

February 2019



The Biggest Big Breakfast

Roger Hampton

The BIG Breakfast held on Sunday 16th December, raised an amazing **£827.53**, and is the most that has ever been raised at a breakfast.

All monies raised will be used to maintain and improve the Village Hall.

The Breakfasts are now a great Community event, and it is very encouraging that we are attracting more Villagers who have never attended before.

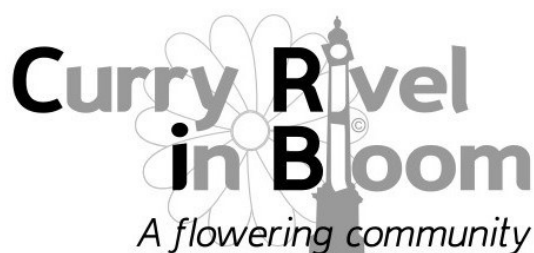


The next BIG Breakfast is planned for Sunday 9th June, which is the Open Gardens weekend.

A huge THANK YOU everyone who attended the BIG Breakfast, and everyone who supports the Village Hall.

The village hall now has FREE superfast WiFi, and we will shortly be investigating the purchase of a portable PA system.





cribsomerset@gmail.com

Gina Beauchamp Chair 01458 762296

February 2019

Last month I mentioned that we had some exciting news which we weren't allowed to release until January 14th! well, here it is Curry Rivel has been selected to be entered into the Britain in Bloom finals. We will be the representative for South West in Bloom in the large village category. There are eighteen areas in the Britain in Bloom UK competition. Two of our committee will be attending a seminar in February to learn more about what is required for the competition. We will of course be entering the usual South West in Bloom competition this year in the Cox Cup category which we won last year! Judging for this takes place in July and the Britain in Bloom judging takes place in August. Quite an achievement as last year was only our second year of taking part. The work load should be the same as our normal entry but we will hopefully learn more at the seminar.

We have several things coming up to help with our planting and plans to prepare the village for this summer's judging: a plant sale in May, The Open Gardens on June 9th, the front garden competition at the end of June; we had 22 entries last year. Can we beat that this year? We will be holding a quiz to raise funds. There will be some more development of Granny's garden and we will continue to develop the War Memorial permanent planting, continue to develop our allotment and improve other areas in the village. Westfield hope to enter the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition and we are always looking for other areas to develop.

CRiB is not just about entering competitions but helping to make our village more beautiful for those who live here and who pass through, involving the community and increasing our environmental responsibility. Last year we won a cup for the best community involvement in the south west, lets hope we can do that again.

We are always looking for more people to come and help us and as a result of last month's article we have two new helpers! If you can't spare the time why not think about how you could put some floral display in pots in your front garden or on your window sill or wall? Grow some herbs in a container near the house for easy picking, feed the birds, encourage wildlife into your garden with a pond or boggy area. Recycle old containers, metal watering cans old saucepans etc. Place water butts in your garden to save water bills! You could make a wonderful water garden by sinking an old bath into your garden, seal up the plug hole first though, have the edges level with the ground and place stones around the edge, plant water lilies and other pond plants for oxygenation, create an area where frogs etc could get in and out and wild life will soon arrive, have a boggy area at the side for marginal plants, for a beautiful effect!

If you live in Westfield and would like to know more about the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entry, **contact Linda Dodimead on 01458 251837**. You should be receiving some info through your door soon. Here's hoping that the weather is not too bad in the coming weeks and months. Happy Gardening!

Gardening jobs for February

- Wash out and sort plant pots to use in the coming months
- Plan which flower and veg seeds you might want to sow
- Reuse plastic plant packs for seeds instead of seed trays
- If you didn't plant sweet pea seeds in the autumn plant them now in a cool, frost free place
- While the weather isn't too cold keep on top of weeds that may still be growing!
- Give the garden a general tidy up before spring, leaves lying around can harbour slugs that will later munch their way through your seedlings!

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Your Community Website
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District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

It's coming up to a busy time of year for SSDC. After the relative quietness of Christmas and the early New Year February will see the approving of both the Council budget and Council Tax. The Transformation process is still ongoing, impact reports on the A303 and housing strategy as well as the monitoring of performance and complaints will be assessed, and the determination of district wide voluntary sector grants will be finalised. The draft Economic Development Strategy (EDS), which was open to public consultation until 25 January 2019, will also go to full council shortly and will determine the vision, key outcomes and priority themes which need to be delivered in South Somerset over the next 10 years.

Further to the Local Government Boundary Commission Review a new ward has been created which crosses both Areas North and East. In order to retain area based working it has been recommended that the newly created ward of Northstone/Ivelchester/St Michael's will be wholly within Area East and will now fall under their committee as from May 2019. As previously mentioned, these new boundary changes directly affect Curry Rivel, which will now be amalgamated with Langport and Huish and become a two-councillor ward. Drayton will move to the Burrow Hill ward. Elections are scheduled for Thursday 2 May.

Make a Change.... Become a Local Councillor

Curry Rivel Parish Council is calling on residents, passionate about their community to stand in the local elections in 2019.

What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community's needs.

How long does it take?

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

Can I stand?

There are only a few rules to stand for election. You must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council

How can I get involved?

Contact Curry Rivel Parish Council at chairman.curryrivelparishcouncil@outlook.com or m.ludgate@btinternet.com to find out more or visit www.nalc.gov.uk/elections

Langport & District History Society

Talks programme 2019

4 February Birnbeck Pier & the work of the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust
by Peter Lander, Birnbeck Regeneration Trust

4 March The incredible journey (SS Great Britain)
by Commander Philip Unwin, RN (ret'd)

1 April The Franklin 1845 Northwest passage expedition
by Jeremy Michell, Polar Relics Curator, National Maritime Museum

13 May Thomas Hardy: a literary life
by Rob Curtis, Blue Badge Guide

3 June Tales from the Quarter Sessions: Somerset's criminal past
by Liz Grant, archivist, Somerset Archives

2 September Roman life
by John Smith, archaeologist

7 October Town Criers. (followed by the AGM)
by Janet Seaton, researcher and Chair, LDHS

4 November Muchelney Abbey: origins to dissolution
by Stephen Honey, Muchelney Abbey site manager

Langport Library

7.30 – 9.00 pm

Non-members welcome - £4 per talk

Champions 24 Challenge

Simon and Kelvin Champion

Brothers Simon & Kelvin Champion are taking on one of UK's biggest challenges - 24 peaks in 24 hours. Unaided, Kelvin & Simon will be doing this challenge to raise money for 2 of their chosen charities - Combat Stress and Starlight.

They are also very lucky to have on board and taking part in the trek, family member Jeff Haines. Jeff and his family have continued to support the Champions and it only seemed fitting that he continue his support and take on this adventure with them (don't tell him but it's because they need someone to carry the bags!).

Please follow their story & support their cause but most of all dig deep and donate what you can via their fundraising page - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/champions24challenge>

The challenge it's self is set for **Sat 27th & Sun 28th July 2019:**

- trekking over 53 km
- ascending over 14,000 ft across the Lake District mountain range.
- to be successful they will need to climb over 2,400 ft per hour
- clearing 24 peaks within 24 hours of walking

To put that into perspective they will be walking just over half the height of Mount Everest, equivalent to climbing 10 Empire State Buildings or 13-14 Eiffel Towers.

During the next several months Simon & Kelvin will be planning their route, preparing their kit and will undergo a rigorous training regime to complete one of the UK's toughest challenges. Via social media they will share their story as they train and prepare.

USEFUL LINKS:

Starlight - <https://www.starlight.org.uk/>

Combat Stress - <https://www.combatstress.org.uk/>

Fund raising page - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/champions24challenge>

FB Page - https://www.facebook.com/champions24challenge/?modal=admin_todo_tour



Movies in the Village Hall

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

Swimming With Men (12A) Friday 15 February



An hilarious comedy with some of our best known British actors.

Accountant Eric (Rob Brydon) is undergoing a mid-life crisis. Seeking to win back his wife Heather (Jane Horrocks) he decides to join an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team: Men Who Swim. Eric finds companionship with this new "band of brothers" as they train for the world championships in Milan.

Also stars: Rupert Graves, Jim Carter, Daniel Mays, Adeel Akhtar & Nathaniel Parker. 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.

Coming soon:

The Bookshop (PG): During the late 1950s, in a small East Anglian town, a young woman decides to open a bookshop but faces opposition.

Ham Hill: England's most seductive stone

Janet Seaton, *LANGPORT & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY*

For the Society's first meeting of the year, industrial archaeologist Dr Peter Stanier gave an illustrated presentation about Ham Hill stone, such a familiar feature of local buildings. He took his subtitle from the description of Ham Stone by Alec Clifton-Taylor, an architectural historian whose most influential work was *The Pattern of English Building*, first published in 1962. The only other stone so praised by Clifton-Taylor was also from the Liassic stone group, and used predominantly in Northamptonshire, where many buildings combine different stones in strikingly coloured stripes.

Ham Stone is about 170 million years old. It's a sedimentary rock, laid down in sweeping layers by the movement of water, known as 'current bedding' give its distinctive pattern. Over the years any layers of clay become eaten away, or 'weathered out', leaving the stone with characteristic grooves. Its warm colour is caused by the presence of iron oxide. Clifton-Taylor described this colour as soaking up the sun and reflecting it back (on a sunny day, that is). It is known as 'freestone' because it can easily be

carved. This made it naturally useful for producing shaped lintels and window surrounds, which can still be seen in many local buildings. It was less often used as the material for whole buildings, partly because of its cost and the difficulty of transporting it long distances – at least until the railways were developed. Ham Stone is therefore very much a local feature. Perhaps the most impressive Ham Stone building is Montacute House, built in Elizabethan times, but the stone is commonly found in all the towns and villages near Ham Hill. It would only be transported further afield for use in particularly important buildings, such as Sherborne Abbey, or the orangery at Hestercombe House. It was often used to ornament churches, banks, railway stations and town halls.

Quarrying at Ham Hill has been carried on since Roman times. The stone is still quarried today, mainly for restoration but sometimes for new buildings. The area is now a country park, but in 'Deep Quarry' the quarry face with the stone's distinctive markings can still be seen.

The Society's next meeting will be at Langport Library on Monday 4 February at 7.30pm, when Peter Lander will present a talk about the restoration of Birnbeck Pier.

Non-members are very welcome, £4 per person. Anyone interested in joining the History Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>. Registered Charity No. 1179718

Curry Rivel Village Hall



200 Club Draw 21 December 2018

Winner	Number	Prize	Name
1st	76	£120	Mr G Leigh
2nd	109	£75	Mr R Crowley
3rd	75	£60	Mrs A Powell
4th	10	£40	Mr D Yeomans
5th	54	£25	Mrs A Hembrow
6th	169	£20	Mr M Cotterill
7th	77	£17.50	Mrs M Henderson
8th	6	£12.50	Mrs J Rowland
9th	25	£10	Mrs J Cave
10th	121	£10	Mrs D Gibson
11th	22	£10	Mrs J Lewis
12th	3	£10	Mrs C Hampton
13th	165	£10	Mr J Brinsden

Total £420.00

The committee would like to thank all members for their continuing support.

Half of your yearly contribution goes towards repairs and improvements to the Village Hall and the other half is used for the prize money which is distributed twice a year.

Should anyone wish to buy a unit which costs £10.00 a year please contact Mrs Ashton 01458 251877

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Charity Carol Service

Alison Reed Richards &
Curry Rivel URC Congregation.

Wow! What an evening! With deep gratitude we thank Curry Rivel Village, those Village associations and groups, individuals and families who supported the congregation of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church at their Charity Carol Service on Friday 14th December 2018.

Supporting **ARC** (formerly **Taunton Association for the Homeless**) and their **Christmas Shoebox Appeal** we had reached out to you, our community, inviting you to join us for the evening bringing with you gifts for those supported by ARC in Taunton. We were thrilled by your response. Packed to the rafters and almost overflowing our little chapel played host – leading the singing of carols, the reading of the Christmas narrative of the homeless couple taking shelter in a barn (the connection between the Christmas story and our charity of choice too obvious to mention!), providing mulled wine and seasonal nibbles and we hope a warm welcome to you all.

Justin Roxburgh, ARC's CEO, was also able to attend and provided a clearer insight into the inspirational support ARC provides for its clients; from a bed for the night, to



educational provision. Some of the statistics provided were sobering and challenging; the ethos of ARC – highlighting and working with an individual's strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses – was inspiring.

Through the kindness of your hearts we were able to transport 53 gift filled shoeboxes and over £300 to ARC for their continuing work. **Thank you so much for your generosity.**

Postscript: *a number of folk expressed an interest in volunteering time and skills on a more regular basis, Justin suggests the easiest way of doing this is contacting ARC through their Facebook page or website.*

Probus Club of Langport and Curry Rivel

Dorothy Wadeson

Probus celebrated Christmas 2018 with a five-star luncheon at Dillington House which we shared with family and friends. Everyone made the day, the men in their suits and the ladies wearing their best outfits. The crackers were pulled, the hats donned and the jokes shared amongst the guests. The raffle was for club funds and raised a good sum thanks to the many prizes that were so kindly donated. In fact, such a good time was enjoyed everyone wants to return to the same venue next Christmas. Well done Dillington!

February sees us enjoying our last meeting before our AGM in March in which the new Officers will take up office for the following year. At the meeting their will be a mystery speaker before lunch so watch this space.....

If you would like to join us and see what we do, male or female as we are a mixed club, please ring Paul Crocker on 01458 252545 and he will tell you more. See you there?

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email: mikeboothie@btinternet.com



Curry Rivel Entertainers

Chris Champion

It's soon time for you to sit back and let the Curry Rivel Entertainers delight you with their 2019 pantomime 'Aladdin' and we are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Show Dates and times:

Thursday 21st February 7.30pm

Friday 22nd February 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd February 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are available now from any of the cast but also at the following:

Curry Rivel Barber shop

GreenSlade Taylor Hunt

The Village Hall on Mondays

7.30pm-9pm.

Just drop an email to

wannabe.1961@yahoo.co.uk

for ticket enquiries.

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6.00pm – 7.00pm (All levels)

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Private sessions 1 to 1 also available

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mospilates@yahoo.com



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The number of children in care in our country has now reached over 500. Could you be someone who could help one of them enjoy a brighter future? Brandon and Josh, 15 and 13 have been fostered for over seven years now and they can't thank their foster carers enough:

'When we first came to Dave and Paula's house we were really scared. Our lives were all over the place. They gave us love and stability and made us feel safe. They treat us just like their own children. We are in a much better place now and looking forward to the future – Dave and Paula say we can stay as long as we like.'

What do you need to be a foster carer?

- The energy and enthusiasm to want to turn a young person's life around
- A spare bedroom but you don't need to be a home owner
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CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Gina Beauchamp

TerraCycle

I have found an amazing web site that enables you to recycle those hard to recycle items. Go to www.terracycle.co.uk for more information.

It is free to use and they will send you boxes to store your items and send off free of charge. Profit from the recycling can be donated to charity. Some examples of items that can be recycled and sent off are:

- Pet food pouches and biscuit bags
- Toothpaste tubes (all makes) and tooth brushes
- Crisp packets, writing instruments, dishwasher tablet bags, cigarette waste.

They even have a beach recycling scheme and there is much more to see on line. I am definitely going to use the Pet food pouch recycling. More next month on how this is working.

Take Responsibility for our own Litter

Did you know that the contents of litter bins in our village and elsewhere cannot be recycled because of the dog poo bags that they contain? This is a good reason to take responsibility for our own rubbish and to take it home and recycle it responsibly in the household waste boxes. While looking after the plants along the High Street CRiB members often pick up rubbish left at bus stops, drink containers and sandwich wrappers mainly, yet there is a rubbish bin not 10 yards away outside the One Stop Shop! Please use it or even better, take it home and recycle it!



Our Website
curryrivelpriamry.somerset.org.uk

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Valentine's Day at The Firehouse

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Reservation & £10 per head deposit required



Glass of Prosecco or a "Love Struck" Cocktail
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♥ 3 courses £45 per person ♥

Enjoy Valentines Evening in the comfort of your own home with our take away offer of two pizzas & two puddings for £28.



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for full menu see www.thefirehousesomerset.co.uk

Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

February brings the last chance to book for:

- Kinky Boots 7th March; £51/£60
- Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake 13 March; £51/£61
- The Magic Flute 11 April; £56/£69
- Rock of Ages; 18 April; £41/£50
- Matilda 21 May Evening and 29 May Matinee; returns only, £62/£72.

Other trips are Fame (11 June, £45/£54), The Mousetrap (24 June, £39/£44), Calendar Girls - The Musical (16 July, £47/£59) and We Will Rock You (Queen) (18 March 2020, £45/£58).

Prices including coach are Stalls at the back/Stalls or Grand Circle near front.

Our coach goes from Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerton, then Street/Wells or Keinton Mandeville/Shepton Mallet depending on bookings. Any profit is donated to charity.

For more details of all trips please visit

www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk , e-mail

coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com or phone 01458 273085 for a brochure.

Somerton U3A

Denise Clark

The next meeting of the Somerton U3A will be on Friday 22nd February 2019 and will be a sing-song with Tim Lewis who, along with his accompanist and slide show, will be treating us to his version of "Around the World in 80 Days". These occasions are always good fun so come along and join us.

Monthly meetings normally take place on the fourth Friday of each month at the Edgar Community Hall, Somerton starting at 10am with coffee (30p) and a 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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TUESDAY GROUP

Barbara Lancey

Our December meet was the Christmas Party, and we certainly had fun making our own entertainment this year with the Reindeer Balloon game.....don't ask, but needless to say, once the laughter had died down, we succumbed to all the wonderful party food provided by the gathered throng.

Thank you to all contributors, you did us proud and it was an absolute feast! The subsequent friendly chatter and laughter soon overpowered the background Christmas music.....and such was the relaxed atmosphere that carol singing never materialised!



The evening ended with the raffle - congratulations to all winners! Before everyone departed with their Secret Santa gift, I thanked the group for their kindness and support throughout the year, and especially my fellow committee members, helping to sustain and indeed continue to develop our unique social group. Long may it thrive.....

When you read this we will have begun yet another New Year with our annual AGM and Quiz for the January meeting, and I shall report on this in the next issue.

The Tuesday Group is a ladies social group drawing from Drayton, Curry Rivel, Muchelney, Fivehead, Langport and beyond, and usually meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm in the Drayton Village Hall (there are a couple of exceptions!). Annual membership is only £10, or come and try for a guest fee of just £2.50 per meeting. **For further information please contact either Barbara Lancey on 01458 252657, email barbaralancey@hotmail.com, or Aileen Roche on 01458 252022, email aileenroche@btinternet.com.**

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DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

Long Sutton Village Hall
Saturday 23rd March
2:30—4:30 p.m.
Parking & Entry FREE
Teas and Plant Sale



Dear Readers

Helen Breeze

It's started. The gardening year. Seed catalogues all over the floor, images in my head of the stunning garden I have always wanted. I look out of the window and reality presents itself! We have moved into a very neglected garden, but we have plans! The first thing was the unmanageable Leylandii conifer hedge creating a compound around the front garden; that is now gone thanks to the heroic efforts of my partner. Now I am turning my attention to the back garden. Firstly, the huge heap of old hedge trimmings, prunings and weeds; that must go. But wait a moment, that looks like a small tunnel, which could be a hedgehog's hibernating place. Can't disturb that, so will try to encourage it into another area a little more out of the way by creating another heap of twigs and leaves in a quieter corner. This lead me to thinking about how few hedgehogs I have seen in the last few years (alive or sadly squashed on the road) so I have done a bit of research, and low and behold there really are VERY few reported in the area of Curry Rivel – see map.

This map is from the Hedgehog Street website which records reports of sightings across the whole of the UK. There is lots of interesting information on their website (also on the Interactive Wildlife Map on the Curry Rivel Website). I wonder if there are more reports of sightings in built up areas simply because there are more people out and about during the hours of darkness, but I am no expert. There clearly is a problem in this area as in many others across the country, and as Britain's favourite wild animal I feel I must contribute to improving the lot of this fascinating creature. There is plenty of information on line about them, but the most important fact I have learned is that they need whole neighbourhoods of linked up gardens, so they can roam their required 2 kilometres per night in search of food (and probably friends!).

So, what am I going to do about it? Well my first thought is I must make a suitable 'home', in the right place; well 'make' is a bit optimistic but will give it a go. Maybe use some of those Leylandii tree trunks! I can make some holes in the fence to allow for their wanderings from garden to garden. Then think about how to encourage them; too early to put out food now



Extract of Map showing reported sightings of hedgehogs curtesy of BIG Hedgehog Map from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

as they should be hibernating but will do that later in the Spring. But how do you know that 'hedgehog food' put out for is actually eaten by them not a fox, cat or badger? If anyone can advise on that I would be grateful.


So, my plans for planting seeds have taken a back seat for the moment while I find out what I can do for the hedgehogs in and around our village. If anyone would like to help with information to share I would love to hear from you.

Let's hope those two sightings reported in Curry Rivel are a male and female!!

Peppard S

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

News from Row for The Ocean

Pete Barker

Hello from Liberty – our little boat that has so far carried us nearly 2000 nautical miles across the Atlantic Ocean, with only another 1000 miles to go. Our team, Row for the Ocean, is one of 27 with 86 rowers in total, that are racing across the seas as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. We set off from La Gomera in Spain on the 12 December and we're currently predicted to arrive at the finish line on the Caribbean island of Antigua around the 25 January 2019. We've already spent Christmas Day at sea and seen in the New Year from our boat. We want to finish the race and break the current record for the fastest female group of four to row the Atlantic, so we stuck to our schedule even during Christmas Day. This meant two people were on the oars for about an hour and a half, before having the same amount of time off and then back on the oars again, and so on. But we did have some treats on the day – Kirsty's mum sent us off on our journey with a small stocking each, which was lovely to open. We also played pass the parcel all day and each hour unwrapped another layer, simple pleasures!

Each of us had a quick phone call with those at home, and we were all very grateful that even though we're thousands of miles away from home and surrounded by the ocean, we still got the chance to do that. What wasn't so nice was missing out on a tasty turkey dinner; instead, we had what we've been eating morning, noon and night since we set off – a dehydrated, high-calorie ration pack. Sadly, there isn't a roast dinner option. Most of the team went for Chicken Tikka Masala so we're setting a new Christmas tradition for us there. Ros had brought a tin of tomato soup to have for her Christmas lunch, and Kate tucked into some canned peaches for dessert. Adjusting to life on the boat has been easier than expected. Everything is very organised and has its place so it does feel strangely homely.

We have seen some plastic pollution out here, which is upsetting as right now there's not much we can do from our boat. However, this is why we signed up to the race – to raise awareness of how much our seas are damaged by this unnecessary pollution. But, we've also seen some amazing



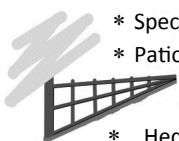
wildlife – like when a whale visited our boat. We put on some classical music to try and keep it alongside us for longer, but it clearly wasn't a fan. Little things like this have kept us motivated, and we've also got a stash of peanut M&Ms and plenty of playlists to help keep us going. We've learnt a lot about ourselves so far – mainly that it's possible to get used to only sleeping for an hour and a half at a time, how strong our shins are as we bash into them with the oars all the time and that despite all this, we can still rack up a good few knots of speed when we get going.

With every day that passes we get closer to the finish line in Antigua and are already dreaming of all the food we're going to eat. Seeing our family and friends will be an incredible moment – before finally getting to sleep in a bed again, one that isn't moving for a change!

The Row for the Ocean team consists of Kirsty Barker, 28, Kate Salmon, 31, Rosalind West and Laura Try, both 36. The race is 3,000 miles, from the shores of La Gomera on the Canary Islands, across the Atlantic Ocean to the English Harbour in Antigua. Participating countries include the UK, US, France, South Africa, Netherlands, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Italy and Bermuda.

If you feel able to support our aim to raise awareness of the pollution in our seas please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rowfortheocean where every penny raised is in aid of Surfers Against Sewage

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St. Andrew's Church

Find us at: www.curryrivel.org.uk/local-info/churches/st-andrews-church.html
and www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11260/



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

February

Sunday 3rd -

10.00 am **FH** - All Age Family Service
11.00 am **FH** - Short Communion CW
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening

Thursday 7th

10.30am **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th - 4th before Lent

9.30 am **SW** - Holy Communion BCP
11.00 am **CR** - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club
6.00 pm **FH** - Evening Worship

Monday 11th

3.30-5.30 pm CR School Messy Church

Tuesday 12th

10.00-12.00 pm **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Sunday 17th - 3rd before Lent

8.00am **CR** - Holy Communion BCP
9.30 am **FH** - Morning Prayer CW
10.00 am **CR** - All Age Family Service
11.15 am **CR** - Short Communion CW

Thursday 21st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th - 2nd before Lent

9.15 am **CR** - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club
11.00 am **FH** - Holy Communion CW

March

Sunday 3rd - Sunday before Lent

10.00 am **FH** - All Age Family Service
11.00 am **FH** - Short Communion CW
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Wednesday 6th - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm **CR** - Ash Wednesday Evening Service

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



The door-opening God.

In some situations, it is sadly still the case that 'it's not what you know, but who you know' that counts. How often have we heard that expression? We hope that times have changed and that nepotism is increasingly a thing of the past, but in some areas of life it is still the case that an old school tie, or friends in high places, can mean more than hard-earned qualifications or experience. To put it simply, knowing the right people can open doors.

Clearly this sort of favouritism is unfair and frankly immoral; something we may rightly deplore. But surprisingly there is a way in which the phrase above describes rather well the essence of being a Christian. You see, at its heart, the Christian faith is also **not** about **what** you know, but **who** you know. People do not become Christians by knowing or doing certain things, but by a personal encounter with Jesus, the Son of God. Being a Christian is very much about who you know.

This analogy of 'doors opening' can be expanded further. In the New Testament (1 Corinthians 16: 8/9) the Apostle Paul writes: **'But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has been opened for me...'**

These verses show us that whereas being a Christian does not usually open doors to power, fame or fortune, it **does** open other sorts of doors.

St. Andrew's Rotas February

Brass - Carol Haines & Lyn Cotterill
Flowers

2nd & 9th - Annette Stein
16th & 23rd - Lyn Cotterill

Cleaning

2nd - Nicky Barker
9th - Lynne Comley
16th - Lyn Cotterill
23rd - Julia Gauler



From St. Andrew's Registers

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

16th January - Interment of ashes of
Mrs Rosina Ellen Hollard
(† 31st December)

The doors Jesus opens bring us new opportunities in his service and new experiences of his grace. It offers new possibilities and direction to life that we may have never thought possible. What we may have previously considered beyond us, Christ can equip us to face with courage.

Being a Christian is not just about arriving at a safe destination (although the assurance of eternal life in heaven is a key element of Christian hope) it is also about discovering doors into uncharted territory. We cannot open these doors on our own, but wonderfully we don't have to, because for the Christian, more than anyone else, it's not what we know, but who we know.

In the late spring/early summer this year, our Benefice church families will be offering to everyone the opportunity to better know the 'door-opening God', through a series of gatherings called **Alpha**. Venue, dates and times to follow. If you would value the opportunity to refresh your faith and understanding, or suspect that what you've heard from others about Christianity is unfair or wrong, or if you would simply like the chance to make sure the decision you've made about Christ and Christianity has been an informed one, then please do consider coming along. The doors will be open...

With blessings in Christ to you and those you love,

Revd. Scott.

World Day of Prayer

A special annual service to celebrate this day will be held in the **URC Chapel**, at **2.00 pm Friday 1st March**,

with refreshments afterwards.

The theme for this year is

'Come - everything is ready'.

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

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.



Shrove Tuesday - 5th March

Shrove Tuesday, or 'pancake day', is the last day before Lent, which for Christians is traditionally a time of abstinence. This was done to exercise self-discipline before God, and to help focus the mind on the last weeks of Christ's life as he faced the cross.

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



Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday as they contain fat, butter and eggs, which as 'rich foods' 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 by faith they began Lent with a 'clean-sheet' before God.

DISCLAIMER

Publication of any article and advertising material is at the discretion of the Editor. Articles may be amended by the Editor. Views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Editor and/or the Curry Rivel News Group.

From Revd Tim

I think February is about the limit for wishing people a happy new year, and though we do so with well-meaning intention, I think perhaps this year there is cause for concern for us all.

Leaving aside the six-letter word (not mentioned in polite company but which begins with B and ends in T and depending on your viewpoint ends in either freedom and success or an ill-conceived disaster) there is the power play between some of the biggest nations; economically, militarily and financially. I won't call them 'great' nations.

There is a hardening of political attitudes across the globe and we have witnessed the emerging rise of the so called 'populist' leaders. It seems to me that they are popular when making the right noises to attract the electorate

United Reformed Church



January

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 3rd - Rev Tim Richards

(incl. Holy Communion)

**** Service followed by Church meeting**

Sunday 10th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 17th - Mr Barry Bryar

Sunday 24th - Mrs Jane Fry

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

Carols in Support of ARC

We would like to extend our thanks to Justin Roxburgh, CEO of ARC, for attending our Charity Carol Service on Friday 14th December and giving us a clearer insight into the type of inspirational support ARC provides for its clients; from a bed for the night, to educational provision, development of social skills, support with form filling, employment or benefit applications, explanation of and support with tenancy responsibility and, as a landlord itself, providing affordable and appropriate housing. Some of the statistics provided were sobering and challenging; the ethos of ARC – highlighting and working with an individual's strengths rather than focussing on their weaknesses – was inspiring.

Singing carols was followed by mulled wine and seasonal nibbles when the 70 or so of us gathered shared our thoughts and feelings about the work of ARC. As a village, as village groups and organisations, individuals and families, on the Saturday morning we were able to transport 53 filled shoeboxes (not counting the Christmas gift bags, clothes, blankets, duvet and pillow sets also donated!) and forward just over £ 300 to ARC.

Thank you so much for your support.

When 'Hope' is spoken of in Christian circles it is not in a 'cross your fingers' superstitious kind of way, but is something tangible which we believe is to be prepared for, worked for, invested in. Hope has an outcome. The Christian Hope is the politics of love your world-wide neighbour as yourself.

I was fortunate enough to spend time in Taiwan before Christmas as part of my sabbatical. Whilst there I was impressed by the way the church is responding to Taiwan's concerns over China's expansionist plans; Christianity engaging in the politics of that region from a humanitarian perspective. This is reflected in my comments above: I will write more about this in next month's edition.

Rev Tim Richards.

In February**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	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
1.30 - 3.30	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

4 Feb Langport Library
 Langport History Society ...Talk about Birnbeck Pier
 21, 22 and 23 February 'Alladin' at the village hall.

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
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
Get Together Club	251773
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 - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Minister	01749 679300

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

**Deadlines for March Edition**

Advertising:	5pm Thursday 7 February
Send to:	crnadverts@btinternet.com
Comments & Articles:	5pm Tuesday 12 February
Send to:	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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