

July 2016



Festival, Flowers and much more..



Open Gardens
2016



Curry Rivel LIVE Simon Champion



The storm clouds gathered but the rain held off long enough not to turn Eastfield into a Glastonbury mud bath! This festival, which grows in popularity each year, was a sell out with about 500 people passing through the gates during the day/evening.

The introduction of the additional daytime events proved to be very popular with the young and not so young, the circus workshop confirming that juggling is not that easy and the Sumo outfits for play wrestling (a big hit!). The Blue Ridge Runners were on hand to show off an array of American Classic Cars and Somerton Fire Station brought an engine along which sadly was called out moments after arriving. The addition of an outdoor acoustic stage provided a platform for musicians to play from lunchtime until the evening and as more people arrived after the football (bad timing, we know) live music on the main stage inside the marquee continued to entertain until just after midnight. All agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable festival.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success



of this year's Curry Rivel LIVE especially the village hall committee for keeping everyone going with hot and cold food during the day and evening, the Parish Council for allowing us to use Eastfield again and to everyone who was involved with setting up, running and packing down this year's festival. A small donation from the proceeds will be made to a local organisation of the Parish Council's choice.



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Parish Council Shorts

Madelaine King-Oakley & Peter Goodenough

Community Based Flood Group

Joanna Uglow from the Hills to Levels Group gave a fascinating presentation at the June meeting on the approach used to tackle flooding in Somerset. The process starts with a desktop exercise using the contour lines on a map to work out the probable direction that excess water would take as it runs off the land. However verifying the modelled data with what actually happens on the ground needs input from local people who can supply information on the actual water flow. Joanna, supported by Stewart Granger from the Somerset Drainage Board and Vanessa Dare from the Environment Agency are encouraging villagers to form a Community Flood Group.

The main purposes of the CFG would be to gather information and evidence about flooding. Please remember we are being told that increased frequency of intense weather events can be expected in the near future and we have already experienced this. To see if we can do more to slow down water flows we need local experience and help to map water flow paths. You could be helping to ameliorate flooding in your own home, or those of your friends, neighbours and family. If you have information or would like to join the Curry Rivel Community Flood Group please call Madelaine King-Oakley on 01458 253976 or email parishchair@curryrivel.org.uk or email Peter Goodenough at PWGoodenough@aol.com. Joanna would like to meet villagers who have problems or have been involved with the flooding.

For more information on the Hills to Levels Group see www.hillstolevels.co.uk

Reply to last month's letter "Call for a 20mph speed limit"

Yes, there was an accident in the High Street, but the lorry was stationary to allow a car to overtake the parked cars, but amazingly the car did not return to the correct side of the road but instead drove straight into the lorry! Would a 20mph speed limit have helped to stop that incident? We do need to accept that over the years Curry Rivel's main road has developed into an A road with narrow or no pavements

and narrow sections. Unless you remove some of the houses along the main road, which surely no-one wants, we need to work within the current road width. As mentioned by Peter Goodenough in an article last month a few councillors met with Gary Warren who works for the Somerset County Council Highways department with responsibility for all highway issues in our village to discuss our traffic problems. He said in his experience: if you remove all of the parked cars, vehicles will be driven faster. The bend and the stationary cars force drivers to slow down. Speedwatch has also had a significant effect by reducing speeds. The average number caught speeding was 10% and is now reduced to about 2%. Did you know that at least 80% of all cars recorded over the limit live within 5 miles of our village?

The Somerset Highways department are unable to reduce the speed limit to 20mph if the average speed is over 28mph because from experience it would be unenforceable. In the narrow parts the average speed is 31mph rising to 34mph at each end. For a pedestrian crossing to be installed there is a requirement of a minimum pavement width, which we do not have in the middle of the village. To put one at Westfield, again, there is a lack of pavement width and we were told that the speed of the traffic approaching that point would be too fast and therefore dangerous.

However, rumble strips have been ordered to be placed at each end of the village to slow drivers down as they approach. We could still consider having signs that flash when drivers are over the speed limit at the village entrances. There will also be discussions at future meetings about making the entrances and signs for the village more attractive and welcoming.

Next meeting

If you would like to read the minutes of the meetings or look at the agenda and planning agenda for the next meeting please look at the Curry Rivel Community website.

The Parish Council meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30pm in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you on July 7th.

The Royal British Legion

Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead Branch

The Branch supports two residential Homes in Somerset for veterans of the Armed Forces community.

The Branch holds 2 social and fund-raising events a year, starting with a curry lunch held in the spring and a cheese & wine event in summer. In addition there is an Annual General Meeting in November, to which a guest speaker is invited.

Membership costs £18 a year and is open to all adults, particularly those who have served in the Armed Forces.

To learn more about the Royal British Legion or to enquire about membership please contact Gordon Balmer, 01460 281 578 email gordon@mullcott.orangehome.co.uk or visit www.britishlegion.org.uk



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District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) has now formally taken control of the Westlands sports and leisure complex. In an agreement with Agusta Westland, which has been described as financially acceptable and of low risk, SSDC can now start the procurement exercise with contractors with the hope that the refurbished sports facilities will reopen in January 2017 and the main complex a month later providing South Somerset with a multi-million pound sport and leisure facility.

Full council voted against providing funding towards Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), who are responsible for the delivery of superfast broadband to 95% of the area. Members felt there was not enough information detailing exactly how the money would be spent. However, I feel it was an unfortunate outcome and a missed opportunity as it leaves South Somerset as the only district in Devon and

Somerset not part of the CDS project, which means our residents and businesses will now be considered lower priority when it comes to linking to faster connection.

With immediate effect, SSDC will no longer be seeking affordable housing contributions from development schemes with fewer than 11 dwellings. This means that such developments will not have to contribute to local community and leisure projects unless there is clear and robust evidence to justify an exception. Most of the development which takes place in our village involves lower number of dwellings so funding for our community areas will be affected.

I would just to thank all those involved in the organising of Curry Rivel Live and the Big Breakfast/Open Gardens who really provided a great weekend of entertainment.

Sun, Showers and Smiles

John Andrew

Rain showers and the occasional downpour failed to spoil the village **Open Gardens Day** on the Queen's Birthday in June. An estimated 400-500 visitors, including some who had travelled from as far afield as Birmingham, Bristol and the Isle of Wight enjoyed touring the fifteen gardens, allotments and wild flower meadows that were on show.

The day started in the village hall with 200 people arriving at different times for the Big Breakfast; so great was the demand that the cooks sent out for further supplies twice! Suitably fortified the visitors set out with their programmes and maps in hand to find the gardens which were easily spotted as each had its own scarecrow produced by the primary school children, much admired and praised by all. Judging the scarecrow competition was almost impossible with the Prince George creation in his little red and white outfit complete with straw hat made by Grace Gambrill just emerging as the winner, but such was the quality of the

entries that it was decided that everyone deserved a prize. Everyone spoke very highly, not only of the quality of the gardens but the variety and beauty. Unfortunately the horse drawn tour of the village was cancelled because one of the Suffolk Punch Horses went lame and visitors missed the beautiful garden at Peel Barton this year because the owner had to cancel on health grounds. As the day wore on people stopped off to refuel at the school or the two cream tea venues and if necessary ate their delicious goodies under umbrellas.

Proceeds from the day amounting to £3,200 will be shared between the Village Hall, the Primary School, St Andrew's and the United Reformed churches. But it wasn't just about the money, there was a great atmosphere around the village which was commented on by a visitor from Burnham who said, 'what a lovely friendly community'.

A big 'thank you' to the many people who contributed to making this a great day, a day that the village of Curry Rivel can be justifiably proud.

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Movies in the Village Hall

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Eddie the Eagle (PG)

Friday 15 July



Inspired by true events, the film tells the story of how Michael "Eddie" Edwards (Taron Egerton), found fame at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. Becoming the first competitor to represent Great Britain in ski jumping in decades, many counted out the unlikely, but courageous British sportsman who never stopped believing in himself. With the help of a rebellious and charismatic coach (played by Hugh Jackman), Eddie takes on the establishment and wins the hearts of sports fans around the world by making an improbable and historic showing at the Winter Olympics. A feel-good film about a loveable underdog with a never-say-die attitude.

Stars: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman, Christopher Walken and Tim McInnerny

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £6 are available at the door.

Movies in the Village Hall will be taking a break in August but we'll be back in September for the new season.

Scouting for Boys, Girls and Adults

The Levels Scout Group was formed in 2006 with the merger of the Langport and Curry Rivel Scout Groups. It covers an area centred on Langport, based at the Scout Hut in Bonds Pool, and comprises: Beaver Colony (6 – 8 years), the Cub Pack (8 – 10 years), the Scout Troop (10 – 14 years), the Explorer Scout Unit (14 – 18 years). All sections are open to boys and girls. Although there are trained Scout Leaders for each section, all sections would really welcome additional adult leader help on a regular basis. Helpers require DBS (CRB) clearance and would be provided with the necessary training. Sections meet once a week in term time with occasional weekend and holiday activities, such as camps.

If you are interested in finding out more about helping with any of the sections or Scouting in general, please contact Group Scout Leader James Benton on 01460 281184 or by email jimbenton@btinternet.com

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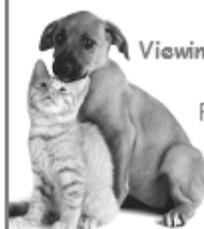
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LANGPORT & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Wellington and its Dukedom

Barry Winetrobe

The June meeting of the History Society at Langport Library featured a talk by Colin Spackman, Hon Curator of the Wellington Museum, on 'Wellington and its Dukedom'.

He noted that the true relationship between the Somerset town and the Dukedom, especially its illustrious first Duke, was not well known. He traced the family line back to its Anglo-Irish roots, and the gradual development from the Wesleys and Colleys, to the name change in 1798 to 'Wellesley'; described Arthur Wellesley's military career during the French Wars, culminating in the victory at Waterloo in 1815, and explained his rise through the peerage from a viscountcy in 1809 to a dukedom in 1814.

When the state wanted to ennoble Wellesley (then still abroad in the Peninsular War), they sought the advice of one of his brothers, who looked at gazetteers for a territorial name close to the 'Wellesley' family name, and alighted on Wellington in Somerset. Arthur was happy with this choice, though his wife, it seems, was not. In 1813, lands near Wellington, including two manors (Wellington Landside and Wellington Borough) were purchased for him from huge grants given to him by a grateful nation.

Despite these close associations, it is said that the 'Iron Duke' only visited the town and his estate once, in 1819. The Duke's Estate gradually sold off its Wellington estates (they were a relatively minor part of its landholdings), so are no longer 'lords of the manor'.

The later Dukes, up to the present day, have visited the town on various occasions, and they have contributed to its facilities. The first Duke paid for the 'Old Town Hall Market' building in 1833, and his successors have had close associations with the town's schools.

Colin then outlined the sorry tale of the Wellington Monument, devised shortly after the first Duke's death in 1852, and the financial and other difficulties in its construction, maintenance and repair over the decades to this day. He concluded by describing the relatively few commemorations to the Dukes of Wellington in the town, such as street and estate names.

The Society's regular monthly talks programme is now taking its summer break, and will return on Monday 5 September 2016 when Janet Few will speak on Ducking Stools, Dissenters, Debtors and Drunks: crime and punishment in the seventeenth century. It is free to members (annual membership of £12 is due in September): non-members are welcome; admission £2, including refreshments. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com).

READERS' RECIPES

Tuna Bean Salad

High in protein, low in calories this Niçoise type salad serves two

Ingredients

100g green beans, halved
2 eggs
400g tin mixed beans, drained and rinsed
100g cherry tomatoes, halved
4 spring onions, thinly sliced
160g tin tuna steak in water, drained

For the dressing

1 tbspn extra virgin olive oil
1 tspn red wine vinegar
1 tspn Dijon mustard
freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Cook the green beans in a pan of boiling water for 4 minutes. Plunge them into a bowl of very cold water.
2. Cook the eggs in a pan of boiling water for 8 minutes. Drain in a sieve under cold running water until cold. Peel and cut the eggs into quarters.
3. For the dressing, whisk the oil, vinegar and mustard in a large bowl until thick. Season with black pepper.
4. Add the green beans, mixed beans, cherry tomatoes and spring onions to the dressing and mix. Flake the tuna on top and add the hard-boiled eggs. Season with black pepper.



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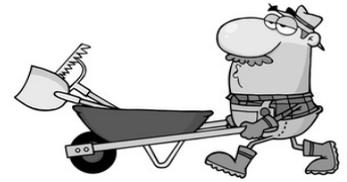
Peter and Sylvia Goodenough

As we write this column it's the day after Open Gardens and we are still recovering, but what a success again! John Andrew did a brilliant job as co-ordinator and so did all those involved in so many different ways. We thoroughly enjoyed the day - we surely speak for all garden owners when we say it's so nice to hear people appreciating the efforts we make in our gardens - it makes all the extra weeding worthwhile! And amazingly our *Geranium maderense* actually came into flower on the day!

But the work continues and early flowering herbaceous plants will need to be cut back and dead heading of these and of annuals grown from seed is vital to extend flowering. Watch out for any fungal infections and burn any infected material. Plants such as dahlias, chrysanths and gladioli will be growing fast and stems need support; disbud some stems to get longer stems and better flowers. With chrysanths, if you can bear to do so, reduce the number of shoots per plant to five, except pompom and spray types. A balanced feed in the middle of the month will be advantageous too. Sweet peas need feeding with liquid feed up to three times this month and tendrils should be pinched out as you tie them in for support. Biennials such as wallflowers and sweet william can be sown in their flowering position, ready for next year.

There should be soft fruit to pick and enjoy, and heavily cropping branches of apples, pears and plums may need support, as well as thinning of the fruit. Prune fruit trees after picking, and cut down old raspberry canes after the fruit has gone, removing weak new shoots as you go. Tidy strawberry beds and throw away plants that have given three crops - replace them with runners that you potted up previously.

By July we hope to be harvesting lots of crops - excess peas and beans of all types can be blanched and frozen, whereas root vegetables are best left in the ground until you're ready to eat them. By the end of the month you may be lucky enough to experience the unbeatable taste sensation of sweet corn on your plate minutes after picking - it doesn't get much better than this! Complete planting out of winter vegetables and carry on pinching outside shoots of tomato plants. Water shallow-rooted crops and start to lift and store onions. If you are off on holiday cut the lawn before you go, check plant ties and leave the hose ready for your kind neighbour to use to water for you if necessary. Ask them nicely to pick over your sweet peas and vegetables for you - remember to bring them back a little something as a 'thank you'!



Community Website

A reminder to village organisations wishing to list information on the village website, please supply club details to the webmaster@curryrivel.org.uk or by letter to Tony Greenaway, Edenhurst, 5 Dyers Close Curry Rivel TA10 0PX. An electronic form can be obtained on request.

Name of your group/organisation

A short description of your group's purpose and activities
(no more than 100 words)

If meeting regularly please provide day of week and time of meeting Venue

Contact details - telephone, email, website

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The Bells of St. Andrew's

Patrick Rendell

It is well over a hundred years since the rebuilding of our church tower was completed, and three new bells were cast at the famous bell foundry at Loughborough, making a full musical octave with the five old existing bells. They have rung out over the village for many special occasions as well as regular Sunday services and practice nights, but slowly the moving parts became worn, and the ironwork of the frame corroded.

Thanks to a generous legacy from a former ringer at St. Andrew's, a major project has taken place during this past year to restore the frame, weatherproof the tower, and replace or refurbish the bearings and other moving parts. The work was completed by Taylors of Loughborough, the very foundry which cast those bells and hung them in the tower all those years ago, and just in time for the Queen's birthday celebration weekend, so on Sunday 12th June a Quarter Peal was rung in the Queen's honour following the morning service.

12,060 changes of Grandsire triples were rung by; Tricia Everitt, Jeremy Taylor, Trish Cox, Liz Rendell, Chris Cox, Paul Raymond, Patrick Rendell (conductor), Mike Hargreaves, taking 50 minutes to complete.



This photograph dated around 1903 shows St Andrew's Church and a group of village children carefully arranged on the grass in front. The Green, as we know it today, was an unmanaged dusty crossroads at the centre of the village. It is now the verdant venue for St Andrew's Church Fête which takes place on Saturday 2 July this year. Our thanks to Richard Hewitt, *Curry Rivel News* reader from Bath, for sharing this nostalgic view of the past.

There was a good response to the competition and our judge, Stephen Fox, principal horticultural officer for SSDC with particular involvement in Yeovil's entries in the Britain in Bloom competition, thought the standard was very high. It was great to see so much red, white and blue throughout the village. Stephen followed Yeovil in Bloom judging guidelines and found three entries got the same high number of points. But overall winner was Linda Dodimead of Westfield whose entry depicting a part of the union jack particularly impressed. Laraine Hayes of Stanchester Way and Gloria and John Andrew of Abbey Close were the two runners up; Stephen particularly liked their use of perennials complemented by annuals in their displays. We held an "awards ceremony" in late June, at which Linda was presented with the new Curry Rivel in Bloom trophy and a



garden voucher for £25. The runners up received £5 vouchers and all three got lots of well-deserved praise.

There is a colour scheme theme for Britain in Bloom each year, and we will publish the 2017 theme as soon as we get to know it so we can all plan our front gardens accordingly, ready for the village competition and our debutante entry in next year's Britain in Bloom South West.

Our next initiative is the improvement of the garden around the War Memorial, and we invite you to come up with a planting plan for this area. Thanks to the Parish Council for providing funding for the plan. We look forward to your suggestions, which need to reach the Group (email smgoodenough@aol.com) by the end of August.

Flowers, Walking and a New Programme

The speaker for our June meeting was Neil Lovesey from Picket Lane Nursery in South Perrott. He said that gardening requires planning, patience, vision but most of all, to do the job properly, understanding. We have to understand the habits and needs of the plants to get the best out of them. His theme was '12 months of Colour' and he first of all explained that he sells far more of his plants when they are in flower, so he has found all sorts of ways of extending the flowering time. These range from successive planting to the infamous 'Chelsea Chop' (chopping back half or more of the flower buds to delay flowering). Placing the same plants in different parts of the garden will often mean that they flower at different times because they are in a different micro climate. Lastly, if you can, try and visit a small nursery each month for a year and choose what looks best each time of your visit. That way you will have some plants in flower in your garden at all times of the year. It was a fascinating talk with lots of ideas for all of us to take away.

We now have a new programme for the coming year with lots of exciting events coming up. Our new walking group is very popular, Langport last month and starting at the Willow and Wetlands Centre in June. Garden visits continue, the next one is a relatively new garden in Moorland and was completely under water for three weeks in 2014. It has recovered well

and we are looking forward to a private viewing and tea and cake, of course!

In July we have the first of two visits to Clarks Shoe Museum and also a visit to 'For Every Cloud' (a creative venue in Langport) for a look behind the scenes with the owner Donna Vale. She runs a variety of workshops and sells a wide range of materials and hand crafted items.

This month one of our members has been representing us in Brighton at the WI National AGM, where they voted in favour of both the resolutions on Food Waste and Dementia Care. We are looking forward to hearing all about it and what really went on, when we meet in July.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th July in the Village Hall and our speaker will be Capt. Debra Oughton who will be talking about the Work of the Salvation Army. If that's something that interests you, then come along and join in, 9.45am for a 10.00am start and find out more about us. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email jackiegerman@hotmail.com

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The Big Summer Concert

Patrick Rendell

For a number of years now, the choir of St. Andrew's has presented a summer concert at the end of July, before taking a brief summer break. In recent times, the Benefice Singers, and the St. Andrew's Strings have joined in, as well as some talented young soloists.

This year, the "Big Summer Concert" will take place on Saturday 30th July at 7pm in St. Andrew's church.

Music from Tallis to Elgar, for voices and strings, and a performance of Handel's popular organ concerto "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale"

No tickets needed, as entry is free, but there will be a raffle

and wine following the concert, and a retiring collection for the Taunton Homeless Association.

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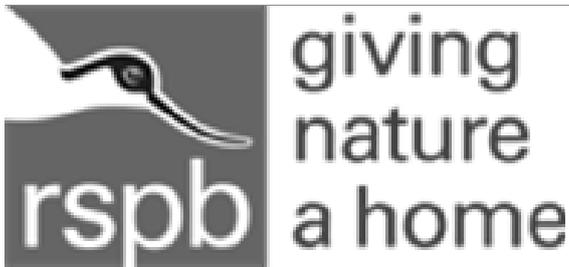
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Michael Wilson

Summer is a great time of the year to be in Somerset. The meadows are a blaze of color and are alive with the sound of insects. Our Greylake and Ham Wall reserves are alive with dragonflies and damselflies and there is a good chance of seeing grass snakes as they swim across open water in search of a frog or toad to eat. Look out for marsh harriers as they hunt across the reedbeds and at Ham Wall you may be lucky enough to get a glimpse of the ever elusive bittern whilst your walk may be accompanied by a chorus of Iberian water frogs. If this has whetted your appetite then why not join one of our great summer July events and get up close and personal with some of Somerset's amazing wildlife.

Steel Suffolks Horse-drawn Safari

West Sedgemoor Saturday 2 July Safaris at 11 am and 2 pm Adult £12, Child £8

Join the RSPB and Steel Suffolks on National Meadows Day for an exciting horse-drawn trip around West Sedgemoor.

This is a truly special way to explore parts of West Sedgemoor not normally open to the public and to witness the reserve in its full summer glory. RSPB guides will be on hand to tell you more about the unique history of the area and to point out some of the amazing wildlife that lives there.

Booking essential Payable in advance Email: west.sedgemoor@rspb.org.uk Tel: 07774 620879

Dragonflies and Butterflies

West Sedgemoor - Saturday 9 July Greylake - Saturday 16 July 11 am-1 pm £5 adult, £3 child

Explore the fascinating worlds of dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies and discover some of the different species that call the Somerset Levels and Moors their home.

Booking essential Email: west.sedgemoor@rspb.org.uk Tel: 07774 620879

Mini-beast Safari at Greylake Thursday 28 July & Tuesday 9 August 11 am-12.30 pm £3 per child

Come on a morning bug hunt to find out what is lurking in the undergrowth and explore the hidden world of everything that crawls, slithers and buzzes.

No booking required Meet in the Greylake car park.

Binocular and Telescope Day Ham Wall Saturday 30 July and Saturday 27 August

Time for a new pair of binoculars? Head down to Ham Wall nature reserve to meet knowledgeable experts for advice and information on the product range. Drop in anytime between 10 am and 4 pm. Free event

Where's Ed to?

After spending 16 days sharing the road with a couple of German cyclists, Ed is back on his own heading towards Bishkek from where he will continue on his world tour towards China. The weather has improved although he is still having problems with the cycle hub and broken spokes but there are clearly compensations when your lunch stop has this spectacular scenery!



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Letters to the Editor



More Head-On Collisions?

I strongly agree with Maurice Powell that there should be a 20mph speed limit imposed on the A378, passing through our village centre, from the King William to the Bell Hotel. I have said publicly and privately that it was only a matter of time before a head-on collision happened. Many residents have agreed with me. I have witnessed over and over again, in the village centre, when on SpeedWatch duty or just as a pedestrian, drivers of vehicles, travelling West and East at totally inappropriate speeds, (not necessarily more than 30mph), often having to proceed on the 'wrong side of the road', if travelling west, refusing to give way to traffic proceeding east towards them. (And sometimes vice versa) As Maurice Powell states, the safety of our children and, indeed, all pedestrians is paramount. It is incumbent on us all, including public agencies e.g. the Police, the Highways Authority to ensure that our highways (which includes pavements) are kept safe. Waiting for the statutory two deaths to occur, before anyone 'gets off their back side' to do something, to me, is unacceptable. I appreciated the invitation to join the recent meeting of Parish Councillors and the representative from Highways, as

reported in the June issue of CRN. I was amazed and annoyed that nothing much could be done to improve road safety on this A road through our village. The quoting of bureaucratic regulations, the importance of enabling all traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles, to proceed without hindrance, I found, quite frankly, pathetic. The very minor works agreed (see CRN June) are not, in my view, anywhere near sufficient. We need to do better than this. May I ask CRN readers, who agree with Maurice Powell and myself to write to the Parish Council Clerk and/or attend Parish Council meetings, expressing their views? I hope that, despite this recent meeting, agreement will be reached by the Council to impose very strong pressure on these public agencies to take this matter seriously and take appropriate measures to remove the very real hazards that exist. If the straight road in Langport can be designated a 20 mph road, why not on a shorter distance in the centre of Curry Rivel, having a blind bend and narrower access, owing to parked cars? Logic is, clearly, absent.

Yours truly,

Robert Crowley, Coordinator Curry Rivel Speedwatch

Plant Sale 2016

Despite the uncertain weather we had excellent support for our Plant Sale in May, and raised the sum of £500 which has been donated, half to the Royal British Legion and half to the Village Hall. A big thank you must go to all those who helped us, the plant providers, the scene shifters, the coffee makers, the raffle prize providers, the money takers and, above all, to those who came and bought the plants. We are still selling plants that were left, and that money will go to the Open Gardens Fund. After twelve years we have had to conclude that this is our last sale, but if anyone would like to take it over we would be pleased to help and to provide plants. Our thanks to everyone for such loyal support over the years

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Local Writers' Group

Jane Hamlin

The Bow Wharf Writers Group, which includes members from Curry Rivel, was established a few years ago by some budding writers who originally used to meet at the Great Bow Wharf in Langport. Now they meet further along the road at Art Tea Zen in Cheapside or in each other's homes. The group does include published authors, but the most important criteria for membership are an enjoyment of writing and a willingness to help other writers with positive feedback to their fledgling stories and poems.

On Friday 8th July the group will be holding its annual *A Way With Words* at Art Tea Zen starting at 7pm. This is an opportunity for all creative writers to read their poetry or prose to an appreciative audience or just to enjoy listening to the work of others. If you are interested contact Julia (email: jubelgae@gmail.com or phone: 07808 761416) to book your 5 minute slot, or for more information. Admission is free and there is a bar and light refreshments available. Everyone is welcome.

Curry Rivel's Natural Health Service

Have you seen a hedgehog lately?

How healthy is Curry Rivel's natural environment? What makes the village a good place to live? Our parish is blessed with amazing natural surroundings, with sites of county, national and even international significance, which make the village an interesting, stimulating and relaxing place to live. We would like to find out more about what's around us, and we are inviting you to join in our search.

We are a group of villagers who are interested in the natural environment. We don't have a group name yet, but here are some of the things that we would like to do:

- Map what is around us
- Provide information to help with responses to planning applications
- Share our local knowledge

And here are some of the ways that we will do that:

- Put a map on the Curry Rivel website, showing where the interesting plants and animals are
- Ask people in the village to use their eyes and ears to help
- Explore links with the Somerset Wildlife Trust

We are starting by focussing on hedgehogs. Do they occur in our parish? Are they increasing or decreasing in number? Please help us start by sending details of any sightings, alive or dead, in Curry Rivel parish in June or July, with the place and time, to David German at davidgerman555@gmail.com.

For more information on joining the group call Catherine Mowat or Matt Geen on 01458 250655 or David German on 259688



Foundation Stage

Little Pips

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curryrivelpriamary.somerset.org.uk

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In July

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
5.45-8	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Youth Club	Ridgway 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

2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
6.00	Youth Club	Village Hall
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)

FRIDAY

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

Special Events

Sat 2nd	2 - 4 pm	St Andrew's Church Fête, The Green
Sat 30th	7.00	Big Summer Concert St Andrew's

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	252813
Extreme Youth Club	251773
Langport Youth Club	07930 899 338
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	251078
Royal British Legion	251796
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	251689
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	253953
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	(crvhbookings@gmail.com)	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)	(m.ludgate@btinternet.com)	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

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St. Andrew's Church



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

July

Saturday 2nd

2.00 - 4.30pm Church fete - CR Green

Sunday 3rd

10.00 **FH** - All Age/Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00pm **CR** - Post-fete

Songs of Praise

Thursday 7th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

6.00pm **FH** - Evening Prayer

Monday 11th

3.30-5.30 pm CR School Messy Church

Tuesday 12th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Thursday 14th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 17th

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age/Family Worship

11.15 **CR** - Short Communion CW

Tuesday 19th

2.30pm **CR** - School Leavers' Service

Thursday 21st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th

9.30 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

6.00 pm **SW** - Evening Prayer/

Evensong BCP

Tuesday 26th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

2.45pm **Immacolata House**

- Residents' Communion

Thursday 28th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

*Message from the
Bishop of Taunton,
Rt Revd Ruth*



The End . . .

The end is in sight! No, I'm not talking about the EU referendum result (whatever that is – at time of writing this, we haven't yet had the referendum!), I'm talking about the end of school term and the long summer holiday period beckoning our children and young people to put the cares of exams aside.

I remember those school holidays as seemingly endless days of sun and relaxation. Building tents in the garden around the swing and sleeping out. Packing up picnics and fishing for tiddlers in the local stream. Halcyon days! But of course, it wasn't really like that. Well, not all the time...

We often look back with rose-tinted specs, remembering the golden days nostalgically when life was good and there were happy endings. Those of us who have been vicars know that it was always our predecessor who got it right and rarely ourselves! But why not make the most of those opportunities today, when the sun is shining and all is well in the world, to celebrate and give thanks to God for his goodness in the here and now?

We all need to take time to stop and view, to catch our breath and acknowledge the graces of God in our lives. To mark a 'holy day'. little more fun, relaxation and play would do us all good and help us regain strength, energy and vigour for the tasks ahead.

So let's encourage our children or grandchildren to enjoy their 'hol(y) days' - and let's join in ourselves!

+ Ruth Taunton

July ctd . . .

Saturday 30th

7.00pm **CR** - Big Summer Concert

Sunday 31st

10.00 **SW** - United Benefice

All Age/Family Communion CW

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

St. Andrew's Church Fete

Saturday 2nd July

2.00 - 4.30 pm

on the Green

Flower display in the

Church, also

Sunday 3rd July

2.00 - 5.00 pm

St. Andrew's Songs of Praise

Sunday 3rd July 6.00 pm

Come and celebrate the end of the fete weekend when a selection of favourite hymns will be sung.

St. Andrew's Big Summer Concert

Saturday 30th July 7.00 pm

A concert with a variety of music, performed by the Benefice Singers, with St. Andrew's Strings and some talented young soloists.

No tickets needed - free entry - retiring collection for Taunton Homeless.

See elsewhere in this month's issue of the CRN for more details.

St. Andrew's - Rotas July

Brass - Lynne Comley

Flowers

2nd - fete

9th & 16th - Sue Randell

23rd & 30th - Madelaine King-Oakley

Cleaning

2nd - fete

9th - Nancy & Olive Martell

16th - Liz Rendell

23rd - Jackie & John de Ronde

30th - Joan Squires

From the Registers

Weddings

*We wish them God's blessing
at the start of married life.*

4th June - Rowena Jones

and Tom Cazalet

11th June - Elizabeth Hutchinson

and Laurence Fox

18th June - Kate Macey

and Ed Rosa

Baptisms

We welcome into God's church

31st January - Rosie Mary Sylvia Canvin

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

31st May - Funeral of

Mrs June Ivy Emily Gravestock

(+ 16th May)

We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all, wherever they are on their spiritual/life journey, without regard to age, denominational background, sexual orientation, ability or race.

We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static prepositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving.

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



June

(Services start at 10.30 am)

Sunday 3rd - at Glastonbury URC, with all the Mid-Somerset Group churches

Sunday 10th - Mrs Glynis Allinson (including Sunday School for over 3s)

Sunday 17th - Rev Tim Richards

Sunday 24th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 31st - Rev Jeff Armistead

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799



continued...

I remember them and am sad they are not there anymore. There exists an element of disappointment- after such hard work and a wonderful job – what was I expecting? I think I was hoping for the rediscovering of my own ‘heligan’ forgetting how stripped bare, taken back to the bare bones those wonderful gardens were; they were not discovered in the glorious state we can now enjoy them in – it took years of effort, encouragement and nurturing of new growth to reclaim them fully.

Life can be a bit like the stripping back of an overgrown garden, pared back to the bare essentials, left with what might feel like ‘empty spaces’ where once there was something and where there is yet to be new growth. We are heading toward an empty space as we say goodbye to primary school and ‘big’ school sits looming on the horizon – the summer vacation will be a time of letting go of one way of being and a waiting for the new to come. Hard to sit with just the bare earth and not race ahead with questions and expectations of how it will be come September.

It can be hard to sit with the bare earth of our experience at any time: I am encouraged when I choose to remember out of chaos and darkness universal life sparked; unless a seed ‘die’ and germinate in darkness under the ground nothing will grow; a caterpillar cocoons itself awaiting metamorphosis in the dark before emerging a ‘changed’ and beautiful butterfly: human life is nurtured in the dark embrace of the womb; day follows night just as springtime follows winter. Trust; trust and wait and see.

The empty spaces of my garden will be filled with new planting; the goodbye to the old and familiar will become hello to the new and exciting (even if a little daunting); it’s the way of Life. And if you believe as I do God is Life then we can know God in every aspect of our experiencing and know nothing (even the dark, bare times) remains the same.

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I’ve been contemplating our garden: with inspiring images from Chelsea Flower Show, the approach of Curry Rivel Open Gardens and the glorious abundance of early summer in the lane hedgerows and on the levels of Somerset I’ve been gazing out across our own parcel of greenery. A number of years’ worth of rampant bramble growth, ivy and chick weed have hidden our ‘garden’ from sight and it needs reclaiming: 2 strong men, 3 days, strimmers, loppers, forks & spades, licenced chemicals, 6 loads carted away for burning and the job is done.

And oh my! What a difference! There is brown earth everywhere, large empty ‘gaps’, nothing much more than trees – the gooseberry bush no longer exists, a couple of rose bushes so tangled with brambles have gone the way of the brambles, sage, thyme, ladies mantle all disappeared.

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Open Gardens
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