

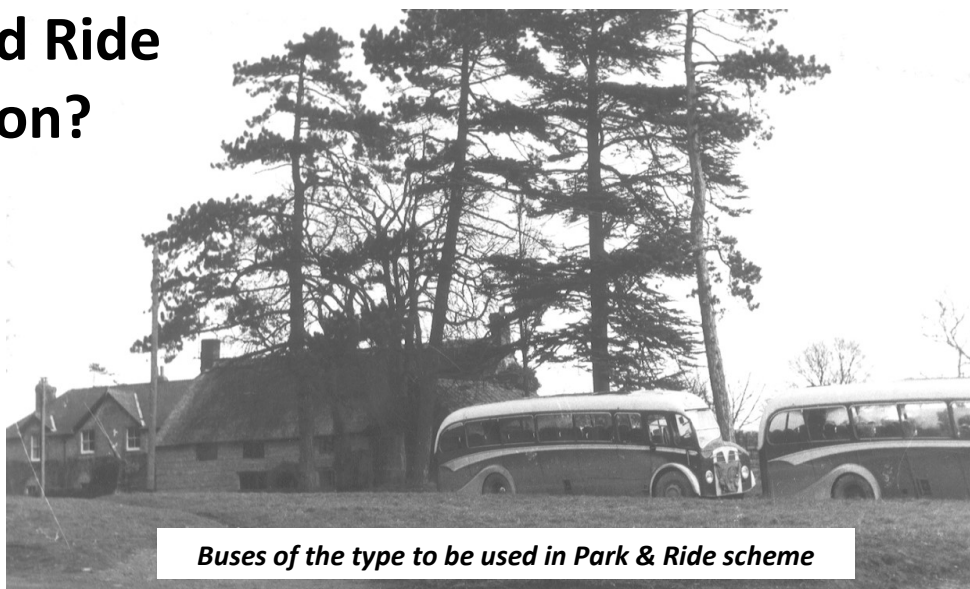
April 2017



Village Park and Ride Tourist Attraction?

Bristol has three, Bath has three, Exeter has three and Taunton has two and now it looks like Curry Rivel is to become the first village in Somerset to have a park and ride.

Driving through the village has become more difficult due to the increase of on road parking created by visitors and residents coming into the centre of the village and as Curry Rivel grows – building work has started on the development between Stanchester Way and Dyers Road – the problem can only get worse.



Buses of the type to be used in Park & Ride scheme

To address that problem and ease our passage through the village a plan to create a park and ride system has been formulated.

Fields at each end of the village have been earmarked as car parks where drivers will park for free. Buses will operate at 10 minute intervals ferrying the drivers and their passengers into the centre of the village – probably to the village car park. To make the experience more pleasant and something of a tourist attraction vintage buses will be used to make the five-minute journeys. Older village residents will remember the Osmond coaches parked on the Green and it is two of these Bedford VAM70s that have been sourced and will be given a makeover, including a respray in purple and gold, the livery colours of the 1st Earl of Chatham, William Pitt, the 18th century prime minister and owner of Burton Pynsent House.

Drivers and conductors, or as they were formerly known, clippies, will operate the service, also dressed in the livery colours of purple and gold. If you hold a PSV licence and fancy a part time job driving or like the idea of being part of an exciting new venture wearing a smart new uniform, then you can apply for either role by email to curryrivelnnews@gmail.com. The service is due to commence on 1st April 2018.



District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

There was a good turn out to hear our local MP David Warburton, talk in the village hall earlier in March. He covered a wide spectrum of topics ranging from life as a new MP in the Commons, with amusing anecdotes, as well as discussing areas such as Brexit, the proposal for a local railway station, HS2, the duelling of the A303, free schools and the recent budget. He will be returning in the future so if you missed the opportunity to meet him don't worry as he will be back!

SSDC are warning residents to be wary of Council Tax scams over the next few weeks as bills start being delivered to households. The scams are claiming to reduce monthly payments or get money back for a small fee – please do not give over any bank details as all they are interested in is getting money out of you. The key things to check when you

receive any communication from SSDC is that SSDC will always write to you using your name, not sir/madam, and they will never ask for your bank account details on the phone or via email to refund overpaid council tax. Do not get caught out. If you are unsure about anything please call 01935 462462 and speak to a legitimate member of the SSDC advisory team.

As you will see the scaffolding has gone up around certain areas of The Bell. The owners are currently trying to secure the very unstable skittle alley roof and shore up the premises to keep it as water tight as possible. They have enquired as to the possibility of the development being available for social housing and the need for such housing in the village is currently being researched by SSDC.

Parish Council Shorts

Our village Litter Heroes

A massive thank you to everyone who took part and picked up litter in Curry Rivel on a showery Great British Spring Clean weekend. Thank you to Colin Higginson, Annette Stein, Alan Cotterell, Tony Greenaway, Jane Crowley, Jackie and David German, John de Ronde, Vicky Pearson and her daughter, Carolyn and Bob Paton and Andy Jordan.

They would like me to give some feedback. Many tin can lids were found so can you make sure they are well inside their tins? When we all pick up our emptied recycling bins on a Monday; especially if it has been windy, check near you to see if something needs picking up which has blown elsewhere.

There are also many unsung Heroes who pick up rubbish as they walk around the village during the year. Your kindness helps to make a difference.

Grant applications

The following grant requests were approved:

Primary School for forest school equipment - £500

Curry Rivel Twinning Association for guests' excursion - £260

Annual free Playday for a climbing wall - £460 + vat

Village Hall committee for materials to decorate the hall - £476

Primary School PTA for white boards - £1,100

Madelaine King-Oakley

Community Speedwatch for sundries - £250

1st Curry Rivel & Drayton Girl Guides for 4 members to visit to Sri Lanka – deferred until October meeting

Annual Parish Assembly Thursday 27 April

This is an opportunity to hear about and meet the organisers of a large number of groups in the village, all in one evening. The reason this event is arranged each year is because the Parish Council is required by law to organise an annual meeting and give an account of themselves to all of the residents of the village. To make the meeting more interesting village groups are invited to attend to give updates on their activities. Why not look on the Curry Rivel website and have a look at the large number of activities in the village for residents of all ages?

Our next meeting is Thursday 7 April starting at 7:30pm in the village hall. The agenda can be seen on the Curry Rivel website and on the noticeboard next to the One Stop. You are most welcome to attend.

Please note there is the Somerset County Council election on 4 May so our May meeting is on 11 May.



Deadlines for May Edition

Advertising:

Send to:

5pm Thursday 13 April

crnadverts@btinternet.com

Comments & Articles:

Send to:

5pm Tuesday 18 April

curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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Growing Your Own

Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

On wet days potting up of seedlings has been progressing - cosmos and marigolds are developing into nice little plants and both will give great value colour throughout the summer. It is not too late to sow these and other tender annuals under glass in early April but you do need to get your skates on if you are to get the full value from them.

Lawns will need to be mown in April, aerated and top-dressed. Humps can be levelled and holes filled in - we have a badger visitor at night who is turning part of a lawn into a lattice of holes hopefully he will desist as the soil gets dryer and we are around for more hours of the day. Roses should be fed with rose fertiliser and rose beds can be mulched with manure or garden compost - or make use of the grass cuttings. Late flowering herbaceous plants can still be planted this month and perennials such as Rudbeckias, Helianthus and Monarda can be lifted and divided - replant the divided plants in well dug and manured ground. Hardy annuals can be sown outdoors and evergreen shrubs can be planted - choose a moment after rain for this.

Be alert to the risk of a late frost and protect soft fruit bushes in flower if necessary. This is the month to enjoy fruit tree blossom - hopefully there will be good pollination but after the flowers watch to see how setting is progressing as this will give you an idea of the expected crop. Another possible victim of late frost is your potato crop if the foliage is coming through - also protect here if necessary. Plant onion sets and continue sowing salad crops for a succession of leaves; consider sowing beetroot and herbs. We love peas - particularly the ones we eat straight from the pod - and will be planting for a succession of these; different varieties can be sown all year round but now is the time to plant your main crop. Likewise, plant seeds of your main carrot crop this month. Carrots are particularly suited to raised beds as these encourage straight root growth - though add a small fleece "fence" at soil level to



keep carrot root fly away - but wherever you are putting them, prepare the seed bed really well as the seeds are small and need a fine soil bed. Late summer cabbage seedlings can be planted out later in the month and winter cabbage and broccoli seed need to be sown. All types of beans - French, broad and runner, can be sown under cloches or in pots in a greenhouse. Broad beans are the hardiest and they can be planted straight into the soil. Order tomato plants for planting out in June if you didn't sow your own seed in the first three months of the year.

So, lots to do in this busy gardening month. Enjoy the blossom and look forward to the fruits of your labours - if you have a mature asparagus bed, that enjoyment actually starts this month! Lucky you!

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Curry Rivel in Bloom News

Website: curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com

Purple and Gold Frontage competition

Following our very successful Red, White and Blue frontage competition last year, we invite everyone to get involved in our 2017 Curry Rivel in Bloom entry by entering this year's frontage competition. Purple and gold includes all the yellows (think marigolds and sunflowers!) and purple ranging from deep blue to pinky purple (lavender, aubretia, lots of roses etc.) You can enter a whole front garden or just a windowbox, pot or tub, but it must be visible from the road or front gate. Judging will be over the weekend of 8/9 July. We already have some entries into the competition but they will be accepted right up to the 1st July - enter by emailing your name, address and telephone number to smgootenough@aol.com and please put CR Frontage competition in the heading space. Alternatively give Sylvia a ring on 250091.

The Britain in Bloom South West judges will be in the village between 5-17 July.

Meetings

We were very pleased to welcome members of the community to our public meeting in February. It was a good chance to explain what Britain in Bloom is all about and to outline what we have done so far and some of our future plans. We also took the opportunity to ask for help and explained how people can get involved. From planting up containers, summer watering at the War Memorial garden and elsewhere in the village, to litter picking or weeding locally to improve our village environment - all are needed and offers of assistance will be much appreciated, - in particular we need volunteers to join the watering rota as we will be watering the baskets from June to October! If you can help please get in contact.

Some members of the group recently attended a seminar run by Britain in Bloom South West in Torquay (at their own expense!) and found it useful and inspiring. Talks by volunteers from around the area showed just what a few simple things can do to really improve the environment, both



for the community and for wildlife. Langport are also entering the competition this year, so our whole area should become much more attractive over time. We were made aware that we are embarking on a long-term project - everything cannot happen in the first year!

Pots and other containers - will you sponsor one?

Another request, please, for more containers that we can plant up this summer. We can use anything that can have some drainage holes put in the base - old wheelbarrows, large saucepans, big pots, tubs or troughs. You can either contact Gina with your offer (on 01458 762296) or plant it up yourself in purple and gold (remember there will be a plant sale in the village in May where plants in these colours will be available) or you can sponsor us to plant up a tub on your behalf. Offers on any of these will be much appreciated.

Pilates

Mo Masroul Pilates Foundation

Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)

5.45pm – 6.45pm (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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Langport & District History Society

Barry Winetrobe

Roman Arms and Armour

The Society's March meeting featured a talk by John Smith on Roman arms and armour. Describing himself as "the most unique archaeologist in Britain ... I wear what I study," he illustrated his talk by displaying – and wearing! – accurate reproductions of the artefacts he was discussing. To provide some helpful local context, his talk was framed through the Roman occupation of Langport and the wider Somerset.

He began by debunking many of the myths about how Roman soldiers dressed and the weapons they used. For example, the shiny, colourful uniforms so beloved in Hollywood films, would have been impractical and counterproductive, dangerously exposing the army to the enemy – except when that was intended to awe them. He also explained Roman methods of conquest, which enabled them to defeat and occupy much more populous and extensive countries, such as ancient Britain. It was not just a matter of superior weaponry and tactics, but also a clever policy of assimilation, infrastructure improvements (housing, roads, sanitation etc.) and trade with occupied peoples, to gain their acceptance of Roman rule.

Using himself as the prop, he then described the range and purposes of the various items which made up the Roman military uniform, from the helmets, down through tunics, cloaks and footwear to the range of body armour. Armour was a vital component, and could be anything from the heavy and uncomfortable 'segmented corset' to simpler variants of chain mail.

He showed us a wide variety of

weapons used by the invading Romans, such as the fearsome artillery with far superior range and effectiveness than anything the local people had, even when in defences such as hill forts. There were many hand-held weapons, such as throwing spears, swords and daggers, not forgetting the vital defensive Roman shield.

In the Q&A period, John answered questions about the Roman occupation and how it ended, and about the importance and current state of archaeology, even managing to get in references to the A303 and Stonehenge!

The next meeting will be on Monday 3 April, when Lesley Sutcliffe presents a talk on The Life & Times of Dr Jonathan Toogood, founder of Bridgwater Hospital. It is free to members (annual membership is £12): non-members are welcome, admission £2. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.



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A biographical drama based on the true life romance between Prince Seretse Khama and his British wife, Ruth Williams. Seretse, heir to the throne of Bechuanaland (later Botswana), comes to London to study immediately after the Second World War. There he meets Ruth whom he later marries despite disapproval from both their families. There is also opposition from the British government, concerned about relations with South Africa and the stability of Southern Africa in general.

Both Seretse and Ruth go back to his home

country where he eventually manages to win over his people who support him as king. But the British government decide to exile him leaving Ruth alone. Against a backdrop of apartheid and empire they have to battle various obstacles for themselves and their country.

Stars: David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Tom Felton and Laura Carmichael.

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £7 are available at the door. Don't forget we have our new annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

It's Not Just About Poppies

...the local branch of the **Royal British Legion** announces its new social events programme.

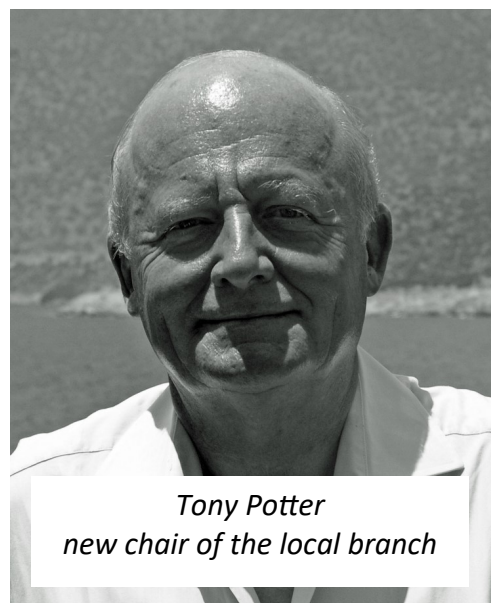
Laurina Deacon

Everyone knows that the Royal British Legion organises The Poppy Appeal each year in November but what else does the RBL do and what, more particularly, is the purpose of the local branch, The Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead Branch? *The Curry Rivel News* met the newly appointed chairman, Tony Potter, to get some answers to the questions.

He started by telling me that the local branch is one of the oldest – if not the oldest still in existence, being established before the end of the First World War in March 1918 by a group of discharged and demobilized soldiers and sailors in Curry and Drayton. Located on the corner of Water Street and the Green, the Reading Room, formerly a farm building became known as the Institute after the First World War and provided a meeting place for the ex-servicemen and headquarters of the Comrades of the Great War. The emphasis then was the continuation of the good comradeship that was so evident during that terrible conflict. The Institute was demolished to make way for new housing but the British Legion Branch lived on.

Since the Second World War British servicemen and women have been killed and wounded in every year except 1968 and 2015 and the RBL exists to support serving men, women, families and veterans. The local branch fundraises to support the care home and break centre at Bishops Lydeard and Weston-Super-Mare and hopes to give local community

support to those who may need assistance by signposting them in the right direction to obtain that support.



Tony is on a mission to attract new branch members – particularly those with an Armed Service background. Family of service or ex-service people are also eligible to join. And to attract new members a varied social programme has been devised starting with the **Spring Lunch on 1 April** in Fivehead village hall, with a range of tasty dishes. An outdoor **Summer Party** is planned for **14 July** in the grounds of Burton Pysent House and following the November Remembrance Service the branch will serve up Lunch in the Village Hall. But you don't have to be a member to enjoy one of these events - all are welcome. Further details will appear in the *CRN* or contact the committee via the Royal British Legion number on the back page.

Stroke

association

Two minute check that could save your life!!!

In a bid to conquer strokes, those living in the Langport area are invited to a free blood pressure test by the Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton and the Stroke Association, on Saturday 22 April, in the Tesco's car park in Langport. Please come along between 10am and 2pm to test your blood pressure. David Warburton MP will be coming along at 10am to support the event.

High Blood Pressure remains the biggest risk factor for strokes, contributing to over half of strokes in England. High blood pressure is often referred to as the 'silent killer', because it doesn't present symptoms, and many people have no idea their health may be at risk.

'Know Your Blood Pressure' day on 22 April is about raising awareness of the link between high blood pressure and strokes. At least 40% of strokes could be prevented each year if people checked their blood pressure and took steps to control it. Those living in the Langport area can get their blood pressure professionally checked, and receive information and advice on steps to keep it under control. Rotary's long term support for the national 'Know Your Blood Pressure' campaign has reached hundreds of

thousands of people in the last decade, potentially saving many lives. In 2016, almost three in every ten people who had their blood pressure taken at this event were advised to see their GP for a follow up.

These events can play a big role in reducing strokes across the country, it is clear that high blood pressure is far more common than you would think.

Getting your blood pressure checked is quick and easy, and a 2 minute check could save your life!!

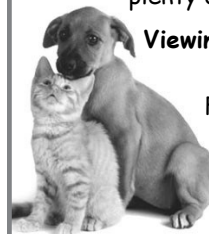
Hope to see you on Saturday 22 April.



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Caring for Carers at Kelways Inn

Jilly Dawson

Following the bid to make Langport a dementia friendly town, Kelways Inn is one of the first businesses to have their staff trained by the Alzheimer's Society to be aware and supportive of people suffering from dementia. In the next few months the building is being made, "dementia friendly" which will include new signage, special menus and crockery. On the 1st Tuesday of every month, including April, Kelways Inn is offering a free meal to every carer who brings someone

suffering from dementia for lunch. Justin, co-owner said "Having had members of my family succumb to dementia and caring for my mother for 5 years I know that carers are rarely thanked, so I would like to show my appreciation and support the local community". Booking is essential on 01458 252144, for more information about our menus, visit our web site kelwaysinn.co.uk

£1,000 on conviction for dog fouling

Dog faeces (or dog poo) should be picked up immediately in a public place, footpaths and farmland and disposed of either in one of the waste bins located throughout the village (not at the One Stop) or double wrapped they may be disposed of with domestic waste.

Reports suggest that there is an increase in dog fouling in the village with waste not picked up or bagged and then hung or thrown in hedges. Not only are people affected by inconsiderate dog owners but farm animals are also put at

risk when dogs foul grazing land.

The Fixed Penalty Notice for dog fouling is £80 or a maximum of £1,000 on conviction. Lots of bags can be bought for this amount! If you know of a particular problem place and times that owners are not picking up, please let a councillor know (see the Curry Rivel web page) and the Parish Council can ask an SSDC enforcement officer to attend and a fixed penalty notice will be issued.

Thank you to dog owners who pick up after their dog(s).



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Letters to the Editor

Potholes and Fly Tipping

May I draw your readers' attention to a very useful website, FixMyStreet.com. It is very useful for obtaining a quick fix for potholes, fly tipping and many other problems. FixMyStreet.com is a charity and will quickly find the correct local authority to deal with the matter. All you need to do is to enter the local postal code and put a marker on to a map, choose from 20 categories and add a brief description. I have used it many times, (most recently for new road signs at the bottom of Heale Lane, two washing machines dumped in Furlong Lane on Christmas Eve, four lots of fly tipping on Holdens Way and more potholes than I can remember). Fly tipping is often dealt with in a couple of working days. Potholes usually take two to three weeks.

Regards
Ted Beaven



Dear Editor

Red Cross Week

Langport & District Red Cross Group is appealing for collectors in the surrounding towns and villages during the 2017 Red Cross Week, Sunday 7 to Saturday 13 May. An hour or two of a volunteer's time during this week will be warmly welcomed and will help keep the Red Cross service running in this area.

Please contact Chris, the Group Leader, on 01458 273085 or e-mail to cox.cj@btinternet.com.

Many thanks
Chris Cox

St. Andrew's Flower Guild

Angela Cole

At the Flower Guild's most recent AGM Barbara Osborne took the meeting and a tribute was paid to the late Rosemary Leaf who had been President for 17 years. Her enthusiasm, flower arranging skills and encouragement to all the guild members will be greatly missed. Lyn Cotterill was elected as the new President and we look forward to working together under her leadership. We are always looking for new members for the Flower Guild. You don't need to be a church member; all you need is a love of flowers and an urge to arrange them. We are organising a demonstration/ workshop at our annual coffee morning on Saturday 6 May in the Old School Room

between 10am & 12noon, so why not come along to find out more and have a go?

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Curry Rivel W.I.



chocolate mints for restaurants but will tackle most things. They have a little shop selling a range of their products and some mis-shaped or badly printed ones at bargain prices. The Cheddar Chocolate Company philosophy is simple: supply an excellent quality product.

We are starting to plan our garden visits for the summer, getting on with new Story Sacks for the school and trying to decide how many other things we can fit into our busy lives.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 13th, in the Village Hall. The speaker is from the Freewheelers, often called the 'Blood Bikes'. They

In 2010, St Margaret's Hospice decided to have a big fund raising push. They got 50 people to walk 50 miles along the Great Wall of China over 5 days. One of those who volunteered was Mike Spencer and he came to tell us about it at our March meeting. The group, aged from 18 to 77 years, walked along a part of the wall that tourists don't usually visit, which was challenging and very tough at times.

Mike is a great photographer and an excellent speaker, and he managed to keep us all amused, mainly by the things that went wrong. The wall took 300 years to finish, the steps are uneven and even missing in parts, and the most important thing holding the mortar together is 3% of sticky rice! The views were spectacular as the wall climbs up and down hills and they saw many small seemingly forgotten villages, never more than 70 miles from Beijing. They are full of contradictions – crumbling buildings topped by massive satellite dishes - mobile phones and internet connections are common in the poorest villages. Altogether the trek raised £121,00 for the hospice and Mike continues to support them.

The visit to the Cheddar Chocolate Company was everything we'd hoped for – informative, entertaining and lots of chocolate! It was started from scratch by Dean Sweet and he works from a small unit near Cheddar. He researched the market thoroughly before they started and he and his mother do everything themselves, only bringing in extra help when they have a big order to complete quickly. They mainly specialize in wrapped

use motor bikes to take vital supplies, often blood or donated organs between hospitals and surgeries when an ambulance would be too slow, and come highly recommended. Why not come along, find out more about the WI and listen to the talk? Come at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email jackiegerman@hotmail.com



Join Us!

Your Local Branch of The Royal British Legion

- The Royal British Legion (RBL) provides lifelong support to our Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans and their families.
- Your local Branch actively supports the RBL homes at Bishops Lydeard and Weston-super-Mare.
- Men and women of all ages are welcome to become a member, whether they have served or not.
- Membership costs £17 per year.
- Membership enables you to attend 4 fundraising events that we will hold in 2017.
- Interested? Then contact the Membership Secretary at gordon@mullcott.orangehome.co.uk

Curry Rivel Music

Malcolm Cotterill

Bra, Brod and Bochsá?

No idea? Nor had the audience at CRM's concert in March at St Andrew's until they opened their programmes. There was the answer. All were composers but, only when the three members of *Charme du Hautbois* opened up, was more revealed. They, together with Napoleon Coste and Charles Oberthur, were creatures of the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries far better known then than now as virtuosi composers as well as instrument makers.

Actually Bochsá was also well-known in France as a counterfeiter and forger. He fled to England to avoid appearing in the Court where he was sentenced to twelve years' hard labour! Instead of serving his sentence, he kept very quiet and assisted in the founding of the Royal Academy in 1821 and was its Secretary but later ran off to Australia to join the gold rush with an opera singer who happened to be the wife of a well-known composer!

Such were the nuggets offered by Mark Baigent (oboe), Nathaniel Harrison (bassoon) and Alexander Rider (harp) between the gems previously unheard and unheard-of by a fascinated and transfixed audience, played on instruments

made at the time of the composers' working. The instruments were themselves works of art in boxwood, blackwood, ormolu and other exotica and their sound was as mellow as the mood.

Altogether it was a fascinating evening with the Charm of the Oboe.

The next concert – the last of the season – promises fireworks with two violins fizzing and soaring in the hands of Philippa Mo and Harriet Mackenzie playing as the duo *Rhetorica*. They were chosen as the must-hear chamber choice of The Gramophone, "superbly responsive playing – faultless technique and unfailing insight". Moreover, others have observed "they were a perfect pair in their performance not just pretty faces Their attack and bite were as youthful and invigorating as their obvious enjoyment of their fusion".

How can you resist? Saturday 22 April at 7.00 pm in St Andrew's Church.

For further information please contact our Secretary, Anne Michell: tel 01458 250863, email anne.michell@btinternet.com or visit our website curryrivelmusic.org



Big Breakfast

Roger Hampton

The next Big Breakfast will be held on Sunday 30 April from 8.30 to 1.00 in the village hall. This community event coincides with the Twinning Weekend and we hope that some of our French visitors will come along to sample a tasty 'full English' before setting off on their outing to Exeter. For the children we'll have a colouring competition to promote Curry Rivel in Bloom and there'll be a display to promote the community website.


We are grateful to Langport butcher F.J.Scriven & Sons for sponsoring the event. Funds raised will be used in the ongoing project to redecorate the village hall.

Come along and meet the neighbours at what is always a very sociable event.

Peppard S

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Village Wildlife

Catherine Mowat

Each month this year a free wildlife activity will be organised to give Curry Rivel residents the opportunity to get to know what amazing wildlife is on their doorstep. In April the activity – in fact there are two – focuses on birds.

Watch the birdy!

What makes Curry Rivel a great place to live? Well, lots of things. Many people would say that it's the scenery, the hedgerows, trees, views, flowers – and birds. It's birds particularly, along with the delicate new shoots on trees, hedges and the first flowers, which herald the spring. As soon as Christmas is over, days start to lengthen and dunnocks, great tits and robins begin to sing, marking their territories with song to make sure they have enough food for when the young ones hatch later. As weeks go by, other birds join in the singing, and by March all the resident birds are at it.

Would you like to know what the birds you can hear singing are? Which ones are bringing your garden and our village alive? There are two opportunities in Curry Rivel in April, both free, led by local ecologist Catherine Mowat. If you like, you could bring a smart phone along to record the songs and help you learn them. There's no need to book, just turn up,

but if you would like to know more, contact Catherine on 01458 250655.

Good Friday 14 April 7am-9am: Early morning walk along the lanes, stopping to watch and listen as we go. Meet at St Andrew's Church

Friday 28 April 8.15pm-9.30pm: Owls and nightingales. Three species of owl are found in and around the village, and amazingly, in recent years, a pair of nightingales – a species which has become incredibly rare. No promises, but we hope to hear or see some of these, and enjoy the evening bird chorus too. Meet at Eastfield.

For more info on wildlife in Curry Rivel, visit <http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/news/campaigns-events/curry-rivels-natural-health-survey.html>

We're looking for people to join in with wildlife activities, do contact the wildlife survey group if you're interested - <http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/clubs-societies.html>

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Guides set their sights on Sri Lanka

Jane Brooke

the Sri Lankan Girlguiding badge



Four members of 1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Girl Guide unit have been selected to join a team of twenty guides and four leaders on Girlguiding Somerset's International Trip to Sri Lanka for two weeks in early 2018. Through Projects Abroad, the group will be volunteering at a local primary school helping teach English, playing games and renovating buildings, supporting community projects at tsunami shelters and helping at the orphan elephant sanctuary. We will also be linking with local Sri Lankan guide groups where we hope to forge friendships and share in the ethos of guiding worldwide.

Our visit will benefit the local communities we volunteer at and it is our hope that this will have a positive impact on both them and us. At the same time, we are linking up with the Somerset based charity School in a Bag, raising funds to pack and distribute bags from their base in Sri Lanka.

To undertake the trip, each team member must raise £2000, so we have a programme of fundraisers organised. The next is the 2nd Annual Easter Treasure Hunt starting from the Village Green between 10.30 – 12 noon on Good Friday, April 14th. There will be a small Easter egg for everyone taking part and a prize for the treasure hunt winner along with a raffle and refreshments. Let's hope the weather will be as kind as it was last year.

You may be familiar with the Guides service crew who wash up and waitress at village events, but are you aware that this service is also available at family events for a donation to our fundraising efforts? If you need any extra hands for forthcoming celebrations, please ring 01458 252901.

We are also appealing to the clever crafters in the community. The Expedition's mascot is an elephant which features on the Girlguiding Sri Lanka badge and we are looking for knitters and sewers to make elephant themed craft to sell at all our fundraising events. If you can help out please contact our unit leader on 01458 252901.



Somerset County Guiding WISE trip

Guides in Edinburgh on the WISE tour

Alisha Anthony and Zara Coombes from 1st Curry Rivel & Drayton Guides were chosen to take part in the County Guiding trip last summer. Here is their account of their experience.

We started our trip in Cardiff, where we camped for three nights. Whilst there we had a tour of Cardiff, learnt some Welsh and cooked in cardboard ovens!

The next part of the trip was to travel to Belfast by plane, for some of us it was our first flight. We stayed at an International Youth Hostel for four nights. During our stay we saw or visited the Pride Carnival Festival, Titanic Experience, Salmon of Knowledge, Giants Causeway, Carrick Fergus Castle, the Peace Walls, Cave Hill, Castle Black, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge (where one member of the group took her Ranger promise) and the Whiskey Factory where the leaders sampled some whiskey.

We then went to Edinburgh, again by plane, and stayed in an apartment for four days. Whilst there we went to a youth

café to do some voluntary work, watched the Edinburgh Tattoo and saw Greyfriars Bobby. We also went to a Scottish shop where we were photographed wearing kilts and tasted Scottish oat cakes.

Then we travelled to London by train staying three nights in a youth hostel on Oxford Street. Whilst in London we did the Girlguiding 100 challenge, which involved things like taking a group photo on the London underground and a photo of a red taxi. We visited The Royal Mews, Girlguiding HQ and saw the musical 'Kinky Boots', which was really good.

It was a great couple of weeks in which we enjoyed many new experiences, with a fun group of people. Our thanks to all the people who made the trip possible by helping us with our fundraising, Curry Rivel News, Curry Rivel Twinning Association, The Langport Inner Wheel, Langport and Somerton Rotary and local traders.

St. Andrew's Church



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

April

Sunday 2nd - Lent 5

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service
11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Wednesday 5th

12.00 **CR OSR** - Lent lunch

Thursday 6th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP
2.30 pm **CR** Parsonage Place Meeting
Room - Lent course 5 Faith Pictures

Sunday 9th - Palm Sunday

10.00 **FH** - United Benefice Palm
Sunday All Age Communion

Monday 10th

7.00pm **SW** - Night Prayer

Tuesday 11th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In
7.00pm **FH** - Night Prayer

Wednesday 12th

7.00pm **CR** - Night Prayer

Thursday 13th - Maundy Thursday

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP
7.00pm **CR** - Last Supper, with URC

Friday 14th - Good Friday

10.00 **FH** - All Age Service
2.00-3.00pm **CR** - Hour at the Cross

See 'Good Friday Music'

on opposite page

6.00pm **SW** - Compline

Sunday 16th - Easter Day

8.00 **SW** - Easter Communion BCP
9.30 **FH** - Family Easter
Communion CW
11.00 **CR** - Family Easter
Communion CW

Thursday 20th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 23rd - Easter 2

10.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service
11.15 **CR** - Short said Holy
Communion
6.00 pm **FH** - Evening prayer CW

Scott's spot

The God who knows pain

"I shouldn't be feeling like this. I know it's wrong but I just can't help it." If you believe in the God of the Bible, a good and powerful God who journeys with us in personal relationship, then, despite this belief, perhaps you are one of the many who would identify with the comments above.

There have been many times when I've heard comments like that from Christians feeling guilty about being depressed or miserable. The idea that they have anything to be ashamed of is ridiculous, of course, yet there are subtle pressures in the church today, that can make us feel that we should banish all negative thoughts from our minds. Much modern worship music focuses on themes such as joy, praise and celebration, to the exclusion of other emotions. But life isn't like that, and if we're not careful, the sorrowful and downhearted can feel excluded, even to the extent of regarding their feelings as wrong or sinful. They feel that they should somehow be able to rise above sorrow; that even though they are not immune from tragedy, it should not hit them in quite the same way that it does for those who do not believe. Perhaps this is something you wrestle with.

This is one of the reasons why the account of *Gethsemane* is so important, because here we see God identifying himself with human sorrow.



In Mark's Gospel (Ch 14, verses 32 to 42) we read about Jesus taking his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. They've just shared their last supper together and, like a wall of menacing darkness, Jesus knows that the horrors of the cross are mere hours away. And so the Son of God prays words of anguish: *'My heart is ready to break with grief'*, or as the New International translation of the bible puts it: *'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death'*. Here is a reminder that God himself, through Christ, has shared our blackest, bleakest moments. He is a God who not only understands what grief and heartbreak mean but also empathises with those experiencing them. Above all, he is a God who stays close to us through such times and who, finally, will bring hope after despair, laughter after tears and joy after sorrow. To walk by faith with Jesus does not make Christians immune to sorrows, but it does mean that amongst darkness there will be a hand ready to take ours. A hand ready to lead us through the valley of tears until the horizon opens, the clouds lift and the sun shines once more. The one who faced Gethsemane can do this as surely as the brutal darkness of Good Friday gave way to the resurrection joy of Easter morning. With Easter blessings to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

St. Andrew's Rotas April

Brass - Jean Willson

Flowers

15th - **Easter** lilies
22nd & 29th - Adrienne Holmes

Cleaning

1st - Nancy & Olive Martell
8th - Liz Rendell
15th - Jackie & John de Ronde
22nd - Nicky Barker
29th - Lynne Comley

From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.
27th February - Funeral Service of
Mrs Irene Maud Broughton
(† 15th February)
20th March - Service of Thanksgiving
for Major John Hawley RM (Ret)
(† 4th March)
17th March - Funeral Service of
Mr Lewis David Jones
(† 8th March)

April - ctd.

Monday 24th

3.30-5.30 **CR** School Messy Church

Tuesday 25th 10.30 **CR OSR** Drop-In

Wednesday 26th

2.45 pm Immacolata House
Residents' Holy Communion

Thursday 27th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 30th - Easter 3

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

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = St. Andrew's Old School
Room

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

St. Andrew's Annual meetings Monday 3rd April 7.30 pm, in the Church

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)
to elect Churchwardens

followed by

- Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), with reports about church life; PCC proceedings; the church's financial affairs over 2016, and the election of new PCC members.

Lent lunch in the Old School Room



A soup, bread & cheese Lent lunch will be served on

**Wednesday 5th April
12.00 - 2.00 pm.**

All donations will go to
Christian Aid.

Good Friday Music

Each year on Good Friday, St. Andrew's choir presents a musical work depicting the Passion.

This provides a meditative atmosphere in which we reflect on the crucifixion during the "hour at the cross" from **2.00 - 3.00 pm** on this day.

This year, the choir has chosen the Passion-tide section of "The Messiah" by Händel, and have selected a mix of choruses and solos from that inspiring oratorio.

Please join us on **Good Friday** afternoon, **14th April** in St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's Church

Flower Guild

are holding a **Coffee Morning** on

**Saturday 6th May
10.00-12.00**



in the Old School Room to raise funds for the flowers that are used to decorate the Church over the Fete weekend.

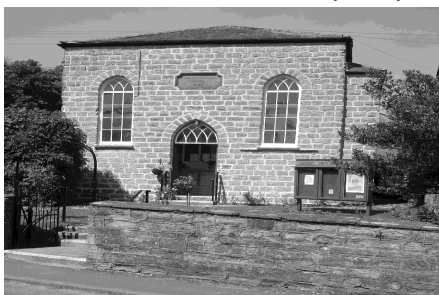
Raffle, cakes and plants.

There will also be a 'pop-up workshop' in flower arranging, come and have a go!

Everyone welcome.

Your support will be very much appreciated.

United Reformed Church



March

(Services start at 10.30, unless indicated otherwise)

Sunday 2nd - Mrs Jo Morling
incl. Holy Communion

Sunday 9th Palm Sunday
- Rev Tim Richards
incl. Sunday School

**Thursday 13th Maundy Thursday
7.00 pm** Uniting with
St. Andrew's at the URC

Sunday 16th - Easter Day
- Rev Jeff Armistead

Sunday 23rd - Rev Rowena Francis

Sunday 30th - Mr Barry Bryer

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799



We have a black dog in our house, Samson, sat curled up beside me as I type apparently quite at home. By the end of this month he will have been with us for just over a year. It's been quite a journey.

It began with excitement: "we're getting a puppy!"

Which turned into reticence and fear – teeth far sharper than we remembered; energy levels and mischief beyond our imaginings: "Oh my goodness. What have we done?" frustration, flashes of anger, doubts (on my part certainly), adjusting to constant company under foot, learning to accommodate and negotiate who'd be home when to let him out or keep him company.

And gradually it shifts again: 'sit', 'stay', 'come' almost mastered, a routine in place which suits his energy levels leaving us with evenings of calm strokes and cuddles, a sense of trusting him and him trusting us, laughter, smiles, affection and companionship. We're getting there.



Pillow talk ctd. . . . There has been the shadow of another 'Black Dog' with us for the last 6 months or so. Dogging our heels, nipping out of the shadows tripping us up, dragging us down, sapping our energy, getting in the way of living Life – the 'Black Dog' which clouds the horizon, 'fugs' the world, encourages retreat and withdrawal, confounds the courageous and turns the steady tremulous, answering to such names as Depression, Anxiety, Melancholy. Insidious and unpredictable; frustrating, irritating, impressively persistent.

As a family we've had to make friends with the Depression which has emerged within our midst: to move beyond wishing it did not exist to accepting and embracing it as part of who we are as a unit at this point in time. We have needed to open ourselves to seeking advice, to changing habits, to find alternative ways of living which make space for this particular 'Black Dog' for the length of time it stays with us. We are relearning the value of attending to each other and ourselves, to listening without blame or judgment; a reawakening of compassion. Learning about self-care, self-respect, self-love has brought home the command 'to love our neighbour as we love ourselves': how ineffectual our love for others if we have not first grown to accept and value our own humanity. And over and over I 'hear' the promise of 'life in all its fullness' and realise it is just that – life in its fullness: sadness, anger, fear, joy – the whole emotional gambit.

"Mum. What is Depression?" Not the easiest question to answer but one we have addressed as openly and honestly as we can. It is a dark place, a scary place, a lonely place and at times feels to be a hopeless place. At times of deep sorrow, of unstable health, of fearful uncertainty or when in the company of the "Black Dog" this promise becomes our sacred phrase, our prayer, our mantra: "neither death, nor life, not angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God" Romans 8: 38.



In April

Regular Events

MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Youth Drama	Village Hall
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

WEDNESDAY

6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

THURSDAY

9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group	Primary School Hall (Term time only)
10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	Village Hall (1st only)

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night (not August)	Village Hall (3rd only)

Special Events

Sat	01	RBL Spring Lunch	Fivehead VH
Fri	14	10.30 Easter Treasure Hunt	The Green
Sat	22	7.00 CRM Concert	St Andrew's
Thurs	27	7.30 Annual Parish Assembly	VH
Sun	30	8.30 Big Breakfast	VH



Curry Rivel -Above the Levels

your community website curryrivel.org.uk

The Curry Rivel News is published monthly by the **Curry Rivel News Group** and is delivered free to households within the Parish.

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	252429
Brownies	253855 251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251796
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725

Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Youth Drama	251773

Community Facilities

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	741606
Old School Room Bookings	250655
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Secretary	259434

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
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwardens	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church Somerton	274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799

Would all local organisations please submit their correct phone numbers to CRN editor to amend the above list as necessary