

Curry Rivel in 1986

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-336000-123000/page/1>

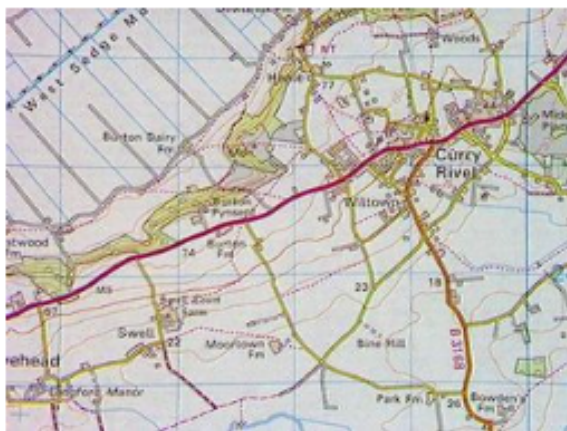
In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious project to record a snapshot of everyday life across the UK for future generations. A million volunteers took part...

'Going through Curry Rivel is the main road the A 378. In the village there is a school, a post office, a VG store an old church and vicarage and there are lots of houses and a building site. Just down the road at Burton Pynsent there is a monument, a manor house and also Burton Pynsent cottages and Burton wood which is joined onto Swellwood which has a heronry in it. In Swell there is Swell Court Farm, Westleigh Cottages, Swell Hill, Swell Lane and a track - Crossham Lane. On the way out of Curry Rivel is Red Hill, a 1 in 6 hill and at the bottom of it are a few farms and a pub called The Black Smock. Around the moors are a lot of droves with names like Broadway Drove, South Drove and Burton Mead Drove. Most of the moorland is used for grazing during the summer.'

Map of the area

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Ordnance Survey 100039117

1986



2011



Parts of the Burton Pynsent Farm can be traced back to the original Domesday Book. Since then bits have been added to it. It is now owned by Mr and Mrs Shroder.

There is a monument on the hill almost opposite the house. It was built there in the memory of Sir William Pynsent. It has 170 steps and it used to be open to the public but it is now closed for restoration. The monument is not as old as the house.

Curry Rivel church dates back to the 13th century, the oldest part is the north chapel, where there can still be found remains of skeletons in some of the stone tombs. The oldest bit of stained glass in the church is a bit of the stained glass from Canterbury Cathedral. A window on the north wall shows Saint George and the Dragon, King Ina of Wessex and King Alfred.

'In Curry Rivel there are a lot of things to do, like Brownies, Cubs, Dancing Classes and on Sundays in the Church there is a choir. I like the Carnival that we have every year, when people dress up as monkeys and cows because they look very funny. In Curry Rivel there are only a few shops. There is a vegetable and fruit shop, a food shop, a Post Office, a basket making shop and some garages. I live at Stoney Hurst Drive and altogether there are about twenty houses. I like my street because some of my friends live there and it is not busy for us to play on and we can ride our bikes up and down. My dad works at Westlands and sometimes he flies the helicopters. My mum works hard looking after us; my sister aged 6 and my brother aged 2 and myself aged 9.

In Curry Rivel there are a lot of customs. My favourite one is Ascension Day. The school has a recorder group and we go up the tower in the church (all 136 steps!) and play the recorders while everyone else on the village green sings the song. We celebrate an old Somerset custom in Curry Rivel that has died out in all other areas, it is the burning of ash and faggots on 5th January which was thought to ensure a good crop for the cider apples in the following year. One of my other favourite customs is Guy Fawkes night and we build big bonfires and people come from Curry Rivel and other villages to enjoy the fireworks and campfire food. Some other celebrations we celebrate at home and at school are - Hallowe'en, Pancake Day, Easter and of course Christmas.