



# Curry Rivel Portfolio

## A flowering community above the Somerset levels

2018 is the second year we have entered the village category of the South West in Bloom competition.

Chair: Gina Beauchamp

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Hands that rock CRiB - Gina & Laraine 1

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## Calendar of Achievements

July 2017 - First year entry to South West in Bloom. The colour theme of non permanent planting is white, with pink and blue to celebrate peace 100 years ago

### War Memorial replanting

- 🌸 After last year's successful planting; lasted until November Remembrance Day service.
- 🌸 Plant stored over winter around the village.
- 🌸 Sold on at a plant sale in May 2018.
- 🌸 October 2017 the committee revisited two competition designs; chose red, white and blue garden.
- 🌸 February's Parish Council Meeting - it was agreed to install a stand pipe for ease of watering.
- 🌸 February 17 'Composting day': 10 people turned out to weed and add donated compost.
- 🌸 February's Sedgemoor garden club meeting Laraine spoke to the speaker Marian Dale of Summerdale Garden Designs who offered her services free of charge.
  - 🌸 Drew up revised the planting list
  - 🌸 Produced a professional drawing of the garden
  - 🌸 Ordered the plants at a discounted rate
  - 🌸 Led, advised, helped at the planting days.



April - three more posts were added to enable us to move the rope swags back, opening up the garden and allow climbing plants to grow.

- 🌸 posts & cement donated by Sandpits and Travis Perkins
- 🌸 installed for free by Bradley Lewis Gardening Services. These posts will Paul Crocker moved the rope swags back and there was enough rope.

May 27 First planting day (delayed due to later date of water pipe installation). 6 hanging baskets in place.

May 27 Silent Soldier erected.

June 2 & 17 - Subsequent planting days.

June 23 Tap installed by Wessex Water.

June 21 Hand made wicker dove is delivered.



## New Sensory Garden

Last November South Somerset District Council gave 3,000 bulbs for planting in the area next to the petrol station.

This land now belongs to the Parish Council but, before the petrol station, was owned by the Mounter family, consisting of the family home and Granny's house and garden. The current family have requested that the land be called Granny's Garden.

Last year the judges suggested that this area needed more work and residents Sue Hand and Pat Scilia kindly offered to redesign it. The Langport and Somerton Rotary Club offered £150 to sponsor it. They will be there with members from the dementia groups on judging day. At the end of April, there was a digging day and again members worked to remove the border and stumps, fill in a crocus bed, take ivy off the wall etc. Excess soil was taken to the allotment for the new beds.

This will be an easy maintenance garden for pedestrians to touch, taste, smell, look at the vibrant colours and hear the grasses and wind chime in the tree!



## Allotment

Last year we didn't take the judges to see the allotments, So this year we are arranging a visit and have taken on a CRiB allotment.

The allotment committee have kindly allocated part of a plot free of charge and they have given permission for the Brownies to visit.

Peter Hayes and Ted King Oakley built four beautiful raised beds using recycled wood from another garden. They are currently being filled with soil.

A bug bed and breakfast container is being built.



## Monument

Tim Schroder, the owner of the Burton Pynset monument is interested in our signage suggestion. He lives mostly in London so communication has been difficult. This will be a project for next year 2018/19.



## Railings along the main road.

Railings in High Street. Finally, after going around in circles for six weeks Highways, where Gina first started the search have claimed that they own the railings! David Davies came to see them and has given us permission in writing.

10 grey Elho barrier planters have been ordered to be placed on railings and will be planted to add colour up the High Road.



## Eastfield

Eastfield is an unimproved neutral grassland field belonging to Curry Rivel Parish Council. The field supports a number of wildflower species which indicate that it has not undergone agricultural improvement, such as the application of artificial fertilisers or herbicides, for decades, if not centuries. This is an unusual habitat, belonging to the 5% of species-rich grassland that has not had its native flora destroyed since the Second World War.

A survey was carried out in 2016 that lists 39 plant species of which 15 are classified as rare. A nightingale has held a territory next to the field for the past two years; its conservation status in the UK is red listed as it has suffered very steep decline over the past thirty years. It has eggs of the brown hairstreak butterfly, a nationally scarce species. The site is home to the Great Green Bush Cricket and numerous Pyramid Orchids.

An educational display board has been erected this year. A balance of community use (walking and one side as a car park for events) and maintaining its environmental speciality is being achieved.



## The Village School

Louise Wilde and Rob Silver, the caretaker are the contacts, Gina has given Louise details of the Britain in Bloom art competition and asked if they can do a recycling project and talk about it on the judging day, also visit the forest area.

The head left the school in June 2018 and Gina has been talking to the acting head and caretaker about the hanging baskets and planting, Gina will go in and help.

Louise Wilde has been on sick leave so nothing has been done re art competition. We would like them to design a Curry Rivel in Bloom thank you card and a Christmas card which this can be started in September.



## Community Involvement

This year we have built up a contact list of over sixty helpers and contacts who have various skills and abilities. We have contacted groups in the village and clubs that use the village hall and have a few contacts from each group plus the Brownies have been very active, planting seeds and making a bug house at the allotments.

We feel that there is much more awareness of CRiB in the village and more people are offering to join in. At each planting session at the war memorial we had at least two new volunteers and our youngest member is Alex who is just five years old! He is very good at planting. Some visitors from Canada helped us one afternoon.

Gina writes a Curry Rivel in Bloom article each month in the Curry Rivel News magazine and this is distributed to each household in the village. The website is now directly linked to the Curry Rivel Village website and details of all our events and contact details are there.

In May there was a plant sale organised by Julia Jewell and this made nearly £300 for CRiB, plus we recruited several new helpers on the day.

We are often told by villagers how much they enjoy the planting around the village and also by others who pass through and some have even been inspired to think about their village entering the competition.

There is a Front Garden competition with 18 entries.



## Environmental Responsibility

Where ever possible we recycle and reuse. All our pots around the village have been donated and reused. We have several good sources of compost and leaf mould in the village. On composting day, after an appeal in the CRNews, in February villagers left us lots of bags of compost by the war memorial which was eagerly dug in by our helpers.

New raised beds at the allotment have been made with recycled and rescued wood and filled with donated compost.

The Brownies have built a bug house at the allotment which we hope will sun be filled with welcome visitors. The wild life meadow at Eastfield has a useful sign and this year has been good for orchids, we have pyramidal white and red orchids and bee orchids as well as Lady's Bedstraw and many other plants which encourage other wild life, especially butterflies. There have been visits and walks arranged to the field open to all villagers and of course they can walk there at any time.

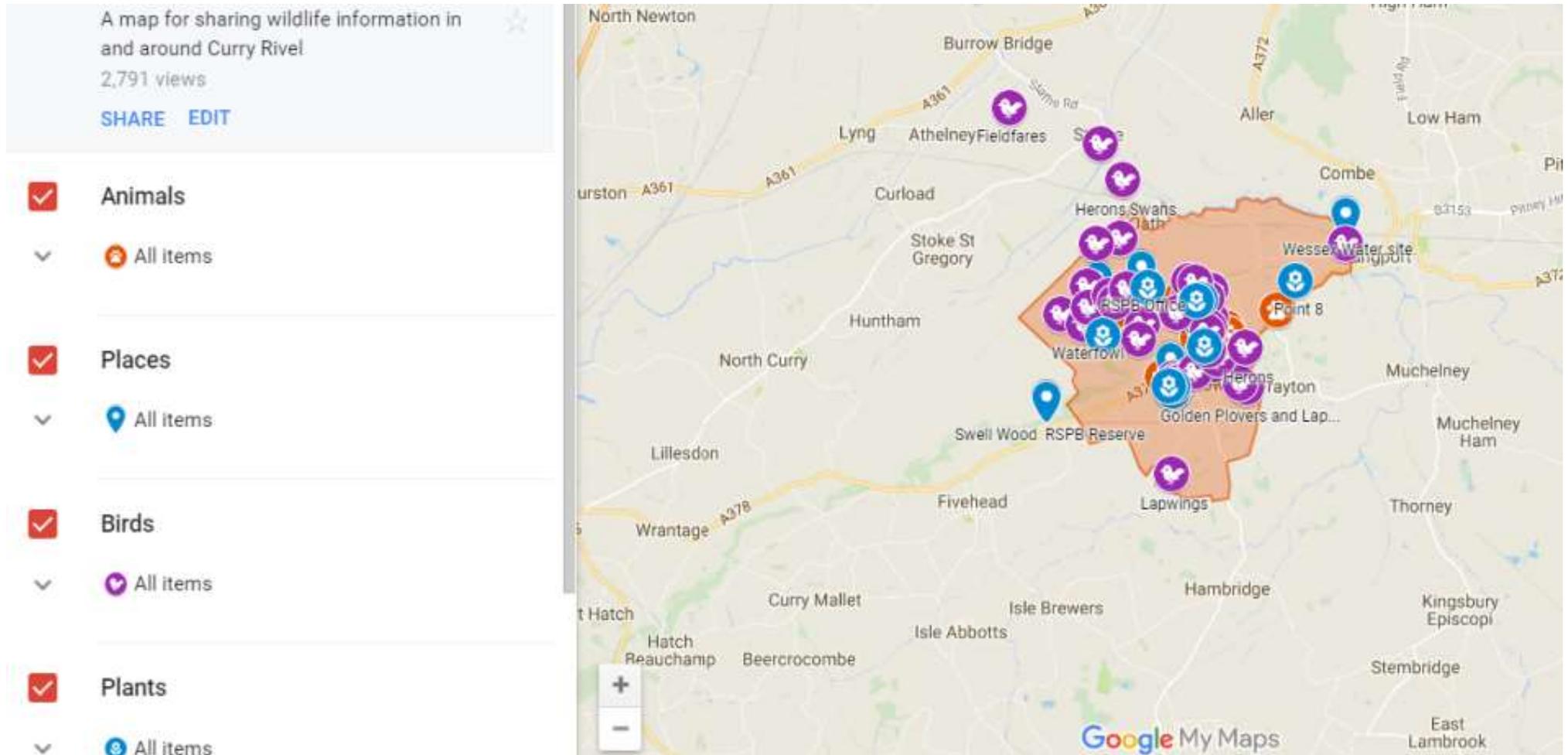
Gina writes a Recycling article in the Curry Rivel News each month and has had very positive response from the

village especially with regard to plastic recycling and reduction of use of plastics.

There are plans to install a new drinking fountain at the War memorial to encourage re-use and reduce the number of plastic bottles.



# Curry Rivel Wildlife Survey Group



# History

## The War memorial

Local builder James Dyer & Sons were commissioned to build the memorial which was dedicated on Sunday 7 November 1920. The memorial was repaired and cleaned in 2014 in preparation for the ceremonies commemorating the start of the First World War in 1914. It seems fitting that in 2018 Curry Rivel in Bloom will be commemorating the ending of the First World War and the coming of peace in November 1918 with a new permanent planting scheme.

One hundred and fifty seven men and one woman from the village and surrounding area served in world war one, twenty one of whom were killed in action, died of their wounds or disease and two died from accidents. Twenty names are currently listed on the memorial and a booklet produced by Rita and Dave Garnett describes in more detail the stories of those soldiers and can be found by the memorial in St Andrews Church.

The majority of those who went to war returned, but the village they returned to has changed significantly during the last hundred years. These changes are reflected in the public buildings that remain, though their function or usage may have changed.



## The Old School Room

The church donated land on the north side of the churchyard and in 1828 the Old School Room was built, the building of £127 was raised by public subscription. Most of the children of the village and surrounding area were educated here until the present village school opened in 1876. During its lifetime a boiler house and kitchen were added and in (?) the community came together again to raise funds for a major restoration to extend its life. The Room is for numerous social functions and provides a place for after school activities.



## The Village School

The current primary opened in 1876 for 112 children aged from 3-14. Since then the school has grown from its three poorly heated classrooms with toilets in the yard. In contrast the extended school buildings today provide accommodation for children aged 0-11 in warm comfortable and educationally stimulating surroundings. It has a forest garden with nature activities. Historically children had gardening lessons at the allotments.



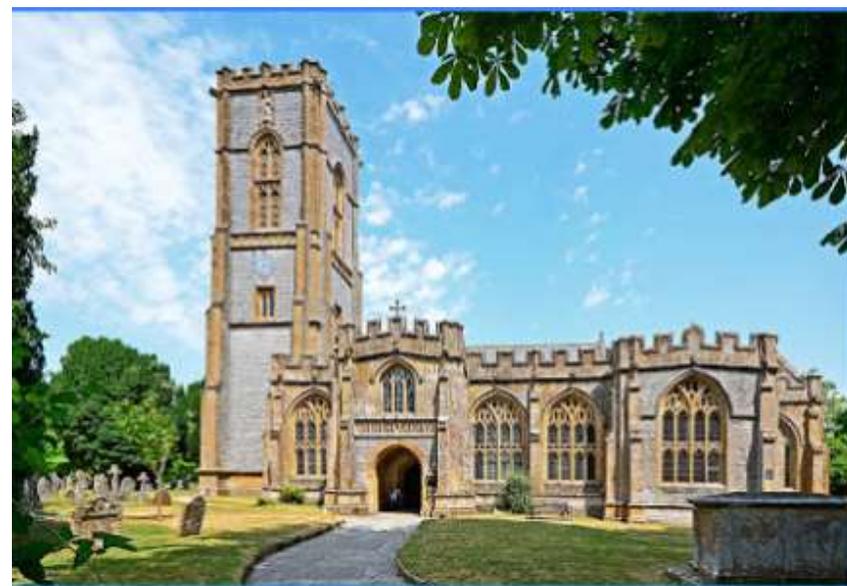
## The Forge/The Olde Forge Inn/The Firehouse

The Blacksmith in his forge opposite the school would no doubt have fascinated the school children as they arrived and left the school. Walter Scriven was the last village blacksmith who continued to mend agricultural machinery and make ornamental gates until the early 1970s, with his wares sold at the Ironmongers opposite, now the site of Sandpits hardware stores.



## St Andrew's Church

Built in the 15th Century on the site of a Saxon church remains the oldest building in Curry Rivel. Built of locally quarried Blue Lias and Ham Hill stone. The tower was rebuilt in 1860 and sadly one Langport mason, Henry Bevan, died after falling from the tower. The cost of the rebuild included over £2 on 96 pints of cider. In 1875 a 'great gale' blew one of the pinnacles from the tower crashing through the roof into the nave causing significant damage. The other five pinnacles were hastily removed to prevent further calamity.



## 2017/18 What we have achieved so far....

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- ❁ After the awards in Torquay, October 2017, the Chair retired. A new committee was set up with a constitution, bank account, health & safety, insurance plus and a Parish Council representative.
- ❁ Regular, open monthly meetings are held.
- ❁ Built up a large group of helpers and contacts
- ❁ Redesigned and replanted the war memorial
- ❁ Redesigned and replanted Granny's Garden to be a sensory garden
- ❁ Found other areas for clearing and development
- ❁ Written monthly CRiB and Recycling articles in the Curry Rivel News
- ❁ Created sponsorship forms for the war memorial planting
- ❁ Obtained sponsorships and grants from Nisa, Rotary Club, British Legion, Parish Council, Wessex Water, Flower Show committee and others pending.
- ❁ Taken on an allotment and the Brownies have been involved with planting and creating a bug house.
- ❁ Set up rotas for watering areas around the village

- ❁ Made contact and visited the school, helped with planting and clearing up.
- ❁ Put up the silent soldier ordered by the Parish Council through the British Legion
- ❁ Arranged recycling of resident's Christmas trees.
- ❁ Arranged a front garden competition
- ❁ Planting at the bus stops.
- ❁ Encouraging businesses to have planted pots.



## Plans for the Future ....

Next Year 2018/2019 we plan to

- 🌸 Develop two IYN areas; Westfield with Linda Dodimead and Parsonage Place with Linda Rudolph
- 🌸 Put up signage and history boards at the monument with the permission of the owner Mr Tim Shroder
- 🌸 Create a rockery or alpine garden around the telegraph pole at Granny's Garden.
- 🌸 Work with the school to develop Forest area and gardening club.
- 🌸 Continue to develop the allotment area, build community compost bins, growing our own annual plants for display, working with youth groups.
- 🌸 Create gardens at Westfield playing area.
- 🌸 Install a permanent bench at the bus stop near the One Stop Shop in the High Street.
- 🌸 Re Instate the Open Gardens day in the village.
- 🌸 Continue to expand our band of helpers.
- 🌸 Continue to raise environmental awareness through recycling and caring for the environment.
- 🌸 Put up bird feeders at the War memorial, made by the Brownies and Guides.

- 🌸 Encourage the owner of the Bell to have pots and hanging baskets when building is finished.
- 🌸 Continue to raise sponsorship and apply for grants.  
Hold more fundraising events
  - Gardener's Question Time
  - Family Quiz & Tea Party
  - Plant Sale in May
- 🌸 Develop a more permanent planting scheme throughout the village.
- 🌸 Bulb planting in and around the village green
- 🌸 Pruning and management of the trees around the village green.



Picnic on the village green 1

## Our partners and supporters

### Parish Council

- 🌸 Major plant and bulb purchases
- 🌸 Grant for general purchases

### Somerton & Langport Rotary Club

- 🌸 Donation towards Sensory Garden & signage

### Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead British Legion

- 🌸 Donation towards War Memorial planting

### Nisa (BP petrol station)

- 🌸 Grant towards War Memorial planting
- 🌸 Purchase hanging baskets for petrol station
- 🌸 Providing water for sensory garden

### South Somerset District Council

- 🌸 Donation of 3,000 bulbs, planted at Granny's Garden and Parsonage Place
- 🌸 Advice and support from Lesley Jelliman
- 🌸 Loan of litter picking equipment for village clean up weekend

Sandpits and Travis Perkins - donated posts & cement

Bradley Lewis Gardening Services installed posts for free

St Andrew's Church donation

Donations from Colin Higginson, Henry Lang, Camille Mowat, Joan & Peter Speke, Derek Yeomans.

Greenshutters discounted plant prices

Jeff Haines - dug pit for free for water stand pipe

Ted King-Oakley - installed tap and cover, removed seat for new water supply for free.

Sir Peter Wallis - water supply until Wessex Water tap installation.

Ted King-Oakley & Peter Hayes - building of raised beds at the allotment from recycled wood.

Curry Rivel Allotment Association - no charge for the community allotment.

Curry Rivel Flower Show committee donated towards plants at the village ends.

Henry Lang, Judy Penny and her sister Rose who have donated farm troughs for planting under the village entry signs.

Over 60 unsung volunteers who have helped with the plant care and watering all over our village.

So many people have donated pots and soil.

## THANK YOU