

January 2021



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

## Food Banks

### Letter to the CRN Treasurer

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much from the CR Foodbank for your very generous donation of £150 today 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 from the **Curry Rivel News**. It is much appreciated and will be used wisely for the beneficiaries of the foodbank.

Best wishes for a peaceful New Year to all at the Curry Rivel News.

Sincerely, Steve Beney  
(Treasurer – Curry Rivel Community Support Group)



*Rob Atkins handing over donation to Steve Beney*

Dear Editor,

I wanted to use the opportunity that the Curry Rivel News presents to thank everybody from our community who has supported the **Curry Rivel, Hambridge and Drayton Food Bank** through December and over the Christmas and New Year period. It really was wonderful to see so many food and monetary donations as well as extra gifts. This meant that our wonderful group of volunteers were able to supply home-

made Christmas boxes with special treats to all our clients and their families in addition to our normal deliveries. The thanks and smiles of gratitude were wonderful to see and I want to pass those on to all who read this letter. ....

*...continued on page 2.....(letter from Steve Allinson)*

### Rotary give £400 to Curry Rivel Food Bank

*Roger Hampton*

The Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton have given £400 to the Curry Rivel Food Bank, to help them support families in the local Community. Rotary are keen to help families who are struggling at this very difficult time, and as well as providing money to Curry Rivel, are also supporting Langport and Huish, Long Sutton, Aller and Martock Food Banks. If you would like more information about the Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton then please contact President Joy Bailey on 01935 823367, or President-elect Stuart Cave on 01458 259111.



*Presentation to Food Bank by Rotary Club*

...continued.... **Dear Editor**



A very big thank you as well to the **Curry Rivel Parish Council**, which very generously has awarded the Food Bank an interim grant of **£2,500** which will secure our work into the coming months. I was very pleased to share details of our work at the December PC meeting and the grant is really important to us. Further, in terms of thanks, please see the photograph and details of a really generous donation of **£400** from the **Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton** on the front page.

Finally, we have now established a Clubs and Societies Business Bank account through the very supportive Yorkshire Bank, who really have been brilliant in their commitment to

groups such as us. If anyone in our community would wish to support our work regularly, please contact me via the email address below and I can pass on the Bank details to you. Every donation, however large or small, will go in full to help those in need in our community.

Thank you again, and Happy New Year from all the support group volunteers.

Yours

Steve Allinson

(on behalf of Curry Rivel, Hambridge and Drayton Food Bank)

[steve@allinsonlaw.com](mailto:steve@allinsonlaw.com)

## District Councillors Send Their New Year Greetings *Clare Paul and Tiffany Osborne*

**We would just like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our Ward a safe and healthy New Year.**

2020 has been a challenging time for all of us with unprecedented changes to our lives and freedoms and difficulties on a personal and economic level. Yet through all complications this year has posed it has only served to highlight

the strong community that we have as people rallied to support those in need. As this year draws to a close there is optimism that 2021 may yet allow us to return to some sense of normality and it is on this brighter note that we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Take care, and best wishes

Clare and Tiffany




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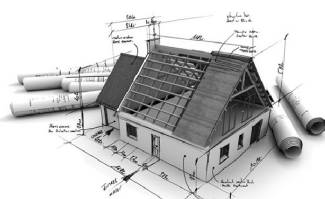



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Gina Beauchamp

01458 762296

cribsomerset@gmail.com

**C**urry Rivel in Bloom would like to wish everyone in the village a very Happy New Year in 2021! We hope that it will be a better and safer year for us all.

We will carry on with our work around the village this year and one of our plans is to create some communal veggie patches and boxes in different areas, more details later on in the year. We are always glad to receive offers of help, no matter how small. If you feel that you could spare any time to help with watering and or weeding around the village please get in touch. Young people are always welcome, most of us are getting on a bit now and having someone without a bad back, knee or foot would be very helpful! Please don't be put off if you do, as we all keep going, despite our aches and pains! Last year, due to Covid-19, there was no village judging by South West in Bloom. We still do not know if it will take place this year, maybe in a different form, but we will still carry on our work around the village. We have a great team of waterers and helpers all over the village without whom we couldn't maintain our displays. We are very grateful to them all.

The Open Gardens event, due to take place this year, has been postponed, possibly until 2022, we will have to see how things develop this year, for it to be held safely and successfully next year.

### A Literary Quote

One of my favourite books that I had to study was 'Candide' by Voltaire. At the end, after travelling the world and witnessing the horrors of the age, Candide came home and realised that the most important thing he could do was to look after his garden. 'Il faut cultiver son jardin'. Putting our house in order and looking after our gardens have kept so many of us busy and sane over the past year. I hope you will continue to 'look after your garden' and keep busy in this coming year.

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# Curry Rivel Health Walks Starting Again!!!

Andrew Jordan

**S**outh Somerset District Council have allowed Health Walks to restart, under Covid-19 social distancing rules currently recommended by the Government. Our regular walks will start on 6 January 2021.

The walks will continue to take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, meeting at Curry Rivel Green at 10.15 for 10.30 start.

The walks are generally level and we walk for an hour covering about 2 miles.

We will all follow the 2 metre social distancing rule at all times, so please all endeavour to keep 2 metres apart whilst waiting at the Green or walking.

You may wish to bring masks, gloves, sanitisers, that's up to the individual. Please don't join us if you are feeling at all ill. If any of our Health Walkers have been shielding over the last few months, please join us at your discretion. We'll all use our common sense on our walks and hopefully the current restrictions will not impact on our enjoyment. Please contact the Health Walk leader Andrew Jordan if you

have any questions - 01458 250725

Happier New Year to all our walkers!



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# Twinnings say Joyeux Noël with “ApériZoom”

Alison Cockrell

**W**ith the festive season fast approaching, what better way for members of the Curry Rivel & District Twinning Association to reconnect with our French friends than by having an “ApériZoom” (has a new word entered both languages?)

On Sunday 29 November at 12 noon (1.00pm in France) members on both sides of the Channel took to their laptops and tablets and hooked up via Zoom. No fewer than 18 households (27 people) joined in, all armed with a glass of refreshment, nibbles and some even with a bottle! Everyone was able to wave, say “Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année”, exchange news and pass on best wishes during a jovial session that lasted almost an hour.

The Covid pandemic may have prevented local members of the Twinning from visiting France this year but it is clear our friendship remains as strong as ever. We hope that a visit planned for May 2021 will be able to take place.



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**29 - 31 January 2021**

Barbara  
Hamlin

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you see in your garden and then tell the RSPB what you saw. You can choose any hour over that weekend – though it might be easier in daylight!

For more details, go to their website where you can register to join in: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/search/?q=Garden+Birdwatch/>



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## A warm welcome to all our new members.

Due to the current restrictions, we are unable to hold our monthly meetings in Edgar Hall, but we are now enjoying Zoom meetings at least once a month.

"A Fisherman's Tail" with Kevin Little, a fishmonger for 50 years and now a smallholder, will share his tales on Friday 22 January at 11.00.

We have two Zoom meetings in February... watch this space!

We have over 50 interest groups and each month more of them are meeting by Zoom. Our monthly online newsletter gives members the opportunity to see what activities have been taking place. For further information, or if you are interested in joining visit the Somerton U3A website or email: [membership@SomertonU3A.uk](mailto:membership@SomertonU3A.uk)

Happy New Year!

*Sue Haigh*

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## Sedgemoor Gardens Club

*Sylvia Goodenough*

In a normal year our December meeting is our Christmas buffet supper and quiz but this is not a normal year and so we were very lucky to be able to listen to a stimulating talk instead. Not the same but fewer calories and very interesting! Michael Brown, who lives near Northampton, was due to talk to us in April when he was going to be in the area but of course that never happened, so it was great to hear him on "Capability Brown - hero or hooligan" via Zoom in December. I've often wondered about the "Capability" - was he really named that? Answer - no, his name was Lancelot, but he got the nickname because, after they had paid him £25 (a lot in the 1700s) to walk around their land, he would tell keen landowners whether their land had the "capability for

improvement" or not. He then went on to charge them a lot more to remodel their land. Hero or hooligan depends on your opinion of his naturalistic landscapes - in came lakes, bridges, lots of grass, trees, grottos and statues (think Blenheim Palace or nearer to us, Stourhead, which is in his style) and out went the formal box parterres and gravel paths of the previous century. We were treated to lots of pictures of the older style and of his gardens throughout the country but ultimately it was left to us as individuals to decide our own answer to the question in the title.

## The Ashen Faggot Tradition

*Jane Hamlin*

This photograph of the 1948 Ashen Faggot ceremony is courtesy of Chris Hull, who also supplied the early photograph of the Remembrance Day service on the front page of the December 2020 issue. (These photos are from his father's collection.) Bill Richards, whose father Sidney was very active in continuing this tradition into recent times, is in the picture as well as Chris's two uncles. Chris says that he has been told that the man standing with his back to the camera, next to the accordion player and talking to Dennis Symes - who used to own the

grocery shop next door to the pub - is Dick Sturgeon the Artist. The ceremony was held at the King William IV Inn (now being redeveloped for residential use) on Twelfth Night that year. The gathered throng are just beginning to link arms for the singing of Auld Lang Syne, but I expect they also sang *The Ashen Faggot Wassail*. There is a recording of this song sung by Sidney Richards in the BBC Sound Archives.

The ashen faggot is made from young ash saplings and tied in five or six places along its length with withies. At

the appropriate moment it is placed on the fire and as each of the bonds bursts there is much cheering and demands for drinks. At the time of going to press it is not possible to confirm whether there will be a public celebration this year, but we can all raise a glass of something alcoholic or otherwise wherever we are - and whether or not we have an ashen faggot with us.



*Ash  
Faggot  
1948  
Kingwilly*

## Join the CRN team

*Jane Hamlin*

The Curry Rivel News Group is looking for a new member to join the team that produces the Curry Rivel News. The vacancy is for the role of Secretary, but specialist secretarial skills are not required - just sufficient to take the Minutes at our monthly meetings, and to participate in our discussions in making the CRN as interesting and informative as we can. We prefer to meet face-to-face for our meetings, but use Zoom if that is not possible. For more information contact Jane Hamlin at: [curryrivelnews@gmail.com](mailto:curryrivelnews@gmail.com) or phone 252946.





## Message from Health and Care Services

*Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive, Somerset County Council*  
*Jonathan Higman, Chief Executive, Yeovil District Hospital*  
*NHS Foundation Trust*  
*Peter Lewis, Chief Executive, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust*  
*James Rimmer, Chief Executive, Somerset Clinical*  
*Commissioning Group*

**T**hank you for the support you have shown the NHS and social care during this pandemic. We deeply appreciate your support, but understand the anxieties, stress and worry that have been caused by the ongoing pandemic and understand the toll that this can take on the well-being of all of us – patients, carers, staff, family and friends. Health and care services in Somerset are open and here to help you. If you or someone you love or care for has health concerns, please do not put off seeking help or attending an appointment.

The pandemic and the need for social distancing have changed our services and how we run them, but we are here to help, support and care for you. As a result of vital social distancing measures, we have less space available to us and fewer hospital beds, so we are conducting more telephone and digital appointments where it is safe to do so. We have also expanded the mental health support that is available.

You may be asked to have a telephone or online

appointment, having your temperature checked before entering a building or being asked to isolate for a short period before an operation. Clear information about the new measures will be provided before any appointment. Your safety, and that of our colleagues, is our top priority. If you cannot attend an appointment, please let the relevant service know so that they can offer it to someone else who needs it. Visiting arrangements have been amended to ensure everyone's safety. Current hospital policies can be found at: <https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/> and <https://www.yeovilhospital.co.uk/>

Many of the services that were suspended at the start of the pandemic are now up and running again. We have also taken the opportunity to rapidly improve some services particularly in maternity and mental health, but we need your help to keep everyone as safe and well as possible. There are many simple things you can do – such as follow social distancing, regularly washing your hands and wearing face coverings wherever this is appropriate, as well as keeping up to date with and following the government regulations.

Our 111 service is available 24/7 to provide advice, treatment and care. Just ring 111 or visit <https://111.nhs.uk/> and the service will provide advice and refer you to another service if you need it. Many minor ailments can be treated by your local community pharmacist. Please rest assured that if you need to be seen face to face by a doctor you will be.

Please help us to keep Somerset safe and well this winter and thank you for everything you have done to support us.

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## January *Jane Hamlin*

**J**anuary is named after Janus who, in Roman mythology, was the god of doors, gates and transitions. According to this mythology, Janus was present at the beginning of the world - possibly because worship of Janus is believed to date back to a time before the city of Rome was even founded. Janus is represented by a double-faced head – looking back to the past and forwards to the future.

Somerset has had its January customs and traditions, though New Year's Day, according to Muriel Walker in her book, *Old Somerset Customs* published in 1984 was "a somewhat quiet religious day when people wondered what the year might bring". Perhaps this is how we will feel this year. Without the big public firework displays and New Year's Eve parties, life is likely to be quieter than previous years for most of us.

One Somerset New Year tradition was that the family Bible would be solemnly placed on the table and members of the family would take it in turns to open it at random, place one

of their fingers anywhere on the page and then read the selected passage out loud. Everyone else would comment on the meaning of the passage and discuss what that meant in terms of the happiness or misery that they could expect in the coming year. I suspect that the Covid-19 pandemic will be a talking point for some time to come, and it is likely to determine how we live our lives for much, if not all, of 2021.

"Never wash anything on New Year's Day or you will wash one of your family away" was another cheerful Somerset saying. This superstition may have had some significance in the past (perhaps that all the family should be able to rest) but is certainly not appropriate this year. However, how you choose to see in the new year, and despite all the issues that we all have to face, we hope that 2021 will be a very happy year for you and your family.

## Dear Editor,

The December issue is another first-class newsletter; many congratulations to you and your team. Every page contains features which are both interesting and thought-encouraging - particularly, in my view the Primary School, the Headteacher, the Food Bank, the CRIB Allotment, the District Councillors' Report and the December message from Curry Woods Conservation Trust. The remainder of the newsletter content was excellent also.

We are fortunate in this village to have such a dedicated group producing our newsletter and so many villagers contributing to the benefit of communal life in Curry Rivel.

I close with a comment on the front page featuring Remembrance Sunday, including a photograph of those attending the Service 100 years ago. I shudder to think of a crowd of people obstructing the A378 these days - clearly in 1920 SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) and SpeedWatch were not deemed necessary!

This letter will be read in early January - I hope everyone managed to celebrate Christmas and New Year as well as could be expected.

Best wishes to you all,

Robert Crowley.



## Dear Editor,

Reference to Nigel Grinsted's letter in the December edition of the CRN. Thanks to the excellent study carried out by Arthur O Mounter and published in his work 'A Social History of Curry Rivel in the Nineteenth Century', the Preface tells us that far back in history the fertile soil and pastures at the top of the Cory Ridge led to several settlements becoming established there, some of which (Burton, Red Hill (Heale), Week, Portfield (Langport Westover), Hambridge, Goosebradon and Cory or Curry) eventually formed the seven tythings of the parish of Curry Rivel. So despite its anonymity on the OS map the length of higher ground on the A378 leading from Curry and from which beautiful southerly views are to be enjoyed, does historically already have a name, the Cory Ridge.

Best Regards

Richard Hewitt



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Was Handel a crank?

Question for vexillologists.  
What's great about Switzerland? The flag's a big plus.

Question for mathematicians.  
How many times can you subtract 10 from 100? Only once because then you're subtracting from 90.

Question for diners.  
Have you heard about the restaurant called Karma? There's no menu – you get what you deserve.

Question for physicists.  
Why can't you trust atoms? Because they make up everything.

Question for chickens.  
Why did the chicken go to the séance? To get to the other side.

Question for Long John Silver.  
Why are pirates called pirates? Because they "Aaaargh!"

Question for fitness fans.  
What exercises do lazy people do? Diddly Squats.

Question for chefs.  
Is a fake noodle an impasta?

Question for jockeys.  
What do you call a pony with a cough? A little horse.

Question for Penn & Teller.  
What do you call a magic dog? A Labracadabrador.

Another question for Long John Silver.  
What did the pirate say when he turned 80? Aye matey.

Question for telegraphists.  
What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Re-morse code.

Question for calendariographers.  
Did you hear about the two people who stole a calendar? They each got six months.

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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)



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

### Church open for private prayer

Under the Covid regulations at the time of writing, St. Andrew's church is open for private prayer on **Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10.00am - 4.00pm.**

## January

### Sunday 3rd - 2nd after Christmas

10.00 **FH** - All Age Communion CW  
6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Worship/Prayer

### Thursday 7th

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP  
(Note: NOT in the OSR but in Church)

### Sunday 10th - Baptism of Christ

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW

### Sunday 17th - Epiphany 2

9.30 **FH** - Morning Worship CW  
11.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service  
11.45 **CR** - Said Communion CW

### Thursday 21st

10.00 **CR** - Holy Communion BCP  
(Note: NOT in the OSR but in Church)

### Sunday 24th - Epiphany 3

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW  
11.00 **CR** - Morning Worship CW

### Sunday 31st - Epiphany 4

9.30 **SW** - All Age Communion BCP  
11.00 **CR** - All Age Communion CW

**CR** = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel  
**FH** = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead  
**SW** = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

## Scott's spot

### Sovereignty

As I write, there's a lot in the news about sovereignty. Brexit is back in the headlines as the clock ticks down (no, really this time) to the separation of the UK from the EU. With just three weeks left until the end of the year, trade deals still need to be struck and agreements reached, and along the way I'm sure we're in for a heartening feast of mud-slinging and political posturing. Hopefully by the time you read this, pride and entrenched ideologies haven't been allowed to permanently damage a mutually beneficial future.

But back to sovereignty. This is seemingly the crux of the matter in these final weeks of negotiation. Like it, or lament it, a majority in Britain voted to leave and to re-establish autonomous self-rule. Sovereignty re-established over land and sea; in trade, and in law.

Sovereignty is a big Brexit deal. But it is an even bigger personal deal when it comes to God and each one of us. The subject of sovereignty raises the question: 'who is in charge of you?' Who is sovereign in your life? You?



*Scott's Spot ctd . . .*

At the beginning of the Bible in Genesis chapter 3, a 'Hexit' took place. The first humans, Adam and Eve, choose to disobey God in favour of self-rule. In what theologians call 'the fall', the creature made a power-grab for the sovereignty that rightly belonged to the Creator. This was the original sin that stands behind all others. To one degree or another, the issue of 'who's in charge of me' has remained central ever since. The Bible pictures humanity as a race in rebellion against God their rightful sovereign, a position that continues to this day. The number of times people choose Frank Sinatra's '*I did it my way*' for a funeral service is a pretty good example of this. Just as for Adam and Eve, for me that song (at least in part) pictures a life lived in rebellion to the Creator and under the sovereign rule of 'me'.

So if you know that song to be true of you, then how is that working out? Is 'doing it your way' meeting your deepest needs? Does 'your way' provide enough to cope? Was 'your way' enough during the huge challenges of 2020, or was it found wanting?

*continued on next page*

### Spot the difference

This picture of St. Andrew's interior, likely to be taken around Harvest time, is on a postcard which was posted in Langport 23rd August 1907, to wish Miss Woodborne in Drayton a Happy Birthday. When you next visit the Church, notice the differences with the current interior, shown on the next page.





*Scott's Spot ctd . . .*

Perhaps the pain of 2020 has revealed the shortcomings of 'your way' and you suspect there might be a better way. Perhaps you feel that it's time to lay down the rebel weapons of self-sovereignty and to choose a different way. The Bible's message is that any rebel can know absolute amnesty with the Creator through faith in His Son, Christ Jesus, and His Good Friday death. Here lies free access to a renewed life under a new and better sovereign - the sovereignty of the One who says: **"I will never leave you or forsake you"** (Hebrews 13:5), who is **"the way, and the truth, and the life"** (John 14:6), and who gives **'you a future with hope'** (Jeremiah 29:11).

With prayer for a healing, healthy and fruitful New Year, Revd. Scott.

### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

The 2020 appeal has resulted in a total of 75 beautifully filled boxes, 40 of which were contributed by our School. In late November they started their journey to bring joy to people in need, in Eastern Europe.

So, a big **thank you** to anyone who contributed in any way to the boxes, or donated to Blythswood Care on line.

### St. Andrew's Rotas January

#### Flowers

6th & 15th - Adrienne Holmes

22nd & 29th - Diane Talbot-Williams

#### Cleaning

8th - Nicky Barker

15th - Liz Rendell

22nd - Lynne Comley

29th - Tina Geary



St. Andrew's interior November 2018



## United Reformed Church



### January

(Services start at 10.30)

**Sunday 3rd - Epiphany**

to be arranged

**Sunday 10th** - via Zoom

**Sunday 17th** - Mrs Jo Morling

**Sunday 24th** - to be arranged

**Sunday 31st** - Rev Tim Richards

(incl. Holy Communion)

The Members and Friends of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church take this opportunity on the threshold of a new year to look back with gratitude and to step forward with hope wishing all readers of the Curry Rivel News a healthy, happy New Year.

We are a small, 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.

To join any of our services –whether Zoom or live-streamed from the Chapel- please email Steve Beney at [stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk)

Arrangements are provisional and may change due to the fluctuating Covid situation. Changes will be advertised on the URC Noticeboard.

**URC Minister:** Rev Tim Richards

01458 252799

### New Year, new hope ....

*This time last year I was anticipating the beginning of another year and to be honest not expecting it to be very much different from the previous year. I had enjoyed a thoroughly good Christmas. We celebrated with more of my children and grandchildren than I usually saw, all gathered at my son's new house. New year's Eve was equally as delightful, spent with good friends in a very convivial atmosphere and lots of cheese! (I like cheese).*

*Reflecting back on the stark reality of 2020 I wonder if any of us would have reacted differently had we known this was to be the year of The Pandemic. The year we all learned to do new things, learned new phrases and words: Zoom, lockdown, social distancing, 'you've got the mute button on', the habitual wearing of face masks. We did get to practise one of the things we British are reputedly good at; queuing. We queued for shops, for banks, for post offices - everything.*

*What, if anything, will we take into this new year, accepting we are (at the time of writing) not yet ready to sound the all clear and return to whatever was normal? I do not wish to sound trite or rehearse facile benefits of our collective experiences; in one way that would be impossible - though we may have been 'all in it together', our individual experiences were different, because we are individuals.*

*There were low points (I lost two elderly family members to Covid-19) but I did find a place of calm amidst the storm, a place to reflect on what was important, particularly in our church life and how I could remain in relationship with the wider church family.*

*One of the more enigmatic passages in scripture is to be found in the book of Ecclesiastes. It speaks of there being a time for 'every matter under heaven'. In time, the year 2020 will find its proper place in our memories and life experiences. I wrote, not long after lockdown began in March, of the new found community spirit quickly evidenced in the way so many communities responded to the needs of people, and of my hope it would not fade away when we finally emerged from the pandemic. I can think of no better way to end this piece than to wish you all a new year in which as individuals and as groups we continue to look out for each other, to use our time and our resources well with thought for others and to turn our attention to how collectively we can adjust our lifestyles to protect the one thing we truly have in common, our planet earth.*

Yours faithfully, Rev Tim

# Environmentally sensitive central heating

.....using an air source heat pump

*Catherine and Matthew Geen*

**A**fter years researching environmentally sensitive sources of heating for our house we finally hit on the ideal solution: early in 2020 we had our central heating system plumbed into an air source heat pump (ASHP). We are very pleased with the result and thought you might be interested in hearing about it.

The headline statistics are that, for each unit of energy we put in, we get nearly four units out. It feels like we literally get energy out of thin air, which is indeed true. An air source heat pump – an alternative to the usual oil- or gas-powered central heating boiler – basically absorbs heat from the air and, with the aid of an electric-powered pump, transfers it to water, which then heats radiators or the water supply. If then you buy your electricity from a company that buys its energy from renewable production, then you're reducing your carbon footprint still further.

We waited until 2020 because we were advised that a new ASHP had come on the market that was more efficient than previous models. This has been installed outside our house. Photos: left is the air source heat pump, next to its box of pumps and controls; right is the wireless thermostat (it stands 11cm [4.3 inches] tall).

ASHPs are subsidised by the Government Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Payments are based on the expected amount of heat that the house will use. Our payments come quarterly and will cover the cost of installation of the ASHP after 8 years. The government funding will be changing soon to give more money up-front and less in yearly payments. Although the total you get will be slightly less, a lower starting cost should be an advantage to many.

We had additional costs which were not subsidised – we had to replace some radiators as some of our existing ones were too small for the size of room – ASHPs run at a lower temperature (50degC) than oil-fired pumps and so need a larger surface area to provide equivalent heat.

Last winter we used an average of 250kWh a month, based on running 6 radiators with the thermostat set to 19oC for 2 hours in the morning, 2 hours at lunchtime and 5 hours in the evening, i.e. 9 hours per day, 2 people in the house. (We don't mind wearing jumpers in the house, and do not heat the rooms we're not using!).

Previously, we had been relying on a big wood-burning stove to heat the centre of the house and heat the water. The cost of the extra electricity is less than we were spending on wood for the stove over the same period in the previous year; and more rooms were warm!

For us, the ASHP only runs the central heating. Our domestic water supply is heated using a solar thermal panel on the roof, and the back burner of a log-burning stove in our lounge,

and so we run this for two or three evenings a week in order to provide additional heat, and hot water every day.

The ASHP has a handy wireless thermostat which can be

programmed (see photo) and moved from room to room. We tend to have it in the kitchen, our coldest room, to ensure that that room is adequately heated.

The noise output of our ASHP is very low – a low rumble, which we do not hear in the house. We had been concerned about this before buying, but we need not have worried. After all, the ASHP is outside, and the doors are closed when it is cold outside.

There are a number of companies in the south west who install ASHPs.

Your house will need an Energy Performance Certificate EPC to get the RHI funding. We had to pay for this to be done (£75). This is the same certificate that is necessary to sell a house.

A word of warning though – for air source heating to be effective, you need a well-insulated house. Some people that we have spoken to with old, draughty houses have been disappointed with their ASHP. So, if your house is like that, you should think about improving the insulation first.

In summary, with the new ASHP, we are now paying less for our heating, we have a warmer house, we will almost break even in capital costs after eight years, and we are causing little or no climate change in the process.

We would be delighted to talk to anyone who wants to know more about our experience. Just call us! 01458 250655



## \*WARNING\*

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

### In January Regular Events



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

#### MONDAY

9.45 Art Club  
3.30 - 5.30 Messy Church (2nd only)  
6.00 Pilates  
6.45 Explorer Scouts

#### TUESDAY

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

#### WEDNESDAY

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

#### THURSDAY

10.00 WI  
2.00 - 4.00 Short Mat Bowls  
4.30 Rainbows  
4.30 Brownies  
7.30 Parish Council (1st only) via ZOOM

#### FRIDAY

9.30-2 Get Together Club  
7.30 Cinema Night

### Some Useful Telephone Numbers

#### Youth Organisations

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

#### Sports Clubs

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

#### Social

Flower Show 250311  
Out & About 252146  
Royal British Legion 01460 281115  
Twinning Association 01460 281905  
Women's Institute 259688  
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton 252813  
PROBUS 252545  
Sedgemoor Garden Club 250091  
Heale Lane Allotment Association 741880  
Curry Rivel in Bloom 762296  
Get Together Club 251524  
Health Walks 250725  
Mother and Baby 07732 197030  
Forget-Me-Not-Café 252710 & 741606  
Inner Wheel 251940  
Tuesday Group 252657/252022

#### Arts

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

#### Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk) 0771 6792760  
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com) 741606  
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com) 250655/253856

United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc. 259391

#### Community Services

Doctors 250464  
Police 101  
Yarlington Housing 01935 404500

#### Education

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

#### Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) curryrivelparish@outlook.com 07714 510828  
District Council 01935 462462  
County Council 0300 123 2224

#### Religious

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



### Deadlines for February Edition

**Advertising:** 5pm Thursday 7th January  
**Send to:** crn.nigel@outlook.com  
**Comments & Articles:** 5pm Tuesday 12th January  
**Send to:** curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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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 Woods Conservation Trust and Plant Britain

*Peter Goodenough*

**W**hilst we all view 2020 as a disastrous year, there have been local high points. One of these was the inaugural work of the Trust. The huge importance of the work we have all done was highlighted on the recent BBC Countryfile programme which devoted an hour of prime-time TV to local efforts such as ours in planting trees. Nationally this has a number one priority, and the BBC has set up a part of their website as "Plant Britain". We, along with all other organisations planting trees, can put our details and number of trees on this website for all to see. By the time you are reading this we should have made our first addition to the "Plant Britain" national campaign: [BBC.co.uk/countryfile](https://www.bbc.co.uk/countryfile). Look for "Plant Britain" on the drop-down menus.

Those of you that have been following the progress of the Trust will know that the Somerset Rivers Authority gave a grant under their "Trees for water" initiative to buy 800 trees and shrubs to plant on the site. These will hold back increasing amounts of water year on year from flowing into the village and the Levels. The first 400 trees and shrubs will be planted at the end of 2020 and in early 2021. In the vanguard are 40 oaks, also birch, alder, hornbeam, wild and bird cherry, crab apple, Scots pine, whitebeam, rowan and small and large leaved lime. The under-storey of shrubs includes Dogwood, hazel, spindle, holly, guelder rose, wayfarer tree, buckthorn and elder.

It is now time to plan for the summer as in this part of Somerset there is a rainfall deficit from late April to late September. Less water falls as rain than evaporates or is used by vegetation. I am always surprised in November when I am working in our kitchen garden and slipping and sliding on the claggy soil to find that only a few inches down the soil has not fully hydrated. It takes all winter to get the clay soil to become fully wet to a good depth. It is hard to believe that all the water now visible will be gone by June and we will be struggling to keep enough water on the new trees in 30° C heat. And there will still be July to September to go! Our baby



trees will need a lot of care in their first two years. So our work has only just begun and we will need to paraphrase the old saying "It takes a village to raise a child" to "It takes a village to raise trees". You have made such an amazing investment in combating climate change and in flood control, now the summer will be the time to see our trees growing and for you to help it make the biggest return on your investment by helping with watering. Many thanks in advance!

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## More Caterpillars

*Nigel Pearston*

**H**aving spent many years residing in Curry Rivel, I moved to Street in 2016 and moved back to Curry in the first lockdown on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, and it does not feel that I ever moved away. Reading the December issue of the CRN and seeing the article on Crazy Caterpillars I thought I would send you this photo that I took in July 2015. This caterpillar was crawling along the rim of a flower pot. While it may be a common caterpillar, I have never come across one like this. Is it familiar to any readers in Curry Rivel?

