



Curry Rivel Community Support Group (CRCSG)

Steve Allinson (Chair CRCSG)

Given all that has happened in recent times, it seems a long time ago now when I sent an email to the Chairman of Curry Rivel Parish Council with some ideas for the establishment of a support group in the village for what I could see would be a challenging few months for many people. However, that was only in March and the volunteer work that has followed says so much for the community spirit and togetherness in our village. I wanted to share some of that work via the Curry Rivel News and also express a hope that these and other initiatives can continue as we begin to emerge from this pandemic and potentially seek to adapt to a new way of living.

So, the first project we wanted to put in place was the now famous "Green/Red" cards. This was not as easy as it may seem given that lockdown had just been announced. However, with the help of Graeme Best from Somerton Printery and a fantastic distribution scheme organised by John de Ronde, coupled with a great bunch of volunteers, every house in our parish received the cards and a leaflet explaining the scheme within 5 days of the idea being formed on paper. It is great to see that the system is still in place and when called upon over recent weeks we have responded to urgent needs.

This was the birth of our volunteer group and, although we were learning as we went along, the collective will to support our community very quickly became clear. We formed a small committee to co-ordinate our ideas, but the true strength of the group was shown by the number of people who contacted us wanting to help in whatever way they could. From the beginning of the lockdown period we were able to ensure surgery prescription requests were dealt with, as well as shopping trips carried out for those unable to get out and about, and also consider and respond to any other situation that was concerning anyone in our village.

At a very early stage it was great to be contacted by Carenza Hewitt, a young person who grew up in the village and who had recently graduated from University. Carenza was furloughed from her work in Cardiff and so came back to



Curry Rivel in early March. She immediately offered to volunteer and very soon became our central administrator for the scheme, coordinating all the requests by phone or email. I cannot praise highly enough the work that Carenza has done on all aspects of our work. She has done this quietly and without fuss but has been absolutely brilliant. Thank you Carenza!

Scott and Tim, our two ministers from St Andrew's and the URC, have also been instrumental in several of our initiatives and at an early stage they created a "phone a friend" service to enable people on their own to enjoy a chat with another person if they were feeling lonely or just wanting to talk generally.

Throughout the early weeks of the pandemic, various villagers came forward with ideas and suggestions, which was great and enabled us to respond to particular situations. I also want to thank hugely Tony Greenaway for all his help and for keeping the village informed of all we have been trying to do through the website.

Tony, Matt Geen and myself have also enjoyed organising several on-line Zoom quizzes for village teams and all those who have taken part enjoyed a break from their routine and a chance to enjoy the virtual company of others. Matt's Curry Rivel Picture Rounds have been particularly well received - thanks Matt!continued on page 2.....

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Perhaps our biggest project, though, has been the creation of our own local Food Bank. Hopefully everyone in the village is aware of this initiative, as, once again, we leafleted the whole village at breakneck speed when we decided to start this project. Once again, the support of local people has been wonderful. Donations of food and money have been received at our twice weekly openings on Wednesday and Saturday lunchtimes at the United Reform Church. We are now creating bespoke food and essential items for those in need in our community and delivering those to ensure complete privacy is maintained. We do believe that this pandemic has shone a light on a real need and, sadly, that could accelerate in the coming months as the economic difficulties begin to bite. It is our intention to continue with the Food Bank as long as the local need is there. I would like to thank personally Rev Tim Richards and all from the Curry Rivel URC for letting us use their schoolroom for this venture, and the very regular team of volunteers who attend each Wednesday and Saturday to make the Food Bank happen. What has been really encouraging, however, is that we are also receiving donations from both Drayton and Hambridge and we have established links with these villages for this project. Through their support groups they are liaising with us and supporting our work. A particular thanks goes to Linda and Grace at Hambridge Stores for generating their own collection for us from funds and food that are donated to them. We have also been very generously supported by local groups and societies and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. In this regard, our very own Curry Rivel News has made a very generous donation to our cause, so thank you.

I do want to single out Ginny Smith in particular for being absolutely instrumental in this work. Ginny has worked in this area for some time and her commitment and energy is wonderful to see, and she has helped us so much in her quiet and unassuming way.

Finally, we have just launched our "Mask Making" this month and we hope many in the village may help us here. The wearing of masks is going to become part of the "new normal" and so, again, if we can donate those to villagers who will need them this can only be a good thing.

As you can see, despite everything, there is still so much to celebrate in these difficult times. I really believe that we have developed a great community spirit in recent months and I truly hope that will continue as we emerge from the lockdown period. Just simple things, such as looking out for our neighbours and a cheery welcome as we are out and about in the village means a great deal. There will undoubtedly be challenges ahead for us all, but it is clearly the case that these challenges are better faced together than alone. The Curry Rivel Community Support Group exists for each and every one in our village so please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help, or to suggest new ideas or initiatives:

email : help@curryrivel.org.uk or use the dedicated phone number : 07716792760

All contact is treated in the strictest confidence.

District Councillor's Report *Tiffany Osborne*

Well the strange times continue. As we slowly return towards something resembling nearer normal, we all continue to adapt to ongoing change. We hope that everyone will continue to support one another, local businesses and are mindful about our use of transport. This lockdown has highlighted how much we can work from home and how, as councillors, we are able to work efficiently via zoom meetings and cut down unnecessary travel. As such, one of the beneficiaries of lockdown has been our environment. SSDC are currently offering community grants to support local environmental initiatives. To help kick start new ideas SSDC will cover up 50% of the project costs up to the total of £12,500. Anything from smaller projects, such as bat hotels and community orchards, up to larger ideas, such as electric vehicle charging points and energy efficient community halls, can apply so don't waste this opportunity to

apply to receive this financial support.

The council continues to operate virtually via ZOOM. The Area North Committee has continued to 'meet' each month to agree grants and planning applications and although we have yet to hold a full council meeting during this period one is scheduled for July. The public are welcome to join these council meetings should you so wish!

One of the positives to come from this period has been the greater sense of community spirit. If you wish to continue helping and supporting our village and residents then please do become a member of the parish council. They are looking for councillors to join and work with fellow council members. Previous experience isn't necessary, just enthusiasm to make a difference and work towards maintaining and enhancing all that Curry Rivel has to offer.



Your Community Website
curryrivel.org.uk



Parish Council News

Tony Greenaway

Regretfully, we have to say goodbye to Curry Rivel Parish Council Councillors Andy Anderson and Peter Goodenough, both of whom have decided to step down from Parish Council duties. The Community owes a great deal of thanks to Andy and Peter for the tremendous drive and energy that they have put into the various initiatives and improvements around Curry Rivel over the past few years.

We wish them both well.

This now leaves three vacancies on the Parish Council. Anyone aged 18 or over who feels that they would like to contribute to the betterment of Curry Rivel should email the clerk: m.ludgate@btinternet.com or editor@curryrivel.org.uk giving their name, contact details and a short *pen* picture.

Until such time as full elections can be held, Derek Yeomans has agreed to steer the Council as Chairman and Terry Mounter has been appointed as Interim Deputy Chair.

The Council has started holding its meetings by video conferencing once a month on the first Thursday of the month. Members of our community will shortly be able to request an invite to the video conference to observe or raise issues. If members of the community wish to attend by video, they should submit their request by email to: m.ludgate@btinternet.com and also send a copy to: editor@curryrivel.org.uk

Welcome to the July Curry Rivel News

Jane Hamlin

Unfortunately, because of the lockdown restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic we have not been able to deliver the Curry Rivel News since March. We have still produced our village newsletter, but it has only been available on the Curry Rivel website: www.curryrivel.org.uk, where you can still find those issues if you wanted to see what you have missed – not to mention back copies from June 2016 until now. Thank you to all our contributors for without them there would be no Curry Rivel News, and thank you to all our distributors who deliver to every house in the village.

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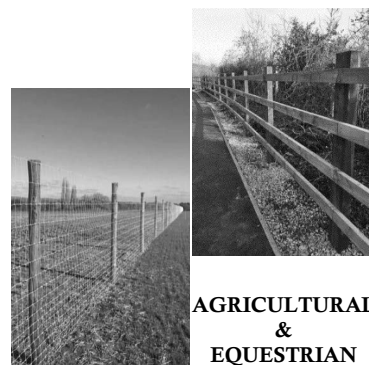
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An Exciting New Start at Curry Rivel School

Ali Pook (Head Teacher)

It is with the greatest enthusiasm that I have started as the new Head Teacher at Curry Rivel Church of England VC Primary School and Little Pips Nursery.

I have worked in primary schools for 25 years, as an outstanding class teacher, Advanced Skills Teacher (AST), Assistant Head, Deputy Head Teacher, Acting Head Teacher and as Head Teacher at St Andrew's, a 330 pupil Junior School in Burnham-on-Sea. As a young class teacher in London and as a teacher trainer in Nepal, I developed a love for teaching and learning that has continued and strengthened as my career has developed.

I have never forgotten that as a child growing up on a remote Exmoor farm, school was my window on the

world. It offered opportunities, not only academically, but philosophically, for new friendships and for opening my mind to the possibilities of life. For me, school should aim always to provide this for each child. The head teacher is uniquely placed to guide the school along this path, enabling staff to provide the very best for the children in their care and ensuring that the school is a thriving, friendly, welcoming place.

Despite arriving in challenging times, it is great to be working with such a great team of staff and governors and I am excited about the future. I look forward to strengthening the school's links and bonds with the community in this amazing place.

The Pleasures of Living in Curry Rivel

Steve Beer

I had the privilege of moving to Curry Rivel just before the lockdown. I have done quite a bit of walking around the area over the years, so I thought I knew it quite well, but have found to my pleasure that there is so much more to be discovered in this lovely, friendly village. I write poems and this is one that I wrote on the fourth Thursday of joining my new neighbours in applauding the efforts of the NHS, and it covers the feelings of not only myself, but also of what I could sense in others.

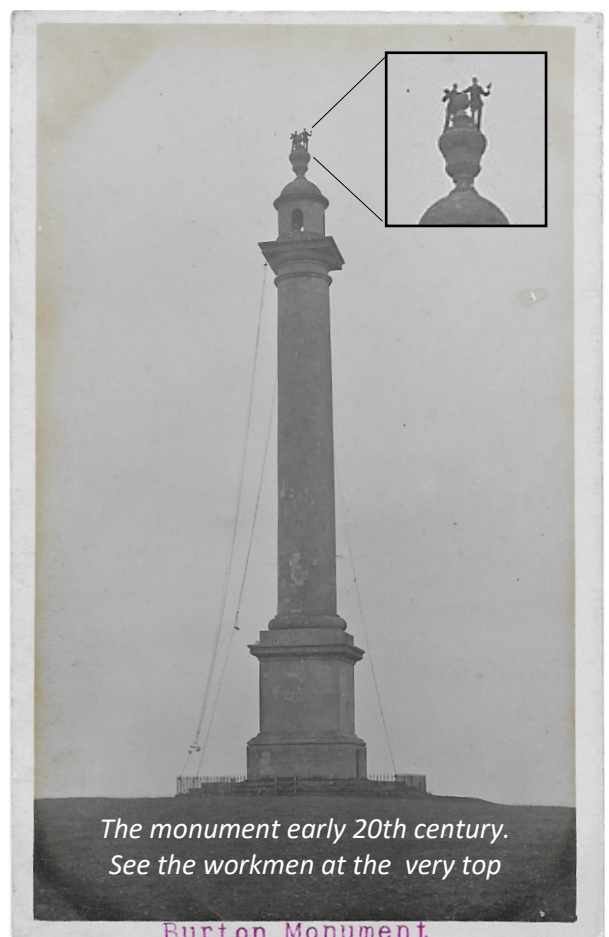
Thursday, 8:00 pm

One by one we appear steadily
from our weekly hibernation into
evening light,
Swapping relieved exchanges and
warm smiles
We come together, yet are apart.
We have one cause,
And with us pots and pans;
wooden spoons; drums,
trumpets, bugles, tambourines,
Or simply our well-scrubbed
hands.

At the allotted time we raise a
clamour,
A noise made in recognition and
in thanks of those too long
ignored.
We beat, bang, bash; shake,
rattle and blow,
Our thoughts harmonious while
our orchestrations are not,
And for an undetermined, half-
embarrassed time we are one
soul,

Our fears mingled with our
gratitude.
And we pray, those of us who do
not believe,
That those who do will
have *their* prayers answered:
That those facing the danger
head on stay safe,
Continue their endeavours. Save
us all.

At 8:05 we bid farewells to
neighbours becoming strangers,
We return to another week of
isolation, to imposed sanctuary.
From a cherry late to bloom a
blackbird sings with full voice,
Louder than our discordant
gathering,
A song of hope ringing through
eerie silences.



Village Hall Update

The Village Hall has been closed since the 16th March. In recent weeks we have carried out improvements and other works in the hall, (at recommended 'safe distances') to get it ready for whenever it opens again, these being:-

- * Fitting of new fire resistant, 'black-out' curtains in the main Sewers Room. These curtains were made by Suttons Upholstery, with funding from 'Movies in the Hall', South Somerset District Council, the Parish Council, and fund-raising by the Village Hall.
- * Repainting inside the Hall.
- * As well as carrying out her normal work, our cleaner Rosemarie has done an excellent job carrying out a 'deep clean' of the kitchen and toilets.
- * Installing three wall-mounted hand sanitiser stations.
- * Carrying out the legal Portable Appliance Test (PAT) of a total of 109 electrical items used by hall users.
- * Electrically testing the Fire Exit safety system.
- * Carrying out a full legally required 'Electrical Condition Report' of all fixed wiring at the hall.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Hall, when it is safe to do so.



Join the 200 Club!

Hazel Morris

Curry Rivel is very lucky to have such a well maintained village hall and this can only be achieved by the hard work of the army of volunteers and by the continued support of the local groups and clubs that regularly hire the hall which is also available to hire for celebratory and one-off events (virus permitting).

The Curry Rivel Village Hall 200 Club raises additional funds to contribute to the maintenance costs of the hall and anyone can join. Each member pays £10 a year (or additional multiples of £10 if they wish). Half of each £10 is given to the village hall and the other half goes towards the prize monies. All members are entered into a twice yearly draw (one entry per £10) which has 13 cash prizes including the top prize of £120! The draws usually take place at the annual Church Fete

and the Christmas Big Breakfast. As the fete has been postponed this year, the summer draw will be made "virtually" on 4th July. Results will be posted on village notice boards and in the following edition of Curry Rivel News. If you're not a member and would like to join, please contact our 200 Club administrator Hazel Morris (hazelmorris200@gmail.com).

If you are already a member and need to renew your subscription, reminders will be sent soon but you can also contact Hazel to re-register.

For hall booking enquiries please contact crvhbookings@gmail.com

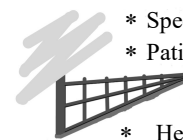
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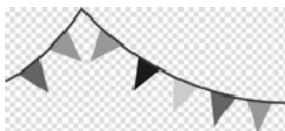
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This year's St. Andrew's NON-Church Fete!



An open letter from the Rector...

Dear supporters of St. Andrew's church,

Recently the Parochial Church Council (PCC) regrettably had to come to the conclusion that, due to the continuing uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation, it was right to cancel this year's summer fete. We had been considering a postponement until September, but given that social distancing will likely remain key to public health, we concluded that a social-distanced fete was impractical – especially in case of bad weather and having to go indoors.

I'm therefore writing to ask for your support in an alternative plan. Year by year our church fete raises a significant sum (about £3,000) that contributes to the upkeep and ministry of our village church. In order to try to address this worrying additional shortfall to our already tightly squeezed finances, this year our alternative plan is simply a 'GIVING DAY'. Can you help?

We do, of course, fully recognise that the last three months have had a significant impact on many personal and family budgets, and that the uncertainty continues, so please be assured that I'm addressing only those in a position to help. Here's the plan:

When? = Saturday the 4th of July (the original date for our fete).

At what time? = 2pm to 4pm

Where? = at St. Andrew's church

What will you find when you come?

On the Green - 2 free games of 'Skee-Ball' per person (hand sanitizer before and after!) with the highest scores for children and adults winning a hamper.

At the church – (hand sanitizer in and out) a florally decorated route with the opportunity to deposit your financial gift on the way through. Our organist Patrick Rendell will be playing his favourite organ pieces.

What will you get as you leave? = a free (hermetically sealed) scone for you to enjoy as you like.

What if I can't make it? = if you can't come, or would prefer to give electronically, then here are the church's bank account details: Bank = **NatWest**, Sort Code **60-12-34**, Account no. **50649620**. Please include 'ref fete'.

What about Gift Aid? = if you are a UK income tax payer then you can *Gift Aid* your gift which adds a further 25% of its value to the church, at no extra cost to you. Envelopes will be available on the day for this purpose, or you could make a declaration to our Treasurer on 01458 251080.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you're able to come, the PCC and I look forward to welcoming you to St. Andrew's on the 4th.

With warm regards, Revd. Scott Patterson.

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Curry Rivel WI

Anne Geach (President Curry Rivel WI)

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Curry Rivel WI has not met formally since March, for obvious reasons, but it doesn't mean we have been idle. When the lockdown was imposed we set up a phone chain to keep in touch with all our members, many of whom were shielding as well as isolating. This allowed us to support one another and help with basic things like shopping and medication collection. It also meant we could pass on local information like who has potting compost or flour for sale! Once everything had settled down we joined a County WI scheme to provide cakes for Musgrove Hospital staff. We baked weekly, our produce was collected by volunteers and delivered to Musgrove. This scheme has now stopped, at Musgrove's request, as they want to get back to some sort of normality! We are now starting to supply cakes to local care home staff, this is one of the things the WI does best, bake cakes!

Somerset County WI has provided lots of interesting talks, delivered via Zoom, and locally we have provided quizzes for our members. We have also been sharing patterns for face masks and making them for family and friends.

This week we had our first local Zoom Meeting, joining together for a coffee and a chat. It is amazing how we have all got to grips with new technology through necessity! Our oldest participant in the meeting was over 90!

Who knows when we will be able to meet as a group again, but the WI is still going strong and doing what it does best, supporting one another and making cakes!
If you want to know any more about the WI locally please give me a call on 253078.

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

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Gina Beauchamp

Planting and Watering around the village.

The CRiB team have been busy despite lockdown, watering and planting around the village. We have a dedicated team of waterers who have kept the railings, the War Memorial, Allotment, Granny's Garden and bus top pots, wheelbarrow, the village end troughs and other planters around the village going all through the very hot weather this spring. Thank you to all of you for keeping the village looking great at a time when we really need something to cheer us up!

We decided that watering and planting were part of our daily exercise as it can be done alone or with someone else with safe distancing. Planting was also carried out with safe distancing, thank you to Marie Trimmer who helped with the railing planting, and I hope you will agree that the planters on the railings look lovely. Thanks to Sue and Judi for watering them all. They will look even better when fully established.

A 'Thank You' to and from Northwing

When we went to collect the hanging baskets and planting for the troughs and pots from Northwing, we had a very pleasant surprise. Steve and Jim have donated all our plants this summer as a THANK YOU to the whole village for the tremendous support they received through lockdown. Thank you, Steve and Jim, that is such a lovely gesture. They were featured in a news item on Points West earlier in the year when lockdown had begun and it looked as if they may have had to throw away thousands of pounds worth of plants. The news item went viral on Facebook locally and lots of us in the village bought plants from them. It turned out fine in the end as so many plants were sold at the gates, and garden centres opened up again just in time for them to deliver all their summer bedding to their customers. That is a really heart-warming story.

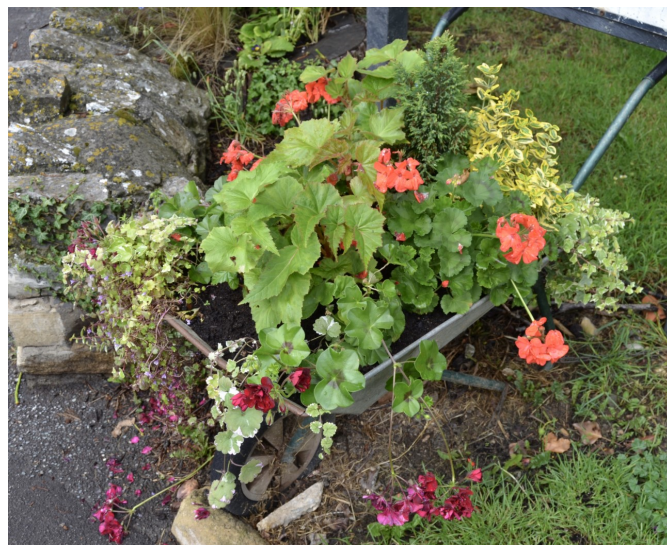


Whoops!

While we were planting up the railing troughs, we noticed that the end one nearest to the One Stop shop was badly cracked at the bottom and a piece missing. It seems that the One Stop delivery lorry had backed into the railings and had cracked and broken the trough. The railings are now slightly wonky too!

Petty Theft

Sadly, there has been a lot of petty theft in the village during lockdown. Lovely pots were stolen from the High Street earlier in the year which has deprived us all of the beautiful displays we usually see there. More recently someone stole all the hose ends and nozzles from our hose at the war memorial. Not exactly expensive to buy, but it made life very difficult for our volunteers trying to water during the hot weather, until we could buy replacements, some of which were then stolen again! We do hope that the culprit now has sufficient for their needs!



Good Gardening Vibes

I know that so many people have been spending lots of time in their gardens during lockdown and many have taken up gardening as a hobby. Gardening is very therapeutic and is recommended by mental health experts as a good way to get out of the house, get some exercise and to cheer you up. Growing and eating your own vegetables is very rewarding and of course very healthy. Let's hope that if Curry Rivel Open Gardens can go ahead in 2021 that we will have lots more beautiful gardens to see.

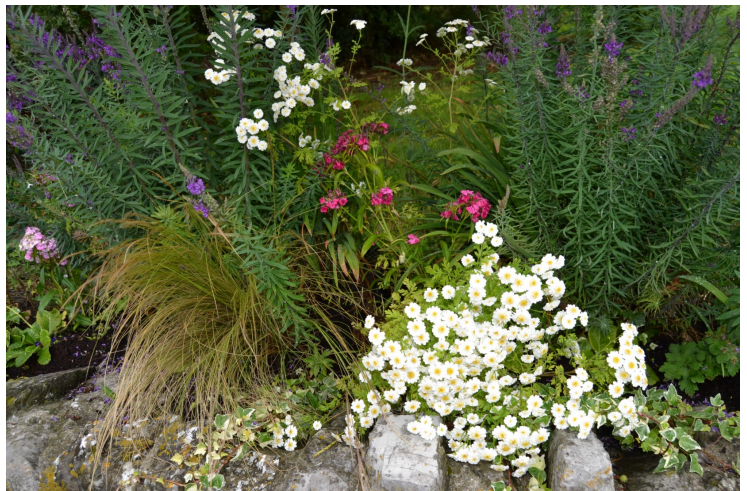
Gardening Jobs for July

- Keep dead heading and feeding roses to allow them to produce more blooms throughout the season.
- Prune your wisteria back to just 5 leaves, so *The Times* gardening expert tells us.
- Feed tomatoes and keep removing side shoots.
- Weed out any unwanted garden plants and weeds before they set seed.
- Mulch with compost or bark chippings to help retain moisture, suppress weeds and improve the soil.

And while on the subject of soil

The soil in Curry Rivel is predominantly CLAY. This type of soil dries out and cracks very easily. This spring was a classic example of having a wet winter when the ground is like a quagmire and within 3 weeks of a dry spring the ground starts to crack like a desert. When it does rain, all that water just pours through the cracks and the ground is still hard. The only solution for your garden is to add compost, good organic matter to help break up the clay. A compost heap is the best way, even if it's a black bin, you will get good compost in about 6 months to spread around the flower beds. Have two if you have room so you can fill one while the other breaks down. You can recycle all vegetable food waste in your bin, tea bags, coffee grounds also add in shredded newspaper occasionally, especially if you are putting grass cuttings in to the bin. Add leaves in the autumn. You will also save space in your green bin.

You can often obtain horse manure locally but make sure it has rotted down well before applying. Chicken manure is good too if it has broken down well and mixed with other compost. Put the soil from your old pots on the garden, invest in some horse manure compost readily available in bags, and over the years you will find that your soil will become much more moisture retentive. Your plants will be happier and healthier too.



The Allotment

CRiB has an allotment which has been brilliantly developed by Nicky Barker with the help of Lyndsey Aynsworth our Brownie Leader. Sadly, the girls can't meet there this summer but they have been involved. Here is a report from Nicky :

The year started off well with our allotment neighbour sharing his plot with us and Peter Hayes building new compost bins and a huge new water tank. This has been really useful in the long spell of dry weather. In addition, we were donated a lawn mower, thank you for that Ginny.

In early March the Brownies and Rainbows planted up sunflowers, peas and tomatoes and took them home to grow on, then lockdown occurred!! So we had to start again as the girls obviously couldn't come back to the allotment to plant them out, but with the help of Lyndsey, Annette, Kevin and

Fred and other allotment holders we have a thriving patch of peas, broad beans, onions, potatoes, parsnips, carrots, garlic, courgettes and a strawberry patch. In addition, the greenhouse has tomatoes, cucumbers and sweet potatoes, a new crop for us this year.

Our flower bed is flourishing and the small orchard has two cherry, one plum and seven apple trees all in fruit. Our little pond that Lyndsey and Alice dug out has really helped the birds and we even have a resident frog!

Our allotment is a place of peace and contentment and we have a bench where members of the community are welcome to sit and contemplate, so do come and sit a while. Contact Gina by email: cribsomerset@gmail.com , or by phone: 01458 762296

Children's Page



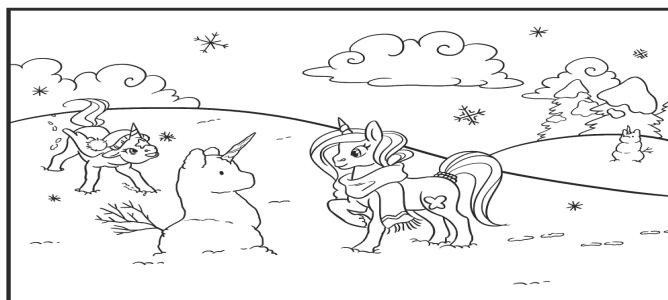
Just For KIDS

Unicorn 'Facts'

- Greek historian **Ctesias** was the first to write about the unicorn. He wrote that unicorns were fast and very difficult to capture.
- The Greeks believed that the creatures came from the **Indus** Valley civilization.
- Unicorn symbols were used as seals on clay tablets in 3000 B.C.
- The first drawn image of a unicorn was discovered in France. It is called the **Lascaux** unicorn because it was found in the Lascaux Caves.
- Roman author and natural philosopher, Pliny the Elder, described a unicorn as fierce, one-horned, and a "monoceros".
- During the 6th century, Greek merchant Cosmas Indicopleustes noted that the power of the unicorn is in its **horn**.
- Unicorn horns are known as **alicorns**.
- The protruding tusk from a narwhal's head looks like a unicorn horn. The tusk can grow up to 10 feet long. The price of **narwhal** horns was so high that it amounted to 10 times the value of their weight in gold.
- The **Siberian** rhinoceros was once considered a one-horned Siberian unicorn. But it became extinct around 26,000 years ago.
- The national animal of **Scotland** is a unicorn.

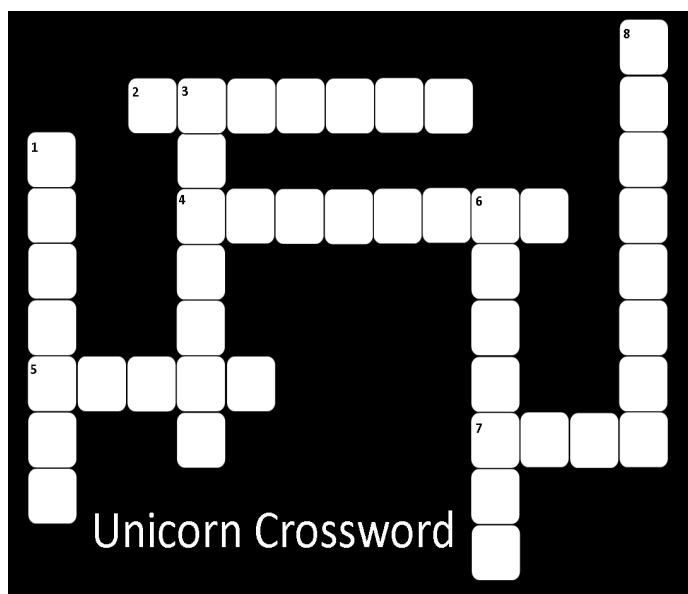


Spot the difference



Down

- 1) The Greek historian who first wrote about unicorns.
- 3) The French cave where the first drawing of a unicorn can be found.
- 6) Sea mammal that has a tusk that looks like a unicorn horn.
- 8) Type of extinct rhinoceros that was considered to be a unicorn.



Across

- 2) What unicorn horns are called.
- 4) The country that has the Unicorn as its national animal.
- 5) The valley civilization that the Greeks thought Unicorns came from.
- 7) Where a Unicorns power is stored.



A big thank you to Richard Hewitt for this photo of the schoolchildren and the monument photo on page 4

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Curry Woods Conservation Trust

Sylvia Goodenough

During the lock-down work has been quietly proceeding and we are delighted to tell you that fund raising has now reached over £42,000. Somerset County Council has agreed to definitely sell the land to the Trust and we are hopeful that we may be able to negotiate the original asking price of £60,000 down a little. We are still waiting to hear about charity status as the Charity Commission has been working with a very reduced staff during the pandemic. Once we have that status we will be able to claim gift aid on all those donations which qualify, raising our total to over £45,000.

The County Ecologist, Simon Breeze, paid a visit to the site and was very enthusiastic about the Trust's aims as he considers the land to be very worthy of conservation and enhancement. His excellent and very detailed report and appendix can be viewed by following the links on the Trust's website at cwctrust.simplesite.com

We really appreciate the support the Trust has already received and we hope more people may feel able to contribute to the purchase fund - details are also on the Trust website. However, there will soon be many other ways in which you can support this project as there is going to be a lot of work to be done! We have some expert trustees who, also working with Simon Breeze, will be directing the initial woodland maintenance and tree planting. Much help will be needed! For a start, if you find any tree saplings that have happily planted themselves in your garden please nurture them and pot them up when the ground around them is wet. You will be able to plant them on our Trust land, hopefully this autumn, and we will have labels available for you to identify yourselves by your tree.

We are also hopeful that two planned fundraising events - the opening of the Burton Pynsent monument for a day in aid of the Trust and a talk on an aspect of geology in the village hall - will be able to go ahead later in the year. Watch the community website and the Trust website for details.

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Langport and District History Society News Janet Seaton

Sadly, government regulations and ongoing concerns about the spread of the Covid-19 virus have led the Trustees to decide to cancel our talks up to and including September's. Our next scheduled talk, if the situation has improved and it is safe to do so, will be held in October, along with the AGM.

However, we have been using the time to continue some online research. We've answered enquiries about Park Farm, two Larcombe doctors, Bradford's, Lovibonds breweries and Barrington reservoir.

We ran a daily online quiz, and have completed the 'It's about time' quiz. Answers to both are available on our website <https://sites.google.com/site/langportheritage/ldhs/quiz>. We also have old quizzes available free, just email langporthistory@fastmail.com for a list. You can also follow us on Twitter @langporthistory.

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St. Andrew's Church

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



July

A message from Revd. Scott Patterson

Church opening

At the time of writing, we are in the process of implementing guidelines that will make it possible to open St. Andrew's church for private prayer and reflection, in a safe environment.

We expect to have procedures in place by the time you receive this issue of the CRNews. Please see the notice board in the church porch for the procedures and restrictions on timings and numbers that the situation requires.

Church services

As a result of continued Covid-19 related restrictions, regular church services remain to be suspended.

However, this doesn't mean that the Church of England or Christian communities are 'shut down'. As part of our creative response to this, if you would like to receive e-mails with reflections, encouragements, talks, news, funnies and links to some excellent live-streamed services etc. then please do contact me at: scottr.patterson@btinternet.com.

You would be most welcome to join the (virtual) gatherings.

With prayer in all we face together,
Scott

Scott's spot



Zoom or in the room?

Like me, I expect many of you have been feeling as if we live in a virtual world.

Whilst lockdown has been in force, technologies have, for many, been hugely important for keeping in touch with loved ones, world news, or communicating with colleagues. TV, Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Twitter etc. they've all played their part in bringing people together when we've been unable to physically meet. It's amazing to think that three months ago I'd never even heard of Zoom. Now it seems to be a regular part of my working week.

But as helpful as those technologies have been in a locked-down world, I'm sure many have found that actually they're no substitute for the real thing. Will we continue to communicate in this way when we fully emerge into a post-Covid 19 world? Well I'm sure some will. Hopefully as a 'new-normal' emerges, much business travel will now be recognised as unnecessary, wasteful and ecologically damaging. Travelling to offices on a daily basis may also now be seen as superfluous. But for use with family and friends, especially those who live nearby, probably less so. When something's taken away, it's often only then that we recognise its true value. How we're missing the simple things that Zoom just can't replace – the hugs, handshakes, kisses, the friendly slap on the shoulder, meeting together in groups of all shapes and sizes from the family gathering to stadium sports events.

Recent events have revealed the Bible's teaching to be quite true: that we're made for loving relationships and personal interaction. Without this we feel its loss. The virtual world just doesn't cut it when it comes to our deepest relationships as human beings.

with God is a start, but both are substitutes for the real thing. Of relationship with God the Father, through faith in Jesus, the Apostle Paul writes:

Scott's spot ctd. . . .

There's a parallel here when it comes to our relationship with God. The Bible brings us the foundational teaching that people are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). Part of what this means is that we're 'hard-wired' for relationship – relationship with each other **and also** relationship with God, our Creator. The tragic thing is that many settle for a distant, virtual, Zoom-type relationship with God, when so much more is on offer. When Jesus, speaking of what faith in him would mean, said: **'On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you'** (John 14:20) he had in mind **not** an 'arms-length 2D picture on a screen' type relationship, but a deep personal, entwined, eternal, intimate relationship between God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and us. Jesus is all about God becoming human, relating to people, sharing their joys and their pains.

Meeting online is good as far as it goes, and an arms-length relationship with God is a start, but both are substitutes for the real thing. Of relationship with God the Father, through faith in Jesus, the Apostle Paul writes:

'And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Christ's love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.' (Ephesians chapter 3 verses 18-19).

Is it time to talk to your Christian friends and begin to explore your Bibles?

With prayer for you, those you love, and our community, as we gradually unlock together.

Revd. Scott Patterson.



St. Andrew's Church fete - regrettably not in 2020.

St. Andrew's PCC has recently decided that in view of the effects that result from the continued Covid-19 related restrictions, it is **not** viable to stage a fete on 4th July.

And although 5th September had been identified as a provisional alternative date, the PCC has regrettably had to conclude that on this date -or any other date this year- it is **neither** viable to stage a 'safe' and successful fete.

However, see elsewhere in this issue of the CRN for information about the 'NON-fete', on 4th July 2.00 - 4.00 pm.

United Reformed Church



July

Services continue at 10:30 am each Sunday throughout the month.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799

During the corona virus pandemic, as a worshipping community, we have been challenged to think creatively about how we **do** and how we **are** church during this singularly unprecedented collective experience. For the moment we are continuing to meet remotely using the video calling platform Zoom.

In the first weeks it was a joy simply to see familiar faces on a Sunday but as lockdown continued we have loved welcoming and joining with folk from Glastonbury, Somerton, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Street, Wells, Weston-Super-Mare - all unable to meet in our usual individual places of worship but still wanting to join with others as best we can.

As the 'gallery' of people expands so we can tune into the experience of feeling more and more connected with the church as People, unconstrained by geographical or physical location - the People of God which extends beyond our own four walls, our own church building, our villages, our counties, our country even!

Tim has been interviewed twice now by an Indonesian pastor he met while on his sabbatical trip to Taiwan - interviews for the pastor's own blog on Youtube. We are creatively, sometimes surprisingly, widely connected with the world beyond our locality. Separated but connected: a very curious, rewarding, exciting place to find ourselves.

Most recently on the news there has been much discussion about the reopening of church buildings - in the first instance for private prayer. As a congregation we have yet to make a definitive decision about whether we wish to do so. Our Synod (administrative body for the South West) offers the following:

"Local churches are not obliged to reopen. In the United Reformed Church we value highly our custom of gathering for worship, and we have generally been less concerned to identify particular places for private prayer. Wherever we are, we can pray."

So, for the moment we pray wherever we find ourselves: in our gardens, on our daily exercise walks, in the socially distanced queue for the shop, as we put on our mask to enter the GP surgery or get onto a bus, as we sit alone of an evening, as we face returning to work.

For all the new 'remote' technological ways of experiencing connectedness to the wider community our physical worlds have also conversely shrunk - for the time being at least - disconcerting and unsettling. How we are going to move forward, open up our 'social bubbles', schools, economy, society, churches, is vague, unsure and of necessity tentative. But we can take heart; we can pray wherever we are, we can remind ourselves that we are not alone, and we can have faith - *"we can face uncertainty with faith. The people of God in the Hebrew Scriptures found their existence as God's own people tested but ultimately reinforced by their time in the wilderness. God's love and care is as sure for us as it was for them"*

(Ruth Whitehead, South West Synod Moderator)

**** Anyone** who would like to feel part of a worshipping community is invited to join with us - simply email Steve Beney on stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk expressing your interest and he will make contact with you explaining how you can join us on Sundays 10:30 am.

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help@curryrivel.org.uk or call the dedicated telephone number

07716 79 2760.

All contact will be made in the strictest confidence and all data destroyed once this emergency situation is over.

The generosity of the Curry Rivel Community has been so great the CRVSG have extended the reach of the foodbank to include Drayton, Hambridge and Fivehead.

WARNING

All the Below events are subject to cancellation at short notice due to the Corona virus epidemic please contact each group for details.....Keep well, Keep safe

In July

Regular Events



.....all postponed until further notice except shown....

MONDAY

- 9.45 Art Club
- 3.30 - 5.30 Messy Church (2nd only)
- 6.00 Pilates
- 6.45 Explorer Scouts
- 10-12 Craft & Coffee (2nd only)
- 2.30 Forget-Me-Not-Café
- 5.45 - 8 Pilates
- 6.00 Cub Pack
- 6.30 Guides
- 6.30 Langport Youth Club
- 7.00 - 9.00 Short Mat Bowls
- 7.30 Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)
- 7.30 Tuesday Group (3rd only)

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 Mother and Baby Group
- 7.00 Line Dancing Classes
- 6.45 Scouts
- 7.30 Bell Ringing

THURSDAY

- 10.00 WI
- 2.00 - 4.00 Short Mat Bowls
- 4.30 Rainbows
- 4.30 Brownies
- 7.30 Parish Council via ZOOM

FRIDAY

- 9.30-2 Get Together Club
- 7.30 Cinema Night

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

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

Sports Clubs

- Short Mat Bowls Club 251201
- Cricket Club 01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

- Flower Show 250311
- Out & About 252146
- Royal British Legion 01460 281115
- Twinning Association 01460 281905
- Women's Institute 259688
- Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton 252813
- PROBUS 252545
- Sedgemoor Garden Club 250091
- Heale Lane Allotment Association 253953
- Curry Rivel in Bloom 762296
- Get Together Club 251524
- Health Walks 250725
- Mother and Baby 07732 197030
- Forget-Me-Not-Café 252710 & 741606
- Inner Wheel 251940
- Tuesday Group 252657/252022

Arts

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

Community Facilities

- Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com) 741606
- Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com) 250655/253856
- United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc. 259391

Community Services

- Doctors 250464
- Police 101
- Yarlington Housing 01935 404500

Education

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- Primary School 251404
- Huish Episcopi Academy 250501
- Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre 251055

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- District Council 01935 462462
- County Council 0300 123 2224

Religious

- Church of England Rector 251375
- Churchwarden 259003
- Secretary PCC 251355
- Organist & Bell Ringing 253856
- Flower Guild 252710
- Roman Catholic Church, Somerton 274008
- URC Minister 252799



Deadlines for August Edition

- Advertising:** 5pm Thursday 9th July
- Send to:** crn.nigel@outlook.com
- Comments & Articles:** 5pm Tuesday 14th July
- Send to:** crng2019@gmail.com

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