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Curry Rivel Parish Council 2023 survey results

Matt Geen

The Survey

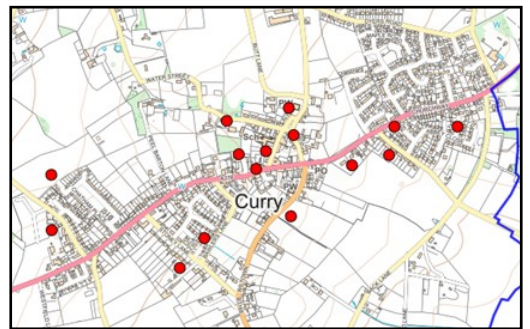
Curry Rivel Parish Council exists to serve and represent the people who live in the parish. To do that better, we ran a short survey in November and December 2023 to find out more about what people in the village think. The survey was put on the parish website, and was advertised in an article in December's Curry Rivel News. Paper copies were provided at a few village events.

Responses

27 people responded, 14 on the Curry Rivel website, and 13 on paper copies. This is only about 1% of the parish population, but enough to draw some conclusions about what people in the parish think.

Locations of results

There was an optional question asking people for their postcode, so that we could check that there was a good geographic spread of responses. The points on the map are the centres of postcodes where people responded. There was one response from someone in Drayton; the others are all from the parish.



Answers to the questions

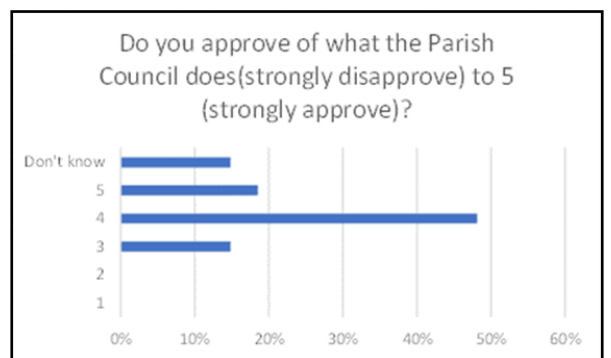
Do you follow the activities of your Parish Council?

Yes	18
No	8
none	1

About twice as many people said that they watch what the Parish Council does as those that don't. This is good to know, although it is probable that people who are interested in the Parish Council will have been more motivated to respond to the questionnaire.

Do you approve of what the Parish Council does? 1 (strongly disapprove) to 5 (strongly approve)?

1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	4	15%
4	13	48%
5	5	19%
Don't know	4	15%
blank	1	4%



Most people are OK or better with what the council does, and no-one registered disapproval. This is good news for the Parish Council, but again, people uninterested or frustrated with the Council will have been less likely to respond.

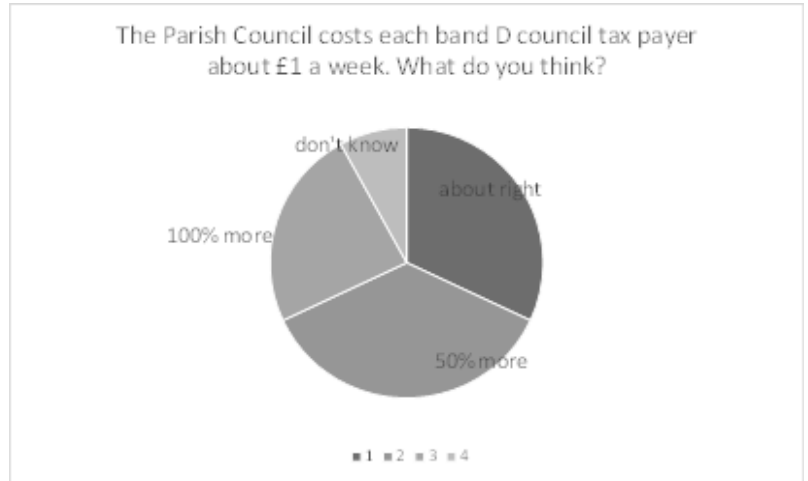
The Parish Council costs each band D council tax payer about £1 a week. What do you think?

The Parish Council should aim to do less and cost council tax payers less	0	0%
The cost and output of the Parish Council are about right	8	30%
The Parish Council should do more for the village, and ask for up to 50% more from council tax payers	9	33%
The Parish Council should do more for the village, and ask for up to 100% more from council tax payers	6	22%
Other (please write your suggestion)	0	0%
Don't know	2	7%
Blank	2	7%

.....continued on p 2.....

...Council Survey continued

It's interesting that just over half of the respondents thought that the Council should ask for more money and aim to do more, and no-one suggested that we should spend less. We considered this when making the budget for 2024-25. This was partly because we have allowed to pay for some things that Somerset Council will need to cut back on in the coming year, and partly because of a few specific items need one-off spending, for example, the cemetery is in need of refurbishment. This means that the part of council tax that goes to the parish (the precept) has gone up by 30% this year, but is still a very small part of the total council tax bill.



Would you support the PC applying to Somerset Council for a 20 mph limit through the village?

The cost, coming from the village council tax, would be £500 up front, for Somerset Council to investigate feasibility, and about £15,000 to implement it.

Yes	18	67%
No	9	33%
none	0	0%



Although the "yes" vote is twice the "no" vote, the number of people against the idea remains significant, and no-one responded with a "don't know". The council has received passionate communications from both sides of the argument. This is a debate that will continue!

Could you spare an hour or two a week to volunteer around the village?

A few people kindly responded to say that they could help. We will be in touch with them. Thank you!

Comments

There was a space for people to write their own comments and concerns. Concerns raised by more than one person, with numbers of people suggesting them, were:

- Speeding 6
- Sports field development 2
- Pedestrian crossing at OneStop 2
- Fingerpost refurbishment 2

These are all things that the Parish Council is actively working on. Speeding and traffic continue to be the number one concern for many people in Curry Rivel. Only one person mentioned housing developments. But given the size of the responses to a couple of recent planning applications, this might not be fully representative of the feelings in the village!

In summary

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey. It is always useful to know what people think. You don't have to wait for the next survey to tell us, though: you can email clerk@curryrivel.org.uk at any time, or come along to Parish Council meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of most months (see <https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-1/agenda-and-minutes.html> and the noticeboard outside the OneStop for details).



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Visit by Somerset Rivers Authority followed by torrential rain.

Peter Goodenough

On 21st December some of the staff of Somerset Rivers Authority accompanied by Kate Towers and Phil Stone of the Reimagining the Levels team visited the Trust land to see for themselves the progress that has been made with the planting. (see picture)



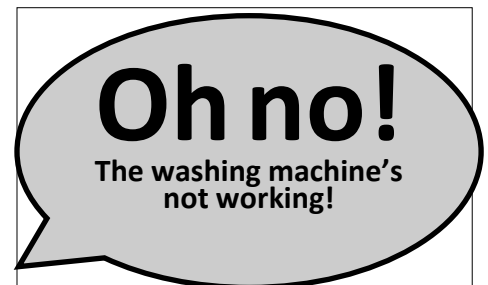
It's important at this stage to assess what impact the transformation of the land has had. Although quantifying the reduction of water flow is not possible, we can say that water flow from the field has been reduced. The second picture shows an attenuation pond we have constructed at home in the shape of a lock, a sort of water feature that is dry except in exceptional circumstances. The water from the Trust field flows in two ways from the crest of the land, north to Sedgemoor and southeast to the village. On its way to the village it passes our house and fills the "lock". Last year there was noticeably much less water flowing off of the Trust land, which was just as well because the cultivated fields in-between the Trust land and ours shed a torrent of water into the lock. The picture shows the "lock" at the fullest it has ever been.

This water was held back for a couple of days and then gradually drained away. The water drains into a grove of very large conifers and onto an area where 30-40 new trees have been planted. Before the planting was done the land was compacted and had standing water in the winter for days or weeks, so this year one would be forgiven for expecting the



land to be flooded extensively for a long time. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the speed at which the water was absorbed by the ground. It is remarkable to compare how regularly cultivated land deals with water compared to land that has been planted with trees and the vegetation between the trees cut once a year in late summer. Both the physical act of planting trees and the roots of the growing trees open up the ground. No cultivation means that, in the summer, cracks open in the soil, quite deep in places and also huge numbers of ants dig networks of tunnels and push the spoil into hills above ground. These activities turn the area into a sponge rather than an impermeable membrane. So the planting of trees works to increase water absorption, and as time passes and the trees grow even more water will be absorbed. This has become essential as rainfall will continue to increase and become heavier in winter. So Water Street and the School have not flooded during this year's monsoon and I am certain our efforts have been partly responsible. Looking at the flood warnings in place for the country this morning (4 Jan) and with more rain expected it is hard to be optimistic about controlling flooding (some houses in Worcester have now flooded five years consecutively when they were originally told it was a 1 in 100 year event). Somerset's tree strategy must succeed if we are to have any chance of controlling flooding across the County.

I hope I have convinced you that planting trees will provide as much of an answer as Somerset can manage. It's also very cost effective visually attractive and supports biodiversity and carbon capture. What's not to like!!



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07793 495091

AUTOWASH ELECTRICS

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mvh.curry.wixsite.com/films

Alison Cockrell



The Miracle Club (12A)

Friday 16 February 2024



Back in 1960s Ireland, four Ballygar women want a taste of freedom from their humdrum domestic lives. Helped by their bold and incorrigible priest, the four friends - Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Chrissie - win a raffle to go on a pilgrimage to the French town of Lourdes.

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Cemetery update

Parish Council

After years of neglect a rather lovely bench in the cemetery has been beautifully restored by Dick Gaynor from the Parrett Community Shed. The bench was originally donated in 1995 and has a commemorative plaque upon it, but had not been maintained and eventually it became unusable. The repair and restoration was complicated by the bench being immovably anchored into the ground so that the work had to be done in situ.

The Parish Council are very grateful to Dick and other members for this much appreciated contribution of time and effort.



Dick Gaynor who carried out the work flanked by other members of the Parrett Community Shed

The bench in a sorry state with no slats at all!



The Parrett Community Shed has been set up by members of the community with assistance from the UK Men's Shed Association with the aim of helping reduce loneliness and isolation in the local area (Langport, Somerton, Huish Episcopi, Curry Rivel, Aller and the surrounding villages). We provide a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending while making social connections, sharing skills and knowledge, friendship building and having fun. The Shed is open to everyone, young and old and is based in Portfield close to Langport.

If you are interested in joining us please get in touch - parrettcommunityshed@outlook.com. We are currently running sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9:30 and 13:00 but we may start opening at additional times in the near future.

Other forthcoming Cemetery work

More work will be carried out in the cemetery during 2024. Vegetation will be extensively cleared (before nesting season) so that an assessment can be made of where to place additional graves. This will result in some loss of habitat, but environmental and biodiversity considerations will be fully taken into account in a new plan for the cemetery that will set out provision for the community for decades to come. Before the plan is finalised the Parish Council will run a community consultation.

In preparation, a new fence must be erected at the rear of the cemetery. Some maintenance work will also be done to the Lych Gate.

Finally, the parish council has already agreed to install an extra bench near the shed, and this will be installed once the vegetation management has taken place.

The views expressed in **Curry Rivel News** are those of the contributors and not those of the publisher. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the information supplied for inclusion in the publication is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information.

We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations. By supplying material for publication, you are giving consent for its publication on the village community website.



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News of Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

With ten trips planned for 2024/25, and counting, there is plenty to tempt you to join us in the beautiful Bristol Hippodrome. Our coach starts at 5p.m. in Curry Rivel, then picks up in Langport & Somerton

and either Keinton Mandeville & Shepton Mallet or Street & Wells. All profits are donated to British Red Cross

The best way to keep up to date is at www.charitytheatretrips.com where there are full details and a booking form. Otherwise book by e-mail to charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com or phone Chris on 01458 273085.

Choose from:

Wicked: Thursday 22 February; Edward

Scissorhands: Wednesday 6 March; Jesus Christ Superstar: Tuesday 12 March; Everyone's Talking About Jamie: Wednesday 27 March; The Wizard of Oz: Wednesday 3 April; Sleeping Beauty Ballet: Friday 19 April; Hamilton: Monday 10 June; Disney's Aladdin: Thursday 25 July; Come From Away: Monday 26 August; Only Fools and Horses: Tuesday 4 February 2025.

I hope to see you on the coach sometime soon!

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Poppy Appeal 2023

*Sue Willis, Poppy Appeal
Organiser – Curry Rivel, Drayton
& Fivehead*

The 2023 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal took place from 26th October – 11th November.

The total collection for the Poppy Appeal district of Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead will amount to over £4,702.54. This is an excellent result, already up on last year!

For the first time this year the Royal British Legion used QR codes on 'static' collection boxes in local businesses. The amounts of donations from QR codes are yet to be collated by the Royal British Legion and are currently unavailable to us.

Thank you to all our house-to-house collectors, schools, churches, local businesses and organisations for helping to achieve this great amount. Your support makes a difference to those in the Armed Forces Community and without your efforts the Royal British Legion could not do the work it does. To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal

If you feel that you can help with next year's Poppy Appeal please contact me:

01458 252772 or 07926 613064
CurryRivel.BCS@rbl.community

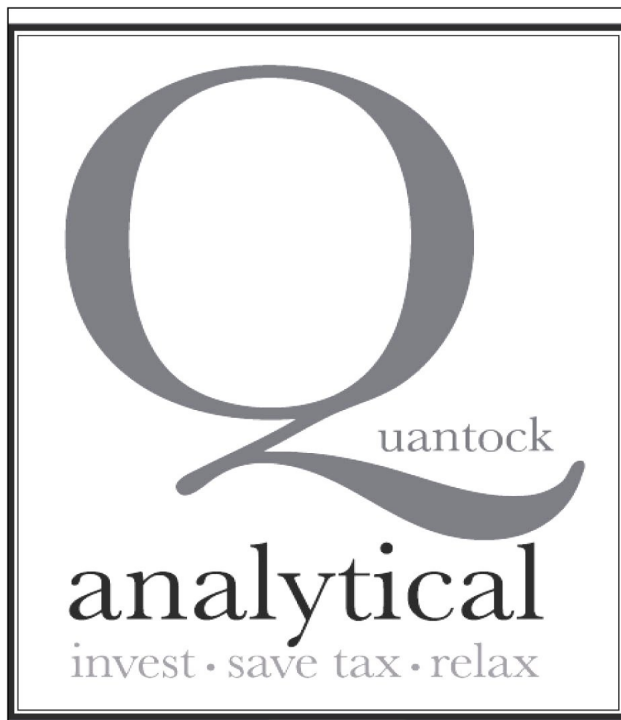


Mixed Ability Pilates

Emily Fagence

I am holding a Pilates class at the Village Hall every Monday at 6pm. Why not join me for a low impact class to transform your whole body through strengthening and toning. It is suitable for everyone – but you do need to bring your own mat. To find out more please contact me: emzpilates.co.uk, emzpilates@gmail.com or phone 07940 276265

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Update on the proposed Abbey Close/Brickwall Lane development

Barbara Hamlin

We originally thought that the proposed development of 21 houses in this area would be discussed at the Planning Committee meeting in December. However, we have subsequently received this message from the County Planning Office (South):

"This application is unlikely to be heard much before March given the high level of applications and resource shortages. If you have submitted a representation and have been registered on the application file you will be notified when the application will be heard by Committee, allowing you to register to talk at Committee if you feel this is appropriate."

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Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Sylvia Goodenough

Even at the time of writing we seem well into the New Year! However, since last writing, back in December, we members of SGC enjoyed a brilliant quiz and buffet evening. The quizmaster came from the Gardens Group of garden centres and he provided 6 great rounds of loosely horticulturally- related and hotly contested questions. That worked up appetites for the buffet! We deliberately avoid food that is too "Christmassy", and the cold meats, quiches, salads and puddings went down a treat!

We heard the very sad news in January that one of our very long-standing members, Nancy Martel, who lived in Curry Rivel, passed away just before Christmas. She will be much missed. She would have enjoyed our January talk, coming up in the week of writing this, just after the CRN deadline, by one of our regular speakers, Francis Burroughs, on "Tales

from the potting shed". The talk at February's meeting on the 13th is about "Seasonal colour and interest in the garden" and will be given by a speaker from the Gardens Group Gold Club, of which SGC is a member.



Looking further ahead, March brings not only a talk on Italian gardens at our monthly meeting but also our annual Daffodil Festival in Long Sutton Village Hall on the 23rd of the month. It is always a wonderful event and a breath of Spring air! Only members can enter - besides the daffodil and other spring flower classes there are vegetable, domestic, art, craft and photography classes. However, the good news is that the show is open to the public in the afternoon and the even better news is that if you join the club any time up until the week before the show you can take part!

To join, or find out more about us, either go to the website, sedgemoorgardensclub.co.uk or ring Jean, our secretary, on 01458 259025.

A global history of Empire

Jennifer Elliott

Worker's Educational Association (WEA) - Levels Branch - is running a 6 week course, led by Mr Greg Morter, entitled "A Global History of Empire" at the Long Sutton Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Feb 22, 29, Mar 7, 14, 28, April 4.

Please phone WEA 01132 002194 or email thewea.info/findmycourse or email ja.elliott@bopenworld.com for more information.

We will be exploring different ways Empires have arisen, functioned and fallen, and the legacy they've left us in our own times. 5000 years of empire, their nature and impact, from the Classical Empires of the Middle East, Mediterranean and China, to the Mongol Empire which dwarfed them all; we'll travel from Africa and the Americas to the emergence and global dominance of European powers, and their influence today.

From selling or letting your home to requiring a formal valuation to fine art auctions and house clearances.

We can assist.

Contact us for further help.

Somerton - 01458 397000
somerton@killens.org.uk

Sedgemoor Gardens Club

February Meeting

Talk by The Gold Club

Seasonal Colour and Interest in the Garden

All Saints Hall, Langport

Tuesday, 13th February 2024

7:15 – 9:30 pm

Non Members £3.00

Enquires Tel 01458 259025

The Friday Club

Veronica Sleightholme

The Friday Club has returned after the Christmas break, meeting fortnightly in the Village Hall. What is the Friday Club you may ask?

We aim to provide a social get together with an opportunity to meet and take part in a variety of activities ranging from games, bingo, singing and craft. We have regular speakers and local entertainers. This all in a café-style environment offering a friendly

interesting time, including a two-course lunch. If you are feeling lonely or new to the area, come along to meet old friends or make new ones.

Could you, perhaps, spare a few hours to help? New volunteers are always welcome.

We would like to thank the Curry Rivel News for the grant which will enable us to purchase a new music system and

more indoor games. It will also help us to continue to provide the much-appreciated hot meals.

For more information, please contact Veronica on 01458 252791.



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Curry Rivel Active Travel News

Tony Greenaway

250 Members and Growing. The Curry Rivel Active Travel project has recently welcomed the 250th member to the Curry Rivel Active Travel Facebook Group. Spread the word – the more support we have for easier and safer walking and cycling, the better the case for getting financial support.



To keep up to date, why not just join them at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/curryrivellactivetravel/>, or use this QR code.

The Curry Rivel Active Travel Working Group

“Active Travel” means making journeys in physically active ways, like walking, using a wheelchair or mobility aid, cycling, or scootering. It is better for our health, and there are all sorts of reasons for getting cars off the road where we can. When people in Curry Rivel are asked about problems in the parish, traffic always comes at the top of the list. People would love their children to be able to get to school in a safer, more fun (and cheaper!) way.

A working group has been set up to promote Active Travel, including parish councillors and other local people. The biggest current project is a new path between Curry Rivel and Langport that can safely be used by walkers, cyclists, people with pushchairs, etc. We are also working on improving the paths in the parish itself, and other improvements, such as pedestrian crossings.

Landowner Negotiations

Discussions with key landowners on the Curry Rivel – Langport path are ongoing, and we hope to announce some positive news soon.

Links with other communities

Project members recently met with representatives from 7 other communities to explore how to work together to improve and develop Active Travel routes. There is a real interest and a growing momentum to create routes that link communities together. One already underway is a link between Aller and Langport.

Drayton Parish are looking at improving an existing footpath to accommodate all users and to link to the proposed Curry Rivel to Langport route.

Curry Rivel News Donation to the Active Travel Project

The Committee of the Curry Rivel News have made a generous donation of £200 to the project, which will be put towards the cost of clearing and construction of the first section of land in early 2024.

The Council is actively pursuing other grants and sources of funding and welcomes any further suggestions.

The Just Giving Fund currently stands at £240. We are currently a long way off the £50k target. The more we raise

through our own efforts the better our chances of securing funding from other sources. Every little donation will help to build this much needed path.

If you wish to donate to this project, please go to [https://](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/curryrivellactivetravel/)

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/curryrivellactivetravel/, or use this QR code.

(This Crowdfunding appeal is in support of the Active Travel project but is not directly linked to the Parish Council funds.)



Park Lane and Frog Lane Status

The Rights of Way inquiry concluded last November that the whole of Park Lane/Frog Lane and Huish Drove should be designated a Restricted Byway. An objection was subsequently lodged and is currently in a long queue of appeals to be heard. In the meantime, the status is still unclear although *people continue to use it*. We are currently waiting for a definitive answer to the status. In the meantime, we continue to negotiate with the landowner for a path that will follow the inside of the fields either side of Park Lane/Frog Lane.

Working with the School

Our Working group volunteers are in regular contact with the school and looking at ways to encourage more active travel for children. The school has included active travel as part of the development plan for this school year.

Road Safety Improvements

The Parish Council Active Travel Working Group is working with Somerset Transport and Highways on two schemes

- Improvements to the uncontrolled crossing into Westfield** after Heale Lane in order to make crossing the road at that point safer. A suggestion put forward is to have a Priority/Give Way scheme and pavement build out with bollards. We have been advised that the location is unsuitable for a zebra crossing but a scheme such as the one proposed would be the next best thing as it would also have the effect of slowing traffic down in both directions.
- Changes to School Street** – the safety of pedestrians and in particular, young children, is of paramount importance and School Street has become increasingly busy around drop off and pick up times. We are currently exploring with the school and Somerset Transport options to improve safety and discourage people from parking outside the school.

Developments are regularly reported on the Curry Rivel Community Website

<https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-news/active-travel/about-active-travel.html>

<https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-news/active-travel/updates.html>

and on the Active Travel Facebook page where you can start discussions and put forward your thoughts: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/curryrivellactivetravel/>

Good times

Carolyn Paton

It may now seem long past, but the first weekend of December '23 saw an explosion of Christmas celebrations in the village, beginning on the Friday with a sell-out Carols Bangers and Mash evening in aid of St Andrews Church. Thanks are due to Nisa garage and Sandpits who agreed to be ticket sales points. Readers will no doubt be aware that the Saturday and Sunday saw the School Fair and the Big Breakfast, reported elsewhere.

Back to Friday 1st: a crew from St Andrews descended on the hall, preparing food and setting up festive arrangements so that by 7.00pm, as people entered bearing their tickets, a warm welcome awaited them in the form of mulled cider, kindly sponsored by the Laing family, and they could seat themselves at one of the beautifully decorated tables. They were served plates of bangers and mash (and peas) by a team of willing chaps in themed aprons, and jugs of wonderful gravy followed closely behind. The sausages were sponsored by the Hall family of Old Heale Cottage, and as ever, were very much appreciated.

Brains were glad of this food in order to attack the Christmas film quiz which lay on each table throughout the evening. Not everyone achieved sparkling results (!) but nonetheless, the challenge stirred the grey matter, and the array of splendid desserts laid out following consumption of the main course was more than enough to make up for any feelings of inadequacy. The variety, quality and quantity of these sweetmeats defeated everyone in the end, so much so that not all the serving dishes were cleaned out despite our best efforts. Local businesses (and some further afield) as well as individuals, had very kindly donated prizes for the raffle, which were distributed to the lucky winners according to the draw.

Carols led by the vicar Scott, and Patrick on the piano, continued the festive mood so that the room rang with 'joyful noise'. As is always the case, behind every community event there is an array of willing helpers who set it up and drill down to the necessary detail in order to make it happen. Many thanks are due to these people - you know who you are! This edition of Carols Bangers and Mash was as celebratory as ever, and for many, set us off towards that coming of the Light which is Christmas.

Bygone Days – Garden Fete hits the headlines

Janet Seaton

Auberon Waugh (a Somerset man who lived at Combe Florey), writing in the *Spectator* on 12 September 1968, described it thus: "Garden fêtes at Curry Rivel, a tiny Somerset hamlet just off the great Taunton Road from Wincanton, have always been noted for the recklessness of their opening speeches, but on this occasion my spies report that villagers reeled away clutching their pots of home-made gooseberry jam, leaving the main tombola prizes unclaimed." What had caused such a shock?

Edward Du Cann, MP for Taunton and Tory Party Chairman until Edward Heath replaced him in 1967, chose a garden fête in Curry Rivel in 1968 as the occasion to attack his Party leader – the Prime Minister. He said: "The country has every reason to expect leadership and inspiration from the Conservative Party and I hear it too often that this has been conspicuously lacking in recent months." He went further: "The Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in October provides a brilliant opportunity for the party to put over to the nation a clearer and distinguishable alternative to the present administration."

It caused a furore, but Du Cann refused to back down. "My speech was entirely my own. I do not withdraw one word of it."

Langport & District History Society

Our next talk will be at 7.30pm on 5 February at the Sports & Social Club, Eastover, Langport. Andrew Powell-Thomas will talk about 'Somerset during World War II'. All welcome; non-members £4.

Naturally Beautiful Beauty Salon

Naturally Beautiful Beauty Salon is based in Curry Rivel offering a wide variety of treatments including eyelash extensions, lash lifts, CACI, radio frequency collagen lift, massage, facials and waxing.

Reiki and Reflexology are also available with Debbie.

Call 07903 727 590 or find us on Facebook
@naturallybeautifulbeautysalon



Challenge Yourself for Wildlife in 2024!

Emily Weatherburn – Somerset Wildlife Trust

Whether you love running, walking, cycling, or swimming, join Team Wilder and do it for wildlife! Somerset Wildlife Trust has recently launched a brand-new series of Wilder Challenges for 2024, and there are activities to suit all abilities, no matter how ambitious you are, from your first 5K run or long-distance walk, to Exmoor's toughest challenge and everything in between. There is also Caving for Nature, which offers you the chance to explore the incredible underground world around Cheddar Gorge.

Somerset Wildlife Trust is also offering several free charity places to participants willing to help raise vital funds for Somerset's wildlife — something which is now more important than ever. The UK is currently in a climate and nature emergency, and the Trust believes people need to come together to help protect our remaining wild places and the incredible species that call them home. Taking on a sponsored challenge is a fun and exciting way to have a real and lasting impact to wildlife in Somerset.

Here are some of the exciting events you can get involved in this year:

- **Caving for Nature** – 24th March: a brand-new challenge exploring the underground world around Cheddar Gorge.
 - **Mud Master 2024** – 21st April: the muddiest and most hilarious 5K, 10K or 20K of your life.
 - **Abseil for Wildlife** – 18th May: a 130ft abseil to help you overcome that fear of heights.
 - **The Somerset 100** – 19th May: a 35 mile, 100K or 100 mile road cycle around the Somerset Levels.
 - **The Exmoor Perambulation** – 22nd June: a self-navigated, circular walk through Exmoor.
 - **Ultra Marathon!** – 22nd June: walking not enough? Take on the ultimate challenge and run the distance of the Exmoor Perambulation.
 - **Man vs. Moor** – 23rd June: Exmoor's most unique challenge! A 5K, 10K, or 10 mile run, swim, and tunnel through Exmoor.
 - **Minehead Sprint Triathlon** – 6th October: a 750m sea swim, 20km cycle, and 5K run ending on the beach in Minehead.
- Moonlit Meadow Run** – 23rd November: a 5K or 10K flat and beginner-friendly night run through Taunton's Longrun Meadow.

Everyone who signs up to a Challenge Event this year will receive plenty of fundraising advice and support from Kate Wilson — so don't delay! Choose your challenge today: www.somersetwildlife.org/challenge-yourself

Mud Master



Abseil for Wildlife



Ilminster Arts Centre News

You might be interested in some events coming up at Ilminster Arts Centre:

Oh La La! Quintet will be back on Friday 2nd February by popular demand. This is a rare opportunity to see this fabulous band. The quintet mixes Parisian folk music and French chanson with unforgettable upbeat 20s smooth, 50s jazz, film noir and nouvelle film music – plus the occasional French pop song. Every now and then, they give you one of their original tunes, too!

On Friday 9th February you could see **The All Seasons** who are a tribute band to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. They will be playing all the sing-along hits in a show that faithfully recreates the sound that has been the soundtrack of so many people’s lives for over half a century.

On Friday 16th February, the **Perks Ensemble** will be delighting the audience with a programme that includes Mozart’s Piano Quartet No 2 in E-flat major, Hindesmith’s string Trio No 1 Opus 34 and Brahms’ Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor.

Looking further ahead to Friday 8th March when the **Gaz Hughes Trio** will be visiting the Arts Centre as part of their **Nuclear Bebopalypse Tour**. The trio pay homage to jazz legends, blending heritage with a modern twist for a captivating soundscape that strikes the perfect balance between tradition and innovation.

For more information on these and other events: <https://www.ilminsterartscentre.com>



Oh La La! - A Night of French Music



*The Gaz Hughes Trio
Nuclear Bebopalypse Tour*

Shopping List

Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge Food Bank

Items most needed - 4th January 2024

1	Tins of; meatballs, beans, tomato soup
2	Instant noodles
3	Sugar
4	Hair conditioner
5	Black bin bags
6	Multi purpose cleaners & washing detergents - powder/gel/tablets
7	The Food Bank is only able to accept donations of food/groceries and money
8	Your continued support is much appreciated

St. Andrew's Church

To find out more, please visit us at:
www.curryrivel.org.uk or
www.achurchnearyou.com



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

February

Sunday 4th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family and Friends Service + refreshments
 11.15 **FH** - Said Communion CW
 4.30 pm **CR OSR** - Café Church
 6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Thursday 8th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 11th

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

Tuesday 13th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Wednesday 14th - Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm **CR** - United Benefice Holy Communion & imposition of ashes

Sunday 18th - Lent 1

9.30 **FH** - Morning Worship
 11.00 **CR** - All Age Family & Friends Service + refreshments
 12.15 **CR** - said Communion CW
 4.30 pm **CR OSR** - Café Church

Saturday 24th

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

Sunday 25th - Lent 2

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW
 11.00 **CR** - Morning Worship CW
 6.00 pm **SW** - Evensong BCP

March

10.30 **FH** - 2024 World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel
CR OSR = Old School Room, Curry Rivel, 'behind' St. Andrew's Church
FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead
SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Scott's spot



Concluding Confirmation call...

If the community grapevine is being efficient, then you may have picked up that my time as your vicar is drawing to a close. After 11 years, the plan is for me and my family to move to Langport/Huish this summer where I shall take up the part-time role as Associate Minister for our new grouping of seven parishes. In due course a new vicar will be appointed and I look forward to working alongside them, but have decided for reasons of personal and family wellbeing to pass on the baton of overall leadership. If you pray, please do so for the advertising and recruiting process of our new vicar. They will after all need to work alongside me!

Before this change though, I'd like to offer an invitation to anyone - young or less young - to consider coming to one of our groups exploring the Christian faith, with the option of Confirmation after the course. Within the Church of England, Confirmation is the follow-up to infant Baptism where someone publicly chooses the Christian faith for themselves. Confirmation services are great celebrations led by a Bishop, and in our Diocese these services take place in Wells Cathedral in November.

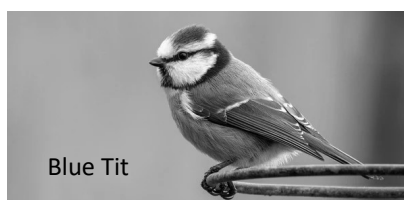
Café Church Exploring God, Faith and Life.

This gathering provides an opportunity to discuss different matters around God, faith and life over drinks and nibbles, in an informal setting, including some music.

We meet from **4:30 till 5:30-ish in the Old School Room** (see diary in left-hand column for dates).

All ages welcome, with some activities for younger ages too.

For more information contact
 Rev Mark McKnight on 074 7155 6366
 or markmcknight5@gmail.com



Blue Tit

Scott's Spot ctd. . .

So, a final invitation from your vicar. If you're one of the many young people I've seen growing up through Curry Rivel Primary School, who enjoyed Collective Worship (remember *Open the Book?*), or *Messy Church*, and would like the chance to explore what a growing-up Christian faith looks like, then this is for you. If you're approx. 12-19 then check-out the '*Vox: Share what matters*' trailer on *YouTube* to see where we'd start. What about getting in touch as a group of friends? Are you really going to let Secondary School RE rob you of something potentially beautiful, powerful and life-changing?

Or if you're an adult who has met me during community events or at weddings, funerals or baptisms and if you want to know more but have let fear or procrastination stand in the way, then perhaps now is the moment. Perhaps God is nudging you right now. Maybe Christianity is as bad as you think. If so, here's a chance to know for sure. Or maybe it's full of surprises and the real thing (the real Jesus) will blow your mind. For those in their 20s to 90s I offer the chance to read and talk through a short but brilliant little book called '*Being Confirmed*'. By the end you may not choose to take the public step of Confirmation (which would be absolutely fine), but you will have tried, and likely grown in the process.

If any of this is striking a cord please get in touch before the end of February and, depending on take-up, we'll aim to make a start in early to mid March. My email address is: scottr.patterson@btinternet.com and I'd be delighted to hear from you. It would be special to end my time here sharing my faith and experiences with those I've enjoyed sharing life with over the last decade. Will you join me?

With prayer for you, those you love and our community.

Rev'd Scott.

From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

17th January - Service of Thanksgiving at Taunton Crematorium for Nancy Lilian Martel († 19th December 2023)

Shrove Tuesday - 13th February

Shrove Tuesday, or 'pancake day', is the last day before Lent, which for Christians is traditionally a time of abstinence. This was done to exercise self-discipline before God, and to help focus the mind on the last weeks of Christ's life as he faced the cross.

Lent can also be a time for doing 'extra' things - perhaps putting aside more time for prayer, meditation or Bible study.

Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday as they contain fat, butter and eggs, which as 'rich foods' were once considered 'forbidden' during Lent.

'Shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive', which means 'to confess', and so on this day, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins, so that by faith they began Lent with a 'clean sheet' before God.

**The World Day of Prayer
2024 service will be held on
Friday 1st March at 10.30 am
at St. Martin's Church in
Fivehead**

Everyone is invited to this year's World Day of Prayer service. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, entitled "I beg you, bear with one another in love". It was written long before the current conflict but there can be no more appropriate time for the world to be praying both for the Christian community caught up in that situation and for the future of all peoples of Palestine who desire peace.

This is an ecumenical service to which people of every denomination and none are warmly welcome, and we will be joining with people throughout the world who will be taking part in this service on Friday March 1st.

Glenys Allinson, Co-ordinator.
Tel: 01458 251603

St. Andrew's Rotas February

Flowers

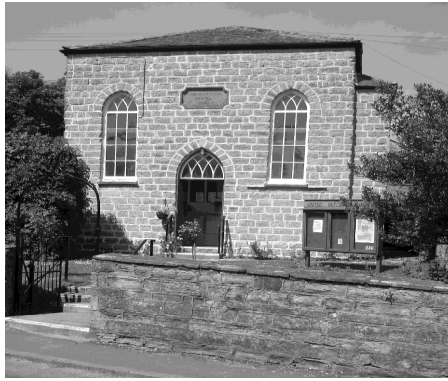
3rd & 10th - Adrienne Holmes
14th - Lent

Cleaning

3rd - Anne Goff
10th - Jackie & John
de Ronde
17th - Carolyn Paton
24th - Nicky Barker



United Reformed Church



February

Services take place in our Chapel building at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated.

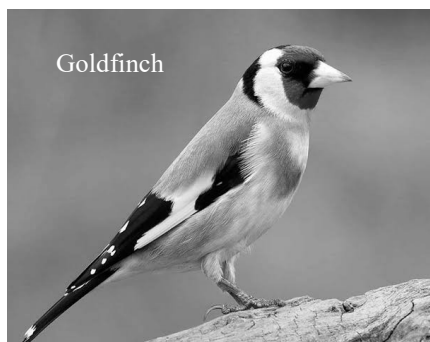
- 4th** - Rev Tim Richards
Mid-Somerset Group Service at Somerton
(therefore NO service at Curry Rivel)
- 11th** - Mrs Jo Morling
- 18th** - Mr Mike Mason
- 25th** - Rev Tim Richards

We are a small, inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all wherever they are on their life/spiritual journey, without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing our work together is rooted in our relationships with God, each other, and the world around us.

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

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

Hall Bookings: 01458 253953



Goldfinch

A View from the Orchard

What follows is a *Pillowtalk* from 2014: forgive the repetition but in the light of the dehumanising politics of the present moment it bears sharing again.

I was struck by the answer given by Leah and her cousin to this question; 'How can we be God's love in the world?'

Quite a 'grown-up' question asked by a Reverend during a family orientated service, to be discussed in small groups and then shared communally, in a place of worship not familiar to us. There were 5 adults in our group, 2 of whom were ministers, 3 children and it was the children who provided answers which made me stop and think. Whilst discussing fairness, equality, standing up for the 'downtrodden', the children cut through our convoluted talk to answer loudly and clearly for all to hear

- 'Be a friend'
- 'Believe in people'

Believe in people. *Not believe, in other words take as truth what others say, but believe in - have confidence in, have trust in others- see them in essence as 'good'- have belief in the divine spark within. It means offering everyone respect; dignity; seeing and treating them as of infinite worth without regard to social or financial status; embracing difference and celebrating variety; believing God's love for us all and being that love in practice.*

I've no idea exactly what was meant by the then 9 year old who feels we should believe in people but it felt so right, a huge task and yet so very, very simple. It seems to be what Jesus was demonstrating when he ate with those on the edges of society, scoffed for their occupation, scorned for their misdemeanours; when he touched those isolated because of their mental, physical or spiritual sickness. It seems like he was saying to them 'welcome back into the human race- you are of value; I believe in you'. How affirming that feels.

My sense is God believes in us, has confidence in us, values us in all our variety. Believe in each other.

Somerton u3a Monthly Meetings and Talks

Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Friday of the month at the Edgar Community Hall, Somerton.

We are open from 9.30am for refreshments and the chance for members to meet and chat.

The refreshments will finish at 10.20 in order to clear away before the meeting.

The meeting starts at 10.30 with notices, announcements and any other business and will be followed by our guest speaker.

The meeting closes at 12 noon.

Please join us. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a small charge of £2 so please come along and see who we are and what we are about. If you are visiting for the first time then please just make yourself known to one of our Committee members or 'Welcomers' who will be happy to tell you a little bit about us and help you feel at home.

Friday 23rd February 2024

SS Great Britain: from launch to 're-launch'

By Ian Caskie

In building SS Great Britain, the second of his three great ships, Brunel successfully combined and adapted the very best of cutting-edge technologies to create the world's first transatlantic liner – a true wonder of the Victorian age.

She was the first ocean-going steamship with an iron hull, and the

first driven by a propeller. This extraordinary ship, launched in 1843 as the largest and fastest afloat, transformed shipbuilding and sea travel for ever.

Our Speaker

Ian was born and raised on Merseyside, where he spent many an hour watching the arrivals and departures at Liverpool's busy Pier Head in the 1950s and 60s. This led to his lifelong passion for ships – especially ocean liners. He was a Primary Headteacher and School Improvement Adviser in Bristol for many years, and has been a Visitor

Experience volunteer and tour guide with the SS Great Britain Trust since 2007.

Ian's enthusiasm for his subject is clearly evidenced in his illustrated talk which tells the ship's remarkable story from her original design through the different phases of her working life. It also describes life on board and her incredible salvage and return to Bristol in 1970, and finally her restoration, preservation and 're-launch' as a multi-award winning museum of international renown.



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...In February

Regular Events

MONDAY

10.00am	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00am	Table Tennis (kevlo@outlook.com)	Village Hall
1.30pm	Mum & Baby Ftness class	Village Hall
6.00pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.45pm	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

5.30pm	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30pm	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45pm	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30pm	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews
7.30pm	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

THURSDAY

10.00am	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
6.30pm	Yoga	Village Hall

FRIDAY

9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am-2pm	Friday Club	Village Hall
4.00pm	Table Tennis	
7.00pm	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

SATURDAY

9.00am	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts	(gslthelevelsscouts@gmail.com)	
Rainbows		01823 698940
Brownies		251953
Langport Youth Club		0793 899 338
Sports Clubs		
Short Mat Bowls Club		251616
Cricket Club		251453
Yoga		07789 862548
Pilates		07940 276265

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
Sedgemoor Garden Club		250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association		741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom		762296
Friday Club		252791
Mum and Baby		07751 380759
Forget-Me-Not-Café		252710 & 396123
Movement to Music, Becky Bostock		07706 734604
Langport Cycle Club		0777 567 0546

Arts

Entertainers		250311
Music Club		250863
Art Club		253126

Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)		07714 265384
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)		07789 661288
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)		250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.		253953

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)	clerk@curryrivel.org.uk	07534 318840
District Council		01935 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	07483 120 603	
URC Minister		252799
Messy Church		01458 762523

Deadlines for March 2024 Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday **8th February**
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com

Comments & Articles: 5pm **Monday 12th February**
Send to: curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

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

Looking Back – The Bell Hotel

Chris Hull

Christmas time always throws up fond memories, Ghosts of Christmas Past.

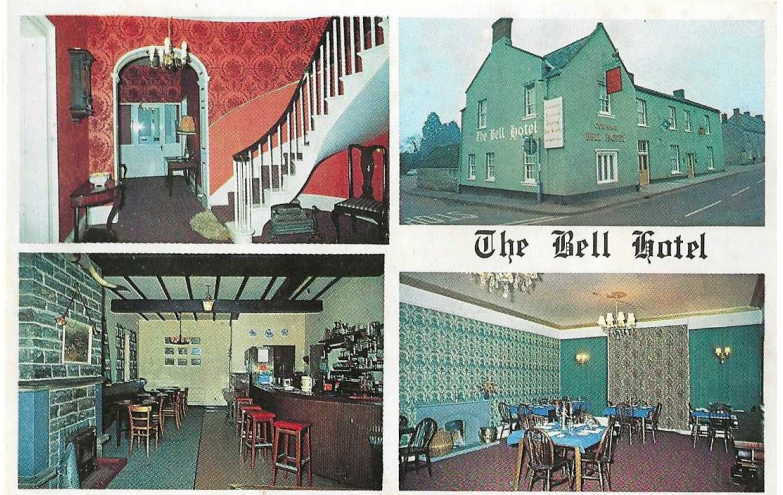
I've been chatting over the phone recently, to my friend Clint Ramsey, who was the son of the landlord and landlady of The Bell Hotel - Ted and Kit Ramsey. They ran it from mid-seventies until early eighties. We were saying how packed the two bars and the restaurant were, both on Christmas and New Year's Eve back then. I can vividly remember seeing the artist Dick Sturgeon drinking with the cartoonist, who went by the nom de plume of 'REX' in one of the national daily tabloids and lived in the village. Along with the Osmonds (not the pop group – the ones who ran the garage that is now the petrol station) and many more who have now passed away.



Bell Hotel Matches

They were happy innocent times, and you got change from a £5.00 note after buying a round of drinks! And The Bell Inn really was that colour in those days! You might also be interested in the cover of a matchbox sold at The Bell.

The Bell Hotel Postcard



Christmas Lights in Chatham Place

Jane Hamlin

Roy Webb is certainly not the only householder in Chatham Place to brighten up the December evenings with colourful displays, but his efforts are exceptionally impressive as you can see from the photograph. Clearly those who took the trouble to see it for themselves were wowed by Roy's efforts because a total of £506.32 in

donations was collected. This year's total, in aid of the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, is the highest that Roy's lights have ever raised.

Roy has asked us to thank everyone who donated to this total. I am sure that they would like to thank Roy for his delightful spectacle.



Roy Webb's house in Chatham Place December 2023