

December 2023



PUBLISHED MONTHLY AND DISTRIBUTED FREE TO ALL CURRY RIVEL RESIDENTS; ALSO AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS OUTLETS AROUND CURRY RIVEL

# Looking back...Christmas past



# Is your bonfire really necessary?

Somerset Council

**I**t is illegal to burn waste that is not yours (e.g. made by your company), but there is no law against having a domestic bonfire. There are also no byelaws to restrict when you may have one, but before you light your bonfire there are some things to think about – apart from fire safety issues.

## Bonfire harm

If smoke blows across a road to cause danger to traffic it becomes a Police matter and you can be fined. Never burn plastic, rubber, painted wood or other items that create a dark smoke (indicating noxious chemical laden fumes). A bonfire will significantly impact your local air quality. For neighbours with respiratory conditions, this can trigger an attack meaning they need to increase their medication. Bonfires also cause anxiety for people who worry about how long it will go on for and how smoky it might get.

## Courtesy

Most people were probably expecting there to be bonfires on and around 5<sup>th</sup> November, but for bonfires at other times, telling your neighbours beforehand is the right thing to do. They might choose to be out of the house for the duration and, of course,

everyone appreciates the opportunity to get washing in and close their windows.

Your bonfire may prevent other people from enjoying their gardens so keep the duration short – and put it out rather than leaving it to smoulder! Other tips to avoid upsetting your neighbours include:

Avoid lighting a bonfire when the wind is blowing in their direction!

Avoid bonfires when the air is still and damp, or in the evenings when smoke tends to hang about.

Only burn dry material.

## Think of alternatives

Bonfires used to be a common way to dispose of rubbish, but recycling is now more acceptable. Waste recycling centres will recycle and dispose of all kinds of waste. The list of items they take at Somerton is very extensive. You can check here: [www.somerset.gov.uk/locations/somerton-recycling-centre/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/locations/somerton-recycling-centre/) Composting is done by Somerset Council who will collect it via the green bins and bags. ([www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/garden-waste-collections](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/garden-waste-collections)) You can also find a link on

that page for home composting tips and an opportunity to buy a composting bin at a subsidised price.

For a bigger problem, consider asking a local gardening company about a one-off clear-up. They will have the equipment to make short work of overgrowth, saving you considerable effort.

## Reporting bonfire nuisance

Domestic bonfires should not be a regular necessity and may be deemed a statutory nuisance if they have material impact on use and enjoyment of your property. The responsibility rests with Somerset Council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (not the Parish Council).

Start by visiting:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/bonfires-and-wood-burners/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/bonfires-and-wood-burners/) Evidence will be required (take a photo) that may include:

How much smoke is affecting nearby properties.

If it is dark smoke (a possible indicator of pollution or harm to health) is being created.

How frequently bonfires occur (keep a record).



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# Curry Rivel Parish Council.....your suggestions please

**O**ne of the tasks of Curry Rivel Parish Council is to spend, for the benefit of the parish, part of the council tax that the people of Curry Rivel parish pay each year. We are therefore very keen to hear from people in the parish whether we are doing it right!

Most of your council tax goes to Somerset Council, the police, and the fire service. The Parish Council generally takes less than 4% of the total, around £1.20 a week on average. Some other projects for improving the parish are funded from money that housing developers are required to pay to contribute to the infrastructure when they build in the parish, and from local and national grants.

The Parish Council budget is set at the December meeting, so before you read this article. We will report on that in more detail in a future article, and you can download the budgets for the coming and past years from [www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-1/finance.html](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-1/finance.html).

To get your answers to a few specific questions, we have created a questionnaire. We have handed this out at a few local events already, and you can fill it in online at <https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/parish-council-news/parish-council-survey-2023.html>. Please complete the questionnaire by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The questionnaire asks a few questions about you: you don't have to fill these in, but it's useful for us to have an idea of which parts of the village are responding.

There are a few general questions, such as whether we should ask for less money and do less, or ask for more and do more. But remember that whatever we do will make only a small difference to your whole council tax bill.

There are also a couple of specific questions. The first is related to the budgetary difficulties that Somerset Council, like most if not all area councils, is facing this year. Some of their costs, particularly for adult social care, have risen enormously, but they are limited in the percentage rise in council tax that they are allowed to make each year. That means that they will be forced to do less of some things that they normally do. So, our question to you is: are you prepared to pay a little more to the parish council so that we can employ someone locally to make sure that those jobs get done? Secondly, we know that traffic through Curry Rivel is one of the things that people are most concerned about. One thing that might help could be to extend the 20 mph limit that is currently just around the school to a wider area of the village, including part of the A378. Somerset Council has written to all Somerset parishes suggesting the following procedure. First, to ask people in the parish

whether they would support a 20 mph zone. If so, to then pay them around £500 for them to investigate the feasibility of such a scheme in the parish. Finally, if the result of that is positive, to pay for the works to make it happen from the parish funds. That would cost in the order of £15,000, which would need us to increase the parish component of the council tax by around a quarter (about 30p a week for one year).

The Parish Council budget will be set at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, which takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Paper copies of the questionnaire will be available at the meeting.

We set aside 15 minutes at the start of each meeting for a public session, welcoming questions and comments to enable our residents to engage with the council. You are welcome to stay as long as you wish to observe the discussions and to find out what decision will be made about the budget for the coming year. Note that there will be no January meeting.

Here is a QR code for the questionnaire. You take its picture with your smartphone, and it should take you to the questionnaire on the website.....



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# A tale of two Council meetings

Barbara Hamlin



## Where are we with the proposed development in Brickwall Lane?

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October Curry Rivel Parish Council held a meeting in addition to its normal monthly gathering, primarily to discuss and decide whether to support or object to the proposed development planned in the field next to Brickwall Lane. There were many members of the public in attendance as well as the Developer – West of England Developments [Andy Lehner] and the Planner - Polden Planning [Rebecca Randall]. I would describe the atmosphere as passionate, acrimonious at times, but polite. The meeting benefitted from the knowledgeable analysis of the proposal by the representative from the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Ten members of the public addressed the meeting and gave their opinions thus: that the proposed access road extending Abbey Close with a sharp, blind bend into the development would be very dangerous; that the highly-valued safe green space and play area for children and young people – the only space at that end of the village – would be lost; that the long-term well-being of the magnificent trees in the conservation area bordering the field would be threatened; that 21 houses with parking spaces would be an overdevelopment resulting in increased traffic through Abbey Close and to the junction with the A378 where a recent road accident alerted us all to the

dangers of that junction. In addition, the dangers of run-off of grey water from any development is of grave concern. The attenuation tank proposed is to be situated in the field on the opposite side of Drayton Lane. It was mentioned that the Planning proposal contained a number of errors; e.g. that the traffic survey did not take into account traffic moving through Honeylands; that the infrastructure and amenities in Curry Rivel and Langport are already stretched [the Surgery, Dentists, Nursery and School places, the bus service.] There was a strong feeling from the general public that this proposal should be rejected. The Parish Councillors reached the same conclusion.

Then, following the timely interjection of Storm Ciaràn, Drayton Parish Council (DPC) also debated the Planning proposal. This meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, the first opportunity the DPC had to discuss matters from the proposal that pertain to Drayton, albeit after the deadline [Nov 1<sup>st</sup>] for comments on the County Planning Website. Their comments have been allowed. The meeting was again attended by a number of members of the public. You may have noticed the serious flooding of Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the crossroads of Brickwall Lane, Back Lane and Drayton Lane. [This, after Wessex Water closed the road completely for an extended period of time earlier in the year to alleviate the flooding problem]. The knock-on effect in Drayton following Storm Ciaràn was

severe flooding in School Street. The Council appreciated the expert information given to the meeting by a professional hydrologist who reported that the rainfall experienced was 'moderate'. Therefore DPC is extremely worried that the work carried out earlier this year by Wessex Water has had very little effect! The Council is also concerned that the countryside between our two communities remains just that – countryside and that there is no gradual encroachment of building to spoil the rural setting. These are separate village communities and should remain so. The wonderful trees in Brickwall Lane are passionately valued by the people of Drayton and parents, and children from the village visit the play area in Abbey Close very frequently. It was noted that the attenuation tank proposed in the corner of the large field [Back Lane/ Drayton Lane] which goes up to the A378 could well invite further unwanted development proposals in that field. Drayton Parish Council, therefore objected to the Planning application.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to those who have contributed to the comments on the County Planning Website. If you still wish to do so before the Planning meeting in Yeovil on the 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2 p.m., register your comments on <https://publicaccess.southsomerset.gov.uk/online-application>

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## Christmas in the early 1950s

Jane Hamlin

**A**lan Burge, who now lives in Langport but still has his heart in Curry Rivel where he grew up, lent us these photographs of Curry Rivel School children and some adult helpers in the Robert Sewers Hall. The Christmas parties were organised by Tony Woods, a

local shopkeeper, who raised the money himself and organised the event. Alan thinks the photos were taken in 1952 or 1953. Perhaps some of our readers can recognise themselves and their friends and tell us a bit more about the events.

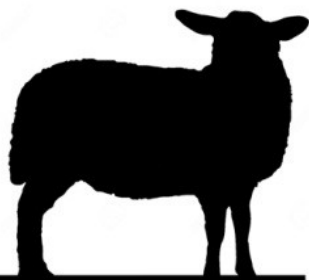


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## Bygone Days

*Curry Rivel Bands* Janet Seaton

"A fife and drum band has been started in this village under the auspices of Rev. C M Speke-Mules. Mr Bickle is, we understand, entrusted with the tuition of the juveniles, and we hope with constant practice they will be able to give us an idea of their abilities in the course of a month or two." *Western Gazette*, 15 August 1873.

The band was still going in September 1881, when they played at an event held by the Church of England Temperance Society. In the following year an advert in the *Langport & Somerton Herald* stated that "The Curry Rivel Brass Band will accept engagements for the coming season. Apply to Wm. Dabinett, Band Master, Drayton". A photo of the band, taken in about 1900, is reproduced on p28 of *Curry Rivel past and present*. The Band played at High Ham Fete on 5 September 1959, but in 1962 it was described as the 'former' Curry Rivel Band. If anyone has any other images of the band, please email [langporthistory@fastmail.com](mailto:langporthistory@fastmail.com).

## Langport & District History Society

Our next talk will be at 7.30pm on 8 January at the Sports & Social Club, Eastover, Langport. Alan Stone will talk about 'The orchard wassail'. All welcome; non-members £4.



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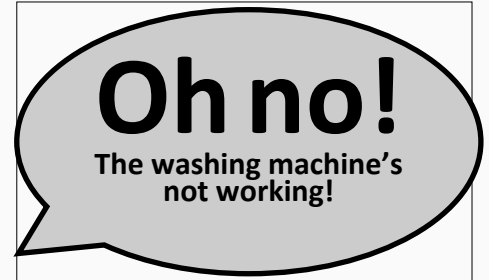
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# Christmas Lights in Chatham Place

Sue Walsh

**R**oy Webb is once again putting up his fabulous Christmas Lights display at 37 Chatham Place. There will be a collection box outside the property so that you can make a donation to a very worthy cause. This year all donations will go to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

The lights will be on from 4.30 pm until 9.30pm every evening from the beginning of December until the New Year so there will be plenty of opportunities for you to go along and enjoy the wonderful colourful display – and help an important charity.



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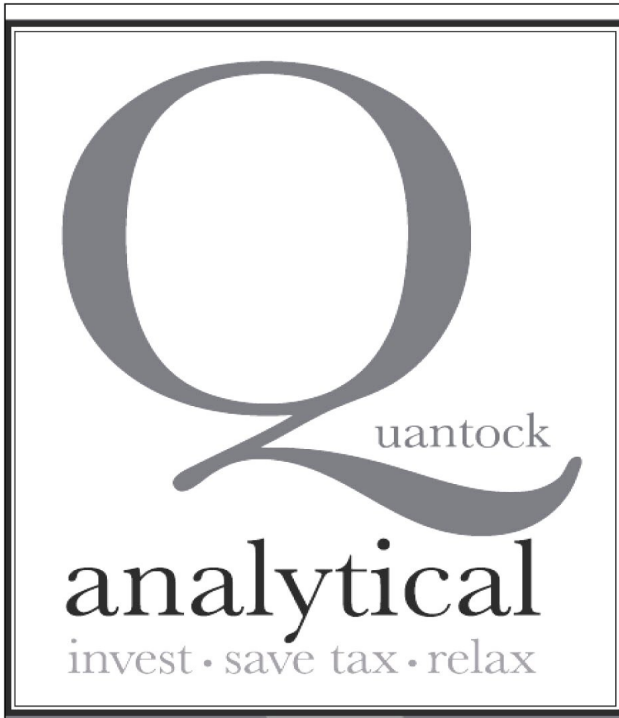
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# News of Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

Two new trips are now planned, although ticket prices continue to inflate. In July we have seats reserved for **Disney's Aladdin**, a fantastic musical and visual experience then the musical celebrating the popular comedy series **Only Fools and Horses** arrives in February 2025.

Our May trip to see the hit musical 'Hamilton' is full. No surprise there. If there is enough demand to cover the coach hire we will run a second trip, probably in June.

## The full list is:

- Life of Pi:** Wednesday 17 January; An on-stage interpretation of the much-loved film;
- Wicked:** Thursday 22 February;
- Jesus Christ Superstar:** Tuesday 12 March;
- Everyone's Talking About Jamie:** Wednesday 27 March;
- The Wizard of Oz:** Wednesday 3 April;
- Sleeping Beauty Ballet:** Friday 19 April;
- Hamilton:** Thursday 2 May (Full) & ? June;
- Disney's Aladdin:** Thursday 25 July;
- Come From Away:** Monday 26 August;
- Only Fools and Horses:** Tuesday 4

February 2025.

The best way to keep up to date is at [www.charitytheatretrips.com](http://www.charitytheatretrips.com) where there are full details and a booking form, You could also book by e-mail to [charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com](mailto:charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com), or phone Chris on 01458 273085.

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# Curry Rivel Music

*The North Came South – and aren't we glad it did!*

*Malcolm Cotterill*

**I**ts personification was two of the brightest talents which grace that part of the UK largely and mistakenly overlooked as the source of so much skill and virtuosity. Gordon Stewart, the doyen of the organ world and of international repute, and Tom Osborne who, with his various trumpets, more often graces the stage at one of the desks of the Hallé, performed at St Andrew's on Remembrance Day.

The concert date was a coincidence. The choice of repertoire was not. It had, of course, the usual exuberance of both instruments - they are irrepensible – but both were finely attuned to the occasion. Thus, the crowded church was treated to the likes of a sprightly Purcell Trumpet Voluntary and the electrifying Slavische Fantasie of Carl Höhne as well as the sober and solemn Bach in his Fugue in G Minor and George Thalben-Ball's Elegy which moved the audience into contemplative silence.

The virtuosity of both players was startling. What one could do with both hands and both feet with outstanding skill and agility was matched and complemented by what the other could do with lungs, tongue, lips and fingers

which were at times a mere blur. It was pure delight to watch and hear two artistes at the top of their game, so much in sympathy with each other, with their audience and with the music they played. And all that on our doorstep at £12 – inclusive of wine! As value for money goes in these difficult times, there is no better bargain to be had.

The next bargain is offered on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 with a 'cello performance by Max Calver, another potential star recognised and promoted by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust.



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## Standing Tall *Carolyn Paton*

**O**ctober's WI meeting began by welcoming the return of the President Anne Geach after an enforced absence, and she was warmly applauded before leading the meeting. As ever, members learned more about a topic with which many people have a glancing acquaintance, but not everyone has explored in any detail.

Shelagh Gotto visited to talk about the benefits of Yoga to people of all ages and stages. She was quite clear that it's never too late to begin and stressed its advantages to the body, energy levels and mental equilibrium. There are schools of yoga as well as styles that can be of benefit to many different groupings of people, and all types can benefit mobility and flexibility as well as weight-bearing and bone-strengthening. Those of her audience not well-versed in anatomy learned of the fascia, a kind of veil made of collagen that covers our muscles organs and joints as a membrane that links the body from head to toe and holds the organs in. It is not inert, but sends messages to the brain and as such is of great importance to health and well-being. Sheila explained that the health of this part of our body can be boosted by yoga.

Most of us are probably aware of our shortcomings in terms of posture; that we are all too likely to slouch when ranged in front of the TV for example, or when otherwise relaxing in a chair or on the sofa. Small screens invite a crouching posture and one way or another, a proportion of our lives may be

spent bent over, or at least in a less-than-optimal position. This is not helpful to the good functioning of lungs, spine, pelvis and other organs, and could indeed lead to long-term problems. To reinforce her point, Shelagh told us the astonishing fact that our heads, which normally weigh 10-12 lbs, can when hanging, become a load of 60 lb, with consequent strain on the neck and the spine. Heads up, shoulders back everyone!

It was apparent that even those who have no wish to become yoga-bunnies can benefit from sitting squarely on our 'sitting bones', with our spines 'in neutral' so that we don't put our bodies under unnecessary stress. Doing so may well ensure a slower decline in later life.

Her audience did more than simply listen to the talk, but since neither room nor bodies were fully prepared for a yoga session, it was not possible to have a full experience. However, some yoga movements were carried out both behind a chair and from a seated position, leaving everyone feeling straighter and more erect as a result. A small taster that prompted some to feel they'd like to follow it up more seriously.

Anyone wishing to join Curry Rivel WI and engage with a variety of activities, as well as hearing varied speakers should contact Anne Geach 01458 253078

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Sedgemoor Gardens Club

*Sylvia Goodenough*

**As you read this, members of Sedgemoor Gardens Club will be looking forward to their Christmas buffet and quiz evening. The buffet is always a feast for eyes and tums and the quiz, run by the Gardens Group of Garden Centres, will undoubtedly be interesting and challenging to our horticultural knowledge.**

However, as I write we still have the pleasure of a talk by James Cross, the head gardener, about the gardens round the Bishop's Palace in Wells to look forward to in November. The scale of garden he will be talking about is rather different from that of "Little Latch" which we heard about in October, but I'm sure they will be equally interesting. Little Latch is a new-build bungalow with the expected size garden. It is now the home of David and Pauline Wright, who had to downsize due to ill health from a three-quarters of an acre plot which they had lovingly cultivated over many years into a beautiful garden full of rhododendrons and acers, having taken on a blank canvas in terms of structure or plants. Not in the least deterred by another area of builder's rubble they set about designing a new garden and now, a few years on it is as

beautiful as their original garden, only smaller! They are impressive role-models for all of us who at times feel our gardens are getting the better of us!



One helpful thought is that leaving areas of our gardens for wildlife and planting trees to increase biodiversity is a very positive thing to do - and it reduces the amount of mowing necessary! If you would like to hear a very interesting talk about the tree strategy in Somerset come along to the Curry Woods

Conservation Trust Open Evening on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Old School Room.

Happy Christmas and good gardening in 2024!

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## St. Andrew's Church

To find out more, please visit us at:  
[www.curryrivel.org.uk](http://www.curryrivel.org.uk) or  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)



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

## December

- Sunday 3rd - Advent Sunday**  
 10.00 **CR** - United Benefice  
 All Age Family Holy Communion CW
- Thursday 7th**  
 10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP
- Sunday 10th**  
 9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP  
 11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW  
 4.30 pm **CR OSR** - **Café Church**  
 6.00 pm **FH** - Carol Service
- Tuesday 12th**  
 10.00-12.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee  
 7.00 pm **SW** - Carol service
- Saturday 16th**  
 10.30-12.30 **CR OSR** - Messy Christmas  
 Coffee Morning
- Sunday 17th**  
 9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW  
 6.00 pm **CR** - Carol Service
- Monday 18th (date t.b.c. !!!)**  
 7.00 pm - **CR Green** Carol singing
- Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve**  
 4.00 pm **CR** - United Benefice  
 Crib Service  
 11.15 pm **CR** - Midnight Communion CW
- Monday 25th - Christmas Day**  
 9.00 **SW** - Christmas BCP  
 Communion Service  
 10.30 **FH** - Family Christmas  
 Celebration
- Sunday 31st**  
 10.00 **CR** - United Benefice  
 Holy Communion CW

## Marjorie's Musings

**Christmas** - what is the next word that comes to mind? Presents?

Certainly I think that is true for many, especially children. Many of us can think back to youngsters pouring over the Argos catalogue for hours as the list grew longer. Then later picking up the subtle (or not so subtle ) hints of teenagers as they became more discerning. Even ourselves thinking "What shall I give them?" and then the sense of relief when the shopping is done and the presents are wrapped.

But is this what Christmas is all about?

As a friend once said "Leave Christ out of Christmas and all you are left with is MandS!"

Part of our design is that we cannot be complete without what others have to give us just as they cannot be what they are meant to be without us.

Presents are an essential part of Christmas but perhaps not in our usual way of thinking.

God's gift to us is his Son, born as a tiny baby, to grow to manhood, to teach us how to live and then to die a most cruel, undeserved death so that we could be forgiven and accepted into God's family and gain eternal life.



## Café Church Exploring God, Faith and Life.

This gathering provides an opportunity to discuss different matters around God, faith and life over drinks and nibbles, in an informal setting, including some music.

We meet on Sundays from **4:30 till 5:30-ish in the Old School Room** - this month only on **10th December**.

All ages welcome, with some activities for younger ages too.

For more information contact  
 Rev Mark McKnight on 074 7155 6366  
 or [markmcknight5@gmail.com](mailto:markmcknight5@gmail.com)

- CR** = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel  
**CR OSR** = Old School Room, Curry Rivel, 'behind' St. Andrew's Church  
**FH** = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead  
**SW** = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

## Marjorie's Musings ctd. . .

As that baby lies in the manger he is demonstrating the Spirit of Christmas. I believe that God gives us Jesus to share.

We long to love and be loved and that is what Christ assures us of. God loves us enough to come and share our life, not just giving out of divine plenty but happy to receive out of ours.

So what shall I give him?

In her lovely Christmas hymn, Christina Rossetti writes:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.  
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part, but what I can, I give him?  
 Give my heart.*

I wish you a peaceful and meaningful Christmas.

Marjorie



## Carols, bangers and mash on Friday 1st December in the Village Hall

When you receive this issue of the CR News this event will be almost upon us.

Tickets (£ 10.00) are still available in the BP petrol station/Post Office and at Sandpits. or from Dave & Sally on 253431 or [curryrivelsta@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelsta@gmail.com) - NOT at the door on the evening.



**Doors open at 7.00 pm.**

## St. Andrew's Rotas December

**Brass** - Lynne Comley & Wendy Graves

**Flowers**

2nd - Advent  
 16th - Christmas arrangements

**Cleaning**

2nd - Wendy Graves  
 9th - Anne Goff  
 16th - Jackie & John  
 de Ronde  
 23rd - Carolyn Paton  
 30th - Nicky Barker



The church families of St. Andrew's Church and the United Reformed Church wish everyone in our Parish and beyond a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



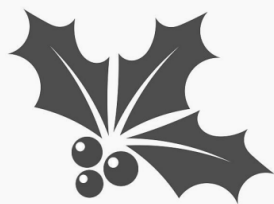
**Carol singing**

**Monday 18th December 7.00 pm (date t.b.c. !!!)**



The venue for this year's Carol singing will again be the **Village Green**. Please join us in singing the seasonal Carols, accompanied by local musicians.

Refreshments (mulled wine & mince pies) will be served in the Church afterwards.



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- **Carpets**

Just contact us to discuss your needs:

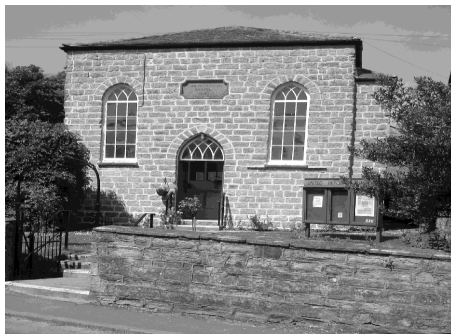
Tel: 01823 690154

Mob: 07590 636079

E: kevin@bawdencleaning.co.uk

**BAWDEN**  
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**United Reformed Church**



**December**

**Services are now taking place in our Chapel building only (no longer available via Zoom) at 10.30 unless stated otherwise.**

**3rd** - Rev Evelyn Ridout  
*(incl. Holy Communion)*

**10th** - Prayer Fellowship

**17th 4.00pm** - Carol service  
*(no morning service)*

**24th** - Mid-Somerset Group Service  
 @ Street URC

**31st** - Rev Tim Richards

**December:** a month of shortening days & lengthening nights, of anticipation counting down the days to the 25<sup>th</sup> when we celebrate Christmas. Christ Mass – the religious & cultural festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ observed by billions of people around the world.

The Gospel of John describes Jesus as Life & Light, "in him was life, & that life was the light of the world". A favourite carol of mine begins this way 'Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine'. For me Love, Life, Light are inextricably linked. Love is the source of Life, where Love is there is Light; living life aligned with Love makes it very hard for mean-spiritedness to take hold (think Scrooge in A Christmas Carol!).

In this season of dark nights & twinkling lights, when the darkness of war, the challenge of refugee & stranger, the darkness of grief, threatens to overwhelm, may I invite you to light a candle bringing to mind the Love & Light brought by the Christ-child: the love light which shines in the darkness & darkness does not overcome it.

May the love light be yours this Christmas.

Ali Richards

We are a small, inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all wherever they are on their life/spiritual journey, without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing our work together is rooted in our relationships with God, each other, and the world around us.

Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the service leader.

**URC Minister: Rev. Tim Richards**

**01458 252799**



**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**  
 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm  
 Curry Rivel United Reformed Church  
**A warm invitation to all**  
 tea, coffee & mince pies  
**Donations for St. Margaret's Hospice**



## Curry Woods Conservation Trust...*Floods, trees and water butts*

Peter Goodenough

**H**ave you been affected by the recent road closures due to flooding? The large volume of water that has fallen this autumn has to make its way into the aquifers, streams and rivers so, let's help it out! Are your down pipes from the building you live in discharging water into the sewerage system? If so, please think about managing the water in a different way. You can get £25 pounds off your water bill by disconnecting downpipes and redirecting them into a water storage system. This can be a water butt or a water feature in the garden. In the past whilst living outside of Reading, I lived in a house that was not connected to the drainage system or water supply system. All our water was pumped from a well and I was able to source some brilliant water butts which had a flat back to stand against the house wall. They had a groove in the back with an overflow drain, so that when full the water flowed through a pipe and could be directed to a convenient soakaway. Sadly, I can't find these butts on sale anymore. If anyone knows of a supplier please let me know.

So, I would encourage all of you to try to direct your rainwater from the roof into storage butts and then into a soakaway. Soakaways are easily built. A hole as big as you can manage should be partially filled with rubble, a plastic membrane put over the top (anything plastic will do as it's just to keep the soil from getting into the rubble) and some of the soil put back to provide a pleasant surface.

Alternatively, one can cover the rubble with gravel or leave the hole open and have a pond which will dry up in the summer (unless lined of course). The possibilities are endless but try to keep your water on your plot, letting it flow into sewers is causing havoc with the system. Ideally of course your soakaway should have some thirsty plants nearby. For year-round water uptake think conifer; they come in all sizes. Mugo pines are very good - they look architectural, grow slowly and remain small but will use a lot of water throughout the year. Evergreen shrubs are also a good bet, a good holly is J.C.van Tol. This holly is spineless and even a single plant will have berries. Usually two hollies are needed for berries (male and female) but van Tol is self-fertile. It's a slow grower and can be clipped but takes up water all year round. There are many other plants to choose from.

Please come along to the **Curry Woods Conservation Trust Open Evening in the Old School Room on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 (1930)** when we will have an interesting talk by **James Chapman** about how Somerset County Council is tackling this flooding problem at one level by implementing a Tree Strategy across the County. Please come and tell us how you plan to collect water and ask any questions about the SCC strategy, the CWCTrust's strategy in Curry Rivel and ask for info. on water butts- we'd love to hear your views on the best butts!!!



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# ...In December

## Regular Events

### MONDAY

10.00am	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00am	Table Tennis (kevoe@outlook.com)	Village Hall
6.00pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.45pm	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

### TUESDAY

10.00am	Craft & Coffee (2nd only)	Old School Room
10.00am	Keep Fit (nicky.barker1@btinternet.com)	Village Hall
2.30pm	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
4.30pm	Rainbows/Brownies	Drayton Village Hall
5.45pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00pm	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30pm	Rangers	URC Hall
6.30pm	Langport Youth Club	Ridge way Hall
7.00pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30pm	Sedgemoor Garden Club (2nd only)	All Saints Hall L'port

### WEDNESDAY

10-11am	Movement to Music (Age UK)	Village Hall
10.30am	Sparklers Toddler Group	Old School Room
5.30pm	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30pm	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45pm	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30pm	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews
7.30pm	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

### THURSDAY

10.00am	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.30pm	Yoga	Village Hall

### FRIDAY

9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am-2pm	Friday Club	Village Hall
7.00pm	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

### SATURDAY

9.00am	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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## Some Useful Telephone Numbers

### Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts (gsithelevelsscouts@gmail.com)	
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Rangers	075 07214 791
Langport Youth Club	0793 899 338

### Sports Clubs

Short Mat Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791
Yoga	07789 862548
Pilates	07769 351984

### Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion	01460 281115
Twinning Association	01460 281905
Women's Institute	253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom	762296
Friday Club	252791
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 396123
Movement to Music, Becky Bostock	07706 734604
Langport Cycle Club	0777 567 0546

### Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Art Club	253126

### Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)	<b>07714 265384</b>
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	07789 661288
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.	253953

### Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500
Footpath & Litter Warden	johncasebourne@sky.com

### Education

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

### Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) clerk@curryrivel.org.uk	07534 318840
District Council	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

### Religious

Church of England Rector	251375
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church, Somerton	07483 120 603
URC Minister	252799
Messy Church	01458 762523

## Deadlines for January 2024 Edition

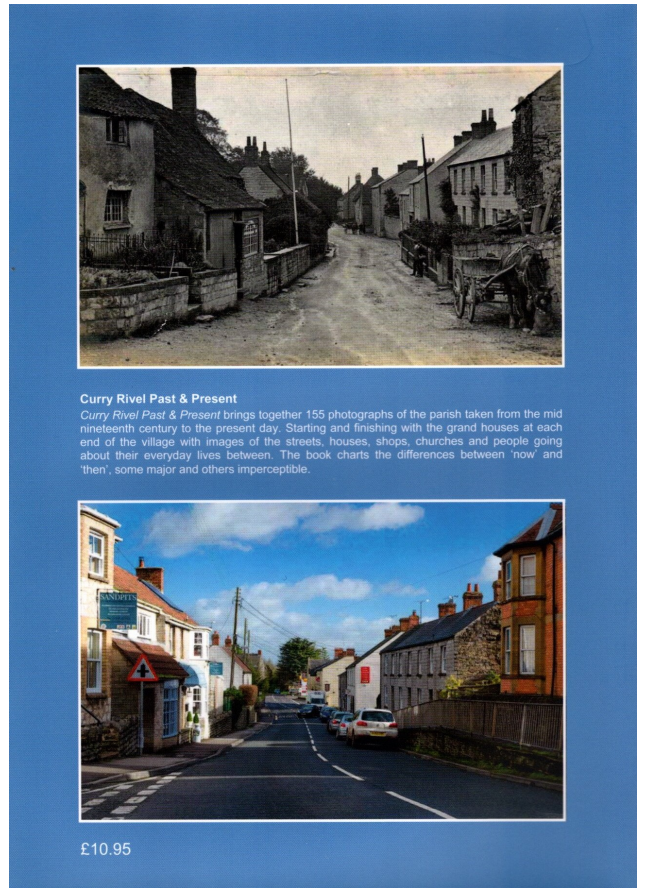
<b>Advertising:</b>	5pm Thursday <b>30th November</b>
<b>Send to:</b>	<b>crn.nigel@outlook.com</b>
<b>Comments &amp; Articles:</b>	5pm <b>Monday 4th December</b>
<b>Send to:</b>	<b>curryrivelnews@gmail.com</b>

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### Pick up your Prescription from the Post Office

Do you pick up repeat prescriptions from Langport surgery? If so you can request your medicine to be delivered to Curry Rivel Post Office in the BP petrol station. When you reorder, simply ask for delivery to Curry Rivel PO (including reorders on the surgery website). The surgery delivers to the Post Office every Tuesday and Friday. And while you're in the Post Office you can pick up a cappuccino too!



## Curry Rivel Past & Present book.

*Makes a great stocking filler!*

This fascinating book published by the Curry Rivel News Group in October 2014 draws together 155 photographs taken from the mid nineteenth century to the present day. Starting and finishing with the grand houses at each end of the village with images of the streets, houses, shops, churches and people going about their everyday lives between. Each 'old' photo is compared with a recent image of the same scene and charts the differences between 'now' and 'then', some major and others imperceptible. Interesting captions add historical context.

Originally sold at a special village price of £7.95, increased to £10.95, this excellent book is now available at a sale price of only £5.00.

To get your copy contact the Curry Rivel News at [curryrivelnews@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelnews@gmail.com) .



## Movies in the Village Hall

[mvh.curry.wixsite.com/films](http://mvh.curry.wixsite.com/films)

***That's All, Folks! (for now ...)***



A quick reminder that we won't be having a December movie screening in the Village Hall as we know most of you are very busy in the run up to Christmas.

We'll be back in the new year with a new set of films which we hope you will enjoy.

A big "thank you" to all of you who have supported Movies in the Village Hall during 2023. Mark, Myfanwy, Kevin, Annette, Carolyn, Bob and Alison wish you happy and peaceful Christmas.