

September 2017



*Flower Show*



# District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

## Gold Star Awards

Now in its eleventh year SSDC's Gold Star Awards will take place at the Octagon Theatre in October. Showcasing talented, caring and hardworking young people, as well as the volunteers who enable them to reach their full potential, the event both acknowledges and celebrates the hours of commitment given and aims to inspire other young people and volunteers by showing what a difference they can make to their communities.

If you know anyone who gives so much to our community then please nominate them – without these dedicated volunteers, coaches and young people many of the rural villages would not have the clubs, facilities and activities that are so integral to our communities. This event is about giving

something back to these people as well as sharing some remarkably inspirational stories.

Go to [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/goldstars](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/goldstars) for more information and the nomination categories.

## The King Willy

The planning application to convert the King William pub and car park into dwellings was deferred at the Area North committee. This will now give the community time to raise the appropriate funds required to purchase the pub. If funds cannot be raised then the application will be sent back to committee in December to be discussed and a decision made on whether to refuse or approve the plans will be taken.

# Monument's Birthday Enjoyed by Hundreds

Laurina Deacon

To celebrate the Monument's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, Tim Schroder owner of the Burton Pynsent estate agreed to an open day suggested by *Curry Rivel News* reader Richard Hewitt. The day dawned bright and sunny and from 11 o'clock in the morning a steady stream of people came to climb the tower on Troy Hill which was built by William Pitt, Earl of Chatham in memory of William Pynsent who had willed his entire estate to a man he had never met.

Tim and his wife were kept busy all day making sure that no more than ten people at a time climbed the spiral staircase to the top to enjoy a perfectly clear view of the Somerset Levels, the Wellington Monument, the Quantocks, Exmoor and South Wales.

Such was the interest that there was still a queue at 4 o'clock, closing time, when Tim was forced to turn people away with a promise that the Monument would be opened again in the future. Thanks are due to Tim for sweeping the accumulated debris from the steps and giving more than 200 people the opportunity to enjoy this experience.



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## Deadlines for September Edition

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<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm Tuesday 19 September
<b>Send to:</b>	<a href="mailto:curryrivelnews@gmail.com">curryrivelnews@gmail.com</a>

# Growing Your Own

Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

September - the start of meteorological autumn and the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" These days September still often seems a month of high summer, and if we keep deadheading and cutting back summer flowering plants they should continue to provide us with colour for some while yet. However, the "fruitfulness" is all around us - there's lots of produce in gardens, not forgetting the blackberry harvest in the hedgerows! We experimented with growing butternut squash for the first time this year and the plants have gone completely mad! Quite triffid-like, they have taken over a large section of the kitchen garden and even started to climb up the runner bean netting, on top of the bean plants! We ate the first one in a risotto and were very impressed with the creamy texture and taste, so they can stay, though they will have to be restricted.

Some varieties of apples are ripe for picking now and any excess can be stored carefully - we find wrapping each fruit separately in newspaper and then keeping them in well ventilated crates usually works well and is worth the time it takes. To store well they do need to be perfect - any with bruises or other damage can be frozen sliced or stewed (we always add some mixed spice to give a bit of extra flavour) and they are great for crumbles and pies later in the year. Autumn raspberries, loganberries, apples, plum etc. can also be harvested now, and there are plenty of vegetables still in season - sweet corn, tomatoes, courgettes, carrots, marrows and runner beans being favourites - and now including butternut squash!

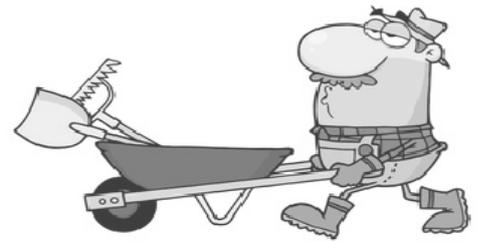
However, as well as reaping the rewards of this year's work, we must also start looking ahead to next year. Daffodils are one of the early signs of spring, and they need to be planted later this month - wait until the soil has cooled a little to lessen the risk of rotting. Evergreen shrubs can be planted towards the end of the month so long as there has been recent rain and ground can be prepared for

planting shrubs and trees in October.

Many hardy annuals for next year's displays can be sown directly into their flowering position; these include alyssum, marigolds, cornflowers, convolvulus, delphiniums, eschscholzia, candytuft, Love-in-the-mist and poppies. For spring lettuce to overwinter without protection sow 'Arctic King' or 'Winter Density' in trays, ready to set out in early October.

Finally don't forget to prepare a few bowls of hyacinths and amaryllis (or more correctly, Hippeastrum) at the end of the month, ready to provide you with flowers and scent at Christmas and in the New Year!

If you have read to here and gardening is something you enjoy, how about joining Sedgemoor Gardens Club to meet up with like-minded people once a month? There's always a chance to chat and exchange tips, we always have an interesting speaker, and there are monthly competitions to take part in. Check us out on our website [sedgemoorgardens.simplesite.com](http://sedgemoorgardens.simplesite.com) and/or come along to All Saints Hall in Langport on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We hope to see you there!



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## Flower Show 2017

Once again Curry Rivel's green fingered and culinary experts pulled out all the stops to provide a dazzling array of fruit, flowers and veg at the annual Flower Show. Winning the silver ware this year were.....

Maurice Munn – exhibitor with the highest total points in the Vegetable section - Neville Monk Perpetual Cup

Neta Chorley – exhibitor with the highest total points in the Flower section – George Woodrow Perpetual Cup

William Warren – Orchid Cup

Naomi Powell– exhibitor with the highest points in the Fruit Section – Mike Fussell Perpetual Cup

Lynn Lang – exhibitor with the highest points in the Home-Made Cakes, Jellies, Jams, section – Pemberton Perpetual Challenge Cup

Jane Chapman– winner in the Painting Section – Anne Hembrow Perpetual Cup

Isobel Fisher– awarded to the child judged to be the overall winner in the Children's Section - United Reformed Church Perpetual Cup

Scott Fisher– Photography Section - Curry Rivel News Cup

Thomas Jennings - Men Only Cup

Tracy Hartland– exhibitor with the highest points in the Decorative Section – Derek Annetts Perpetual Cup

Children's Section – a prize of £5 each to Isobel Fisher and Josephine Lock joint winners

Louisa Wild -Top Tray section

Annette Stein - Top Vase section

## Forget-Me-Not Café

The first meeting of the 'Forget Me Not' Memory Café at the Village Hall on Tuesday 1st August was a great success, and very well attended. At the first café to be held in Curry Rivel, guests enjoyed an afternoon party with sandwiches, snacks and cakes, as well as games and a sing-along with Shirley on the piano. The Memory Café has become increasingly popular for all those in the area who suffer from memory loss and strokes, which is the main reason for relocating the Café to our larger Village Hall every Tuesday from 2.30pm till 4.30pm. If you would like more information about the Memory Cafe, then please contact Christine on 01458 741606 or Adrienne on 01458 252710



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## WEA Workers' Educational Association

Doreen Harvey

The local WEA branch at Long Sutton will be hosting a six week autumn course on the subject of local geology starting on Tuesday 10 October. The course tutor is Simon Webster, the fee £25 and all meetings start at 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm at Long Sutton village hall.

Members of the branch have produced a booklet, 'Around the Village Green' which they will be launching on Tuesday 3 October at 7.00 pm. The booklet is the culmination of research carried out by a small group of volunteers from the branch focussing on some aspects of the history of Long

Sutton.

The evening will include an introduction by the Chair of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS) and a display of some of the research material together with maps and charts of the area. Wine/soft drinks and cheese will be served.

If you would like any further information on either the booklet launch or the course, contact Doreen on 01458 24171 or email [doreenharveylongsuttonwea@outlook.com](mailto:doreenharveylongsuttonwea@outlook.com) or Kim on 01935 850077 or email [wealongsutton@gmail.com](mailto:wealongsutton@gmail.com)

## U3A

Denise Clarke

The Somerton U3A meeting on Friday 22 September is a talk by Jill Goddard about the wide range of services and issues that the well-known charity, Samaritans, deals with all the time.

Monthly meetings take place on the fourth Friday of each month at the Edgar Community Hall, Somerton starting at 10am with coffee (30p) and chat. After any notices the main event begins at 10.30am and finishes by 12 noon latest. Meetings are free for members, visitors £1.50 each.

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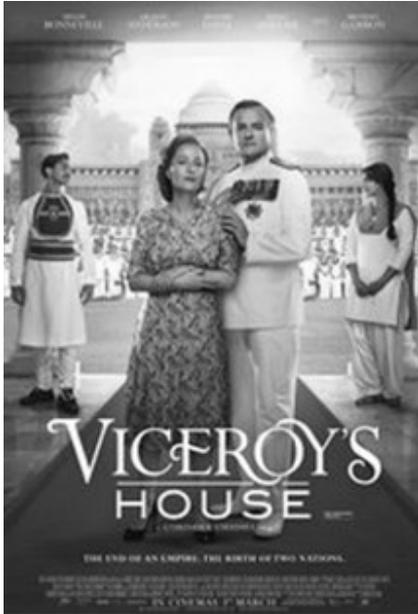
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# Movies in the Village Hall

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

## Viceroy's House (12A)

Friday 15 September



Set in New Delhi in 1947, the film tells the story of Lord Louis Mountbatten's tenure as the last Viceroy of India. Newly appointed by Prime Minister Clement Atlee and accompanied by his liberal-minded wife, Edwina and eighteen-year-old daughter, Pamela, he is charged with the difficult task of overseeing the transition of British India to independence.

Conflict ensues as the different sides clash in the face of enormous change.

Meanwhile in the servants' quarters, a love story develops between Mountbatten's new manservant, Jeet, a Hindu and Aalia a beautiful young Muslim woman who is Lady Pamela's assistant. All characters find they have their obstacles to overcome, both on the geopolitical and personal level.

Stars: Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Manish Dayal, Huma Qureshi and Michael Gambon.

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 annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

Coming soon: *Victoria and Abdul*

## Reverend Tim to Brave the Shave

*It's all coming off!*

On Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> Revd. Tim Richards is having his head and beard shaved off to raise funds for the MacMillan, 'Brave the Shave' campaign.

Cancer takes so many people away from loved ones and having to wear a bobble hat as Autumn establishes itself is a very small price to pay if money can be raised to enable MacMillan to keep offering support



to those with this disease.

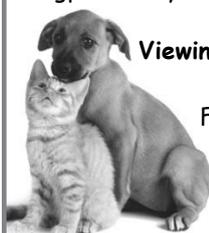
The shave itself will take place at the United Reformed Church in Street at 11.00am, there will be photos posted!

If you would like to sponsor Tim you can do so via this link; [bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk](http://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk) or ; [www.justgiving.com>macmillan](http://www.justgiving.com>macmillan) and search for timothy richards

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## Brownies and Rainbows say 'Hello' and 'Goodbye' and 'Thank you'

Lyndsey Ainsworth Brownie Pack Leader aka 'Tortoise'

There have been some big changes in the Curry Rivel Rainbows and Brownie packs over the last few months and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to two amazing leaders, Debbie Hickman (Brownies) and Nicky Barker (Rainbows). During their many years of volunteering in the Guiding movement they have provided new experiences, challenges, and happy memories to many girls both in our village and surrounding areas.

Goodbye to Debbie.....

Debbie Hickman was involved with the Brownie pack for eleven years, taking on the role of assistant leader and then full leader from which she resigned this year. Debbie's career change made it impossible for her to continue running the pack, we were all very upset about her leaving, but wish her well in her new adventure and hope she can come and visit us as often as possible. I took on the role of Brownie Leader but without an assistant. I was lucky enough to have some amazing Brownie parents who came along each week to help run the pack. Thank you to all of those who helped, without them the pack would have closed. Emma Ponsford has volunteered to be a permanent helper with the wish in the future to take her own Leadership qualification. I would like to welcome her and hope that she can have as much fun and enjoyment as I have running this Brownie pack.

Goodbye to Nicky.....

Nicky Barker has enjoyed being part of Guiding for a long time. She joined Somerset Girl Guiding in February 1995 as a Rainbow Leader, taking on the roles of District Commissioner for Langport and Curry Rivel between September 2004 and 2007 and Division Commissioner from 2005 until 2012. Nicky has been County Rainbow advisor and continues to be the South West Trainer, Division Treasurer and Division Mentor.

Nicky has given many hours of her own time to help inspire, educate, and provide amazing experiences to both the Rainbows and the other leaders. We all understood that after so many years of running a successful Rainbow pack it was time for her to hand over the running to Karen Petheram who had been her assistant for a number of years. Vicky Evans has since joined the team and we wish her well in the position of Curry Rivel Rainbow Helper.

### What have the Brownies and Rainbows been up to?

The Rainbows completed a marathon challenge on the Green and raised money for a children's charity. Amongst other

exciting things they have been on a spring walk, made pizza, had a fun Zumba night and spent an evening sowing seeds. Brownies have learnt some circus skills, gained basic map reading skills, worked towards, and gained their Circus and Out and About badges. Some gained a sleepover badge for going on our pack holiday at Buckland St Mary village Hall. There were some very tired leaders at the end of it but all the girls had a lovely time. We have also joined the Guides for some of our evenings and have been egg rolling at the Monument, played fun games, and before we broke up for summer went to Merricks Farm to spend the evening with the Guides roasting marshmallows.

Rainbows and Brownies meet on the same night of the week and we plan a few evenings together throughout the year. We have been on a walk in Langport with chips at the end, a movie night in the hall with hotdogs and later in the year we hope to go to the pantomime.

To join or for further information on the Girl Guiding packs (Rainbows 5-7, Brownies 7-10, Guides 10 -14, Senior Section 14-25) please contact the leaders whose numbers are on the back page of the Curry Rivel News.

### News of an inspiring Young Woman in our Guiding Division

Congratulations to Laura Diamond who has achieved her Chief Guide Award, which is the second highest award that members can work towards in guiding aged 14-25. Laura has already achieved a great deal during her membership of Curry Rivel Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section, she holds the Baden Powell award, the Commonwealth Award, Young Leader Qualification, and Adult Leader Qualification.

Outside of Guiding she has completed two years at college passing Level 3 Child Care, Learning and Development National BTEC and then three years at Portsmouth Universality studying BA Hons in Early Childhood Studies.

Laura is now working towards the highest award in guiding - the Queen's Guide Award and hopes to gain her Residential Licence. She also plans to start Teacher Training and all before her 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday! Good luck and well done Laura from all of us in the guiding family.



## Music above The Levels

Seventy members and guests of the local Branch of the Royal British Legion were recently entertained by the Volunteer Band from HMS HERON on the terrace of Burton Pynsent House.



On a bright summer's evening, the music swelled across West Moor, as members and guests enjoyed drinks and canapés. Band Sergeant, Tom Griffin, based at Yeovilton, said "This is a magnificent location, probably one of the best views in Somerset. It is a pleasure to be here, helping to raise money for such a worthy cause as the Royal British Legion."

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
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There is no doubt that the venue enhanced the evening and the Royal British Legion is very grateful

to Mr & Mrs Tim Schroder for allowing the Legion to use the grounds of Burton Pynsent for the event.

Guests included the Chairman of the Royal British Legion in Somerset, Major Robert McDonald, and the Chairs of the three local Parish Councils—Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead.

The next event will be a lunch in Curry Rivel Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2017.



## 200 Club Winners

The Summer Draw of the 200 Club took place at the Church Fête and the lucky winners were as follows.

Mrs H Lisowski £120  
Mrs W Brinsden £75  
Mrs L Cotterill £60  
Mrs K Morgan £40  
Mrs J de Ronde £25  
Mr M Cotterill £20  
Mrs B Gibson £17.50  
Mrs A Powell 12.50  
Mrs S V Hembrow £10  
Mrs L Comley £10  
Mrs J Rowland £10  
Mrs C Jessop £10  
Mr R Taylor £10



The committee would like to thank all members for their continuing support of the Village Hall. Units cost £10 each and may be purchased at any time from Mrs Myfanwy Ashton tel. 251877

## Learn to save a life using CPR and the Defibrillator

Tony Greenaway

We now have a secure defibrillator in the village located at the petrol station. The defibrillator is now operational and can be accessed by anyone in an emergency by simply calling 999 and following the instructions provided by the Operator

On Saturday 14 October we are running a 3 hour practical training workshop on CPR and use of the defibrillator. There are just a few places available so register your interest now by ringing 01458 252495 or go to [www.curryrivel.org.uk/lifesaving-training.html](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/lifesaving-training.html)

Quick action saves lives

## Rotary Club raises funds ...for Air Ambulance

Roger Hampton

**A**t a recent Charity Ball, the Langport & Somerton Rotary Club raised £2,500 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Bill Sivewright from the Air Ambulance received the cheque from Rotary Club past President, Mike Gillingham, with the Club members.

Another Charity Ball is planned for 19th May next year, where there will be a fantastic three course meal, with top 60's group 'The Tremeloes' and disco. 'Save the Date' for this great event at Edgar Hall, Somerton

The Rotary Club continues to support local Clubs and Organisations, and to find out more go to [www.langportandsomertonrotary.org](http://www.langportandsomertonrotary.org) or contact Clive on 01458 253558

## Inner Wheel Club

Dorothy Wadeson

**A**t our annual summer event Peter Campion took us, our families and friends on a very interesting historical walk around Somerton finishing with high tea at Amory House prepared by his wife Francis and a chance to rest our sore feet and dry out after the rain. Delicious delicacies abounded and some unusual cakes too, with donations being given for their hard work towards First Responders, our charity fund for this year.

We head into the autumn with preparation for our Charity Lunch in November and some interesting talks on offer. If you think our activities sound interesting why not ring Angie on 01935 840130 and she will tell you more about Inner Wheel in Langport and Somerton.



## Join the Fun

**C**ome along to the Active Somerset free play event on Saturday 9 September between 1 and 5 pm at the Primary School. Activities include wall climbing, Beat the Goalie, messy play, arts and crafts, obstacle course, outdoor cooking, Splat the Rat, face painting, balloon modelling and lots more. For further details contact Kaye Morgan on 253255 or email [kayemorgan@greenbee.net](mailto:kayemorgan@greenbee.net)

## Future Chess Champion

**B**ethany Austin started playing chess at the age of six, under the guidance and support of teachers at Hambridge Primary School. Now aged 12 this village youngster, a pupil at Huish Academy, is competing at county level. A member of Wells Chess Club, she recently attended the 'Megafinal' at Millfield where she gained the Suprema title having won her section. From this she qualified to attend the Southern Finals 'Gigafinal' and achieved a silver medal (2nd place) in her group. In August at the National Finals Bethany was competing against members of the British and English teams playing six games and winning two. She was presented with a medal for being within the top 250 children (out of 40,000) who competed in the competition. Her family is extremely proud of her success which is down to her hard work and enjoyment of this challenging game



# Where's Ed To?

**E**d Pratt, ex photographer for the Curry Rivel News, set off in March 2015 on his 18,000 mile World Unicycle Tour; if successful Ed will be the first person ever to officially circumnavigate the globe on one wheel. He is also raising money and awareness for the local charity School in a Bag. He has two continents under his belt and is now cycling across the third, Australia. Here he talks about his chosen charity.

While of course attempting to circumnavigate the globe by unicycle is my own personal goal and way of experiencing the world, there is also a more serious side to my trip. Before setting off I contacted the Piers Simon Appeal, a local charity, that runs an initiative called 'School in a Bag', offering to raise funds for them as I slowly wobbled my way across four continents.

The basic idea of School in a Bag is to provide educational aid, in the form of school bags (rucksacks packed full of pens,

pencils, exercise books, eating utensils, maths sets etc.), which are sent out to children around the world who don't have access to these basic learning tools.

Over the course of 2½ years you lovely people following and supporting my ride, have so far raised £13,726 through my SIAB page.

Recently SIAB have set up a new appeal to help refugee children in northern Uganda. They've also decided to use £5000 of money that's been raised through my page to kickstart this appeal.

This video outlines the massive problem in northern Uganda and more specifically, Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/SIABUgandaAppeal>



*Ed at the start of his 90 mile ride on Australia's longest, straightest road*

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# Letters to the Editor

## Reward for Lost Ring

Whilst in the village for a family wedding on the weekend of the 5/6<sup>th</sup> August I lost a ring when walking my dog in fields on the north side of Townsend.

It is a gold gents signet, octagonal shape ring with a small diamond in the middle. To each side of the top of the ring there are three hash lines on the shank, a bit like tally marks. The ring is hallmarked although it is rather worn. I dropped it either on the footpath or in the right-hand field at the top of the path on the Friday night. I am offering a reward for the safe return as the ring has such sentimental value to me.

Yours in hope

David Hogg.

Telephone: 07506 913 278 or 01909 771008



## Keep Village Pavements Clear

May I make a plea to all householders whose property adjoins a pavement to keep hedges trimmed so that they do not block the footpath. If you are concerned for the safety of children walking to school either on their own or with their mothers and buggies then please make sure your hedges/trees are kept well cut back so that children aren't forced to

walk into the road. There are stretches of pavement in the village which are reduced almost by half because hedges have grown out across them. I understand that there is a legal obligation to ensure that they are kept clear.

Yours sincerely

(Name and address supplied)

Dear Editor

After a most enjoyable and memorable visit to the **Burton Pynsent Monument** today, herewith attached a couple of images taken should you wish to use them for the Curry Rivel News.

My appreciation and thanks to those involved with their efforts today - wonderful to see history so well preserved.

Kind Regards

Anne Lambert



### QUIZ NIGHT

**7.30 p.m Village Hall  
Friday 29 September**

Teams 6 max.

*£4 a head*

Bring own refreshments

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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.*

### September

#### Sunday 3rd - Trinity 12

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 **CR** - Evening Prayer

#### Thursday 7th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 10th - Trinity 13

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW  
& Sunday Club

6.00 **FH** - Evening Prayer CW

#### Tuesday 12th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

#### Thursday 14th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 17th - Trinity 14

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

11.00 **CR** - All Age Family Harvest  
celebration, *followed by a bring  
and share lunch in the OSR*

#### Monday 18th

3.30-5.30 **CR** School Messy Church

#### Thursday 21st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

#### Sunday 24th - Trinity 15

9.15 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

11.00 **FH** - All Age Family Harvest  
Celebration

#### Tuesday 26th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

#### Wednesday 27th

2.45 Immacolata House

Residents' Holy Communion

#### Thursday 28th

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

## Rector's reasonings



### We evolved by chance from chaos vs. fine turning...

Occasionally 'Scott's Spot' gives way to 'Rector's Reasonings' where I try to challenge some of the oft-repeated reasons given for the rejection of God and faith. In the past I've called these reasons 'brittle shields' because they are used as a shield-like defence, but when challenged are not as robust as they might seem.

This month it's the brittle shield that if evolution is true then science has nailed the mysteries of the origin of life and there's no room (and no need) for a Creator. The idea being that we are just here by chance, merely a mass of molecules that randomly formed into a universe of cause and effect. But how rational it is to believe that the **order** we see around us was created chaotically out of chaos?

The issue here is that the universe we live in is special. Scientists are in awe of just how special it all appears to be. The apparent fine-tuning that we see around us means it looks designed. For the Christian, this all makes sense – the beginning of Genesis presents us with a created universe. For the non-believer, it poses a problem. Here we consider the argument for the reality of God, known as the 'Fine-Tuning Argument'.

So what sorts of figures are involved? Well according to Sir Martin Rees, currently Britain's top Astronomer, he writes on this subject about the 6 numbers that show how the basic physical constants of the universe (things like gravity that always retain the same value) all needed to be precisely tuned for life to have come into existence after the Big Bang. He speaks of the laws of physics being balanced on a knife-edge with the slightest variation to any of those physical constants meaning there would be nothing. No life. Another scientist, Robin Collins, follows this thought with the mind-blowing numbers that if gravity were to be changed by one part in 10,000 billion, billion, billion, there would be 'no humanly populated world'

To illustrate this picture an AM/FM dial that stretched from your front door to Australia. There is only one radio station on that dial, the band width is just one centimetre wide, and you have just one go at getting it right. Fancy your chances? The point is when it comes to the existence of the universe the dial is set. Either this is pure cosmic accident, random chance, or something/someone set the dial that way.

There are many other staggering figures involved in the fine-tuning argument (like the ratio of electrons to protons in matter being 1 to  $10 + 37$  noughts – and any change here meaning no life!) but the point remains the same. The odds are drastically stacked against us.

I guess at this point we might just think, 'so what, we're here aren't we? Does it really matter what the odds were? Even crazy odds sometimes come up. Well perhaps another illustration will help...

You're playing poker with your friends and one of them turns a Royal Flush. Now if you know the game you know the odds of that happening are 0.000154%. Maybe it's his lucky day. But then he get those cards again and again and again. Common sense screams so loudly into each player's mind that something is not right. This just can't happen – and if it did wouldn't you think it was fixed in some way? An inside job?

In the same way, the odds of the universe arriving in this life-supporting condition are so low that we should think twice about what this means.

Alvin Plantinga, one of the worlds leading philosophers, concludes that the evidence shown by the Fine-Tuning Argument ultimately makes more sense for Christians than for atheists. He writes: '*Given theism (the belief in God) fine-tuning is not at all improbable; given atheism it is; therefore theism is to be preferred to atheism.*'

How do the odds look to you?

With every blessing to you and those you love, Revd. Scott Patterson

### October

#### Sunday 1st

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

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 **CR** - Evening Worship

**Harvest at St. Andrew's**

This year's Harvest celebration at St. Andrew's will be a **bring and share lunch** in the Old School Room on **Sunday 17th September**

**after the 11.00 Family Service.**



No tickets required - just come and enjoy. We look forward to seeing you.

**From St. Andrew's Registers**  
**Weddings**  
*We wish them God's blessing at the start of married life*  
 5th August - Hannah Latham and Heff Heathcote

**St. Andrew's Rotas September**

- Brass** - Julia Gauler
- Flowers**
- 2nd & 9th - Diana Talbot-Williams
- 16th - Harvest
- 23rd & 30th - Adrienne Holmes
- Church cleaning**
- 2nd - Lyn Cotterill
- 9th - Julia Gauler
- 16th - Tina Geary
- 23rd - Wendy Graves
- 30th - Liz Rendell



For some months now we have been exploring the root cause of persistent (and sometimes very painful) ache in the hip; first one hip and then the other. Blood test revealed no signs of infection: x-ray revealed no misalignment; first bout of physiotherapy provided exercises to strengthen but exacerbated pain in the other hip; second bout of physiotherapy suggested the origin not to be the hips but the sacral area of the back needing stretching for relief not exercise for strength. Those were the 'medical' opinions. Ask the fount of all knowledge aka Granny: 'growing pains'.

Perhaps she's right; no explicable cause, no obvious injury, movements that aggravate more general than specific. Nothing much to do but wait it out.

**United Reformed Church**



**September**

*(Services start at 10.30)*

**Sunday 3rd** - to be arranged  
*(See Church notice board closer to the date)*

**Sunday 10th** - Rev Tim Richards  
*(incl. Holy Communion)*

**Sunday 17th** - Rev Evelyn Ridout

**Sunday 24th** - to be arranged  
*(See Church notice board closer to the date)*

**October**

**Sunday 1st - Harvest Thanksgiving**  
 Rev Jeff Armistead  
*(incl. Holy Communion)*

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 propositional 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

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards  
 01458 252799

*Pillow talk ctd. . . . .*

Growing Pains: I wonder how often a general malaise, an unspecific discomfort, a disquiet or sense of unsettledness might be down to 'growing pains' – the growing pains of evolving, changing, responding to the challenge of living a God-focussed life; growing pains which simply need to be waited out (or worked through) as we shift and change and grow and transition from one stage of life to another, one meaningful path to another, from A through B into C and so on, as we keep on becoming more fully human. Growing pains are purposeful and do not last for ever.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING WEEKEND @ THE URC**

*All are Welcome*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**Charity Lunch: Ploughman's & Pudding 12 noon – 2 pm in the URC Hall (behind the Chapel).**

Our chosen charity this year is **Shelterbox** ([www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)) which seeks to provide emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster.

The Charity's ethos is that shelter is a human right and shelter from chaos and conflict is vital. The 'Shelter' they provide worldwide comes in the shape of a large green box containing a tent, water purification kit, blankets, tools etc – tailored to suit the nature and location of the disaster. A guided tour of the headquarters a few years ago, whilst boxes were being packed in response to a disaster in Pakistan working to a deadline for collection, revealed a conveyer belt of military precision with the last volunteer in the line sitting on the lid of the box to ensure it closed tightly! Saturday's lunch is free – we simply request a **donation** in lieu which will go toward funding shelter in a box. \*\*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Harvest Thanksgiving Service 10:30.**

Donated produce at this service will be taken to the **Open Door** Charity much closer to home based in Taunton.

Open Door works to relieve need, hardship, distress or poverty by providing shelter and associated services including meals. Fresh produce, toiletries, packets & tins gratefully received.

*\*\* if you wish to donate but can't get to the lunch/service monetary donations in an envelope marked Shelterbox can be delivered either to URC Treasurers, c/o Stoney Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel or Rev. Tim c/o Orchard View, Townsend. Donations of items for Open Door please call 252799 to arrange collection.*

**Advance Notice: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 11 - 3 pm URC Dickensian Christmas Craft Fair** in the Robert Sewers (Village) Hall.

## Shoe Box Appeal

This year will again see the annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Boxes will be collected for **Blythwood Care**, a Christian charity based in Scotland. In 2016 the charity distributed **121,474** boxes (4% more than in 2015) to children and adults in countries of Eastern Europe and Pakistan.

For those who enjoy filling a shoe box for needy children, an older teenager or adult, details can be found in the leaflets from Blythwood Care.

These leaflets will be available in St. Andrew's church, or

from Ginny Smith (250997) or Jackie de Ronde (251355).

If you would like to know more, go to [www.shooboxappeal.org](http://www.shooboxappeal.org) or ring Ginny or Jackie.

Completed boxes can be delivered to the Old School Room during 'Drop-In' (2nd & 4th Tuesday from 10.30 - 12.00) or during a Sunday service at St. Andrew's.

Please have your box ready by the **last week in October**, but earlier delivery is very welcome.

*EMPTY shoeboxes are very welcome.*

## Langport and Curry Rivel Probus Club

Dorothy Wadeson

Family and friends joined us for our Summer Lunch at Kingsbury Episcopi in August. We were fortunate to be joined by Rupert Cox, the CEO at the Royal Bath and West Showground who gave us a really interesting talk about his work there. So much goes on that the showground is busy all year and we were given so many interesting facts about its history and its work including the little known fact that it is a charity.

The tables were festooned with beautiful flower arrangements which were auctioned at the end and we were able to give a donation to Macmillan as a result.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September we have another guest speaker at our meeting at Kelway Inn. We gather at 11.30 for 12 noon and the club is open to both men and women so if you think you might like to join us, please ring Paul Crocker on 01458 252545 or go to our website: [www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk](http://www.langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk) to find out more information.

### Wiltown Garage

Wiltown, Curry Rivel TA10 0JF  
 Mon-Fri 8am to 6pm  
 Saturday 8am to 12pm  
[www.wiltowngarage.com](http://www.wiltowngarage.com)



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## In September

### Regular Events

#### MONDAY

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

#### TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
10.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
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

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
6.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

#### THURSDAY

9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group	Primary School Hall
	(Term time only)	
10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
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
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### Special Events

Sat	09	1.00	Kids Free Fun Event	Primary School
Sun	10	8.30	Big Breakfast	VH
Fri	29	7.30	Quiz Night	VH



**Your Community Website** [curryrivel.org.uk](http://curryrivel.org.uk)  
Curry Rivel - Above the Levels

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### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	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	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel	252648

#### Arts

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

#### Community Facilities

Village Hall ( <a href="mailto:crvhbookings@gmail.com">crvhbookings@gmail.com</a> )	741606
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
Churchwarden	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**

