 252799

**Children's Society**



A **huge thank you** to everyone who helped raise money for the Children's Society by collecting small change in a special collection box in their homes.

There are now 55 such boxes in Curry Rivel and Fivehead, and in 2016 an amazing £ 1,048.67 was raised. At the Christingle Service in St. Andrew's on 4th December a further £ 183.29 was raised.

If you would like to help this charity by saving your small change during the year or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Tina Geary on 01458 - 259003.

*A reminder for your diaries:*

**St. Andrew's Church fete**

*will be on*

**Saturday 8th July**



*No Pillow Talk this month.*



Foundation Stage



Our Website

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Curry Rivel



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Langport

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Memorial Masonry Service



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plan



## In February

### Regular Events

#### MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Youth Drama	Village Hall
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

#### TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

#### WEDNESDAY

6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

#### THURSDAY

10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	Village Hall (1st only)
9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group	Primary School Hall (Term time only)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall

#### FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night (not August)	Village Hall (3rd only)

### Special Events

20th Feb - 5:30 pm - Rent a Room Scheme meeting

22nd Feb - 7:30 pm - Curry Rivel in Bloom meeting

25th Feb - 7:30 pm - Film Night: Sully



### Curry Rivel -Above the Levels

your community website [curryrivel.org.uk](http://curryrivel.org.uk)

The Curry Rivel News is published monthly by the **Curry Rivel News Group** and is delivered free to households within the Parish.

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### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	252429
Brownies	253855 251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084

#### Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

#### Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251796
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	251689
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725

#### Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Youth Drama	251773

#### Community Facilities

Village Hall ( <a href="mailto:crvhbookings@gmail.com">crvhbookings@gmail.com</a> )	0751 664 2704
Old School Room Bookings	250655
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Secretary	259434

#### 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) <a href="mailto:m.ludgate@btinternet.com">m.ludgate@btinternet.com</a>	251432
District Council	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

#### Religious

Church of England Rector	251375
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwardens	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church Somerton	274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799

**Would all local organisations please submit their correct phone numbers to CRN editor to amend the above list as necessary**