

May 2021



PUBLISHED MONTHLY AND DISTRIBUTED FREE TO ALL CURRY RIVEL RESIDENTS, ALSO AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS OUTLETS AROUND CURRY RIVEL

Curry Rivel Wins Awards from Somerset County Council for Climate Projects

Lydia Mason

Last autumn, Somerset County Council launched a £1 million Climate Emergency Community Fund, for local councils to bid for money to fund projects to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Curry Rivel Parish Council submitted four bids, and are pleased to announce that two of them have been awarded in full or in part. These are to run a feasibility study for a cycle path between Curry Rivel and Langport (see the story on **page 13**), and a project to launch initiatives to encourage the switch to heating from sustainable sources.

Curry Rivel does not have mains gas, so most houses in the village are heated with oil, which is a major source of both carbon dioxide and air pollution. It is expensive and likely to get more so.



The first task is to get professional advice on what will work in Curry Rivel, using experience from around the country and nearer. We aim to work closely with other local

councils nearby. This advice will include information about sources of funding for implementing sustainable heating schemes.

We will work with villagers and the bodies running public buildings in the village, such as the Village Hall and the school. Once a good set of initiatives has been identified, we will promote them through open meetings, the village website, Curry Rivel News, etc.

We need to assemble a small and dedicated team to progress this exciting project. If you can help, please contact councillor Matt Geen, on mattgeen@gmail.com or **07733 386921**.

The two unsuccessful bids were to encourage lift sharing for travel to and from the village to nearby towns, and to provide water storage at the allotments. These are both still good ideas, and we will investigate ways of progressing them using other funding sources.



Village Hall – Back in Business!!

Hazel Morris

Great news – the village hall can now be opened up for use again.

We obviously need to keep to the Roadmap guidelines and Covid-19 Secure Protocols are all in place but it will be lovely to see the hall being used again. Some of the regular activities will be returning so watch out for announcements from your own groups and keep an eye on the village website for updates where you will also find details of the village hall facilities and booking information: www.curryrivel.org.uk

Of course, your village hall has been maintained throughout the last year despite not having any hire income so the

re-opening is very welcome news! The Curry Rivel Village Hall 200 Club raises funds to contribute to the maintenance costs and the summer draw for this is approaching (hopefully to be made at the church fete). £10 buys you entry into two draws per year and the opportunity of winning up to £120 in each draw. Half of your ticket money goes towards the hall maintenance fund. If you'd like to join the 200 Club please contact Hazel on **07730 755203** or email hazelmorriscrvh@gmail.com.



"Your Villages Community Support Group Needs You" ...What could you do to help?

Steve Allinson

Can you spare an hour or so each week to make a difference in our community?

As lockdown comes to an end, our very loyal group of volunteers will inevitably have other commitments and, hopefully, the opportunity to see friends and family and undertake their own hobbies to a greater degree. So, we would like to increase the number of people upon whom we can call for assistance. You will have noted from elsewhere in this edition, and the Curry Rivel website, that we are changing the Food Bank opening times to reflect the greater freedom now offered with lockdown being eased.

Are you able to perhaps do some shopping for those who can't get out, or be present to receive donations at our Food Bank once a week, or perhaps help on our deliveries? Sometimes, as well, we receive different specific enquiries that we need to work with others to accommodate.

If you feel you could join us, we would love to hear from you, so please send a short email to our volunteer coordinator, Kate Derrick, who can be contacted

at: katharine.derrick@yahoo.co.uk

Alternatively, feel free to ring me on **07808164068**, if you want to ask any questions on how you could help, or for more information on the work we do. The more offers of help we have, the larger our rota becomes, and the less time commitment will be needed by everyone. This is surely community support in action!

As a core team of volunteers we are committed to continue the work that has been undertaken for the last year as we believe it has provided a vital service for those in need from Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge, and we hope that everyone reading this will agree.

If you are able to volunteer, we can guarantee it is not an onerous task and one that hopefully will bring enjoyment and the satisfaction of "giving back" with others to those who need help in our lovely three villages of Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Sylvia Goodenough

Sedgemoor Gardens club finished its winter programme on April 13th with a very interesting Zoom talk on *The Magic of Water in the Garden* by Christopher Bond.



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We now move into our curtailed summer programme. Sadly our visit to Exbury Gardens has had to be put back a year for the second time, but we are looking forward to the trip to Polden Vinery in July. Our 2021-22 programme of talks will start in September - we hope to be back in All Saints Hall, Langport for our meetings next winter. After the lockdown enthusiasm for gardening, we are very hopeful that there will be some people who have recently realised the fun and joy of their garden who will want to join the club to learn more from talks and sharing experiences. To find out more about the club visit our website at: sedgemoorgardens.simplesite.com or ring 01458 250091.



Your Community Website
curryrivel.org.uk



Inspirational!

Nigel Grinsted

...interviews Curry Rivel athlete Jules Allen who will be participating in the 2022 Invictus Games.

When I met Jules Allen to interview him I said he was a "Local Hero". "No way" he responded, "the heroes are all those that have helped and encouraged me" he said. Jules has lived in Curry Rivel since September last year with two of his teenage sons in a house dedicated to his fitness. He has a mega bench in the lounge so that he can do 100kg disabled para bench presses. In another room he has three hi-tech wheelchairs: one for playing rugby, one for racing and a hand cycle.

Invictus Games

"Help for Heroes have been so supportive and encouraging and I've been selected for the Invictus Games in Spring 2022 in The Hague for wheelchair racing, bench pressing and wheelchair rugby" he said. "Covid has delayed the games twice but I've maintained my training program to ensure I can give my best performance". Help for Heroes is one of the leading Armed Forces and Veterans charity in the UK. Jules was in the 2nd



Battalion Light Infantry from 1987 to 1993 and when he left he was diagnosed with both a serious back injury which needed several surgical operations and Post Trauma Stress Disorder. "I was disabled and feeling very low but my eldest son Daniel, who runs a gym in Christchurch and is a



former Afghan veteran, suggested I started exercising to increase endorphins in my system. Since then I haven't looked back" he said. "While Daniel helped me, closer to home I've been able to help one of my younger sons who has special needs".

"Exercise is the answer – whether you're a veteran or a civilian"

Jules explained that he has had encouragement and support from Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA (the armed forces charity), the Rifles Care for Casualties and Physique sports healthcare (who provide home training kit for the Invictus team). "Also Bristol Bears Wheelchair Rugby Club, who I play for, have been great. If I had one message, it's that if you're feeling low, angry or lacking confidence - which is exactly how I felt - then please try doing some exercise. It really does work. I started doing just 10 minutes a day and it made me feel much better. Over time I exercised more and now, despite my disabilities, I feel really fab most of the time. Try Googling first but if you can't find anything there speak to your GP" he said.

For veterans needing support, visit: helpforheroes.org.uk

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Curry Rivel in Bloom

A flowering community

Gina Beauchamp

cribsomerset@gmail.com 01458 762296

CRiB were very upset to see that three of our railing troughs have been smashed. They were the ones near the Bell and one opposite, not on the main railings. Peter Hayes has kindly offered to remove them and try and fix them from inside and turn them around. If that doesn't work then it will cost at least £75 to replace them. Such a shame when they are there for everyone to enjoy.

Front Garden Competition

This will take place again this year and will be judged during the last two weeks of June. There will be no particular colour scheme but we will always be looking for an element of recycling and water saving. You can specify the theme of your garden. The garden to be judged should be visible from the front gate as we will not enter the garden. If you would like to take part please email me your address and phone number, or phone on 01458 762296. We have four entries so far and will accept entries up until June.

Jobs to do in the garden in May

- Feed spring bulbs in pots or the ground with a liquid feed after they have flowered for a better display next year
- Plant up hanging baskets. Northwing in Water Street, have a good choice of plants in their new stand in the main entrance
- Add in water retaining gel and slow release granules for a healthy display
- It should be safe to plant out dahlias now
- Take cuttings of fuchsias and geraniums
- Tie in rambling and climbing roses, for good growth at the bottom of the plant, layer a new shoot while still young and bendable to the ground and new growth will shoot up from the layered stem
- Look out for red lily beetles and for signs of vine weevil damage, the plant will wilt and the roots will have been eaten, look for little white grubs in the soil, replace the soil totally and wash the plant roots to get rid of the larvae


No Dig Organic Method

Charles Dowding, a Somerset resident has great ideas on a no dig method. Cover the area you wish to deal with cardboard, use any old boxes etc. Then cover the cardboard with a mulch or compost from your compost heap. After a few weeks you can plant through the soil and cardboard into the ground. Look up more details on www.charlesdowding.co.uk

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Dastardly doings

Carolyn Paton

Intrigued by its title, WI members tuned in to Chris Evans' talk in early April entitled '*Crime Pays*' Does it? Does it really? Ah well, maybe – if you can write about it in an exciting and compelling way.

The author filled in a little of his background as a local, growing up in Taunton, and then explaining his progression towards becoming a writer. A seminal influence (he is not the first to feel this I would venture) was Jack Kerouac's '*On the Road*', and his advice – 'if you want to be a writer, just write'. Through university, law school and then a job in law, Chris wrote a series of books – all received with encouragement by agents, but none accepted for publication. It must have been disheartening.

By now married, living on the Isle of Man and working part-time, he determined to have 'one more go'; this time within the genre of crime and mystery fiction. He had fallen in love with Raymond Chandler's novels, and decided that he himself would write from the point of view of the criminal.

He had promised his wife that he would quit if he had not achieved publication by the age of 30 (she was keeping them afloat by her own career of teaching) and one week before that birthday, he won the Susan Hill competition for unpublished authors – he was launched! *The Good Thief's Guide to Amsterdam* was the first in a successful series of 'Guides' based in various cities – requiring research jaunts

naturally! Lacking the background as a thief, it was crucial to acquire relevant

knowledge, and Chris regaled us with a tale of lock-picking. He located a hobbyist who demonstrated various techniques, but Chris was relieved to find that even after this tutorial, he could not pick the lock of his own front door.

His career since his initial successes hasn't been entirely smooth, but eventually a '*Safe House*' mystery turned out to be what is known in the trade as a 'breakout book' that sold well on Kindle and e-readers, and Chris is now an established full-time writer.

The Q and A session following his talk revealed that women represent 70% of the readership of crime and mystery novels, and that the author has approval of the dustjacket, but is in no way responsible for its design. TV rights can be a mixed blessing as the author may have to grit teeth and accept changes, or turn them down and risk losing the contract. Never easy to give over control of your baby!

As usual, it was interesting to glimpse another's professional world, and members appreciated the drawing aside of that particular curtain that Chris afforded us. Following the talk, our President Anne Geach drew our attention to various matters of relevance to the CR Institute, and listed future topics for meetings. The 13th of May sees the annual AGM, which will once again be a Zoomed affair.

Note was taken of the valiant efforts made by members in their kitchens in the form of encouragement-cake baking, destined for the staff of Immacolata House, Langport Surgery and Musgrove Hospital, all of which locations welcomed

these contributions. This programme has now come to an end, but both bakers and consumers felt it had been worthwhile.

Anyone interested in the activities of the WI should contact Anne Geach, (01458 253078 / aigeach@yahoo.co.uk) who would be pleased to give any further information.

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SOMERTON U3A

Sue Haigh

Are you feeling bored and looking for a new interest? Then why not consider joining the U3A.

The "third age" is a time to learn for the pure pleasure and joy of learning. It's the time of life after the first stage of childhood and the second stage of full-time paid employment and parental responsibility. A National U3A day is being held on Wednesday 2nd June. Come and meet us outside Somerton library from 1000 to 1300 and find out what we are all about. We have over 50 interest groups on offer. Social, Intellectual, Physical and Educational and all of them *enjoyable*.

Until we are able to resume our monthly meetings at The Edgar Hall. We will be holding two Zoom meetings each month. On Friday 14th May at 11.00 "*Dogs for Good*", a presentation by Rosie Blanning. Dogs for Good is a national charity that makes a life changing difference for people with disabilities through the power of expertly trained dogs.

On Friday 28th May at 11.00 "*Japan, Bowing to Tradition*", by Jim Holmes. From the northern snow country to the southern tropical beaches, Japan is a diverse and complicated country. See how Japan has integrated very traditional aspects of its culture into a modern society.

For further information on how to join us please visit the Somerton u3a website, or email: membership@Somertonu3a.uk.

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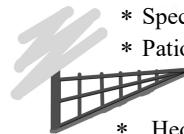
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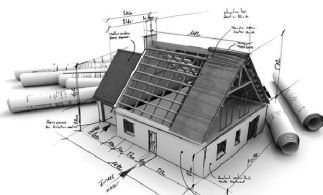
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Letters to editor

Dear Editor,

Your timely reminder to observe the countryside code seems sadly to have little effect on some. Is it that these people are too busy walking their dogs to read the Curry Rivel News?

Perhaps the children could educate their parents if the information was covered in our Primary schools. The most important thing, that too few people seem to realise is:

"Between 1 March and 31 July, you must have your dog on a lead on Open Access land, even if there is no livestock on the land. THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT"

The above quote is taken from the Government Countryside Code. This is, of course to protect not only nesting birds but all wild-life and their young.

Julie Rogers



Dear Editor,

(from a Food Bank volunteer)



Thank you, Villagers....for your kindness and generosity with Food Bank donations at Easter. Not only did the families we support receive homemade cakes, Easter cards and hot cross buns but as over 50 Easter Eggs were given, all the children could each have two!! On the doorstep the clients always express their thanks and deep appreciation for all that you do week after week, so I am passing their gratitude on to you.

[Name and address supplied]

Please note: starting on **Saturday, 1st May 2021** the Food Bank will be open for donations at the URC Hall at the earlier time of **10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. on Saturdays and Wednesdays.**

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District Councillors' Report

Clare Paul & Tiffany Osborne

Development of Octagon Theatre South Somerset District Councillors have unanimously agreed to invest £23 million in the development of The Octagon Theatre and arts and entertainment in South Somerset which will see the theatre transformed into a flagship venue. The Government's Budget announcement in March provided a major boost for the project with £10 million being pledged to help fund the refurbishment and this proved pivotal in the decision to proceed. Obviously, the Octagon will continue to seek additional funding to reduce the initial capital required from the Council. The Theatre will be asking the public for their opinions about the venue. Planning and construction is currently forecasted to take approximately three years.

Phosphate pollution still a problem

Talking of planning the phosphate issue

continues to stagnate with no obvious apparent way forward for those applications caught up in the Natural England/Environment Agency/Wessex Water debacle. A new Director of Service Delivery (which is responsible for the planning department), Kirsty Larkins, has been appointed so let's hope she can find a way forward and unravel the vast backlog of applications which is proving damaging for local businesses as well as private applications.

£35,000 worth of Community Grants have been awarded to three separate projects in Area North in recent months. Don't forget these Grants support community, voluntary and charitable organisations, Parish and Town Councils, schools and churches. As such, if you feel there is anything you feel could benefit from grant support then check on the South

Somerset District Council website for more details.

Police and Crime Commissioner election – 6th May

Don't forget on Thursday 6th May you can have your say on who represents this area at the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner elections. In order to keep the process covid secure SSDC are asking those who vote to bring their own pen/pencil as well as ensuring there will be screens between staff and voters and adhering to the usual social distancing, sanitation of booths, the wearing of masks and a one way system in place.

As we start another phase of the reopening of society as always we remind you to please continue to observe the Government guidelines and stay safe.

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

Covid effects

Private prayer - under the current Covid regulations, St. Andrew's church remains open for private prayer on

Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Services - this month sees the return of 'live' services in all the churches of our Benefice. However, local conditions may result in short notice changes or suspension of services. In that case, the Sunday services will be via zoom, for the whole Benefice. **To join a zoom service, please contact the Rector at scottr.patterson@btinternet.com or on 01458 251375.**

Please also see the information on the notice board in the churchyard by the Green, in the church porch, on the village website, or on our 'A Church Near You' web page.

May

Sunday 2nd

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service
10.45 **FH** - Said Communion CW
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Sunday 9th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP
11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW
6.00 pm **FH** - Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 16th

9.30 **FH** - Morning Worship
11.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service
11.45 **CR** - Said Communion CW

Scott's spot

Helpful words from the pandemic

After more than a year of this pandemic, which has been hard for all and tragic for so very many, I have been thinking about some of the new terms we have become used to. I think they can help us frame our understanding of the Christian faith in current language and I hope you find the following helpful.

We begin with **VIRUS**. If we are honest about ourselves, we know we are all infected with a tendency to behave in selfish ways that hurt ourselves and others. If left unchecked, it can make us extremely sick. The Bible calls this 'sin'.

Sin puts us into **LOCKDOWN**. It limits our freedom to be our best and to fully enjoy God's world.

It also creates **SOCIAL DISTANCE** from God our Creator – our impure motives push us away from his pure and perfect goodness and prevent us from getting close to Him.

We cannot sort this out ourselves. Just as we couldn't create a **VACCINE** for Covid-19 in our own kitchens, we need a specialist – someone with the right qualities and qualifications to create one. Jesus, both fully human and fully God, was completely unique and the only person qualified to fight the 'sin virus' on our behalf. He created the vaccine we all need through His Good Friday death and Easter morning resurrection.



Scott's spot ctd. . .

But he will not force this vaccine on us. Rather like the NHS or our doctors' surgery, Jesus offers an **INVITATION** and it is up to us to accept the offered gift.

When we do accept it his power moves into us, just as a vaccine enters our bodies and creates **ANTIBODIES** to fight off the virus. his doesn't, however, give us **IMMUNITY** to sin (we will still stuff up, make mistakes and hurt people from time to time) nor will it shield us from the brokenness of the world around us (Christians will experience life's challenges just as everyone does), but it makes us a whole lot stronger and it means that Lockdown and Social Distancing can come to an end. Having Jesus' power within us is called the Holy Spirit, and a bit like those antibodies. He works within us for our good, our protection and our healing.

Jesus is the solution to the pandemic of our hearts. In the Bible, Peter the Apostle, puts it well: **'For Christ died for sin once for all, the righteous (Jesus) for the unrighteous (us), in order to bring you to God.'** (1 Peter chapter 3 verse 18)

With prayer for us all as we begin to emerge, blinking into our post-lockdown world.

Revd. Scott.

St. Andrew's Rotas May

Brass

Sue Blackwell

Flowers

1st - Angela Cole
8th & 15th - Adrienne Holmes
22nd & 29th - Sue Randell

Cleaning

7th - Carolyn Paton
14th - Nicky Barker
21st - Liz Rendell
28th - Lynne Comley



May ctd . . .

Sunday 23rd - Pentecost

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW
11.00 **CR** - Morning Worship
6.00 pm **SW** - Evening Prayer

Thursday 27th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 30th - Trinity Sunday

10.00 **SW** - United Benefice
All Age Holy Communion CW

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell



Dear Friends,

It took me a while to realise why the passing of HRH the Prince Philip affected me so much; of course there was the empathy for the Queen as there would be for anyone losing a life partner and at 99 it was not the tragedy that a younger death would engender.

What I realized was that in my lifetime, now in my seventh decade, Prince Philip was a constant; Prime Ministers, public figures, film and pop stars came and went but this man had a profile of which I had always been aware and which in some ways formed the backdrop to other world events that have occurred.

Like many others I learned more about the breadth and depth of his interests and achievements in the days following his passing and he became so much more than the Duke of Edinburgh - not a Saint, not unflawed (but then who is?), but he became real to me personally.

The tributes have been written and broadcast, but let me end with a Psalm and one final comment.

Psalm 107: 23-31

*Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;
they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
For he commanded and raised the
stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to heaven, they went
down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their
calamity;
they reeled and staggered like
drunkards,
and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their
trouble,
and he brought them out from their
distress;
he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad because they had
quiet,
and he brought them to their desired
haven.*

*Let them thank the Lord for his
steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.*

United Reformed Church



We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all: wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static prepositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

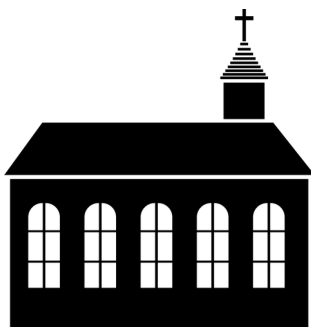
Minister: Rev. Tim Richards
01458 252799

Rev Tim's final comment

Born in Corfu and baptised into the Orthodox Church, later received into the Church of England, many who have known the Duke of Edinburgh bear witness to the depth of his faith and his theological knowledge. A regular visitor to Mount Athos, and a keen questioner of preachers, his faith was much more than nominal.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours,
Rev. Tim.



May

Services are at 10:30 am via Zoom.

Anyone who would like to feel part of a worshipping community is invited to join with us - from any denomination or none - simply email Steve Beney on stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk expressing your interest and he will make contact with you explaining how you can join with us on Sundays @ 10:30 am.

Pentecost (May 23rd) looks likely to be when we will begin to meet again physically in our Chapel building.

Pentecost, as the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the frightened (meeting behind locked doors), leaderless (without purpose and direction), disparate band of stragglers seems apt after the 12 or so months we have experienced shut in and at a loss as to the what and how of surviving a global health pandemic.

And as the Holy Spirit descended upon those first disciples empowering them to step out and speak up, so we will (perhaps a little more tentatively) begin to step back out and continue our speaking up for the good news of God's kingdom of love and justice for all.

D.D.I.Y

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762604 or

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Children's Page



Just For KIDS

The Story of the Bicycle

1817 - Karl von Drais, a German baron, invented a horseless carriage that would help him get around faster. The two-wheeled, pedal-less device was propelled by pushing your feet against the ground. The machine became known as the "**draisine**" and led to the creation of the modern-day bicycle.



1860s – the "**Boneshaker**" was invented. It had an iron frame and wooden wheels. It also had pedals and cranks on the front wheel. It got its name from the shaky ride it provided.

The **penny-farthing**, also known as a **high wheel**, **high wheeler** or **ordinary**, was the first machine to be called a "bicycle". It was popular in the 1870s and 1880s, with its large front wheel providing high speeds (owing to it travelling a large distance for every rotation of the legs) and comfort (the large wheel provides greater shock absorption).



The British inventor John Kemp Starley designed the first successful '**safety**' bicycle in 1885. It has all the basic features of standard modern bicycles, including chain drive, which meant that both wheels could be the same size.

Today there are many different types of bicycle. From light-weight racers, Mountain bikes, BMX stunt bikes, Tandems and even balance bikes (much like Karl von Drais original pedal-less invention)



Alternatives to Bicycles

Not everyone gets on with two wheels but there are choices...

The tricycle uses three wheels,



One Wheel

The Unicycle only has one wheel and it is Curry Rivel resident, Ed Pratt's favourite way to get around.



In 2015 Ed left Curry Rivel and returned 1200 days later having unicycled around the world, raising over £300,000 for the charity, School in a Bag.

<https://www.worldunicycletour.com/>

A Cycle Path to link Curry Rivel, Langport and Huish Episcopi?

Tony Greenaway

Curry Rivel Parish Council has successfully secured a grant through the Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Community Fund to look into the feasibility of a much-needed safe cycle and pedestrian path to link Curry Rivel with Langport and Huish Episcopi.

The existing busy stretch of the A378 between Curry Rivel and Langport is completely unsuitable for cyclists and pedestrians due to the volume and speed of traffic and the narrow pavement which is often overgrown.

With residents of Curry Rivel and surrounding villages relying on amenities in Langport and Huish Episcopi such as local shops and businesses, doctors, the library, the secondary school and Huish Leisure Centre, the need for an improved transport link is clear. Curry Rivel has also much to offer as a destination for visitors arriving by bike from Langport.

A Curry Rivel to Langport cycle path would bring a wide range of benefits to cyclists, pedestrians and the wider community, including:

- Reduction in volume of traffic on this stretch of the A378
- Increased opportunities for exercise, contributing to a healthy lifestyle
- Reduced reliance on car travel and a reduction in harmful emissions
- Increased support for local shops and businesses
- A solution to the need for a safe route for school children

The project is now being taken forward by a small working group who are investigating feasibility, possible routes for the path, and funding opportunities. As the grant has been awarded to the project on a matched funding basis, the group will be seeking financial and other support from a wide range of sources including councils, businesses and voluntary organisations, as well as the public.

We are seeking evidence of need/support from potential users. If you support this proposal, please drop me a line. If you want to get involved or make a donation please contact:

Tony Greenaway

tgreenaway51@gmail.com

Mobile: 07563900646

You can also donate via our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cyclefootpathcurryriveltolangport?utm_term=GW3jMp39r

[The Curry Rivel News Group has agreed to make a donation towards the cost of the feasibility study. Ed.]



The Curry Woods Conservation Trust

Peter Goodenough

After a good start to the spring, April behaved badly. It managed to combine a cold air flow from the Arctic with clear days, so the trees have got off to a slow start.

Some are fully in leaf – rowans, or mountain ash, in particular – others are still hibernating. Oaks are always slow to come into leaf in these conditions. This year, as we worry about getting enough water to our new trees, we are watching carefully as an old rhyme suggests that if oak trees leaf before ash trees, we're in for light rain in the summer, while if the pattern is the other way round we're in for a wet summer. (It's worth noting that no combination is suggested that indicates an entirely dry summer, so at least this particular piece of folklore isn't entirely ridiculous.) The fact that a similarly themed German proverb suggests the polar opposite highlights quite nicely that there's no real evidence to support this conjecture.

That said, the timing of the respective leafings of these two stalwarts of the British forest does tell us some extremely pertinent things about our weather and our woodlands. Both tree species come into leaf around the same time of year, between late March and May, but the precise timing of an oak tree's leafing is mainly determined by temperature, while ash trees are more heavily influenced by the number of hours of daylight. If spring arrives early, with high temperatures in February and March, oak trees are likely to leaf first; if cold conditions persist into April, ash is likely to have the advantage.

The effects of climate change

As our climate changes, Britain is experiencing increasingly warm spring months, and this is having a marked effect on our woodlands. Oak trees have recently been leafing around two weeks earlier than they did 30 years ago, while ash trees are leafing just 7-10 days earlier. While historic data suggests that ash used to leaf before oak at least 30% of the time, recent studies in Surrey suggest ash won the race on only three occasions in 39 recent years, and in Northumberland on only three occasions in 28 years. Last year, a Woodland Trust survey showed the first observation of oak leafing was recorded on 21st March 2011 in Essex, while the first ash leafing wasn't recorded until 4th April in Cardiff.

So why does this matter? The problem is that ash and oak often compete for resources. Whichever trees leaf first tend to win the battle for canopy space, and ash trees are increasingly losing out. This will have a big impact on the biodiversity of our woodlands but in our case we have not planted any ash trees (being wary of ash

dieback disease) and the cold spring may well mean that, unusually, ash will leaf first this year. Unfortunately, the rainfall is still anyone's guess. It's a bit laughable to worry about water when only a kilometre away is the West Sedgemoor SSSI - this wetland is also an area of Special Protection and a Ramsar site, which means it is an internationally important wetland area. 2nd of February is World Wetlands Day, commemorating the day (in 1971) that the international convention on wetlands was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar, which is on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Ironical that the chances now of holding an International Treaty Conference in Iran are vanishingly small.

Phosphate pollution

Only a short distance away from our new woodland is a site that is triply protected because of its ecological importance. Sadly, the latest survey of the site indicates it is declining and under threat. This is because of phosphate pollution. You will probably have seen the comments from our District Councillor about the effect this pollution has had on delaying planning, and it comes at a time when it has been revealed that sewage treatment plants around Britain are illegally discharging huge quantities of untreated material into our rivers. This material contains a lot of phosphate and nitrogen. Phosphate encourages huge amounts of algae to grow and swamp other wetland plants - so there goes the sustainability of wetland ecosystems and their rapid decline as the biodiversity collapses.

It is perhaps not too much to ask that economic growth, increasing population and increasing high density housing could be coupled with increasing understanding of how to deal with the waste that this huge and growing human population generates. As, if climate change and pandemics are not enough, another challenge to be overcome is the destruction of our ecosystems by our own waste generation. Here in Somerset, it certainly seems that way and if you find your planning applications delayed you will probably agree. Certainly the Ramsar site on your doorstep is feeling the strain.

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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 May Regular Events



.....all postponed until further notice except shown....

MONDAY

9.45 Art Club
3.30 - 5.30 Messy Church (2nd only)
6.00 Pilates
6.45 Explorer Scouts

TUESDAY

10-12 Craft & Coffee (2nd only)
2.30 Forget-Me-Not-Café
5.45 - 8 Pilates
6.00 Cub Pack
6.30 Guides
6.30 Langport Youth Club
7.00 - 9.00 Short Mat Bowls
7.30 Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)
7.30 Tuesday Group (3rd only)

WEDNESDAY

9.30 Mother and Baby Group
7.00 Line Dancing Classes
6.45 Scouts
7.30 Bell Ringing

THURSDAY

10.00 WI
2.00 - 4.00 Short Mat Bowls
4.30 Rainbows
4.30 Brownies
7.30 Parish Council (1st only) via ZOOM

FRIDAY

9.30-2 Get Together Club
7.30 Cinema Night

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts 01460 281184
Rainbows 01823 698940
Brownies 251953
Guides 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 252146
Royal British Legion 01460 281115
Twinning Association 01460 281905
Women's Institute 259688
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 251524
Health Walks 250725
Mother and Baby 07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café 252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel 251940
Tuesday Group 252657/252022

Arts

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

Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk) 0771 6792760
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com) 741606
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com) 250655/253856

United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc. 259391

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

Deadlines for June Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 6th May
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com
Comments & Articles: 5pm Tuesday 11th May
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!

BOOK REVIEW

The Lovely Parrett Trail

Nigel Grinsted

Somerset's 50 mile Parrett Trail

by Dot Walford

*A Layperson's Guide
to its Landscapes
and its History*

This lovely little book is written as though the author is actually taking you along the 50 mile Parrett Trail. However, it is not intended as a guide book, although there are details of the route on geological maps plus grid references of towns and villages visited en-route to the rear of the book.

"The jottings will encourage you to pick out the parts you'd most like to see, or even better to walk the whole 50 miles. There are pubs and cafés in most villages to help you plan your days. Maybe you could read the book as a story, or it could be a book to take with you, enabling you to read it before walking each section. It would then give you an idea of what there is to discover each day. Whichever you do, hopefully all will be of interest and provide you with a flavour of this part of sunny Somerset" says Dot Walford, the author.

Dot says she's not a geologist by training but has spent many years walking the Parrett Trail, some as a guide, and has developed a deep interest in the geology, flora and fauna and the history of the area.

"I hope these notes will entice you to look at the countryside in a new way, to look further than just the views, pasturelands and buildings to see land formations and how they affect the way we live" she says.

To obtain a copy, contact Dot here:
dmwobbly@btinternet.com

Virgin Money London Marathon 2021

in aid of St Margaret's Hospice, Somerset

Jess Thompson

This October, I have the challenge (as I'm not a long-distance runner) and privilege of running the London Marathon whilst raising much needed funds for St Margaret's Hospice, Somerset.

At the end of 2020 - and what a year that was - my dad died 9 days after a terminal diagnosis. This was at a time where Covid was still inhibiting contact and access to those who needed medical care but even in the hardest of times for us, St Margaret's Hospice in Taunton was the light in the darkness and gave my dad comfort and dignity. The last days were incredibly hard yet their words, advice and support made such a difference.

I applied to support them by running the Marathon as a way to pay back and thank them on behalf of my dad and his family, but also so they can continue to make a difference to other families whether that be day care, transportation or end of life support.

This comes from the hospice and shows the impact of the money raised:

- £10 could pay for transporting a patient to and from their Sunflower Day Care Centre.
- £100 could pay for a Specialist Community Nurse to visit a local patient being cared for at home.
- £500 could pay for 24 hours of in-patient care for a patient.

I live in Curry Rivel and plan to fundraise within my primary school, where I am a Senior Teacher, now that we are all back together, together with collecting as many donations as people are able to give. I have raised £350 already.

As one in three people in Somerset will need their support in their lifetime, it's a charity that could impact on many of us locals. If you feel that you could donate to St Margaret's Hospice, please follow the link to my Just Giving page and your donation will go directly to them:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jess-thompson

Thank you for reading this article and thank you so much for any support you can give the charity. It is very much appreciated.

