



Local Woman to Row the Atlantic



Departure from La Gomera is set for December 2018. Before then, they will undertake a gruelling regime of training to build strength and stamina and eat a diet designed to put weight on to combat losing up to 10 kilos that each will face during their time at sea.

The trio are also faced with finding £100,000 to acquire the specialist ocean-going rowboat, with its open seats and tiny sleep pods, as well as GPS navigational kit and other equipment necessary to make the crossing.

Kirsty Barker is one of three women planning to tackle one of the world's toughest rowing events, the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, a 3,400-plus mile crossing from the Canary isle of La Gomera to Antigua, West Indies.

As *Row for the Ocean*, the trio are rowing to raise £60,000 for the Plastic-Free Coastlines campaign run by Surfers Against Sewage. Plastic waste is polluting every ocean on Earth, crippling sea wildlife and ruining beaches and water quality. To further support SAS, *Row For the Ocean* are holding beach cleans, fundraising events and school talks. Kirsty, Kate Salmon and Rosalind West, met at Exeter Rowing Club and are aiming to be the first women's three to make the crossing.

In adverse conditions, the route could take as long as 70+ days. The team will face blisters, salt rash, sharks, sea sickness, sleep deprivation, hallucinations, and inevitably large waves caused by mid-ocean storms. They will operate a regime of two hours rowing and two hours rest, round the clock, until they reach their target of Antigua.

Kirsty, a landscape architect, grew up in Curry Rivel, 'In my childhood the family escaped to the sea at every chance we got - spending weeks at a time in our little beach hut in Mudeford. Those early summers have stayed with me, giving me the bug for being on and around water. Although sports have always been important to me, I've previously stuck to the muddier versions of football and rugby (albeit not necessarily drier!). After graduating from the University of Gloucestershire, I settled in Exeter and found rowing - being 6'1" I thought I'd better use my height to my advantage! Luckily my work and family have been very understanding of the constant training and my incessant rowing talk.

When Ros came to me with her idea for rowing the Atlantic I thought 'it's hard enough to do 2000 meters let alone 3000 miles!' I don't think I've changed my mind on that, but I can't wait to see what the challenge will bring!

If you'd like to contribute as an individual or business then you can visit the website at www.rowfortheocean.co.uk

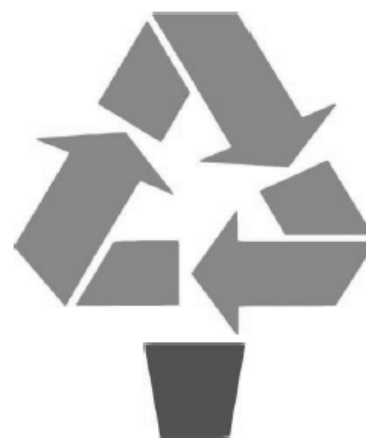
District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

Further to its Marks & Spencer building acquisition earlier in the autumn, SSDC have acquired the Wilko building in Yeovil as part of their Commercial Strategy investment portfolio. With the likelihood of budget cuts looming in the future SSDC hope this will provide additional income to protect the provision of core services to our residents and communities.

However, where SSDC are spending to invest in the future for the benefit of our communities it is a shame they are not paying closer attention to those who will be administering these services. I have previously written about the Transformation process currently taking place in SSDC – the restructuring of staff, services, office space, work roles and ways of working – in order to become more efficient and save money. Unfortunately, by the time SSDC has been transformed at the end of June 2018 it will be unclear just how much this process will have saved financially when weighing up the personal cost of the loss of experienced staff and morale. What is clear is the process involving rounds of reapplying for jobs, rewriting work role statements, re-interviews for roles and the uncertainty of the organisation's future structure, along with the expense of requiring an external Human Resource company to conduct all procedures, has meant many of our knowledgeable and skilled staff, many of whom would be in charge of overseeing the protection and provision of core services, have left. It has been a disagreeable process and it remains to be seen how this transformation will conclude.

Finally, Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) have teamed up with Careline to promote home safety. Both have contributed funding to enable vulnerable people across South Somerset access to the installation of free Careline-linked telecare smoke detectors, which can be monitored directly through Careline's control centre, alerting the team if smoke or fire is detected. Please contact Careline directly if you would like more details.



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Growing Your Own

Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

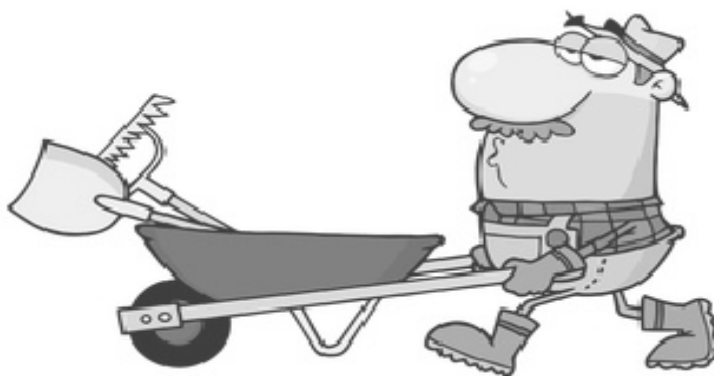
As this is being written in very early December to meet the early deadline for CRN contributions it still seems a way off Christmas, let alone the New Year. However, by the time the CRN is distributed new year's greetings will be in order, so best wishes for a good gardening 2018!

Unless there's a real change in the weather in late December, we may still have had hardly any frosts as we enter the New Year! At the time of writing we are wondering on whether there will be any parsnips ready for Christmas lunch as, of course, they need frosting to develop their full sweetness. (We are aware that those of you who live nearer the main road than us may have had more frosts as we are on the ridge and therefore escape lighter frosts).

January should be one of the coldest months of the year and we might see some snow, so much of what can be done outside in the garden is to minimise the effects of adverse weather. Plants often survive well under a full blanket of snow, but if they show above the snow they can be badly frosted, even if they are supposedly hardy. Also, snow can break down branches so it is best to knock it off them before this can happen.

In good spells there are still a few things to do. Shrubs and hedging plants can be planted and established trees and shrubs can be pruned by thinning out dead and diseased branches. Wisteria should be winter pruned by cutting back young shoots to within 3 inches of old wood. If rose bushes or other plants have become loosened by winter gales they will need some support, and bamboo canes do this job well, are relatively inexpensive and can be purchased in the village.

Rhubarb can be planted this month; plant roots about 3 foot apart, with their tops about 1 inch below soil level. If you have access to it, spread a strawy manure over the plants and cover established crowns similarly. Shallots can be planted



from now on, though the soil needs to be well drained if you plant this month.

If you have somewhere you can germinate seeds that is protected - a heated greenhouse is best, followed by an unheated greenhouse and finally a cold frame -and can keep the temperature above freezing, light will become the limiting factor in growth as a balance of temperature and light is required. Lettuce seeds can be sown for succession and need some heat; tomato, pepper, aubergine and cucumber seeds can be planted from mid January onwards, but need considerably more heat than lettuce. If you have a greenhouse consider a separate area as a mini-hothouse for these plants. Use a small heater, paraffin, gas or electric to keep the temperature at about 15 and you will have good early crops of these tasty fruit.

Perhaps the nicest thing to be doing garden-wise this month is looking ahead and planning for the year ahead. Plan new borders and changes in established ones, order seeds, get mowers, hedge trimmers etc. serviced, clear up the shed, greenhouse and garage, clean and oil tools and dream of the perfect garden you will have until reality, in the shape of weeds, wind and weariness interferes! Regardless of these, gardening is rewarding and great fun so something to look forward to as the new year progresses.

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Parking Issues in Curry Rivel

Following a number of complaints to the Parish Council about parking issues in the Village Green area, Cllr Andy Anderson volunteered to investigate the reported problems with a view to establishing some possible solutions. In addition, he was asked to look at congestion and parking issues in High Street.

Cllr Anderson visited the village green over 50 times at various times of the day and week to see for himself the issues faced by the residents, and remarked on the large number of vehicles parked there which he concluded was because the Parish Council car park was full. Unfortunately, he found many examples of inconsiderate parking which made manoeuvring difficult for residents and other road users. He identified several possible solutions which he felt should be explored further, such as the provision of an additional car park for the village, encouraging local residents to report incidents of obstruction to the police using the 101 non-emergency phone number and asking local businesses to encourage their staff to be considerate to residents when parking their cars. For practical and economic reasons Cllr Anderson did not feel able to recommend other possible strategies such as imposing parking restrictions on the area or painting white lines outside individual properties.

Andy concluded that the issue with the High Street is the lack of visibility of oncoming vehicles from both directions due to the layout of the road, buildings, adjacent parked cars and the narrowing of the road in places. He noted that the cars parked along this road do act as a traffic calming measure and consequently the speed of through traffic is reduced, but they also contribute to the lack of places for motorists to pull in to give way to traffic from the opposite direction. He recognises that there are many different solutions that could be adopted, but recommends that before any change is pursued we should have a clear understanding of what it is that we want to achieve and then seek advice from the appropriate professionals on how to accomplish that.

Do we want to:

Improve the flow of traffic through this part of the village by providing passing places?

Provide a safe place for pedestrians to cross?

Provide safe parking areas for residents whilst maintaining an orderly flow of traffic through this part of the village?

Consider single way traffic, controlled by traffic lights?

Or do we want something completely different, or nothing at all?

If you have ideas about this that you would like to share write to andyanderson@tiscali.co.uk or curryrivelnews@gmail.com.

Oliebollen – a Dutch treat for New Year

Traditional Dutch oliebollen (literally, "oil balls") have often been called the precursor of the doughnut, the popular American treat. In fact, it seems very probable that early Dutch settlers took their tradition over to the New World, where it evolved into the anytime-anywhere snack the doughnut is today. In Holland, however, they pretty much remain a seasonal treat: made and enjoyed specifically to ring in the New Year.

Ingredients

1 teaspn sugar
4 ½ teasps dried yeast
400 grams plain flour
50 grams caster sugar
2 large eggs
475 ml milk
1 teaspn salt
200g currants or raisins
2 litres oil (vegetable or sunflower)
Icing Sugar
Cinnamon



Method

1. In a small bowl, mix 1 teaspn white sugar into 120ml of lukewarm water. Sprinkle the yeast on top and allow to stand for 10 minutes (if the yeast doesn't bubble, discard and buy new yeast as it means the yeast is no longer active). Stir to combine.
2. Mix together the flour and 50 grams sugar in a large bowl and make a well in the middle. Add the eggs as well as the yeast mixture.
3. Add half of the milk (warmed) to the well in the flour and mix until all ingredients are combined. Add the rest of the warmed milk and the dried fruit and whisk until smooth.
4. Cover the bowl with a damp tea towel and allow to rise in a warm area for about 1 hour. Once the dough has doubled, stir in the salt.
5. Heat the oil in a deep-fryer, or heavy deep pan. Use 2 metal spoons to shape scoops of dough into balls, and drop them carefully into the hot oil.
6. Fry the balls until golden brown, about 8 minutes. The doughnuts should be soft and not greasy. If the oil is not hot enough, the outside will be tough and the insides greasy. When ready remove from oil and drain on paper towels.
7. Sieve icing sugar over the oliebollen, dust with cinnamon and serve warm.

READERS' RECIPES

Letters to the Editor



In response to:- Letter to the Editor 'Christian Civilization' December C.R.N. 2017

Dear Editor,

How refreshing to have someone obviously engaged with the church pages, albeit from a rather negative perspective.

Alongside the fact that countless millions of people have and continue to benefit from the selfless service of those acting in Christ's name, it is also a given that man has in his/her nature the propensity to make mistakes. The church through its fallible leaders has been guilty of condoning unloving acts and must accept blame for past actions contrary to the teaching of Christ.

However, Jesus throughout his ministry is concerned about the individual and his/ her response to his message. It is when the individual accepts the sinless, selfless, just, love of Christ and allows that love to work in his/her life that his/her actions become truly motivated to be beneficial to others.

Mark Allan should by now be aware that Scott's ministry and his message is sensitively but determinedly rooted in Biblical truth, not human church history. Has he the courage to be challenged personally by attending St. Andrew's services?

Yours sincerely,

Eric Richardson

Dear Editor

After living in Curry Rivel for 72 years, early in 2018 I shall be moving out of the village, and as a result I will be unable to continue as Clerk to the Curry Rivel Combined Charities. I have been Clerk to the Charity for 17 years, and it is with regret that I will no longer be involved with it. The Trustees are therefore looking for my replacement. It isn't an onerous job, as it involves arranging two meetings a year followed by the writing of the Minutes, a few letters and some simple book-keeping.

There must be somebody locally who would take this on for the sake of the community. For more details, please contact one of the Trustees, Rev Scott Patterson (01458 251375), Henry Lang (01458 251380), Steve Beney (01458 259391) or John Alford (01460 281766).

With best wishes

John Hunt

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Everyone is welcome, with or
without food offering
Come on your own or with a friend.

Transport can be provided
Please phone Anne on 01458 253078
for details and queries.
Curry Rivel W.I.

Curry Rivel in Bloom

A flowering community

In Bloom 2018

Buckets of potatoes.... Britain in Bloom is not just about flowers. It is a community thing, and we need to involve as many people, organisations and businesses as possible in our 2018 plans and activities.

One effort to do this, across all age groups, is a potato growing competition, which will also help fund our floral efforts. You can enter for just £5. We supply the plastic bucket and the seed potatoes, you provide the compost and your own growing expertise, then, in August we will award prizes to juniors (12 & under) and seniors, for the most potatoes, the heaviest potato and the greatest weight of potatoes. You keep the bucket and the potatoes, we recycle the compost for our planters next year. Download the entry form at curryrivelinbloom.blogspot.com or phone 01458 250603.

...and bulbs: Thanks to a generous donation from South Somerset District Council and the sterling efforts of a small band of volunteers, around 3,000 mixed spring bulbs have hopefully now been planted, many of them in the 'Twinning' area next to the garage. We look forward to a profusion of crocus, daffodils etc.

Finger Signs: In cooperation with the Parish Council, CRiB is considering refurbishing some of the old-style cast-iron Finger signposts around the village. It's a long-term project and volunteers will be needed to help at the appropriate times. As a County Council scheme all volunteers must

complete a health and safety course in order to be covered by SCC insurance. We are waiting for a date, but if you are interested contact Ivor on 250603. First step will be a survey of the posts to assess their condition and suitability for repair.

On a related topic, we are looking at potential sites for information boards and village maps. Suggestions welcome.

Spare Compost? We need to improve the beds at the war memorial and fill our planters with good soil. If you have compost, manure, turf or weed-free top soil that you can donate, get in touch with cribsomerset@gmail.com or ring Gina on 01458 762296. Community compost bins are being set up on our allotment in Heale Lane.

Not just gardeners.... Britain in Bloom focuses on Community involvement, Conservation and Environment, with only half the points allocated for the floral displays. To demonstrate this we need to build teams of helpers (not just the green fingered variety!) so, if you have a talent for woodwork, art and design, photography, can add muscle for the heavier work required, sponsor a tree or display, research history, provide transport or want to consider a local initiative to improve your part of the village, do let us know. Our next meeting, open to all interested villagers, is on Monday 15th January 2018, 7.30 in the village hall.

Ivor Dixon, cribportfolio@gmail.com 01458 250603



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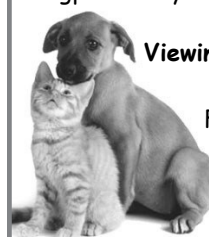
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works is that you must donate your article for free and post it on line through Freecycle. You will receive emails from people who would like to have your article. You choose who you would like to have it and email them a reply. They must collect it at a time suitable to yourself. At that point you can exchange phone numbers and give an address.

Items that have been recycled have included, buckets of old stones, old doors, kitchen units, bicycles, boats, liquidisers, old pallets, sofas, beds and mattresses are very much in demand The list is endless. You will receive emails of items that are wanted and offered as a weekly digest if you wish to.

Some people have even furnished a flat through Freecycle when they haven't had the money to do so. Not only will you keep items from landfill but you will be helping the community as well!

Recycling January 2018 CRIB

Last month we asked for compost to re-use at the War Memorial to improve the soil before planting up the permanent garden. We have received several offers of compost. Thank You. We will now have to organise a working party to dig it out and transport it, so any offers of help will be gratefully received! If you have any spare compost and could deliver it in bags that would be even better! We are also looking for any 3litre black plastic flower pots that you may not need, please contact Gina on 01458 762296 or cribsomerset@gmail.com

Go to www.freecycle.org it will explain how to join up and you can read the rules.

www.freelywheely.com is another local group but not as big as Freecycle.

Happy Recycling !Gina Beauchamp. CRIB

There are plenty of websites where you can sell unwanted items on line, but if you have something you would like to get rid of for FREE and very quickly, then why not try FREECYCLE. this will keep unwanted articles out of landfill and save people money buying new items.

It is a free service; local groups are in Taunton and Chard but are used by people in the surrounding areas. There are several people in Curry Rivel who use it already. The way it

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Movies in the Village Hall

mvhcurry.wix.com/films

My Cousin Rachel (12A)

Friday 19 January



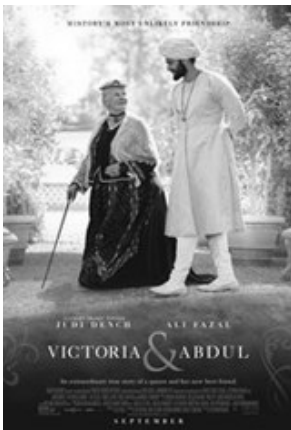
A haunting romantic-drama based on Daphne du Maurier's celebrated 1951 novel.

A young orphaned Englishman, Philip, is adopted by his older cousin Ambrose, who raises him on large estate in Cornwall. On the advice of his physician, Ambrose leaves for the warmer climes of Tuscany. There he meets and weds a widowed half-cousin, Rachel. But Ambrose's health deteriorates and believing his wife is killing him slowly, he writes to Philip to warn him. Philip sets off for Italy only to be informed that Ambrose has died and Rachel has left.

Philip returns to Cornwall and later learns that Rachel has followed. Convinced she is guilty of murder, Philip vows to confront Rachel but when she arrives at the estate he discovers a beautiful and intelligent woman and becomes infatuated by her. Stars: Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin, Holliday Grainger, and Iain Glen.

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:



Victoria & Abdul (PG)

Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim.



Dunkirk (12A)

Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire and France are surrounded by the German Army, and evacuated during a fierce battle in World War II.

Churchill film a success



In association with the Royal British Legion, Movies in the Village Hall organised a special film screening for the charity on Friday 17 November. The film chosen was "Churchill", an historical war drama which recounted the story of the actions of Winston Churchill during the 96 hours leading up to D-Day in June 1944. Starring Brian Cox in the title role

and Miranda Richardson as Clementine, it gave an interesting, unfamiliar perspective on the great leader — one that was wearied by war, hesitant and fearful of the results of failure.

goers were also treated to some trailers of forthcoming films. A donation to the RBL was made from the evening's profits and a raffle helped to boost much needed funds.

Want to learn more about the Royal British Legion in the Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead area?

Then please email: potteramf2@btinternet.com or telephone 01458 251280.



Around 45 people — both members and non-members of the RBL — attended the film in the Village Hall, which was specially decorated with flags and bunting for the event. Film

For more info on Movies in the Village Hall, please visit the website: <https://mvhcurry.wixsite.com/films>

Curry Rivel Remembers

By Tony Potter

After the annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, attended this year by many more people than in recent years, the local Branch of the Royal British Legion held a lunch in the village hall.



Guests at lunch

This was the first occasion that such an event had been held on Remembrance Sunday. Some fifty people attended - members and non-members - for a meal of 'Trench Stew', which warmed the cockles on a cold day, followed by chocolate 'Brownies'.

Three members of the Armed Forces in uniform attended with their families, as guests of the Royal British Legion. One of them said "We are very grateful to be invited and I hope that this will now become an annual event in the village on Remembrance Sunday."

It is certainly the intention of the Royal British Legion to hold another lunch next year, which we hope more people will attend, both to thank those Service personnel who live amongst us, and to raise money for the charity. Just under £400 was raised on this occasion for the two Legion Homes in Somerset at Bishops Lydeard and Weston.



Lt Cdr Matt French RN and Lt Cdr Andy Anderson RN

The Somerton U3A meeting

on Friday 26 January will be Royal Naval yarns from the wardroom by Commander J Holt.

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, and it is just £1.50 each for visitors.

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Charity Theatre Trips to Bristol Hippodrome

With 19 trips planned to March 2019 and trip 250 just over the horizon we are spoilt for choice.

New bookings are for the musical **This is Elvis**, telling the story of Elvis's comeback and his Las Vegas concert, with many of his top hits, the comedy ballet with the clog dancing dame **La Fille Mal Gardée** (Friday 6th July) and the musical **Kinky Boots** based on (but better than) the hit film (7th March 2019). February brings **Wicked** (half-term matinee 15 Feb & evening 20 Feb).

Bookings closing in January for **Brendan Cole** (11 Mar), **Bourne's Cinderella** (22 Mar), & **Tosca** (11 Apr)

Due to sell outs we plan second trips to **Beautiful : The Carole King Story** (5 Apr), to **Take That: The Band** (18 Apr), and to **Miss Saigon** (31 May).

Pick-ups in Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerton, then Street, Wells or Keinton Mandeville, Shepton Mallet.

For complete listing and booking form: www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk,
or e-mail coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com, or phone 01458 273085.

New Year Customs in Somerset

We tend to think of Scotland as being the place where New Year is celebrated most, but in the past Somerset has had its own New Year customs and superstitions; though I am not sure how many of them are still observed. In many homes, apparently, the family Bible would be laid on the table unopened on 1st January and members of the family would take it in turns to open it at random, place one of their fingers anywhere on the page and then read the selected passage aloud. Everyone else would comment on the meaning of the passage and form their conclusions as to the happiness or misery that they could expect in the coming year. I don't suppose there were horoscopes in newspapers at that time.

Over one hundred years ago, Christmas was very much a time for personal and family gatherings, whereas New Year was the time to go out and visit friends and neighbours and other homes – perhaps like the Scottish tradition of 'first-footing'. There were children's parties and gifts would have been given and received.

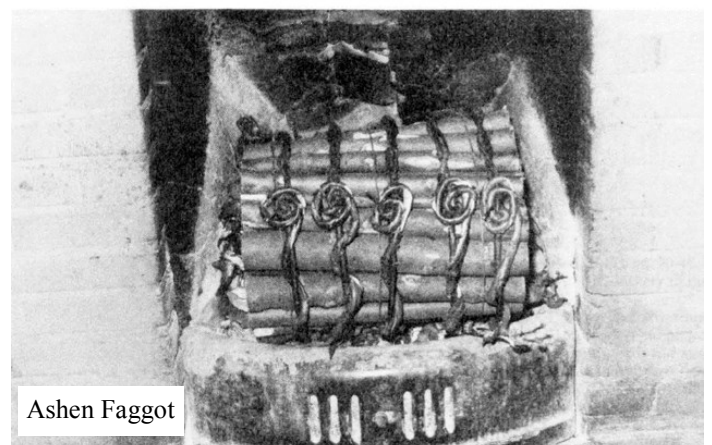
"Never wash anything on New Year's Day or you will wash one of your family away" was another cheerful Somerset saying, and if 1st January fell on 'washing day' superstitious people would make sure that they did it a day earlier that week. "I never 'ooden wash New Year's Day, not for nobody," one old lady is quoted as saying. On a more jolly note, in some villages – but I don't know if Curry Rivel was one of them – the bell ringers would take plenty of cider with them when they went to ring in the new year. I suppose it was dry work pulling on the ropes and seemingly it was generally agreed that the ringing was enhanced by generous quantities of cider.

Curry Rivel, like a few other villages, is famous for the annual Wassail in January – but we also have the Ashen Faggot ceremony - to ensure plenty of apples in the coming season.

One custom that definitely seems to have died out is one where the landlord of a village inn would keep open house on Twelfth Night when all and sundry who cared to do so were invited to partake of "Mine Host's" hospitality. On that night in particular it could not be said that village life was dull – for at least one section of the community – for the fun was fast and furious.

The first Monday after Twelfth Night was when work on the farm began again in earnest. Before starting work for the day farm workers were accustomed to go about in procession, often dressed as mummers, and dragging from house to house a plough decorated with ribbons. Verses were sung on the way and outside the principal houses, and money was asked for to spend on a party at the end of the day. If at any house a contribution was refused, the labourers would pull the plough over the front garden so that it resembled a ploughed field. Who said 'trick or treat' was an American import?

However you choose to see in the new year, we hope that 2018 will be a very happy year for you.



Ashen Faggot

Langport & District History Society

Christmas Social

Barry Winetrobe

The Society's December meeting was the annual Christmas Social, which was held at the new History Hut, Low Ham. Several dozen members gathered to enjoy good conversation and excellent food and drink they had contributed to the festivities.

The History Hut is a developing project led by Karen Cook of Low Ham focussing on local history, from Roman times onwards, with illustrated information wall panels depicting, for example, local people who were involved in some of the most famous military campaigns in British history, such as the Crimean War and the Napoleonic Wars. As the Hut is a redeveloped Nissen Hut – used by the Gloucester Regiment in the Second World War - the main focus is on the two World Wars of the last century, through biographies of those on the local War Memorials, the story of the Home Guard and other wartime events and activities.

The next meeting will be on Monday 8 January, when the ever-popular Peter Stanier will be 'Looking at limekilns'. 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/langportheritage/home>.

Bell-Ringers killed in action

Patrick Rendell

Of the countless casualties of the great war, as many as 1400 killed in action are recorded as being church bell-ringers, two of them being ringers at St. Andrews (a memorial plaque to them can be found in the ringing room): Rifleman Albert Budd of the King's Royal Rifle corps and Gunner Thomas Pope of Royal Garrison Artillery.

When the centenary of the end of the great war is marked in November, bells will ring out across the country. The central council of bell-ringers have endorsed a plan to recruit 1400 new ringers ready to join in, which means that in our village we look to train two (at least) between now and November.

If you fancy taking up a new and very rewarding hobby, and would like to volunteer to become one of our centenary ringers, please either contact Liz and Patrick Rendell on 253856, or just turn up at a Wednesday practice in the tower at 7-30 pm.

The first practice of the new year will be on Wednesday January 10th.

Delicious “dégustation”

Alison Higson

The Curry Rivel & District Twinning Association held a wine tasting

evening in the Village Hall on Friday 24 November. Over 30 people - both members and non-members - joined in the fun, tasting six types of wine from various parts of the world. Among them were two whites, a rosé and three reds from France, Italy, Chile, Australia and even India. A range of fabulous home-made canapés was also provided.

During the evening everyone changed seats in order to chat to others and as the wine

flowed, so did the conversation. There was also a lighthearted quiz sheet asking participants to guess the country of origin, type of grape and aromas and flavours, which produced some entertaining responses. All in all it was a successful evening, which together with a raffle, raised valuable funds for the Twinning Association.

Interested in learning more about the Curry Rivel & District Twinning Association?

Then please email: thepavilion54@btinternet.com or telephone 01458 252946.



Curry Rivel W.I.

This year we will be celebrating Christmas with three Carol Services! We have been invited by Long Sutton W.I. to join in their Carol Service and the following week we will join other WIs from all over Somerset at Wells Cathedral for some wonderful Carols. This is an annual fixture and always one of our most popular events, especially as some of our members sing in the choir. Our trio of services is finished off with a Carol Service at Hambridge and Westport church, where we will be joined by other local WIs. Our monthly pub lunch will be a Christmassy one, and one of our best supported. And then there's our meeting – we will start with a talk from a helper from Heaven's Gate, the animals still need to be cared for on Christmas Day, and she will tell us what happens there. Instead of a Secret Santa, this year, we are gift wrapping up pet food (beautifully, for our more competitive members!) and donating it all to Heaven's Gate. We'll then have a festive fruit punch and mince pies, followed by some games and a quiz. By then we'll all be more than ready for Christmas!

After the big build up to Christmas, the days afterwards can be rather quiet, as most clubs and activities take a well-earned break. To help to fill this gap, we are holding a 'Bring and Share' lunch in The Old School Room, on Friday 29th December from 12.30 to 2.30pm. Everyone is invited, young and old, families and friends, anyone who just fancies a nice lunch and a bit of a chat. If you have any food left over from

Christmas, please bring it with you, but don't worry, there'll be plenty for everyone! If you would like a lift or have any questions at all, please ring Anne on 01458 253078.

Our first meeting in 2018 will be on Thursday January 11th in the Village Hall. One of our newer members, Linda Dodimead, will be talking about researching your Family History, the best way to start or to get going again if you've hit a problem. What a great way to start the New Year, to get on with something you've been meaning to do for ages! Come at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email jackiegerman@hotmail.com



Curry Rivel Active Living Group

Programme for January, February, March.

January.

5th, Malcolm Gregory (The keyboard Man)
12th, Games.
19th, Bright & High (singing duo)
7th, Games.

February.

2nd, Def Plus & Games.
9th, Mike Bolton. (local interest talk)
16th, Games.
23rd, Sarah Meikle,(Soft Fabric Craft)

March.

2nd, Games.
9th, Steve Southerland (Music 50s 60, & 70s)
16th, Games.
23rd, Lottie Dale, (History of Aloe Vera)
30th, Closed



Logs

Anon

Beech-wood fires burn bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year;
Store your beech for Christmastide
With new-cut holly laid beside;
Chestnut's only good, they say,
If for years 'tis stored away;
Birch and fir-wood burn too fast
Blaze too bright and do not last;
Flames from larch will shoot up high,
Dangerously the sparks will fly;
But ash-wood green and ash-wood brown
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.

Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter's cold;
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke;
Elm-wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold;
It is by the Irish said;
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread,
Apple-wood will scent the room,
Pear-wood smells like flowers in bloom;
But ash-wood wet and ash-wood dry
A King may warm his slippers by.

LANGPORT AND SOMERTON INNER WHEEL

Dorothy Wadeson, Club Correspondent

We would like to thank all those people who attended our Annual Charity Lunch on 25th November at the Langport Arms. The response was extremely encouraging and we were able to raise a very good sum for charity. The speaker and Guest of Honour was Ian from 1st Responders, our main charity this year. 1st Responders are local people who respond within minutes to a heart attack or stroke victim prior to the arrival of paramedics and ambulances, so they play a very important role in a community in times of emergency. Other guests included the President of Rotary, the Vice President of Probus and the President of Shepton Mallet Inner Wheel together with personal guests of the members.



The photo left to right is of David Wadeson Vice Chair of Probus, Angie Saunders Vice Pres. I\Wheel, Roger Hampton President of Rotary, Jane Warren Pres. I\Wheel, Edna Russel 2nd Vice Pres. I\Wheel.

PROBUS CLUB LANGPORT AND CURRY RIVEL

Dorothy Wadeson - Club reporter.

When writing this we are looking forward to our annual Christmas Lunch to be held at Dillington House in December in the company of family and friends. We will be enjoying a sumptuous meal with all the trimmings and trappings of Christmas so we will be starting Christmas in the best style. Crackers, hats and best dresses and suits will be the order of the day along with much merriment.

If you think you would like to be part of our festivities next year why not get in contact with our erstwhile secretary Paul Crocker on 01458 252545, email paulscrocker@yahoo.com or visit our website www.langportandcurryprobus.co.uk and consider becoming a member. Men and women are both welcome, our lady membership is growing steadily.

01458 259155 / 07779 322130

S R BUILDING

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Patios - Tiling
Decorating**

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& Property Maintenance**

stephen.reddings@live.co.uk

OBS

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E: leejohnsonsmith@me.com

24hr call outs + friendly service



Pilates

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



teamBeat
Physical health & wellbeing

HIIT Fitness



**Saturdays 9am
Westfield Park, Curry Rivel £2**

**All levels of fitness
Family friendly
Bring a bottle, bring a friend, bring a smile!
Get fit and healthy together!**

Contact Verity or Simon on 07712241104
Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



St. Andrew's Church



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

January

Wednesday 3rd

2.45 pm Immacolata House - Residents' Communion

Thursday 4th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 7th - Baptism of Christ

10.00 FH - All Age Family Service

11.00 FH - Short Communion CW

6.00 pm CR - Evening Worship

Thursday 11th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 14th - Epiphany 2

9.30 SW - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 CR - Holy Communion CW & Sunday Club

6.00 pm FH - Evening Prayer CW

Thursday 18th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 21st - Epiphany 3

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

Thursday 25th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 28th - Epiphany 4

9.15 CR - Holy Communion CW

& Sunday Club

11.00 FH - 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

Drop-In at St. Andrew's OSR



Please note that there will be no Drop-In this month due to a 'winter break'.

Drop-In will resume on

Tuesday 13th February

Scott's spot

Still searching?

Hot on the heels of Christmas comes the church season of 'Epiphany', a time traditionally for recalling the journey of the wise men in their search for the child Jesus. Contrary to many a nativity scene it is likely that the wise men were not present at Jesus' birth, but, by that guiding star, found their way to him sometime later. The point of this season however is not to highlight inaccuracies in traditional Christmas chronology, but to emphasise that in their open and honest searching those wise men found in Jesus, God himself. In Matthew's gospel chapter 7 we find these words from the adult Jesus: **'Ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.'** For those who are searching, it sounds good doesn't it? And no doubt those promises are very good. Yet, like most eye-catching promises we need to understand what's being offered. Perhaps, as 2018 lies before us, you are conscious of searching for something more in life, and Jesus' words resonate with you.



But these words aren't a blank cheque, a guarantee that whatever we strive for in life will be ours. The truth is, many who search for the things so loved by this world - power, popularity and pounds - will never find them. No, the searching Jesus is talking about here is of a different sort. He is speaking about the search for meaning, for truth, and for God. These words speak into our deepest needs. They are about more than happiness (although that is part of it), more than searching for personal fulfilment - though that is part of it too. They are about a search for the divine and the meaning of life itself. It is about a journey of discovery that reaches its purpose in Christ.

Search in this way, with your heart and mind open to God's gentle guidance, and, like those wise men long ago, the promise here is that those who dare to reach out, will certainly find. Perhaps this New Year you're conscious of searching for something nothing else in life has been able to fully satisfy. Open your life to him and you will discover life at its most rich and full, the answer to your deepest needs, and that the one before whom the wise men fell to their knees in worship, is there for you too. Will this be the year you choose to knock?

With every blessing to you and those you love this January, and on into 2018.

Revd. Scott Patterson

From St. Andrew's Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into God's church.

19th November - Maddison M. Barker

25th November - Jenny and Nicholas Williams

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

17th November - Celebration for the life of Mrs Sylvia Calder († 5th November 2017)

21st November - Funeral Service of Mrs Freda M. B. Clegg († 5th November 2017)

St. Andrew's Rotas January

Brass - Gillie Purves

Flowers

6th & 13th - Sue Randell

20th & 27th - Lyn Cotterill

Cleaning

6th - Tina Geary

13th - Wendy Graves

20th - Liz Rendell

27th - Jackie & John de Ronde



Children's Society

A huge thank you to everyone who helped raise money for the Children's Society by collecting their small change. There are now 57 collection boxes in Curry Rivel and Langport. By 1st December an amazing £ 997 was raised and at the Christingle Service in St. Andrew's a further £ 175.41 was donated.

If you would like to help this charity by having a box in your home, please contact Tina Geary on 01458 259003.

Final update on the 2017

Shoe Box Appeal

The final total number of boxes that have gone from the village on their journey abroad is 101. **Many thanks to all who gave and helped in any way.**

Carols, Bangers and Mash

The third annual 'Carols, Bangers and Mash', organised by St. Andrew's Church, brought a warm glow to a cold night on Friday 1st December in the Village Hall.

The evening began with a glass of warming mulled cider (donated and served by Henry Lang, with Robert Clark) and continued with tasty sausages, generously donated by Old Heale Smallholding. To finish the meal, there was an impressive selection of delicious home-made deserts.



Some 90 guests, ranging from around 9 to 90, were treated to carols sung by the St. Andrew's Choir and invited to raise their own voices in singing carols of their choice. There was a raffle with a wide variety of prizes and a 'name that carol' quiz.



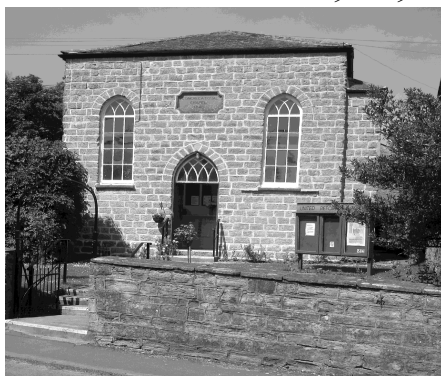
Many thanks to Nicky Barker and her band of chefs. They were greatly helped by the Girl Guides who served and cleared in a very professional manner and who have received a 'thank you' donation towards a forthcoming trip to Sri Lanka.

Thanks go, also, to local businesses and individuals from the community for donating raffle prizes.

Overall, £ 1,100 was raised for St. Andrew's Church, contributing to the ongoing upkeep of the building and provision of services to the community.

Many thanks to all who came for contributing to a warm, fun and successful evening.

United Reformed Church



January

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 7th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 14th - Mrs Jo Morling

Sunday 21st - Rev Ken Coles

Sunday 28th - Uniting at Langport URC

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

Thoughts after Christmas.

I have always loved the figure of Father Christmas. It stems from having crept into the living room as a child to check whether he had visited and in astonishment seeing his legs disappearing up the chimney! Should you ever visit our house at Christmas you would see a large number of representations dotted around; tall, thin Santas; short, round Santas; green ones, brown ones, white ones, red ones; Santas with gifts, with lists, with sacks, with bells.....we love santas! The knowledge that there is no cosy grotto at the North Pole does not diminish my affection for this figure.

I wonder what might be the reaction to discovering the true figure of Christmas was merely a figment of imagination? What then? I don't mean the literal truth of the birth stories. I am happy they are interpretations – valuable, purposeful, powerful even, but most likely not literal.

Members and friends of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church wish all readers of the Curry Rivel News a healthy, happy New Year.

As we enter another New Year –

We pray for a **peace** built on acceptance and celebration of difference not shakily imposed by threat based on fear.

We pray for **prosperity** which sees wealth openly shared amongst all not greedily hidden and stored by a few.

We pray for **justice** where each is treated as of equal value not devalued or deemed second class.

We pray for **hope** – hope we may see such change.

We pray for **courage** – courage that we might bring about such change.

We pray for **each other** – that we might be such change as we stand at the threshold and dream 'thy kingdom come' – here, now and forever.

Amen.

Thoughts . . . ctd.

They retain power because they speak of the humble and the wise, of the disregarded and the exalted, all being welcome in the presence of Christ; a lesson to us all who appear still to argue over who exactly is loved. All are welcome. All are loved.

During Christmas I will have wished people a merry and peaceful season. But my wish goes deeper than that and stretches beyond the twelve days of Christmas; my earnest prayers remain for those who are refugees, who still find 'no room', who are lowly and outcast and vulnerable to those who wield power. I continue to speak of the reality of that which we name God – but not the fiery, judgemental god who has you on his 'naughty' list, nor the kindly, beneficent god who has a 'nice' list. Both these images need to be put away as we embrace the uncertainty of faith, the mystery of faith, and not be afraid of grounding that faith in the reality of the world as we find it: a world that changes (politically, socially, economically, in ways we might find difficult) but a world that is nonetheless infused with God, with Love, with Light, with Hope which will always be the gift of the divine to us into the New Year and beyond.

Rev. Tim.



In January

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
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

December

Fri 29	12.30	Bring and Share Lunch	OSR
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January

Mon 15	7.30	CR in Bloom	VH
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Your Community Website curryrivel.org.uk
Curry Rivel - Above the Levels

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

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

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	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	(crosbookings@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