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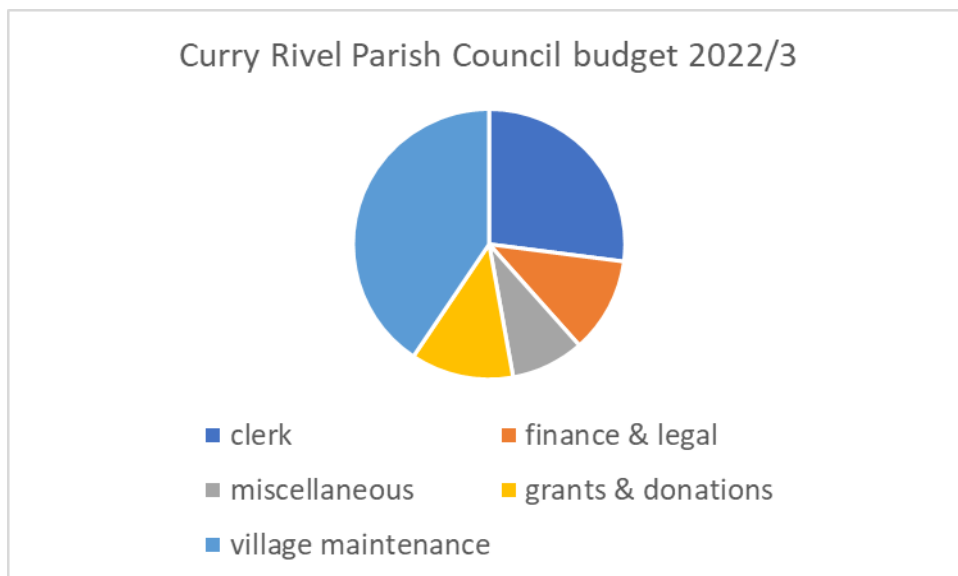
## Curry Rivel Parish Council budget 2022-23

*Matt Geen*

**C**urry Rivel Parish Council has set its budget for the coming 2022-23 financial year.

This money will come from the taxpayers of the village, as part of their yearly Council Tax. Last year, the budget was not increased, as we were in the middle of the Covid emergency. Unfortunately, a small rise has been unavoidable this year. A Band D Council Tax payer will contribute £57.06, an increase of £15.29 from last year. That's £1.10 a week in total. The parish council's precept is a small part of your overall Council Tax, which also includes money for District and County councils, and the police.

Here is how the budget divides up:



As you can see, the biggest part of that goes to keeping the village tidy and safe, including the Westfield play area. About a third of it pays for the administration of the parish council. The Clerk does much, much more than publishing agendas and taking the minutes at council meetings. She is the person that keeps the parish ticking over smoothly, and is your interface to local government in general.

Other projects for improving the village are funded from money that housing developers are required to pay when they build in the parish to contribute to the infrastructure, and from local and national grants.

We think that this money represents fair value for the hard-earned money of people in the parish. If you would like to know more, please contact us via the Clerk by emailing [clerk@curryrivel.org.uk](mailto:clerk@curryrivel.org.uk) or come along to a Parish Council meeting held monthly on the first Thursday of the month in the Old School Room at 7:30 pm where we invite our residents and set aside 15 minutes at the start of each meeting for a public session, welcoming questions and comments to enable our residents to engage with the council.

# Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge Food Bank Update .

Steve Allinson

**O**ur very loyal team of volunteers continues to work hard for those in our village communities who need our support and help. Our base in St Andrews Church is working well for the organisation of deliveries, and for anyone who wants to support our work. We always have volunteers at the Church on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 10.30 am, but food donations can be left at any time throughout the week inside the Church when it is open.

We are truly grateful to all those who continue to support us with food, essentials and financial support. Our very good friends at One Stop in Curry Rivel continue to be such a great help with their contributions to us, as does the Langport Mason Lodge, based at the Hanging Chapel. We also want to thank Steve and the team at Black Sheep Butchers who supply fresh vegetables to us for our clients every week.

However, we are in need of replenishing our supplies at the moment as the shelves have been running low, so please do look on the Curry Rivel website for details of any particular items we would like. Rest assured, though, that all donations are very gratefully received. We now also provide a small voucher each week for our clients to use at Tesco so this helps independent shopping too.

A number of people have contacted me to ask if we are able to help with the dreadful and heartbreaking refugee crisis in Ukraine. We are fully supportive of the national and international aid work, and a large volunteer support centre is in Taunton. I know a number of our friends and supporters are donating items there (baby essentials are very

important). A link to the help that can be given can be found at:

<https://www.southsomersex.gov.uk/news/2022/3/what-can-south-somerset-do-to-help-those-affected-by-the-conflict-in-ukraine/>

Dark times like this also do show the inherent kindness of many and we hope and pray that the good for humanity will ultimately prevail.

Finally, if anybody wishes to receive more information about our work, please email me at [steve@allinsonlaw.com](mailto:steve@allinsonlaw.com)

Thank you again on behalf of all our team.



Gina Beauchamp

[cribsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:cribsomerset@gmail.com)

01458 762296

**M**arch has been a quiet month for *Curry Rivel in Bloom*. However, we hope you will be able to join us for our plant sale on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April starting at 10:30 by the War Memorial. Everyone can come along to bring and buy, or just to buy. Don't forget to bring bags and/or boxes for your purchases of locally grown plants.



Your Community Website  
[curryrivel.org.uk](http://curryrivel.org.uk)



# Movies in the Village Hall

[mvh.curry.wix.com/films](http://mvh.curry.wix.com/films)

Alison Cockrell



## West Side Story (12A)

Friday 15 April 2022

(Good Friday!)



The one we've been waiting for! This is the latest film version of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet story, set in the mid-1950s in the Upper West Side of Manhattan, New York City, then a run-down neighbourhood. It tells of the rivalry between two teenage street gangs – the Jets, a white gang, and the Sharks from Puerto Rico. Tony, a former member of the Jets and friend of Riff, their leader, falls for Maria, the younger sister of Bernardo, leader of the Sharks. But their love affair has its consequences.

Enjoy Leonard Bernstein's and Stephen Sondheim's familiar songs including Somewhere, America, Maria and Tonight and be wowed by the fabulous dance scenes.

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# Curry Rivel Heating Initiatives Project

*Matt Geen*

**R**eaders of Curry Rivel News will remember that Curry Rivel Parish Council has been awarded a grant by Somerset County Council for a project looking at how we can improve heating our houses and the other buildings in the village. Not only will this help us to stay cosy and warm at a price we can afford, but it's the biggest thing that we can do to help with the climate problem: almost half of our effect on climate in this area comes from heating. We have contracted a specialist expert team to help us.

Since we started this project, the sharp rise in energy prices has made this project all the more urgent. People everywhere are facing the "heat or eat" choice. We have asked the experts for some ideas of what we can do right now. Here is what they said:

1. Check your thermostat settings. 18-21 degrees optimal, hotter only if vulnerable adults are in the house. 1

degree can have a significant effect on heating costs.

2. Bleed radiators and make sure they are functioning.

3. Close curtains in unoccupied rooms, and in more modern buildings shut doors to keep heat in occupied areas.

4. Minimise drying clothes in the house as they create damp, which sticks to walls and windows and accelerates heat loss. If you do, make sure you ventilate well.

5. Ventilate bathrooms, kitchens and bedrooms in the morning to remove moisture from the air. Turn off the heating and open a window for 10 minutes.

6. Lag (insulate) hot water cylinders: very cheap but effective.

7. Stop draughts – letter boxes, under doors, around windows, fit chimney balloons, etc.

8. Loft insulation – think of how much surface area of the house your roof is and that's a good idea of the proportion of heating bill you are losing. 300mm

depth is ideal.

9. Grants are available in many local areas if you are earning under £30k or on benefits, which can also then help pay for things like wall insulation (cavity or solid wall). More here: <https://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency>.

Please let us know at [mattgeen@gmail.com](mailto:mattgeen@gmail.com) if these help, and tell us any other tips that you can pass on.

There is a lot more good advice from the Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol, at [www.cse.org.uk/advice](http://www.cse.org.uk/advice).

We will be putting out a questionnaire soon, to find out more about how the people of Curry Rivel heat their houses, so do look out for that. And after that, some really exciting things in the pipeline!

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

**G**od or no god - it doesn't matter! In a recent Curry Rivel News the Rev Scott discussed how different religions approached "giving" to their God or by their God. Very interesting, but only half the subject. Why? Because Atheists, Buddhists and Shintoists, for example, will say "What god?" But think about it - if you are a God believer what is the most incredibly wonderful gift that your God has given you? Or, if you don't believe in a god, what is the most incredibly wonderful gift that the Universe has given you? Ignoring trivial answers such as, for men their sports car or for ladies their bling jewellery, the real answer is the same whether you believe in a God or not: the gift of the absolutely amazing planet Earth and all its wonderful Nature and everything on Earth. It really is incredible - ask David Attenborough!

### The point

So what's my point? Well, whatever you believe, you should put planet Earth and Nature first. That means being caring to all wildlife always and in all ways. And that means doing what you can to protect animals, plants and fungi from damage and destruction

when you can. And help reinstate species if you can. For many the best way to help is to regularly support a wildlife charity.

### Do it now

It's even more important to do it today as we humans have caused so much massive damage to Earth over the past 250 years. Helping and supporting other humans in desperate need is included of course because they are part of Nature. But destroying or damaging the environment for selfish financial gain, or any other reason, clearly is not. If you are aware of something that seems wrong, simply ask yourself two questions: "Would God or the spirit of the Universe agree with this happening?" and "What can I do now to counter it?" That may be something small, but something is better than nothing.

### Destruction on our doorstep

For example, take HS2. Apparently the final cost is now estimated at two hundred billion pounds. That's £200,000,000,000. To put that into context, the company Tesco is worth about £22billion. Should the government really be spending so much of our money in this way? With the NHS really struggling? With massive areas of

natural habitat

being destroyed in the process? A triple negative whammy. So what can you do? First go to this site: [stophs2.org](https://stophs2.org)

### Amazon rainforest destruction

But if you're not anti HS2, are you pro the dreadful ongoing destruction of the Amazon rainforest? I hope not. So check out this site for pointers: <https://actions.sumofus.org/a/stop-bolsonaro-destroying-the-amazon-rainforest-us> On this site you can start by signing a petition.

### Not your fault

Finally you may say "Stop lecturing me, it's not my fault ". Probably not directly but as we, the human race, have "the ability to understand" it is clearly our (God-given or Universe-given) responsibility to do something about it, however small. So why not start now?

*Nigel Grinsted*

Curry Rivel resident

*PS Did you catch Attenborough's wonderful Green Planet series? There are moves to start correcting our mistakes – small, but a start.*

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February a dog entered our front garden. I quickly went out to call off the dog which wasn't on a lead. Before it had time to do his business, the dog owner appeared just as I approached our entrance. I then raised my voice pointing out to the dog owner the problems we have had for years, and how fed-up we both are, having to remove dog mess daily. I apologised to the owner for raising my voice to her, but I was angry and upset!

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, from my kitchen window I observed another dog owner walking on the foot path opposite our house, the dog stopped walking and did his business on the pavement. All the time the owner was trying to pull the dog away.

To my utter astonishment the owner hurriedly walked off leaving the dog mess. Again, I quickly went out and met another dog owner coming towards me, I explained and pointed out the mess that had been left. I had hoped he may have stayed and given me some support, but he didn't want to get involved in any altercation. I then called to the owner of the dog which had left the mess to return. She did return, but said she had not seen the dog do it.



I pointed out the new signs replaced by the council at our request. "Bag it, bin it or run the risk of a £1000 fine". I asked that the mess be picked up. To her credit, she did pick up the mess, but shouted as she walked away. Sorry seems to be the hardest word.

Again, I am angry and upset because I am not that type of person. I have always tried to be kind and helpful. I hate feeling like this. I have the whole incident recorded on my neighbour's security camera.

It would be nice if we all helped to keep Curry Rivel clean & dog mess free. If dog owners need more bins they should phone the council and ask them to provide them. As this seems to be quite a problem, perhaps Curry Rivel could have a dog warden.

A very weary and fed up, 86 years old,

Shirley Osmond, Water Street

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*Chris Cox, Group Leader*

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[www.ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell](http://www.ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell)

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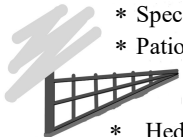
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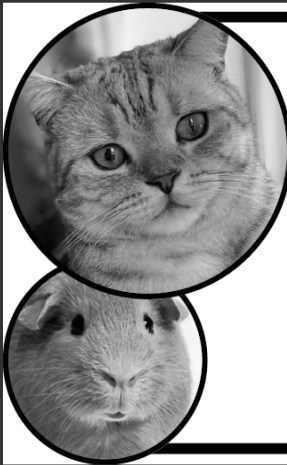


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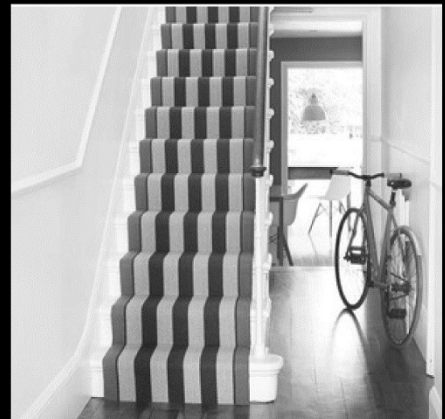
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## LOCAL BUSINESS “Magic!”

*Nigel Grinsted*

In 2020, when Jason Williams’ wife Sam said, “I’ve just been offered a new job with the charity Young Somerset”, he thought OK let’s go for it. The only problem was they lived in Hereford at the time. “Sam is so committed to her work with helping children and I back her 100% and I thought I could transfer my business to Somerset” Jason said. He runs Autowash Electrics who specialise in fixing household equipment like washing machines, tumble dryers, dish washers and Dysons. “Today people think machines like washing machines can’t be easily fixed at a sensible price. But often they can” said Jason. Local Curry Rivel resident Lynn Grinsted can verify this. “Recently our tumble dryer stopped working and there was a strong burning smell. I called Jason first thing the next day - he was with us by 11.00 and it was fixed by midday. And it only cost about £70. Magic!” Jason can be contacted on 07793 495091.

*Young Somerset is the largest youth charity in Somerset - google “Young Somerset” to find out more.*

## Curry Rivel Bands

*Jane Hamlin*

Several bands and musicians have been based in Curry Rivel over the years and in this article we can only mention a few that were very popular in their time.

This is a photograph of the Curry Rivel Prize Jazz Band which was made up of villagers playing accordions, concertinas, drums, rattles triangles and kazoos led by the landlord of the King William IV, William Weaver. It was taken in the early 1900s, a time when fancy dress played an important role – as did blacking up.

The band gave performances in local villages and raised money for the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.



In the 1940s the Celebrity Dance Band was very popular. The leader was the drummer, Bert Treasure. Ron Treasure and Stan Harwood played the piano accordions and John Sharp was on saxophone. They would travel to venues all around the county, and sometimes beyond, in an old army Red Cross ambulance.



Chris Hull, a former resident of Curry Rivel, has sent us some information about the Curry Rivel and District Silver Band which was one of the best known around the area in the 1950s. Chris’s father Gordon can be seen playing his cornet on the right of the photograph as the band paraded along North Street in Taunton as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations in 1952.





When Curry Rivel Football team won the Taunton League, the Silver Band marched through the village to celebrate the victory. In the front row there is (L to R) George Woodrow, Charlie Dabinett, Dick Sturgeon, and Herb Perry; and in the second row there is Gordon Hull, Cecil Langford, Bill Richards and right at the back Fred Perry. We also have a photo of the band playing at the village fete which was held at Midleney Place.

The band used to practice in a building at the corner of Water Street and The Green which was originally a farm building, but after being refurbished became known as the Reading Room and later as The Institute. It was eventually demolished to make way for the new houses that now stand there. This photo, taken in 1911, shows it when it was the Reading Room and was used by the Women's Friendly Society.



Sadly as the 1950s came to an end support for the Silver Band waned and in October 1961 they held a meeting at which they decided that they would have to close the band. Of course, musical activities of all sorts have continued in the village and now in 2022, we can hear a different type of band at *Curry Rivel Live* which will be taking place on 23rd July at Westfield Playing Fields with several different bands playing.

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Telephone 01458 831020



[www.forseyandson.co.uk](http://www.forseyandson.co.uk)



## St. Andrew's Church

To find out more please visit us at:  
[www.curryrivel.org.uk](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk) or  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)



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

### Covid effects

With Government restrictions lifted, St. Andrew's Church **continues to be open** to everyone daily and services are conducted in the 'normal' manner. However, to continue to help protect each other, especially any vulnerable members of the congregation, the **use of face masks is strongly advised** and handgel is required when entering/leaving the church - see also the notice board in the church porch.

## April

### Sunday 3rd - Lent 5

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family & Friends Service (refreshments afterwards)

11.00 **FH** - Said Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - Evening CW

### Thursday 7th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

### Sunday 10th - Palm Sunday

10.00 **CR** - United Benefice

All Age / Family Holy Communion CW

### Monday 11th April

8.30 pm - Night Prayer - via zoom

### Tuesday 12th

10.00-12.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

8.30 pm Night Prayer - via zoom

### Wednesday 13th

8.30 pm Night Prayer - via zoom

### Thursday 14th - Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm **CR** - The Last Supper together with members of the URC

### Friday 15th - Good Friday

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service, with Baptist Church friends

2.00 pm **CR** - Hour at the Cross

6.00 pm **SW** - Compline

## Scott's spot

### Roots for the storm

I was spoilt for choice for illustrations this time. Deep rooted trees that stand strong during storms; wells deep enough so that there is water even through the longest drought; the off-pitch training that shows its value in the match; the house built on a foundation of rock that withstands the onslaught of waves.

With the Ukrainian/Russian war in mind, a comment was made recently that reminded me of a false assumption many make. The assumption seemed to be that rather like an ostrich sticking their head in the sand, Christians who worship the good and all powerful God of the Bible, avoid thinking about the question of suffering and evil in this world, **until** forced to by global events. There was concern that times such as these meant extra pressure for the Christian.

This subject of suffering alongside a good and omnipotent God, is of course an old question that is, admittedly, a significant wrestle. But that is not to say that Christians do not wrestle with it, or indeed that there aren't meaningful answers. There are.

Answers that can root a Christian during the storms of life, or strengthen them during times of struggle or pain.

Whole books have been written on this subject so I can't begin to address it here. But human culpability in the exercise of our God-given free-will, alongside what it means to be able to really love, would be a good place to start. Is not real love only actually possible where its opposite is a real alternative



### Scott's Spot ctd. . .

This month will see the world's 2.3 billion Christians remembering Christ's Good Friday crucifixion, and celebrating his Easter Day resurrection. And it's here that the paradox of a suffering world, and the good and all powerful God of Scripture, finds its most robust response. For in those world changing events it was God himself, in Jesus, who faced the suffering of the cross, who de-fanged sin and evil on our behalf, and through the resurrection opened the door to life eternal. Here the good and all powerful God of creation faced down the evil of this world and triumphed. It is from this victorious Lord that Christians draw strength and courage at all times, whether facing personal or global suffering. It's upon this rock that we build the houses of our lives.

But if you're not a Christian, what about you? What are you rooted to; how deep is your well; how solid are your foundations in this uncertain world?

On a baptism visit, a vicar turned to the dad and asked him directly: *"what about you and God, how's that going?"* The response was honest and likely fairly typical. He said that he didn't really do God because things were going well. It's understandable, but can I suggest also rather short-sighted? The vicar rightly went on to explain that it's **precisely** in those times of happiness, health and security that the off-pitch training with God needs to happen. Then you will be better prepared for the brokenness this world next throws at you.

Waiting to turn to God in times of crisis will still help to a degree. For those who turn to him, Christ's not in the business of letting people down. But if you have grown deep roots in the sunshine through exploration, Bible study, prayer and worship, then, when darkness next strikes – and it always does – you will know where to turn and who to trust.

Good Friday and Easter means that light can shine even in the very darkest corners of this world. Christ offers his light to all.

With Easter blessings to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott.

### April ctd . . .

#### Sunday 17th - Easter Day

8.00 **SW** - Easter Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Family Easter Communion

11.00 **CR** - Family Easter Communion

#### Sunday 24th - Easter 2

11.00 **CR** - United Benefice

Holy Communion CW

#### Thursday 28th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

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

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

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

**St. Andrew's Rotas April****Brass** - Lorraine Gill**Flowers**

5th &amp; 12th - Lent

16th - Easter

23rd &amp; 30th - Adrienne Holmes

**Cleaning**

2nd - Anne Geach

9th - Anne Goff

16th - Jackie &amp; John de Ronde

23rd - Carolyn Paton

30th - Nicky Barker

**From St. Andrew's Registers****Funerals***May God grant them eternal rest.*

15th February - Memorial service

and burial in churchyard of

Mrs Dorothy Hunt († 28th January)

20th February - Interment of ashes of

Mrs Rose Cousins († 30th January)

22nd February - Interment of ashes of

Mr William John Pryn

(† 8th November 2021)

**ADVANCE NOTICE****St. Andrew's Annual meetings  
Monday 9th May 7.30 pm,  
in the Church**

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)  
for the election of Churchwardens,  
followed by the

- Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
(APCM), with reports about church life;  
PCC proceedings; the church's financial  
affairs over 2021, and the election of  
PCC members.

**United Reformed Church**

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. Refreshments are served after the service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

**Minister: Rev. Tim Richards****01458 252799****April****Services at 10.30 in the Chapel  
(unless indicated otherwise)  
and via Zoom \*\*****Sunday 3rd** - Mrs Glenys Allinson**Sunday 10th - Palm Sunday**

Rev Tim Richards

*(incl. Holy Communion)***Thursday 14th - Maundy Thursday**7.00 pm **St. Andrew's Church**

The Last Supper - together with  
members of St. Andrew's congregation

**Sunday 17th - Easter Sunday**

Joining with Wells URC/

Baptists via zoom

**Sunday 24th** - Mrs Jo Morling

**\*\*** if you wish to join with us via Zoom  
please email [sbeney6@gmail.com](mailto:sbeney6@gmail.com) with  
a request to be included in the Zoom  
link invitation list

IN SUPPORT OF  
our COMMUNITY FOODBANK,  
AFGHAN REFUGEES in SOMERSET  
& HUMANITARIAN AID for  
UKRAINE

**We invite you to  
Morning Coffee Saturday 9th April  
URC Hall 10am-12 noon**

*(a collection point for support for the  
above causes)*

Our **giving up** at the URC during Lent this year has involved **giving to** and **we invited you to join with us**. Throughout the period of Lent, we encouraged you to join us by putting something aside: supporting **Curry Rivel Foodbank** by putting aside in-date, non-perishable foodstuffs etc. AND putting aside monies for the support of **Afghan Refugees in Somerset**. Our coffee morning is intended to be a collection point for those items & monies for those causes.

In the light of events occurring in Ukraine our coffee morning will also be a means of supporting & helping with the deepening humanitarian crisis within Ukraine. We will be providing a collection point for donations to **Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for Ukraine**.

**Tea/coffee & cake are free – a THANK YOU for your support to the above causes – come along on the 9th April, stay for coffee: we will gather, pack & transport foodbank items and forward financial contributions for you. Thank you.**

Jesus, light of the world you promised to be always with us. Be with our sisters and brothers now, dispelling the darkness of this crisis. Compel us to be with them too in thought, prayer and solidarity, responding to their suffering with the same compassion you have shown us. We make this prayer in the firm faith that your light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Amen.

Rev. Tim & congregation of  
Curry Rivel URC

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## Contrasts at the WI

Carolyn Paton

**We are all familiar with war graves and memorials, from towering and dramatic monuments which bear the names of tens of thousands of missing personnel, to small and intimate local churchyards where perhaps only one service person is commemorated. These are sobering monuments that may heart-breakingly recall several members of one family that were lost in the same - or indeed successive - conflicts as well as single losses. They can be staggeringly impressive in their simplicity and uniformity, bringing home both the sheer numbers of the commemorated and their equality in death.**

Rebecca Smith of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (comprising six member governments) came to talk to the WI in February, bringing with her a plethora of detailed and fascinating information. She modestly described herself as 'just telling stories' and it was obvious that she had quite a fund of these. This was not a depressing account, but one of humane concern to pay tribute and to inform, and was full of interesting facts and descriptions.

It was Sir Fabian Ware who came up with the format of plain white headstones laid out uniformly with manicured grass paths between the rows, and interspersed with roses, according equal value to each person's sacrifice. This sometimes involved much painstaking investigation work and is something that continues even today as remains continue to be discovered and even identified.

The families of the lost in the two World Wars were not always pleased with these decisions, wanting to bring loved ones home and erect their own memorials. Costs and logistics meant that this was not practical, and the large cemeteries across the Channel with which we are familiar were established. The Commonwealth War Graves commission employs its own gardeners and craftsmen along with

local contractors for the upkeep of these spaces, re-chiselling and updating if necessary, to ensure the ongoing maintenance today of the 1.1 million stones and their gardens.

To count as a war grave, date limits were set for deaths in both World Wars, extending 3 years beyond the official conflict, and 1.7 million lives are remembered thereby. There were war-related deaths in the UK as well, and there are over 1,000 locations in the South-West, including Naval memorials, where 38,000 personnel are commemorated. The work of the Commission is ongoing and there is information online for those interested to find out more. Researchers will find 1.7 million persons on the database.

Quite a contrast came in the March meeting. Jo Dafforn arrived from Taunton. She is a physio whose speciality is indicated in her talk entitled 'Bowels and all that Bother'. Who knew that our gut has dedicated physios? Members participated in her quiz which occasioned much hilarity as in small groups we tried to respond to a variety of questions relating to bowel facts and function. We were asked about our knowledge of how our bodies work, and the range of what is normal. The frequency of problems also featured, as we tried to guess percentages of the population experiencing a level of malfunction. The

answers

varied

quite a

lot! We

thus learned a variety of interesting facts, eliciting responses ranging from sympathy, through wry smiles, up to unrestrained laughter.

Jo told us about her work helping those with problems, and was encouraging about the provision of NHS clinics within our area. She urged that embarrassment should hold none of us back from seeking advice and help, and gave us some tips on how we could help ourselves toward better functioning. A title for this talk could have been 'How to learn a lot in a fun way from a dynamic speaker on an unlikely topic'

As well as these eye-opening talks, the Institute president Anne Geach ran through details of the various events and activities projected for the coming month as well as reporting on progress towards the Centenary Celebrations.

We were pleased to welcome several new members and enquirers at both these meetings. Contact her for further information on 01458 253078

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## \*WARNING\*

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



## ...In April

### Regular Events

#### MONDAY

10.00	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00	Table Tennis (kevlou@outlook.com)	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

#### TUESDAY

10.00	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.00	Keep Fit (nicky.barker1@btinternet.com)	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows/Brownies	Drayton Village Hall
5.45	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Rangers	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridge way Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)	All Saints Hall L'port

#### WEDNESDAY

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
5.30	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews

#### THURSDAY

10.00	WI	Village Hall
2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

#### FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night	Village Hall

#### SATURDAY

9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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**Note: Article copy date has been advanced from Tuesday to Monday each month to accommodate reliable printing delivery**

### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts	(gslthelevelsscouts@gmail.com)
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Rangers	252901
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338

#### Sports Clubs

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

#### Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion	01460 281115
Twinning Association	01460 281905
Women's Institute	253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545

Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom	762296
Get Together Club	252791
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 396123
Inner Wheel	251940

#### Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126

#### Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)	0771 6792760
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	07871 431706
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856

United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.

#### Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500
Footpath & Litter Warden	johncasebourne@sky.com

#### Education

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

#### Local Authorities

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

#### Religious

Church of England Rector	251375
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton	274008
URC Minister	252799
Messy Church	01458 762523

### Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

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



### Deadlines for May Edition

<b>Advertising:</b>	5pm Thursday 7th April
<b>Send to:</b>	crn.nigel@outlook.com
<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm Monday 11th April
<b>Send to:</b>	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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## Wild flowers – Who needs them?

*Peter Goodenough - Curry Woods Conservation Trust*

Insects do. They live on the sweet secretions of the plants (and pollinate them as well). Birds, particularly migratory ones, eat the insects, and birds of prey (not the Clingon spaceship variety) eat the insects, too, but also eat the smaller birds.

Thanks to our wonderfully efficient agricultural system that produces half of the food we eat, there are only 2-3% of our country's wildflower meadows left, the rest have been herbicided out of existence.

The CWCT is going to make a contribution to reversing the decline by leaving part of the Trust land as a wildflower area but, of course, it is only a tiny fraction of what is needed. Still, with the land at Holdens Way (Batty Piece and Eastfield) together with the enormously good work Henry Lang does with his wild flower meadows, Curry Rivel and Hambridge parishes make a good contribution to the wild flower meadows of Somerset. If every Parish had a similarly dedicated band of conservationists, then wild flower meadows would be on the way back.

The picture shows Alan Cockerell, Sylvia Goodenough, Elizabeth Antliff-Clarke and Catherine Mowat setting up one of three 6m x 4m trials on the Trust land to find the best way to get our wild flower area started. We had a good showing

of pyramidal orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) last year that were dormant in the soil and, once ploughing stopped, reappeared. Orchids have tiny seeds, but they seem to be very long lived. Despite us (British people) thinking orchids are exotic they are the largest group of plants on the planet in terms of the number of species. They are found in huge numbers in the tropics and grow in association with fungi in the soil. This is a common theme as we are finding more and more evidence of plants and fungi depending on each other to grow.

Our three trial plots will have three treatments in each, arranged so that each treatment occupies the middle, left and right sides of the plot once. Treatment one will have grass cut very low and wild flower seeds added. With treatment two, the grass will be cut very low, and the soil scarified (roughed up) before sowing the seeds. Treatment three will have the vegetation completely cleared before breaking up the soil and sowing the seed.

We will look to see which of these treatments produces the greatest number of wild flowers. It's pretty obvious that the first option is the cheapest and the third very expensive! I hope you will be interested to see what happens. You will see the plots marked out on the field, so please keep dogs off them as an extra dollop of fertiliser will bias the results.

*Watch this space for more results and lists of the wild flowers we sow.*

