



DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



District Councillor's Report

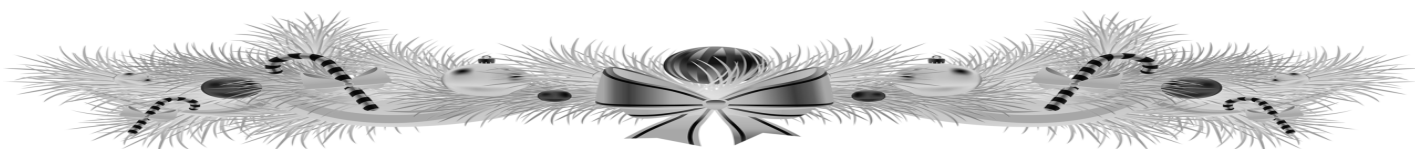
Tiffany Osborne

South Somerset District Council's Area North, to which Curry Rivel and Drayton both belong, now has its own Twitter feed. So if you run a group or club and would like to promote any activities, upcoming events, news, recruit volunteers or just highlight what you do please email the Area North team on areanorth@southsomerset.gov.uk with the information and they will happily tweet it out for you. Don't forget to send a photo too. You can view the latest updates on <https://twitter.com/areanorthdev>. South Somerset has around 14 other Twitter accounts plus Facebook and Instagram which form part of their Social Media policy so use them and promote the good work you are doing in our village.

After 'significant consultation' SSDC has finally announced the name and logo for Yeovil's newest entertainment venue. It would seem that after exploring different options the

'overwhelming public desire' was to retain the name Westlands as well as basically the same logo, apparently inspired by the former AgustaWestland logo. So, all in all, a lot of work for not much change. The Westlands site will be known as the Westlands Entertainment Venue and Westlands Sports and Fitness Centre. Opening of the Sports and Fitness Centre is scheduled for 3rd January 2017 whilst the Entertainment Venue will open in late March 2017. There will be capacity for 850 theatre style seats and standing capacity for over 1,000. Early events confirmed include screenings from The Royal Opera House of 'The Sleeping Beauty' ballet and German comedian star Henning Wehn, star of 'QI' and 'Would I Lie To You'.

Finally, The Bell Hotel has come up for auction again. At the time of going to print it is unknown whether it has sold, but there were a few interested parties viewing the site and with SSDC keen to work with any potential buyer it is hoped a successful outcome will be achieved.



Parish Council Shorts

Madelaine King-Oakley

Did you know?

You can pick up repeat prescriptions at the Post Office/ Petrol Station? When you fill in your online request, type in that you would like to pick them up in Curry Rivel and the pharmacy will pop them in the box that will be delivered to the Post Office on the following Tuesday or Friday. There is also a free bus to the surgery every week. Why not talk to the doctor's receptionist if you might find this useful?

When you walk around the village with your dog and you **pick up the dog's deposits** you can **put it one of the many litter bins** around the village.

Our meetings: Your Parish Council meets on the 1st Thursday of each month (unless there is an election or it's a bank holiday, when we meet the following week) starting at 7:30pm in the village hall. You are most welcome to attend.

All the councillors work hard on your behalf to get the best value for money on projects in the village. We can look forward to seeing more flowers this summer for the South West in Bloom competition. There will be new play equipment installed at Westfield in the spring.

New people in the village have told me that that this is a lovely village, that they have felt so welcome and there are many things for them to do. Therefore, I would like to wish everyone in this lovely village a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year.



Deadlines for January Edition

Advertising:	5pm Thursday 1 December
Send to:	crnadverts@btinternet.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Tuesday 6 December
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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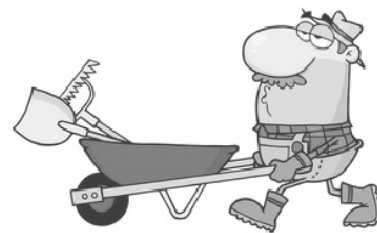
So nearly goodbye to 2016 and the end of another year! Another record year for overall global temperatures and looking back on this balmy November day it seems we have had a very mild autumn and dry, if not especially hot summer. This does mean that our plants are still under attack from disease and pests that cold weather would have controlled. So although gardeners are allowed a temporary stop to work over Christmas, that's not to say that there isn't plenty we can be getting on with! Cleanliness in the garden is more important than ever in this warmer world; pot washing is not one of our favourite jobs but is essential to prevent disease if you reuse pots as we do. Keep clearing away dead plant material and turn your compost regularly to work in moisture and speed up decay. This year there will probably still be some leaves to gather up in December - at the time of writing we still have several deciduous trees in leaf. Dig fully degraded compost into the soil as soon as possible or spread as a surface covering. Keep sowing winter broad beans and peas until Christmas, 'Aquadulce Claudia' is a fully hardy broad bean and peas like 'Feltham First' and 'Douce Provence' are hardy but best started under protection (glass cloches if possible) as rodents love them. There's lots of planning to do and seeds to be bought but don't try to push plants in greenhouses on by increasing the temperature as the lack of light this month will result in soft, sappy growth. Plants for flowering at Christmas need watering and warmth but keep plants that are not flowering fairly dry. This year we are trying to bring on some lily of the valley for Christmas Day.

Plant roses, shrubs, trees and lily bulbs this month, again if the soil is not too wet and sticky, bare rooted if possible and not if a real winter cold spell is forecast. Do not plant trees and shrubs after Christmas unless you are prepared to put a lot of water on them during the spring and summer. Our dry microclimate here makes establishing trees and shrubs tricky. Keep an eye on them after a frost and re-firm them in if the frost has loosened them. It's also a good time to plant

heathers and to lightly trim established ones that have finished flowering. Beds with bulbs may need hoeing to control weeds. Finally folk lore dictates you should plant onion seed on the shortest day of the year - so far, our results have been good!

If we do get a cold snap remember to keep a small area of your pond free of ice to allow gases to escape - standing a can of boiling water on the surface in the morning works well and an old trick of floating a football in the pond can prevent too much ice pressure on the sides-the hydraulic force exerted by expanding water/ice is enormous. In really cold weather delicate plants will need protection - this includes herbs such as rosemary, bay and marjoram.

It is often thought that this is a bleak month in the garden but it can actually be far from this - hyacinths, narcissi such as 'Paper White' and 'Soleil d'Or', heathers, jasmine, skimmia japonica, chrysanth, cyclamen, some primulas - just a few of the plants that will be in flower this month, and then there's those with beautiful coloured berries - our pyracantha hedge has been wonderful but the birds are now seeing it as a food source. Still, we don't begrudge them a meal and that's another thing - don't forget some food for the birds in your garden this month!



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Curry Rivel in Bloom News



War Memorial garden

Now that the 2016 Remembrance Sunday service at the memorial has passed we have started work on the garden around the memorial with the challenge of making it look good for the Britain in Bloom judging next July, the 2017 Remembrance service and then also in the long term!

Most of the shrubs in the garden are very old and very much past their best. We are intending to dig out what we can and save them if possible; we are also taking lots of cuttings from them so we will have some continuity with the old in the new permanent planting. By the time you read this the garden will be looking rather empty but we hope you will be impressed with the short-term planting scheme that will take shape during the Spring of 2017. Next Autumn will see the start of the long-term planting getting underway.

Elsewhere...

In other parts of the village plans are hatching and we are delighted with the efforts people are making to plan a purple and gold themed area in their front gardens, tubs or on a patch of land they have identified to cheer up. If you are not already involved, please have a think about what you can do for our village entry. Remember our website has some suggestions of plants

in these colours and that there will also be an opportunity in the spring to buy some of the excess plants from those being grown for our High Street display. The other thing not to forget is that the judges are also looking for community involvement and environmental awareness, so helping to keep your area of the village free of rubbish and taking measures to encourage wildlife assists in both these areas. Please let us know what you are doing and do make contact if you need any help or advice.

Lastly, we are still looking for some large and unusual containers to plant and place as groups around the village so if you have a container to lend /donate please let us know. We can be contacted via the website: curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com or tel. 01458 250091 or email smgoodenough@aol.com.

Speedwatch October Results

Date October	Location	Start (All Sessions 1 hour)	Total Vehicles	Good drivers	Number of Speeders
4th	Churchway	7.00am	414	95.2%	20
7th	Hi St "Spirales"	12 Noon	391	99.2%	3
12th	East of Shell garage	9.00am	448	99.8%	1
13th	Townsend	3.00pm	450	97.3%	12
17th	Little Straddles (Rec.)	7.00am	415	98.6%	6
18th	Stanchester House. - A378	11.00am	388	99.2%	3
26th	Townsend	7.00am	398	98.5%	6
28th	Churchway	5.00pm	535	97.8%	12
<p>Nearly Perfect on the 12th Anybody who would like to help keeping Curry Rivel safer (It's only an hour each month) please contact Robert Crowley 01458 259434</p>					

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Langport & District History Society

History of the Dodgems

Barry Winetrobe

The November meeting of the LDHS, in Langport Library, featured an illustrated talk by Kay Townsend on the history of dodgems.

She began by describing her family's history in funfairs, and the books she has written about this life. She then outlined the pre-history of dodgems, in part through illustrations of their patented designs, including the invention of a motorised tricycle by an American, James Adair, in 1890, and the gradual appearance of vehicles resembling what would later be regarded as dodgems.

The breakthrough came in 1920 in America, with the first recognisable dodgem car, by entrepreneurs who formed the Dodgem Corporation to patent and produce them. The name 'dodgem' had no special significance, but it became the generic term for such funfair vehicles.

Kay explained how their popularity quickly spread around the world, and how they arrived in the UK, first in Blackpool in 1921, and then a few years later, brought in by Billy Butlin, who became an agent for the Dodgem Corporation.

Variations began to be made in the UK and continental Europe by many different manufacturers, with improvements such as the adoption of fibreglass chassis, aluminium tracks, and rubber bumpers (both on the cars, and on the walls of the track). Some more esoteric themed cars, such as ones with animal shapes, were devised, but few were successful. In the postwar era, many of the traditional manufacturers of cars and tracks in the UK (such as Orton & Spooner of Burton on Trent; Whittakers of Lancashire and Supercar of Coventry), Europe and USA went out of business. The next meeting of the Society will be the annual social event, this year at Midelnay Manor, which has now sold out. The first meeting of 2017 will be on Monday 9 January when the ever-popular Peter Stanier will speak on England's richest historical landscape: Minions Moor, Cornwall. It is free to members (annual membership is £12); non-members are welcome, admission £2; refreshments available. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com). Follow the History Society at @langporthisory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langportheritage/home>.



Mary Hancock,
Operations Director, Somerset Community Foundation

Expecting your Winter Fuel Payment? Don't need it? Donate it! Surviving Winter is an award-winning campaign that encourages people to donate some, or all of their unwanted Winter Fuel Payments to other people in their communities who need it most. A Surviving Winter grant doesn't just pay for extra heating. It's hand delivered by one of our small number of trusted local partners, like Citizens Advice South Somerset. A Surviving Winter grant becomes the foundation for a new relationship that can help overcome the isolation and loneliness that many older

people experience. With the support of over 300 donors, Somerset Community Foundation was able to provide vital grants to 390 older people to help them through last winter. Please help us grow this campaign to reach every isolated and vulnerable household in the county.

To find out more about Surviving Winter, please visit: <http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter>. To donate some or all of your Winter Fuel Payment, please send a cheque made out to Somerset Community Foundation (SW written on the back), Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN. You can also donate online or call 01749 344949. Gift Aid forms are also available to download on the website. Thank you for making a difference to an elderly person in your community this winter!

The Curry Rivel News Group



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Happy Christmas



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Langport Community Christmas Lunch



Following the successful Christmas lunches which have been organised for the last two years and much enjoyed by all, we are happy to announce that we are able to do the same this year.

We are organising lunch on 25th December at Huish Episcopi Academy for anyone who may be spending Christmas Day on their own. We can offer you good company and a traditional Christmas lunch. The event is free but places must be booked by Friday 16 December so that we can organise catering. Transport will be available if you need it – just let us know.

If you would like to book a place for yourself, or you are aware of anybody who would like to join us, please get in touch. We are a small group of local folk who would love to spend Christmas Day with you. Last year was great fun, so contact us now !

Depending on numbers, we may need some extra help this year, either beforehand or on the day – do let us know if you are available and willing.

Please contact Jo Stradling: 01458 252388 or jostrads@yahoo.com

Movies in the Village Hall

mvhcurry.wix.com/films

A very happy Christmas to all our supporters!

As we know many of you will be very busy in the run up to Christmas we have decided not to have a movie screening in our Village Hall in December.

We'll be back in the new year with a

fresh run of films and an exciting new offer.

A big "thank you" to all of you who have supported Movies in the Village Hall during 2016 and we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday revised refuse and recycling collection days

Usual collection day Revised collection day

Monday 19 December

No change

Monday 26 December

Tuesday 27 December

Monday 2 January

Tuesday 3 January

Monday 9 January

Usual collections resume

There are no garden waste collections in the two weeks following Christmas.



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'The Barbers at Coopers Cross'

welcome new barber.

New barber, Sharon moved to the village five years ago from Taunton, where she trained and qualified as a ladies' and gents' stylist in 1995. In her twenty years as a stylist, Sharon has worked in a variety of establishments, attaining a wealth of experience in the art of hairdressing, including haircare and product knowledge. Keeping up with current trends and new techniques has always been important to her. These skills enable Sharon to bring the quality of a 'cut in town' to our community, but at an affordable price. Although this busy barber shop is exclusive to walk-ins for men during daytime hours, we are pleased to

announce that Sharon is keen to utilise her skills as a ladies' stylist too. Therefore, the salon will be open for ladies on a Wednesday evening, by prior appointment, for cuts, blow dries and colour. So come on in and meet Sharon to discuss a new look or to make an appointment. She looks forward to offering a warm welcome, and is committed to providing a reliable and excellent service to people of all ages.



Alzheimer's Society

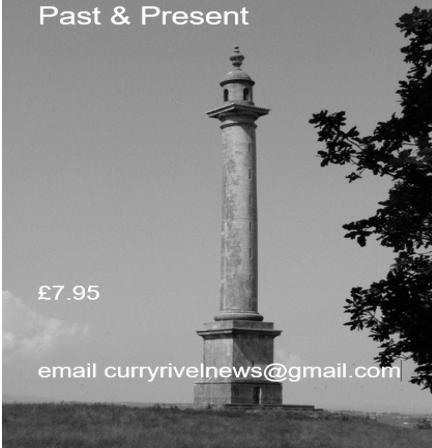
offer help, advice and Christmas cheer

Staff from Alzheimer's Society would like to welcome people to their Christmas coffee morning on Thursday 8 December between 10-12noon at Langport Town Hall. Staff

from the charity's Somerset team will be on hand with information and advice about dementia. There will be the opportunity to purchase handmade Christmas crafts and enjoy a mince pie too! A Dementia Friends session will take place between 11-12noon offering people the chance to gain a better understanding of dementia. For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society's Langport office on 01458 251 541.



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The Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton

£1000 raised for 'bibic'

Roger Hampton

In the last few weeks the local Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton have raised £1000 to buy equipment for the locally based, charity 'bibic' who work with children and young people with diagnosed or undiagnosed difficulties that affect their development. At the end of October, a Barn Dance was held in the village hall, and a fantastic sum of £675 was raised. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this great evening.

In early November Rotary held another fund-raising event where after a lovely meal at the Langport Arms Hotel, our local MP David Warburton entertained the 60 guests with a talk about being an MP, and about his life before entering Westminster. At this non-political event another £325 was raised, which has allowed Rotary to donate £1000.



Purple4Polio

The Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton has planted over 6000 purple crocus corms in the area, with over 500 being planted in Curry Rivel. Across the UK over 6 million crocus corms are being planted.

The crocuses in the village have been planted on the grassed area opposite the war memorial, and should be in flower towards the end of February next year.

Why have these crocuses been planted?

Well, Rotary's charity is called the Rotary Foundation, and next February will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. In the last thirty years, the Foundation has funded vaccinating children around the world against polio, with the aim of eventually eradicating this serious viral infection. Thirty years ago, polio was prevalent in over 125 countries around the world. Now in 2016 polio exists only in three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria), and so far, this year there have only been twenty-six cases of

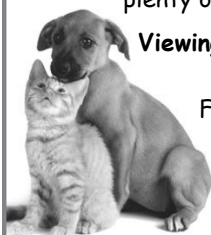
polio reported worldwide. To date over 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated around the world.

When a child has been vaccinated their 'pinkie finger' is marked with purple dye to indicate which child has been vaccinated. To mark the anniversary, and the progress made in eradicating polio, purple crocuses are being planted.

Rotary are working in partnership with The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which adds £2 to every £1 raised by Rotary. It only costs 20p to vaccinate a child.

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Curry Rivel W.I.

Christmas Flowers and Cheddar Chocolate

Christmas was on the agenda at our November meeting! Our speaker was Angela from Cottage Flowers in Ilminster and she showed us how to make not only a Christmas wreath for the front door using foliage from the garden but also a couple of table decorations as well. Angela has the knack of being able to talk constantly while she puts together a beautiful arrangement and she kept us thoroughly entertained with hilarious tales of her family life. Most of our outings in December are Christmas related with

a Carol Service for the County at Wells Cathedral and a smaller one at Burrowbridge with our local W.I. friends. We're booked into the Bird in Hand in North Curry for a special Christmas lunch and although it's not strictly a Christmas event we hope to visit the Cheddar Chocolate Factory where we will have the chance to make our own chocolatey Christmas gift.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th December in the Village Hall and our speaker will be Grace Dives who will lead a 'Christmas singalong with a difference'. Why not come along and join in, 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

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2016

Evelyn Leckie
Honorary Poppy Organiser
for Curry Rivel Drayton & Fivehead

This is my last year as Poppy Appeal Organiser for Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead, and I am delighted to be able to say that here in Curry Rivel it has been as successful as ever, and we have raised £2040. My grateful thanks go to everyone in the village who has supported the Appeal so generously and enthusiastically.

As always a special mention goes to the shops and businesses, the school and the church, but above all to the

door to door collectors. Several people responded to my recent appeal in the Curry Rivel News for new collectors and have joined the team, but, sadly, this year we will be losing two of our longest serving members. Sheila Harding has collected for over forty years, and Geoff Geater (now closing in on 90) for nineteen years. Between them over the years they have collected many thousands of pounds, and our special thanks and good wishes go to both of them. My successor will be Susie Potter, and I am sure that you will give as much support and enthusiasm to her as you have all given to me. Thank you all very much.

Would you know what to do in an EMERGENCY?

David Gibson

Don't forget the first of the Resuscitation Training evenings is on Monday 5 December at 7.00pm in the URC Hall which is open to all and is free! There will be a demonstration on resuscitation including use of the defibrillator and question time with a qualified trainer from First Response. If you are unable to attend but would like training, look out for further session dates in the new year.

THE BARBERS AT COOPERS CROSS

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Saturday 24th December—9 am to 2 pm
Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th December - Closed
Saturday 31st December—9 am to 2 pm
Tuesday 3rd January—Normal hours resume

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Prosperous New Year.

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Christmas Recipe

Lamb's Wool is a warming, long drink combining ale or cider with apple purée and spices.

It was a traditional wassail drink which may have its origins in pre-Christian times. To make it, according to a recipe from the Royal kitchen of 1633, *boil three pints of ale; beat six eggs together; set both to the fire in a pewter pot; add roasted apples, sugar, beaten nutmegs, cloves and ginger and being well brewed, drink it while hot.* The 'roasted crabs' in Shakespeare's poem are a reference to the roasted crab apples used in making this drink.

Here's a modern recipe to try.

Makes 4 small glasses

Ingredients

500ml cider or ale

For the syrup

200g granulated sugar

200ml water

8 cloves

2cm of a cinnamon stick

For the apple purée

500g bramley apples, peeled, cored and roughly chopped

A good pinch of grated nutmeg

1tbsp finely grated root ginger

120g Demerara sugar

First, make the sugar syrup. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes; remove from the heat and cool. Then place all the ingredients for the apple purée in a thick-bottomed saucepan and cook on a low heat with a lid on for 6-7 minutes, stirring every so often until the apples have disintegrated. Remove from the heat; blend in a food processor until smooth.

To serve, strain the syrup through a fine-meshed sieve, gently heat the beer or cider and whisk in the syrup and apple purée to taste; serve in a pewter or silver tankard.

Winter by William Shakespeare

When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When Blood is nipped and ways be foul,

Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,

And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

Village Hall Big Breakfast and 200 Club

The Christmas Draw for the Curry Rivel Village Hall 200 Club will be made at the Big Breakfast on Sunday 18 December which starts at 8.30am till 1.00pm. Come along and enjoy a hearty breakfast amongst friends and neighbours. The Big Breakfast this year is sponsored by "debbie&andrew's – a real taste of the country" Units for the 200 Club can be bought from the promoter Mrs Myfanwy Ashton tel: 01458 251877

The cost of each unit is £10 per year and this entitles the unit to be included in two half-yearly draws. 50% of the money collected will be returned as prize money and 50% is for improvements and repairs to the Village Hall. There are thirteen prizes in total.

Painter & Decorator

01458 250005

Free Estimates

John Monaghan



Peppard S

Funeral Directors

Chapel of Rest
Townsend
Curry Rivel



Bow House
Bow Street
Langport

01458 252505

Memorial Masonry Service



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Christmas Turkeys and Geese

Want to order your Christmas Dinner from a local friendly smallholding?

We have had fabulous feedback from people who bought turkeys and geese from us for the last 2 years. Our turkeys are heritage breed Norfolk Bronze or Norfolk Blacks (£9.50 per kg), and our geese are Embdens (£10 per kg). These breeds are known for their excellent flavour and texture, and this, along with a life on our smallholding where the birds roam freely in our orchard and grass paddocks, makes for a delicious bird perfect for Christmas dinner!!

We also have sausages, bacon, joints of pork, joints of lamb and large chickens available frozen over Christmas, so if turkey or goose isn't your thing, we could still provide your Christmas dinner!

Please email: oldhealesmallholding@gmail.com
or call **01458 253111** or **07801 367770** and ask for Simon or Jane. We will be happy to help.

Old Heale
Smallholding



Where's Ed To ?

Ed Pratt, ex photographer for the Curry Rivel News, set off in March last year on his 18,000 mile World Unicycle Tour; if successful Ed will be the first person ever to officially circumnavigate the globe on one wheel. He is also raising money and awareness for the local charity School in a Bag.

Ed had a break from cycling in October when he went by train to Hong Kong to meet up with his parents. Whilst there he spent some money on replacement camping gear and time on seeking out spare parts for unicycles. Inevitably he met up with other unicycle enthusiasts and in between doing the tourist sights of Hong Kong he rode out with ten other 'one-wheeled fanatics'.

On his return to Lanzhou in China he met up with another cyclist who is also cycling around the world, albeit on two wheels, and planned the next part of their journey over some of the highest and coldest mountains either of them have experienced - 33,000m of elevation over 1000km which will take them to Chengdu, the home to the famous Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

Ed and his companion, Will Hodson aka 'SuperCyclingMan' have been riding through an area of China that up until sixty years ago was part of Tibet. They've cycled past numerous monasteries and decided to stop at the one in the photo for

a quick game of basketball with the young monks.

November in this part of China is pretty cold and darkness falls by 7.00 pm. Ed describes what it's like camping on this section of his journey.

'Camping here on China's G213 has become a chilly affair, but what exactly did we expect in November at an altitude of 2500m? Dealing with the nights hasn't been too bad, but the mornings have been tough. Frosty tents, frozen water bottles and numb feet have been the call of the day recently when waking up'.

Quite where Ed will find himself on Christmas Day is dependent on weather, energy and his unicycle. But it's likely he will be in or near Chengdu on his 21st birthday on 8 December – anyone wishing to send him birthday congratulations can do so via email worldunicycletour@gmail.com. From all of us on the Curry Rivel News have a great birthday Ed and a very happy Christmas!



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curryrivelpriamry.somerset.org.uk

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7.45 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
50 weeks a year

Located within
Curry Rivel Primary School

For more details telephone
01458 252822

The History of Christmas DinnerLaurina Deacon

It is estimated that this Christmas Day 76% of families will serve up a succulent roast turkey, last year 10 million turkeys were sold. But how much has the meal that we sit down to on 25th December changed over the centuries?

Getting together to eat a meal at Christmas has always been a big event, the festive season in the Middle Ages was a time of excess and included a twelve-day period of feasting. In great houses boars head was the main dish, garnished with rosemary and bay leaves and an apple or orange stuck in the mouth. Roasted swan, peacock, pheasant and even bustard, a huge bird of grassland habitat which became extinct in Britain in the mid nineteenth century, featured on the medieval Christmas menu as did the more common goose. It became common for the wealthy to have three different birds roasted inside each other and this became known as Christmas Pie. Venison was a popular alternative, although the poor were not allowed to eat the best cuts of meat. However, the Christmas spirit might entice a Lord to donate the unwanted parts of the family's Christmas deer, the offal, which was known as the 'umbles'. To make the meat go further it was often mixed with other ingredients to make a pie, in this case the poor would be eating 'umble pie' along with bread and ale. The mince pie also has its origins in the 14th century. It was originally baked in rectangular cases which represented the infant Jesus' crib and was filled with a variety of shredded meat to which cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg were added to symbolise the gifts bestowed by the three wise men. It

was only as recently as the Victorian era that the recipe was amended to include only spices and fruit.

The Tudors were eating boar's head and Christmas pie and roast beef started to appear on the menu. The turkey was imported from Mexico, where it was discovered by European invaders and first appeared at Christmas in 1527 when it is said that Henry VIII was the first English king to enjoy turkey (amongst many other things judging by his girth)! but it was just one feast bird among many people might buy. The eating of sugar, marzipan and ornate moulded foods at Christmas became more common. The fore runner of traditional Christmas pudding - plum porridge or pottage became fashionable, the main ingredients of which were raisins, spices, breadcrumbs, wine and fruit juice.

The Georgians dined on leg of pork, beef and game. Goose remained a popular choice for the majority and by this period the plum porridge had hardened into the type of Christmas pudding we know now. By the Edwardian period, at the start of the 20th century, those that had some wealth served roast beef, mince pies, plum pudding. Edward VII made eating turkey fashionable at Christmas, but goose ruled on the Christmas table right up until the 1950's when refrigerators became commonplace and turkeys ceased to be a luxury.

Whatever you have chosen to eat whether it's meat, fish, fowl or a veggie option – ENJOY!

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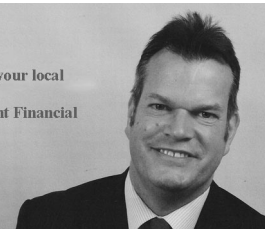
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In December

Regular Events

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

Special Events

Fri	2	7.00	Carols, Bangers & Mash	VH
Mon	5	7.00	Resuscitation training	URC Hall
Sun	18	8.30 - 1pm	Big Breakfast	VH

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

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

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Crickets Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251796
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	251689
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725

Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Youth Drama	251773

Community Facilities

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	0751 664 2704
Old School Room Bookings	250655
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Secretary	259434

Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500

Education

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

Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) m.ludgate@btinternet.com)	251432
District Council	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

Religious

Church of England Rector	251375
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwardens	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church Somerton	274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799

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

Curry Rivel -Above the Levels
your community website curryrivel.org.uk

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Editor	Laurina Deacon	251898
	curryrivelnews@gmail.com	
Assistant Editor	Jane Hamlin	252946
Advertising/Treasurer	Rob Atkins	253008
	crnadverts@btinternet.com	
	crntreasurer@btinternet.com	
Publisher	Mike Davis	252554
	crnpub@gmail.com	
Secretary	Angela Edwards	
Staff Photographer	Mike Mason	252076
Distribution	Jon Geary	259003
	curryrivelnews@gmail.com	
Church Pages	John de Ronde	251355
	johnderonde51@hotmail.com	

St. Andrew's Church



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

December

Thursday 1st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 4th - Advent 2

9.30 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

4.00 pm **CR** - Family Christingle

Thursday 8th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 11th - Advent 3

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club

6.00 pm **FH** Carol Service

Monday 12th

3.30-5.30 pm CR School Messy Church

Tuesday 13th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Wednesday 14th

2.30 pm **CR** CR School Carol Service

7.00 pm **SW** Carol Service by candlelight

Thursday 15th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 18th - Advent 4

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age/Family Service

6.00 pm **CR** - Carol Service

Monday 19th

7.00 pm **CR** - Carols on **The Green** & refreshments afterwards

Wednesday 21st

7.00 pm **FH** - Carols at the Crown Inn, Fivehead

Thursday 22nd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Saturday 24th - Christmas Eve

4.00 pm **CR** - Crib Service

4.00 pm **FH** - Crib Service

11.15 pm **FH** - Benefice Midnight Holy Communion

Sunday 25th - Christmas Day

8.30 **SW** - Christmas Family Communion BCP

10.30 **CR** - Christmas Family Communion CW

Thursday 29th

NO 10.30 Holy Communion BCP

Scott's spot



Over the course of this year our family have enjoyed reading and watching together the C.S. Lewis stories, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. During that time I've occasionally quoted from them in my talks at church, particularly from the 7th and final book *The Last Battle*. So I offer no apology for quoting from that book again – rather I would recommend you read the Narnia stories if you never have (or again if you have!).

Towards the end of the story, Prince Tirian is thrown into a stable in which enemy soldiers are hiding, intent on killing him. For reasons that become clear when you read the story, the stable turns out to be a gateway to a new world. Tirian finds himself standing in green meadows with High King Peter and Queen Lucy, and comments on how the stable seen from inside is different to how it looked on the outside.

"Yes," said High King Peter. "Its inside is bigger than its outside."

"Yes," said Queen Lucy, "In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."

January 2017

Sunday 1st

10.00 **FH** - United Benefice

All Age/Family Communion CW

ADVANCE NOTICE

In **January** the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays will see a different pattern of Services in the Benefice:

8th January Services will be as on 1st Sunday; 15th January Services as on 2nd Sunday; etc.

Details will be in the January issue of the CRN.

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

And there you have an amazing truth from the story of Christmas. In a bible passage that will form part of the carol services in each of our three Benefice churches (please see diary opposite), the Apostle John wrote of Jesus ('the Word'): ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*** (John chapter 1 verses 1-3).

If this is true (as Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ongoing personal and global influence seems to point to) then there can be nothing more important than the tiny baby in the stable who is in fact bigger than our whole world. The question is, do we recognise the difference this makes to, well, everything?

With every blessing to you and those you love this Christmas,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

Carol singing

Monday 19th December 7.00pm



This year's Carol singing will be on the **Village Green**. Please join us in singing the seasonal Carols, accompanied by

local musicians.

Refreshments (mulled wine & mince pies) will be served in the Church afterwards.

From St. Andrew's Registers

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

29 October - Interment of ashes in cemetery of Mrs Rosemary Leaf († 4th May)

St. Andrew's Rotas December

Brass - Sue Blackwell

Flowers

17th - Christmas arrangements

Cleaning

3rd - Liz Rendell

10th - Jackie & John de Ronde

17th - Nicky Barker

24th - Lynne Comley

31st - Lyn Cotteril



**'Carols, bangers and mash'
on Friday 2nd December
in the Village Hall**

When you receive this issue of the CRN this event will be almost upon us.

Last chance to buy tickets (£7.50) in Sandpit's DIY/Garden Centre, the Shell petrol station/Post Office, the CR School Office, or at the door on the evening. **Doors open at 7.00 pm.**

**Family Christingle Service
in St. Andrew's**

Sunday 4th December 4.00pm

All items to make a Christingle during the Service will be provided.



Drop-In at St. Andrew's OSR

Please note that Drop-In on **13th December** will be the **last time this year**. There will be 'a winter break' and Drop-In will resume on **14th February 2017**.

Update on the Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to all who gave a shoe box filled with lovely gifts to children and adults who otherwise would have nothing this Christmas.

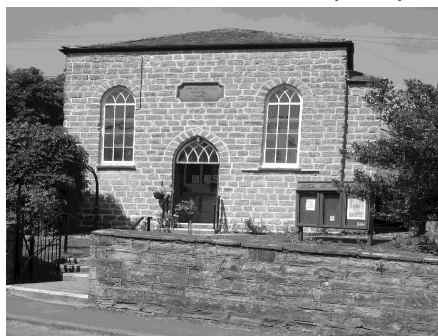
At the present time 40 boxes have gone from the village on their journey abroad and there will be more to come. A final total will be in next month's CRN.



First batch of shoe boxes ready for transportation to collection point.



United Reformed Church



December

(Services start at 10.30 am unless indicated otherwise)

Sunday 4th - Rev Tim Richards
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 11th - Led by the children

Sunday 18th - Mrs Jo Morling

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve

Gathering at 11.00pm for 11.15 Service

Rev Tim Richards

Sunday 25th - No service

January 2017

Sunday 1st - Service led by members of the congregation

We are an inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799



Co-operation



Very simple and very sweet. A woodwork project required more than one pair of hands and in the beginning when sorting out the logistics needed two heads! Being the creative sort and prone to 'my way is best' I'm not always good at co-operating on projects. But what joy and what satisfaction when in tandem and as a team we drew and jigsaw-ed and sandpapered to create a simple but oh so sweet 3D Christmas tree! Such pure delight is how we feel when our being, our true nature, is in alignment with our doing, our calling or our vocation if you like.

The friends and members of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church take this opportunity to wish the readers of the Curry Rivel News a blessed Christmas and warmly extend

**an Invitation to our
CHRISTMAS EVE Service**

T'was the night before Christmas
And all through Curry Rivel
Nothing stirred, awaiting the new
day's Arrival.
Then out from the houses, first one,
then another,
Came neighbours and strangers
greeting each other.
Leaving behind the slow roasting
turkey,
Last minute wrappings, trimmings and
jollity,
First locking the door then turning up
collar
Wending their way by torchlight and
moon
through the clear, cold night toward
the warm Chapel room.
To put to one side for the briefest of
moments
The business and planning which had
filled Advent time;
To sit in the candle light, gentle and
quiet,
Reflect on the simplicity of God now
incarnate.
To hear once again the story of old
That speaks of a Love bringing in from
the cold
The lonely, the lowly, the regal, the
crowd.
Space to refocus, time to retrieve
From the buying and selling, the
mulled wine forgetting,
The babe in the manger; God for us all.

When our nature and that of the Divine (God) overlap or synchronise; when we find ourselves purposefully in tune with the Universe (or God if you prefer). Life seems fuller and its meaning deeper somehow. In old language its finding and following God's will. And the blessedness of working together – satisfaction, achievement, pleasure – in co-operating with each other. Such positive energy is transformational; in both the small and the great things.

