



January 2022

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

Jules prepares for the international Invictus Games

Nigel Grinstead

500 competitors from 20 nations will compete from April 16th - 22nd 2022 in the twice postponed 2020 Invictus Games in The Hague in the Netherlands.

The games are for injured and disabled forces personnel where they each participate in sports from athletics to rowing to wheelchair basketball. The games are backed by BAE Systems, Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

Jules in three sports

One member of the UK team is local Curry Rivel resident Jules Allen. He will be participating in Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Racing and Power Lifting. "I'm proud to be representing UK in three events. I've been training for over three years for these Games" he said. Jules has been doing further extensive training recently in Gibraltar. While there he gave motivational talks to the Royal Regiment of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Sports Ministry, the Gibraltar Rugby Squad and the RAF.



How exercise helps recovery

Activity through sport is widely recognised as a major helper for anyone who has been injured physically and or mentally.

Jules's increased upper body strength is so important for his sports

"I'm a prime example. Four years ago I felt destroyed both physically and mentally" Jules said. "But I built up my exercise programme at home and in the gym and gradually over time my upper body strength improved significantly" he said. This had a very positive effect on Julian's mental strength too. "Four years ago I wouldn't have said boo to a goose - today I'm confident talking to 200 plus veterans and servicemen about this critically important subject" he said. "Many people approach me now, either to talk through their circumstances or to ask me to speak. I never charge for my talks but maybe I should become a professional speaker" he said.

Everyone can benefit

Patron and Founder of the Invictus Games is the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry. The first Invictus Games were held in 2014 in London. "Anyone - service person, ex-service person or civilian - should seriously look at how exercise and sport can help recovery, both physical and mental. You don't have to be an Invictus Games athlete! I started with weight-training and it really helped me" Jules said.

Wheelchair rugby in Somerset

Jules has also been working with Taunton Rugby Club's team manager Steve Frost to help develop Wheelchair Rugby in Somerset. "This is for anyone in a wheelchair" said Jules "not just veterans".

For more information go to: Help for Heroes (<https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk>) and Invictus Games (<https://invictusgamesfoundation.org/games/the-hague-2020>)

Opening-up event generated plenty of interest

Jane Hamlin

Curry Rivel is a village that is usually buzzing with all sorts of interesting activities.

Sadly, because of the many months of lockdown and limited movement, these activities have been on hold. However, we were able to rediscover the many and varied social and interest groups that there are on our doorstep at the afternoon organised by the Parish Council in November.



It was clearly a very popular event (and the free refreshments made it even more enjoyable) because at times the Village Hall was packed with enthusiastic residents keen to find out about activities they had enjoyed in the past and new ones that they hope to savour in the future - as well as catch up with friends and neighbours they had not seen for a while. Many people expressed the hope that another similar event would be arranged in the future.



Let's improve the facilities at Westfield

Les Hood

The Parish Council would like to improve the facilities at Westfield, which is situated off Holdens Way, at the western end of the village. Those that know it will associate it with the children's playground and the venue for *Curry Rivel Live*. It covers a large area including a car park and full-sized football pitch together with changing rooms (with showers). This facility, unfortunately, has not been used for several years. It would be good if somebody (or bodies) could restart a football club or other organised use of the pitch especially as

the community is continuing to pay for the upkeep, i.e. electricity and water as well as grass cutting.

We would also like to hear from Curry Rivel residents on any ideas for improving the facilities at Westfield. These do not have to be related to activities for children. Some suggestions already received include:

tennis court, table tennis, skate board area, exercise area, BMX track or junior track for learning to cycle, football training (maybe 5 a side), pop-up café with seating area.

There are funds available for some of these projects and plenty of room at Westfield. We would require volunteers to get some of these suggestions up and running. We welcome residents' views and ideas and ask people to e-mail or write their ideas and views on the above suggestions and any others. If these facilities remain unused, the Council will consider whether to stop paying for their maintenance.

Please contact Les Hood on 07511270852 or e-mail:

lesliehood43@gmail.com or the Parish Clerk curryrivelparish@outlook.com

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Curry Rivel Cycle/Footpath

Tony Greenaway

The public event on the 10th November at the Village Hall attracted over 100 people who had the opportunity to view the initial findings from our consultants, PJA Ltd., and give their views on the various options presented. The reaction was very positive and there was a further opportunity to give feedback at the 'Reconnecting Our Community' event held on the 20th November.

During the event, and after, we have encouraged residents to tell us about their travel habits locally and also their concerns about travel around Curry Rivel and between the village and Langport. So far we have received over 60 responses and would like to receive even more.

If you haven't already done so, please take our online survey which can be found at this address:

<https://www.curryrivel.org.uk/campaigns/cycle-footpath/curry-rivel-active-travel.html>

If you would prefer a hard copy please email:

tgreenaway51@gmail.com

or call me on 07563900646

And I will email you a version.

The next stage of the project is to review all the feedback received and settle on a route that is deliverable. A further report will be produced by the end of December which will be presented to the Parish Council and other interested parties



before being made available publicly. In the meantime, we will continue to engage with local landowners, Somerset County Council, Sustrans in order to keep the momentum going.

There has never been a better time to make this happen. I came across some old Parish Council minutes from 1996 where there was then a very clear statement about improving facilities within the village, for example, a cycle footpath between Dyers Road and the school and village green. If we show the authorities that we want and need this, we can make it happen.

Here is a short link to complete the survey:

<https://bit.ly/CRCP-Q>

To join our mailing list and keep up to date its:

<http://eepurl.com/gXIXEf>

All these links are available on the Curry Rivel website under the 'Campaigns' menu

Curry Rivel Health Walks 2022

Andrew Jordan

Health Walks in Curry Rivel will continue in 2022. They will start on Wednesday 2nd February 2022, meeting at Curry Rivel Green at 10.15 for 10.30 start. The walks will continue to take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, meeting at the Green at 10.15 for 10.30 start. The walks are generally level, and we walk for an hour covering about 2 miles. Please don't join us if you have any Covid-19 symptoms. Please contact the Health Walk leader Andrew Jordan if you have any questions - 01458 250725

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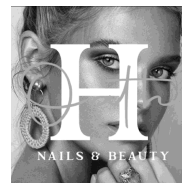
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Curry Rivel Entertainers

Liz Hembrow

The Curry Rivel Entertainers will present their new pantomime *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* in the Village Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24th, 25th, and 26th February 2022 at 7:30pm with a matinée on Saturday at 2:30pm. Put the dates in your diary to make sure that you don't miss it.



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Curry Woods Conservation Trust

Peter Goodenough

Elm disease, hedge laying and tree planting

The Aviva Community and Climate Change funding programmes that I described over the last two months came to an end on 6th December and were very fruitful. The final amount of money raised was £3900. So how will we be using this money and that recently given by the Parish Council?

Part of the existing hedge around the southern edge of the land is English Elm. As many of you will be aware the typical English Elm, so beloved of painters from the past, has vanished from the landscape. This is because of a very unfortunate association between the large Elm Bark beetle, *Scolytus scolytus* and a fungus *Ophiostoma novoulma*. The fungus is unable to penetrate the bark of healthy Elm trees and the bark beetle alone would only cause minor damage. However once the beetle became a carrier for the fungus the scene was set for the destruction of the English Elm. The beetle burrowed under the bark of the tree and the fungus then was able to grow in the trunk of the tree, stopping water flow and so killing the tree. So, in the 1970s, all the dead elms were cut down and in many cases the stumps were left in the ground. These extensive stumps and the root network in the ground live on and send up "suckers" - new trunks which are really suckers in a different sense of the word. They grow vigorously and when they reach about 15 feet (10-15cm trunk diameter) the beetles, carrying the fungus, notices them and starts attacking them. Thus they die back again but they have replenished the nutrient stock in the roots during this time and new suckers grow. In Butt Lane and the southern hedge of the Trust land this cycle has been going on since the 1970s.

So can we break the cycle?

Unfortunately, we cannot grow mature Elm trees unless we cover them to stop beetles attacking (pretty difficult!), but we

can disguise the trees by laying the hedge, thereby slowing down the growth of the trunks and encouraging a thicket of young shoots to confuse the beetle into leaving the main trunks alone. If we subsequently keep the hedge trimmed to produce a dense thicket to ground level we may be able to maintain the elms in situ for some time. You may have noticed that there was a hedge laying competition occurring at Highgrove in the second week of December. The Prince of Wales has always championed this method of hedging as it encourages insect, rodent and bird life by stimulating thicker hedges. One of the organisers of the competition was Clive Bethall, a champion hedge layer from N.Somerset. He has viewed the Trust hedge and said that it is suitable for hedge laying, so we have agreed to have it laid in January in the N.Somerset style. We will also take advice from Henry Lang about supplementary feeding of birds alongside the new hedge during the winter, with the hope that we thicken up the hedge enough to encourage yellowhammer nesting.

Things to look out for in January on the Trust land

Watch the website for news of when the planting of new trees is happening and please come along to help. Also please watch the website for the timetable for hedge laying. You are welcome to see a master craftsman at work on our hedge. Once we start complimentary bird feeding - if you approach quietly on foot - you should see a range of finches and others. You may well spot the local sparrowhawks "hawking" the margins. Please report what you see to cwctrust@aol.com and we will compile a list. Watch out for hares in the early part of the spring, as usually some can be seen on the ridge at this time.

Happy New Year from all at CWCT!. Website: currywoodsconservationtrust.com

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The Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2021

Suzie Potter, Poppy Appeal Organiser

A few months ago, I started asking the great team of 'collectors' in our area whether they would be happy to do a door-to-door poppy collection this year, aware that in 2020, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and a few Lockdowns, we were only able to collect via our static points. Covid-19 is still with us, and I stressed that it was important that they, the collectors, felt safe enough to go from door to door.


The entire team of collectors did not hesitate to agree to collecting this year and happily went out in fair weather and foul, filled their collecting boxes and the counting is now complete. All the money, bar three cheques which should arrive within the month, has been banked and I am delighted to report that the total reached this year is: £3,825.32.

A huge thank you to those who have continued to contribute so generously year on year and again sincere thanks to all those who tirelessly collected, both door to door despite the unpredictable weather and from our statics; without all of you this total would not have been possible.

Our support for the Royal British Legion is particularly vital now as vulnerable veterans need our help to enable them to deal with the ongoing impact of Covid-19.

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Be active:

Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Discover an activity you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

Take notice:

Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Savour the moment. Be aware of the world around

you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

Keep learning:

Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to cook something new. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving, not one that is a chore. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

Give:

Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be rewarding and will create connections with the people around you.

For further information please visit:

<https://wellbeingsouthsomerset.org>

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Art Group getting back together

Laraine Hayes

The Curry Rivel Art Group will start meeting again in the Chatham Room at the Village Hall, on Monday 10th January 2022 at a slightly different time from previously. Our new time is from 10am until 12:30pm.

This is an invitation offering you a place and time to explore your creativity. Come along and draw and paint in your

chosen medium and meet supportive like-minded people. There is no teacher, you just do your own thing. Currently it costs only £2 per morning – and that includes tea/coffee/biscuits!

There is also the opportunity to display and sell your work in the Foyer of the Village Hall, though 10% of every sale goes to support the Village Hall.

For more information contact Laraine Hayes: 01458 253126.

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Somerset's 50 mile Parrett Trail

by Dot Walford

A Layperson's Guide
to its Landscapes
and its History

My little book is written as though I'm actually taking you with me along the 50 mile Parrett Trail. While it is not intended as a guide book, there are details of the route on geological maps plus, grid references of towns and villages visited en-route to the rear of the book. **There are pubs and cafés in most villages to help you plan your days.**

Maybe you could read the book as a story, or it could be a book to take with you, enabling you to read it before walking each section. It would then give you an idea of what there is to discover each day. I'm not a geologist by training but have spent many years walking the Parrett Trail, some as a guide, and have developed a deep interest in the geology, flora and fauna and the history of the area. I hope these notes will entice you to look at the countryside in a new way, to look further than just the views, pasturelands and buildings to see land formations and how they affect the way we live.

Another of my hopes is that you'll feel inspired to explore more of Somerset, the land of the Sumorsaete – the Summer Settlers – and the county I live in and love.

There's so much to discover!

Copies are available from local author

Thanks to the many folk who have been supporting Langport Red Cross Centre Shop over the past three months. Now here's another pleasant way to donate to the Red Cross! All profits from these theatre trips are donated to the Red Cross.

Puccini's Madam Butterfly is back at Bristol Hippodrome on Saturday 2nd April. If you fancy humming along just contact Chris by e-mail Charitytheatrerips@btinternet.com or phone on 01458 273085.

Other trips up and running are:

Lion King, Wed 9 March

We Will Rock You, Wed 20 Apr

Mamma Mia, Mon 20 Jun 22

Les Miserables, Tuesday 19 Jul 22

The Commitments, Tue 21 Mar 23

Strictly Ballroom, Tue 13 Jun 2023

We now have a Groups link on Facebook, if you do such exciting things! You can sign yourself up to receive the latest news. The link is 'Charity Theatre Trips'. See you on the coach.



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Curry Rivel Heating Initiatives Project

Matt Geen

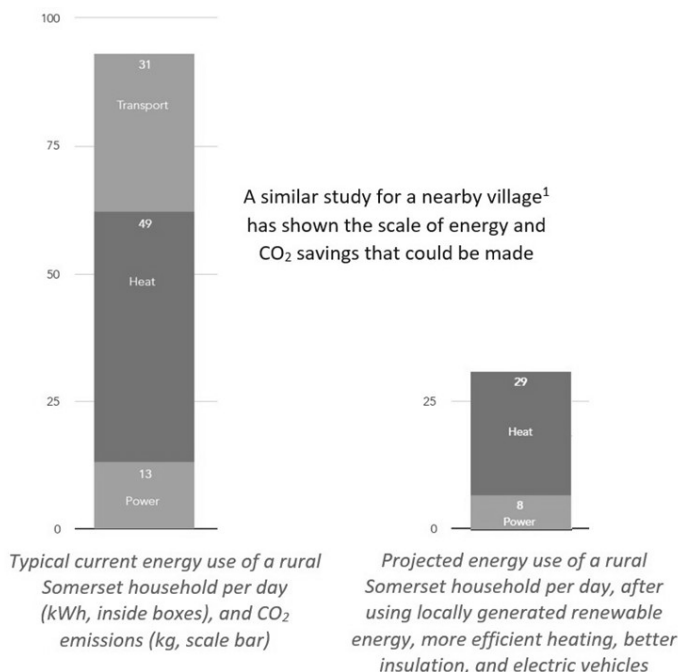
Now that winter is upon us, many of us in Curry Rivel are concerned about heating our houses. The cost of fuel is going up and up again, and then there is the worry of what the carbon dioxide from burning oil or gas is doing to the climate.

Talking to people around the village, lots of people are wondering what they can do about it. Is it best to insulate, or to buy a new heating system? What is the best kind to get now (the technology is moving so fast)? What will it cost me? What grants are available? What will work in our kind of houses? It's all very complicated and confusing.

To help, Curry Rivel Parish Council has contracted a specialist company to give us advice on what will work here, funded by a grant from Somerset County Council. Once a good set of ideas have been identified, we will let you know through Curry Rivel News, the village website, and open meetings.

The picture shows what could be achieved, comparing typical energy use in a Somerset village house with what it could be with green technologies.

You can find out more from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, which specialises in energy saving advice in the Bristol and Somerset area, at www.cse.org.uk. That energy report from Wedmore is at bit.ly/3ove4E7. Wishing you a warm, prosperous, and happy 2022, and a brighter future for our children.



1 – Wedmore Energy Study, reproduced with thanks to Green Wedmore

Movies in the Village Hall

Alison Cockrell

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

The Courier (12A)

Friday 21 January



This Cold War spy thriller is based on the true story of a British businessman who helped MI6 penetrate the Soviet nuclear programme. Greville Wynne (played by Benedict Cumberbatch) is approached by the CIA and MI6 and asked to pose as a business partner of Oleg Penkovsky, who has provided vital intelligence relating to Soviet missiles being transported to Cuba. Also stars: Merab Ninidze, Rachel Brosnahan, Jessie Buckley and Anton Lesser.

Doors open at 7.00pm; show starts at 7.40pm in the village hall. Tickets £7 are available at the door.

Please note, we are aiming to run this event as “normally” as possible, but we would request that you sign in with your contact details / use the QR code posters on arrival. We would also ask that you wear a mask when moving around the Village Hall.

St. Andrew's Church

To find out more please visit us at:
www.curryrivel.org.uk or
www.achurchnearyou.com



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

Covid effects

At the time of writing, regulations are generally as they have been for several months. Therefore, St. Andrew's Church continues to be open to everyone daily. Also, 'live' services will stay relaxed, although use of face masks and sanigel are required in some circumstances - see the notice board in the porch.

If local conditions dictate, short notice changes may be necessary. Therefore, please check the notice board in the churchyard by the Green, in the church porch, the village website or our 'A Church Near You' web page.

January

Sunday 2nd

10.30 **FH - in the Baptist Chapel**
 Combined All Age Family Service

6.00 pm **CR - Evening Prayer**

Thursday 6th - The Epiphany

10.00 **CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP**

Sunday 9th

9.30 **SW - Holy Communion BCP**

11.00 **CR - Parish Communion CW**

6.00 pm **FH - Evening Prayer**

Sunday 16th

9.30 **FH - Morning Worship**

11.00 **CR - All Age Family & Friends Service**

12.00 **CR - said Communion CW**

Thursday 20th

10.00 **CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP**

Sunday 23rd

9.30 **FH - Parish Communion CW**

11.00 **CR - Morning Prayer CW**

6.00 pm **SW - Evensong BCP**

Sunday 30th

10.00 **CR - United Benefice**

All Age Holy Communion CW

Scott's spot

A costly response

As Christmas gives way to New Year celebrations, many face the January credit card bill with heavy hearts. Do you find you always seem to spend more than you thought? There was the sizable expense of the presents, but there will also have been the Christmas food, the boxes of sweets and chocolates, perhaps a few bottles of wine, not to mention the cards, a tree etc. etc. There's little doubt, Christmas is becoming an increasingly costly time.

There was, however, another sort of cost involved in the first Christmas, and as another year of possibilities lies open before us, that's worthy of reflection. In the Christmas Bible passages the example of God's call being followed by a 'costly response', is something of a pattern. For example the star following magi felt compelled to travel great distances - presumably enduring considerable hardships - in order to welcome and worship Jesus.

But it is in Mary that we find a particularly powerful example. In the first place we find her willing to surrender her body to God's will. That alone, alongside the joy and privilege, involved making a sacrifice, because from that moment on life would never be the same. But it went further, because six weeks after Jesus' birth Mary was to hear those words from Simeon. Simeon was an old and faithful man who had been told by God that he wouldn't die until he'd seen the Messiah - Jesus.

Finally that day arrived and in the Jerusalem temple he took the infant Jesus in his arms. His words are beautiful (Luke 2: 29 to 35) but some of them were directed personally to Mary. He said: *"This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."*



Scott's Spot ctd. . .

These words must have cast a growing shadow across her life as her beloved son walked the road to the cross. From the start Mary knew that the joy and privilege of serving the living God, would entail a costly response. And yet it was her willingness to accept this that made possible God's gift of new life for all. Her example is impressive and challenging.

It is especially challenging because in a way Mary's response is one that ultimately needs to be mirrored by every individual that wants to know God. Perhaps you feel His loving call, perhaps your heart yearns for the relationship you were created for, perhaps you've heard enough about the Christian faith to know what it could mean for you - forgiveness through faith, new life and purpose, church family fellowship, the God of creation sharing His presence and eternity with you. But at the same time you know a response will be costly. You know it will take courage to step away from the crowd and march to a different beat, you know that hostile stares or misplaced concerns for your sanity may come!

In short you know that doing things God's ways will mean friction with the world's ways.

The question therefore must be: 'is it worth it?' Or perhaps better still: 'is *He* worth it?' Despite the costs, Mary's response was an emphatic 'yes', and you would find the same response billions of times over from Christians who have followed her son as Saviour and Lord, ever since.

The credit card bill will still arrive, but for you a New Year lies ahead that *could* be like no other. Might this be the year you allow your fears of that costly response, to give way to God's good and loving call? If so, I, and the Christians you know, would be delighted to support you in the adventure.

With prayer for a happy, healthy and fruitful 2022.

Revd. Scott.

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

From St. Andrew's Registers Baptisms

We welcome into God's church.
21st November 2021 - Teddy Rosa

St. Andrew's Rotas January

Brass - Gillie Purves

Flowers

8th & 15th - Sue Randell
22nd & 29th - Annette Stein

Cleaning

1st - Nicky Barker
8th - Liz Rendell
15th - Lynne Comley
22nd - Tina Geary
29th - Wendy Graves



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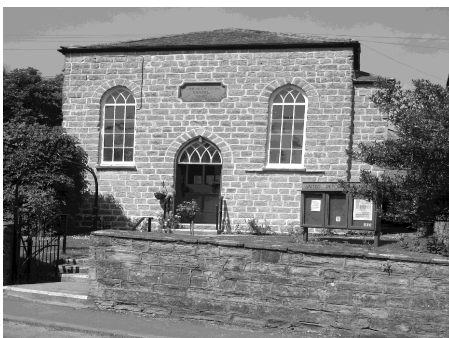
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Memorial Masonry Service



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

United Reformed Church



January

Services start at 10.30 am

Sunday 2nd - Local arrangements

Sunday 9th - Rev Rowena Francis

Sunday 16th - Rev Evelyn Ridout

Sunday 23rd - Rev Tim Richards
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 30th - Mrs A Reed Richards

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.

Minister: Rev. Tim Richards
01458 252799

CHARITY CAROL SERVICE

With deep gratitude we thank Curry Rivel Village, those Village associations and groups, individuals and families who supported the congregation of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church at their Charity Carol Service on Sunday 5th December 2021.

Supporting **ARC** (formerly Taunton Association for the Homeless) and their **Christmas Shoebox Appeal** we were again thrilled by your response. Covid 19 restrictions and the arrival of the Omicron variant somewhat curtailed how we could offer hospitality this year; socialising kept to a minimum with a one way system & face masks in place - mulled wine & mince pies under the starlight rather than in a cosy hall! But once again our little chapel was able to play host - leading the singing of carols, the reading of the Christmas narrative of the homeless couple taking shelter in a barn (the connection between the Christmas story and our charity of choice too obvious to mention!).

Members and friends of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church wish all readers of the Curry Rivel News a healthy, happy New Year.

As we enter another New Year - We pray for a **peace** built on acceptance and celebration of difference not shakily imposed by threat based on fear.

We pray for **prosperity** which sees wealth openly shared amongst all - not greedily hidden and stored by a few.

We pray for **justice** where each is treated as of equal value - not devalued or deemed second class.

We pray for **hope** - hope we may see such change.

We pray for **courage** - courage that we might bring about such change.

We pray for **each other** - that we might be such change as we stand at the threshold and dream 'thy kingdom come' - here, now and forever.

Amen.

CHARITY CAROL SERVICE ctd. . . .

Rev. Tim reminded us of the inspirational support ARC provides for its clients; from a bed for the night, to educational provision, development of social skills, support with form filling, employment or benefit applications, explanation of and support with tenancy responsibility and, as a landlord itself, providing affordable and appropriate housing. The ethos of ARC -highlighting and working with an individual's strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses- remains inspiring.

Through the kindness of your hearts we were able to transport 40 gift filled shoeboxes and forward monetary donations to ARC for their continuing work. **Thank you so much for your generosity.**

From Alison Reed Richards & Curry Rivel URC Congregation.



WORLD'S WONDERFUL NATURE

Do you know how many reptile species live in the UK?

Nigel Grinsted

Only six are indigenous. Three lizards and three snakes.

That small number is primarily due to our climate - reptiles are cold-blooded (ectothermic) which means their body temperature varies with that of the environment. This means that if the air temperature is low, say near freezing, reptiles will be very passive. While on warm sunny days they will be active and can even be found basking in warm sunlight.

Do reptiles hibernate?

Strictly speaking reptiles don't hibernate - they brumate, which means they are very inactive in cold conditions but they can sometimes become slightly more active to drink a little water for example.

Our lizards

Our three lizard species are the Common Lizard, the Sand Lizard and the Slow-Worm. If you have a garden with some unkept areas and/or a compost heap you may come across Slow-Worms. They look like a small snake but they're legless lizards. If you find one and it blinks, it's a Slow-Worm. If it doesn't blink, it's a snake. And if another animal grabs a Slow-Worm by the tail to munch for lunch, it's happy to shed its tail to escape. They are ovoviparous which means the eggs hatch inside the female's body and they give birth to live young. Slow-Worms eat slugs, snails, earthworms and spiders and are found throughout mainland UK and are common in the South West and Wales. They grow to 20ins (50cm) in length.

Common Lizards are found throughout the UK, including the South West and Ireland (the only reptile found there) mainly on heathland, grassland and woodland. They are probably more common than Slow-Worms but are less often found in gardens. They too are ovoviparous. They eat small invertebrates like flies, spiders and snails.

The Sand Lizard is extremely rare in the UK, found on a few isolated heathlands in Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Merseyside. They need warm sand to incubate their eggs. Sand Lizards eat fruit, flower heads and small invertebrates. The Sand Lizard disappeared from many of its locations due primarily to habitat loss. However there have been over 70 translocations recently many of which are believed to be successful.

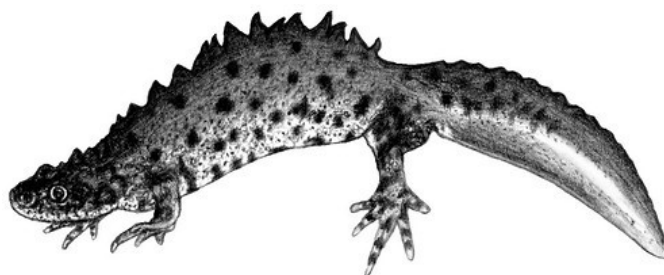
Our snakes

Our three snake species are the Grass Snake, the Smooth Snake and the Adder (or Viper). The Grass Snake found in the UK is actually the Barred Grass Snake - previously it was classified as the Common Grass Snake. It is the longest of our snakes, growing to 5ft (180cm) in length. They eat mainly frogs, toads and newts. It is not venomous. When being predated by, say, a badger it can play dead or squirt a foul-smelling substance from its anal gland. The females lay eggs. It prefers wetlands and is common on the Somerset Levels. The Smooth Snake is UK's rarest reptile - only found locally on sandy or gravelly heathland in Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex. It grows up to 28ins (70cm) in length. It predares on other reptiles and small mammals which it constricts like a Boa Constrictor does. They are ovoviparous and give birth to live offspring.

The only venomous UK snake is the Adder. However, their venom isn't very strong and there have only been 14 recorded deaths from Adder bites in the UK since 1876, the last in 1975. (There have been more deaths from bee/wasp stings.) They grow to 30in (80cm) in length. Adders live in woodland margins, heathland and moorland. They are ovoviparous, giving birth to live offspring following the incubation of eggs internally. Adders are found across the UK including the South West.

Lizard or newt?

Sometimes newts can be mistaken for lizards when found on land. To tell them apart it's worth remembering the old saying "If you can catch it, it's a newt". Finally, although newts look like lizards, they don't have scales and are amphibians, not reptiles. It's worth noting that all UK reptiles are protected under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. The Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard are classified as European Protected Species, so you can break the law simply by disturbing their habitat.



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

what's on ...In January

Regular Events

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
6.30	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews

THURSDAY

10.00	WI	Village Hall
2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night	Village Hall

SATURDAY

9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	(gslthelevelsscouts@gmail.com)
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Rangers	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	253078
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	252791
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 396123
Inner Wheel	251940

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)	07730 755203
Old School Room Bookings (crosrbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856

United Reformed Church Hall - Bookings etc.	259391
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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) curryrivelparish@outlook.com	07714 510828
District Council	0 1935 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

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!



Deadlines for February Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 6th January
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com

Comments & Articles: 5pm Tuesday 11th January
Send to: curryrivelnews@gmail.com

The Curry Rivel News is published monthly by the Curry Rivel News Group and is delivered free to households within the Parish.

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Carols on The Green

Matt Geen and Lydia Mason

On a cold December Monday evening, the village gathered to sing carols on the Village Green, under the Christmas tree.

The proceedings were ably coordinated by Rev Scott Patterson, and the little "orchestra" was led by Patrick Rendell with his usual gusto. All the usual favourites were performed with great enthusiasm, lifted by a powerful descant section. After the singing, all were invited into St. Andrew's church



for cake, wine and a warm-up chat. As one person was heard to remark, "We all enjoyed it immensely, and it was good to see others enjoying it too. Christmas is well and truly on its way." Another confirmed this, "It was a lovely evening; all be it a little cold!. It was so nice to see people out and about and reconnecting."

The tree was kindly donated to the village by Greenshutters Garden Centre in Fivehead.

Big Breakfast a Big Hit!

Hazel Morris

The Village Hall Committee would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came to the Big Breakfast on 5th December. It proved to be one of the best attended yet – watch out for the statistics in the next edition. We weren't really sure whether many people would turn out but they came and they kept coming... The kitchen elves were kept busy all morning and there wasn't a sausage left in Curry Rivel as we had to keep returning to the shops to buy more



food supplies. At 11.50 we had to concede defeat and close the doors early – a first! Fortunately, only one unlucky couple got turned away. Apologies to those who had to wait for seats and for those who had a slightly longer wait for their breakfasts than usual – we're sure it was worth the wait. It was really amazing to see so many people coming to support the Village Hall and prove, once again, what a wonderful community spirit we have here in Curry Rivel.