

November 2021



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

Opening-up post covid and reconnecting our community.

Lydia Mason

The Parish Council cordially invites you to join the Parish Councillors and our local community groups on 20th November 2021 in the Village Hall from 3pm until 6pm. As we emerge from a difficult 20 months, there is an opportunity and a need for our community to return to a new level of normality, therefore, The Parish Council will be hosting an event in the Village Hall on 20th November from 3pm, to bring together residents and community groups in Curry Rivel for a 'get together'.

Groups such as Curry Rivel in Bloom, Curry Woods Trust, Curry Rivel News, The Entertainers, The Allotment Association, The Footpath Team, along with a table for wellbeing, plus others will also be in attendance. We are asking each community group in the village to take part and host/share a table, enabling them to reach out and communicate with residents regarding how and when they are opening-up post Covid, and what they will be doing and planning over the coming months/year to reconnect and engage our residents (and maybe gain a few new volunteers/recruits along the way).

The Parish Council are offering refreshments, a glass of wine, cup of tea or coffee, and cakes for attendees. We hope that by holding this event we can help residents to rediscover the very many and varied social and interest groups that exist within and around the village.

Your Parish Councillors will be in attendance to answer questions and listen to your concerns. Please come along and introduce yourself, have a one-to-one regarding what you would like to see in the future for our village and find out how your councillors can help and support you. There will be information on planned projects and an opportunity to have your say about what improvements you would like to see.

All residents are welcome. We look forward to seeing you on 20th November 2021, from 3pm in the Village Hall. Please drop in at any time during the afternoon. Bring your children, have a drink, meet some old friends, and maybe

A vibrant red poster for the Curry Rivel Parish Council event. At the top, it says 'Curry Rivel Parish Council cordially invite all residents'. The main title 'OPENING UP POST COVID - Reconnecting our community' is in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below this, the date and time '3PM VILLAGE HALL 20TH NOVEMBER 2021' are written in blue. A large, colorful mandala is on the right side. At the bottom, it says 'Rediscover the many and varied social and interest groups that exist within and around the village.' and 'REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED'. The background is decorated with white polka dots and colorful geometric shapes.

For more information contact the clerk, Lydia Mason by email mailto:curryrivelparish@outlook.com

Jays, acorns and funding

Peter Goodenough - Curry Woods Conservation Trust

During most of the year the colourful birds we colloquially call jays are invisible in the woods.

Now we see them. They use acorns as a major source of food throughout the winter and recently I saw six in one tree at the same time. Perhaps it has been a rich acorn harvest this year. I even saw several in an oak when parked in Taunton. The jay is the main reason why oak forests colonised the whole of Britain after the end of glaciation. As the ice retreated the oaks living in the south (at that time there was no English Channel or North Sea) produced many acorns and the jays found newly accessible unfrozen ground to bury them in as a store for the winter. Jays know they won't germinate until the spring and that even then they are still edible. Acorns will only germinate under open ground and so need a dispersal mechanism as falling to the ground under the tree will not promote germination. Enter the jays. The birds need to be quite large as acorns are relatively heavy, so they need to generate enough lift to take off with a full load. How the two, oaks and jays, evolved to be so interdependent we shall never know but this interdependence led to oaks rapidly colonising Britain. Even today, if land bordering oak woods is rewilded, the same mechanism applies. The oaks of Curry Woods are being spread by jays and we have many seedling oaks growing in our wildflower/ light woodland area. The jay is a spectacular colour and also very noisy; it is a mimic and can sound like other birds and even cats! The Latin name *Garrulus glandarius* means "noisy" and "of acorns".

The Trust is allowing an area of land between the new planting and the old wood to rewild so we will be on the lookout for seedling oaks to appear next spring.

Turning to funding. Somerset Rivers Authority have financed the planting, protection and maintenance of up to 400 more trees under their "Trees for water" initiative. The Parish Council have given £1500 for boundary delineation, to include fencing and hedge laying. The Aviva Community Fund have approved funding for the Trust. Their mechanism is unusual and interesting. After the 26th October the Trust has to set up a Crowdfunder page. Aviva employees can then pledge money for an approved project and Aviva pays into the fund the accumulated total of the employees' pledges. The general public can also donate, and we would ask you to support us if at all possible. We are doing this to protect the village from flooding and to make a village contribution to fixing carbon and increasing biodiversity. The CWCT land is available for everyone to appreciate and enjoy so we hope you can make a pledge. Search for Crowdfunder using your search engine and then Curry Woods Conservation Trust. It will probably find just Curry Woods as it's a pretty unique identifier. The page will go live after the 26th October. Finally, we are planting the next tranche of trees either at the end of November or early December and hope some of you want to be involved. Please contact me if you want to be kept up to date on planting times etc. at PWGoodenough@aol.com. A brand-new Trust website is being considered but is not ready yet. The clothing company Timberland has an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have agreed to help with planting; they will be funded by Timberland, which seems very fitting!

Initial Findings from Cycle Footpath Study

Tony Greenaway – On behalf of the Curry Rivel Cycle Footpath Working Group

The initial findings from this important study are to be open for comment at a public meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November between 3.30 pm and 7 pm.

Come along and see the different routes that are being considered. We want to hear your thoughts and suggestions about these.

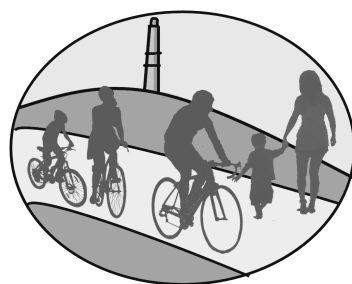
There are some interesting and exciting ideas for traffic calming and improving safety in and around the village and we want to hear your thoughts on these as well. Your input at the meeting will be most valuable and there will be an opportunity to talk to our advisers and volunteer members of the working group.

There has been tremendous financial support and interest for

this study into connecting Curry Rivel with Langport and beyond. There are very strong arguments for building a traffic free multi-user path connecting Curry Rivel to Langport

and for improving traffic and pedestrian safety in and around our village. The report will be available to download from the Curry Rivel website. You can also email me, tgreenaway51@gmail.com

This is an exciting moment and opportunity to bring about some much needed improvements to road safety in our village although there is still much negotiation to be done. Please come along and tell us what you think!



Your Community Website
curryrivel.org.uk



Movies in the Village Hall

mvh.curry.wix.com/films

Alison Cockrell

Summerland (12A)

Friday 19 November



Gemma Arterton stars as Alice in this British drama about a reclusive writer, who specialises in mythology and folklore, leading a solitary life by the sea in Southern England while World War II rages across the Channel. One day she finds she is to adopt a London evacuee boy named Frank. Initially Alice is reluctant to take on her young charge. However, in time, Alice and Frank realise they have more in common than they at first thought.

Also stars: Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Penelope Wilton and Tom Courtenay
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.

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Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

The Lion King is roaring back into Bristol in 2022. We plan a trip on Wednesday 9th March.

The tickets are very expensive but I have managed to get a discount on a limited number in the side stalls which should give a good view at considerably less than the central ones. For more information go to: www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk, e-mail Charitytheatrrips@btinternet.com or phone me on 01458 273085.

Other show are: **Bourne's Nutcracker**, Tue 1 Feb 22; **Lion**

King, Wed 9 March; **We Will Rock You**, Wed 20 Apr; **Strictly Ballroom**, Tue 10 May 22; **Mamma Mia**, Mon 20 Jun 22; **Les Miserables**, Tuesday 19 Jul 22; **The Commitments**, Tue 21 Mar 23.

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'.

Let's hope that we really are able to get going next year.

Are you interested in the quality of water in our neighbourhood?

Catherine Mowat

We're running a Citizen Science project looking at the water quality of ditches and streams in the broad Martock - Langport area and are calling for volunteers. It would involve testing a ditch or ditches with a portable chemical kit every week or month - so you could do the test on your regular dog walk, or fitness run! We aim to hold a

meeting with new volunteers to explain the project and discuss how to select water courses that would suit the project best.

To find out more, please contact Catherine at cemowat@gmail.com or 01458 250655.



As with last year, enrolment will not be carried out face to face.
 Payment is by cheque made out to Somerton u3a, or by Bank Transfer to Account No: 82483286 Sort Code: 09 01 53 giving your name as a reference.
 Cash will not be accepted.
 If you are applying for new membership there is a form available to download from the website. Click on Links.
<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/s/somerton/docs/newmembershipform2122.pdf>
 You can also email Marilyn at membership@SomertonU3A.UK or call her on 01458 899773 to request a form.



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Remembrance 2021

In this centenary year of the Royal British Legion, the Curry Rivel, Drayton, and Fivehead Branch would like to invite everyone to attend the services of Remembrance being held in our Villages on **Sunday 14th November 2021**

Curry Rivel - St Andrew's Church, 10.50 am

Drayton - St Catherine's Church, 9.30 am

Fivehead - St Martin's Church, 10.30 am

The Branch Standard will be paraded at Drayton and Curry Rivel.

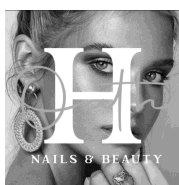
Poppy sales will be going ahead door to door, but we are a bit short of volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact the Branch Secretary, Pip Brett (01460 281115).

If you would like to **become a member** of our RBL Branch, you don't need to have any connection to the military, just a wish to support our Armed Forces community, ensuring their contribution



is never forgotten. Please contact Pip Brett.
(pipbrett@me.com)

Pip Brett, Secretary
Curry Rivel, Drayton, and Fivehead Branch
Royal British Legion



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Christmas Crafts in the Village Hall

Hazel Morris

Over the last eighteen months, people all over the country have been trying new hobbies and pastimes to fill their time when “confined to quarters” during the lockdowns.

Angela and I were no exception and tried our hand at crystal art and resin art as well as continuing with our own favourites such as card making and knitting. When we were allowed, we met up for weekly Crafternoons and made several items together some of which we sold on-line or through good old-fashioned word of mouth.



Resin Initial Keyrings

We were so pleased when the Church Fete was planned and we booked two sites on the green so that we could show off and sell our “makes”. Imagine how disappointed we were when it had



Handmade Gift Boxes

to be cancelled. We had been so busy making, in preparation for the fete, that we found ourselves with quite a stock of items!

So, we got in touch with some of our other crafty friends and have decided to hold a mini Christmas Craft Fair which will be held in the Village Hall on

Sunday 21st November starting at 10.30am for two hours. It will be free to enter and you'll find cards, jewellery, handmade knits, hand crafted wooden objects as well as many other gift items. We hope to see you on the day when you'll be able to make a start on your Christmas shopping!



Knitted Christmas Tree Decorations

VACANCY

Bookings Secretary Curry Rivel Village Hall

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Sedgemoor Gardens Club

Sylvia Goodenough

In September it was great to return to "real" rather than virtual meetings. The fantastic turn out of current and new members and visitors reflected the pleasure we all got from the occasion.

Our meeting was unusually in Long Sutton Village Hall, where we normally only meet for our Daffodil Festival in March, but we wanted to give members of the recently closed Long Sutton Gardening Club a chance to meet us and decide if they would like to join us. After members had collected membership cards and free bulbs Emma Gifford, the Somerset Rivers Authority's Community Engagement Officer, gave a very stimulating and pertinent talk on "Climate adaptation in the garden and home." See our website, sedgemoorgardensclub.co.uk for more about this important talk.

In October we returned to All Saints Hall in Langport, our usual venue, for a very interesting talk and demonstration on "The Art of Bonsai" by John Trott. John has shown his Bonsai trees at Chelsea Flower Show for many years and is now an RHS judge there so we were privileged to learn from a master! He brought along many examples of his art - all in beautiful pots, many of which had been specially commissioned for them. Several of his most beautiful trees were over 60 years old but he also demonstrated how to start off the process using small seedlings, making it look simple to snip them and wire their stems to allow them to be bent. More about this on our website.

Before the talk our new President, Dr Peter Goodenough, explained some changes in the committee and their roles. David Geach has taken over from Peter as Chairman, Jean White stays as our stalwart Secretary and David's previous post as Treasurer is being taken by new member Mary Bromby. Our programme is organised by John Tipping, and Joan Tipping runs our website. We are hoping to involve more members in a Show team to organise the Daffodil Festival in March, led by Sylvia Goodenough, with much assistance from Peter. Again with member support Anne Geach will continue to organise the all-important refreshments and also oversee the monthly competitions. The good news is that these rearrangements mean the club has a vibrant committee ready to take it forward in the post pandemic era.

We welcome visitors and new members to our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 for 7.30pm - for more details either contact Jean on 01458 259025 or go to our website at the address above. Our November meeting includes a talk about Pruning by Gilly Hayward.



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Letters to Editor



Dear Jane,

I am grateful to Derek Yeomans for his letter that you published on page 6 of last month's CRN. He correctly points out that we are in the grip of two linked catastrophes: climate change and ecological degradation. Our televisions give us images from around the world that show how terrible these can be, but those can seem a long way from our own village. So here are just a couple of examples from Curry Rivel. Gradual warming of the atmosphere by a few degrees might seem trivial, but its worst effect is an increasing instability in the weather. Who can forget the rain and flooding of the years 2012 to 2014? It's the same for plants and animals. We might not notice when one more beautiful flower disappears from our fields, but I can remember the joy of hearing a nightingale sing in Eastfield. For the last five years or more, the spring evenings have been silent there.

But even in the face of this risk and loss, we must not despair. There is much that we can do. Here are some ideas. The Parish Council is currently running two climate schemes, with funding from Somerset County Council. The Cycle Path Working Group is about to present its first findings to the village: see the notice in this issue of CRN. Do please come along and have your say. A Heating Initiatives group has been gathering information about how we can reduce the climate impact of staying warm in the winter, and is about to contract specialist advice, to disseminate to the village. If people think that they can help with either project, please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk, at curryrivelparish@outlook.com. There are many other teams and schemes that people could help with, including CRiB (Curry Rivel in Bloom), and the Curry Woods Trust, which is developing a field on Hellards Hill into a wood and wildflower meadow. See the useful list of contact numbers at the end of this paper.

There are things that people can do in their own lives, such as insulating their homes, changing their fossil-fuel boilers for low-carbon heating sources, and considering their options for transport. But some necessary changes can only be made at national level. So, people need to think about whom they choose to represent them at local and national levels of government. Are candidates really as green as they say they are? Is it time to consider voting for groups and parties that make the environment a central plank of their policies?

Let's work together to meet these challenges.

Yours,
Matt Geen

Dear Editor

Please may I use your excellent news magazine to express my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed in recent weeks to the Curry Rivel, Drayton and Hambridge Food Bank. We are now safely 'in situ' in our new home at St Andrew's Church and I would like to thank the PCC for their support.

Early Autumn is Harvest season and it has been wonderful to receive many gifts from both St Andrew's and Curry Rivel URC through their harvest services. In addition, Fivehead Baptist has also very generously donated their harvest gifts. We were thrilled as well to receive gifts from the pupils of Curry Rivel Primary School at their harvest service. These "extra" gifts and donations are on top of those individuals and businesses who support us regularly. Do please check out the "totaliser" target for us in One Stop and their staff and customers have been so very generous for well over a year now.

Finally, as harvest time fades and the nights draw in, many of us look forward to the Advent season. The lovely team at Hambridge Stores, led by Grace, has already started its Reverse Advent Calendar and so many extra gifts are coming our way through this initiative. Thank you Grace for your initiative there and if you visit Hambridge Stores do please support us there.

Yours truly
Steve Allinson.

Dear Editor

The Harvest flowers within the church are amazing but what about those planted in and around the village for all of us to see? These creations are equally as beautiful as those in the church and must give pleasure to many of us, and that definitely includes me.

Well done to all of you who take time to lift our spirits. Give yourselves an enormous pat on the back!
Dot Walford

Letters to Editor...Continued

Dear Editor,

Somerset County Council are asking for evidence in order to determine the use, during the last 20 years+, of the byway along Park Lane and Frog Lane between Curry Rivel and Langport with a view to adding the route to the existing network of public rights of way. The 'evidence forms' are available from Somerset County Council in 'pdf format' but an easier way would be to email me at terrymounter@btinternet.com for a more user friendly 'word format'.

Regards
Terry Mounter



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At our first meeting for nearly two years CRiB members agreed to enter the South West in Bloom competition in 2022.

Judging usually takes place in the first two weeks of July. The colour scheme for next year will be Purple White and Green. This covers two events to be celebrated next year; the 100th Anniversary of the WI in Curry Rivel and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The colours for the jubilee are platinum and purple so both events can be covered by the same colours! CRiB, with the cooperation of Terry Mounter, are building a wall at the back of Granny's Garden. The bank there at the moment is very awkward to cut and maintain, the wall will be planted with similar sensory plants to take the theme right around the garden. It will neaten it up and make it easier to cut the grass.

Open Gardens 2022

We will definitely need new garden owners to volunteer to allow the event to take place next year. We have some already, thanks to those who have volunteered. It will be subject to the status of Covid 19 at the time, but the usual date of the first Sunday in June would make it Sunday 5th June, or possibly 12th would be more suitable to have more plants flowering. We will see what other events are on at the

same time before deciding a date. If you would like to consider opening your garden and would like to know what is involved, please get in touch. It would be lovely if we could combine it with a Big Breakfast in the village hall as usual, but again we will have to see about Covid 19! A meeting will be arranged soon. Any garden, large or small would be very welcome, it can be a new garden or a well established garden or one that has had a make over. It is a busy day for garden owners but it is very rewarding. The proceeds go to the village, mainly to the two churches and to the school.

Jobs to do in the Garden in November

- Remove saucers from the bottom of pots in your garden and stand them on stones or pot feet to allow drainage.
- Wash pots and saucers ready to store for use next year; that way you won't be harbouring slugs and snails that will multiply.
- Put pots that are in a north facing position in your garden into a sunnier spot so they get some sun in the winter.
- Protect roses from wind rock by ensuring that they are firmly planted in the ground, tread them in, and reduce their height by a third.
- Encourage wild life into the garden with bird feeders and water for them to drink.
- Your summer planting can be over wintered in a green house or shed or keep some plants on a window sill indoors to take cuttings in the spring.
- Mulch your garden with compost.
- Rake up fallen leaves to make leaf mould for next year.
- Sow sweet peas now!
- You can still plant bulbs up until the end of December
- Order seeds for next year.

Brownies and Rainbows are moving home

Lyndsey Ainsworth

Sadly, the 1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Brownie and Rainbow pack are having to leave Curry Rivel Village Hall due to work commitments of the leaders on a Thursday night but, luckily, we have found a new home in Drayton Village Hall.

However, we are not leaving the village completely. We will still be helping out in the community allotment, planting,

watering and hopefully trying some of the produce grown.

Thank you to all the villagers, parents of the girls and previous leaders, volunteers and young leaders who have supported us through the many years Curry Rivel and Drayton Rainbow and Brownie packs have been located in the village.

Thank you from all the leaders past and present.

Could you help, please?

Janet Seaton

I've been asked about the history of the house called 'Churchways', on Churchway. I believe it used to be a hairdresser's shop until 1998. Does anyone remember what the hairdresser's was called? Any information about who

lived at the house, or anything else about it, would be great. Please email langporthistory@fastmail.com. Thanks in advance. Janet Seaton, Chair, Langport & District History Society.

Curry Rivel Climate Change Action Group

Gina Beauchamp, Peter Goodenough and David German

At the September meeting of Sedgemoor Garden Club, we had an extremely interesting and thought-provoking talk by Emma Gifford about *Climate Adaptation in the Garden and Home*.

We are all aware of the climate changes taking place so far with higher temperatures, storms and flooding. Given our position in the levels, flooding was the main concern. Since the 2013/14 floods a huge amount of money has been put into improving drainage, raising road heights etc. However, the threat of flooding is still real. We were horrified to hear how many times the water authority had to open valves and let raw sewage out into our rivers. Almost 90,000 times last year in the South west. This is a horrendous amount and it is caused mainly because after a dry spell the ground is too hard to absorb the rain water which then runs off the ground into the drainage system which then cannot cope with the huge amount of water.

Ideas such as having grey water tanks built into new houses, rainwater gardens, attenuation ponds, which collect the rainwater from houses with pipes linked to the pond (the new houses in Maple Road have such a system) water permeable driveways and water butts were discussed during the question and answer session. The idea being that such methods slow down the rush of water into our drainage system, thus lessening the risk of flooding.

After the meeting, we three members had an informal meeting to discuss the ideas presented at the Garden Club meeting and to see how we could make changes locally and in our village. We agreed to work together to encourage the formation of Curry Rivel Climate Change Action group. By coordinating the work of environmental groups, more progress can be made than working alone. Please do get in touch if you would like to join in with informal chats and share ideas. This is not a committee with any obligations!

Initially perhaps the group can coordinate water collection on a household scale. If Curry Rivel has approx. 1000 houses and each one had a water butt containing 200 litres of rainwater that would save 200,000 litres of water from going

straight into the ground and would slow down the water reaching the drainage system. It would provide free water for watering the garden and houseplants. Many residents already have one or more water butts in their garden but there are many more who could have one. South West Water have a scheme for the public to buy reduced price water butts. They also offer FREE water saving devices: a water saving shower head, a valve to put on your existing tap to save water and a Buffalo cistern bag to reduce the water flush in your toilet. Go to the website savewatersavemoney.co.uk to order and save money as well as helping to save the environment.

Grey water is water that has been used by your dishwasher, washing machine and bath and shower water. It can be recycled in a house with such a system to flush toilets and water the garden. There is therefore no sewage fee to pay on this water. This will help the environment and our water bills as we are using drinking water to water our gardens if we use a hose. It is high time that new builds were designed to have such a system in this country. It is common place in Australia and many European countries to have such schemes. We need to act now to save the environment, even if it is in a small way starting at home.

What can we do at home to help? Here are some ideas to try.

- Switch off the tap when cleaning your teeth! You are literally pouring water and money down the drain.
- When running a tap to get hot water save the cold water that comes out first to water the plants, make tea etc
- Use washing up water for plants, they don't mind the soap.
- Only boil as much water as you need to make tea and coffee, you will save electricity too.
- Install a water butt or two, use buckets and bowls to save rainwater for your plants. Houseplants like rainwater too.
- Keep your driveway water-permeable because tarmac causes water run-off that can lead to flooding.

"BOOTHIE"

General "Handy Man" Services

- **Window Cleaning** with Reach & Wash System
- **Guttering Cleaned & Cleared**—Give your gutters that spring clean
Out of reach guttering no problem using gutter vacuum from ground
- **Grass Cutting; Shed Refelting**
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If the job you need isn't listed, just ask

Call Mike Booth on 01458 251498 or 07872 345623

email: mikeboothie@btinternet.com



Curry Rivel & Chevilly



Twinned Communities since 1998

Phone 01460 281905 for more details

St. Andrew's Church

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



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

Covid effects

With regulations remaining as they have been for some months, 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.

Thursday Holy Communion

Please note that these services will resume in the Old School Room.

November

Thursday 4th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 7th

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family Service (+ refreshments)

11.00 **FH** - Said Communion CW

6.00 pm **CR** - United Benefice All Souls Service of Thanksgiving

Sunday 14th - Remembrance Sunday

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

10.30 **FH** - Remembrance Sunday Service, with FH Baptists

10.53 **CR** - Remembrance Sunday Service, with URC members

Thursday 18th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Remembrance Day

Poppies, Cenotaph, lots of medals on show, 2 minutes silence, Kohima epitaph, Royal British Legion fundraising, etc.

etc. Same old, same old.

But hang on, what does it MEAN?

We go through the traditions, we follow the prescribed format, we pay for the poppies, hoping that the donations will do some good, but what does it all MEAN?

In the early 80's I was an Air Traffic Controller in the Fleet Air Arm. One of my duties was to run Air Safety Cells for major NATO exercises. Basically, we were there to stop opposing air forces from banging into one another, or anything else, for that matter. I had repeatedly pointed out to the Command that we didn't have to be positioned in a grey funnel liner (RN capital ship) but could be in any NATO-member ship.

So it was that my team was assigned the FGN (Federal German Navy) Lutjens, a missile equipped small cruiser, operating off the north of Scotland. We conducted the exercise in a force 10 gale. We lost most of the upper deck guard rails and anything that was not bolted or welded down. The entire ship's company, me included, took on a greenish pallor. I have not been able to look sauerkraut in the face since.

I found myself in the Wardroom talking and joking with young German Naval Officers, thinking that if their fathers and my father had actually met, they would have tried to kill each other.

November ctd.

Sunday 21st

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

11.00 **CR** - All Age Family Service

12.00 **CR** - Said Communion CW

Sunday 28th - Advent Sunday

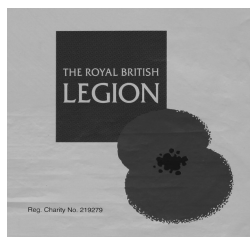
10.00 **SW** - United Benefice

All Age Communion Service CW

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell



Remembrance Day ctd. . .

On the 11th November, I went for breakfast and found to my total astonishment that all officers were wearing poppies. As were most of the ship's company.

I queried this from one young Oberleutnant, who replied, "We remember. We are here to ensure that it never happens again."

That morning, with three of my team, we stood on the quarterdeck of that German ship and gave thanks to God that, despite conflicts that continue to plague the world with political domination, insurrection, and terrorism, that God's power had put us there as a force for good. However insignificant.

Despite the formality, despite the attendance of veterans that you never see from one year to the next, despite the jingoism and blatant patriotism always there, there is a message from God.

Do not forget. Honour.

I lost good friends in the Falklands conflict. I honour them every year. I acknowledge that there must be sacrifices for our freedom. But at what cost?

There are still men and women of our armed forces that every day put their lives on the line for our safety.

Those that have gone before require our respect and acknowledgement.

They are in God's hands. They have performed and acquitted themselves as required.

We should remember them. They fought for our freedom and our Christian beliefs.

I have never

missed a

Remembrance

Day service

since. Despite

the jingoism,

the blatant

patriotism,

the feeling

that the whole episode has been somehow highjacked for profit, there is still the knowledge that God acknowledges our prayers for the fallen, and those who have passed on.

Roger Chadbourne



St. Andrew's Rotas November**Brass** - Lynne Comley**Flowers**

5th & 12th - Poppies
 19th - Adrienne Holmes
 26th - Advent

Cleaning

5th - Nicky Barker
 12th - Liz Rendell
 19th - Lynne Comley
 26th - Tina Geary

**Soup and Song****in the Village Hall****on Friday 3rd December****Doors open at 7.00 pm**

St. Andrew's Church is planning to again host an evening of entertainment in the Village Hall.

Not all the details of the event are known at the time of writing since they might be effected by Covid developments.

On arrival a glass of mulled wine/cider will be available, followed by a meal of home-made soups and a selection of puddings will be provided for £ 7.50 per ticket.

The evening will feature intervals of light entertainment and Carol singing.

There will also be a bar and a raffle.

Due to previous high demand, tickets will only be on sale in Sandpits and the BP petrol station/Post Office, or from members of St. Andrew's congregation - NOT at the door on the evening.

Please note that we request that you sign in with your contact details or use the QR code posters on arrival. We would also ask that you wear a face mask when moving about in the Hall.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

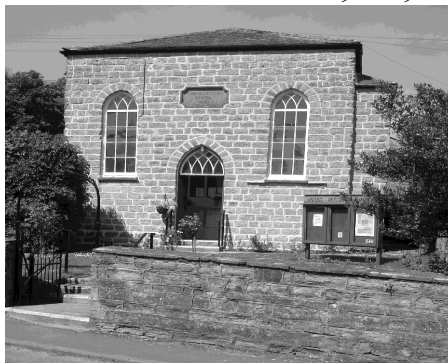
Naturally Beautiful Beauty Salon

is based in Curry Rivel offering a wide variety of treatments including eyelash extensions, lash lifts, CACI, radio frequency collagen lift, massage, facials and waxing. Reiki and Reflexology are also available with Debbie.

Call 07903 727 590 or
 find us on Facebook



@naturally beautifulbeautysalon

United Reformed Church**November**

Services start at 10.30 am,
(except 14th November - see below).
They take place in our Chapel building and simultaneously live via Zoom.

Sunday 7th - Mrs Alison Reed
 Richards

Sunday 14th - Remembrance Sunday
10.53 - Joining with St. Andrew's Church

Sunday 21st - Rev Tim Richards
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 28th - Rev Rowena Francis

Anyone unable to attend in person who would like to feel part of a worshipping community is invited to join with us - from any denomination or none. Simply email Steve Beney on stevebeney@yahoo.co.uk expressing your interest and he will make contact with you explaining how you can join with us on Sundays @ 10:30 am.

We are an inclusive, outward looking group of people and we welcome all, wherever they are on their spiritual/life journey, without regard to age, denominational background, sexual orientation, ability or race. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static propositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving.

We have been able to resume serving tea/coffee after services providing once again opportunity to meet and share with each other and the service leader.

Minister: Rev. Tim Richards
01458 252799

Many thanks to all who attended and/or provided gifts of produce and money for our Harvest Service on September 26th.

The photograph below shows some of the produce given; we were also able to pass on £ 120 to the Curry Rivel Foodbank.

Thank you!

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY****Sunday 5th December 4.00 pm**

At the United Reformed Church
Carol Singing, followed by mince pies & mulled wine.

Open to one and all – residents of Curry Rivel and its surrounds

As part of our 'Love as a verb' this will be a charitable event – further details to follow.

P. S. From Ali Richards

Thank you for the prescription glasses, jewellery & watches already donated – we would love some more!

As a reminder:

- if you have any **unwanted prescription glasses** (these will be used overseas: SpecSavers in conjunction with the Lions Club)
 - **or jewellery/watches** (whatever condition, they will be recycled and the profits used by Water Aid)
- please **drop them off at Orchard View, Townsend** (letterbox or simply outside the door) and I will make sure they get to someone who needs them.

Deadline for both collections is December 1st.

Thank you!

THE WORLD'S WONDERFUL NATURE

Are you batty about bats?

Nigel Grinsted

In some countries bats are revered. In others they are feared. And, of course, there's the unproven scare that Covid started in bats. Nigel Grinsted covers all this and more here.

First, bats are mammals like you and me. And they are the only truly flying mammals on Earth. There are over 1400 known bat species ranging from the wonderful Golden Crowned Flying Fox in the Philippines, which has a wingspan of 5ft 6ins to the tiny Bumblebee Bat in Thailand which unsurprisingly is the size of a bumblebee.



1 Golden Crowned Flying Fox

Most bats fly at night because they feed primarily on night-flying insects such as moths. Flying foxes are often also called fruit bats because of their fruit diet - and they fly mostly in daylight.

The infamous Vampire bats (there are only three species of Vampire bat, all living in or near Central America, not Transylvania!) feed on blood from mammals such as cattle. There's also a fish-eating bat found in California.



2 Hairy Armed Bat in Taunton

Here in the UK we have 17 species of bat. In Somerset it is believed 16 species are resident but some need final confirmation because of their scarcity. A colony of the rare Hairy Armed Bat was found in the centre of Taunton!

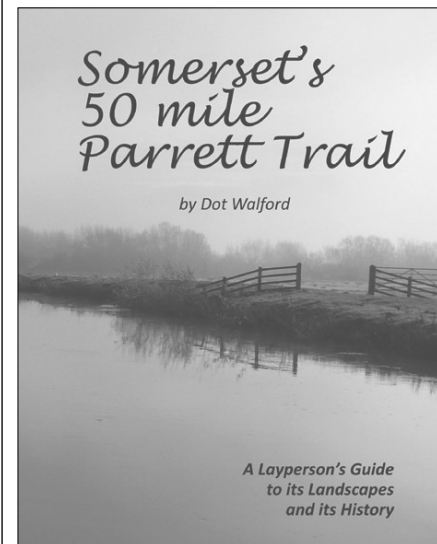
All bats and their roosts are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. In relation to Covid, the media reported that bats may have been

the original source in China. It is known that animals, including bats, carry viruses (as we do) many of which are harmless, but some are harmful. Where Covid originated is unknown as is how it transmitted to humans. According to the Bat Conservation Trust there no zoonotic (harmful to humans) coronaviruses found in UK bats.

To find out more about UK bats go to bats.org.uk

- A LOVELY CHRISTMAS GIFT -

Walkers & Bikers Explorers & Hikers



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 Dot Walford email:

westcountrywalkingtrails@btinternet.com

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 November

Regular Events

MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00	Table Tennis (kevlou@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
5.45	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	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
6.30	Line Dancing Classes	Village Hall
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
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	Village Hall

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	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
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	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	251524
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)	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
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 December Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 11th November
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com

Comments & Articles: 5pm Tuesday 16th November
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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Twinning toujours!

Alison Cockrell

After more than 18 months since we last went, we thought it high time to visit "La Belle France" once again.

We had planned a trip to include Rouen, Tours, Troyes and Reims and set off mid-September. Of course, we could not go without seeing our friends in Chevilly and arranged to spend two nights there, staying with Bénédicte Meriau, the President of the twinning association there.

Our first evening was spent at Bénédicte's home with her niece Noémie having been invited over to join us. We had a very pleasant evening with salmon and leek tart and a fabulous selection of cheeses ("Les Meriau" love their cheese!) and chatted both in French and English. We have known Noémie since she was a baby and now, aged 22, her English is superb. So much so that she very capably gives English classes to children, teens and adults.

The following day Bénédicte took us for a leisurely stroll along the banks of the River Loiret taking in several attractive old watermills. Then it was into downtown Orléans with lunch outdoors in one of the squares. The city of Orléans was staging its biennial five-day Festival de Loire with several hundred sailors coming from France and other parts of



Europe and with a variety of boats. The footpaths alongside the Loire were thronged with people in jovial spirits with entertainment ranging from concerts and theatre performances to exhibitions and open-air cafés. During our second evening Bénédicte had organised for us to see other longstanding twinning friends Marie-Madeleine & Hubert Jolliet and Catherine & Jean-Luc Charron and also Christiane & Xavier Pelé, a couple who stayed with us in Curry Rivel at the time of last French visit in 2019. We met up at Chevilly's "crêperie" so it was pancakes – both savoury and sweet - all round, not to mention the wine and cider, the latter a house speciality. We all chatted at length on various subjects, including when their friends from Curry Rivel would visit again. Despite what we have all been through with Covid, the friendly ties remain as strong as ever.

London Marathon 2021

Jess Thompson

6.5 hours, 26.2 miles, many tears and a damaged medial ligament yet it was one of the best experiences of my life.

On Sunday 3rd October, after 4 months of training, hours and hours of running per week and lots of ice packs, I had the challenge of completing the London Marathon on behalf of St Margaret's Hospice, Somerset. It was a fabulous experience with crowds cheering, bands playing music, children handing out sweets on the roadside and the roar of Tower Bridge will never be forgotten. To be moved and overwhelmed is an understatement.



The run went well until 14 miles - just after Tower Bridge - where my knee locked and I couldn't even walk and thought I'd have to pull out. With a bit of manipulation and stubbornness, I went on with a run / walk effort through the torrential rain, then wind, of Canary Wharf and all the way to the finish line on the Mall. What a thrill! I am delighted to have completed it, but my medal didn't stay on me for long as my 17-month-old daughter liked the rather large, shiny 'toy' instead.



Thank you to the locals who I have seen out and about over the 4 months: there have been people wishing me well; asking what I was running for and even stopping their car to say keep going. All very much appreciated. I have raised nearly £1300 for St Margaret's Hospice. They looked after my dad during his last few days in October 2020 and this money is going to make a difference to families in the future.

The run was a once in a lifetime experience where I kept my dad (and my mum as sadly she died suddenly and unexpectedly 4 weeks ago) close in my mind and heart. What a privilege, yet one I never want to do again!

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jess-thompson?experiments=b2c_059_donate_to_yourself_v3&isMobile=true&successType=StaticDonateButtonClick