

November 2020



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

## How can we save the *Duchess of Cocklemoor*?

Ian Macnab

**S**ome of you in Curry Rivel have known and loved the *Duchess of Cocklemoor*, a 1908 ferry boat from Teignmouth in Devon, now powered by solar electricity.

Thanks to generous donations and support from near and far, the *Duchess* has been a huge success carrying people who love our wonderful countryside up the river Parrett to Midelney and down to Oath Lock.

Up until now I have been the owner of The *Duchess* who has been sitting at her moorings all summer. She is now for sale. I am hoping the old girl can stay in Langport, and in order for this to happen, I am asking for help with ideas.

How might she be run as a community boat by a charity organisation? Or could there be someone - or a group of people - prepared to buy her and run her commercially?



I fear that if a rescue package is not found, The *Duchess* will be lost and gone forever. I believe she has a healthy future - an opportunity not a liability.

If you can help please contact me on 07880 528413, or [ianmacnab310@btinternet.com](mailto:ianmacnab310@btinternet.com)



### ***Curry Rivel Remembrance Sunday Service 8th November***

**P**lease note that due to Covid-19 related regulations the number of people who may gather in St. Andrew's is greatly reduced.

Therefore, the Remembrance Sunday service will (weather permitting) be on the **Village Green**, starting at 10.50.

It will be followed by a – numerically limited and socially distanced- ceremony at the War Memorial.

# District Councillors' Report

*Tiffany Osborne and Clare Paul*

In amongst the continuing Covid-19 and Unitary authority issues some good news for our community. At the last Area North Committee meeting the Curry Woods Conservation Trust was awarded a grant of £12,500 from the Community Grants Programme to go towards the purchase of Curry Woods by the Trust. Thanks to all the hard work the Trust have done, they have now raised enough money to purchase this area so Curry Rivel now has a fantastic asset which the whole community can enjoy. So, as the dark nights start to draw in take the opportunity to go and take a stroll around nature and banish any Covid-19 and winter blues in a safe way.

In comparison to the rest of the country the number of infection of Covid-19 remains relatively low in our area but unfortunately it is rising. We all need to continue to remain vigilant – hands, face, space – to enable us to live our lives as close to normal as possible. However, inevitably there will be those who in some way will be affected. As such, there is a payment of £500 via the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme to ensure that those who are told to self-

isolate but cannot work from home are not out of pocket. To find out more go to: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/testandtracesupport](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/testandtracesupport).

We have talked a lot about the state of the planning department at South Somerset and the lack of applications being processed in an appropriate and timely manner. Finally, it appears there has been an acknowledgement that the 'Planning Service is still not in the place we want it to be' and there has been a restructure to hopefully rectify this dire situation. Unfortunately, they have still have to recruit for a permanently Lead Specialist. However, in the interim Barry James has come in to implement the changes required and he comes highly recommended, so fingers crossed we finally start to get the service our residents in the district deserve. Finally, a letter from Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, has been received inviting Somerset local authorities to submit their Unitary bids so there will be more on this to follow in due course.

## There's no stopping the WI

*Carolyn Paton*

**O**ctober saw the WI AGM - by Zoom of course - attended by over 1/3 of the membership. Naturally it would have been good to have more attendees, but given the circumstances, it was felt to be a reasonable turnout.

The usual reports on this unusual year were given by the officers concerned, and are available to those not present. The long and short of these is that until lockdown struck, we had managed a hugely varied programme including speakers, interest groups (walking, craft, lunching etc) and visits out. Finances were reported to be healthy, and the review of post-lockdown activities showed that members were concerned to help the situation where they could. This was evinced in participation in local Foodbank collections and a cake-making service for hospital and care-home staff, as well as regular 'in touch' letters from our President Anne Geach (tel : 01458 253078) giving up-to-date news of interest to members, and encouraging individual contact between members by whatever means. As all the committee officers have done such a good job in trying circumstances, they were unanimously elected for another year. Unsurprisingly.

The future programme for the year 20/21 will have to be adapted, obviously. Some speakers will give their talks on Zoom, and efforts will be made for individuals to get

together (not too closely) with one another in front of screens, so that as many as possible can profit from the talk and/or demonstration. It was agreed to build on the existing small-group format as a way forward, beginning sociably with pre-booked coffee in suitably spaced-out venues.

Walking group arrangements will continue, with different people leading the routes, and groups splitting into sixes where necessary. In fact, walkers have made several local sorties already, to the enjoyment of the participants, and sometimes in less than clement conditions - ranging from hot to coolly bracing.

The established banner-making group will in addition pick up its work again.

Games sessions in fours were proposed - bridge, Scrabble or other choices, as was the establishment of a Book Club; probably online by Zoom, and a craft group, with maybe a seasonal emphasis.

National and County Federations continue to send out news, publications, and proposals of on-line courses - some in hard copy versions, so that members can feel the wider connection and draw inspiration and encouragement from other WI Institutes, their ideas and activities.

After all: 'We're all in this together!'



*Your Community Website*  
curryrivel.org.uk





cribsomerset@gmail.com

Gina Beauchamp 01458 762296

**O**ur winter troughs and pots should be planted by now, thank you to those who helped with the planting. We have chosen cyclamen this year and hope they brighten up the village throughout the winter. Thank you to Evelyn Leckie who has some cuttings of her beautiful blue and red salvias and penstemons for the War Memorial garden for next spring.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Curry Rivel War memorial

We are planning to decorate the war memorial with the poppies. Thank you to all those kind people who have provided plastic and knitted poppies, including members of the British Legion who have been busy knitting poppies so that we may even have enough to do the trail. We hope you can enjoy the garden there and maybe pay a visit to remember those who gave their lives to give us peace.

### Gardening jobs for November

- You can still plant bulbs; depending on the weather they can go in as late as December.
- Cut back stems that have finished flowering on tall perennials, but don't cut back too far into new growth especially lavender. You could leave pruning till early spring as some plants provide seeds and shelter for wildlife during the winter.
- Wash out pots and trays to store for next spring.
- Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools.
- Wrap tender plants that can't go into a greenhouse in fleece - especially if they are in a windy position, or move them to a sheltered spot.
- Rake up autumn leaves and put into black dustbin bags to make leaf mould compost.
- Make holes in the bottom of the bags for ventilation otherwise it will go slimy. You can use this as a mulch on the garden next year.
- Order your seeds for next year and look forward to the spring to come!

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# Curry Woods Conservation Trust plans tree planting

Peter Goodenough

Now the excitement begins. South Somerset approved a grant of money to the Trust at the Area North September meeting. Many thanks to Adrian Moore who put forward the application and to Tiffany Osborne and Clare Paul for their support as well as the other elected members of the Area North committee who were unanimous in their support. As the money needed has now been raised, the Trust has begun the conveyancing work. At the same time the plans for planting trees and arable crops to support overwintering yellowhammers and other finches are being made. The work is being done in conjunction with the "Re-imagining the Levels" team who are applying for funding to use for tree planting. Please have a look at the detailed plans of what trees are being planted and where that will appear on the Trust's web-site in the near future

(cwctrust.simplesite.com)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October, Catherine Mowat led a walk through the wood to the Levels and back again with a small group of supporters. We heard about the probable history of the site and how coppicing and its abandonment after 1945 was a major factor in shaping the development of what we see today. We searched for newly germinated tree seedlings and discussed how badly they are faring due to being eaten by roe deer. For more about coppicing, what it was and how it was done, see the Trust's website. Could there still be dormice in the wood? They love hazel coppice and may still be about. That would be something if we could help them to thrive! Once we have the green light on both the purchase and the money for tree planting we will invite small groups to

protect sapling trees in the main wood by finding them and using tree guards to thwart the deer, and later plant a wide range of species in the new wood including bird cherry, which was once common in the wood but latterly lost.

As I said above, exciting times!

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# More support for Carers in Somerset!

*Hannah Burbedge*

Caring for others is very rewarding, but can be challenging, overwhelming and lonely at times. Caring for another person could range from providing a lift to the hospital, cooking hot dinners or giving a helping hand round the house on a regular basis, to the more complex of being that person's sole means of physical support moving around the home, aiding a person to be fed, bathed and administering medication – as well many levels in between. Many people might not recognise that they are a carer to another person, as they provide care out of kindness or love. In Somerset alone it is estimated there are over 60,000 unpaid carers

Somerset Carers (provided by the Community Council for Somerset - CCS) is a free service with a dedicated team of seven Carers Agents, designed to support those people caring for their partners, children, parents, family or friends. The Carers Agents remit is to support the unpaid Carer with anything from emotional care, to finding the right support group or financial benefits and much more.

As well as Carers Agents, CCS has a team of 55 Village Agents. CCS Village Agents have been working in communities across Somerset since 2012. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs, helping often where others won't, don't or can't.

There have been many times that a Village or Carers Agent has been asked to help with one issue, such as not being able to afford transport to a doctor's appointment, but then recognised there was a deeper need for support in other areas, and would refer the family to another Agent team member for their specialism.

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown resulted in agents changing their approach to be 'whole population' focused, this was important for families as if now meant there was one point of contact within the CCS team and no need to repeat themselves to explain their situation. The model worked brilliantly, and as a result CCS Agents have supported over 7,000 Carers since the end of March 2020, clearly demonstrating that the One Family - One Agent approach was working to reach more unpaid Carers than ever.

CCS is delighted to announce that from September, all Carers Agents will become Village Agents and all existing Village and Community Agents are ready to support unpaid Carers in Somerset.

Raj Singh, deputy CEO continued "Somerset Carers is still very much here, dedicated to carers with the Carers freephone advice line 0800 31 68 600, Carers website, [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) live chat on the website, newsletters and booklets specific to Carers in Somerset. This change simply means we have increased our capacity to care for the Carers."

People can contact their local CCS Village Agent by calling 0800 31 68 600 or 01823 331222, or by visiting <https://somersetcarers.org/who-can-help-you/>



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# A New Look for this year's Poppy Appeal

*Suzie Potter – Poppy Appeal Organiser*

**I**n these challenging and uncertain times, we have had to align our fund-raising with the current government rules and regulations to govern both our safety and the safety of others in a combined effort to keep the Covid-19 Pandemic at bay.

With this in mind the Poppy Appeal 2020 has, for this year, taken on a new guise. There will be no house-to-house collections albeit there will be poppies available at the following static sites in the area from 24th October 2020 to 7th November 2020:

The Garage – Isle Brewers

Post Office and Store – Curry

Mallett

The Crown Inn – Fivehead

Greenshutters Nursery – Fivehead

Village Shop – Fivehead

Stable Café – Fivehead

The Crown – Drayton

The Firehouse – Curry Rivel

Sandpits – Curry Rivel

Living Pretty – Curry Rivel

One-Stop Shop – Curry Rivel

Wiltown Garage – Curry Rivel

Garage/Post Office – Curry Rivel

The Smokery – Hambridge

Lamb and Lion – Hambridge

**Your continued support would be very much appreciated.**

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# Sedgemoor Gardens Club Zooms to Stourhead

Sylvia Goodenough

Members enjoyed another Zoom meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October. We are all getting the hang of it - one click on the link provided by our Secretary, Jean, and you're in with time for a chat before the talk begins. Our speaker this month was Emily Utgren, who was born and raised in Sweden but then made her way to our shores to train in horticulture and arboriculture. She is now the first female Head Gardener at Stourhead Gardens, leading a team of gardeners and volunteers. Her talk was on "The Remarkable Trees of Stourhead", with lots of lovely photos of the beautiful trees there.

Alexander Pope described the landscape at Stourhead as a 'living work of art', a canvas to be worked on, and that is just what the many owners of the gardens have seen them as. Emily started her history of those who had influenced the landscape with Henry the Magnificent in 1725. This was before the age of the plant hunters so Henry had a limited range of trees to use but he worked with shades and textures of green to create his artwork. Gradually more and more exotics were imported, with Wisterias, Monkey Puzzles and Tulip Trees (Liriodendrons) being added over the centuries

to great effect. On the way Emily passed on some interesting facts - who knew that Whitby jet, popular as a mourning stone with Queen Victoria, was in fact fossilised Monkey Puzzle (Araucaria)? The fact that she had found a set of false teeth on one occasion while clearing out the vegetation on one of the islands left us wondering whether life at Stourhead has always been as peaceful as it appears today!

We had an insight into the walled garden and behind the scenes elsewhere in a picture-packed hour and were left wanting more and particularly looking forward to the next time we can visit the famous gardens, armed with so much background knowledge thanks to Emily. Our next meeting is on November 10<sup>th</sup>, when we have a talk on "Winter hanging baskets and tubs" if you would like to join us please ring 01458250091 or 01458259025 for more information.



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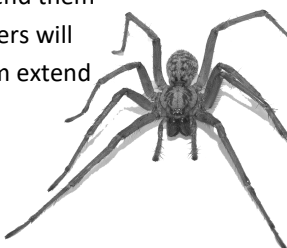
# Children's Page



# Just For KIDS

## Spider facts

- Spiders are everywhere! This might freak you out, but research suggests that you are never more than 10 feet away from a spider. Don't worry though, most of the time they are hiding away somewhere in some crevices minding their own business.
- There are a lot of spiders and they come in all different shapes and sizes, each with their own unique look and characteristics. There are approximately over 35,000 different species of spider currently known. However, some scientists believe that there are a lot more to be discovered.
- The majority of UK spiders will not bite people and if they do, their venom isn't strong enough to inflict any damage.
- Female spiders have a large appetite. Unfortunately this isn't good news for the males. In some cases, depending on the species, the female spider will eat the male spider before, during or after copulation! This is what inspired the name for widow spiders, such as the black widow.
- Spider silk is strong. Yes, you read that right, spider silk is actually really strong. It may seem weak and brittle but that is only due to how thin it is. The silk in a spider's web is actually five times stronger than a strand of steel the same thickness. It is also believed that a spider web made of strands as thick as pencil could stop an aeroplane in flight!
- Spiders have blue blood.
- Spider silk is liquid. When the liquid silk comes into contact with the air, it hardens, allowing them to create and build their webs.
- Spiders have strange muscles. Their muscles can only pull their legs inward but can't extend them out again. To get around this issue, spiders will pump liquid into their legs to make them extend again.





## Village Hall AGM

*Roger Hampton*

The Annual General Meeting of the Curry Rivel Village Hall will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm at the Hall.

As this will be a 'socially distanced' event, please call 01458 741606 if you plan to attend.

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# Neighbouring village fights for its local

*The Save Our Crown Group*

Familiar? Yes, it isn't so long ago that Curry Rivel faced losing the King William IV. Despite all the community efforts, planning consent for change of use to residential was granted and the pub is now lost to the village. But at least we still have the Firehouse and, not so far away, the Drayton Crown.

The Crown Inn situated right at the heart of Fivehead is now the last remaining pub in the village. And, of course, The Crown has served as more than just a village pub, offering a limited selection of emergency groceries, fresh dairy produce, and newspapers. There is genuinely nothing else in reasonable and safe walking distance.

Sadly, its owners have shut up shop and submitted a Planning Application to SSDC for consent to change of use to residential.

A local group has formed to see if there is any way to save the pub. The group - *Save Our Crown* (SOC) - is in the process of analysing responses from a survey recently carried out in the village and outlying areas to see if there is any appetite locally for a community buy out. Whatever the results, they will guide SOC to its next steps. In the meantime, it is encouraging comments on the SSDC planning portal. Go to <https://www.southsomerst.gov.uk/services/planning/> and search for reference 20/02475/COU.

SOC has set up a website which contains more information and details on how you can help. It will also publish survey results; [www.fivehead.org.uk](http://www.fivehead.org.uk)

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We also have pork and lamb raised on the smallholding so if turkey or goose isn't your thing, we could still provide your Christmas dinner.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Dear Editor

# The end of life as we know it? Are we heading for a meltdown of the natural world? Or is it just scaremongering?

Clearly people like Prince William, David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg believe Nature is under massive attack. While others, led perhaps by Donald Trump, say it's fake news while they destroy natural habitat and they fill their back pockets driven by never ending greed. Capitalism isn't the problem, it's excessive greed. For example rain forests across the World, not just in the Amazon, are being destroyed at the rate of 160,000 square kilometres a year. And sea fish stocks are being depleted by massive industrial over-fishing. And natural habitat worldwide is being eroded by various forms of industrial contamination.

Why? To make a few very greedy billionaires even wealthier.

While global warming is an issue, the erosion, over-exploitation and destruction of Nature by the greedy few is THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUE NOW. So what can an individual living in little old Curry Rivel do? First it's important to feel that whatever we do, as a species, NATURE MUST BE PROTECTED FIRST. Not making some selfish irresponsible rich greedy people richer. Take a project right on our doorstep - HS2. It'll cost over £100,000,000,000 -

that's £100 billion (US billion). The benefits: it'll reduce the journey times between some northern and midland towns and London by 20 minutes; it'll create new jobs to build and maintain it. The downsides: it is destroying many natural environments including several ancient woodlands. One other benefit: certain top (already wealthy) executives of HS2 Limited will earn millions of pounds each for the project. Industrial projects like HS2 are being carried out worldwide. Nature massively destroyed - personal wealth of a few massively inflated.

So what can you do? Easy - support one or more "Nature Pioneers" on a persistent basis. That could be Prince William, Sir David A, Greta Thunberg, Chris Packham, Steve Backshaw, WWF, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Friends of the Earth, even XR. One charity I've recently found that pulls together many environmental charities worldwide is

Fauna & Flora

International. It's worth checking out. Support means mainly donations. If you're donating regularly already, great. But could you manage another £3 a week please?

And just in case you think I may be anti-capitalist, I'm not. I'm pro-capitalism but anti excessive irresponsible greed. I applaud everything you can do to help Save Nature. I accept there are philanthropists with big hearts. But that's clearly not enough.

And finally, if we're wrong and it is scaremongering, we'll still have saved Nature and the world will be a far better place for all of us to live in. However if we're right about the meltdown and we do nothing.....

*Name & email address supplied.*



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## St. Andrew's Church

Find us at: [www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html) and [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/)



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

### Church opening for private prayer

Please note that St. Andrew's is open for private prayer on **Wednesdays thru Saturdays from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.**

## November

### Sunday 1st

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service  
10.45 **FH** - said Holy Communion  
6.00 pm **CR** - 'All Souls' Service

### Thursday 5th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP  
(Note: NOT in the OSR but in Church)

### Sunday 8th - Remembrance Sunday

9.15 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP  
10.50 **CR** - Remembrance Sunday Service - **see note in right column**  
**t.b.c.** **FH** - arrangements not confirmed at time of writing

### Sunday 15th

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

### Thursday 19th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP  
(Note: NOT in the OSR but in Church)

### Sunday 22nd

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW  
11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW

### Sunday 29th - Advent Sunday

9.30 **SW** - All Age Communion  
11.00 **CR** - All Age Communion CW

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

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

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

## Scott's Spot

### Vernalisation!

You learn something new every day. Well maybe not every day. But at a recent



'Rural Forum' hosted by the Bath and Wells Diocese our Rural Affairs Advisor Rob Walrond shared with us a farming fact that I think is rather helpful for these challenging times. As autumn has arrived and our churches have been celebrating harvest (albeit in a mask-wearing, socially distanced way) Rob, who is a farmer, shared with us the details of something called 'vernalisation'. With the harvest 'safely gathered in' many of us might assume that for a time the fields will lie empty awaiting spring and the planting of next year's crops. Apparently not. Instead, for some crops, such as wheat, the harvest is pretty quickly followed by ploughing and then re-seeding. With the soil still warm from the summer months, the seeds quickly germinate and begin to grow. By the time the winter cold arrives the plants will be established and standing about a foot high. It's then that on the surface things appear to stop. To the casual observer the young plants appear dormant. It's now however that 'vernalisation' takes place. Far from being dormant like a hedgehog settling down for hibernation, below the surface much continues. Root systems develop and within the heart of the plant imperceptible changes are taking place. They strengthen and develop. In those winter months a foundation for rigorous springtime growth and a fruitful harvest is being laid. Vernalisation.

I wonder if that image of a field of winter wheat, seemingly dormant, resonates with you as we face the continued strangeness of these times. Restricted as we are, do you feel stuck, dormant, unable to plan for a future we just don't know yet? You won't be alone if so. Can I suggest, however, that rather like the winter wheat, we too could be about a spot of vernalisation?

Perhaps you could consider the limitations of our time not merely as something to grind our way through until normal service resumes, but . . .

## Curry Rivel Remembrance Sunday Service 8th November

Please note that due to Covid-19 related regulations the number of people who may gather in St. Andrew's is greatly reduced.

Therefore, the Remembrance Sunday service will (weather permitting) be on the **Village Green**, starting at 10.50.

It will be followed by a –numerically limited and socially distanced– ceremony at the War Memorial.

### Scott's Spot ctd . . .

as an opportunity to prepare, grow and strengthen yourself deep within, ready for whatever our post-Covid lives will hold. How about some human vernalisation this winter?

So how could a rootedness develop within our life that means strength, courage and peace even amongst the most challenging of times? How, like that winter wheat, could we be developing our core strength? How might we be better prepared for the (literal or metaphorical) 'post-Covid spring' that will eventually follow this Covid-winter? Well, regular readers will not be surprised. We will find this, and so much more, through God's word and daily personal provision. Psalm 1 - **'They [God's people] are like trees planted by streams of water....their leaves do not wither'.**

If you are not used to reaching into the Bible, there are plenty of resources to help you get going. The 'Bible App Free' is used by millions daily (me included). Many find the 'Bible Reading Fellowship' (BRF) resources invaluable ([brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk)), and for a great introduction to the Bible the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course' is second to none. Of course there is also a wealth of experience to draw on in the form of books written by people sharing their experiences of growth with God. Recently I've found the author Rob Parsons to be a Christian writer of warmth, wisdom, humour and an easy flowing writing style – you can find his books on Amazon for just a few pounds. Maybe even someone you know does all this regularly and can help you begin. Vernalisation anyone?

With prayer for you and those you love,

Revd. Scott.

### From St. Andrew's Registers

#### Funerals

*May God grant them eternal rest.*

15th October - Service of thanksgiving  
for the life of

Lt Cdr Andy Anderson RN (Ret)  
(† 18th September)

### The Silenced Bells of St. Andrew's

One of the features of village life that came to an abrupt stop with the lockdown in March, was the sound of bells.

Understandable perhaps that practices and Sunday ringing by the local team had to be abandoned due to distancing rules (forget two metre distancing, the ropes are typically less than one metre apart).

But what is perhaps not understood, is why the church clock stopped striking the hours?

Well, purely by unfortunate coincidence, only days before



lockdown the mechanism that drives the clock hammer, which involves a very large weight of several hundred-weight, jammed.

Whereas the hands on the clockface keep turning, the famous, and historically listed Purdue bell has fallen silent.

It can be fixed, and will be, but as long as distancing rules apply it could prove difficult as it is more than a one-man job, and in a confined space.

On the bright side, when you do hear the bells ring out again, the welcome return of close contact will be worthy of their celebratory music.

### St. Andrew's Rotas November

#### Flowers

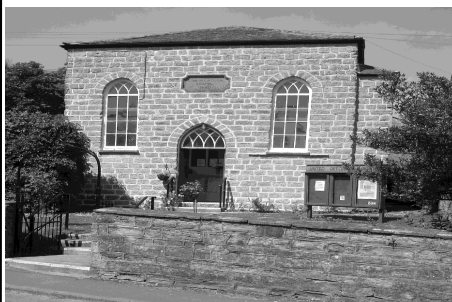
6th & 13th - Evelyn Leckie  
20th & 28th - Angela Cole

#### Cleaning

7th - Lynne Comley  
14th - Tina Geary  
21st - Wendy Graves  
28th - Anne Geach



## United Reformed Church



## November

(Services start at 10.30)

**Sunday 1st** - via Zoom

**Sunday 8th - Remembrance Sunday**

Rev Evelyn Ridout

**Sunday 15th** - via Zoom

**Sunday 22nd** - Rev Tim Richards

(incl. Holy Communion)

**Sunday 29th** - via Zoom

We are a small, inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability.

To join any of our services -Zoom or livestreamed from the Chapel- please email Steve Beney at [stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk)

**Arrangements are provisional and may change due to the fluctuating Covid situation.** Changes will be advertised on the URC Noticeboard.

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards

01458 252799

### A Word for our Time

Do you ever play your own game of Desert Island Discs? I do, thinking not just about the records I would choose, but the book I might take. Bible & Shakespeare, tick, then my choice: a dictionary. You see, I love words; the sound of them; the etymology of them; the way their meaning changes over time.

Some cultures have words which in translation take sentences to explain and there are words in all languages which have no equivalent. We have all heard of **Schadenfreude** = enjoyment obtained from the misery of others!

The word **Rejoice** is an invitation to celebrate, to exult, used occasionally in Shakespeare but prolifically in Scripture.

*A Word for our Time . . . ctd.*

Rejoice - a lovely word but in present times it can be difficult to find a sense of rejoicing. One of the things I have often heard recently is how lucky we are to live where we do, we have beautiful places to walk and space to be, but for many there is still the strain of coping in these times when what we can and cannot do alters with every news bulletin. Faith can help but even those of us for whom faith is integral know our relationship with God through the person of Jesus does not mean we always feel like rejoicing; faith is not a vaccine to ward off the vicissitudes (great word) of life.

Which brings me to a word for our times, a word I didn't know existed until very recently. John Cassian, a monk and theologian wrote in the early 5th century about an ancient Greek emotion called **acedia**. A mind "seized" by this emotion feels:

*'such bodily listlessness and yawning hunger as though he were worn by a long journey or a prolonged fast Next he glances about and sighs that no one is coming to see him. Constantly in and out of his cell, he looks at the sun as if it were too slow in setting.'*

This description feels so apt for now. There are things to be done, things we may even enjoy doing but at present the motivation to actually get started is the problem. The listlessness that means we struggle to begin or sustain a task. At the start of 'lockdown' in March, we knew what was expected of us, and gardens were tended, houses cleaned, and the pile of books on our bedside tables actually reduced in size. But now?

**Acedia** can affect us all, and if this is you then can I urge you to be kind to yourself at this time, there is enough stress without piling guilt about what we are unable to do on top of it all.

Let me end with words written in 1927 but timeless in their message:

"Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive god to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."

Yours.

Rev.Tim.






Gina Beauchamp

## A summary of useful tips on reusing and recycling

I have written this before but have updated the information. Some of these ideas involve planning trips and storing items to recycle at convenient times, it is worth the effort to save the planet and reduce the amount of rubbish in our black bins that goes to landfill.

- Take plastic boxes to the butchers & fishmonger to save using plastic bags.
- Use local shops that don't have plastic wrapped items. Butchers and Langport stores.
- Take mixed plastics that our bin men can't take to Tesco in Langport there is a recycling bin there. There are plastic recycling facilities at the sites in Yeovil, Taunton, Street and Somerton.
- Put tin lids, jam jar lids and metal bottle tops into a can then squeeze it shut so they don't fall out, the binmen will take them. They just don't want loose sharp lids in our bins.
- Recycle any plastic bags and wrappers at Tesco Langport, the bin is by the main door. Include bread bags and any plastic wrapping but NOT clingfilm.
- Save tinfoil, even small amounts can be scrunched together to go in our doorstep recycling. Wash cooking foil when possible to recycle cleanly.
- Take black plastics to any of the 16 recycling centres in Somerset.
- Buy loose fruit and veg to save packaging, use reusable fabric bags.
- Be more selective about purchases involving plastic wrapping.
- Buy a reusable water bottle and coffee cup. Cafes are becoming aware and will usually refill water bottles from the tap. Airports now provide a tap.
- Use paper straws, most pubs and cafes now have them.
- Use paper plates and wooden / bamboo cutlery if needed.
- Think about how what you purchase and use will affect the environment.
- Did you know that the contents of our local rubbish bins cannot be recycled because of the dog poo placed in them!!!
- If out and about, please take your rubbish home and recycle it responsibly.
- If you take a dog poo bag, please take it home or use a dog poo bin, do not hang it in a tree or throw it into a field where other animals, horses, cows or sheep might eat it. Animals have died from this happening.

Don't forget to use Freecycle to get rid of unwanted items. [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) There are groups in Taunton and Chard that cover our area



**LIVING PRETTY**  
SOMERSET

### NOVEMBER OFFERS



**Breakfast Buddies** - Quote "breakfast buddies" on paying at the till for buy one get one half price on all breakfast items. Applies to food only.

**Afternoon tea to Help out** - Enjoy Somerset Afternoon Cream Tea for Two with £5 off throughout November

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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 November 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

#### 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 December Edition

**Advertising:** 5pm Thursday 12th November  
**Send to:** crn.nigel@outlook.com  
**Comments & Articles:** 5pm Tuesday 17th November  
**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!

# Autumn has arrived and so has more litter!!

*John Casebourne*

**Nearly a month has passed since I last walked to Langport on one of my usual litter picks. You will see 2 face masks in the photo and 2 dog pooh bags.**

First the face masks. The RSPCA is urging people to cut the ear loops off face masks in case the masks blow out of the rubbish bins. They have dealt with over 920 cases of birds getting them tangled around their feet etc.

Good thinking, I would say. Please dispose of face masks carefully not only giving consideration to wildlife..... but also human life!

**Pooch Bags.....**a growing number of people now pick up their dog waste, which is brilliant. Not only is it our civic responsibility but in many cases now required by law. The idea of bagging up your dog pooh, then throwing it in the hedgerow is enough to upset most people - including landowners and farmers.

So please give your attitude a talking to if you don't comply!



The other point concerns those areas of land we all walk over which are not "free to roam areas", thinking we have a right to do so because we have always done it. Whilst landowners in some cases are more than accommodating in this respect, it goes without saying that we should comply with the countryside code, and also stick to public rights of way if the landowner or farmer so requests. We also need to consider the bird nesting season. Many birds nest on the ground and allowing our dogs the freedom to roam where they like, disturbs their habitat. When challenged, most dog owners respond by taking the view that their dog is not doing any harm; but at nesting time it is - even if you believe it isn't. So, keeping the dogs on a lead is essential at that time of year however well they are behaved!

Recently, I've been appointed by our parish council to be their voluntary footpath warden, so please email me with any suggestions you may have regarding the positioning of dog pooh bins and any other matter relating to our public footpaths.

[johncasebourne@sky.com](mailto:johncasebourne@sky.com)

I am certainly not in this position to berate people over their conduct, and neither would I wish to do so. I am a great supporter of education before enforcement. My main interest is for all of us within our community to respect each other, and think about issues that affect us, and effect us! - not only from our own point of view but also the point of view of those within our community. And, one last point; attitude is only a small thing but can have a HUGE impact on all of us.

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