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The Curry Woods Conservation Trust

Peter Goodenough



March seemed to have forgotten the old adage about starting by “roaring like a lion and ending like a lamb” because it started calm and dry but quickly remembered and gales followed in the second week. The large *Macrocarpa* trees in our garden creaked and groaned until a set of branches split and gracefully lent down to the ground. More chain sawing to do! Fortunately, very few of the trees on the Trust land were blown over although the tree guards act as round sails, catching the wind, so one soon finds out whether they have been supported well enough.

As the primary school children returned to their classrooms on the 8th March Emily Langford quickly developed a plan for years 5 and 6 to visit the Trust and take part in some tree planting. So with commendable speed a date was arranged and the groups, led by Emily, took part in planting some quantities of Scots pines, dogwood and goat willow on the 17th March. The day was sunny and the ground not too wet



and muddy. As one of the main aims of rewilding the hills above the village is to retain water in the ground and its plant cover, so as to calm down the springs in Water Street that always threaten to break out and overwhelm the school, we hope that the children took home the message that they were working for future generations, both in water management and carbon sequestration (even if not in those words!). As usual there were flocks of birds flying around the Trust land. Finches and yellowhammers are always about as are various crows, rooks, jackdaws and magpies. Even one or two cranes made an appearance high in the sky. So perhaps the biodiversity also made an impact on the group. As some of the hawthorns are budding and leaves appearing generally we will soon be able to show the children the growing trees bursting skywards with new life and energy.

Matt Faulkner at BBC Somerset talked to us by telephone during the event and a video clip of the work has been sent to BBC Countryfile to possibly use when they do a piece about the progress of the “Plant Britain” campaign. The BBC has a policy of not sending film crews out during the pandemic but we hope we will see ourselves briefly on Countryfile soon.

So a great success all round, topping off a community effort to be proud of. Many thanks to Emily, the Head Teacher Mrs Pook, the staff who came along to help and most of all, thanks to the children.

More trees will be planted in the autumn and more money is being sought to pay for fencing, signage and renovation work inside the existing wood. In that context we must learn to live with the other mammalian inhabitants of the wood but also try to restrict them a little so that we can encourage regeneration of the understory plants which are being stripped to the ground at present. Just to be clear, we do not intend to undertake any culling of the animals and would be grateful if firearms were not used on Trust land.

As bird nesting season is upon us now please take care when walking through the wood - you might see birds coming and going to holes in the trees, blue tits in particular have a big brood and seem to always be going in and out of their nest holes feeding young. Boy, do the parents look frazzled by the time the young fledge!

District Councillors' Report

Tiffany Osborne & Clare Paul

As you may be aware, after several weeks of the Covid-19 rates in South Somerset falling substantially we are now seeing a small increase in the overall rate for the district. The rises are linked to a small number of outbreaks which are being closely managed and monitored by Public Health with the support of our environmental health team. These outbreaks are likely to continue to cause upturns in data, however, the health impact is reducing as more people receive vaccines. Please continue to adhere to the Government guidelines.

South Somerset District Council is working with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to contact businesses in South Somerset to check they have Covid-19 -secure measures in place and to help tackle coronavirus (COVID-19) in the local area.

They are also working alongside local public health authorities to support the understanding of any patterns in confirmed coronavirus cases in the area. During the checks they are providing advice and guidance to manage risk and protect workers, customers and visitors but where some businesses are not managing this, SSDC will take immediate action which could lead to prosecution.

As part of the government's roadmap to cautiously lift restrictions, businesses of all sizes, including those with fewer than 50 employees, can register from today to order free lateral flow tests for their employees. Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus don't have symptoms, which means they could be spreading the virus in workplaces without knowing. Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately, breaking chains of transmission. Businesses have until 31 March to register for the government's workplace testing scheme,

which will remain free until the end of June.

The planning (or lack of it) continues to rumble on. Councillors in South Somerset unanimously called for Government action to resolve an issue which continues to cause long delays in the consideration of planning applications. Somerset's four district councils and the county council have been working hard to minimise delay and uncertainty around planning applications following recent guidance over unacceptable amounts of phosphates in an area of the Somerset Levels and Moors.

The local authorities are working in partnership to develop a way forward after Natural England advised that they should undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) before determining applications that may give rise to additional phosphates in the catchment area. At a meeting of South Somerset District Council this week, councillors from all parties unanimously resolved to call on the Government to urgently intervene.

With regards to the arts the recent Government's Budget featured a major boost for South Somerset with £10 million being pledged to support a regional cultural infrastructure project in Yeovil.

The investment will help to fund the refurbishment and development of The Octagon Theatre and transform it into a flagship venue for arts and entertainment, fit for the people in towns and villages across South Somerset. Helping to boost the local economy as well as the physical, social and cultural regeneration of South Somerset, the Octagon Theatre project will cost up to £23.01 million and the £10 million grant confirmed goes a long way to help reach that target.

Curry Rivel Health Walks Restarting - Again!!!

Andrew Jordan

South Somerset District Council are allowing Health Walks to restart, under Covid-19 social distancing rules recommending by the government. Our regular walks will start on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

The walks will continue to take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, meeting at Curry Rivel Green at 10.15 for 10.30 start. The walks are generally level and we walk for an hour covering about 2 miles.

We will all follow whatever the current government social distancing rules are recommended when we do our walks. You may wish to bring masks, gloves, sanitisers, that's up to the individual. Please don't join us if you are feeling at all ill.

If any of our Health Walkers have been shielding, please join us at your discretion.

Please contact the Health Walk leader Andrew Jordan if you have any questions - 01458 250725



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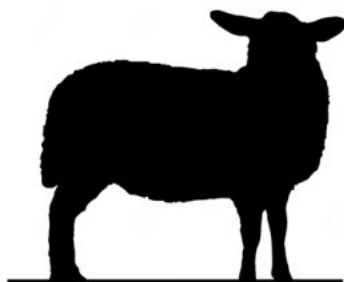
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Speeding through Curry Rivel is still an issue

Robert Crowley

I would like to congratulate Tony Greenaway for his excellent article in the March issue of the Curry Rivel News. As to the speeding situation, SpeedWatch will be restarting sessions soon, following permission from the Police.

Despite our presence, the existence of speed indicator devices and the Police Speed Enforcement Units (camera vans and motor-cycles) speeding is still a very serious issue. Perhaps those villagers who are as concerned as I am would contact me so we can discuss and share how we should pressurise the Highways Department and others to actually assist us with traffic calming measures etc.

robert.crowley242@btinternet.com

Somerton U3A

Sue Haigh

The Somerton U3A will be holding two Zoom meetings for members to enjoy in April. The first of which will be held on Friday 9th April at 11.00 entitled "Manners Please Dearest", a presentation by Donald Allen.

The second meeting on Friday 23rd April at 11.00, "Brilliant British humour in the forgotten art of the picture postcard, 1840-1950's". A Zoom presentation by James Taylor.


Our monthly Newsletter gives members the opportunity to keep in touch and see the activities that are taking place. We are pleased to report that a number of our interest groups are still managing to hold regular meetings via Zoom, and the following groups have indicated they are happy to welcome new members to join them: Science and Technology, Raspberry Pi, Craft, Computers, Photography and the Friday afternoon book club.

For further information on how to join please visit the Somerton U3A website, or email membership@Somertonu3a.uk. A warm welcome awaits you.

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Charity Theatre Trips News

Chris Cox

Bristol Hippodrome remains closed, but most of the shows we reserved tickets for have been rescheduled for 2022 or 2023. We have one new reservation on Wednesday 3rd November for the musical *White Christmas*, so Christmas will be early this year. Booking is now open; e-mail coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com.

The performances of *School of Rock* may well be able to run as scheduled on July 20th, but to date I only have enough bookings to hire a motorbike and sidecar, so unless there is more enthusiasm for this one I will have to cancel it.

The full list of planned trips is: **School of Rock**, Tue 20 Jul 21, £52/£62; **White Christmas**, Wed 3 Nov 21, £46/£55; **Bourne's Nutcracker**, Tue 1 Feb 22 £41/£51; **We Will Rock You**, Wed 20 Apr, £45/£58; **Strictly Ballroom**, Tue 10 May 22, £36/£51; **Mamma Mia**, Mon 20 Jun 22, £49/£61; **Les Miserables**, Tuesday 19 Jul 22, £45/£58; **The Commitments**, Tue 21 Mar 23, £50.

My www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk website no longer works properly due to the 'Flash Player' app being forcibly removed from computers. You can still access the website, but so far I am only able to update the links to the Times and Prices pages.

However we do now have a Groups link on Facebook, if you do such exciting things! You can sign yourself up to receive

the latest news. The link is 'Charity Theatre Trips'.

Finally, thanks if you supported the Red Cross by reading 'Total Experience Corner', my Amazon book, and another thank-you and a virtual hug if you are one of the folk who took the trouble to tell me how much they enjoyed reading it. I can now get hold of the paperback at cost price, so if you would like a copy I can do it for £12, including postage. That is £3 less than the Amazon listed price, not to mention their £4.50 postage charge on top (unless you use 'Prime'). E-mail requests to cox.cj@btinternet.com.

Sleeping Beauty will awaken some day with a kiss from Prince Boris.

In the meantime keep social distancing.

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Meeting up in March. Curry Rivel WI

Carolyn Paton

The varied and interesting programme which entertains and educates the WI continued in March with a talk by Debbie Birtwisle, who Zoomed in from the Dorset and Somerset Ambulance Service.

Glancing up as a helicopter shudders across the sky may well reveal the hi-vis colouring of the DSAA and is known as HEMS – the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service. It goes without saying that this is a crucial service – and as it happens, one which in the past has saved the life of a young woman now part of this correspondent's family.

The evolution of technology, medical understanding and technical design have all played a part in the development of rapid and successful treatment of those unfortunate enough to have needed this kind of rescue. Joined-up thinking and learning from experience has resulted in a streamlined and effective service which involves the working together of doctors, critical care practitioners and nurses.

Outreach cars can sometimes get to the emergency before the helicopter, and land ambulances can offer essential immediate care. Liaison with the receiving hospital (there are 3 in the area covered) contributes to the minimising of delay at these life-threatening moments. The chopper can be airborne in 5 minutes and be at one of the receiving hospitals in less than 20. It is operational 19 hours out of 24, with teams taking alternate day/night shifts.

All this comes of course at a cost, and the service is funded by charitable donations which have to be worked-for. Efforts to do this range from the appointment and involvement of ambassadors and patrons, trustees and volunteers, through fund raising events and displays at public events, to the collection of textiles, stamps and phones. It takes £3000 on average to run one mission, so donations are naturally gratefully accepted.

This detail-packed talk contained much information about which few members had previous knowledge, so our thanks are due to Debbie Birtwisle. The next time we see the DSAA overhead we will have a new appreciation of its work.

The meeting continued once Debbie had left, with the president Anne Geach taking the screen with current info for members. This included the resumption of the walking group, the continuation of the book group, and of the morale-boosting occasional baking for Immacolata House and Langport Surgery staff. The participation by some members in the enormous choice available of on-line courses offered by the WI was also mentioned. Future plans were discussed, and the date of the next meeting confirmed. This will be on 8 April, and any interested enquirer is welcome to zoom in. No obligation, just contact Anne Geach; 01458 253078 / ajgeach@yahoo.co.uk

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Curry Rivel Village Hall News

Hazel Morris



The Village Hall Management Committee held its AGM in December at which a sad farewell was made to Roger and Chris Hampton who resigned from their respective positions of Chairman and Booking Secretary. Roger and Chris have made a huge contribution to the recent successes of the hall and will be sadly missed by all. They were presented with a gift and heartfelt thanks and I am sure we all wish them well in their new home.

During the last year, the hall has been closed down more often than not but with the excellent financial management of our Treasurer, the hall is still keeping its head above water! And as soon as we are able, we will re-open our doors for our regular and one-off hires. We are so looking forward to holding some of our annual events such as the Big Breakfast and we hope it won't be too long before the next one can be arranged as they provide such a great feeling of community spirit.

The revised membership of the committee was confirmed as Myfanwy Ashton, Hazel Morris, Ginny Smith, Peter Wheeler,

Debbie Haines, Jeff Haines, Andrea Selway, Melvin Harding and Bryony Clements. The necessary nominations and seconds were made for the appointments of Hazel as Chair, Peter as Deputy Chair, Myfanwy as Treasurer and Debbie as Secretary.

Vacancy – the Booking Secretary position is temporarily being held by Hazel but we are looking for a new person to take on this role. It would suit someone with good organisational skills and who is fairly confident using their computer. Please contact Hazel (07730 755203) if you are interested to know more about the role.

The village hall is Covid-19 secure for hire, so when the lockdown restrictions are eased and you're looking for a venue to hold your next event, please don't hesitate to contact the Booking Secretary. More details about the hall can be found on the village community website: www.curryrivel.org.uk

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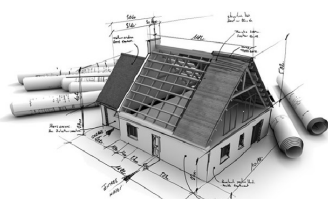
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Children's Page



Just For KIDS

Brown Hares (Lepus europaeus)

Hare Facts:

- Brown hares were introduced in Iron Age times from the other side of the North Sea. They are widespread on low ground throughout England, Wales and Scotland.
- As brown hares spread into most lowland farming districts they probably displaced the smaller mountain hares (*Lepus timidus*), which formerly inhabited low-ground areas, just as they do in Ireland today. Only in the uplands or in northern forested districts are mountain hares likely to have held their own.
- Hares do not use burrows, but make a small depression in the ground among long grass – this is known as a form.
- Adult hares normally live to 3 or 4 years but can live much longer.
- Hares are the fastest land mammal in the UK (including Curry Rivel) running at speeds of up to 70kph (45mph) to evade predators.
- Brown hares are at their most visible in early spring when the breeding season encourages fighting or 'boxing'.
- If you spot brown hares 'boxing' in the fields, it is most likely that you are watching a female warding off the advances of an amorous male, not two males fighting.
- Female hares can produce three to four litters of two to four young (known as leverets) a year.



Add Colour to this drawing



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

As (hopefully) our country begins to open up again, I wanted to, once again, thank all those who have supported our Food Bank over the last year. We shall continue our work as long as there is the need in our community and it is very reassuring that we are working with our friends from Drayton and Hambridge too on this joint villages project. In that regard, a very big thank you to the Drayton Street Fair Committee who have just donated £500 to us. Your kindness is fantastic.

Thus, to the very kind suppliers of food donations; to those lovely people who donate monies (some very regularly indeed); to our wonderful team of volunteers, it is time to express a really big "Thank You". We do enjoy seeing people come to our Covid-safe environment on our Wednesday and Saturday openings. Please do read the website for details of

particular needs we have as this information is updated regularly there.

When the latest edition of CRN is published and you read this letter, the core team will have met for its latest Zoom meeting to put plans in place for the next 6 months. We shall share those with you in the near future. We are pleased to have started working with our Village Agent this year, though, and are looking at ways of developing those links.

It's been a year like no other, with many sad stories, but it has also shown the inherent generosity of spirit and caring nature of so many in our community.

Kindest regards

Steve Allinson (on behalf of all at the Food Bank).



Dear Friends and former customers of the old village Post office

Having left the village in December without being able to say goodbye to many of you, I wanted to say a few words of thanks.

I would like to thank everyone for the help and support you gave me, my family and business over the last 24 year's. There are too many people to name but they'll know who they are.

I really miss being a useful member of the community and

found helping people very rewarding. I've moved to the Isle of Wight with my sister Julie to start a new life in the village of St Helens. We hope to return to Curry Rivel for a visit when it's safe to do so and will have the chance to catch up with you then.

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Best wishes for the future, Alan and Julie Norton

Dear Editor,

Following my letter in last month's CRN regarding the blight of litter along our parish lanes, particularly the number of beer and soft drinks cans, through your columns I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to those anonymous people who have banded together to clear this blight up. Crabtree Lane is now free of "Dragon Soop" and beer tins - I heard that there were over 120 of them - and Heale Lane, Wick Lane and Red Hill to the Black Smock road are all free of cans and other rubbish. It is a shame that concerned members of the community have to clear up after others' antisocial activity, but let's applaud them for undertaking this rather unpleasant task.

Sincerely

Geoff Higson

Dear Editor

'History of Curry Rivel' by A O Mounter 1910 - 1988

My father, Arthur O Mounter, was born and lived all his life in Curry Rivel and spent many years after his retirement researching and writing this history of his beloved village for the period up to 1928.

He wrote it on an Amstrad word processor and then printed it on A4 paper to produce a few copies, one of which he deposited it in the Somerset Records office and one of which I have since scanned and converted to a Microsoft Word document that is available to anyone to do with as they wish within the limitations and restrictions of copyright law.

So, if anyone wants a copy then email me at
> terrymounter@btinternet.com

Terry Mounter

Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Sylvia Goodenough

Our Zoom meeting in March saw the largest number of members so far signing on. After the usual catch-up chat, we watched an excellent presentation by Nigel Cox, who has been involved in teaching and practical horticulture for many years, including currently hosting a YouTube gardening channel, on "Creating exotic effects in your garden".

Most of us have been on foreign holidays (once upon a time!!) and admired the tropical plants growing in countries blessed with a consistently warmer and wetter climate than ours. Trial and error in some cases has made us realise that many of these plants will not grow here. However, the good news from Nigel was that we can create very similar effects by careful choice of plants that will survive all but the worst winter conditions here. Often these are relatives of plants we see abroad - for example, the Chusan palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) is hardy here and mature specimens are just as spectacular as the palms we see fringing foreign shores! Choose your species carefully (*Musa basjoo* is hardy here and, although the leaves will die back each year, it will regrow from the base the following year) and enjoy a banana plant in your garden, though don't expect to get edible fruit and it will need protection over the winter months! Nigel's presentation included photos of many beautiful and

spectacular plants to create a truly exotic looking garden. Many of the plants we already grow, such as Ceanothus, look wonderfully exotic alongside Bamboos or Phormiums - though some of the latter can get very big very quickly! Our last Zoom meeting of the season will be next month, when Christopher Bond, of the Somerset Gardens Trust, will talk to us on "The Magic of Water". Unfortunately we have had to cancel our planned May coach trip to Exbury Gardens for the second time and are now hoping for "third time lucky" next year!

All being well we are hoping to organise some outdoor events during the summer and look forward to returning to our usual full programme in the autumn.



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Spring is here at last!

John Casebourne

By the time this goes to press, spring will be well on the way. It is one of my favourite seasons. The start of new growth, bird nesting season and people getting back into their gardens once again. It really is a special time of year. We receive an extra dose of vitamin D as the sun once again begins its journey into the longer days, helping to raise our spirits and encouraging us to get outdoors. It's all looking very positive. Covid is on the back foot - although we may have to live alongside it for months or even years to come, like we do with flu.

Since I became the parish footpath warden and public paths liaison officer for SCC, I have met a considerable number of very interesting people from all walks of life. Some have been resident here for years, some were born here - as were their parents and grandparents before them. One person remarked, "I came here in my mother's womb", and decided to stay. I envy him.

Covid has also given many people the opportunity to walk around our parish and further afield giving them the time to explore all those fabulous public footpaths that previously they may have passed by unnoticed. For finding my way around Somerset I not only use <https://roam.Somerset.gov.uk>, which is must have for its maps reporting facilities and other interesting information, but I also use the OS map download on my phone. This is particularly helpful because the small red triangle (the direction indicator), will tell you exactly where you are at any given time as you walk and record your route. It is really worth the annual fee if you are a regular walker in the UK as it covers any area you visit. You can plan a route, work out how far you wish to walk and, in the event of needing help from the authorities due to an accident, gives you an exact map reference. All for around £20 pa. It's worth bearing in mind to buy a portable battery charger should you wish to walk all day as the app will use up your phone charge.

Of course most people are aware of the countryside code:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/900032/countryside-code-poster.pdf but if you are not it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with it. This past year I have heard of some incidents of concern where people have allowed their dogs to worry farm animals, leaving gates open, dumping dog-poo in bags in the hedge, it is really important to understand your responsibilities. This will help relationships between

landowners and the public. It's no defence to say, "my dog has never done that before", as it chases cattle, sheep, and horses, around a field. The best advice if this may be a possibility, put Bonzo on a lead before it happens to save you the stress, and the harm to animals. Please also have regard for people who are walking without dogs. Some people are genuinely frightened when a dog rushes up towards them, especially children. You may know Bonzo won't hurt them, but they don't. Wet muddy footprints all down their clothes don't always go down well. There have also been reports of well-meaning people feeding horses. Just don't do it, period. Several people before you may have done the same causing serious health problems and even death.

The country walks are really wonderful places, enjoy your time there. Leave no litter, respect the Countryside Code and keep your dogs under close control at all times, especially during the coming bird nesting season as many birds nest on the ground. Dogs are natural foragers so please keep them away from bird nesting areas, or on a lead.

Take care on steep slopes especially as some are very slippery. A good walking pole/stick will assist with this, up and down. Take your binoculars and if you walk quietly along the paths, it's surprising what you may see from roe deer to cranes. Enjoy your time in the countryside.

Stay safe.

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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01458 762296

CriB have confirmed with Southwest in Bloom that we are not entering the In Bloom competition this year. The consensus of opinion from all our members was that it is too soon to tell how coming out of Lockdown will work and we want to keep our village safe.

We will continue with all the things we do around the village and will be maintaining our displays and planting summer bedding in May. Thank you to all our helpers who volunteer to weed, water, plant, deadhead, cut grass and all the other jobs involved.

To keep things safe we have divided up all the areas in the village and now have just one or two people at the most looking after an area. For example the War Memorial is divided into three gardens, red, white and blue, so we have a different person maintaining each section so they can work on their own or with a partner. The same with Granny's Garden and all the other pots and troughs around the village. Watering is on a different rota and we are still looking for more volunteers to water at the war memorial for about 30 minutes in the evenings. Please get in touch if you can help. It could be included in your daily walk.

Front Garden Competition

This will take place again this year and will be judged during the last two weeks of June. There will be no particular colour scheme but we will always be looking for an element of

recycling and water saving. You can specify the theme of your garden. The garden to be judged should be visible from the front gate as we will not enter the garden. Please email me your address and phone number if you would like to take part. Or phone on 01458 762296

Jobs to do in the garden in April

- Deadhead spring bulbs but don't cut the leaves off until they die back
- Plant out autumn sown sweet peas, sow new seed if not already done
- Divide and replant hardy perennials
- Protect new shoots on hostas, delphiniums and lupins from slugs and snails by using wood ash, egg shells, try vaseline on pot edges. Please don't use slug pellets which will kill wild life. Use a head torch and gloves and go out at night and pick off the culprits!
- Sow hardy annuals in gaps in the border for added colour
- Sow veg seeds in pots or towards the end of the month they could go in the ground depending on the weather.

No Dig Organic Method

Charles Dowding, a Somerset resident has great ideas on a no dig method. Cover the area you wish to deal with cardboard, use any old boxes etc. Then cover the cardboard with a mulch or compost from your compost heap. After a few weeks you can plant through the soil and cardboard into the ground. Look up more details on www.charlesdowding.co.uk

Gina Beachamp



CURRY RIVEL RESIDENTS CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
REUSE * REPAIR * RETURN * RECYCLE * REPURPOSE *

Great news on the plastic recycling front, our Tesco in Langport will now take pet food pouches - washed out preferably! - crisp packets, plastic wrapping, bread bags, frozen food bags and more. There is a large bin at the front of the building for all of this, so all the foil items (that don't crumple like tinfoil) can now be recycled. Keep a carrier bag in the kitchen cupboard and take it to Tesco when full. It saves so much space in the black bin and really shouldn't go to landfill.

4Rs | Tesco recycling

At Tesco, they say they are serious about cutting packaging and plastic waste. Their 4Rs stand for Remove, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. You can find out about what they have achieved so far. <https://www.tesco.com/groceries/en-GB/zone/4Rs>

Have you looked at Freecycle yet?

There are quite a few Curry Rivel members on this site now. It is a free service where you can give away almost anything. Furniture, plants, greenhouses, rubble, pallets, you name it, it can be posted on the site. I once got rid of two buckets of

stones and received a table to use in my potting shed. You can post a wanted request or ask for offered items from the emails you receive or from the site, which you must collect at a time convenient to the donor. Likewise, if you offer an item you can choose who you give it to, and they must collect it from you. All items must be donated free of charge. I have met some lovely people on Freecycle and have been given gifts of plants, jam and seeds as 'thank yous' from grateful recipients.

You can leave items inside your gate for collection and social distancing. Go to www.freecycle.org it will tell you how to set up an account and explain the rules. The nearest groups are Taunton, Bridgwater, Chard, Shepton Mallet, Wells & Street, they cover all the villages as well. It will help to keep furniture that still has some life in it out of landfill. Whenever I go to the recycling centre at Somerton I wish that some of the people throwing perfectly good things into the rubbish skip had put them on Freecycle. People have managed to furnish a flat with free items from this site.

So spread the word!

You can also give away or sell items on NEXT DOOR or the Curry Rivel Facebook page.

WARNING

All the below events are subject to cancellation at short notice due to the Corona virus epidemic please contact each group for details.....Keep well, Keep safe

In April 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
Footpath & Litter Warden johncasebourne@sky.com

Education

Little Pips 252822
Primary School 251404
Huish Episcopi Academy 250501
Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre 251055

Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) curryrivelparish@outlook.com 07714 510828
District Council 0 1935 462462
County Council 0300 123 2224

Religious

Church of England Rector 251375
Churchwarden 259003
Secretary PCC 251355
Organist & Bell Ringing 253856
Flower Guild 252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton 274008
URC Minister 252799



Deadlines for May Edition

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

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Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

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

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.

Covid effects

Private prayer - under the current Covid regulations, St. Andrew's church remains open for private prayer on **Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10.00am - 4.00pm.**

Services - at the time of writing and being in the early stages of the 'roadmap' towards the end of Covid restrictions, we have started holding 'live' services again, but there will also be some by zoom (see below). However, local conditions may result in short notice changes or suspension of these services. In that case, the Sunday services will be via zoom, for the whole Benefice. **To join a zoom service, please contact the Rector on 251375 or scottr.patterson@btinternet.com.**

Please also see the information on the notice board in the churchyard by the Green, in the church porch, on the village website, or on our 'A Church Near You' web page.

April

Thursday 1st - Maundy Thursday
7.00 pm **CR** - The Last Supper - zoom

Friday 2nd - Good Friday
10.00 **FH** - All Age Service
2.00 pm **CR** - An hour at The Cross
6.00 pm **SW** - Compline (said) BCP

Sunday 4th - Easter Day
8.00 **SW** - Easter Communion BCP
9.30 **FH** - Family Communion CW
11.00 **CR** - Family Communion CW

Sunday 11th - Easter 2
10.30 Morning Worship - zoom

Scott's spot

The crazy, wonderful heart of Christianity

As 'spring has sprung' there's much around that speaks of new life - blackthorn blossom, the fresh green blur on roadside hedges, the drone of mowers tackling winter lawns. Beyond these signs of new life, this year there's an added sense of expectation. If all goes well we may all feel as if we're emerging from a sort of hibernation. The vaccination programme means hope returning after a significant time of darkness. It has been hard for all, very hard for some, and we are eager for the new life that 'unlocking' will mean.

For the Christian this hope of new life is wonderfully paralleled as Good Friday and then Easter Day are remembered and celebrated. Beyond emerging from winter and the pandemic, this season also speaks to the Christian heart of new life made possible through faith in Jesus. His claim was that in him, and through his cross, stood the doorway to sins forgiven and a new life begun in partnership with God both now and for eternity.

Of course this good news is difficult for many to believe. How can one man pay the price for another's sins? We all know that if I step on your toes, you're the one at liberty to forgive me. If someone were to steal our money, the choice would be ours as to whether to forgive.



Scott's spot ctd. . . .

What are we to make of someone who wasn't the one stepped on or stolen from, who then announces forgiveness to the people who did those things? It doesn't make sense. Yet this is just what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, without even stopping to ask those affected what they thought about it. The astonishing thing is that Jesus consistently behaved as if he regarded the sins of those around him as personally offensive to him, something he could then forgive. Maybe you've never thought about it this way, but to do that only makes sense if Jesus really is the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded by every sinful act.

Jesus' claim to forgive others faces us with one of those binary moments. In the mouth of anyone who is not God, these words would mean craziness and arrogance virtually unrivalled in history. And yet even the enemies of Christianity, when they read the Gospels, do not usually see craziness and arrogance in Jesus. In fact when we read of him saying things like **'I am gentle and humble in heart'** (Matt 11:29) most believe him, not noticing that if he were just a man and said these things then humbleness would be the last word we'd use to describe him.

The crazy, wonderful heart of Christianity is all about relationship with this sin-forgiving Jesus. His message has never changed: **"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."** (John 3:17).

This is about us laying our sin at the foot of the cross, acknowledging its offence to God, and accepting by faith that Christ has got it covered. It is certainly a joy to see new life in the hedgerows, and we can almost taste new life after the pandemic. But it need not end there. Christ, who claimed authority to forgive the sin of others, and who backed this up with his Easter morning resurrection, offers the same to all. Will you consider the new life on offer that matters most?

With prayer for our community, this Easter and beyond.

Revd. Scott.

April ctd . . .

Thursday 15th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 18th

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

Sunday 25th

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

Thursday 29th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

St. Andrew's Annual meetings
Monday 26th April 7.30 pm,
via zoom

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) for the election of Churchwardens, followed by the
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), with reports about church life; PCC proceedings; the church's financial affairs over 2020, and the election of new PCC members.

Anyone who wishes to join either meeting, please contact the Rector Rev Scott Patterson on 01458-251375 or e-mail scottr.patterson@btinternet.com.

St. Andrew's Rotas April

Brass

Lynne Comley

Flowers

10th & 17th - Diane Talbot-Williams
 24th & 1st May - Angela Cole

Cleaning

2nd - Wendy Graves
 9th - Anne Geach
 16th - Anne Gough
 23rd - Jackie & John de Ronde
 30th - Tina Geary



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United Reformed Church



April

When Will We be Open ?

It has been a full 12 months since we first closed our doors in response to the global health pandemic, opening briefly at the tail end of summer, then only to close the doors to the building once again. Meeting online since, we have been gathering with folk from the highways & byways – as far afield as Taunton & Taiwan!

So, now that the Government has provided a 'roadmap' out of lockdown and the vaccination programme continues apace, when might we find ourselves back worshipping in our Chapel building again?

There has been some interesting guidance from the Moderators of nationwide United Reformed Church Synods. Whilst decisions are driven locally by office holders within each individual congregation (Elders), our Moderators act as advisors helping to guide our thoughts (rather than instructing us on what we can and cannot do). In this instance they encourage continued caution asking us to be governed in our decision making not by dates but by public safety in our particular localities (the R rate, vaccination progress & a congregation's demographic, whether the health & safety requirements can be met, prevalent 'hotspots' & new variants in our specific geographical area).

They also pose the question: which sector are we most like – non-essential retailers we visit for a brief, hardly interactive 10 minutes to buy something off the shelf?

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. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static prepositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

Minister: Rev. Tim Richards
 01458 252799

Anyone who would like to feel part of a worshipping community is invited to join us - from any denomination or none. Simply email Steve Beney on stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk expressing your interest and he will contact you to explain how to join us on Sundays at 10.30.

Prayer Requests can be either emailed to our minister Rev. Tim Richards at richardstim@hotmail.com or call 01458 252799 (leave a clear message if no one is available to take your call) and they will be included in our daily & Sunday prayers for each other, our community & the wider world.

When Will We be Open ? ctd . . .

Or the hospitality sector where people gather to enjoy longer, sustained contact? Which sector we align ourselves with might help us with the timing of the opening of our doors but it got me thinking about how I view 'church'. Is it somewhere I go to visit briefly, take what I want & leave? Or is church somewhere I gather to make sustained contact with God & others - the kind of sustained contact which leaves me nurtured, challenged & changed by the experience?

It has not been decided when Curry Rivel URC will be back in the building for services yet: but I shall be mulling over that thought-provoking question in the meantime.

Ali Richards

SOMERSET'S WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

Very big, biggest and world record birds love Somerset

The largest resident bird in the UK (by wingspan) is the magnificent White-tailed Sea Eagle (also called the Sea Eagle). It breeds on some of the Scottish islands and several were released on the Isle of Wight (where it used to live naturally) in 2019. It has a wingspan of 2.5 metres. In January one was spotted over Ilminster and since then it has been

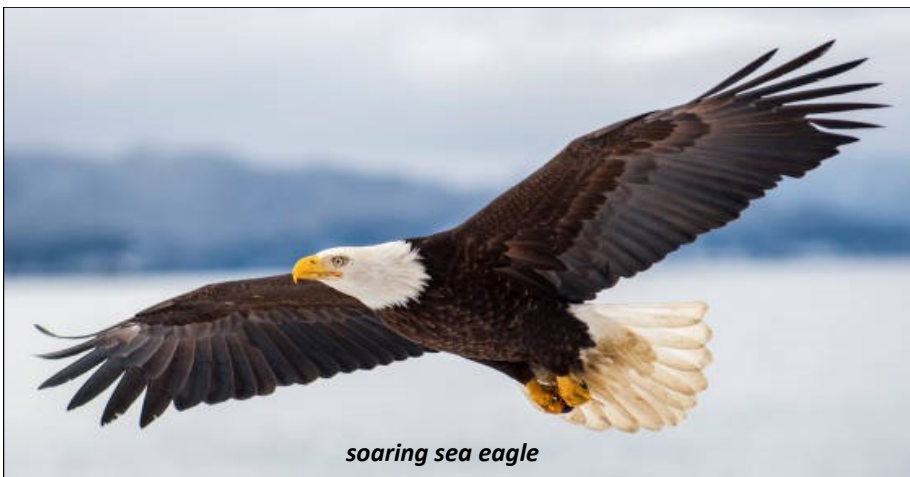
Nature Reserve Manager at Natural England.

Cranes are back

Another impressive bird now back in Somerset is the Crane. It stands 1.2 metres high. From 2010-2014, cranes were reintroduced on the Somerset Levels (as part of the Great Crane Project) and the birds are doing well and breeding successfully. "The project clearly demonstrates that species can be successfully



great crane in Somerset



soaring sea eagle

seen regularly in the area. The eagles released had the equivalent of satnav on their legs and the one spotted nearby has been identified as one of the males released on the Isle of Wight. "It's not unusual for large birds of prey to wander from their breeding location in the Autumn and Winter but they'll only stay in an area where they feel secure and can get enough food" said Louise Treneman,

reintroduced where conditions meet their needs – this may or may not be where they previously thrived, as landscapes have changed over time" said Louise.

Amazing Starlings

So what's special about Starlings? Aren't they just medium sized dark birds that can't sing very well? Actually they are world record breakers! And they break records on

your doorstep. Certain birds group together in large flocks and fly around together at certain times of the year. These "clouds" of birds are called murmurations. "Murmurations occur in the winter, when starlings gather each night to roost up after spending the day feeding across the county. Shapwick Heath and Ham Wall, part of the Avalon Marshes, are favourite locations in Somerset" she said.

World record

On New Year's Eve 2019, a murmuration of starlings over the RSPB Ham Wall nature reserve included an estimated one million birds, a world record. "Other birds that form murmurations include the Red Knot and Dunlin. One word of advice - don't park your car under the expected murmuration!" she said.



starlings in murmuration in the evening in Somerset