

March 2019



## 43Days, 2 Hours and 20 Minutes

Pete Barker

After six weeks at sea four women from the West Country have become the first all-female crew this year to reach the finish line of a race dubbed the World's Toughest Row. They valiantly rowed 3000 miles in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge and were variously challenged with seasickness and power issues as they had to dig deep physically and mentally.

However, *Row For The Ocean* as the team are known, which included Kirsty Barker from Curry Rivel, conquered it all to take 10<sup>th</sup> place in a close race to the finish line in English Harbour, Antigua - each rowing in a shift pattern of two hours on and two off for the full six weeks. Pictured is the team at the finish. At the time of writing this, (mid Feb), there are still 6 of the 28 starters to finish, these being pairs or single rowers.

Through the hardships they were also privy to breath-taking moments being close to nature such as being joined by whales, dolphins and turtles along the journey. The crew

experienced amazing moments, but they were tainted by the fact that they saw plastic in the Ocean every day, plastic buckets, bottles even flip-flops - even in the middle of the Atlantic.

As Kirsty said, "We rowed an Ocean to Save an Ocean. To put it simply we did see some plastic pollution in the ocean during the race, more plastic than wildlife which was upsetting at the time as there wasn't much we could there and then. However, this is why we signed up for the race - a personal challenge for ourselves with an aim to raise awareness of how much our seas are being damaged".

With the CRN following this story *RFTO* have received a number of donations from people in Curry Rivel which are all greatly appreciated and will be passed on to their fundraising mission to raise awareness of pollution in our Oceans through Surfers Against Sewage. If anyone would like to contribute directly to their campaign please use the link:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rowfortheocean](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rowfortheocean)



# Let's Talk About... Loneliness.

Ali Richards

Loneliness is a 'killer'; research tells us that loneliness can have a detrimental effect on both our physical and mental wellbeing increasing the likelihood of mortality by 26%. That's quite an increase! A sense of loneliness can cause us to feel empty, alone in the world and unwanted – it can affect anyone of all age groups and all social strata but noticeably it seems most acutely felt by society's older generation; those whose worlds have shrunk through retirement, loss of purpose, physical ailments that make getting out and about difficult, relocation and bereavement. Something as simple as a reduced or cancelled bus service can result in the loss of supportive social networks.

There are things we can do to help ourselves and others. It's not always easy to own up to feeling lonely, particularly when everyone around us might seem so very busy or self-contained, but some suggested ways of helping ourselves are:

**Be more expressive;** drawing, writing, journaling, singing, talking are ways we can express our feelings.

**Become more active;** sometimes easier said than done when age has brought aches, pains and groans but moving – even chair exercise including stretches, gentle twists and turns – releases the chemical in the brain called endorphin which creates what has been called 'the feel-good factor'.

**Find means of support;** seek out the support which is available through Age UK, Mind, Hobby Groups, Active Living Groups etc.

**Be more selfless;** this might include volunteering or simply a change in focus or attitude of mind from thinking about how we feel to thinking about others – locally, nationally, internationally. Mindfulness includes a practice called Gratitude. Put very simply it is counting our blessings, being grateful for what we do have rather than yearning for what we don't have.

**Be honest about how you feel;** let someone know how you

really feel – a burden shared is a burden halved.

Mind.UK suggest 'it can help to think of feeling lonely like feeling hungry. Just as your body uses hunger to tell your body you need food, loneliness is a way of your body telling you that you need more social contact'.

The simplest way to ease feelings of loneliness can be to try and meet more, or different, people. Apart from the support provided by national charities such as Age Concern and Mind one look at the Curry Rivel News back pages and there are several groups, clubs and organisations always on the look out for new members which offer social contact, new interests, new faces, new friends. Both Churches offer such a welcome too. Volunteering is another way of meeting people, feeling involved and creating a sense of purpose shifting our focus from ourselves and how we feel, towards others and how we might be of help.

There is a network of ACTIVE LIVING Groups across Somerset too; our own in Curry Rivel meets on a Friday morning in the village hall between 10 -1pm. The idea behind this group is to provide a warm, friendly space for folk of a certain age to get together; for conversation over coffee and biscuits, partake of a freshly cooked two course meal, enjoy company and entertainment of various sorts too.

Loneliness by its very nature is something we suffer alone, but we don't have to either suffer it or be alone. There are suggestions above about how we might address and combat it, suggestions for those of us experiencing loneliness and prompts for those concerned to help others who feel lonely. You could also come along to the **SPRING EVENT** on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** between **11 am and 1pm** at the **United Reformed Church Hall** for refreshments, raffle, sale and above all **Companionship** (raising funds for our local Active Living Group).

And talk. Let's talk together about loneliness.

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# Curry Rivel Music

Registered Charity Number 283442

Anne Michell (Secretary, Curry Rivel Music)

The next concert of the 2018-19 concert season will take place on **Saturday 16 March 2019** in St Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel at 7.00pm when the Pelléas Ensemble will be performing. This Ensemble, formed of Luba Tunnicliffe - Viola, Oliver Wass - Harp and Henry Roberts - Flute, are making a return visit by popular demand, after their dazzling, exuberant and moving virtuosity at the recital they gave in September 2017. Tickets cost £12 and are available at the door.

The penultimate concert will be on **Saturday 13 April 2019** in St Andrew's Church at 7.00pm. This concert will be totally different to previous ones. Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins will be giving a piano duet recital - the London Connection - one piano, four hands!

Emma is a Neapolitan, now a professor of piano at the Guildhall School of Music as well as being staff coach at the Royal Opera House. She has performed at innumerable prestigious venues throughout the UK and Europe in a variety of combinations including, of course, many with Julian.

Julian is a Cambridge graduate in music and completed his

studies at the Schola Cantorum in Basle and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Apart from an outstanding career as a keyboard player, he is much in demand as a conductor. Tickets cost £12 and are available at the door.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of Curry Rivel Music, there will be a free concert, open to all, in St Andrew's Church on **Saturday 18 May 2019** at 7.00pm given by Stetson University Chamber Orchestra with their conductor, Anthony Hose.

Anthony Hose, Principal Conductor of the Welsh Chamber Orchestra and Artistic Director of Beaumaris Festival, spends part of his year as Director of Orchestras at Stetson University in Florida. After their successful tour four years ago, he is again bringing the University Chamber Orchestra of young musicians on a UK tour which will include St Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel.

There will be the usual interval for refreshments of wine, tea or coffee at all of these concerts. Please put these three dates into your diaries. For more details email: [anne.michell@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.michell@btinternet.com)

## Ed Talks about his World Trip

World Unicyclist Ed Pratt filled the village hall before Christmas, enlightening the 200 strong audience with photos, videos and many stories about his three and a half year unicycle trip around the world on one wheel. Ed spoke about the challenges he faced, the people he met on his travels and life on the road.

For those of you who couldn't make Ed's talk, there is another chance on **Thursday 21st March** to hear all about his 22,000 mile unicycle trip around the world.

It is another opportunity to meet Ed and his unicycle, listen to many, many stories and a chance to ask Ed questions about his adventure. Come along to 'School in a Bag' HQ, Chilthorne Damer, near Yeovil. A unique evening, as it is the place the trip started back in March 2015 and finished there last July.

Tickets are selling fast, @£15 per person. Go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ed-pratt-around-the-world-by-unicycle-an-evening-at-school-in-a-bag-tickets-54917450573>

This is a ticketed event, and Ed is also available to come along to your group events. Since his return, he has spoken at many Cycle Award evenings, WI meetings and Rotary events. Ed tells us "If you'd like to hear my tales from the road at your

event I'm available for hire. Just drop me a message ([worldunicycletour@gmail.com](mailto:worldunicycletour@gmail.com))."

He has also launched a range of Unicycle memorabilia; mugs, t-shirts and hoodies. See: <https://teespring.com/stores/edpratt?fbclid=IwAR3QGdKi8L5Dehm-PFGhZWFnC67VvK6Bk1B4cBYk4DH9JG5ILZVuLfMujQ8>



Dear Editor,

Langport & District Red Cross Group is appealing for collectors during the 2019 Red Cross Week, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. An hour or two of a volunteer's time during this week will be warmly welcomed and will help keep the Red Cross voluntary service running in this area. We do bucket collections in Langport & Somerton and House-to-House in any of the villages in South Somerset where we can find volunteers. As the last remaining volunteer-run Red Cross Centre in Somerset it is very important that we continue to raise funds to justify us remaining in operation.

Our Centre in the main Langport Car Park is open every morning, except Sunday, where we sell donated goods and provide friendship and company over a hot, or cold, drink and a biscuit (or two!). Donations of items for sale are always welcomed. We also carry a small stock of disability aids for loan or purchase.

Please contact Chris, the Group Leader, on 01458 273085 or e-mail to [cox.cj@btinternet.com](mailto:cox.cj@btinternet.com).  
Chris Cox 01458 273085



Dear Editor,

Further to your piece on Councils being unable to recycle the bin, because of the bags of dog poo they contain.

Mid morning Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: A dog walker, had the audacity to place a dog poo bag in a black bin on private land in Water Street, despite a reprimand, from a neighbour from her bedroom window.

May I say to this person?

1. You have no respect for the council workers sorting the bins.
2. You have no respect for someone else's property.
3. It's people like you, who give the majority of responsible dog walkers a bad name.
4. In future, please bin it in the correct containers, or take it home.

Thank you  
(Name and address supplied)

## Tuesday Group

Barbara Lancey

It was so good to welcome so many to our first meeting of the New Year.....a record number for the January Annual General Meeting, but perhaps it was the draw of the Quiz that was to follow!! ☺

With speed we dealt with the AGM business, confirming the current Committee to remain in situ. With no official Treasurer currently in post, the accounts are being very efficiently looked after by a past Treasurer. During a brief report it was pleasing to note that with a healthy balance of £963.64, we were once again able to make a charity donation of £200. Five charities were suggested, and following a show of hands, the donation this year was given to the Active Living Group in Curry Rivel.

After a couple of other notices, including outlining the full programme for the year, the fun began with the quiz. Expertly devised and compèred by Dave Moore, this was a most enjoyable experience, giving our little grey cells an hour of thought, wonderment and hilarity.....and lots of heckling, of course! The 'Gold Finches' were the winning

team and were presented with some chocolates for their endeavours! Dave had kindly waived any fee for his evening's work, asking that £50 be given to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance instead. He was, however, presented with a bottle of wine as a thank you. The usual light refreshments ended a very satisfactory evening.



When you read this we will have held our exciting February meeting, with a foray into Line Dancing with Hazel Morris.....yeeha! So I will report on that next time.

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



# Curry Rivel in Bloom

*A flowering community*

*Gina Beauchamp*

I can hardly believe that it is March already and hopefully this month we will not have the terrible snow and bad weather that we had last year! Signs of spring are already here with snowdrops, daffodils and crocus all in bloom before and during the snow in early February.

Two CRiB members Laraine Hayes and myself attended a Britain in Bloom Conference in Manchester, just for National Finalists entrants on 7<sup>th</sup> February. We felt very honoured to be there. We had the opportunity to meet other finalists and even our judges who are two lovely ladies! We attended seminars and workshops and made copious notes to share with the rest of our team. Emerging from the conference it seems that the main themes that the judges are looking for are, sustainability of plants, saving water and recycling. Growing vegetables is also high up on the list and they talked about including vegetables in flowerbeds and hanging baskets and containers. We will include these themes in our planting and in the Front Garden Competition judging criteria which we hope many of you will enter this year. More details later but this is food for thought to be considering how you can do it! Remember that there is no colour scheme this year just a riot of colour!

We will be repeating our hanging basket offer that we ran last year. More details next month.

Please get in touch if you would like to help with any aspect of gardening around the village. ([cribsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:cribsomerset@gmail.com) or 01458 762296) Our next committee meeting is in Weds 6<sup>th</sup> March in the village hall, Chatham Room at 7.30pm. Please come and join us and share your ideas.

Here are some important CRiB and village dates for your diary.

- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Spring seminar for South West in Bloom in Chippenham, three members to attend to learn about the new judging criteria for 2019.
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 am PLANT SALE, seed, pot and gardening bring and buy and swap shop. At the war memorial.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> CRiB QUIZ in Village hall 7pm start, more details later.
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Village Open gardens, 12 gardens open to the public, plant sales cream teas. Big Breakfast in VH in the morning.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> June front garden competition judging.
- Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> - Weds 17<sup>th</sup> July south West in Bloom judging
- National Finals Judging day Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July. This could change!
- South West in Bloom awards presentation ceremony in Newquay. Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
- National Finals Awards ceremony October, date and venue to be announced.

## Gardening jobs for March

- If the weather is kind then prune roses that were not pruned in the autumn. Make sure that they are firmly rooted as winter winds may have worked the soil loose at the base and will cause damage from water. FEED roses now with a liquid feed or work in some Gromore Granules or Rose feed granules into the ground around the roots.
- Dead head daffodils as they dieback but don't cut the foliage back until it dies back, this is needed to feed the bulb for next year.
- Mulch borders to prevent weeds
- Dig over veg patches ready for seeds and plants.
- Plant seeds in a greenhouse or cold frame and protect from frost.

## Snowmen on the green.



*Photo by: Mike Mason*



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# Wine tasting brings winter cheer(s)

Alison Cockrell

Neither the cold weather nor snow could prevent members of the Curry Rivel & District Twinning Association and their guests having a fun time on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Over 40 people attended its annual wine tasting evening, enjoying six types of wine from all corners of the world. Three whites and three reds were sampled, coming from France (naturellement!), Spain, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Argentina. Plates of delicious home-made canapés were also available.

As with previous wine tasting events everyone changed seats from time to time to chat to old friends and also meet new people. None-too-serious comments sheets were provided inviting members to guess the country of origin, type of grape and aromas and flavours – peach and pear seemed to be popular responses!

The successful evening, together with a raffle, helped the Twinning Association in its fundraising efforts.

Interested in learning more about the Curry Rivel and District Twinning Association? Then please email: [thepavilion54@btinternet.com](mailto:thepavilion54@btinternet.com) or telephone 01458 252946



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# District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

This is my final District Council report as your Councillor representing the Curry Rivel and Drayton ward in this election period so I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for voting for me back in 2015 and the encouragement that has been given to me throughout the four years. It has been both enjoyable and a privilege and I trust I have represented this ward in a manner that has been supportive to you and our community.

The next District Council elections will be held on Thursday 2 May where you will be voting for two councillors to represent the needs of our community as the Curry Rivel ward will merge with Langport and Huish ward as part of the national boundary changes imposed earlier in the year.

As such, with the election not far away restrictions are now imposed in the pre-election period known as 'purdah' which starts on 18 March and effectively means that all proactive publicity involving any candidates, myself included, who are standing for election must cease from this date until Election Day, hence my final report. My thanks once again.

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# Movies in the Village Hall

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

## The Bookshop (PG)



## Friday 15 March

Based on the novel of the same name and set during the late 1950s, the film tells the story of how a young widow, Florence Green (Emily Mortimer), decides to open a bookshop in a small East Anglian coastal town.

For her premises Florence acquires the Old House, a damp and abandoned property that has been empty for many years, and sets about refurbishing it. She begins to see success with her new enterprise bringing a cultural renaissance to the town. However, one particular influential and ruthless local resident wants the building for her own pet project. Aided by a reclusive book-loving widower, Florence realises she has some difficult decisions to make.

Also stars: Bill Nighy, Patricia Clarkson and Frances Barber.

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £7 are available at the door.

## Coming soon:

**Stan & Ollie (PG):** Laurel & Hardy, the world's most famous comedy duo, attempt to reignite their film careers, as they embark on what becomes their swan song – a gruelling theatre tour of post-war Britain.



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# Health Walks in Curry Rivel – Come and Join Us!

Andrew Jordan

**T**he Health Walk scheme has been running in Curry Rivel for over 3 years.

We walk for about an hour, 2 – 2.5 miles, along quiet country lanes and across fields around Curry Rivel and nearby villages. The walks are popular, providing an opportunity for people to walk for an hour and explore our surrounding countryside. There are also Health Walk schemes in Langport and Somerton and a number of walkers join the different groups to walk in different areas.

The aim of the Health Walking scheme is to encourage

people back into regular exercise by introducing a gentle walking programme. Health Walks are ideally suited to people wishing to walk slightly farther than they currently do, or who simply wish to meet and walk with other people.

The Health Walks are free, and are led by Andrew Jordan. We meet on Curry Rivel Village Green at 10.15am, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday we usually walk locally around the village. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday we drive a short distance and walk the countryside nearby.

## Dates for Health Walking 2019

March	6	20
April	3	17
May	1	15
June	5	19
July	3	17
August	7	21
September	4	18
October	2	16
November	6	20
December	4	18



*Health Walkers on the Green, ready to for a walk around Curry Rivel*

Come prepared for the weather! Wear waterproofs, stout walking boots or shoes, warm clothes as necessary. Please don't bring dogs. Contact Andrew Jordan

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# Birnbeck Pier

## LANGPORT & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY EVENT REPORT Feb 2019

Janet Seaton

The Society's 4 February meeting featured Peter Lander of the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust on Westonsuper-Mare's historic Birnbeck Pier, and the work of the Trust in preserving it.

He described his introduction to the Trust, and being given, as an 'incomer' welder from Derbyshire, the task of researching the Pier's history, not just via documents and artefacts, but also through oral history, talking to those who had lived, worked or visited the Pier, and giving regular talks about it. His presentation was largely a display of old photographs gleaned from these people he met and from other sources.

The Pier, designed by a prolific pier architect called Eugenius Birch (1818-1884) and built between 1864 and 1867, is unique as being actually a bridge from the mainland to an island, the small Birnbeck Island. Given its location and structure, it suffered much damage over the years due to storms, fires and erosion. It was closed to the public in 1994, and though it and its associated buildings and structures are listed, a lack of maintenance by successive owners has led to its deterioration.

During its active life, the Pier operated as the key link for the Island, which maintained a lifeboat station – originally in 1881, then a new one in 1902 - ferry services and a wide range of public amusements common to holiday piers of the last 150 years, all of which Peter illustrated through old photos and postcards. In the Second

World War, it was taken over by the Admiralty and designated 'HMS Birnbeck, and was a base for the invention of many novel weapons of war. The Regeneration Trust was originally formed in 2004, encouraged by the local councils and groups keen to restore and regenerate the area with the Pier at its heart. However, practical work was limited because of the site being sold to various private owners, until the Trust

was revived in 2015, and Peter described its many activities and plans to achieve proper restoration and use of the historic Pier.

The Society's next meeting will be at Langport Library on Monday 4 March at 7.30pm, when Philip Unwin will present a talk on *The incredible journey: SS Great Britain*. Non-members are very welcome, £4 per person. Anyone interested in joining the History Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, [suzannestanden471@btinternet.com](mailto:suzannestanden471@btinternet.com)). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on: <https://sites.google.com/site/langportheritage/home>.



### MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA WEEKEND AT LIVING PRETTY



Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March

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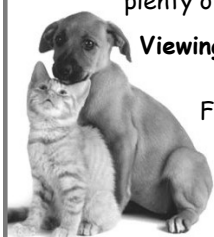
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# Celebrating 20 Years

## ...since the Twinning Charter Signing here in May 1999!

I know! We can hardly believe it ourselves! 20 years since we all gathered on the Village Green under bright blue skies to witness the Charter Signing of our special friendship with the community of Chevilly, Loiret, France! Since that day in May 1999, villagers have travelled to Chevilly every two years to enjoy hospitality from our French hosts. We have visited many interesting places from the grandeur of Versailles to a local bell foundry, a lunch on a 'Bateau

Mouche' on the River Seine I Paris to the Leonardo da Vinci park at Clos Lucé.

In return we have hosted the Chevillois here and show-cased our lovely area to the full with visits which included Bath, Bristol, Dartmouth, Lyme Regis and Exeter as well as our local stately homes and interesting sites.

We estimate that over 250 people in the locality have been involved in the twinning social events and fundraising; we have sponsored 6 families for the visit to France and currently, thanks to the support of the Parish Council, we provide the teaching of French in Phase 2 at Curry Rivel Primary School.

This year our visitors will be with us from 3–6 May. There will be a celebration for you to join in with [details in next month's CR News] and an exhibition in the Village Hall. Our aim was always to foster the friendship between our two communities, to promote understanding and to broaden the horizons and opportunities of our young people. Have we achieved this? I think so and we'll carry on doing this well into the future with your enthusiasm and support!

If you would like to host a guest or guests for the weekend in May please get in touch. Barbara Hamlin 252946



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Telephone: 01458 253 888

### Sedgemoor Gardens Club

#### DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

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





Jackie German

Our last meeting of 2018 was a buzz of friendship and activity when over 40 members enjoyed a morning of food, entertainment and friendship. December saw members generously filling 18 shoeboxes delivered to the Taunton YMCA, plus gifts of items suitable for the local food bank were well received with many families touched by the kind words and generosity of our WI.

At the beginning of January we welcomed more new faces to our third successful Bring and Share lunch in the old school room. The variety of soups, savouries and puddings prepared by members was most welcome, with empty plates reflecting the appreciation of our visitors. The buzz and chatter further supporting the success and enjoyment of this event. 2019 began with a variety of activities. A visit to Shakspeare Glass, the Bookbinder and the Clock Repairer at Langport was very much enjoyed by all attending.....followed of course by coffee and cake. The visit to the Half Way House in Pitney for our latest pub lunch was equally well attended and enjoyed. Curry Rivel WI Skittles Team reached the third round of the Knock Out Cup but regrettably that's as far as we go! Better luck next year. The walking group have planned a programme of walks for the coming year with Somerton as the venue for the February walk and The Firehouse the venue for our monthly lunch. Always aiming for improved fitness several members have joined the newly formed Walking Netball experience at Huish Leisure. Walking Netball is a nationwide activity developed by Sport England and promoted by the WI. Of the six resolutions proposed for discussion at the National Conference at Bournemouth in May, Curry Rivel members have chosen to support 'A Call against the Decline in Local



Paul Taylor runs a repair, conservation, restoration and bookbinding service for books and paper items in Langport.. Members of Curry Rivel WI were fascinated by his talk and demonstration.

Bus Services.' We hope our choice of resolution will be supported nationwide and chosen for discussion. On Thursday 14th March we welcome Frances Carlaw who will talk on 'A Passion for Pearls'. We meet in the Village Hall at 09.45 am for a 10am start. If you would like a lift or more information about the Wi please contact Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email: [jackiegerman@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiegerman@hotmail.com)

## Christmas Decorations Give a Lift to Air Ambulance

Congratulations to Roy Webb who decorated his house in Chatham Place with Christmas lights and raised £194.43 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Roy would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and support for this very worthy cause.



The next **Village Clean** will take place on 30th and 31st March. The Parish Council members are looking for volunteers to help them in cleaning up the village by litter-picking throughout the village and adjoining areas. Please help if you can. It's your village too. Further details, when known, will be published on the Curry Rivel Website.

## Hedgehog tracks in the snow



Helen Breeze

After my last month's item on my hopes for hedgehogs in my garden, how excited was I to see these foot-prints in the snow! Wasn't sure what they were at first, but had to look on the Hedgehog Street website, and low and behold, confirmed! Even more keen now to help our little hogs!

# SOMERTON U3A

Denise Clarke

The next meeting of the Somerton U3A will be held on Friday 22 March when we will hear from Michael Denney about the Festival of Britain of 1952. The Festival was a wonderful event held in London and across the country. With buildings, art and design by the best young designers and artists keen to express their enthusiasm for the new post-war age, the festival was full of life, colour and modern design. The talk will consider the main events in London, particularly the exhibitions on the South Bank of the Thames and other less well remembered events from across the country. With many illustrations taken from photographs from 1951 this is always a popular talk

with those who remember the post-war period or have an interest in architecture and design from the period.

Monthly meetings normally take place on the fourth Friday of each month at the Edgar Community Hall in Somerton starting at 10am with coffee (30p) and a chat. After any notices the main event begins at 10:30am and finishes by 12 noon at the latest. Meetings are free for members, visitors £1.50 each.

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**Please clean up after  
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## Mothers Day at The Firehouse

**Sunday 31st March 2019 12-3pm**



**A complimentary glass  
of Prosecco for all Mums  
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**2 courses £22 | 3 courses £28**

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## St. Andrew's Church

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



## March

### Friday 1st - World Day of Prayer

2.00 pm CR URC Chapel  
Interdenominational service,  
Refreshments afterwards

### Sunday 3rd - Sunday before Lent

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

### Wednesday 6th - Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm CR - United Benefice  
Holy Communion & imposition of ashes

### Thursday 7th

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

### Sunday 10th - Lent 1

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

### Monday 11th

3.30-5.30 pm CR School Messy Church

### Tuesday 12th

10.00-12.00 CR OSR - Craft & Coffee

### Sunday 17th - Lent 2

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 21st

10.30 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

### Sunday 24th - Lent 3

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

### Sunday 31st - Mothering Sunday

10.00 CR - All Age Family Service  
(followed by coffee)  
11.15 CR - Short Communion  
4.00 pm FH - All Age Family Service

## Scott's spot



A friend told me a story that, I think, pictures the situation of many today.

As a boy he grew up near a park, where he and his brother would spend hours playing. There was also, however, a small patch of land across the road that on occasion they'd visit instead. It wasn't anything special, just a wide road-side verge dotted with a few bushes, but it made a change for adventurous boys. It was a few years later that the insignificant strip of land turned out to be anything but. During a road-widening survey a Saxon burial chamber was found. It proved to be of such significance that it made the national news and had the archaeological world buzzing for months at the treasures discovered. It came as quite a shock to see the area where he'd played for years turn out to be a place of such significance.

Similarly, many see nothing of interest in Christianity. Seemingly they consider it insignificant and unattractive. And if we're honest, organised religion *can* be dreadfully dull, and *some* Christians poor adverts for the faith they profess. Sometimes it's not very hard to see why so many have been 'turned off' Christianity.

But the jewel of Christianity is not about the way people worship or about the worshippers themselves, but rather the astonishing person at its heart – Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul puts it: ***'In him all the treasures of wisdom and understanding lie hidden'***. (Colossians 2:3)

## St. Andrew's Rotas March

Brass - Nicky Barker

Flowers

2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd - Lent  
30th - Mothering Sunday

Cleaning

2nd - Tina Geary  
9th - Wendy Graves  
16th - Liz Rendell  
23rd - Jackie & John de Ronde  
30th - Nicky Barker



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

The thing is that beneath the ordinariness of our expressions of faith, with its individual and corporate flaws, there lies a treasure beyond comparison – in a nut-shell, a relationship of joy and peace with the living God, through Jesus His Son.

In the spring the church family here in Curry Rivel will be hosting an *Alpha* course that will be open to anyone who would appreciate the opportunity to think and talk about what Christianity is and isn't. Please don't let the faults and failings of church families past or present put you off; please, like for that verge, don't drive or walk by without a second thought. The life-transforming treasure of Jesus awaits your discovery.

With blessings in Christ,  
Revd. Scott.

## Shrove Tuesday - 5th March

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

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

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

'Shrove' comes from the word 'shrive', which means 'to confess', and so on this day, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins, so that by faith they began Lent with a 'clean-sheet' before God.

## St. Andrew's Annual meetings

**Monday 8th April 7.30 pm,**  
**in the Old School Room**

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) for the election of Churchwardens; at this meeting all parishioners may vote, followed by the

- Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), with reports about church life; PCC proceedings; the church's financial affairs over 2018, and the election of new PCC members. At this meeting only those registered on St. Andrew's Electoral Role may vote (see next page)



**St. Andrew's Church****Electoral Roll - total renewal**

This year sees the 6-yearly **renewal** of the Electoral Roll (ER). This means that anyone who wishes to be registered on the ER will need to **submit an application form – this also applies to the current ER-members**. Only when registered on the ER has someone the right to attend the APCM and participate in its proceedings (incl. to vote) or to stand for election to the PCC or as Churchwarden (election of the latter will be at the AMP, which precedes the APCM – see below). To register for enrolment on the ER, an application form needs to be submitted **no later than 24th March**. These forms are available in the church.

***This may be an opportunity to become more closely involved in the management of your church.***

**From Revd Tim**

Last month I ended this column by mentioning my sabbatical in Taiwan and the response of the church there to the expansionist plans of China saying I would expand on that further. For much of its history the island of Taiwan has been ruled over by 'other' powers. The island was colonised by the Dutch in the 17th century; the Spanish built a settlement in the north for a brief period but were driven out by the Dutch in 1642. Then, following the first Sino-Japanese war in 1895, Taiwan became part of the Japanese empire. In 1945, following the end of WWII, the nationalist government of the Republic of China took control. Then in 1949, after losing control of mainland China in the Chinese Civil war, Chiang Kai-shek ruled Taiwan as a single-party state for forty years until democratic reforms in the 1980s which led to the first-ever direct presidential election in 1996.

The effects of that particular era still reverberate amongst the Taiwanese today. The full horror of that period is still being adjusted to and I visited a prison with a guide who had himself been imprisoned more than once by the authorities for his political beliefs. As with other such regimes, disappearances and executions were not uncommon and 'spies' were everywhere.

**United Reformed Church****March**

*(Services start at 10.30)*

**Sunday 3rd** - Service based on World Day of Prayer

**Sunday 10th** - Mrs Jane Fry  
*(incl. Holy Communion)*

**Sunday 17th** - Mrs Alison Reed Richards

**Sunday 24th** - Rev Tim Richards

**Sunday 31st - Mothering Sunday**  
Sharing fellowship over brunch

*From Revd Tim . . . ctd*

What has all this to do with a church article in Mid-Somerset?

To choose to attend church is everybody's free choice, rightly so, and attending church will not come at the cost of any persecution whichever denomination you choose. For us this has been the case since 1662.

I found within the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan a thirst for Justice and freedom. In Luke's gospel there is a story of Jesus reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah which is full of concern for those who need help. An ancient cry which marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Hearing this read aloud in a church in which persecution and oppression has been rife and within living memory elicits a very different feeling from when I read it in Somerset.

The shared history of all peoples in Taiwan, of various religions and none, the knowledge that freedom has been hard won and is to be cherished, is still raw and present there in a way unknown here.

The universal appeal of a call to justice and to equality echoes from pulpits across this island – an island previously known as Formosa, the beautiful island – the ancient cry for justice, equality, helping the stranger and supporting the downtrodden is why much of our scripture (and its inherent liberation theology) finds favour and brings solace in times of great trial.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Refreshments, Raffle & Sale**  
**@ the URC Hall 11 am – 1pm**  
**Fundraising for**  
**CURRY RIVEL ACTIVE LIVING GROUP**

This is the Friday morning Get Together Club which meets in the Village Hall between 10am & 1pm every Friday. The idea behind this group is to provide a warm, friendly space for folk of a certain age to get together. Along with many other social care groups and facilities, the Active Living Group has experienced cuts in its grant funding and is having to seek other ways of sustaining its service to the community. Aware of how isolating older age can be and how valuable these small but vital groups are, particularly in rural communities, we hope with your help to raise some funds toward keeping this community service going. We look forward to your company at the URC Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> March – thank you!

If you would like to make a financial contribution but are unable to get to the SPRING EVENT, donations may be sent to: Curry Rivel URC Treasurers, c/o Jenny & Tony Potts, Stoney Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel.

The most recent and ever-present threat is from mainland China. In a speech by Chinese President XI Jinping on January 2, he said the island must be reunited with Beijing under "one country, two systems" – he insisted that Beijing would not renounce the use of force which he claimed was aimed at pro-independence forces in Taiwan. I heard a number of talks from pulpits denouncing China's claim to the Island and stressing the importance of emphasising Taiwan's independence and actively campaigning for it to be recognised by governments around the world; our own U.K. government does not as yet do so.

Whether because of persecution or a cause to rally around, the church in Taiwan is alive and vibrant with people committing time and energy to seeing that they are fully integrated within their local communities; both socially and politically active. More on how this is achieved next month.

Tim Richards.

**In March****Regular Events****MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

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

**WEDNESDAY**

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

**THURSDAY**

10.00	WI	(2nd only) Village Hall
1.30 - 3.30	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	(1st only) Village Hall

**FRIDAY**

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

**Special Events**

World prayer day	1 <sup>st</sup> March	2.00pm	URC chapel
World unicycle talk	21 <sup>st</sup> March		School-in-a-bag HQ (Chilthorne Domer)

**Some Useful Telephone Numbers****Youth Organisations**

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

**Sports Clubs**

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

**Social**

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251280
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel	252648
Tuesday Group	252657/252022

**Arts**

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

**Community Facilities**

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	741606
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Minister	01749 679300

**Community Services**

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500

**Education**

Little Pips	252822
Primary School	251404
Huish Episcopi Academy	250501
Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre	251055

**Local Authorities**

Parish Council (Clerk) m.ludgate@btinternet.com)	251432
District Council	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

**Religious**

Church of England Rector	251375
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton	274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799

**Deadlines for April Edition**

<b>Advertising:</b>	5pm Thursday <b>7 March</b>
<b>Send to:</b>	crnadverts@btinternet.com
<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm Tuesday <b>12 March</b>
<b>Send to:</b>	curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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