

Have we witnessed the last Ashen Faggot ceremony in Curry Rivel?

Burning the Ashen Faggot is an ancient custom kept alive in Curry Rivel, and is part of a more general wassailing event which takes place on Old Christmas Eve - January 5th. The wassailers tour the village singing the wassail song before arriving at the King William IV where the faggot, made from a bundle of ash twigs bound together by willow and fastened with a knot known as a 'rose', is burnt.



Bill Richards, 93 – whose father, Sid, led the wassailers in earlier times - has been wassailing since just after the Second World War and was again joined by the lively group of wassailers who have kept this centuries' old custom relevant in the 21st Century.

However, after South Somerset District Council's planning meeting on 13th December this historic custom may be in danger. Unfortunately, attempts to raise sufficient money to buy the King William IV pub did not succeed in the timescale available, and the owners have now been granted permission by the local planning authority for the change of

use to residential development. The planning meeting was chaired by Derek Yeomans, who is a District Councillor for Burrow Ward, but also a Curry Rivel parish councillor. The vote was even, so it was his Chairman's casting vote that confirmed the decision despite the fact that the Parish Council had objected to the application for a number of reasons, refuting the claims that it is no longer viable as a pub. The success of The Firehouse, which is a modern restaurant with a bar, demonstrates that hard work and initiative can reap rewards. Paul Deacon, speaking for the Parish Council, pointed out that there are many villages in our area (with average populations of only 525) much smaller than Curry Rivel (population 2500 and rising) which support pubs. Mr Deacon maintained that granting the change of use would result in a significant loss to our community. It is a valuable meeting place in convivial surroundings within walking distance for the 2500 residents, who will in future have to drive to find similar facilities.

So, have we witnessed the last Ashen Faggot ceremony in Curry Rivel? Let us hope not. When Sid Richards was asked about the significance of the ceremony by a folk song collector many years ago, he replied, "Well I reckon it were just an excuse for a good booze up", but he knew, and we know it has always been far more than that.

King William IV Planning Permission for Change of use Granted

Tony Beauchamp

As you may have heard or read by now, planning permission for change of use was granted in December for the King William IV pub. We would like to thank all those villagers who helped to try and raise enough money to buy the pub as a Community Asset.

Thank you to all those who pledged to help us raise just over £100,000, sadly not enough! Unfortunately, not enough people could see the value of keeping the pub going under new management and turning it into the village pub that it could have been.

So thank you to those who delivered leaflets to every household, arranged and attended meetings, talked to business people to try and get their help and pledged money towards the grand total.



District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

The political map of South Somerset is changing and it affects the ward of Curry Rivel. As discussed in previous newsletters the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking the residents to comment on draft proposals for new council ward boundaries, details of which can be found on <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/somerset/south-somerset>.

The aim is to deliver electoral equality for voters, which simply means that each councillor represents a similar number of people so that everyone's vote in council elections is worth the same no matter where you live.

For the ward of Curry Rivel this would mean combining with the existing wards of Langport and Huish to create one new larger ward to be represented by two councillors. Drayton would be moved into the ward of Burrow Hill.

There are perhaps some of you who feel our community identity is more closely linked with a parish such as Drayton or maybe you feel our ward may benefit from merging with a town such as Langport?

You have until 19 March 2018 to have your say. The Commission wants to hear as much evidence as possible to develop the final recommendations so please let them know if you agree with the proposal or if not, what could be improved. If you would like to make a submission to the Commission, please write to The Review Officer (South Somerset), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QP or email reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

Do you have any unwanted bicycles lying around after Christmas? If so, the Streetscene Team at SSDC are collaborating with the specialist charity, Bikes4Africa, which organises for them to be recycled and delivered to schools in Africa so they can be used by people who really need them.

If you can support this charity the address to deliver the bikes is: 7 Artillery Road, Yeovil BA22 8RP.

Break-in at the Petrol Station and Post Office

There was an attempt to rob the BP Petrol Station and Post Office in the village on Wednesday 10th January. Significant damage was caused to the door because the thief (or thieves) used a blowtorch to break-in to the building. It would seem that they were hoping to steal from the cigarette counter, but their efforts were unsuccessful. They did, however, get away with three bottles of whisky.

Road Closure Notice

From **12 February** for approximately 5 days Wessex Water will be carrying out work in Church St. The road will be closed for 40 metres southwards from the junction of Water Street and the Green.

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Growing Your Own

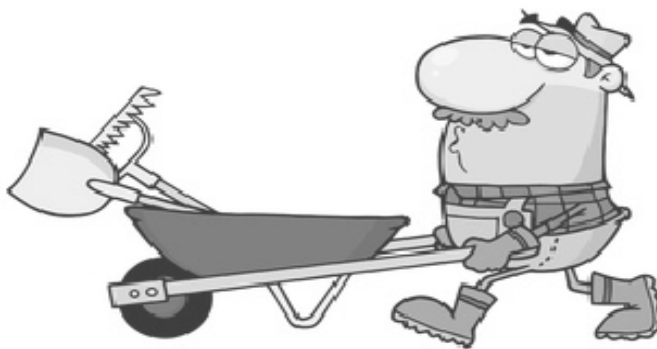
Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

February gardening

At the time of writing, after a lot of rain, our good old Curry clay is just the right consistency for throwing pots but of completely the wrong consistency for cultivating! However, hopefully, by the time you are reading this, conditions will be better and we will all be busy out there as there is plenty to be getting on with in February. The spring bulbs that are even now starting to appear will be above ground (in one spot near Sherborne, daffodils are already flowering in mid-January!) and the flowering snowdrops and crocuses should be a promise of things to come.



February is potato month - buy your tubers (several local garden centres have a wide range of varieties available for you to choose from and bag up yourself in whatever quantity you want) and start to sprout them in a light frost-proof area. We like first earlies like Foremost, Rocket (very quick but not quite so tasty!) or Arran Pilot for the joy of small, new potatoes. Plant them from the end of February to late March and they'll be ready to harvest in about 10 weeks from the



planting date. We also plant second earlies such as Charlotte, which is a great salad variety, and maincrop varieties to keep us in spuds all year round but if your space is limited we recommend going for the luxury of your own first earlies and then relying on shop-bought later on. The Sarpo series of blight-resistant maincrop varieties produce enormous crops and eliminate the risk of losing your crop to blight if we get a period of warm, damp conditions later in the year.

February is the last chance to tidy up borders by removing any remaining dead heads from perennials and top dressing to provide fresh nutrients. Lawns can be aerated and scarified in dry conditions before lawn sand is applied. Fruit trees can be pruned though not if there is a forecast of frost. If you haven't already started sweet peas growing in pots in the greenhouse, sow seeds now outdoors in their flowering position. The young plants from the greenhouse should also go out into their final positions now, with a head start on seeds. Now is also the time to prepare seed beds elsewhere and, as always, there is plenty of weeding to be done!

Early peas and beans can be sown under glass in February - ideally outside under good cloches but also in pots in the greenhouse. Dormant overwintered plants such as fuchsias should be potted on, moved to a light position and sprayed with water to encourage growth. Prune greenhouse climbers but still keep watering to a minimum and ventilate well on mild days. Seeds of many half-hardy annuals can be planted under glass this month - seed packets tell you which ones this applies to.

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In Bloom 2018

Ivor Dixon

Where could we improve our village? CRiB's efforts last year concentrated on a few areas, the War Memorial, bus stops and the entrances to the village. There are plenty of other places that could be improved with the addition of a few flowers, a planter or some TLC. Let us know which areas you would like considered for improvement this year. We need your input now. If you can help, or organise a group of neighbours to help, do the work, we can submit it as an 'It's Your Neighbourhood' community gardening project alongside our regional Britain in Bloom entry.

Spring bulbs: Thanks to a superhuman effort by a small group of committed 'Bloomers' and a generous donation of bulbs from SSDC, around 3,000 mixed spring bulbs have been planted. They should be popping up in the near future.

Buckets of potatoes: Our potato growing competition is open for entries. For just £5 you get a plastic bucket and the seed potatoes, you provide your own compost and your growing expertise. In August, potatoes will be counted and weighed. There will be prizes for the most potatoes, the heaviest potato and the greatest weight of potatoes for juniors (12 & under) and seniors. Closing date for entries is 10th Feb. Download the entry form from the web site or phone 01458 250603.

Not a gardener? Community involvement, Conservation and Environment contribute half the points in our entry. Do let us know if you can help. We need not just keen gardeners but those with a talent for woodwork, art, design, photography, or who can research history, sponsor a tree or display, add muscle for heavier work, provide transport or improve a part of the village. Sign up on our website to receive our newsletter and notification

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of events, or offer your particular skill.

Spare Compost... and time? We are holding a Composting event on Saturday 17th February at the war memorial starting at 10.30am. The soil needs improving before we can begin to plant a permanent garden. We have offers of compost, leaf mould, horse manure etc. from villagers but it needs digging out and bringing to the war memorial. So PLEASE, we need you, the villagers of Curry Rivel, to turn up with forks, spades, wellies etc to lend a hand!

We are providing refreshments for the workers. If you have a trailer or van, that could help transport compost, or if you can deliver the compost yourself in manageable bags that would be wonderful.

Looking ahead...: We plan to hold a Family Afternoon Tea Party and Quiz at Sewers Hall on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May. More details next time, but put the date in your diary. The next CRiB meeting will be on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30 in the Chatham Room of the village hall, when we will present the new design for the war memorial garden. You can sponsor plants for the garden if you wish, using the form on the web site.

For all things CRiB contact Gina on 01458 762296, email cribsomerset@gmail.com or visit our web site - curryrivelinbloom.blogspot.com. cribportfolio@gmail.com 01458 250603



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Letters to the Editor

Parking Issues

In response to the article on parking issues in the January issue and as villagers living near to the main road, but not directly affected by the parking issue, we feel that the temporary traffic lights put up when the Old Post Office was being renovated made a considerable improvement to the traffic flow and speed through that section of the High Street. We therefore are suggesting permanent traffic lights being installed making a single way system from King William Lane to the Bell area. Regarding parking - an additional village car park would be sensible - but where?

Michael and Valerie Beacham.



Parking Issues

We would be happy to see traffic lights at the top and bottom of the hill. These seemed to work well recently when work was being carried out at the old Post Office.

Regards

Jan & Ted Beaven

Loss of the King William

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my amazement and disappointment at the SSDC Planning Committee to approve the Change of Use Application for the King William Public House. It is appalling, in my opinion, that such an historic community asset has been allowed to be 'snatched away' from those who enjoy pleasant times together there.

It would not surprise me if those who patronise the pub are 'up in arms'. This village is growing and there will be many potential customers who will have to visit other traditional pubs away from Curry Rivel.

It's a very poor show,

Yours sincerely, Robert Crowley.

Chatham Christmas Lights

My brother Roy Webb decorated his house in Chatham Place with Christmas Lights and raised £252.06 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and support.

Sincerely

Sue Walsh

United Reform Church brown sign

Dear Editor

Several months ago, the **brown sign** by the garage indicating the whereabouts of the **United Reformed Church** was removed.

We have contacted the relevant department and been told that it will not be replaced, unless, and I quote; *'they are of significant importance or not obvious from a major road'*

I would not wish to claim we are more significant than other organisations that are currently signposted, but neither are we less significant. We are clearly not visible from the main road and this can cause problems for those visiting either to lead or take part in our services.

A sign was there for a number of years, I cannot think any money is saved by not displaying this sign. I do not wish to claim discrimination, but fail to understand why our request for it to be replaced is meeting with such intransigence, despite the support of our District Councillor, for which we are grateful.

We are continuing to pursue this matter and hope we might garner the support of the village in our quest to have the sign replaced.

Yours faithfully, Revd. Tim Richards.

Langport & District History Society

Barry Winetrobe

Looking at Limekilns

The Society's first meeting of 2018 was held at Langport Library, when the ever-popular industrial archaeologist Peter Stanier spoke on the topic, 'Looking at limekilns', based on his lifelong interest in this subject. He began by quoting a fellow aficionado, Neil Cossons, that limekilns "are amongst the most familiar and least studied of industrial archaeological sites."

Peter briefly described the basic design of a limekiln, and the various processes involved in the making of products used mainly for building purposes or for spreading on fields to neutralise acidic soil. As he demonstrated by a wide selection of photographs, maps and drawings, there is no standard shape or size of limekilns, and they could be constructed in many different locations from rivers, canals and coast, to inland areas exploiting the best available limestone.

He explained his own researches over the years, such as his survey of Dorset in the early 1990s, plotting the location of limekilns from old Ordnance Survey maps and other sources. One problem was that there was little in the archives on limekilns as they tended to be a small-scale domestic operation, so there remain few historic records, such as sales or accounts books.

Many of the recorded sites had long fallen into disuse and disrepair, often disappearing completely. Even those which had been restored tended over time to deteriorate because of insufficient aftercare and maintenance. Some had been converted to uses such as dwellings, storage areas, garages etc. Few were preserved or protected because they may have been regarded as relatively unimportant items of industrial history and architecture, though he did show some examples from Britain and elsewhere of rather grand and impressive limekilns.

He concluded with a brief survey of limekilns in Somerset generally, especially the North Somerset coast, and those in the Langport area. The latter brought out much reaction and even some further information from members of the audience with first-hand knowledge of the local sites.

The next meeting will be at Langport Library on Monday 5 February, when Tom Harris looks at the history of bells and English church bellringing. It is free to members (annual membership is £12): non-members are welcome, admission £2. Anyone interested in joining the History Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.

Rotary Club Help for Youth Club

Roger Hampton

The Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton, recently presented the Langport and Huish Youth Club with a cheque for £250, for the purchase of a new gazebo, and sports equipment. The Youth Club has a membership of up to 100 teenagers, with nearly 20 attending from Curry Rivel.

The club's previous gazebo was blown away and ripped to shreds at a fund-raising event at Yeovilton. The Rotary Club is thrilled to help the Youth Club to purchase a new heavy duty gazebo, which is used for many outdoor events including, barbecues, camping, and at fund raising events.

To find out more of what Rotary is doing in the area go to langportandsomertonrotary.org/ or call Clive on 01458 251399



Have Your Say on the Future of Langport Library

Laurina Deacon

Somerset County Council is consulting the public from 22 January for 12 weeks on the future of its 34 libraries. The Council is reviewing funding for the library service, and its other services, as a result of reduced funding from central government.

In 2011, the council was forced to shelve its plans to withdraw funding to 11 libraries after a judicial review. The authority is now considering various options, one of which is to hand over responsibility for the service to local groups. There is likely to be more automation, fewer qualified staff and more volunteers.

Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons'. It is that last sentence that is key and needs bearing in mind when responding to the public consultation.

Do take time to complete a questionnaire on line or go to your local library where you can.

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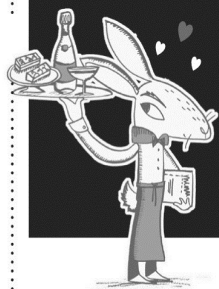
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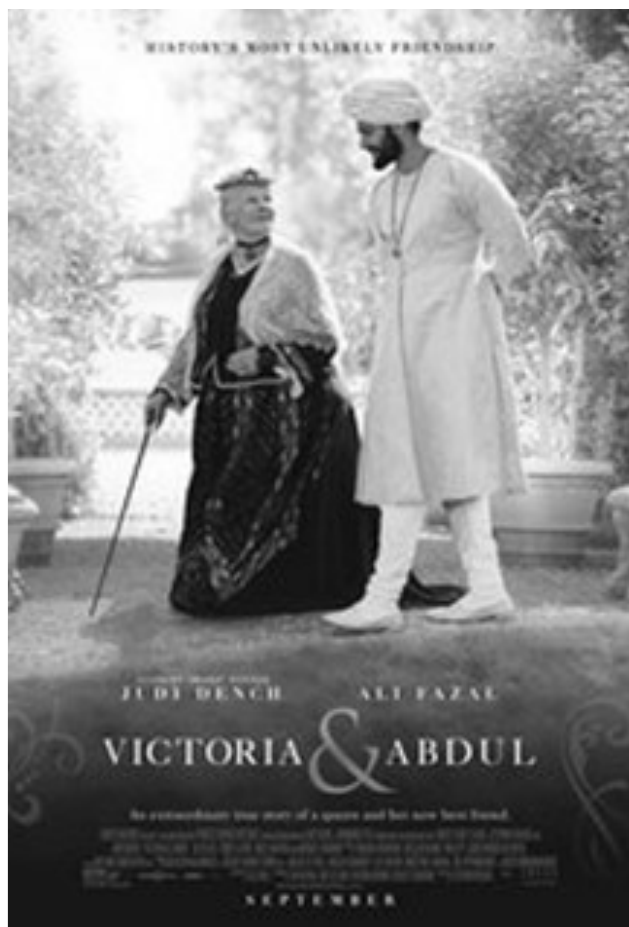
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Victoria & Abdul (PG)



**Saturday 10 February
(not on a Friday!)**

A biographical comedy-drama based on the real-life relationship between Queen Victoria and her Indian Muslim servant Abdul Karim.

Young clerk, Abdul travels to England to participate in Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 and is surprised to find favour with the queen. Victoria develops an interest in and later a friendship with Abdul. She promotes him to become her Munshi and asks him to teach her Urdu and the Qur'an.

However, his preferential treatment is resented by her household and inner circle, not least her son Bertie and the Prime Minister. The household plots to try and undermine their relationship. But Victoria stands her ground as she begins to see a changing world from a fresh perspective.

Stars: Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Eddie Izzard, Tim Piggott-Smith and Michael Gambon.

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:

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Village Hall 200 Club Draw Winners

The Xmas Draw took place at the Big Breakfast on 17 December and the following people won the following prizes.

£120	Mr A Cilia	£25	Mrs K Gardener	£15	Mrs C Weaver
£75	Mrs F Hunt	£20	Mr M Cotterill	£12.50	Mr R Hampton
£60	Mrs S Hand	£17.50	Mrs D Talbot-Williams	£10 each	Mrs S North, Mrs C Mowat, Mrs J Maddever, Mr R Morgan
£45	Mrs A Holmes				

The committee appreciates the continued support given by the members to the Village Hall. If you wish to buy a Unit/s at a cost of £10.00 a year - please contact Myfanwy Ashton on 01458 251877

Inner Wheel

We held our Christmas lunch at the Lime Kiln this year with family and friends and most of the members were able to join us. We pulled the usual crackers, wore paper hats and had fun reading each other the silly jokes during coffee and mints.

The Inner Wheel year term runs from June to June and as I reflect on our year so far, it is encouraging to remember how much we have achieved as a club. We have raised sums of money for different charities, our President's charity, 1st

Responders being the main one. We have experienced diverse and interesting themes from various speakers, and enjoyed the company of our fellow Rotarians on several occasions both at their and our own events. 2018 will see us continue to raise funds and help good causes, follow the Inner Wheel aims of promoting true friendship, personal service and fostering international understanding and most of all, ENJOYING ourselves.

We welcome new members to Inner Wheel and you can contact Dorothy Wadeson on 252648 in the first instance for more information.

U3A Denise Clarke

The Somerton U3A meeting on Friday 23 February will be The History of the Harp as told by John Dalton. John is a harpist from Glastonbury who plays many different types of harps and very different types of music. Monthly meetings take place on the fourth Friday of each month at the Edgar


Community Hall, Somerton starting at 10am with coffee (30p) and chat. After any notices the main event begins at 10.30am and finishes by 12 noon latest. Meetings are free for members, visitors £1.50 each.

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Where's Ed in 2018?

Ed had a visit from his parents and sister before Christmas whilst on his way through New Zealand. All being well, having completed the New Zealand part of his circumnavigation he will have flown from Auckland to San Francisco in early January for the next leg of his trip. He expects America to take four to five months. Then it is the home straight from Scotland back down to Somerset; ending his journey at 'School in a Bag' HQ, where he started. The trip will have taken just over 3 years.



Ed Pratt picking up his copy of the November CRN at the Puketapu Store, New Zealand!

A Huge Thank You

Jane Brooke

Thanks to the continuing support of our local community, the three Ranger Guides from the 1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Guide going to Sri Lanka to volunteer in primary schools under the auspices of Projects Abroad have finished their mammoth fundraising drive.

This has been done through bingo and quiz nights, jumble sales, fun days and mufti days, fabric sales galore and lots and lots of washing up and waitressing at family and community events. Our next fundraising drive is to get one of our guide members to Belgium in 2019 on I.C.E. (International Community Experience) camp.

The first event is a Grand Jumble Sale at All Saints Hall, North Street Langport on Saturday February 17th 11 am–2 pm. Jumble can be dropped off at All Saints Hall on the Friday night between 6 – 8 pm or you can ring 01458 252901 to arrange collection. There will be refreshments with home-made cakes.



The Girlguiding Somerset team going to Sri Lanka on a volunteering trip the Easter. (Hoodies kindly supplied by Skanska)

Curry Rivel W.I.

On January 1st, we lost one of our most loved and valued members to cancer. Sheila Sandifer was President several times and served on the committee for most of her time with us. Although needlework was her speciality and her great love, she joined in all our activities with enthusiasm. At the start of the meeting, we held a minute's silence to remember her in our own way, and a large number of us hope to attend her funeral on 29th January.

Our first speaker of 2018 was Linda Dodlmead, who spoke about her 'Genealogical Journey'. Linda began her journey when she was living in Australia, where there is a huge interest in family history and when she came back to England she chose to live in Somerset because many of her family were from the county. She recommended joining a group or looking for courses in the subject, where there is help available in transcribing original records and helping you stay on track. There are many reasons for starting on your own journey, and Linda's has unearthed some interesting tales and some scandal. She has almost certainly started some of us on our own journey or encouraged others to resume.

Our pub lunch in January will be at the Drayton Crown and this month our walks for the year will be planned. Each month a different member takes on the walk which makes for a good variety of venues, always based around a coffee shop! We try to have at least one extra activity each month as well as the walks, lunches and needlework and the committee are busy making plans for the year. 2018 is the centenary year for Somerset Federation of WIs and they have a long list of events they are planning, from a Celebration Lunch with Ann Widdecombe to visits to the Globe Theatre, Dartmouth and Maidenhead & Windsor. It's going to be a busy year!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th February and the speaker will be Michael Malaghan. His talk is titled 'It shouldn't happen to a writer!' which probably speaks for itself. We'd love you to come and join in our activities, just turn up 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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Sticks & Stones

Emrys Evans & Denise Evans

Recycling February 2018 CRIB



Well, this month's article just has to be about PLASTIC !

We have all seen the horrific pictures of plastic 'islands' in the oceans, fish and birds killed by ingesting plastics. Our govt has finally decided to discuss imposing a deposit on plastic bottles so that they can be returned and recycled properly. Iceland has become the first supermarket to announce that they will be making all their own brand products plastic free - but not until 2023. Let's hope that other supermarkets will follow suit. It is a start but we have a huge man-made problem to address.

To make a small change that could help the environment why

not buy a water bottle that you can reuse. These should be BPA free. Bisphenol A is a chemical used to make plastic bottles and wrapping. If you leave an ordinary plastic bottle in a car or hot or cold place or just for too long then small particles of the plastic will leech into the water which you then drink.

Also buy a thermal coffee cup that you can take to your coffee shop and save using a cup that cannot be recycled. The cardboard cup is covered with a wax that makes it unrecyclable.

Those washing liquid plastic tablets that dissolve in the machine, the plastic must go down the drain into rivers and the sea. How many other ways are we polluting the oceans?

Reuse- Repair-Recycle- Return. Can you share your recycling ideas with us ?

Email to cribsomerset@gmail.com

Happy Recycling !

Gina Beauchamp. CRIB

Probus Club

We all had a fabulous Christmas meal at Dillington in December and were treated to an excellent day there. Fivestar food and service were the order of the day and best frocks added to the occasion. The men also looked smart and added a festive touch with their Christmas ties and socks! Raffle prizes abounded so that nearly everyone present won something.

2018 sees an array of good meals and interesting and eclectic talks for our delectation and delight. The WI have expressed an interest in joining us on a visit to Rosemoor in June. We also have our formal summer lunch to look forward to. We are also welcoming two new lady guests to join us at our next meeting with a view to becoming members, so our female membership is increasing at a steady pace. Watch this space.....

If you think you would like to join in our events and become a member please call Paul Crocker on 252545 or go to langportandcurryprobus.btck.co.uk.

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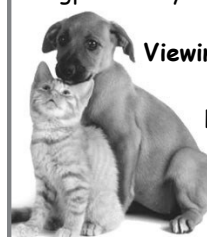
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The Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal 2017

By Suzie Potter

An enormous thank you to all who collected for, and contributed to, The Royal British Legion annual poppy collection week between 28 October 2017 and 11 November 2017. We were absolutely delighted with the final total for the area which covers Fivehead, Swell, Isle Abbots, Curry Mallet, Drayton, Midelnay and Curry Rivel.

The final total collected was £3,775.95 and, whether pence or pounds, all donations have been gratefully received.

2018, marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War and this will not pass by unrecognised either nationally or locally. On 8 March 1918 the Curry Rivel branch of The Royal British Legion was formed and plans are already coming together to turn the clock back and to mark the formation.

Thank you everyone for your unstinting generosity...

Poppy Appeal
Honorary Organiser



Free Wheeling in the Village Hall

The Curry Rivel Active Living Group (the Get Together Club) had a very interesting visit from The Free Wheelers recently.

The Free Wheelers are the motorcycle riders who collect and deliver blood and necessary medical goods around the country at all days and times.

Kevin Slater, based in Bristol, covers the South West and talked about the work that he and his colleagues do before asking our members if they would like to 'try out his bike', much to our surprise several of them took him up on his offer!



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Mo Masrour Pilates Foundation

Tuesday: Curry Rivel (Primary School)

5.45pm – 6.45pm (All levels)

7.00pm – 8.00pm (Intermediate)

Private sessions 1 to 1 also available

Contact **Mo** for details on: **07815748518**

mospilates@yahoo.com



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St. Andrew's Church



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

February

Thursday 1st

9.00 **CR** CR School Collective
Worship

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

14.45 **Immacolata House** -

Residents' Communion

Sunday 4th - 2nd before Lent

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer CW

Thursday 8th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 11th - Sunday before Lent

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

6.00 pm **FH** - Evening Prayer CW

Tuesday 13th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Wednesday 14th - Ash Wednesday

19.00 **CR** - United Benefice

Ash Wednesday Communion

Thursday 15th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 18th - Lent 1

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service

11.15 **CR** - Short Communion CW

Monday 19th

15.30 **CR School** - Messy Church

Thursday 22nd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 25th - Lent 2

9.15 **CR** - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

11.00 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

Tuesday 27th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

March

Thursday 1st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Rector's Reasoning



Christians are hypocrites ...

It's been a while since 'Scott's Spot' gave way to a 'Rector's Reasonings' where I attempt to challenge some of the often repeated reasons for the rejection of God, faith and Christianity. These I've called 'brittle shields' because they are used like a shield to hide behind, but when explored are far less robust than they seem.

'I wouldn't want to be a Christian. They're such hypocrites'. Perhaps you have heard or used these words yourself. We have all heard the accusation. But are all Christians hypocrites and, if so, does it actually mean that Christianity is false?

Well if this dictionary definition of a hypocrite is correct – *a pretence of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc. that one does **not** really possess* – then the truth is 'yes', many who claim to be Christians are hypocrites. Sadly there have been, still are, and will be, those who pretend to be something they're not, and great harm has been done by evil people using a facade of Christianity to further their own agendas. But someone calling themselves a Christian doesn't mean anything in itself – anymore than someone calling themselves Clark Kent has super-powers! Jesus was very clear in Matthew's gospel chapter 7 verse 16 that true Christians will be recognised by the fruit of their lives. So, to paraphrase the film Forest Gump: *'Christian is as Christian does'*.

The thing is though, even committed and fruitful Christians, like everyone else in the world, will be guilty of being less than perfect. So we can't just try to claim that everyone guilty of hypocrisy isn't a genuine Christian. Christians believe in a God who hates sin and yet we still go on filling our lives with stuff that doesn't put God first, we still lose our temper, and we still have attitudes that are less than godly. The list goes on.

But there is a distinction to be made. We need to remember that Jesus himself criticised hypocrites – robustly (e.g. Matthew 23 verses 13-29). So if you have found yourself hating hypocrisy in Christians, then it may surprise you to learn that you were standing very much in the same camp as Jesus. A Christian writer called Graham March wrote this: *'Hypocrisy is not falling short of a standard. Hypocrisy is covering up that you say one thing and do another. The opposite of hypocrisy is not perfection, but **authenticity**. The authentic Christian is one who is open to God's transformation. But all Christians are a work in progress.'*

The truth is some Christians are indeed hypocrites, and all of us are flawed and imperfect. But hypocrisy isn't a knock-down argument against the truth of Christianity. To this accusation, my response is this: while Christians (even vicars) will disappoint, **Jesus never will**. As ever, the truth or otherwise of Christianity doesn't depend on the behaviour of Christians (although you'd be quite right to expect to see a difference); rather, Christianity stands or falls on whether God raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter morning.

With every blessing to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

From St. Andrew's Registers Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

5th January - Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of

Susan Mary ('Cindy') Langton
(† 8th December 2017)

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = St. Andrew's Old School
Room

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

St. Andrew's Rotas February

Brass - Carol Haines & Lyn Cotterill

Flowers

3rd & 19th - Angela Cole

14th onwards - Lent

Cleaning

3rd - Nicky Barker

10th - Lynne Comley

17th - Lyn Cotterill

24th - Julia Gauler



On Saturday 10th February

there will be a **coffee morning** in the **Old School Room** from **10.30-12.30** with a **'New for You'** stall.



This stall will have New / Nearly New garments for sale at low prices.

There will be home made cakes to have with your coffee.

All proceeds will go into a fund for buying new altar linen for the church.

'Drop-In' at St. Andrew's OSR

will start again on

Tuesday 13th February

10.30 - 12.00.

Freshly baked cakes and beverages are served in a friendly & welcoming gathering of people who meet for an informal chat.



Please come and join us

Women's World Day of Prayer

A special service to celebrate this day will be held on **Friday 2nd March**, starting at **2.00pm**. Venue t.b.c.

Refreshments afterwards.

The theme for this year is

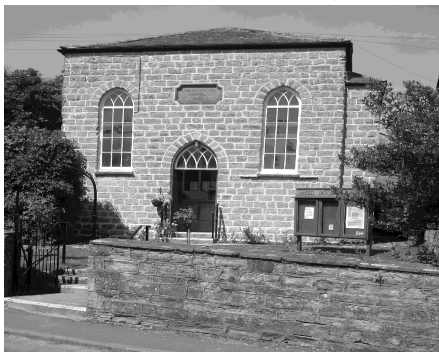
'All God's creation is very good'.

Caring for the world for future generations.

This service, which is inter-denominational, has been prepared by Christian women of Suriname.

All are welcome - men, women, and children.

Anyone who is willing to present a reading or help with some preparations, please contact Mrs Rowan Patterson on 01458 - 251375.

United Reformed Church**February**

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 4th - Joining with Langport URC, Bow Street Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 11th - Rev Rowena Francis
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 18th - Mr Peter Trenchard

Sunday 25th - Rev Tim Richards

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



Something I have taken to doing as a matter of course during



the period between Christmas and the beginning of the New Year is 'take stock'; to look back making space and taking time to reflect on the passing year's events, either occasions of celebration, disappointment, or somewhere in between, giving thanks for people found (and people lost), exploring necessary or potential changes which might have purposeful use as the new year approaches.

It didn't happen. Due to being ill my opportunity slipped by and I feel 'out of sorts' for not having paid due attention in my usual way.

For me that space of reflection is an emotional clear-out; like sorting through my cupboards - keeping what's necessary or beautiful, giving away what someone else might find use for and putting the rest in the rubbish bin!

Shrove Tuesday - 13th February

Shrove Tuesday, or 'pancake day', is the last day before Lent, which for Christians is traditionally a time of abstinence with the purpose of practising self-discipline before God.

Lent can also be a time for doing 'extra' things - perhaps putting aside more time for prayer or Bible study.

Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday as they contain fat, butter and eggs — 'rich foods' that were once considered 'forbidden' during Lent.

'Shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive', which means 'to confess', and so on this day, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins, so that they were forgiven before the start of Lent.

Pillow talk ctd . . .

Providing myself with a 'clean sheet', 'blank canvas', fresh start. It almost has the feel of resolution; an honouring of, then turning from, the old to face and embrace the new.

It is also a time of realigning myself with that which we call God; a time of 'retuning' or reconnecting with the divine spark within; seeking a sense of direction and of grounding myself in the present moment. Without it I feel somewhat adrift.

And then I came across this —

"Re-set, Re-adjust, Re-start, Re-focus...

As many times as you need to, whenever you need to"

We talked about resolutions in our house:

"to eat more healthily"

"to not make any because they are a false construct and I break them anyhow"

The second response made me laugh but reminded me I am not constrained to the obvious threshold of the new calendar year but can honour what is passing and embrace new beginnings every moment of every day — I can "re-set, re-adjust**whenever I need to**; in fact, if I think about, that is what repentance and transformation is — not a one-off, or confined to a specific time event, but an ongoing state of mind, an ever present attitude. So my time-set period of thoughtful reflection and transformative contemplation becomes an internalised way of being always aligning and realigning with the Divine.



In February

Regular Events

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
10.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
6.30	Langport Youth Club	Ridgway Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

WEDNESDAY

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
7.00	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

Sat 10 10.30 Coffee morning & New for You sale OSR

Please send all articles to the editor...details below

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

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	

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Crickets 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
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel	252648

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 - 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