



## ***Christmas shopping - started!***

*Photos by Mike Mason*

The warm and festive atmosphere at the Village Hall Christmas Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> November encouraged plenty of interest in the huge choice of hand-crafted items for sale. Shoppers found a fantastic range of beautifully made gifts including cards, hand painted boxes, polished wood, stained glass, jewellery, sewn and knitted items, beadwork



*Merry  
Christmas*

Despite the wintry weather the occasion was very well attended, and the visitors enjoyed music from the Benefice Singers and recorder group, who worked so hard they ran out of puff! Some in the hall were dressed in Dickensian costumes and enjoyed the delicious bacon butties that smelled divine making a great start to Christmas shopping. And let's not forget to thank all those who gave their time to organising this very successful fair so that we could start the season with such a lovely event.



# District Councillors' Report

Tiffany Osborne and Clare Paul

As we are sure you are aware our third election of the year has been called. Following on from the Local Elections and the European Elections in May we now have a General Election to look forward to on Thursday 12 December. Both of us now have to adhere to 'purdah' – a commonly used term to mean the period in the run-up to an election when the normal protocols and behaviours around general activity, and around publicity and communications in particular, become more restricted. As such, we have to suspend our normal article and subsequent District Council information until the outcome of the election.

Therefore we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2020.

## Come and see SANTA at the Christmas 'BIG BREAKFAST'

Roger Hampton

The Christmas BIG BREAKFAST will be held on Sunday 15th December, at the Village Hall, from 8.30am till 12.30pm.

There will be a special visit from SANTA, from 9.30am till 11.30am, and for a small charge, children can receive a fantastic gift.

Come along to this great Community event, and enjoy a freshly cooked Breakfast, with food provided by the 'Black Sheep Butchers'

See you there!!!!



## The lights are on in Chatham Place!

Sue Walsh



Roy Webb is proudly displaying his Christmas lights at 37 Chatham Place again this year in aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Pop along and take a look from the beginning of December until the New Year from 4.30pm to 9.30pm.

The views expressed in Curry Rivel News are those of the contributors and not those of the publisher. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the information supplied for inclusion in the publication is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information. We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations. By supplying material for publication, you are giving consent for its publication on the village community website.

The Curry Rivel News Group

Thank you to all our advertisers and distributors who have supported us during the year.

Happy Christmas



# Langport & District History Society Talk

## *Muchelney Abbey: Origins to Dissolution*

Janet Seaton

The Society's November meeting featured an illustrated talk on Muchelney Abbey, from its origins through to its dissolution in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, by Stephen Honey, who has worked for English Heritage there for over 15 years, and is currently its site manager.

Stephen began with a short video to introduce the Abbey's 'pre-history', when this country had various religions, and he then described how the Roman period saw a gradual assimilation of Roman religions, with its many deities, with the local ones, and then with the adoption over time by the Empire of Christianity from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. As Christianity took a more structured form in 'England' over the next two centuries, especially through the growth and influence of monasteries, the Saxon Church developed, and the earliest reference to Muchelney is said to be a grant of land to its first Abbot by King Ine of Wessex in 692.

The Abbey was gradually given more

lands around the upper Ile and Parrett near Ilminster, but mysteriously then disappeared from the written record for nearly 180 years, possibly through destruction or appropriation by the invading Danes. The creation of the Saxon Kingdom of England by Athelstan in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century marked the Abbey's revival, and he gave it more lands around Curry Rivel. This was a period of general monastic revival and reform and also the replacement of wooden church structures by more robust and ambitious stone buildings.

The Norman Conquest marked the next and very important development of the Church in England and at Muchelney Abbey (Muchelney was even mentioned in the Bayeux Tapestry). Muchelney's Domesday Book entry showed it to be a fairly wealthy property of 480 acres, valued at 720d (around £150,000-300,000 in today's money). The Normans greatly expanded the Abbey in size and architectural grandeur.

Over the centuries, there were periods when there were criticisms of the Abbey's lifestyle and lack of a true monastic spirit. As with the rest of the country (and Europe generally), it was badly affected by the Black Death in 1349, despite its apparent remoteness, even losing 2 abbots in one month. As the Abbey grew even more architecturally impressive, changes in the monastic structure were apparent with the creation of a separate residence for the Abbot.

The Abbey's demise came with Henry VIII's battles with the Pope and his Church. Though Abbot Thomas Ynde subscribed to Henry's position in this mighty struggle in 1535, it only delayed the inevitable, and it was shut down on 4 January 1538 and destroyed.

The Society's next meeting will be its annual Christmas Social, which will be at Hurd's Hill on 2 December. A finger buffet, tours of the house and a display of items from the Bagehot collection will be available. Members £10, non-members £15. Places must be booked in advance by contacting Anne Michell (01458 250863). Anyone interested in joining the History Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, [suzannestanden471@btinternet.com](mailto:suzannestanden471@btinternet.com)). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.

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# Movies in the Village Hall



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As we know, many of you will be very busy in the run up to Christmas, so we won't be having a movie screening in our Village Hall in December. We'll be back in the in the new year with a new programme of fabulous films. A big "thank you" to all of you who have supported Movies in the Village Hall during 2019 and we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

## SOMERTON U3A

Denise Clarke

There is no Somerton U3A monthly meeting in December as we have our Christmas lunch for members only. The next meeting will be on Friday 24 January when our speaker will be David Boag, wildlife photographer - more about him next month!

Monthly meetings normally take place on the fourth Friday of each month at the Edgar Community Hall, Somerton starting at 10am with coffee (50p) and chat. After any notices the main event begins at 10.30am and finishes by 12 noon latest. Meetings are free for members, visitors £2 each.



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# Curry Rivel Past & Present

...Makes a great stocking filler!

This fascinating **book** published by the Curry Rivel News Group in October 2014 draws together 155 photographs taken from the mid nineteenth century to 2014. Starting and finishing with the grand houses at each end of the village with images of the streets, houses, shops, churches and people going about their everyday lives between. Each 'old' photo is compared with a recent image of the same scene and charts the differences between 'now' and 'then', some major and others imperceptible. Interesting captions add historical context.

Originally sold at a special village price of £7.95 this excellent book is now available at a sale price of only £5. All proceeds from the sales will be made available in grant form to clubs, societies and institutions within the parish.

To get your copy contact the Curry Rivel News at [crng2019@gmail.com](mailto:crng2019@gmail.com) or pick up a copy in Living Pretty.

These photographs from the book show workers laying sewer pipes along High Street in 1938. How does it compare with recent work in our village?



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# Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

Chris Cox

**W**e now have tickets reserved for the Soul musical. The Commitments, in Bristol on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Good stalls seats at £50 including transport. Featuring Night Train, Try A Little Tenderness, River Deep, Mountain High, In the Midnight Hour, Papa Was a Rolling Stone, Save Me, Mustang Sally, I Heard It through the Grapevine, Thin Line between Love and Hate, Reach Out, Uptight, Knock on Wood, I Can't Turn You Loose and more! No wonder it sells out everywhere it goes.

Tickets for Les Miserables are selling fast. We go on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April plus a possible back-up trip on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. £85 (Premium), £70 (Band A stalls) and £62 (Band B stalls/ Grand Circle).

We Will Rock You (The Queen Musical) on Wednesday 18 March, £45/£58 is full but a second coach is a possibility with just a few more bookings.

Matthew Bourne's The Red Shoes. The date for this trip has changed and it is now on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at £61 and £39.

Carmen, Welsh National Opera's new production on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at £55.

The King & I London touring production. We plan an evening trip on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March and a matinee on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April. Mamma Mia, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, £49 and £61

All of these have a payment date in the New Year, but the sooner you reserve the better seats you will receive. There is no charge for cancellation until I have paid for the tickets.

Our coach goes from Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerton, then Street/Wells or Keinton Mandeville/Shepton Mallet depending on bookings. Payment is usually due about two months before the show date. Any profit is donated to charity.

For more details of all trips please visit [www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk](http://www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk), e-mail [coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com](mailto:coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com) or phone 01458 273085 for a brochure.

## Langport Community Christmas Lunch



**F**ollowing the successful Christmas lunches which have been organised for the last few 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 18 December so that we can organise catering. Transport will be available locally 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!

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Gina Beauchamp

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped with CRiB in any way for making our South West in Bloom entry so successful and winning Gold for the second time. To the committee who have worked hard to make sure that everything was in place, and still is looking good. To all our helpers and committee members who have dug, weeded, watered, planted, cut the grass, nurtured plants

and people, prepared lunches, picked up litter, made and built things and made sure things looked good. To all the villagers who have entered the Front Garden competition, residents and businesses who have put out floral displays to brighten the High Street, who have cut their grass and tidied up to make the village look amazing. To societies and individuals who have sponsored us. Last but not least thank you to the children in the village; the Brownies and Rainbows especially who have worked so hard on the allotment, to the school children who help with gardening Club and to our Young gardener of the Year. Children are our future and we are always pleased for them to be involved.

Thank you to you all, without your help and cooperation we couldn't have done this well. It is about the community involvement and cooperation that makes such a difference to the village and makes it a lovely place to live. Let's keep Curry Rivel looking good!

## Britain In Bloom Judges

We were judged in the National finals of Britain in Bloom back at the end of July by Denise James, secretary to South West in Bloom and Geraldine King, both national judges. Sadly, Denise was taken ill half way through the programme of judging the national village entrants and died at the end of September. She did so much for South West in Bloom and for her home town of Keynsham, and will be sadly missed.

## National Finals of Britain in Bloom

Five CRiB members attended a dinner and presentation at the RHS Linley Halls in Westminster on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Curry Rivel was awarded a Silver Gilt medal in the large village category. We were awarded gold for our community involvement and for our environmental responsibility. It was a shame to get silver gilt for the horticultural part as the events that caused us not to win gold were out of our hands. The wild flower meadow at Eastfield was cut the day before the national judges arrived, this is part of the meadow's cycle and we were surprised that they didn't appreciate this, also when visiting the school garden all the grass and wild flowers by the stream had been cut down by people replacing the fence panels. The railing planters looked sparse and needed more trailing plants. I wish they could have seen them in September and October when they looked amazing! In July it had been so hot that some of our trailing plants had been scorched by the sun and we had to cut them back to get rid of the frazzled parts. We did our best!

## CRiB Chair

At our AGM in November no one stepped forward to be the new Chair or Deputy chair. I have written a list of jobs that could be taken on by individuals to help lessen the load. Future meetings will be chaired by different members and someone different will take the minutes.



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# Forget Me Not Cafe Christmas Party

## Tuesday 17th December

The 'Forget Me Not' Cafe Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 17th December, at Curry Rivel Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm

The 'Forget Me Not' Cafe' is a great place to make friends, especially for those with memory challenges, and we would be delighted to see new faces at the Christmas Party.

It promises to be a great afternoon, with a Christmas buffet, fun, games and a visit by Father Christmas!!

For more information about the 'Forget Me Not' Cafe, or the Christmas Party, then please call Adrienne on 01458 252710 or Christine on 01458 741606

## Calling all Musicians!

The 'Forget Me Not' Cafe is looking for a musician (or musicians) who could spare half an hour a month, to provide music for a 'sing along' for this much valued community service.

The 'Forget Me Not' Cafe meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm till 4.30pm and is where friends meet especially for those with memory challenges. After some fun activities, the afternoon finishes with a much loved 'sing along'.



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# Four Men, Four Guitars

.....and a shed-load of talent!

Malcolm Cotterill

On 12<sup>th</sup> October the fabric of St Andrew's was unsettled. This was not by a hell-fire preacher: it is the Church of England after all. It was by the magic of the four guitars of Aquarelle who played with such intensity, skill and fervour that the audience could - with closed eyes – have believed it was in the presence of a fifty-piece orchestra. Every instrument was represented whether the exquisite delicacy of the woodwind, the bravura of the brass or the resonance of the percussion.

It goes without saying that the strings weren't neglected but these strings didn't twang. They sang!

They sang their way through Capriccio Espagnol, Australian opals, Brazilian dances, Balkan laments, a Scottish boat trip, Argentinian motor-bike rides and Spanish dances with the players' fingers at times no more than a blur and at others as dainty and delicate as those of a watchmaker. There was everything from joyful exuberance to heart-rending soulfulness. The versatility of the instruments in the care of such sensitive virtuosi left the audience demanding more and

more.

BBC Music Magazine expressed the view that their critic's experience was of "outstanding playing and infectious spirit" and "a luscious and lively winner". The audience on that Saturday night in Curry Rivel would have argued that the Aquarelle Guitar Quartet is even better than that.

To have performances by world-class players to a world-class standard is an extraordinary privilege in a village like ours. Why not come and share the experience? After a winter break our next performance is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Full details are on our website, [curryrivelmusic.org](http://curryrivelmusic.org) or contact our Secretary, Sandy Michell on 01458 250863, or email [anne.michell@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.michell@btinternet.com)

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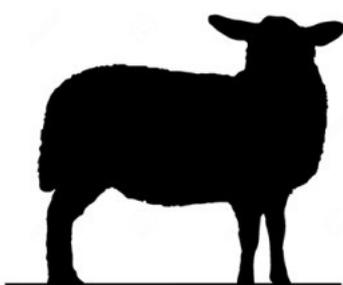
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Gina Beauchamp

In Taunton the other day, I found a great shop just opposite the library and next to the Art shop. It's called 'LESSER LITTER' and promotes zero waste shopping. You can take your own containers to be refilled with cleaning products, shower gel and shampoo. You can bring your own containers for other products too such as cereals, pasta, pulses, grains, baking goods, spices, snacks, syrups, juice, plant milks, tea, coffee, toiletries cleaning, gifts and more. They work with local producers and suppliers. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00- 5.30 and late on a Thursday till 7.00pm.

I also called in to the newly reopened Pet shop in Langport and the owner there is plastic bag free, he plans to sell loose bird and pet food so take your own bags and boxes.

- Remember that you can take your own boxes to the Black Sheep Butcher in Langport, to Tesco and to Sainsbury's.... they will pre weigh the boxes and save you using plastic bags.
- Take your plastic milk bottle tops to 'Lush' in Taunton.... or order bottled milk from Milk & More.
- Take any plastic that our bin men don't take to the mixed plastic bin in Tesco car park Langport, or to the Recycling Centre in Somerton.
- Use Freecycle to get rid of unwanted household or garden items that you might take to the tip, especially furniture, electrical goods, even if not working sometimes people want them for spares. Items must be free for the taker to collect at your convenience.

Go to [www.freecycle.org.uk](http://www.freecycle.org.uk) Taunton and Chard groups cover our area.

## CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

With Christmas coming, here are some ideas to recycle before and after Christmas!

- Sort out your decorations and take any unwanted ones to a charity shop.
- Sort out left over un-written Christmas cards from last year, if you don't want to use them then a Charity shop would be glad to sell them on.
- Use last year's Christmas cards front to cut up and make present labels
- Try to find non-plastic wrapping paper or alternative methods of wrapping, i.e. using brown parcel paper that can be reused

The debate as to whether real Christmas trees are better for the environment than plastic is always on going. Plastic ones are not easily disposed of and chemicals are used in their manufacture, whereas real saplings are especially grown and give off more oxygen and use up more CO2 which helps the environment.

Watch this space in January for how to recycle your real Christmas tree!



## Reindeer facts

The Taimyr herd of migrating Siberian tundra reindeer in Russia is the largest wild reindeer herd in the world, varying between 400,000 and 1,000,000.

Male and female reindeer can grow antlers annually.

Reindeer is the European name for the species while in North America the species is known as Caribou, and in the Arctic by the name tuktu.

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or <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/>



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

## December

### Sunday 1st - Advent Sunday

10.00 FH - UB Family Service

11.00 FH - UB said Communion CW

4.00 pm CR - UB Family Christingle Service

### Monday 2nd

7.00 pm CR - Carols at **Maple Road**, then **Parsonage Place**, followed by mulled wine & mince pies

### Thursday 5th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

### Friday 6th

7.00 pm CR Village Hall

Carols, Bangers & Mash

### Sunday 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30 SW - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 CR - Holy Communion

6.00 pm FH - Carol Service  
and Sunday Club

### Monday 9th

3.30 pm CR School - Messy Church

### Tuesday 10th

10.00-12.00 CR OSR - Craft & Coffee

### Thursday 12th

3.00 pm Immacolata House  
Residents' Communion

### Sunday 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 CR - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 FH - Holy Communion CW

6.00 pm CR - Carol Service

### Tuesday 17th

7.00 pm SW - Carol Service

### Wednesday 18th

7.00 pm FH - Carols in FH Crown Inn

## Scott's spot



### Worship at Christmas

It was over twenty-five years ago that I had the memorable experience of meeting HRH Diana Princess of Wales. I was at music college at the time and the brass quintet I belonged to was asked to play some background music as Diana visited a local charity. At the end of her visit we were ushered downstairs, stood somewhat awkwardly in a line, and were introduced to her. I seem to remember being rather 'star struck' faced with a beautiful real-life princess, and spouting some banal stuff about hoping we weren't too loud! She was very kind.

Knowing what to say, or do, in those sorts of situations can be difficult. Would you know how to address the Queen, another member of the royal family, or even the Archbishop of Canterbury? Clearly I didn't, and I'm not sure I'd do much better today.

When it comes to the events of Christmas, we can also be uncertain in how to best respond in the face of God's extraordinary love. In Jesus, the Bethlehem baby, God became flesh to fully share our human experience, and then as perfect Saviour to give His life for us as a sacrifice for sin.

## December ctd . . .

### Thursday 19th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

2.00 pm CR - School Christmas Service

### Sunday 22nd - 4th Sunday of Advent

10.00 CR - UB Holy Communion CW

### Tuesday 24th - Christmas Eve

4.00 pm FH - Crib Service

4.00 pm CR - Crib Service

### 11.15 pm CR - Midnight

Holy Communion

### Wednesday 25th - Christmas Day

8.30 SW - Christmas Holy

Communion BCP

10.30 FH - Family Christmas

Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 29th

10.00 FH - UB Holy Communion CW

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = St. Andrew's Old School Room

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Scott's Spot ctd . . .

How do we respond appropriately? Well to answer that in full would take many pages, but in the well known Christmas Bible passages, one thing stands out above all others. It is the response of worship.

When Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, regained the power of speech, the first thing he did was praise God (Luke 1:64). When Mary realised the stunning nature of what God had done for her, she burst into joyful, praise-filled song (Luke 1:46-55). When the shepherds had visited the stable and seen the infant Jesus, they returned '*glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen...*' (Luke 2:20). When those two godly people, Simeon and Anna, saw Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple, they also immediately responded in praise (Luke 2:28 and 38). And when the Magi, those wise men from the East, reached the house where Jesus was, they fell down and worshipped him (Matthew 2:11). For each of these people, playing their part on the Christmas stage, there could only be one response to the coming of Christ, one response that was fitting: to offer their worship in glad and joyful praise.

Of course, for the Christian, there needs to be much more to our response, because worship and praise should naturally lead to service and witness in many ways. But this is where it starts. When we understand what God has done for us, then worship will follow.

This was the first response and top priority of those who were there; amongst all the modern-day 'trappings', how much is your Christmas shaped by worship?

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

Revd. Scott Patterson.

## St. Andrew's Rotas December

Brass - Sue Blackwell

Flowers

7th & 14th - Advent

21st & 28th - Christmas flowers

Cleaning

7th - Tina Geary

14th - Wendy Graves

21st - Liz Rendell

28th - Jackie & John de Ronde



### Family Christingle Service

in St. Andrew's

Sunday 1st December 4.00 pm

Ready-made Christingles will be provided.



### Carol singing

Monday 2nd December 7.00 pm

This year's St. Andrew's-sponsored Carol singing will start at Maple Road (the new development off Stanchester Way) and during the interval move to Parsonage Place.

Come and join us in singing the seasonal Carols, accompanied by local musicians. Refreshments afterwards.

### Carols, bangers and mash on Friday 6th December in the Village Hall

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

Tickets (£ 7.50) are available in the BP petrol station/Post Office, Sandpit's, the School Office and members of St. Andrew's congregation.

Doors open at 7.00 pm.

### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A big thank you to anyone who contributed to the 30 beautifully filled boxes collected this year so far.

The comment from Gill Cracknell who receives the boxes on the next stage of their journey:

"There may not be quite so many as years ago, but the quality is much better."

So, well done everyone. You can be sure your box will bring joy to someone in need.



### From the Registers

#### Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

14th November - Funeral Service at Christchurch Theale, nr. Wedmore of Evelyn Mary Burnett Clark († 2nd November)

19th November - Service of Thanksgiving and Committal for Peggy Hilda Richards († 31st October)

## United Reformed Church



## December

(Services start at 10.30, unless indicated otherwise)

Sunday 1st - Mr Steve Beney

Sunday 8th - Rev Tim Richards

(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 15th - Mrs Alison Reed Richards

Sunday 22nd - Mr Tony &

Mrs Jenny Potts

Tuesday 24th - Christmas Eve

Midnight Service - Gathering from

11.00pm for Service at 11.30pm

Sunday 29th - to be arranged

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

### Rich man, Poor man?

A story for our time.

There was once a wealthy city executive who wanted his son to know that not everyone was as fortunate so he took the boy on a trip to a poor part of the country, staying for a day and a night with a family that was trying to scratch a living from the land.

When they had returned home the father asked the boy how he felt about the experience.

"It was amazing Dad!" the boy replied.

"So you saw how hard it can be for some people to make ends meet?"

"Yes" the boy agreed.

"And what did you learn?"

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 a **Candlelit Carol Service** organised by us but held at Langport URC, Bow Street, Langport, on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 5.00pm.**

Christmas readings & carols, accompanied by Kingsbury Episcopi Band plus mince pies!

**And a warm invitation to our December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service at Curry Rivel URC. Gathering from 11.00pm for service at 11:30pm.**



## Dickensian Christmas Craft Fair

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make this year's Village Christmas Fair a thoroughly enjoyable occasion - not least to friends, villagers and folk from further afield who came and supported the stallholders. We hope everyone enjoyed the day. Thank you.

After thinking carefully, the boy replied: "I noticed we have a dog at home who is well groomed and pampered, and they have 4 dogs who run free. We have an artificial pool in our garden; they have a stream that flows right through their land. We have electric lights on our deck; they have the stars. We have a small front garden with a fence; they have an endless horizon. We have smart phones and a TV in every room; they have conversations around the table. We have stress; they have time."

The father was speechless, but his son continued, "Thanks Dad, for showing me wealth is not always what you think it is, and that there are riches that money can't buy".

## Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Peter & Sylvia Goodenough



Sedgemoor Gardens Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th November. It was a very cold evening but All Saints Hall in Langport was a very comfortable venue to listen to a talk on "The Scented Garden" by Jeremy Wilson. Jeremy has been a Head Gardener on several large estates but he currently runs a Camelia nursery in Devon and gives talks to gardening clubs throughout the west country. He kept us enthralled by his beautiful photos of plants - though sadly a lack of "smellavision" meant we had to rely on his descriptions of their scent! He pointed out that the sense of smell is so important to us - not least for the memories some scents conjure up; he is not alone in thinking of an elderly relative on smelling lavender or lily of the valley!

There are many reasons why plants develop scent - the most important of course being to attract pollinators, but he told us about some instances where plants use their scent as a warning signal - for instance, in Africa the acacia tree is grazed by giraffes, which can cause much damage to the trees. As their leaves are eaten the acacia trees give off a

scent which drifts downwind and causes other trees in its path to secrete a bitter secretion which puts the giraffes off eating them.

Clever elephants, however, have overcome this by grazing in the opposite direction!

Jeremy brought a range of plants to sell at very reasonable prices after his talk and members left clutching their purchases - but not until after they had availed themselves of the refreshments on offer and checked out their entries in the monthly competitions.

Our December meeting, on 10th, is our Christmas buffet and Quiz evening. We are normally very happy for visitors to turn up at any of our meetings but on this occasion we would need warning and payment of £7 for a buffet ticket. The quiz, organised by the Gardens Group Gold Club, is always great fun and the buffet sets one up for days to come - so if you would like to join us please ring 01458 250091 for more information.

## Curry Woods Conservation Trust

By the time you read this the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness will be over for another year. Here are a few echos of autumn 2019 in Curry Woods. A deep layer of plant detritus has built up over hundreds of years to coat the forest floor and the only reason it is not yards deep is because of the activity of a special "clear up squad". Neither plants or animals, the fungi are the Curry Woods Waste Partnership. Every year the trees parachute in all their food for the year in one go as they loose their leaves. The fungi have to work quickly to use the material kindly donated by Messers Oak, Ash, Sycamore etc. to make food for themselves before it gets too cold for their digestion to work and also to make their piece de resistance - the mushrooms and toadstools. Underground there are miles of minute tubes which push out special chemicals to break down the leaves and twigs to release sugars. The trees have spent all summer turning light, water and carbon dioxide into sugar in a way we can only dream of doing. Come autumn they store some sugars in their trunks and roots but the more complex molecules made from sugars are dumped as fallen leaves. So our friends the fungi turn those complex molecules back into sugars which they then use to build their own complex molecules which in turn are fabricated into mushrooms and spores. The tiny spores are shed and fly throughout the forest, landing everywhere and growing to make new threads of underground tubes in the warmer weather. The mushrooms are then "eaten" by another set of organisms - the bacteria, which again break down the complex molecules to release sugar. They then use the sugar as fuel for energy, releasing carbon dioxide and water. This is the carbon cycle. If you could label a carbon dioxide molecule with a tracking device it would vanish from the air into the trees in summer, possibly stay in the trees all winter and

then appear back in the air or appear in a fungus for a while in the autumn, then in the ground and finally back into the air in the late winter/spring. Of course we



delight, as a species, in disrupting the cycle and making it harder for the carbon dioxide to find a tree to become part of, leaving it to stay in the atmosphere. So carbon dioxide accumulates up there. The current 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the air act as a nice blanket stopping much heat from leaving the earth. As humans continue to chop down trees and disrupt the carbon cycle the blanket becomes thicker and earth gets hotter.

However, we in Curry Rivel can do our bit, with the fungi as allies, by protecting and enhancing our ancient woodland in Curry Woods. Check out our website - [cwctrust.simplesite.com](http://cwctrust.simplesite.com) and see photos of some of the fungi we spotted in the woods in November.



**In December**



**Regular Events**

**MONDAY**

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
3.30 - 5.30	Messy Church (2nd only)	School Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

**TUESDAY**

10-12	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.30	Line Dancing Classes	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
5.45 - 8	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridgway Hall
7.00 - 9.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)	All Saints Hall, L'port
7.30	Tuesday Group (3rd only)	Drayton Village Hall

**WEDNESDAY**

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
7.00	Line Dancing Classes	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

**THURSDAY**

10.00	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
2.00 - 4.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

**FRIDAY**

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

**Special Events**

2 December	Carols at Maple Road then	Parsonage Place
6 December	Carols, bangers and mash	Village Hall
17 Dec 2:30	Forget me not Café Christmas Party	Village Hall
15 Dec 08:30-12:30	Big Breakfast	Village Hall



**Deadlines for January Edition**

**Advertising:** 5pm Thursday **5th December**  
**Send to:** crnadverts@btinternet.com

**Comments & Articles:** 5pm Tuesday **10th December**  
**Send to:** crng2019@gmail.com

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**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	251280
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
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	252648
Tuesday Group	252657/252022

**Arts**

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Dancing Classes	07730 755203
Art Club	253126

**Community Facilities**

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

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



# Christmas Fair...photos by Mike Mason



# Curry Rivel Remembrance Day...photos by John de Ronde



Gathered around the War Memorial



Peter Goodenough representing the Parish council



Wreaths laid



Representatives of uniformed youth groups