

Champion Marmalade Maker

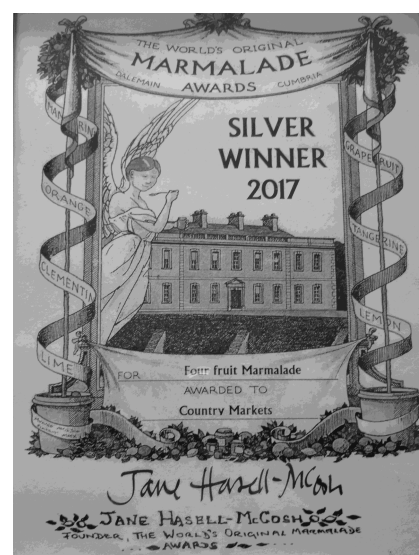


Julia Jewell may only have been making marmalade for three years but her expertise has already been recognised by the judges in the 2017 World's Original Marmalade Awards. These quirky awards were founded in 2005 by Jane Hasell-McCosh who uncovered some old marmalade recipes in her Georgian mansion, Dalemain, in Cumbria and thought it would be fun to have a local competition with the idea of preserving, growing and widening one of the most British of customs – making marmalade. Since then the competition has grown to attract marmalade makers from across the globe and receives sponsorship from amongst others, Mackays, Fortnum & Mason, and Virgin Rail.

Julia's Four Fruit Marmalade was one of 2,000 entries in the Artisan Class, in which it gained a Silver Award and the following comments from the judges, "very good appearance with a piquant, surprisingly flavoursome and distinctive taste with great length of finish".

Julia, is chair of the local Country Market in Langport, which is one of 300 across the country selling homemade baked goods, preserves, garden-grown fruit and vegetables, plants and handmade crafts. She resorted to the preserving pan when the market's marmalade maker moved away. Her initial attempts to make a good marmalade were a bit hit and miss with some of the initial batches failing to set properly, but practice makes perfect and she has honed her skill to the point of being able to smell when the marmalade has set!

If you would like to buy a jar of Julia's marmalade, which now bear the official Silver Award insignia, you can do so by visiting the Country Market in Langport on Thursdays in All Saints Hall between 9 and 11.30 or the Unicorn Skittle Alley in Somerton on Saturdays between 9 and midday.



District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne

SSDC and Huish Leisure are in the process of providing our area, Area North, with an indoor swimming pool. We are the only area of SSDC without such an amenity but a successful Sport England bid combined with SSDC S106 funding has helped to secure this development. The current outdoor pool should be open early next month and it has just been confirmed the usual autumn triathlon will now take place in the first weekend of July. Once the triathlon has been completed the pool will then close and work will commence throughout the summer and winter of 2017. As always, there is a shortfall in the funding and Huish Leisure have been holding fund raising events such as a pool parties and badminton-athons to help cover the remaining balance. Curry Rivel will benefit from this new development through our children attending school and our residents enjoying the leisure facilities. But they do need your help. If you would like to get involved in fundraising or the 'buy a brick scheme',

please call the leisure centre on 01458 251055 or call in for a form.

We are all aware of the on-going issue of traffic concerns through our village. I cannot promise a quick fix to these issues but the Parish Council is looking into it and any comments you have would be greatly appreciated.

SSDC have recently given a £2,706 funding for access licence fees for the Westover, Langport to Muchelney cycleway. We are seeking opinions from residents and businesses about this popular recreational cycle route and the different ways in which it is enjoyed.

It would be of great help if you could take part in the online survey

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Cycleway/>

Langport Bank Closure

Villagers who bank with Nat West will have received notification that the local branch in Langport is to close in October 2017. This will leave our area without a bank and whilst many of us now manage our finances online there are many who still rely on the local branch and its facilities. On 19th April, the local CEO of the bank met with Langport Town Council and representatives of local businesses to discuss the implications of the closure. The bank is adamant that there will be no reprieve and the Langport branch will definitely close. However, they are looking to manage the change to minimise the inconvenience for customers. For example, there will be a technical support officer available for one or two days a week until the closure to help those who need help with online or telephone banking; and after the closure, if there is sufficient demand, a mobile bank will call at Langport one day a week for at least an hour. Nat West also hopes to appoint a Community Banker who will work in an advisory role for individual customers and communicate with the community and liaise with local groups about banking services.

This particular branch has a very interesting history because it was the original Stuckey's Bank that opened nearly 200 years ago. It is hoped that a suitable home will be found for the Stuckey's Bank artefacts that are still held in the branch although it has been Nat West for many years. Discussions are under way to make sure that the history of Stuckey's Bank is not forgotten.

Speedwatch March Results					
Date	Location	Start (All Sessions 1 hour)	Total Vehicles	Good drivers	Number of Speeders
7th	Churchway	7.3 am	522	99.4%	3
11th	BP Garage	3.00pm	399	98.2%	7
15th	Westfield Lane (W-bound-40mph)	4.00 pm	290	93.1%	20
15th	Westfield Lane (E-bound-30mph)	4.00 pm	163	93.9%	10
21st	Abbey Close	10.00 am	47	97.9%	1
29th	Townsend	11.00am	348	97.7%	8
31st	Tuggies Cottage, B3168	5.00pm	224	95.1%	11
<p><i>All looking good in Churchway!</i> <i>Averages creeping up in other parts of the village.</i> The Westfield Lane Session has to be recorded as two sessions because of the different speed limits in the different directions</p>					
<p><i>Anybody who would like to help keeping Curry Rivel safer please contact Robert Crowley 01458 259434 (its only an hour each month)</i></p>					



Deadlines for June Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 11 May
Send to: crnadverts@btinternet.com
Comments & Articles: 5pm Tuesday 16 May
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Growing Your Own

Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

We have had a very friendly male deer who has taken up residence in our garden recently and, though he is beautiful, we have not appreciated his eating off the young growth on some plants! We therefore have warning tape stretched across the garden to limit him to the bottom part of the garden where he can do no damage - which is a bit of a nuisance when we want to walk down to that end of the garden!

In the vegetable garden autumn sown broad beans and peas are doing well. Aquadulce Claudia is a good, reliable broad bean that should be in full harvest by the end of the month. Peas such as Douce Provencale, Feltham First or Early Onward are best grown under cloches and they will need support. It's a good idea to grow a succession of peas and we try to do this - though the mouse who has tunnelled in with the peas under cloches hasn't helped this aim - as he has eaten off nearly all the germinating peas! In May, and again in June, main crop varieties such as Alderman and Onward should be sown in succession to avoid gluts. If you do have too many peas to use immediately, harvest them and quickly blanch for 90 seconds in boiling water before cooling rapidly and freezing. Runner beans that have been grown in pots in a frame or greenhouse should be planted out this month - they also need support and there is much choice for supporting structures - we go for netting stretched between poles. Dwarf French beans don't need support but taller varieties benefit from some, twiggy bits are good for this and also for supporting peas. Colourful beans like Borlotto can be planted out now and their pods make a splash of colour in the vegetable garden, as does Swiss Chard. This is also the month for getting all the winter brassicas, such as cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, kale and cabbages like January King, into their permanent positions. To produce good cauliflower hearts the plants must not receive any sort of check during their growth so individual plants should be grown in pots and then planted out without any root disturbance. Protect all brassicas against wood pigeons, which are often around in



large numbers at this time of year. This year we are going to plant some nasturtiums between our brassicas as the smell of them apparently deters whitefly, and anything that might do that must be worth trying! Carrots and lettuce should be sown on a little and often basis to provide a continuous supply of tasty produce. In our clay soil hereabouts it is best to sow stump rooted carrots as the clay causes long rooted varieties to fork. Plant sweet corn under cover now and don't forget to thin out all root crops such as parsnips and carrots to give them plenty of room to grow. If you are lucky enough to have an asparagus bed you will be enjoying the fruits of your labours right now!

Elsewhere in the May garden there will be lawns to cut, borders to be hoed to control weeds, and roses to be sprayed regularly against greenfly, rust and blackspot. Tall plants such as delphiniums will need staking, and chrysanthemum stools and dahlia tubers can be planted out. If we do get some rain, which at the time of writing seems unlikely, slugs can become a problem and steps need to be taken against them - copper bands, beer traps, slug pellets - it's up to you! Seeds of biennials such as wallflowers, honesty, Canterbury bells and foxgloves should be sown in holding beds for planting out in the winter for flowering next spring.

Lastly, but most importantly, if you haven't already got your purple and gold plants for your front display - pots, tubs, hanging baskets or the whole front garden - visit the Plant Sale in the village on May 14th to stock up and support Curry Rivel in Bloom!

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Curry Rivel in Bloom News

Website: curryrivelinbloom.simplesite.com



Progress Update

By the time you read this there should be a smart new willow fence around the back of the War Memorial garden. It was woven on site at the end of April and should make a fitting locally produced backdrop to the new garden. Coates Willow in Meare Green gave us a sponsored price, and we are grateful to them and the Parish Council for funding it.

Hopefully you will also already have noticed the troughs and pots appearing on the wide walls on part of the south side of the High Street. These will now be a permanent feature, filled with seasonal plants. The planned purple and gold display consists of mainly delicate plants and it will be put out when all danger of frost is past - in the meantime, enjoy the Spring display!

Please can you help with watering?

The High Street residents will tend the plants on their walls but the War Memorial garden will need daily watering - twice daily on hot days - once the planting and hanging baskets are in place. There will be a water butt by the garden to take water from. We already have several volunteers who have

agreed to each take responsibility for one week of watering between June and October but we need more help - either alone or with a friend or group, if you can commit to one week of watering please contact Sylvia (details below).

Purple and Gold Frontage competition

A reminder about this year's frontage competition. Purple and gold includes all the yellows (think marigolds and sunflowers!) and purple ranging from deep blue to pinky purple (lavender, aubretia, lots of roses etc.) You can enter a whole front garden or just a windowbox, pot or tub, but it must be visible from the road or front gate. Judging will be over the weekend of July 8/9 and after it, it could be you lifting the Curry Rivel in Bloom trophy at our Awards Evening as well as receiving a useful garden token to spend! We already have some entries into the competition but they will be accepted right up to the 1 July - enter by emailing your name, address and telephone number to smggoodenough@aol.com and please put CR Frontage competition in the heading space. Alternatively give Sylvia a ring on 250091.

Village Charity seeks new Clerk

John Hunt is retiring as Clerk to The Curry Rivel Combined Charities after 14 years in the job, and as a result the Trustees are looking for a replacement.

This interesting Charity was formed in 1960 by the amalgamation of 12 small charities, the oldest of which dated back to 1721, which had previously distributed Christmas gifts such as bread and coal to less well-off pensioners in the parish. By 1960 this had become unmanageable, and the combined charity was put together under the guidance of the

late Jim Barnard and Anthony Lang. Nowadays the Christmas gifts of bread and coal have been replaced by cash gifts, and in addition the Charity makes an annual grant to the two local Primary Schools to help children from poorer families to go on school trips.

The Trustees are looking for someone who knows the local area, has a computer, and has a few hours a year to spare. Expenses will be reimbursed, but the job is otherwise unpaid.

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Langport & District History Society

Toogood & Bridgwater Hospital

Barry Winetrobe

The Society's April meeting featured an illustrated talk by Lesley Sutcliffe on the life and times of Dr Jonathan Toogood, the founder of Bridgwater Hospital, an eminent and controversial medical practitioner in the 19th century. The Toogood family hailed from Dorset, and were involved in opposition to the slave trade, and it may have been this reformist streak which encouraged Jonathan to become a surgeon. Surgeons then did not enjoy the high social status; they were also apothecaries, and acted as the GPs of their time. Unlike physicians, there was no uniform training system then, other than through apprenticeship at a young age for up to 7 years. This was Jonathan's path, aged 14, in 1798. He was then a pupil of Dr John Abernethy in London in 1804, working at Bart's Hospital until his move to Bridgwater in 1806.

Lesley sketched out the social background of life in a small but growing provincial town like Bridgwater in the early 19th century, to provide a context for the environment in which Jonathan had to operate. There was much poverty and unhealthy living conditions, giving rise to a full range of medical cases from accidents at work or on the roads, to the various diseases and infections rife then, as well as midwifery, a relatively neglected medical area then, but one that Toogood had studied in London. Medical treatment then was still largely based on the Ancient Greek teachings, based on the 'humours of the body', with very little in the way of modern medicines or instruments. People also had to rely largely on self-treatment at home, often with patent medicines dispensed by quacks.

A small town like Bridgwater had no hospital in the modern sense, and Toogood was the driving force in 1813 in getting one established, albeit on a very small scale, with only 12 beds. However this quickly grew, helped by financial support from Toogood and his family, and it lasted as a

private charitable facility until the arrival of the NHS in 1948, only making way for a new, purpose built hospital several years ago.

As well as his own practice, Toogood was involved in developments nationally and beyond, visiting and corresponding with colleagues, and also involved himself in medical campaigns, such as those for reform of the coroner system, and regulation of the sale of arsenic. He was highly critical of the draconian 1834 Poor Law reforms, and also of homeopathy. It was opposition to the latter that gave rise to the derisive term used by his opponents of 'medical Toogoodism'. He died in 1784. Despite all his achievements, Lesley regretted that he was now virtually forgotten in Bridgwater and beyond, something she hoped to help put right.

The next meeting will be on Monday 8 May, when Philip Unwin talks about Brunel's ships. It is free to members (annual membership is £12): non-members are welcome, admission £2. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com). Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langporthheritage/home>.

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Movies in the Village Hall

mvhcurry.wix.com/films

Manchester by the Sea (15)

Friday 19 May



Oscar winner Casey Affleck stars in the moving story of how Lee Chandler, a janitor and handyman living in Boston, Massachusetts, has to return to his home town of Manchester by the Sea in order to care for his nephew, Patrick, after the teenager's father dies. Unaware that he has been named guardian, Lee struggles with his new role.

Throughout the film Lee recounts the events that caused him to leave Manchester and distance himself from the past. Gradually Patrick and Lee re-establish their bonds although there are still clashes between them over certain decisions including their future living arrangements.

The poignant narrative also won the Best Original Screenplay Award for writer and director Kenneth Lonergan.

Stars: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler and Lucas Hedges.

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Refreshments are on sale. Tickets £7 are available at the door. Don't forget we have our annual ticket for only £50 – saving you £20.

Curry Rivel Live

A small festival packed with a big punch!
Saturday 17 June



Curry Rivel Live is in its 5th year and this one day micro festival is a sure-fire way to kick start your festival season. With live music from 1pm through until midnight this festival hosts a range of music to suit all tastes from Dance through to Blues and from Disney to Rockabilly Rebels - it has it all. And if that weren't enough there are also plenty of stalls advertising/selling all types of products. For the children, there is the 'kids' area' with circus workshops, face-painting, inflatable rides, walk around characters, the local fire engine plus much more. To entertain the adults, we have the Blue Ridge Runners with their American Classic cars & Bikes, our famous long top bar and hot food served all day along. This festival has everything you need for a fantastic day out with the family.

Line Up: The Rumpsteppers - FILTA - The Rockercovers - Swapgrass - Disney Rascal - Brassic - Howard & Badman - Joe Chitt - Issie.

To get your festival season going grab your tickets NOW online at The Bristol Ticket Shop (search 'Curry Rivel Live 2017') or via our outlets; The Bow Street Barbers, Langport - The Post Office, Curry Rivel and The Hair Lodge, Langport. The festival site itself is situated at Westfield Playing Field, Curry Rivel, TA10 0HX. For more info and all terms and conditions visit: www.championmusicgroup.co.uk



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Get Together with the Curry Rivel Active Living Group

Meets in the Village Hall Fridays 9.30 – 2.00

Programme for May and June

May		June	
5	Games	2	Games
12	Take Note (singing group)	9	Bright & High (singing duo)
19	Games	16	Games
26	Growing up Afloat (Life on a boat)	23	Go out for Lunch
		30	Games



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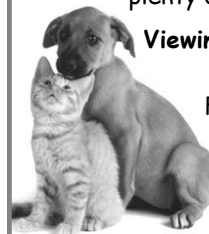
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Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Applications for Parish Council Grants.

I should like to comment upon two of the items which appeared in the April issue of the Curry Rivel Nevvs.

I was pleased to read in a recent past issue of the Curry Rivel News that the Parish Council had decided to deal with grant applications only once per financial year. To me that decision made sense because there can be only one budgeted amount for grants and it would be fairer to allocate grants based upon their relative merits only once during each financial year, rather than on an ad hoc basis.

However, I note from the Parish Council Shorts in the April 2017 edition of the Curry Rivel News that at the last Council meeting 5 grants were approved, but that an application received from the 1't Curry Rivel & Drayton Girl Guides was deferred for consideration until the October 2017 Council meeting. I also observed that in the same edition of the Curry Rivel News, in a separate GirlGuides article, reasons for the Girl Guides' proposed visit included: Volunteering to teach English in primary schools, playing games, renovating buildings and supporting local community projects.

As a person who has visited Sri Lanka many times over a prolonged period, and still has friends and former associates living there, I should like to point out that the former Ceylon has benefited from long standing trade, economic and other relationships with the U.K. over many generations, and therefore the standard of English spoken there, as a second language, is of a far higher standard than that spoken by the majority their British counterparts in this country. Also, I question whether any Girl Guide who has not trained as a teacher and is not TEFL

trained, has the requisite skills to teach English as a

foreign language. This is more especially true when they will be playing games, renovating buildings and supporting other local projects during the same two week period. In fact, it could be argued that these young Girl Guides have little or no practical skills with which to meet their stated objectives. Also, that the cost of travelling to and from, and possibly of subsistence whilst in, Sri Lanka would not justify the economic contribution to any of the objectives mentioned.

I would point out that Sri Lanka is not known as a poor country and its inhabitants are not without practical skills, boundless energy and initiative themselves.

I should also like to invite your attention to the danger of the Girl Guides contracting tropical diseases and suffering from heat exhaustion whilst in Sri Lanka; even for such a short period such as a fortnight.

Finally I should like to point out that the Parish Council Rate is paid by the citizens living in this village and is expected to be used for the good of the Parish of Curry Rivel. It has just been increased by 3%, whereas many of the Parish residents are retired and on fixed incomes with 0%, or negative, increases to their income. It could therefore be argued that the Parish Council funds thus raised, are public monies to be carefully used for the benefit of all the citizens of this village, and not for the the purposes of foreign travel for a chosen few, for little or no economic value; however well intentioned and impracticable their objectives might be.

Yours faithfully,

Maurice Powell.

In response to Mr. Powell's comments:

1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Guide unit is a small part of a national organisation that currently represents 400,000 girls across the country which was established over 100 years ago when a small handful of girls who gate crashed the first ever Scout rally, demanded 'something for the girls', since when Girlguiding has grown into a vast and vibrant network of members across the UK.

Each guide makes a promise and our promise links us to other Girlguiding members and the ten million people involved in guiding across the world through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Although we may have different languages, cultures and beliefs, each member makes a commitment to do her best:

- to be an active citizen of her community and the wider world
- to help others – from a kind word to a neighbour to huge international campaigns
- to develop her spiritual side - whatever she believes or cares about, and to respect the beliefs of others.

These themes run through everything we do through our Five Essentials programme and our inclusive Promise for all is a

shared commitment for every member - from all faiths or none. This unity is what makes guiding so special.

As a member of Girlguiding and WAGGGS, girls and volunteer leaders have great adventures. They can visit World Centres in London, India, Mexico or Switzerland and make the most of international volunteering opportunities and education programmes.

WAGGGS is here to support girls and young women to:

- learn about themselves and their world
- develop leadership skills
- bring about change in their communities

form lifelong friendships.

WAGGGS supports girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. Girlguiding UK is proud to be part of this diverse movement with ten million members across 145 countries in five regions worldwide.

Girlguiding Somerset's Expedition to Sri Lanka next year under the auspices of Volunteer Abroad aims to give the Guides going a practical opportunity to experience everything outlined above to understand how a shared ethos can bring together people from very different backgrounds.

Yours in Guiding
Jane Brooke

Dear Editor,

We are very fortunate to have an active Guide group in our village, they offer a range of activities which both challenge and stretch those who take part.

They concern themselves with wider issues around the globe and help the young Guides to develop in ways that will help them as they make choices about degree and career choices.

They are always willing to assist at village events from carrying out waitressing duties to stewarding the open gardens.

It was therefore very disappointing not to have had more support from village organisations at the recent quiz evening they organised, which was to raise funds to send two of their number to Sri Lanka.

Those who made up the 3 teams present had a good evening, with a well thought out quiz and tea, coffee, cakes and a bar available. How much more they could have raised had those village groups who receive help from the Guides reciprocated that support.

Yours sincerely,
Tim & Ali Richards

'Elefun' with the Guides

Jane Brooke

How would you like to spend a leisurely afternoon chatting to your friends and family, drinking tea and coffee and eating homemade cake, whilst the children are kept entertained?

The 1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Guides are holding an 'Elefun' afternoon on Saturday 3 June from 2.00 till 4.00 pm at the Robert Sewers Hall in Curry Rivel. The cost is £2.50 per child, to include a squash and cake and, for a small charge, refreshments are also available for Mums, Dads, Carers, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles, whoever want to come along. Come for the whole afternoon or join the fun and games for part of the time. There will also be raffles for both children and adults.

There will be lots of different elephant themed craft activities (for example, mask making), games and music to

keep the children occupied.

The reason for holding an elephant themed event is that the Girlguiding Somerset International trip to Sri Lanka taking place at Easter 2018 has adopted the elephant as its emblem. Three guides and one leader from Curry Rivel and Drayton Guides have been chosen to go on the trip to represent Girl Guiding overseas. During the two weeks they are away they will be carrying out a variety of charity works including helping in Tsunami hit areas of the country, working in local schools to help students improve their English and assisting in an elephant orphanage.

Curry Rivel Guides aim to support many community events in the village including the St Andrew's Church Fete, Sausage and Mash Carol nights, Twinning Association events and Open Gardens to name a few. This trip enables them to extend their charitable work, whilst giving them all memorable experiences that will set them in good stead during life.

Thank you for the support shown so far in our fund raising activities - it is much appreciated.

Probus

Dorothy Wadeson

Probus Club had its AGM recently and we thanked our Chairman Earnest Lear for his hard work during his year in office. We welcomed Robert Cole of Curry Rivel as our new Chairman and we all look forward to a good year under his guidance. The meeting was lively and was followed by a good lunch at our usual venue, Kelways Inn, in Langport. In May our speaker talks about the work of a Planning Officer on Exmoor, a role that involved the special rules and regulations pertaining to that area.

If you think you would like to hear him, come along and join us. We are a very relaxed friendly group of men and women, we meet at Kelway Inn, 2nd Wednesday each month at 12 noon for lunch after a short and light-hearted meeting. Our website is www.langportandcurryrprobus.btck.co.uk or hone Paul Crocker on 01458 252545.

Schoolboy Raises Over £400 For Cancer Charity

It was a hair-raising experience when thirteen year old villager Alex had his head shaved, all in the name of charity. Alex was inspired to raise cash for Cancer Research UK, in memory of his granddad who he sadly never got to meet. Alex was determined to go ahead with the challenge, despite the cold weather at the beginning of April. He would like to say a huge "Thank You" to the many people who sponsored him, enabling him to raise over £400 for the charity. Alex even decided to add his own Easter money to the pot! His family and friends are very proud of all that he has achieved. Alex's Justgiving page remains open, so if you would still like to sponsor him it is not too late. Please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Alex-Snow2017>.

Curry Rivel W.I.

There are many wonderful charities who get on with their work quietly and with a minimum of fuss and the Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Services, commonly known as 'Blood Bikes', are one of these. Mark Green, from the Somerset Freewheelers, came along to our April meeting to tell us all about their work. Mark is one of those rare speakers who can talk without notes or any props and kept our attention all the way. He has been with the charity for a number of years and has had many funny experiences in that time.

All their riders are volunteers and have to pass several motorbike driving tests to an advanced standard before they are allowed out on the bikes. In Somerset, there are about 80 bikers (some of them women) and usually four are on duty at any time, to cover the whole county. They mostly work between hospitals, taking not only blood but breast milk, tissue samples, medication or even patient records. Before they started this service, hospitals used taxis for all their emergency journeys, now the Freewheelers save the NHS in Somerset at least £375,000 a year which can be spent on employing more staff.

Some of us recently went along to a Road Show arranged by the County Federation. There we found out all about their

plans for the rest of the year - lots of exciting things ahead, including a visit to the Houses of Parliament, a talk from Simon Cornwell who produced the Night Manager and we can even have a go at walking netball! Next year it is 100 years since the formation of the Somerset Federation of W.I.s and they have lots of ambitious plans for celebrating this anniversary.

There are no more pub lunches until the autumn but we're off on our first garden visit at the end of April and our monthly walk is along the old railway track at Ilminster.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 11th, in the Village Hall. This month will be our Annual Meeting and the discussion of the Resolutions for 2017. This year, these are on loneliness and the damage caused by microfibres in textiles. Why not come along and find out more about the WI and what we've been up to? Come at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email jackiegerman@hotmail.com

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Royal British Legion Spring Lunch

By Tony Potter

Over 80 members of the local Branch of the Royal British Legion and their guests enjoyed their annual Spring Lunch on Saturday 1st April 2017. The Lunch raised over £1,100 for the Legion homes in Bishops Lydeard and Weston-Super-Mare.

Legion members are now looking forward to Summer Drinks, which will include a Beating Retreat by the Volunteer Band from HMS HERON, in the grounds of Burton Pynsent House by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Tim Shroder on Friday 14th July 2017. Why not join us? Contact the Membership Secretary, Gordon Balmer, at gordon@mulcott.orangehome.co.uk.

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Inner Wheel Club

Dorothy Wadeson

The club completed its "Silly Socks" walk through Langport for the charity BEAT [helping people with eating disorders] last month. Some of the socks were sillier than others, two people even had bright odd socks on and shorts despite the cold weather. We didn't get arrested for looking so bizarre though we got some funny looks along the way! It was worth being daft because we raised a good donation for them. We don't always let our hair down, sometimes we are quite "lady-like" and enjoy our meetings and lunch together at the Langport Arms. We meet on the 2nd Monday each month for a meeting, sometimes an invited speaker and lunch. Always a friendly relaxed atmosphere, we enjoy a variety of events.

In May we celebrate Somerset Day and hope to be joined by the local Rotary and Probus clubs.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our President, Angie Saunders on 01935 840130.

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Wildlife Survey Group

David German

Our first early morning bird watching walk in April was very successful, led by Catherine Mowat, we managed to identify fifteen species, many of them very close to the Church. We noted both mating and territorial activity. Apart from the birds the display of primroses and other flowers in the churchyard was very impressive.

Some of us recently attended a very interesting illustrated talk about Otters in the UK organised by the local group of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. We have asked Deon Warner, a man with a wealth of knowledge about nature, to talk about Otters in Somerset and in our parish sometime in May. Details will be confirmed soon. Please register to get our email updates.

We have started walk-round surveys of Eastfield in Holdens

Way. The meadow is looking very healthy and is now open to dog walkers. Please keep to the paths and clean up after your dog. The management of the meadow recently changed and we look forward to seeing our Pyramidal and Bee Orchid soon. We will also be surveying the adjacent meadow, Batty Piece, to see how the winter has affected it and its butterflies and insects.

Both Batty Piece and Eastfield are part of the Britain in Bloom submission to be judged in July as part of the environmental health of Curry Rivel. We hope they will look at their best.

Our Wildlife Map, to be seen on the Community Web Site, continues to show new entries so please keep sending us your wildlife sightings by telephone 01458259688 or email davidgerman555@gmail.com

Deliverer Needed

Can you spare some time once a month to deliver the Curry Rivel News to properties in Portway?

If so please contact Jon Geary
tel. 259003 or

Email: curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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A churchyard chat...Part 1



Many people will have walked through the gates of St. Andrew's churchyard – to attend a church service, wedding, baptism, funeral, concert, or perhaps during the annual fete. Have you ever wondered, though, about the history of some of what you see in our churchyard?

Following a request to write an article for the CRN about the churchyard, various documents were studied and this article contains facts and figures discovered about some of the graves and headstones – hopefully not too macabre a subject.

The area of ground around a church has, historically, been used for burials or interment of ashes. At St. Andrew's the churchyard has been in use for this purpose as long as the current building has existed (built in around 1500), probably even longer, since the Domesday survey mentions there was a church at the site in 1086.

In **1606 burial records** began at St. Andrew's. The records from that date, up to September 1983, are stored in the Somerset Records Office in Taunton. However, some information about burials after 1721 is also available in the Church, though some details might be omitted. After September 1983, the full detailed records of burials at St. Andrew's have been kept in the church.

The **oldest headstone** of a named person in the churchyard is that of a William Keetch, who died on the 29th August **1721**.

A **plan of the churchyard** was made in **1904**, showing the location of every known grave and the surname of the person(s) buried in it -if known; it has been kept up-to-date ever since and includes the 'extension'.

In **1907** an **extension** was added to the west of the 'old' churchyard, measuring 17 'perches' (1 perch = 1/160th of an acre or 301/4 yds or 25.29 sq m). The ground was bought for **£ 25.00** (!) from the then owners of Manor Farm and was consecrated on 3rd December 1909 (see picture in left column).

The **total number of known graves** on the mentioned plan currently is **1,360**, 80 of which contain interred ashes, mainly

along the boundary wall of the extension. There are, however, parts of the plan where no graves are drawn, so it is very likely that there *are* more graves. Of the 1360 graves **1,075 are in the old part** and from **220** of these the names of the people buried are **not known**.

Only **420 graves** have a **headstone**: 280 in the old part and 140 in the extension (see photo in right column, taken from same position as photo in left column, with areas where headstones are absent). The absence of headstones is because, in years gone by, many people could not afford one, and some have, with time, crumbled and the parts have been collected by one of the walls.

There are **2 War graves** in the churchyard, both in the extension: Serjeant (with a 'j' on his headstone) Frederick J. Francis 53rd Battalion Canadian Infantry who died on 9th April 1916 and Corporal James O. Stuckey Royal Field Artillery who died on 3rd December 1920 from the effects of gas poisoning he suffered during WWI. Both had lived in Curry Rivel.

Since 1721 '**Lock**' has been the **most frequently registered name** --- 56 times, but there are only 17 headstones with this name. Next is the name '**Stacey**' --- 35 times with 18 headstones; '**Baker**' --- 35 times with 8 headstones; '**Lang**' --- 29 times with 26 headstones and '**Weaver**' --- 23 times with 12 headstones.

It has been established only recently that the famous folksinger **Emma Overd née Weaver** (1838 – 1928) may be buried here, although the exact location of her grave is not yet known. More about Emma in another issue of the CRN.

All available information about 'who is buried where', whether there is a headstone or not, etc. was put in a **computer database** in **2006**. It is based on the plan and several other sources, including a publication that contains an inventory conducted in 2002 by Sir Mervyn Medlycott of the inscription on each and every headstone. Information from this database and a copy of the churchyard plan can be made available for family research; contact Mr Eric Richardson (252788) or Mr John de Ronde (251355).

Regarding maintenance of the churchyard: although this is one of the responsibilities of the PCC -a group of around 8 people, chosen from the church members, plus the Churchwarden(s)- the maintenance of graves and headstones lies with relatives.

Finally, 'for planning purposes', it may be of interest to know that anyone who lives in the civil Parish of Curry Rivel has a right to be buried, or their ashes interred, in St. Andrew's churchyard, whether or not they are a member of the Church of England. The civil cemetery of Curry Rivel, managed by the Parish Council, is also consecrated ground.

For more information about the churchyard, please contact the Rector Rev Scott Patterson (251375), the Churchwarden Mrs Tina Geary (259003) or the PCC Secretary Mr John de Ronde (251355).



St. Andrew's Church



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

May

Thursday 4th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 7th - Easter 4

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service

11.00 **FH** - Short Communion CW

6.00 **CR** - Evening Worship

Tuesday 9th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Thursday 11th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 14th - Easter 5

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW
& Sunday Club

6.00 **FH** - Evening Prayer CW

Thursday 18th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 21st - Easter 6

8.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

10.00 **CR** - All Age Family Worship

11.15 **CR** - Short Communion CW

Tuesday 23rd

10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Wednesday 24th

2.45 Immacolata House -

Residents' Communion

Thursday 25th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 28th

9.15 **FH** - United Benefice
short All Age/Family Service, followed
by Benefice-wide 'beating the bounds'
event (see in right-hand column), incl.

10.30 **SW** - Family Communion

12.30 **CR** - Thanksgiving Service &
bring & share lunch in the OSR

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = St. Andrew's Old School

Room

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Scott's spot

Too good to be true?

Do you know the hymn 'Can it be true?' It's a hymn not often sung today, which is a shame because it asks a question central to Easter that many stumble over. The hymn puts it rather more eloquently, but the question it asks is basically this: Can it be true that Jesus lived and died and rose again?

Most people don't have a problem with the first two of those – that Jesus lived and died. Actually there is more historical evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth than there is for the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar. But when it comes to the resurrection, it's a different matter. Quite simply, for many people it seems too good to be true. It's almost as though the very fact that the idea is so special, by definition disproves it. We're just not used to good news like that. It's the stuff of daydreams, not for hard-headed realists of the twenty-first century.

The funny thing is that it wasn't the stuff for hard-headed realists of the first century either. When the women who'd gone to the tomb crashed in on the disciples with the news that Christ had risen, their words, so we are told, seemed like a foolish fantasy, or as the *New International Version* of the Bible puts it, 'like nonsense'.



Scott's spot ctd. . . .

These were no gullible romantics waiting to swallow any old story; they were down to earth individuals who had seen Jesus brutally murdered, and were utterly convinced that it was all over. Yet, each one of them came not just to believe that Christ is risen, but to know that he was alive and with them again through his Holy Spirit; a conviction solid enough for them not just to recommit their lives to him, but to gladly die in his service. What could have so radically changed their minds? The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from death may have been too good to be true, but they were soon to discover that it wasn't.

Have you discovered that too?

With every blessing for you and yours this spring,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

Rogation Sunday and Beating the Bounds

The Church has traditionally offered prayer for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce food. Rogation days (the 3 days before Ascension Day) were a period of fasting and abstinence, beseeching God's blessing on the crops for a bountiful harvest, starting on the preceding Sunday.

'Beating the boundary' goes back to medieval times, when a 'beating party' walked the boundary of a parish, checking the boundary markers and beating them with long sticks, also praying for the protection of the land.

On the **28th May** there will be a special United Benefice Rogation Sunday event, starting at 9.15 when we gather at St. Martin's Church in Fivehead for bacon butties and a short opening service; then a 'beating the bounds' walk to Swell for a short simple Communion Service, coffee (and toilet stop), before continuing on to Curry Rivel for a Thanksgiving Service and a bring and share lunch.

See the diary in the left column for approximate timings so that any non-walkers can meet us at various points.

St. Andrew's Rotas May

Brass - Sue Blackwell

Flowers

6th & 13th - Nicky Barker

20th & 27th - Sandra Hill

Cleaning

6th - Lyn Cotterill

13th - Julia Gauler

20th - Tina Geary

27th - Wendy Graves



From St. Andrew's Registers Weddings

*We wish them God's blessing
at the start of married life*

Charlotte Rosalia Strickland and

Michael Anthony Opalko

on 1st April

St. Andrew's Church Flower Guild



are holding a **Coffee Morning** on

Saturday 6th May
10.00-12.00

in the Old School Room to raise funds for the flowers that are used to decorate the Church over the Fete weekend.

Raffle, cakes and plants.

There will also be a 'pop-up workshop' in flower arranging, come and have a go!

Everyone welcome.

Your support will be very much appreciated.

St. Andrew's Church fete Saturday 8th July

Planning for this year's fete is continuing. Besides the usual stands, the dog show and classic cars, there will be a **bouncy castle** and a display of birds of prey; tower trips, to view the surrounding area (and the progress of the building development by Dyers Road/Stanchester Way), and teas will be served in the Old School Room.



For **children** up to 11 years there will be a **fancy dress competition: who is the best dressed flower or vegetable** (details how to enter in the June CRN.)

Raffle tickets will be on sale from early June (and on the day), for a **cash 1st prize of £ 100**, a large hamper as 2nd prize, plus several other, attractive prizes.

United Reformed Church



May

(Services start at 10.30)

Sunday 7th - Rev Evelyn Ridout
incl. Holy Communion

Sunday 14th - Rev Tim Richards

Sunday 21st - Joining with Langport
URC Bow Street

Sunday 28th - Rev Dr Paul
Cattermole OBE

We are an inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799



I've noticed something over the last few weeks which has both cheered and challenged me. Before writing a new 'Pillowtalk' I often reread the same month for the last year or two – either as inspiration or checking I'm not repeating myself too often! May 2015 was about recognising my daughter's growing awareness I had feelings too – and to care about how I was feeling: love had very clearly become a two-way street.

However, the two-way street has become almost spaghetti junction-like – it is no longer 'her and I' but her and a posse of friends whose feelings all seem to matter. She is developing emotional intelligence which happily includes Empathy. Empathy; 'the ability to grasp how someone is feeling and experience those feelings for yourself' is how the dictionary explains it.

Pillowtalk ctd. . . .

What also seems to be a developing is allowing that experiencing to influence choices in behaviour, speech, actions - taking the other into account in a positive way which modifies how we behave (something the world is in desperate need of right now and which sits right at the heart of being Christian). When my response to the request for a sleepover dramatically limits numbers the disappointment which follows initially looks like she's upset and cross; when we have a conversation about it she has put herself in the shoes of those who would have to be left out and is feeling *their* disappointment. If they can't come it would be unfair so the solution is not to invite anyone. Her friends and how they feel *matter* to her.

And I love that – I will stand at the sidelines and cheer her on. But it does mean it's not just 'us' anymore, I too must make room for this group of friends who matter, make room for and let go of my daughter a little bit more so that she has the freedom to be the kind of friend she wants to be. I shift to the sidelines and I am challenged by that. No longer the centre of my little girl's world ...a little sad and a little sweet...growing up and with a focus which is shifting outwards just as it should. And maybe there is something in there about empathy too – appreciating how hard it can be to widen our focus to be truly inclusive; to share what feels special and 'mine' moving beyond possessive thinking towards an attitude of generosity, but doing it anyway.

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In May

Regular Events

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

WEDNESDAY

6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

THURSDAY

9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group	Primary School Hall (Term time only)
10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	Village Hall (1st only)

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Cinema Night (not August)	Village Hall (3rd only)

Special Events

May

Sat 6	10.00	Flower Guild coffee morning	Old School Room
Sun 14	10.00	CRiBloom Plant Sale	centre of village adjacent to Hillside Close

Sun 28 Rogation Walk see Church Pages for details

June

Sat 3	2.00	Elefun Guides event	Village Hall
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Curry Rivel -Above the Levels
your community website curryrivel.org.uk

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	252429
Brownies	253855 251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251796
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

Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126
Youth Drama	251773

Community Facilities

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	741606
Old School Room Bookings	250655
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Secretary	259434

Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500

Education

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

Local Authorities

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

Religious

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

Would all local organisations please submit their correct phone numbers to CRN editor to amend the above list as necessary