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Jenny Ludgate - The End of an Era

Derek Yeomans

Miriam Ludgate – better known to everyone in Curry Rivel as Jenny – was brought up in Hendon, London. In her youth she used to follow the Salvation Army Band as it marched around the town and listen to the orations of their officers. These experiences convinced her of the merits of their cause and she has followed the principles of care for the vulnerable, self-sufficiency, dedication to the job in hand, hard work, temperance and honesty since then.

She moved to Curry Rivel in the 1960s and brought up her three children, who all attended Huish Episcopi School where her two sons were concurrently Head Boy and deputy Head Boy. She integrated herself into the local community after her arrival and got involved in many local groups and initiatives. Among these were the Ladies Circle and the Inner Wheel, where she was the Chairwoman of at least one of these. From 1984/5 to 2009 she was the accountant and company administrator for a company called Stuart Interiors that made fine reproduction antique furniture, which was displayed in the historic Barrington Court building. In 1985 the position of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to the then Curry Rivel and Hambridge Parish Council became vacant and Jenny applied for the role and, in the light of her past experience and work ethic, was appointed. Sometime later, Hambridge applied to become a separate Parish Council, and Jenny became Clerk to that one as well. From the 1980s to 2019 Jenny was involved in the acting and as part of the Committee of the Curry Rivel Entertainers and she



Jenny receiving 'The Chairman's Award for Services to the Community'

also produced all the programmes and tickets for their performances. During the same period she was heavily involved with the inception and organisation of the Curry Rivel Twinning Group, and over the years visited Chevilly and helped entertain the returning French Visitors. She was the Secretary for the Curry Rivel Village Hall and was involved with the organisation of the Village Flower Show (again producing tickets and programmes) held in that Hall until 2019, where her interest and skill regularly won her prizes in its photography competition. Until recently Jenny would respond in emergencies to requests from vulnerable people in the village who had an urgent need to attend hospital appointments but had no means of getting there in time – either through immobility or lack of transport – and to drive them there without thought of payment. In 2008 she received the Chairman's Award for Service to the Community from Somerset County Council, and in 2019 she was invited to the Queen's Garden Party in recognition of her continuing Service to the Community.



Jenny acting in Curry Rivel Entertainers

Continued... page 3

Curry Rivel in Bloom

A flowering community

cribsomerset@gmail.com

Gina Beauchamp 01458 762296

Planting and Watering around the village.

Our waterers and gardeners have kept our planting in the village looking lovely all summer, thank you to all of you. Towards the end of this month we should be planting our winter troughs and pots.

We need someone to water the War Memorial and Granny's garden on a Wednesday. Hoses etc are available. It only takes half an hour of your time. If two people volunteer then only one place needs doing by each person.

The war memorial has looked wonderful all summer - especially the white garden. The blue and red are slightly more difficult to provide with colour all year round. If you have any plants or shrubs you can recommend in red or blue that have lots of colour at this time of year, please get in touch! If they grow locally, they will grow in the war memorial garden.

100 year Birthday of Curry Rivel War memorial

Please see September's article on making and knitting poppies for the poppy trail. I will need any poppies by the end of October to get into place for the first week of November. Thank you to those who have already spoken to me.

Open Gardens 2021

I mentioned last month that I was contacting the people who had opened their gardens last time to see what the consensus of opinion was. At least four cannot open their gardens again as they have moved or for other reasons. The opinion from most of those who did reply was that we leave it till 2022 to see how the virus develops. With numbers of people affected increasing, and winter approaching when there may be more cases, it is impossible to plan for next year. If we went ahead the restrictions may be such that it will not be an enjoyable event.

Photos of garden projects

Sadly, I didn't receive any photos of any gardens as requested last month. So, I'm including one of our newly created pond

and gravel garden. It is a wildlife pond, no koi carp, already we have had dragonflies laying eggs on water lily leaves and a host of other insects. Butterflies love the buddleia, even the cat drinks the water and sunbathes on the stones. We will be looking to rehome a couple of jars of frogspawn in the spring. Newts and other wildlife may just turn up!



Gardening jobs for October

- Plant bulbs at the end of the month, depending on the weather they can go in as late as December but I like to get it done now.
- Do final weeding and mulch around shrubs.
- Dead head roses and cut back any straggly growth on shrub roses, I leave the hard pruning till the spring so the frost has something to kill and enough to recover.
- If you haven't already done so buy seeds for next spring, remember how hard it was to get seeds this spring. Order online if you can't find what you need in shops.
- Autumn planting in pots: place bulbs lower down, at least 4 inches, (10 cm). Then plant pansies or violas, cyclamen, ivy, chrysanthemum (whatever you fancy) on top. Keep watered if no rain.
- Wash out pots ready for next spring.
- Bring tender plants indoors to a greenhouse or window sill.
- Put used compost from tomatoes or other veg on your garden as a mulch or reuse it by adding plant food granules.
- Check for slugs and snails in and under pots and trays. It is worth lifting plants that have been in the garden all summer out of their soil just to check they have a root system, if not check the soil for vine weevil grubs. THEY CAN KILL PLANTS BY EATING THE ROOTS. They are white and curl up you can't miss them. Replace the soil and leave the old soil on the ground, the birds will eat the grubs. The grubs only survive in pots as they would be eaten if they were in the ground. They are partial to Fuchsias and Bizzy Lizzies.



Jenny Ludgate - The End of an Era ...continued

There are about 120 Parish Councils in the South Somerset District, each one comprising of local villagers elected by the village inhabitants in a full election in conjunction with either District or County Council elections every 4 years in normal times. I think the average parishioner knows of the existence of the parish council, but it is only when they wish to put a question or complaint to the council that they have to find out who can arrange this. Inevitably, this will be the Clerk and RFO who has many duties including: the administration of the legal status of the elected members, their training, their financial conduct and financial regulations, the standing orders determining the timings and conduct of meetings, as well as dealing with all correspondence, withdrawals and payments to banks, producing agendas and minutes of meetings and actioning decisions made by the members for expenditures and obtaining quotes for work to be done in the Parish and initiating payment for the invoice when received. The task list is almost endless, but the role is largely unknown and disregarded.

As the Clerk and RFO to Curry Rivel Parish Council from 1985

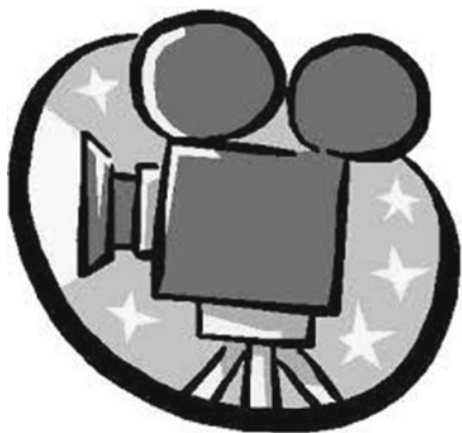
to 2020, Jenny has carried out all these tasks. Over that huge period of duty many chairmen, vice chairmen, members and Councils have come and gone but Jenny has remained the bastion of the complete administrative structure carrying out these duties efficiently and effectively. It has to be remembered that it is only fairly recently that the email and broadband has made the production of paper copies less important and reduced the use of the telephone as the means of transmitting information without the use of the post box. Though the manifold duties are getting almost daily more and more complex and onerous despite these digital communication improvements, Jenny did all the necessary work faultlessly prior to them and has adapted outstandingly to their present use. However, as is the case with all of us old age does not come alone, and she has decided that due to health problems it is time to pass the baton to a new Clerk. Needless to say, the presence, ability and dedication of this unique personality will be sorely missed, but I am sure that given her determination, when it is possible for some of these village events to recommence even in limited form, she will there doing a disproportionate amount of the work.

Movies in the Village Hall

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

We'll be back one day!

We know many of you have missed our monthly film nights, as have the Movies in the Village Hall Committee.



We were aiming to resume our movie screenings on Friday 16 October followed by Friday 20 November, but the 'Rule of Six' means that is no longer possible for the time being.

Do keep an eye on the Curry Rivel website: <https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/> where we'll publish further news.

Alternatively, for those who haven't been emailed so far you can be added to our mailing list by contacting: a.cockrell@btinternet.com

We look forward to welcoming you back whenever that may be!

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New Magazine takes region by storm.

Richard Wilkins

It's not often that a brand-new publication gets such attention so quickly especially one that is free, local and only available online.

West Country Bylines is a regional, online only newspaper that supports citizen journalism. Its aim is to publish well-written, fact-based articles and opinion pieces on subjects that are of interest to people in Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. In so doing, it seeks to demonstrate democracy in action by giving a voice to local people and holding our elected representatives to account. This is made possible by its strict independence – both from political control and from the influence of corporate interests.

It has had a real surge of people visiting the website, with the top articles already getting over 10,000 views, despite until now having to rely on word of mouth about the existence and quality of this new publication. A number of adverts have now been placed in a select few printed publications like the Curry Rivel News with the costs coming from donations or the writers themselves.

They encourage their authors, all of whom are volunteers, to write about the things that energise them. New writers are welcome and they invite contributions from those with specific areas of expertise. They welcome contributions from those with differing views and perspectives in order to encourage debate.

Author profiles can be viewed by clicking on the name of the author in each article. This will also take you to a list of their contributions so you can explore further.

Content is always relevant to the West Country, whether from a regional, national or international perspective. They cover special interest stories from our region to retain a strong local connection, but we include content of potential interest to readers from further afield to widen our audience. Opinion pieces that seek to interest readers towards a progressive and

internationalist perspective are balanced by a range of other news, lifestyle and human-interest articles.

They aim to ensure all articles are of a high standard as contributions are subject to review by our editorial team.

The publication believes that extra vigilance will be needed to hold those wielding power to account. They intend to take up that task for Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. West Country Bylines say that they will be steadfast in reminding our representatives of what they said and what they were elected to do.

You can find them at: <https://westcountrybylines.co.uk>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestCountryBylines>
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If you'd like to be part of it, there's plenty to do. They would love to hear from writers, investigative reporters and local journalists, interviewers and podcasters, photographers, videographers and picture editors, illustrators and cartoonists to contribute their skills and interests, as well as people to draft FOI requests, sift through published data, gather and publish original data.



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Breast Cancer Unit Appeal

Maggie Hague

In March 2019, Yeovil Hospital Charity launched an appeal to raise the funds needed to build a £2 million dedicated Breast Cancer Unit right here in Yeovil. We have secured almost £1,500,000 so far, however building work will only start when we have enough money. During this current time, like many other charities, our fundraising events have had to be postponed or cancelled, making fundraising quite challenging. With that in mind, to help the appeal raise the much-needed funds, we are asking people if they might like to look in their jewellery boxes for any unwanted jewellery, broken pieces of jewellery and watches, which they may like to donate.

If you would like to support the appeal through donating any unwanted or broken jewellery, please contact Maggie Hague, Breast Cancer Appeal Volunteer, on 01963 250108.

If you'd like to find out more about the appeal, please go to www.yeovilhospital.co.uk/yeovil-hospital-charity or call Sarah Cherry, Community and Events Fundraiser, on 01935 383020.



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Sex Before Flowers!

Joan Tipping

On 8th September, club members were delighted to be able to meet up once more, albeit virtually, to chat and then enjoy our first Zoom talk of the season. Sylvia Goodenough's presentation, intriguingly entitled 'Sex before flowers' was an interesting experience (if somewhat intellectually challenging for some of us!) as she shared with us her life-long enthusiasm and fascination with the life cycles of plants. She concentrated on explaining how plants that do not flower can still reproduce.

As gardeners, we know that non-flowering plants can reproduce from rhizomes or tubers and that we can also propagate plants using grafting or by taking cuttings. However, the resulting offspring have the same genes as the parent plants and will not show the variation essential for the survival of the plant species. But as we now know, plants do not necessarily need flowers to do this. By drawing on her extensive background and experience in plant botany, Sylvia provided step by step guides to illustrate and explain the

...Sedgemoor Gardens Club

science of non-flowering plant reproduction and the terminology used.

She described and explained the life cycles of Liverworts, the simplest of land plants then progressed to the life cycles of Mosses, Ferns and Conifers. Plants are definitely much more remarkable and varied than many of us believed and Sylvia made a complex topic clear and interesting. Who would have thought that a species of fern has 1260 chromosomes compared with the mere 46 chromosomes possessed by humans? Once again the wonders of Nature astound us and, thanks to Sylvia, we have a little more understanding of some aspects of plant botany. A short AGM followed Sylvia's talk.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 13th October, Emily Utgren will use Zoom to talk about and show us 'The Remarkable Trees of Stourhead'. Emily heads a team of gardeners at Stourhead and has extensive knowledge of Stourhead's trees and landscape.

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Make friends and stimulate your mind

Kay Williamson

U3A stands for University of the Third Age which is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full-time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. With nearly 500 members and over 50 interest groups, Somerton U3A has enabled people to make new friendships whilst participating in the activities they enjoy and maybe even learning new skills.

Every August Somerton U3A holds its annual Enrolment Day where interest groups can showcase what they do. This year, due to the restrictions in place on social distancing, that event and normal group meetings cannot happen in the usual way.

This year, by necessity, the opportunity to join Somerton U3A will be available only online. Current members will receive their rejoining forms by post.

Some groups have continued to meet either outdoors or by Zoom and hopefully, as restrictions gradually ease, interest groups will be able to meet again in the usual ways.

To find out more about Somerton U3A, its members and activities please visit the Somerton U3A website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/welcome>, or just Google: Somerton U3A) where you will find not only important information but many photos of members enjoying various activities and the recently introduced monthly newsletter.

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Keeping Britain Tidy

John Casebourne

Hello again. During this month of September you would have had the chance to pledge your support with 'Keep Britain tidy' and collect up litter in your area. Google, Keep Britain tidy, to find details. But even as September passes into October you can still pledge to do a little bit of litter collection.

You don't have to be part of a group you can go out like me armed with a black sack and picker stick and just go for it, in an area that needs to be cleaned up. Remember you CAN make a difference. I love the Tesco's catch phrase..... every little helps! Even though it's used in a different context! Two young lads passing by stopped to ask where it had come from, when I explained they were shocked and thanked me for picking it up. I thought that was really special coming from two young lads. It showed that they cared about our environment.

Quite a number of people stop and say thank you. Me.....well I don't do it for praise or recognition, I simply do it to because it degrades our towns, villages and countryside. I also do it to help protect our wildlife.

I just hope that my efforts will help people think about the issues and make a commitment to dispose of their litter in the recognised correct fashion.

On the way back from Langport I chose to turn off towards Wick and back to Curry Rivel via Currywoods Way, with picker

stick a new black sack I started the process all over again. Would it surprise you to know that I picked up nearly 3/4 of a black sack on these apparently less busy roads?

When you stop to consider that it takes 75 - 80 years for a modern crisp packet to decompose, the person who dropped it will most probably have died by then! What a legacy to leave behind! Multiply that, by say, a moderate 25 million people who trash our highways and byways each day, you then begin to get a perspective of how much litter is being dumped and what an enormous problem it creates for our Governments and Councils!

The BBC news reported that;
More than one million incidents of fly-tipping were dealt with by councils in England in 2016-17, costing taxpayers £58m to clear up. Wouldn't it be a brilliant release of funds if everyone just disposed of their rubbish in the correct way, there is no excuse really, the facilities are there for us all to use and although they are not perfect it's a good start.

Since I arrived in Curry Rivel I have reported five incidents of fly tipping to SSDC who have responded very quickly and removed them. I have also picked up over 100 black sacks of litter that people could have disposed of themselves. How sad is that!

So if you would like to join me in my campaign against litter, whether you are young or old please send an email to, johncasebourne@sky.com think about the mosquito and how much difference it can make in a room full of people!

District Councillors' Report

Tiffany Osborne and Clare Paul

The story continues..... SSDC, along with the other three other District Councils, have announced and approved 'Stronger Somerset' as their perceived best choice in changing the way services are provided for residents and businesses in Somerset. Ministers want a unitary solution for Somerset to replace the current two-tier system. The question is what type of unitary do we want? Somerset County Council are proposing one unitary Council. The Districts are proposing the creation of two new councils – East and West –with a combined authority. The issue with the latter is although the Districts talk about collaborative working, historically they have found this very difficult to implement in practice as each District perceived their needs to be greater, or of more significance and importance than the others. There will be more debates and discussions to come. Councils are expected to receive a formal invitation shortly from the Government to submit their business cases. There will then be an eight-week Government-run consultation from which councils have been advised the new organisations will be in place by April 2022.

Covid-19 has brought challenging times for residents and businesses alike. Also hit have been charitable organisations as peoples' focus have been directed to other matters. However, support is available in the form of grants from The Somerset Fund. Funds of up to £2,500 are available for grassroots charity organisations. The Somerset Community Foundation who manage the Fund is encouraging applications from smaller charities and community groups that run on less than £100,000 per year. The grants will be unrestricted which means that can pay for ongoing running costs. The deadline to apply is Friday 16 October – visit www.Somersetcf.org.uk for more details.

Covid-19 also meant the cancellation of the usual Play Day events that are held through the District which have been enjoyed by thousands of children. However, all was not lost as SSDC provided a safe play alternative via PlayBox. 2000 boxes, containing arts and craft, baking, environmental activities and outdoor play, were distributed at various points in the District and also to Foodbanks to continue to support families.

The WI is Zooming on.

Carolyn Paton

Mid-September saw a Zoom gathering of local WI members who were interested to hear from Suzi Ballard - a digital enabler from 'Positive People Somerset'; a project under the umbrella organisation Cosmic. This organisation sets out to enable anyone (whether corporate or private individuals) to achieve success in the digital world, and is free to users, functioning through Lottery and EU (!) grants. In our case the emphasis was on getting the best from our smart devices. An unlooked-for irony of the presentation was that Suzi herself was invisible to the participants, due to a glitch in the workings, though such was her clarity that her talk came over loud and clear as she took us through her screen headings. Her aim was to give a confidence boost, and to explore those possibilities lurking within these remarkable tech tools, which may be languishing unused and ignored.

Some WI members are currently using more functions than others, and within the group there was a mixed level of competencies - from those who use their phones for little more than making calls, to those who utilise many of the functions regularly. Since not everyone has an expert on hand to call on when needed, it proved valuable to go round some of the possibilities with a personal consultant. Happily, practical help was available during the session and so some specific issues were addressed.

The basics of assuring a secure password or pattern were

stressed, along with the backup services of the Cloud. No-one wants to be hacked, scammed or to lose everything to an unfortunate loss, theft or accident.

Useful apps were highlighted; the ones that can be so handy in daily life, such as calendar reminders, banking, parking, shopping. Fun and entertainment also featured - handy when forced to wait, or on journeys, as well as information apps, eg for accessing such things as TED talks.

Health and well-being was another heading, as were apps for identifying a snatch of music, background info on an object one was looking at in real time, or identifying a plant from a photo.

Many people like to highlight special photos by printing them out, and Suzi mentioned Freeprint - which enables, as is implied, the free printout of up to 45 pictures a month, with just the postage charged.

Much information was imparted, and members felt they had really profited from this session by Suzi, whose organisation seems as user-friendly as she is. Our thanks to her.

On less welcome matters, it would appear that the envisaged WI gatherings on the Green and in the Hall will not now be able to take place as planned, and Zooming may have to continue to be the way forward. Walking in groups of 6 may in all likelihood continue however, as this outdoor activity gives pleasure - and has health benefits - to several members. Regular newsletters from our President, Anne Geach keep us all in touch. Contact 01458 253078 for further information.



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Curry Rivel Community Support Group

- Autumn approaches *Steve Allinson – Chair, Curry Rivel Community Support Group*

I am really grateful to the team at Curry Rivel News for all the support and publicity that they give our Support Group. This month is no different, and so I wanted to share some thoughts on the volunteer work of the Support Group going forward.

Our emergency phone and email address remain open, and please continue to use those if there are particular needs either for yourself or anyone you know. Although she has returned to work, Carenza Hewitt continues to monitor it for us and pass on any requests to our wonderful volunteer group. The contact details are set out at the end of this article.

The most visible part of our ongoing work is the village food bank. I want to share some ongoing thoughts on this project with you and ask for your continued support. As, hopefully, all in the village know, we meet twice a week at the United Reform Church to receive donations of money and food and then distribute it through our dedicated volunteers. There is no doubt that our services are highly valued and our clients whom we support are really grateful for the help that our community is giving. We are also spreading our wings to the surrounding villages and receive great support from volunteers in both Drayton and Hambridge. One really positive aspect of our work has been how it has

brought our communities together.

We are very grateful to the leaders of the United Reform Church who have continued to let us use their premises free of charge to run our Food Bank. I am very pleased to share a photo of Steve Beney our financial "guru" who joins us come rain or shine to ensure your donations are properly accounted for and to keep us in order. As you can



see, he is welcoming all donations which we then put to good use.

May I also take this opportunity to recognise a very generous donation indeed from the Mason Lodge at Langport. They not only have provided money, but also shopped on a large scale for us and delivered it to our distribution centre. Thank you, as well, to the lovely staff at One Stop in the

village who gift us food and provisions every Saturday. It is really appreciated, and we want to salute you!

However, as Autumn approaches, we believe there will be greater need of our services. Sadly, it seems the effect of the pandemic will continue for some time. With the furlough scheme ending, many businesses may have to re-evaluate and look at staff numbers. So, I am making a plea for your continued support. We are considering putting our food bank on a more formal basis and are looking at links with Langport. We currently receive cash donations, but we could arrange banking facilities for regular donations if the project is to continue. Similarly, may I make a plea for ongoing food donations. The support of villagers has been great, but I know that the longer this situation goes on, it is important that we keep responding to the ongoing need. I have to share the fact that there are some in our village and communities who are in real need at the moment, and are so grateful for our support.

If you can help, in any way whatsoever, please do visit us on Wednesday or Saturday between 12 noon-1 pm at the URC. We would love to see you.

To contact us: email: help@curryrivel.org.uk, phone: 07716 792760. All contact is treated in the strictest confidence.

Pilates

Mo Masrour Pilates Foundation

Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)

6.00pm – 7.00pm (All levels)

7.00pm – 8.00pm (Intermediate)

Private sessions 1 to 1 also available

Contact Mo for details on: 07815748518

mospilates@yahoo.com



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info@bowhousephysiotherapy.co.uk**

Parish Council Meeting

The September meeting of the Parish Council was held via Zoom. The Chairman adjourned the meeting briefly to thank Mrs Jenny Ludgate – the retiring clerk – for over 35 years of outstanding work supporting the Parish Council with commitment and flexibility. An engraved crystal block depicting the Pynsent Monument and a large bunch of flowers were presented to her as tokens of the community's appreciation of her important contribution.

In the public session a resident drew councillors' attention to allegations of drug dealing in the parish. These allegations had been reported to the police and it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Police Commissioner as well as contacting the police locally. Another member of the public reported on the state of local footpaths where the paths and some stiles have not been maintained adequately.

CLlr Scarborough provided an update on the speed indicator devices that have been installed. Apparently, neither devices is operating to the advertised standard, and the battery length of both devices is also causing concern as they only seem to be lasting for about four days.

The complete draft Minutes of the meeting can be seen on the village website.

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday 1st October at 7:30pm.

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St. Andrew's Church

Find us at: www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html
and 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.**

Notice: Due to Covid-19 social distancing and hygiene precautions the service pattern below remains 'abnormal'. Apologies if a service you love is missing but for now the principles of not mixing more than 2 'church family bubbles' on any one day, or using the same church building twice are being followed.

October

Sunday 4th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Harvest Service
10.45 **FH** - said Holy Communion
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Harvest Service

For CR: food items (preferably of a non-perishable nature) brought to this service and cash donations will be donated to our local food bank.

Thursday 8th

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

Sunday 11th

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

Sunday 18th

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

Thursday 22nd

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

Sunday 25th

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

Scott's Spot

What are the odds?

Have you thought much about the subject of odds? How likely it is, for example, for red to come up on a roulette wheel, or for a fruit machine to produce a jackpot. If you have, you'll know that these odds are slim. Those who run casinos or amusement arcades are not fools, they're business people, and they know that those who partake in gambling are onto a loser. Optimism is, in the end, no match for cold, hard probability.

Perhaps today, as we're still wading through the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, we may feel that, in life, the table is loaded against us. Sometimes there seems to be a small chance of conquering our problems and achieving our hopes. I'm feeling a bit like that as our Benefice church families face challenge after challenge. As is the case for so many, because of Covid, it feels like everything we're normally about is taking twice the effort; it feels as if the odds are stacked against us.

So is it just optimism to believe that God can make a difference – can shift the odds in our favour? Well no, it's not. Across the millennia he has shown himself to be a God who definitively overturns expectations, taking the side of the weak against the strong, the rank outsider against the assumed favourite, and time and again defying the odds.

If, as Christians do, we hold the Bible to be a historical document that brings us accounts of God's interactions through real people in real places, then odds-defying accounts are encouragingly frequent. For example we could think of Moses confronted by Pharaoh; the people of Israel chased by the Egyptian army into the wilderness; David facing Goliath.

November

Sunday 1st

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

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel
FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead
SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell



Scott's Spot ctd . . .

And as we turn to the New Testament we might consider Christians sent out into a hostile world with the gospel message, and the early church enduring horrific persecution at the hands of Rome. These events are each a microcosm of the greatest odds-defying event of all in which God took on the forces of darkness and evil through a child born in a stable, a broken man hanging on a cross, and a body laid in tomb. What were the odds of success here? Seemingly tiny. And yet through the accounts of Jesus' resurrection, the explosive power of his new church, and the reality of some 2.3 billion Christians today, we see that the odds were overturned to a massive degree.

If you're feeling up against it today, daunted by the challenges you face, then you're definitely not alone. But the Christian perspective on life's struggles can be very different. However frustrating, draining, or even frightening things may seem, we are called to remember our 'odds-defying' God.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us he, '**is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine**' (Ephesians 3:20). If you've given up believing that things can change then perhaps you're measuring it all in terms of worldly odds, rather than by what God has shown us he can achieve.

Is it time to talk to your Christian friends and to begin to explore your Bibles?

With prayer and blessings,
Revd. Scott Patterson

St. Andrew's Rotas October

Flowers

3rd & 10th - Diana Talbot-Williams
17th & 24th - Lyn Cotterill
31st - Adrienne Holmes



Cleaning

3rd - Anne Geach
10th - Anne Goff
17th - Jackie & John de Ronde
24th - Nicky Barker
31st - Liz Rendell



From St. Andrew's Registers Weddings

*We wish them God's blessing
at the start of married life*
19th September - Lydia Beeny and
Martin Mason

St. Andrew's Church Annual meetings will be on Monday 12th October 7.30 pm, in the Church:

the postponed Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) to elect Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), with reports about church life; PCC proceedings; the church's financial affairs over 2019, and election of new PCC members and representatives to the Deanery Synod.

Shoe Box Appeal 2020

This year will again see the annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for **Blythswood Care**, a Christian charity based in Scotland. In 2019 **110,926** boxes (over 9,000 more than in 2018) were distributed to children and adults in various countries of Eastern Europe.

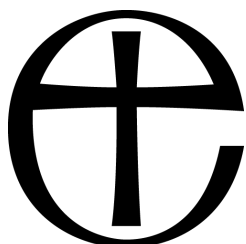
For all those who enjoy filling a shoe box, the procedure -as with everything else- is a little different this year.

Please would you download the leaflet with a list of items etc. from the Blythswood Care website at www.blythswood.org/shoebboxappeal.

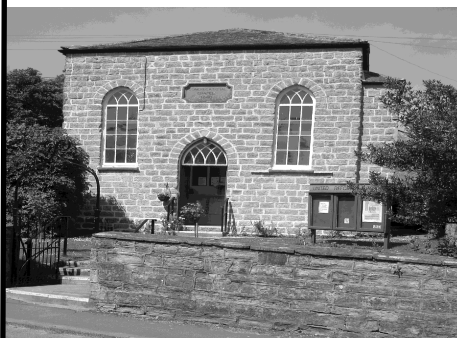
Your filled boxes can be delivered to Jackie de Ronde or Ginny Smith, preferably by the end of October.

Anyone who would prefer to donate rather than fill a box, please note that the donations will be sent to Blythswood, towards the cost of transportation. Or you can donate directly via their website.

Any queries or for those not able to download the leaflet, contact Jackie on 251355 or Ginny on 250997.



United Reformed Church



October

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 4th - Mrs Jo Morling

Sunday 11th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 18th - Rev Rowena Francis
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 25th - Rev Tim Richards

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.

** The serving of tea/coffee after the service is suspended for the moment (Covid restrictions) but please take the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher after the service observing the 2 metre social distance & mask wearing guidelines.*

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
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Dear Friends,

There is a joke doing the rounds;

'I don't want to go back to school', yells the person, crying and stamping their feet, 'But you have to', says the other, 'you're the Head'.

As people return to school, to the office, to shops, cafes & restaurants, those places where we gather in numbers larger than our lockdown household, or with people outside our Covid-secure 'bubble', many are feeling anxious, worried or tentative about returning to what had been regular routines or re-entering 'normal' life. What had once been safe became threatening and to some degree continues to contain threat: Life has been thrown off course since March - and March seems a long time ago now.

For some of us this has been a time to reflect on what is important, and yes that includes housing, food, income, but also reflecting on the direction of our lives; for some this will have been beneficial, for others it has been about survival. One positive has been the way communities have worked together to help those struggling in whatever way, in ways not envisioned when this year began.

How many of us really plan out our lives' journey? Do you know that phrase, 'Life is what happens when you are planning other things'?

My Christian faith leads me to believe that God is integral to the journey, more so, that the journey is what is important. The Bible tells many stories of folk setting out on journeys, sometimes willingly, others with greater reluctance, some only after crying and stamping their feet.

Whatever your situation, as we move forward I pray that life remains precious to you, and that whether you are experiencing anxiety or confidence, confusion or clarity, frustration or acceptance, fear or love, grief or celebration, reluctance or eagerness to return to 'normal', you may know the God of love and grace who walks alongside you.

Yours faithfully,
Rev. Tim

We need trees and volunteers!







– Can you help Curry Woods Conservation Trust?

Catherine Mowat

The CWCT is nearly there....the relevant SSDC committee meets on 23rd September to (we hope!) confirm we have the grant that we have applied for and which is being supported by the council officer and our District and County councillors. Once that is secured we will have the purchase price of the land (with many thanks again to all those who donated) and we can push forward.

One of the aims of the Trust is to create some woodland. The land the Trust is buying has some existing woodland which is part of an ancient woodland that is 8 miles long, stretching from Wrantage to Wick. This woodland contains species – native species - that colonised the area after the last ice age, and we are keen to try and keep this historic interest going in the new woodland.

This means that the new woodland needs native species that come from old hedgerows and trees in the Curry Rivel area. As the Trust is a community-based project, it relies on interested people to grow some trees on. Would you like to plant some seeds in pots to grow on and plant out when they're big enough? These need to be gathered locally, so we know they do well in our local soil. We need species such as:

<p>English or pedunculate oak YES!</p>  <p>Turkey oak NO!</p> 	<p>Field maple YES!</p>  <p>Sycamore and Norway maple NO!</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Sycamore Norway Maple</p>	<p>Hazel YES!</p>  <p>Hawthorn Yes!</p> 
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If you would like any help with identifying your trees, or information on how to sow the seed and look after it, call Catherine on 01458 250655.

Would you like to join an outing in October to gather seeds and learn how to plant them and nurture them? Saturday 10th October 10am – 12noon, meet at the Trust field gate (see our website for map -www.CWCTrust.simplesite.com) This would be suitable for young and old alike! If so please call Catherine on 01458 250655.

Would you like a guided tour round the Curry Woods Conservation Trust land, to look at the woodland and hear about our vision for the land? Please call Peter on 01458 250091/07903 030533.

We will need volunteers to help look after the Trust nature reserve, and so, finally, if you are interested in helping, from collecting seed and looking after the trees to talking to visitors and maintaining the footpath, please call Peter.

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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

In October 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) m.ludgate@btinternet.com 251432
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 274008
URC Minister 252799

Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

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



Deadlines for November Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 8th October
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com
Comments & Articles: 5pm Tuesday 13th October
Send to: curryrivelnews@gmail.com

The Curry Rivel News is published monthly by the
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Our carnivorous butterfly lives nearby

Local amateur naturalist Nigel Grinsted explains how extinction can be reversed

In the 1970s England's most fascinating butterfly, the Large Blue, became extinct in the UK.

Today it's back and the largest colony in the world can be found at Green Down just outside Somerton. "It was reintroduced by British Butterfly Conservation in the early 1980s and since then the colony has thrived and grown" said Mark Green of Somerset Wildlife Trust who runs the reserve.

Carniverous caterpillars!

The amazing thing about the Large Blue is that the caterpillar is carnivorous. When young it eats leaves like a normal caterpillar. But later it stops eating leaves and secretes a pheromone which a particular red ant finds irresistible. "Indeed the ant treats the caterpillar as one of its larva and takes it back to its nest. The caterpillar then continues to grow by feeding on ant larva until it eventually pupates in the ant nest" Mark explained.

Prompt exit

When the butterfly emerges it has to make a prompt exit because the ants recognise it as a butterfly and fair game. Some won't escape. "Each caterpillar eats a small proportion of ant larvae and on its own is of no real



threat to the ant nest" Mark explained. The reintroduction wasn't a simple process – the location needed to have both their foodplant, Wild Thyme and the red ant (*Myrmica sabuleti*) thriving there. Any other red ant will simply consume the larvae. The butterfly is the UK's largest of "the blues" and can be seen flying in June and July. It's related to the Common Blue which you will see in parks and the countryside and the Holly blue which you'll often find in your garden. British Butterfly Conservation has a programme of reintroducing rare indigenous species - find out more here: butterfly-conservation.org and somersetwildlife.org

'Pub is Our Hub' Launch

Pip Brett

Members of the Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead Royal British Legion enjoyed an Open Day at The Drayton Crown pub over the Bank Holiday weekend, marking the launch of their 'Pub is our Hub' initiative; having a 'Hub' for Members to meet and hold events will be a great bonus for the Branch.

Donna Cave and her Team at The Drayton Crown welcomed Branch Members with an all day Sunday Lunch,

delivered by their exceptionally talented new chef, Gary a retired Royal Navy chef who honed his talents in the kitchens at Buckingham Palace....and it shows! The day was a huge success, with many Members coming to a pub for the first time since lockdown. The large beer garden, spacious and airy dining room and one-way system through the pub helped everyone relax and enjoy themselves.

Once things become a little more normal, there are plans for a Breakfast Club and other events to ensure our Branch thrives to keep supporting our veterans.

If you would like to become a member for just £18 a year, please contact: Pip Brett - 01460 281115

Anyone can join, you don't need to have served in the Armed Forces. Many of our Members have not served but want to do their bit for our veterans.



Helping Hedgie or Robbie



If you find any animal - including birds, reptiles and bats - that needs help because it is injured in some way then call the RSPCA first on: **07808 011263**

They are based in South Somerset and even with Covid they can help. You should also call them if you think any pets are being mistreated on: **0300 1234 999**



Chef Gary & Landlady Donna Cave