

August 2017



Burton Pynsent monument

Tim Schroder

This year marks the **250th anniversary** of the Pynsent monument. Built in 1767 by William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, it is inscribed on the plinth with a quotation from Virgil, '... hoc saltem fungar inani munere...', meaning roughly 'this unavailing gift, at least, I may bestow'.

Pitt came to Somerset after receiving an unexpected legacy from fellow parliamentarian, Sir William Pynsent. Pynsent admired Pitt and, having no direct heirs of his own, left his entire estate to the Prime Minister. On first visiting his windfall, Pitt found a large, old-fashioned house and a landscape itching to be taken in hand. A talented landscape gardener himself, he undertook a hugely ambitious scheme, landing him in ever spiralling debt. But he knew when he needed help and when it came to building a suitable memorial to his benefactor he called in Capability Brown, who designed a simple but elegant column of local blue lias stone, faced with Portland stone.

Pitt was right to describe his monument as 'unavailing'. It is, after all, a folly and in that sense not very useful, but it stands at the centre of a whole network of footpaths, it can be seen from miles around and has been the symbol of Curry Rivel for generations. And in that sense it is really quite 'availing'.

Inside the column is a spiral staircase leading up to the lantern, from which one can enjoy spectacular views in all directions. The monument usually has to be kept locked because of insurance requirements, but on **Saturday 19th August** we are planning to open the monument **between 11.00am and 4.00pm**. If the weather turns out to be awful we will put up a notice with an alternate date but fingers crossed.



Summer wouldn't be Summer.....

*without the annual **St Andrew's Fete*** – one of the key events in the village calendar along with Ashen Faggot night, Curry Rivel Live, the Flower Show and the Christmas Craft Fair. The sun shone and those who attended were treated to the usual stalls and displays. There was something for everyone – Pimms for the adults, bouncy castle and face painting for the little ones, tombola, bottle stall, books, plants, fancy goods and 'beat the buzzer' and coconut shy for those wanting to demonstrate a steady hand or a good aim. This year it was the Guides who worked hard and did a brilliant job of supplying the teas in the Old School Room. As tradition dictates the children from the primary school danced beautifully on the Green, watched proudly by their families. Just as proud were the owners of the winning dogs in the dog show, an event which is now a firmly established part of the fête. Thanks are due to John de Ronde for masterminding another successful fête and the team of helpers who supported him.

.... see centre spread for full colour pictures

District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

It is summertime and all is relatively quiet at SSDC. Perhaps the only note of interest is the electoral review taking place in South Somerset. South Somerset is the largest district council in the southwest and one of the biggest district councils in the country, both in terms of geographical size and total population. The electoral review will examine the following:

- total number of members elected
- the number and boundaries of electoral wards for the purposes of the election of councillors
- the number of councillors for any electoral area
- the name of the electoral area

The review is taking place because 13 of the Council's current 39 wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average. Thus, in recognition of the importance of electoral equality to a fair democratic process the Council has submitted an electoral review. The last review took place in 1996-7, when the number of councillors was retained at 60 and the number of wards reduced from 40 to 39. Agreeing to the submission is the first stage of the review. Part two will take place in September/October when comments on the points above will take place. Curry Rivel ward is currently not one of the 33% of wards which are outside the variance and thus should remain the same but this is not guaranteed.

I would just like to congratulate all those responsible for the organisation in the Britain in Bloom competition. The High Street looked resplendent and so many residents embraced the event with their purple and gold flower displays it all looked wonderful.

As you will be aware, the County elections were held in early May and our local County Councillor, Derek Yeomans, retired. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Derek for his outstanding and committed support to our community in his role as County Councillor for the past 16 years. During his time he was Chair of the Regulation Committee, which is the Planning Committee for the County, involved with the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, Scrutiny Committee, including Audit, and for the past eight years has been Chair of the Somerset Waste Partnership, a role he hopes he can continue as the designated representative from SSDC. He has worked tirelessly for our area and will be greatly missed. However, his worthy successor is Clare Aparacio-Paul who

will be known to many of you due to her involvement in the setting up of Much Thorn FloodWings and her ceaseless work in supporting the flood victims during 2014. She has also been actively engaged in all community matters including fundraising, leisure, business and education and her achievements have already been recognised by the new leader of the County Council, David Fothergill, by being offered a junior cabinet member role. Should you wish to contact Clare on any issues relating to County her email address is CAPaul@somerset.gov.uk or 07879 423117. I look forward to working with Clare in the future on all matters which affect our local community.

SSDC is working on supporting South Somerset's economy. SSDC's response to the Government's Green Paper setting out its vision for building a future UK Industrial Strategy has been to highlight the importance of South Somerset's economy and its potential for growth and future job creation provided it gets the support it needs, most specifically investment in the aerospace industry. The aerospace activities in Somerset are part of a globally significant South West aerospace cluster and contribute £300 million a year to the local economy. If Somerset is to capitalise on remaining at the forefront of the aerospace industry we will need government investment and collaboration in infrastructure and skills, both from the public and private sectors.

Forget Me Not Memory Café

....Can you help?

The Forget Me Not Memory Café comes to Curry Rivel from Tuesday 1st August. The Memory Café will be held in the Village Hall every Tuesday from 2:30pm until 4:30pm, and is for anyone affected by memory issues like Dementia, Alzheimer's and Strokes.

We are looking for volunteers to support this event, and if you can spare some time then please contact either Christine on 01458 741606 or Adrienne on 01458 252710.

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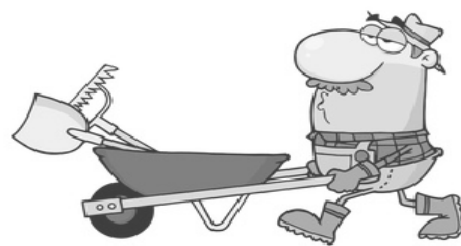
Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

NUMBER ONE PRIORITY—Curry Rivel Flower Show on August 12th, please do try to compete. It's good fun and a wonderful village tradition.

It's been a very dry year overall this year again and keeping the newly planted war memorial garden well watered has been a challenge for all concerned! However, thanks to all the hard work it has been a great success. More details elsewhere.

So, watering is once again at the top of the list of things to keep doing in the garden! A really good soak once a week for established plants and little and often for pots and new acquisitions. Watering in the evening is most effective as the water won't be evaporated in the same way as much of it is during the day. Even if your lawn is looking quite sad at present remember established grass is very resilient and will perk up again once we get more rain, though new grass will need constant watering.

Keep deadheading in August - it's a big job but very worthwhile as you will get rewarded by prolonged flowering or second flowering flushes of many plants. Tall plants such as dahlias and chrysanthus will need to be tied into their stakes as they grow. So will sweet peas, which will also need lots of water and feed to keep them going. Their flowers must be removed before they set seed so pick them regularly and take them indoors where they will provide wonderful scent! Cuttings of annual geraniums can be taken this month - we keep ours going from year to year this way, it's so easy to cut off short pieces of soft new tip, 4-6cm long, remove all but the top couple of leaves and stick them into a pot of compost. With a minimum of watering over winter in a frost-free light position you will have rooted plants next spring that can be potted on ready to be planted out when the danger of frost is past. Fuchsias are also easy to propagate as cuttings and others to try include heathers, hydrangeas and many shrubs. Why buy plants when you can produce your own??



You can sow in the open for Spring use now - cabbage, parsley and onions as well as hardy annuals such as Callendulas (pot marigolds), Californian Poppies and biennials such as Wallflowers, Honesty, Antirrhinums and Iceland Poppies.

Early apples and pears are ready for picking during the month and restricted forms of these should be pruned. Summer fruiting raspberries and loganberries are over and the fruited shoots should be cut out and new shoots tied in. September fruiting raspberries and grapes will need protection from greedy birds! Now's the time to plant rooted strawberry runners and take cuttings of herbs such as bay, mint, rosemary etc. Lots of vegetables are now at their peak, with sweet corn, carrots, peas, runner, french and broad beans all ready for picking. All these can easily be blanched and frozen if you have a surplus. Summer cabbage and cauliflowers can also be cut as required. Onions and main crop potatoes will be ready for lifting and storage by the end of the month. We find traditional onion strings and hessian sacks for potatoes are best for storage.

Finally, we all need to remember to make arrangements for our gardens and houseplants if off on holiday during the month, getting some kind person takes on the essential tasks to keep everything alive!

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Curry Rivel in Bloom News

Website: curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com

Judging Day - 12th July

There were a few nerves before the judges arrived at 10am, but they soon put us at our ease and our 2 hours of judging started. The judges had already received copies of our Portfolio, containing background information on the village and photos of our progress in projects around the village as well as of attractive areas spotted through the year, so they came armed with quite a lot of knowledge about us. Peter Goodenough gave an excellent presentation, illustrated with photographs to fill them in on more recent activities.

They were then greeted by William Pitt, (alias Robert Crowley in full regalia) and two members of his entourage, Jasmine and Josh. The Pitt connection has been explained previously in these articles and the concept worked perfectly. The judges were led to the "schoolroom" opposite the Village Hall by Pitt, Jasmine and Josh where they met "schoolmaster" Peter Staddon, who explained the ethos of the school to them, while showing them the forest garden etc.

By the time the judges had reached the Green country dancing was in full swing and this was enjoyed by both the judges and the children who were dancing. Next stop was at the church to view the fantastic flower festival displays and meet some of the ladies who were responsible for them. Then the judges were off to view the War Memorial garden. They were very impressed with the work that has gone on there and with the whole conceptual design of the garden. They crossed over the road to France and were greeted in French by members of the Twinning Association by the Twinning tree and garden, - they had put out a French flag and a Union Jack for the occasion. Onward up the High Street, with much admiring of the display on the walls on the left-hand side, which had been organised by our members, who they met by the displays. They also appreciated - as we do- the displays which have appeared in support on the right-hand side. From the King William they travelled by car to Stoney Lane, where they walked through Keith and Barbara Lancey's garden to Batty Piece meadow. They crossed the meadow to Holden's Way and viewed our community meadow, Eastfield, from there. They were impressed with the new information board at the entrance to Eastfield, which has pictures of many of the species to look out for while enjoying the meadows. Back in to the car and along the main road to the carpark, where they met Kate Macey as a representative of local business, before returning to the Village Hall, where they enjoyed tea and cakes while looking at boards of photos and talking to members of the community. Once the judges

headed off to their next appointment we all breathed a sigh of relief before starting to clear everything away! The result will not be known until early October. Thanks go to those who have kept the war memorial garden looking so good, including the tremendous work of the watering team who have already watered for a week and those who will continue to do so in the future. The intention is to keep the War memorial garden looking great until after the Remembrance Day parade in November (frosts permitting). There will probably be a public meeting before then to discuss plans for next year, as such a level of achievement in 2018 will need more support from the community, particularly from able-bodied men. If you think the displays were fabulous and lifted Curry Rivel's appearance to the world, please come forward to support the project in 2018.

Frontage Competition

The organising group were delighted to have 27 entries in the competition this year, which was judged on July 8th by Shaun Cregan, our Curry Rivel in Bloom mentor from Taunton. He was impressed with many of the entries and found it a hard decision to make. It was important that the colour scheme was obviously purple and gold, and this unfortunately ruled out a few entries where this was not clear enough. He finally awarded Kevin Loe (Fircroft, Honeylands) and Mrs Harding (6, Heale Lane) runner-up awards and the Curry Rivel in Bloom trophy to Tony Sharpe (Hill View, High Street). Shaun presented these prizes at a presentation event in the Village hall on July 20th. There was a special mention for Roy Webb of Chatham Place for his fantastic front garden, which unfortunately did not conform to the colour theme.



Blooming marvellous summer

What an amazing village we live in. Thank you so much to **everyone** who made the village look so pretty and welcoming. The year started with the Keep Britain Tidy clean up weekend. Then the Curry Rivel in Bloom team worked so hard and doesn't the high street look great? Have you noticed the flowers at the main entries of the village, at the bus shelters, down the high street, the transformation at the war memorial, petrol station, Parsonage Place, village hall plus all entries for the frontage competition?

Thank you to all of the businesses who embraced the purple and gold colours; the money sponsorship from NISA; garden

supplies from Sandpits, Greenshutters and Travis Perkins; plants from Northwing nurseries in Water Street; discounted fencing price from Coates of Stoke St Gregory and delicious cakes from Living Pretty for the judges and a visit from a BBC team.

This is only the start. Although the results are in October I think we have already won as I am enjoying the results and I feel very proud to live in this village!

Madelaine King-Oakley,
Chairman of Curry Rivel Parish Council

Learn to save a life using CPR and the Defibrillator

Tony Greenaway

We now have a secure defibrillator in the village located at the petrol station. The defibrillator is now operational and can be accessed by anyone in an emergency by simply calling 999 and following the instructions provided by the Operator. In October we are running a 3 hour practical training workshop on CPR and using the defibrillator. There are just a few places available so register your interest now by ringing 01458 252495 or go to www.curryrivel.org.uk/lifesaving-training.html. Quick action saves lives

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Movies in the Village Hall

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La La Land (12A)

Friday 18 August



Winner of six 2017 Oscars, this musical comedy-drama tells of Sebastian and Mia, a struggling jazz musician and an aspiring actress who meet and fall in love in Los Angeles.

The pair first encounter one another in a moment of road rage on a Los Angeles highway. After one or two chance encounters Sebastian arrives at the movie lot where Mia works as a barista. They share their dreams: he of opening a jazz club while she wants to become a famous actress.

As success slowly mounts the film charts the ups and downs of their fragile love affair while the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to tear them apart.

Stars: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone and John Legend.

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 annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

Coming soon: Viceroy's House

Kids FREE Fun afternoon

Saturday 9th September 13.00- 17.00



'Active Somerset' is organised every year by a few volunteers who need to raise about £1,500 to hold this annual event in the form of a 'Kids Fun Afternoon'. This provides local children, whatever their social background, with the opportunity of having an event in the fresh air where all are equal.

All activities are carefully selected to encourage children to have face-to-face interaction, team building and physical exercise while promoting focus, confidence and community spirit. The event is completely 'free' for the youngsters and takes place this year on Saturday 9th September between 1pm – 5pm in the safe environment of the playing field at Curry Rivel Primary School.

'Active Somerset' is non-profit making and not a registered charity. It is sponsored by local shops, businesses, the parish council and individuals. Events this year include: climbing wall, obstacle course, coconut shy, scouts' outdoor cooking, face

painting, hoop-the-duck, balloon modelling and much more. There will also be refreshments and a tombola.

Perhaps you could make a donation towards the funding of this special afternoon. A financial donation and /or a tombola prize would be gratefully received.

For more information or to make a donation please contact: Gina Beauchamp (01458 762296) or Kaye Morgan (01458 253255)

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Curry Rivel Live – ‘the best so far’

Once again *Curry Rivel Live*, the one day music festival in June, lived up to its reputation as a festival suitable for the whole family. The daytime entertainment was packed full of exciting activities from bouncy castle and slides to circus workshops and craft tents where the children had the chance to make their own musical instruments and parade with one of the bands (BRASSIC) during the day. One of the highlights of the day was seeing a transformer like robot walking around the site, a real favourite with the children. The festival site itself was packed with different stands and attractions - Blue Ridge Runners with their array of classic American Cars and bikes attracted a lot of attention as did the ice cream van and sweet stall on what turned out to be a gloriously sunny, hot day.

The outdoor rustic, acoustic stage provided a platform for several young local performers who have been taught by Kirstine and Simon to gain experience performing live before an audience. Music continued on the acoustic stage throughout the day with sing along Disney classics, brass versions of well-known popular songs and a selection of local musicians showcasing their own compositions. The site was packed with families relaxing in the sun enjoying this

wonderful selection of music. 'Swampgrass', local blues and soul band opened the evening entertainment on the main stage in the marquee followed by 'The Rocker Covers' and 'FILTA' who sent the festival crowd into a frenzy with dance classics and London based DJ's The Rumpsteppers brought the entertainment to a close with the crowd bouncing right through to the end.

Husband and wife organisers of *Curry Rivel Live*, Simon and Kirstine Champion, said, "this year's festival went very well, probably one of the best so far. We were a little concerned about the move from Eastfield to Westfield but the festival atmosphere was improved by the change". Simon and Kirstine, who live in the village added, "*Curry Rivel Live* was supported by several local organisations - one of which was the village hall committee who raised over £1000 by keeping the crowds fed and watered throughout the day and night". Planning for next year has already begun and Simon and Kirstine are hoping to encourage more local groups and organisations to become involved and use the festival as a way of raising awareness and funds for their cause.

Over £1,100 raised at Curry Rivel Live for Village Hall

Roger Hampton

The recent *Curry Rivel Live* was a great success with 500 attending this Community event.

The Village Hall Team raised over £1,100 for the Hall funds, by providing all the food for this increasingly popular event. All the burgers, hot dogs, Chilli, cakes and children's sandwiches went down very well with all those attending, and during the day fresh supplies were needed.

A special thank you to event organiser Simon Champion who provides the Village Hall Team with a marquee, and services at no charge to Village Hall.

There will also be a BIG Breakfast in the Village Hall, planned for Sunday 10th September, so 'Save the Date'






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Thanks to John deRonde and Mike Mason for photos



*Fete
2017*



Curry Rivel W.I.

Another WI meeting, another great speaker. This time, Commander Anthony Holt gave us a wonderful insight into his time as Flag Lieutenant to the Admiralty Board. Although he based his talk on just two stories, his gift as a storyteller meant that he had us all on the edge of our seats waiting for the punchline! They were all the funnier because they were true. 'The Queen's Beans' referred to some coffee beans which are a particular favourite of the Queen and formed the basis of his first story. Commander Holt is also a successful author and has published several novels based on his experiences.

A Thursday morning in June found small groups of women wandering around Langport looking intently at the names of shops and houses and causing some consternation among the shopkeepers! We were on a treasure hunt and we had to solve a long list of clues, which were all related to the shops, streets or houses, not as easy as it sounds. However, there was consolation at the finish at Bow Wharf with a coffee and

a Langport Bun!

We all enjoyed our coffee morning which gave our newest members more time to get to know each other and the chance to find out more about the many faces of the WI. We'll definitely be repeating this one.

We don't have a meeting in August and so there were plenty of outings to sign up for – garden visits, golf croquet and a number of walks. In August, we have invited members from other institutes to join us on a walk, finishing with a lovely tea in the Village Hall. For those who don't want a long walk, we have arranged a short visit to St Andrews Church to have a look around and hear about its history.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 14th, in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Gillian Gibson who is talking about 'Preventative Medicine'. Why not come along and listen to the talk and find out more about what the WI can offer you? 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



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Girlguiding Somerset Sri Lanka 2018

A huge thank you to the community for their support of our fundraisers to date. Over the summer holidays you will see us around at local events either helping out or running a stall. If you need any help with family celebrations, we have a service crew well used to waitressing and washing up you can call upon. Our next big fundraiser is a fabric and craft stall on Drayton Street Fair. We are appealing to you to turn out any spare fabric you may have, craft projects you started but ran out of enthusiasm for, any craft projects

never started, sewing threads, haberdashery and any books, patterns and tools to do with sewing, knitting and handicrafts. We are also appealing for cricket kit to take out with us. So, if you have anything in a long forgotten corner of a cupboard you would like collected, or need to book help with an event please ring Jane Brooke on 01458 252901.

Inner Wheel Club of Langport and Somerton

Dorothy Wadeson

We met at the Langport Arms as usual for our lunch meeting. Jane Warren was inaugurated as our new President for this year. Jane lives in Curry Rivel. She has been a member of our Inner Wheel club for a long time and we are pleased to see her as our President. Jane has chosen two charities this year. One is the First Responders and Ian Rodger, who was our invited speaker, told us a lot more about the charity. The other is Mercy Ships and we look forward to hearing more about their work during the year.

If you would like to find out more about our club, please do not hesitate to ring Angie Saunders on 01935 840130. Angie has also been a member and an officer of Inner Wheel for many years and would be happy to answer any questions.

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The Big Summer Concert

Jane Hamlin

"I didn't know Curry Rivel had so much musical talent," said several people to me at the end. That is because they had never been to *The Big Summer Concert* before. Those who have been to previous concerts have high expectations, and again they were not disappointed. This year we gathered in St Andrew's Church on the 15th July for an evening full of musical delights. As usual, the St Andrew's Choir was augmented by the Benefice Singers and they got the concert off to a lively start with a Spiritual Mix – a clever arrangement that combined *Oh when the saints* with *Swing low, sweet chariot* that had everyone tapping their feet. This was followed by a beautiful rendition of Philip Ledger's *Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep*.

A new feature this year was the 'Children's Corner', which was a selection of short pieces from some of the very youngest musicians in the village. Georgia, Josie, Matilda, Amy and Imogen each played the piano with great confidence and Nyassa and Iona showed that they have great potential as violinists. Each performance was followed by rapturous applause and whoops of delight from the audience.

These were hard acts to follow, but the choir - accompanied by the organ – let the sweet harmonies flow in David Evans's *Be Still*, and Annie Ashdown played a delightful piece called *The Puppet Show* on her violin. Last year, Benjamin Warner-Deards astonished us with the speed of his faultless playing on the descant recorder and this year we were enchanted by his very mature rendering of a Handel Sonata on the treble recorder. A relatively new resident of the village, Megan Hollingshead, played a tender and eloquent interpretation of Ernest Bloch's *Jewish Song* on the cello. Next, the audience was invited to join in the singing of an appropriate hymn – *For the music of creation* – before the choir, strings, and organist Patrick Rendell came together to treat us to familiar excerpts from Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. Patrick then played a Bach Fugue with his usual dexterity and flair before the strings, led by Rowan Patterson, played Purcell's *Abdelzer* suite with power, yet delicate sensitivity. It was magical, and demonstrated what fine players they are. At the end, the audience was invited to join in for the second chorus of the finale – *Oklahoma*, by Rogers and Hammerstein – but first we had to prove we could sing 'Yeeow!' with sufficient vivacity. Fortunately, we could, and a most entertaining evening reached its joyful conclusion. Although this wonderful concert was free, the retiring collection in aid of St Andrew's Church raised nearly £450.



Rotary raises £655 for 'Blood Bikes'

New President of the Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton, Roger Hampton and his wife Christine, recently organised a USA Independence Day evening in their garden in Curry Rivel, for Rotarians and friends.

Over 50 attended this event, enjoying American styles foods, desserts and a few beverages. Fund raising at this event also raised a fantastic £655 for 'Blood Bikes'.

'Blood Bikes' is an Emergency Voluntary Service that delivers urgent blood and medical supplies that save lives in the Somerset area.

The Rotary Club is committed to 'making a difference' in our local Community by supporting local clubs, organisations and individuals, as well as important International causes like Polio eradication.

To find out what Rotary does in the Langport & Somerton area the please go to....

www.langportandsomertonrotary.org/

Or please call Clive Sills on 01458 253558

Gleeful Glow worms in Curry Rivel

Catherine Mowat

Family event - We're looking for glow worms around Curry Rivel on Friday 11th August. Come and help us find them! Meet outside West Field play park at 8pm. Bring torches and stout footwear; children must be accompanied. We will split into groups, some walking a short distance on easy terrain, some further – up to 2 miles – who will explore steep uneven terrain. This will be in the dark, and people can choose their group.

As we travel in our cars at night with their glowing headlights, we fail to notice the little magical glow worm, shining about as bright as a hi-fi LED indicator. Yet we are fortunate to have these unusual beetles in our parish. The

adult female has glowing segments on her tail; she sits in open grassland and holds up her tail after dusk to attract a mate. She can't fly, and repeats this for several nights until a male – who can fly – flies in and mates with her. She then turns out her light, lays her eggs and dies. She is called a glow worm because she looks a bit like a caterpillar, with segments and no wings. The eggs hatch into larvae which spend two summers or so, feeding on snails which they paralyse before sucking them empty.

If you find a glow worm, admire it but do not disturb it and, most importantly, leave it where it is. There are very few about indeed, we need to let them get on with their life.

Sky Diving

Anna awoke early to a beautiful summer day. She felt peaceful and contented. Then, her stomach lurched into the realization that this was the day that she was to perform a tandem sky dive, a performance not chosen by her, but friends on the PCC.

"Friends"? She was terrified. She had agreed to climb to 15,000 feet in a tiny aeroplane [with a bunch of other terrified men and women] and then just jump; free fall to 6,000 feet, then the parachute opens, and one drifts happily downwards, admiring the Somerset and Devon countryside on the way.

The purpose of this madness was to raise much needed funds towards the upkeep of the ancient church of St Catherine's, Swell. Presently the path to the beautiful Norman porch is a little precarious, the blue lias stone is shaved and uneven, and the required replacement, under the watchful eye of the Church Architect, will be costly. The East window is also in danger of further deterioration. Anna Rees is Churchwarden at St Catherine's, and along with a tiny band of supporters from the Pitt Court community, as well as some from Swell itself, keeps the church open.

Well, Anna and friends journeyed early that June Saturday to the delightful airfield of Dunkerswell, high up in the hills. They accompanied her to the briefing (wind speeds, aeroplane speed, height, when and how to jump) and then it was time for her to go up into the blue, blue heavens. Then the jump. We watched Anna's yellow and black parachute come nearer and nearer.....a little spin to impress on the way....and then a perfect landing, on target with her

capable and comforting "buddy". As always, Anna looked elegant and composedand still smiling.



Over the years those from other villages have chosen to be buried in the churchyard, be baptized, and wed for reasons of St Catherine's beauty, peace, and history; people travel from far and wide to experience this spiritual haven. We need to keep it thus.

So far, Anna has raised more than £1000.00. The lines are still open if you would like to help! Please contact Anna on: 01458 253 067

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St. Andrew's Church



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

August

Thursday 3rd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 6th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 **CR** - Evening Worship

Tuesday 8th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Sunday 13th

10.00 **SW** - United Benefice

Family Holy Communion

CW

Sunday 20th

10.00 **CR** - United Benefice

Family Holy Communion

CW

Tuesday 22nd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Sunday 27th

10.00 **FH** - United Benefice

Family Holy Communion

CW

Tuesday 29th

2.45 Immacolata House -

Residents' Holy Communion

Thursday 31st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

September

Sunday 3rd

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 **CR** - Evening Prayer

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

From St. Andrew's Registers

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

27th June - A celebration for the life of
Mrs Margaret Chadbourne
(† 21st June)

Scott's spot

You shall!



There are times when being a parent feels like you're constantly nagging, forever saying no. 'Don't do that!' 'Stop it!' 'Leave it alone!' The same, sadly, is the impression that some people have about the Church and Christianity. Some see the Christian faith as being all about what you **can't** do; a view perhaps reinforced by those posters you sometimes see outside churches, starkly proclaiming "*The wages of sin is death*" or some other equally cheery message! Undeniably, there is a negative element in the Bible, not least when it comes to the majority of the 10 Commandments with their repeated opening: "*Thou shalt not...*"

The fact remains that we **are** all called to take seriously the loving warnings we find within its pages. This, however, is far from the whole story.

In the reception area of our church primary school you will find these words by Jesus (John chapter 10 verse 10): '*I have come so that you shall have life, and have it to the full*' – these words form part of the 'Christian ethos' that undergirds our school's approach to education.

But as we hear Jesus saying 'you shall', we see that actually, in balance to the negative commandments and as a challenge to those who view Christianity as such, Jesus brings a message of great positivity. Time and again it is the same story: you *shall* have, you *shall* know, you *shall* find – the blind shall see, the lame walk, the imprisoned be set free, the pure in heart see God, the hungry and thirsty be satisfied, and so on.

Never think that being a Christian is about what you *can't* do, still less give that impression to others. Above all, it is about what you **can** do. It's about the infinite possibilities that the love, forgiveness, and guiding strength of Christ opens up. First and foremost Christianity is about the sheer potential of life lived in partnership with the one who made us. You shall!

With prayer and summer blessings to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott Patterson

CHURCH FETE - Many Thanks !

The Rector of St. Andrew's Church, the PCC and the 2017 Fete Coordinators wish to thank all who came to the Green on Saturday 8th July. We hope that you all enjoyed the splendid weather and lovely occasion of a traditional village fete. A grand total of just over £ 3,100 was raised.

Also, a sincere thank you to all who helped on a stall, to the Guides who provided the teas and refreshments in the Old School Room, to the members of St. Andrew's Flower Guild who again decorated the church so beautifully, and all those individuals or businesses who generously donated money or items for stalls or as prizes for the tombola.

More about the fete elsewhere in this month's edition of the CRN.

Drop-In

Please note that during the summer Drop-In continues as usual on every **2nd and 4th Tuesday** from

10.30 - 12.00, in the Old School Room
(see diary in left column).

Take a break from your busy morning ☕ and join us for coffee, home-made cakes and a friendly chat.



All ages very welcome.

St. Andrew's Rotas August

Brass - Jackie de Ronde

Flowers

5th & 12th - Margaret Davey

19th & 26th - Angela Cole

Church cleaning

5th - Liz Rendell

12th - Jackie & John de Ronde

19th - Nicky Barker

26th - Lynne Comley



Peppard S

Funeral Directors

Chapel of
Rest
Townsend
Curry Rivel



Bow House
Bow Street
Langport

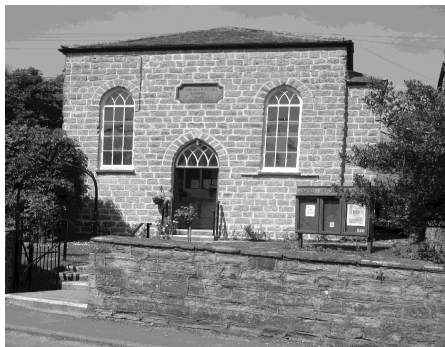
01458 252505

Memorial Masonry Service



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

United Reformed Church



August

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 6th - Rev Tim Richards

incl. Holy Communion

Sunday 13th - Uniting with Langport
URC, Bow Street

Sunday 20th - Mr Barry Bryer

Sunday 27th - Rev Rowena Francis

Services are always followed by tea/coffee, providing us with the opportunity to talk with each other and the service leader. We are a small outward looking group and welcome you wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey regardless of age, gender, race, abilities, sexual orientation or denominational background.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799

ADVANCE NOTICE of DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Festival Celebrations at the URC will take place over the weekend of **Saturday 30th September & Sunday 1st October**: further details in next month's CRN.

This year's Dickensian **Christmas Craft Fair** organised by the URC will take place on **Saturday 11th November** in the Robert Sewers Hall - open to the public between 11 am & 3 pm.

N.B. there will not be a Craft Fair in 2018.

From Revd. Tim Richards, United Reformed Church.

Leviticus 19. 9-10.

"When you reap the harvest of your land,

You shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard;

you shall leave them for the poor and the alien.

I am the Lord your God."

Recent headlines in the papers speak of the crisis that the health service might find itself in if the proposed changes to allowing people from other countries to settle in this country becomes law. The obvious reason being we rely on overseas staff in all positions from the jobs that others do not wish to do, (too badly paid? too little status?) to the highly skilled and specific medical disciplines that there are clearly a shortage of qualified people from the UK to fill.

But there is more at issue than the admittedly important task of ensuring we have enough people to enable our overstretched health service to continue to serve us in the amazing way it currently does.

There is more than self-interest that ought to be in our minds and hearts when we hear yet another politician raising the stakes in some debate or other by playing the immigration trump card.

And what of the increase in those who set out on desperate journeys seeking a better life in 'The West'

Of course the question of resources, homes, food, school places, is important but never forget that despite the recession and despite the personal plight of individuals that may be known to you, or may even be you, this remains one of the richest countries in the world and our wealth was built on exploiting other nations over many years, and even though that may seem to be 'ancient history', the reverberations continue across the years.

Letter from Rev Richards ctd . . .

What would you do in similar circumstances - would you say to your family, well this is our lot, that's it, or would you take the opportunity, any opportunity, to give those you love a chance at a more fulfilled life?

And if none of those arguments convince you then I would ask you to think about our common humanity, do we really believe that our Christian faith leads us to a place where it is ok to say, well we don't want to make any changes in our lifestyle if it means that someone else may have a chance of a better life?

There is no them and us, there is only us, *humanity*, and if we do not find compassion and a positive way to manage the aspirations of those who recognise all this country has to offer then we are the poorer for it and we have to ask ourselves what we think we mean by claiming the label of Christian?

The call to follow the way of Christ is a difficult one, it often calls us out of our comfort zones, it demands more of us than we sometimes feel we can offer, these are not mere words, I know it myself.

The ancient stories of our faith are littered with exhortations to look after those who are seeking a better life, and life and the kingdom has to be understood as being about building that on earth and not resorting to the old argument of waiting until eternal life before we find justice.

Your friend,

Tim.

July saw the last Sunday School in the format we have known it for the past number of years. To mark the occasion, age-appropriate Bibles were presented to the children and a BIG thank you expressed to Jenny & Tony Potts for the time, energy and commitment they have put into creating 'learning of faith' experiences for our attendees.

We plan to put in place creative & explorative church experiences which are all-age orientated moving forward.



In August

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
10.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
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

6.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
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

Tues	01	14.30	Forget Me Not Memory Café	VH
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Your Community Website curryrivel.org.uk
Curry Rivel - Above the Levels

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	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
Dancing Classes	07730 755203
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
Churchwarden	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