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Active Travel News

Tony Greenaway

Historic day as work starts on clearing a section of the path

By the time you read this, most people will have noticed the new aspect on the left-hand side as you drive, walk, pedal towards Langport.

Our volunteers have done tremendous work on clearing a section of path and in less than one week we can now see end to end for the section running from the North Street Drayton turn off to Sandpits.

We have had excellent voluntary assistance from a local arborist and offers of help from a local civil engineering firm to help with clearance and excavation. Our aim is to open this first section of the path within six months provided we have raised sufficient funds (£50,000) to buy materials and pay contractors. You can help by donating to the JustGiving fund which is https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/curryrivel-activetravel?utm_term=rJgx8V7PK

As a team, we have gelled well and enjoyed each other's company especially at break time with coffee and cakes supplied. After all an army marches on its stomach!

We are generating ideas all the time and there is much enthusiasm within our volunteer team which includes two residents from Drayton.

Negotiations continue on other sections of the route and there will be more announcements as these are progressed.

The wider picture. A working group covering most of the neighbouring communities is looking at how to connect via existing quiet roads and footpaths with improvements made to safety and weather resilience. Most notably, a link from Aller to Langport is already underway and a feasibility study is looking into a Fivehead to Curry Rivel link. The group shares a vision that our communities can be connected with a network of good cycle/footpaths and that, eventually, connections could be made to the larger towns like Bridgwater and existing cycle footpaths, for example, [The Strawberry Line](#)

The benefits of active travel to health are well established and it must be worthwhile to seek to build a path(s) that enable all members of our community to get about safely and enjoy the fresh air.

To keep up to date join our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/curryrivelactivetravel/>

Or subscribe to the Curry Rivel community website <https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/subscribe.html>



The Active Travel volunteers take a well-earned break from clearing part of the route

All things bright and beautiful!

Carolyn Paton

February's WI meeting saw a lively business section, covering not only the usual news and events but also some items of particular local interest. Last month's vote on a National Resolution resulted in the motion to 'Say no to gambling advertising' going forward for area consideration, and is a topic that is of concern to many. If other institutes concur, this may go on to become a National Campaign.

A member went on to speak of the bus situation as it touches us directly – notably the proposed cancellation of the no 54, connecting us from Taunton to Yeovil. So many people would be affected by the projected closure of this route. It's a loss-maker, we know, but is that the only criterion to be considered? For rural life to be viable transport is vital. Students, workers and older people, together with others who may not drive, are particularly vulnerable when routes are altered or closed. The service has in addition to be useable. A two-hourly frequency is insufficient, especially if one passage through is cancelled. As an example, another member recently found herself stranded in Taunton with an almost 4-hour wait, owing to the non-appearance of an expected bus.

Members resolved to co-ordinate a response to this arbitrary proposal which seems to have little, if any consultation behind it. The concerns of 50+ members of our community, as represented by the WI membership, are not negligible.

Following the break, more positive reflections reigned as we heard Paula Simpson present in words, pictures and samples her lifelong passion for textiles in a talk entitled 'A life in stitches'. She took us through her childhood enthusiasm for, and developing interest in, sewing - via a BSc in Home Economics and jobs in both food and textiles. Changing tack, and via a City and Guilds qualification in Patchwork and Quilting, she began a wide-ranging exploration of quilting techniques across the centuries and internationally. The term quilt comes from the Latin 'culcita' meaning a stuffed sack and the technique has been known for a very long time. We saw several pictures of work, some of which is held in the V&A, of different examples: some very plump and scratchy looking Crusader under-armour from the 12th century, a bed

quilt from the 14th, and an early 18th silk coverlet, along with luxurious-looking bed hangings. Patchwork

was traditionally done over paper piecing and, as some of these older examples have deteriorated, they reveal the contemporary papers beneath the fabric; these themselves can be fascinating survivors, giving insights into history.

Paula showed us another style altogether called 'wholecloth' quilting – a technique where the fabric is caught into texture by stitches alone, rather than by adding patchwork. Decoration can then be applied over the top if desired. Her forays into international techniques led her to Kantha stitching from India. The term means 'rags' and literally is the making whole of that which was torn or broken, and also Boro and Sashiko (layering, mending and reinforcing decoratively) from Japan.

The materials available for this work today have evolved with the rise of synthetics, the internet and digitally printed fabrics – all of which can be incorporated into patchwork and quilting, along with the re-purposing of household materials as the desirability for re-cycling grows. She brought with her a varied, colourful and extensive selection of her own work, from hangings she had made using samples of past clothing, and relevant objects, recalling family members and events (downs as well as ups) to decorative stitched quilts and pictures. These beautiful works of art repaid close examination after the talk, and several members lingered over them. Paula runs workshops at ACE Arts in Somerton, one of which involves slow-stitching, which grew out of the mindfulness movement, encouraging us to slow down the pace of life and simply enjoy both the process and the fabric. Maybe slowing down is something many of us could do with.

The WI welcomes new members, and if you are interested to know more, contact the President, Anne Geach on 01458 253078

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<https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/curry-rivel-news-more.html>



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Alison Cockrell

One Life (12A)

One Life tells the true story of how Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton left his job in the city in 1938 to go to Prague in order to try and rescue several hundred predominantly Jewish children whose families had escaped the rise of the Nazis in Germany in Austria. When seeing



Friday 15 March 2024

these children living in terrible conditions and with the threat of invasion, he and the team realised they had to act quickly. Fifty years on Nicky is still haunted by the fate of the children he could not save by bringing them to safety in England.

A brilliant performance by Anthony Hopkins as Nicky in his later years.

Also stars: Johnny Flynn, Helena Bonham Carter, Romola Garai and Jonathan Price.

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Bygone days

A shocking time

Janet Seaton

Five o'clock in the morning is evidently a dangerous time in Curry Rivel. The *Taunton Courier* of 8 January 1868 reported: "At ten minutes after five o'clock on Saturday morning a slight shock of earthquake was felt in this parish.

Mr S H Sewers was lying in bed awake from illness, when he heard a low rumbling sound, and immediately the bed and furniture of the room shook rapidly. Mr C Fry, opposite, also felt it. Dr Hughes, who lives near, felt it. The time piece in his bedroom stopped at ten minutes past five. Several other persons in the village were also alarmed. No damage was done."

Another earthquake struck in 1926, again at about 5 am, but this time residents took it in their stride.

The *Langport & Somerton Herald* said: "The residents of Curry Rivel, many of whom are apparently very sound sleepers, were not much alarmed by the earthquake shock, although a good number were awakened by the curious disturbance at about 5 am. No damage is reported, although in some houses various things were moved."

Langport & District History Society

Our next talk will be at 7.30pm on 4 March at Hurds Hill, Westover, Langport TA10 0ND. Dr Mark Hutchinson will talk about 'Bishops as Lords of Wells and their Palace, c.909-c.1860'. All welcome; non-members £4.

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Anatomy of a Scout Volunteer

Pete Herb

What do you think of when someone mentions *Scout Leader*? You'd be forgiven for going straight to thoughts of leading youngsters in raft building, orienteering and making camp-fires. After all that is part of it, and for over 100 years Scouts has been equipping young people with these types of skills and experiences that can help shape the rest of their lives.

At The Levels Scout Group, we've been doing it since 2006. We have more than 65 children and young people who get together each week to enjoy fun and adventure while learning new skills. For the Scouts (aged 10-14) one of the summer highlights is always the *JAWS* weekend away – packed full of those classic scouting activities like archery, climbing and caving. Our Cub leader, Kit, who's been a part of The Levels Group for more than 14 years is our main water sports leader and regularly takes young people kayaking and paddleboarding. These are the exciting and challenging opportunities we all know and love the Scouts for. Giving our youngsters these positive, challenging experiences is what makes it worthwhile for us as leaders.

But the truth is, as leaders we're not all Bear Grylls or Steve Backshall's. The volunteers who help make Scouts happen are made up of parents, teachers, electricians, retirees and young leaders too. We can't all skin a rabbit or teach abseiling, but as a team we know someone who can!

Not all the adults work with the young people, either. Behind the scenes are the Trustees, Treasurers and Fundraisers who are all essential to keep the Scouting activities running. Without the people who do these things, the Levels Group simply couldn't stay open. What we all have in common is a dedication to giving the young people the opportunity to try fun and challenging activities they might not otherwise have the chance to experience.

Could volunteering with Scouts be something you could do? The Levels Group are looking for new volunteers this year, to give as little or as much time as you can to helping grow Scouts in our area and keep us open. In particular we'll need additional leaders for Scouts (ages 10-14) and Explorers (ages 14-18) by the end of the Summer term this year. If you are interested in joining our team, or to find out more, please contact our Chairman Martin Bristow at chairthelevelsscouts@gmail.com.



Cub leader Kit (left) with young people from Explorers, Scouts, Cubs & Beavers at the Christmas Charity bag-packing at Tesco, Langport, December 2023.

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Dear Editor

I have noted that in the article on Active Travel News in the February issue of CRN, reference is made to 'road safety improvements in School Street'. This street does not exist; it is officially, and always has been, Church Street.

Thirteen years ago new signage was put up throughout the village and at that time the new sign at the junction with the main road did read School Street, much to the dismay of the street and other nearby residents. After proving that even

prior to the school being built the street had always been called Church Street, and as the residents unanimously called for the signage to be corrected, it was replaced.



I have also been contacted by another resident about this recent article who feels, quite rightly, that in future the street should be referred to by everyone with the correct name, particularly in legal documentation.

Name and address supplied

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Sedgemoor Gardens Club

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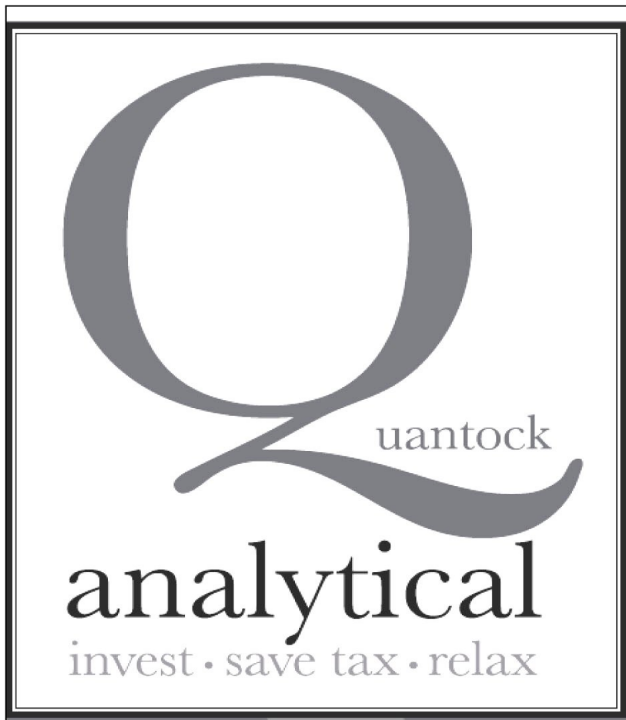
We are coming to the end of our season of talks with only a talk on *Italian Gardens* on 12th of this month and one on *The world under our feet* in April. I'm sure both will live up to expectations, as will the talk on *Seasonal colour and interest in the garden* which is coming up in February, just after the CRN goes to print.

However, we also still have our annual *Daffodil Festival* to look forward to on Saturday, 23rd March, and this is open for viewing to everyone, so do come along to Long Sutton Village Hall from 2.30 on the day to get a real taste of spring as the sights and scents assail you as you enter the hall! Entry is free and you can purchase delicious cream teas and cakes at very reasonable prices, and there will also be a range of daffodils and other plants to buy, not to mention the raffles going on amidst the flowers! It's also an opportunity to talk to our committee members and find out more about the club, which normally meets in All

Saints Hall, Langport on the second Tuesday of the month at 7-7.30pm. We can use the surgery carpark for these evening meetings, but we decamp to Long Sutton for our show as it boasts such a great hall, with masses of parking right outside that is available all day long. After our April meeting our thoughts turn to our summer events - a discount evening at Brimsmore Garden Centre (25% off everything!), a coach trip to Castle Drogo and, as a follow up to a talk we had in September, an evening visit to Badbury Flowers at Isle Brewers. If you decide to join us at the *Daffodil Festival* your membership fee will cover you for all these and until the end of the 2024-5 season - how's that for a bargain!



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Curry Rivel Open Gardens Sunday 16th June 2024

Debs Hockley, Co-ordinator - cropengardens@gmail.com

We have several gardens that have come forward to open on the day, but could do with a couple more. The school will be open showing their gardens and wild spaces and also selling tickets and refreshments.

If you would like to open your garden, or if you would like a little bit more information then please get in touch using the email address above.

We are also looking for a new Treasurer, this is not an onerous task as we just try to raise funds for the village, and we only run every 2 years. Please get in touch if you think you could help. You don't have to open your garden or even be a gardener to do this role.



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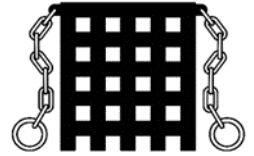
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Church bells herald the unveiling of the second Bagehot interpretation board



Janet Seaton – Chair, Langport & District History Society

The Langport and District History Society has unveiled the second in its series of interpretation boards commemorating the Langport’s most famous citizen, Walter Bagehot (1826-1877). It took place on Saturday 3 February, the anniversary of Bagehot’s birthday, in the churchyard of All Saints Church, Langport, where Walter, his wife and parents are buried. Fittingly, the church bells were rung to mark the event. The fine illustrated interpretation board was unveiled by Cllr Sean Dromgoole, Chair of Langport Town Council.

The board focuses on the two prominent Langport families of Bagehot and Stuckey linked by marriage and by commerce, as well as the various connections between the families and Langport’s Church. It complements the first interpretation board, unveiled in 2013 in the Walter Bagehot Town Garden, which provided an illustrated overview Walter Bagehot’s life and legacy. The series of boards will be completed by the proposed third and final board, to be erected at Great Bow Wharf, which will focus on the commercial importance of the Bagehots and Stuckeys in Langport’s river trade, and through the famous Stuckey’s Bank.

Janet Seaton, Chair of the Society, welcomed History Society members and invited guests to the unveiling and handed over to Barry Winetrobe, who outlined why Walter Bagehot deserves to be remembered and the steps that had been taken to commemorate his life and work.

Before cutting the ribbon to officially unveil the board, Cllr Dromgoole spoke about the little-known side of Bagehot as an ardent lover. He quoted from one of Bagehot’s love letters to his then fiancée, Eliza Wilson, who was in Edinburgh having some rather unorthodox treatment for her headaches involving head-rubbing. “Why not be rubbed in Somersetshire?”, he asked. Why indeed.



Holding the ribbon: Sheila and Colin Edwards, Trustees of the Langport & District History Society and Cllr Sean Dromgoole, Chairman of Langport Town Council, preparing to cut the ribbon

The Langport & District History Society, a registered charity, has since 2019, incorporated the Bagehot Memorial Fund, which was set up by local citizens and Langport Town Council to commemorate the life and legacy of Walter Bagehot (1826-1877), a famous writer on political and constitutional issues and on banking and finance matters, and was for many years the editor of *The Economist*. His work remains relevant and influential to this day, as was demonstrated during the great banking and financial crisis of 2007-8 and his views on constitutional monarchy was also featured in the Netflix series, *The Crown*. For more details on Langport’s most famous citizen, see <https://langportheritage.org.uk/walter-bagehot>.

The new Board was written by members of the History Society and designed by Belinda Magee, who also designed the earlier Town Garden board, and the proposed third board at Great Bow Wharf is intended to follow the same distinctively informative and engaging style.



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A two-parter

Carolyn Paton

January's WI meeting was taken up with two major elements – voting on National Resolutions and a talk on living with diabetes given by Sally Hair, one of our members.

The meeting began by considering topics up for the vote. A wider selection of resolutions is narrowed down across the membership first to four, and subsequently to one, which is then the focus of a National Campaign to raise awareness of an issue of public interest – especially to women - and deemed to be insufficiently understood by the public in general due to lack of profile. The four topics put forward for consideration were: Matters of dental health and its lack of accessibility, The impact of poor housing conditions, The undesirability of unbridled gambling advertising and Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. Each of these had been outlined previously in a WI quarterly mag. Four members enlarged briefly on one of these topics at the meeting, putting forward reasons for the adoption of 'their' cause, and these were then voted on using the forms provided. The result will be added to others across the country, and the eventual winner will be decided at the Annual National Meeting in the Albert Hall in June. This will become the designated Campaign of the year. During 2024, efforts will be made at local and national level to influence thinking among movers and shakers at

all levels, and to incite action on the chosen topic.

A welcome cup of tea or coffee followed this exercise, and then Sally spoke to us about 'Living with Diabetes Type 1 – a balancing act'; something she has been doing since she was 10. Type 2, usually diagnosed in later life, is far more common than Type1. It is usually diagnosed in young people, but there are an increasing number of exceptions. Type 1 means that the pancreas is not producing any insulin whereas, in Type 2, any insulin being produced is either inadequate or is being used inefficiently. Both types need to be understood by the patient and their family and friends, too. When Sally was diagnosed by displaying the most common symptoms: the 4 t's: thirst, toilet (frequent use), thinness and tiredness, her mother was determined that they would be in control of the condition, and not the other way round. Type 1 is managed by balancing the amount of insulin administered with the amount of carbohydrate eaten and Type 2 by tablets and or diet. Exercise is important in the management of both types.

Living with Type 1 involves frequent testing of the blood sugar levels and dosing insulin by injection or pump on a daily basis – in Sally's case, maybe 5 or more times a day. Diabetes does not need to be a restrictive condition: Sally has engaged in further education, had several different types of employment and travelled widely. However, activities such as driving and exercise involve testing the blood sugar level

immediately beforehand, and should the blood sugar level fall too low, stashes of instant remedies have to be available: e.g. orange juice, glucose tablets. For people with diabetes, it needs careful management; because getting it wrong, or neglecting/ignoring the condition, can lead to severe problems for eyes and feet, which can be potentially be life-changing.

Sally's cheerful demeanour and wry self-deprecating humour make light of her situation, and those who know her will be familiar with her ability to make a room laugh, so it may be a surprise to realise what living with diabetes involves; it is a constant presence and currently, there is no cure for Type 1. The condition is not a laughing matter, and the assembled company now has a new awareness of the facts. Once again, we have been informed on an important topic by an interesting speaker – this time, one of our own. Thank you Sally.

The WI is open to all interested women. To know more, please contact the President Anne Geach on 01458 253078

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Friday 1st

10.30 **FH** - World Day of Prayer

Sunday 3rd

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 7th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th - Mothering Sunday

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

Tuesday 12th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Sunday 17th

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

Sunday 24th - Palm Sunday

10.00 **CR - United Benefice**
 All Age Holy Communion

Monday 25th

8.30 pm Night Prayer - via zoom

Tuesday 26th

8.30 pm Night Prayer - via zoom

Thursday 28th - Maundy Thursday

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

Friday 29th - Good Friday

2.00 pm **CR** - United Benefice - Hour at the Cross
 6.00 pm **SW** - Compline

Curate's Corner



Not fair . . .

"It's not fair!" I am often reminded. It's impressive how early on kids develop a sense of justice. They might not always be consistent, and it usually revolves around their own perspective... (as I write I'm wondering if I'm not so different myself!)

As a secondary teacher I loved teaching young people about the inspiring lives of others. I would tell them stories of social reformers; about how people like Gandhi, William Wilberforce, and Elizabeth Fry, challenged *the system*, stood up to injustice and saw their nations change for the better. I would encourage my students to be active, stand up for what they believed in, be the voice for the voiceless and see the world change for the better. I believed that justice was possible.

As time goes by, I have become less optimistic about the impact of individual voices. Petitions fly around on social media, many of them don't make it onto the desks of our MPs, let alone get drafted into White Papers for serious consideration in Parliament. Even some of the larger protests and marches sometimes seem to get ignored (possibly be a good thing from time to time?). So, should we even bother when change seems so hard to come by?

Then, as though from nowhere, the TV series about the Post Office scandal seems to be doing what I haven't witnessed for a long time. It not only made us, as a nation, aware of a deep injustice, it has caused those in positions of authority to pay attention and act on behalf of those who were wronged.

March ctd . .

Saturday 30th

10.30-12.30 **CR OSR** - Easter Family Coffee, Crafts & Hot Cross Buns (see next page)

Sunday 31st - Easter Day

8.00 **SW** - Easter Communion BCP
 9.30 **FH** - Family Easter Communion
 11.00 **CR** - Family Easter Communion

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

Curate's Corner ctd. . .

This Lent I have been invited to help facilitate a course called *Act on Poverty*, meeting every Wednesday evening at 7pm at the Angel in Langport from the 21st February for six weeks. The purpose is to explore the impact that poverty is having on our society and around the world. We will look at ways to engage together to see justice for those in need of it. Please come with your ideas, questions and curiosity and join in, even if you can't make every session.

I have been inspired once again that there can be justice. The ITV drama reminded me of the Old Testament Prophets, who *creatively* cried out against oppressive systems. They often accompanied their message with performance art (Ezekiel cooked his food on dung, Jeremiah wore a yoke, and even used soiled underwear to make a point!). Jesus himself was not afraid to get political when he needed to. He avoided getting drawn into taking sides with a group and went for the issue itself. He critiqued unjust regulations and laws irrespective of the faction supporting them.

May we experience the dream of the prophets once again, to see justice roll like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream. May we be people who do our bit to live well with our neighbours wherever they are from. May we have the creativity and courage to be a voice for the voiceless and stand up for justice. Jesus said if you are hungry for righteousness and thirsty for justice you are blessed, because you will be satisfied.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,
 Revd Mark McKnight

St. Andrew's Rotas March

Brass - Nicky Barker

Flowers

10th - Mothering Sunday
 30th - Easter flowers

Cleaning

2nd - Liz Rendell
 9th - Lynne Comley
 16th - Tina Geary
 23rd - Wendy Graves
 30th - Anne Goff



World Day of Prayer 2024**Reminder**

that this ecumenical service will be held on **Friday 1st March at 10.30 am** in **St. Martin's Church, Fivehead**

Everyone is welcome to this service, of any denomination or none, and we will be able to share a cup of tea or coffee after the service.



For more information contact Glenys Allinson, Coordinator on 01458 - 251603

**Curry Rivel Village Hall
Quiz and Chilli Night**

£12.50 pp - Teams of up to 6

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

? Friday 8th March ?

Tickets at the Post Office/ petrol station, Sandpits or curryrivelsta@gmail.com or phone 01458 253078.



Chilli & Baked Potato Supper, Pudding
Bar – Raffle – Vegetarian Option

In an aid of St. Andrew's North Chapel windows.

Easter Lilies

The St. Andrew's Church Flower Guild will place lilies in the Church at Easter in memory of loved ones.



Anyone who wishes to make a donation towards the cost, please contact Adrienne Holmes on 01458—252710.

**Easter Family activities in
the Old School Room**

Saturday 30th March 10.30 - 12.30

Families are welcome to join us for a morning of craft activities, Easter garden building and a treasure hunt.

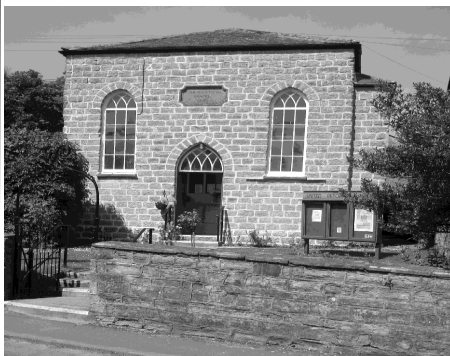
Refreshments will include tea, coffee and hot cross buns.



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United Reformed Church**March**

Services take place in our Chapel building, starting at 10.30 am.

3rd - Mrs Jo Morling
(including Holy Communion)

10th - Mothering Sunday

17th - Rev Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley

24th - to be arranged

31st - Easter Day

Mrs Jo Morling
(including Holy Communion)

Pillowtalk was a monthly series of reflections on conversations with my, then much younger, daughter – conversations about life, faith, the universe! What follows is a Pillowtalk from March 2014.

"I am not a Christian"

We had sat down together for tea; I don't remember the journey the conversation took to get to this point but this bald statement stood out;

"I am not a Christian"

"What do you understand a Christian to be?"

"Christians believe that God made the world and science has proved that is not the case"

Oh dear! When will it catch on that theology (the study of things to do with God) has kept pace with science, medicine, geology, astronomy, etc, etc and is not stuck in the dark ages believing the world was made only six thousand years ago and in less than seven days! I could get on my soap box here but a discussion of theology is not actually where this '**pillowtalk**' is heading –

"Being a Christian does not have to be about believing certain statements – having specific beliefs – rather it can be about following the example and teachings of Jesus, or Christ".

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

Pillowtalk ctd . . .

"I don't want to be known as 'A Christian' – I am Me"

And this is where my thinking is directed; to the celebration of the understanding my daughter has that she is herself, she is who she is, and that is both unique and the same as each human being. celebrate with her the choice not to be labeled as 'A Christian' any more than 'A vegetarian', rather she is herself who may or may not believe certain things about God. Her 'I am Me'-ness defines her before anything else.

Secretly – I'm relieved the conversation was about being labeled rather than not believing. Although I say I'm all for autonomy and making choices for ourselves I experienced a momentary flash of disappointment following her statement highlighting for me how hard it can be to really let her 'go her own way', 'do her own thing', come to her own decision about faith and God amongst other things. But if it's not her own choice it's not a free choice and will never become part of her 'I am Me'-ness (her essential essence, who she 'Is', her personhood) - and I guess that is one thing I do believe; the choice to respect and follow the example of Christ is just that – a choice- not a demand or an imposition from 'Above' or a means to an end (i.e. eternal life) but a freely made choice that makes a difference here, and now.

David Wale

Well known local mechanic, David Wale, sadly passed away, at La Fontana care home, Martock, at the age of 80, on the 22 January.

David grew upon his parents farm, at Oath Hill Farm, with his younger brother and sister, Robin and Margaret. On leaving school, he did his 3 year apprenticeship at Silver Street Motors, Taunton, he then started out on his long career in Curry Rivel, working for Osmond Bros, Pete Osmond, and Stanchester Motors, before finishing his career at Shires Garage, at the age of 72, being very proud of the decades he'd been an MoT tester.



David married Elizabeth Sugg, whose parents ran the Bell Hotel, they had 2 sons, Peter and Richard. They lived in Somerton and later in Huish Episcopi. Throughout his long career, he will be remembered as an excellent mechanic, never returning the car to the owner, until he was 100 percent happy with it, his good humour and joculariry, always going down well. He will be remembered by many local fishermen at Langport and Somerton, especially in the later stages at the Viaduct Fishery in Somerton, where he was a regular visitor catching many large carp. His funeral will be later in February.

ROOMS TO HIRE

at The Angel Community Center,
Bow St. Langport



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...In March

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	07930 899338

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
Twining 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
Secret World Wildlife Rescue	01278 768723 07463 087507

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 April 2024 Edition

Advertising:	5pm Thursday 7th March
Send to:	crn.nigel@outlook.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Monday 11th March
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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

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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!

Scouts, sloes and spring

Peter Goodenough

Curry Woods Conservation Trust

We welcomed the Scouts from the Levels Group on the 10th February for our final planting of the winter.

The previous few days had been wet after a period of relatively dry weather, but Saturday was a sunny warmish day. To begin we gave them an explanation about the essential nature of tree planting in today's Britain and especially on the hills around the Somerset Levels and Moors. They then worked very hard, including planting oaks and small-leaved lime saplings on the difficult steep slope to the north of the site in an area of woodland we have protected from rabbits and deer, and planting a mixture of trees in the young woodland we planted in 2021 to compensate for those trees and shrubs that did not survive (about 10% of those planted). Here are a couple of pictures - notice the blue sky!



Scouts get down to work

of you who walk there might like to note the first time you see bluebells in flower and leave a message on our website (currywoodsconservationtrust.com). Although increasing average temperatures are generally a negative trend this is not so for the trees on the Trust land. Paradoxically they will work harder for all of us and protect us from climate change better when temperatures are warmer. This is because they come into leaf earlier and take more carbon dioxide from the air and more water from the soil for more months than they use to in the past. If the world stopped deforestation and planted millions more trees we could get to a point where we stopped the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and slowed sea level rise. Somebody said to me last week, "if only every village would do what you are doing in Curry Rivel to fight climate change". I leave you with that thought, and thanks again to the Scouts for their cheerfulness and hard work - well done!



Blackthorn, beginning to flower

Blackthorn, beginning to flower

Now for a mention of the first blossom of this year. The picture shows a vigorous blackthorn shrub (*Prunus spinosa*) in flower. The normal flowering period for blackthorn is March -April. However, in this mild part of the country, and with ever increasing average temperatures, flowering can now be expected early. Even here, though, 10 February is very early. The flowers will lead to a small plum like fruits that some people will know as sloes. Sloes are inedible, being full of bitter chemicals called tannins. So are cider apples and pears, but when fermented produce a very tasty product. If sloes are steeped in gin for a long time, it makes a reasonable drink. This reminds me of something I heard once about Canada geese. A wildfowler said that Canada geese are so inedible that the only way to cook them is to boil them for a long time with two large stones, throw away the goose and eat the stones. I am sure devotees of sloe gin think it's great- so no offence intended!

As Spring is upon us it has been noticed that along the edge of our woodland the bluebells are sprouting, those



The Scouts get a well-deserved rest