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Muffled Bells to mark the death of a beloved Queen

Patrick Rendell

A significant moment following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II was the sound of muffled bells ringing out across the country at mid-day on Friday 9th September.

As a bell swings full circle and back there are two strokes of the clapper, it is normal at times of sadness, for instance on Remembrance Sunday, to attach a muffle (rather like a leather shoe) to one side of the bell clapper; by doing this, the sound is normal on one stroke, and soft like an echo on the following stroke.

What is less common is the muffling of both sides of the clapper, and just leaving one side of the tenor bell (the largest and the one with the deepest note) open such that a very quiet, almost muted bell sound is accented by the slow pulse of a single bell. This sound is only heard at the death of a monarch, as is prescribed in the official procedure for such occasions.

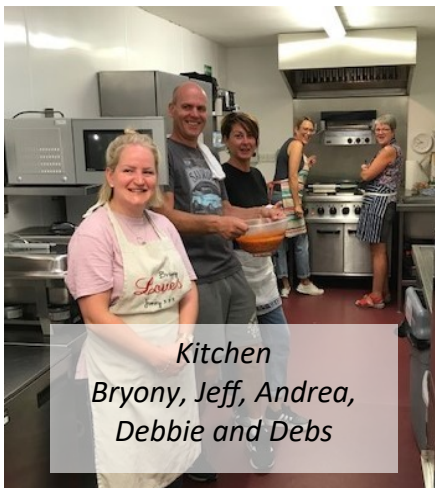
The Ringers of St. Andrew's muffled the bells and rang at mid-day as directed. This was not only a significant historical moment for the country, but for each of the local ringers, it was a first.



Big Breakfast – A First!

Hazel Morris

The Village Hall ran its popular Big Breakfast on 4th September and, despite the weather, it was another busy one. It was lovely to see members of the local community coming together and we also had visitors from further afield – Norfolk and London. Thank you to everyone who turned out in the rain.



Kitchen
Bryony, Jeff, Andrea,
Debbie and Debs

Once again, the kitchen volunteers were kept very busy and produced some amazing food - thank you to them all. Also, a huge thank you to Black Sheep Butchers who have been a sponsor of the Big Breakfast for many years and still continue to support us – we couldn't do it without them!

And a first for the Big Breakfast – card payments accepted as well as cash! The take up was good – around 40% of the breakfasts were paid for by card. See photo of the first card payment being made.

Of course, apart from this being a community event, the Big Breakfast also raises money for the ongoing running costs of the Village Hall. This event raised £512.70 including funds raised by the extremely popular tombola.



Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard, not just on the day, but beforehand too. If anybody would like to help out at the next one, please get in touch! Watch this space for the date but we hope to hold it early December.

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 – 2022

You were always there

I never really knew you, although you were always there.
On the money in my pocket, the mugs in the glass cabinet,
at the bottom of our stairs.

The stamp on the envelope, bringing good news and some bad.
The card you sent on the special wedding anniversary,
of my Mum and my Dad.

You came through my village, when I was very young.
Waving and smiling from your Rolls Royce, like you knew every single one.

At school I learnt your song, every word, every verse.
As I did The Lord's Prayer, which at the time made me curse.

In my home you were there, every Christmas Day.
Giving words of wisdom and cheer through the TV,
In your own special regal way.

You've been with me constantly, through my six-decades of life.
Like a distant friend, long-lost Cousin,
Aunt or Granny – though, never a wife.

Safe journey Ma'am.
The Lord undoubtedly has a Special Place waiting for you.

Chris Hull. 8th September 2022

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The Entertainers need you ... Oh yes, we do!

Steve Allinson – Honorary Treasurer, Curry Rivel Entertainers

The Curry Rivel Entertainers and its annual pantomime is very much part of the fabric of the village. For more years than I can remember, many have enjoyed the delight of watching those they know tread the boards and share good old-fashioned amateur dramatics fun with their audience.

COVID issues have limited the pantomime in recent years, but we propose to be back, bigger and better than ever, in February 2023. However, we are currently struggling to recruit new members (especially children) and so the future of the Group may be in doubt.

So, can you help? ... Oh yes you can!

We would love to hear from you if you want to act (no previous experience is necessary) or help backstage where a variety of roles are always up for grabs, for example, make-up, advertising and publicity, ticketing and programmes. As for children, we provide separate and bespoke rehearsal times and are committed to developing young people for the future of the group. Whole families are also welcome!

So, can we tempt you? Above all, rehearsals and performances are fun and provide a release from day-to-day life and a chance to let your hair down in a friendly atmosphere.

It would be hugely sad to lose one of our village institutions, so if this article has touched a chord with you, please contact Liz Hembrow at lizziehembrow@gmail.com or Kim Huntley at KHuntley610@outlook.com.

We really would love to hear from you. Oh yes, we would!

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Alison Cockrell

The Phantom of the Open (12A)

Friday 21 October 2022

Mark Rylance stars in this comedy-drama telling of the escapades of Maurice Flitcroft, the world's worst golfer. Undeterred by the fact he has never played a round of golf before, Maurice decides to enter the 1976 Open. A heart-warming true story about following your dreams.

Also stars: Sally Hawkins, Rhys Ifans, Jake Davies, Jonah Lees, Christian Lees and Mark Lewis Jones.

Doors open at 7.00pm: show starts at 7.30pm in the Curry Rivel Village Hall. Tickets £7 are available at the door.



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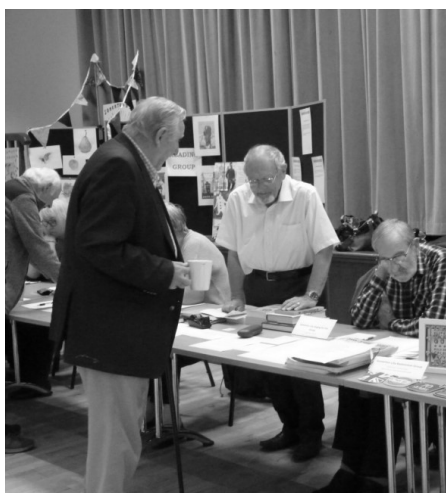
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Somerton u3a

A successful Open Day was held on Friday 9th September at Edgar Hall, Somerton when around 100 people attended to see what u3a groups had to offer and there was a real buzz!

The next event scheduled is a Barn Dance on the 7th October....Yee-Haw!!

Mike Davis



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Letter to the editor

Why do farmers trim hedges and verges?

Plants provide food, shelter and nest sites for many animals and insects. So

shouldn't they be left alone especially when in leaf? Doesn't the law say hedges cannot be trimmed from March to August due to bird nests? Clearly if the hedge causes an unsafe viewing obstruction then they need a little trimming in places. But I've seen lots of hedges and verges alongside fields and roads being significantly cut back when in full leaf. And this is at a time when Nature is in massive decline. Have I misunderstood something?

Nigel Grinsted, Curry Rivel resident



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Hallowe'en in Somerset

Jane Hamlin

Hallowe'en, or All Hallows Eve, is the night before All Hallows Day or All Saints Day (1st November). According to the *Calendar of Somerset Customs, Superstitions etc.* published in 1920, there are a number of traditional Somerset customs relating to this day, though most of them were obsolete over a hundred years ago. Those associated with Hallowe'en are undoubtedly of pagan origin. These days if people commemorate Hallowe'en at all it is most likely to be along the lines of the American import of *Trick or Treat* which, although it is not universally popular, is probably a variation of British and Irish customs introduced by the early settlers.

The last night of October was believed to be the night when all spirits – whether good or evil – were free to roam the world as they pleased. It is said that our forebears, if they were out and about after sunset, would hurry home anxiously and burn chestnuts on the hearth stone in front of the fire. They were offering a burnt sacrifice to the spirits of evil - a custom that is believed to date back to pre-Roman times. Whether it was successful or not, one can only conjecture. However, these days some people put conkers on window-sills to keep spiders at bay!

As one would expect in Somerset, apples featured in some of the customs at this time of year. Children would try, with their hands behind their backs, to catch, with their teeth, apples floating in a large tub of water – which possibly would not meet the health and safety standards we expect today. One superstition was that if a youth or maiden took a candle and sat in front of a mirror eating an apple, the face of their future husband or wife would be seen dimly, as if peeping over their shoulder. I suppose in the days before dating websites some people resorted to imaginative strategies to identify possible sweethearts. Another such idea was to bake some little cakes. Into one of these was put a ring, into another was put a sixpence, and into the third a button. The person who got the cake with the ring would be the first in that gathering to get married; the one who got the button would remain unmarried; and whoever found the sixpence in their cake would become the wealthiest. What the future held for any others in the group presumably would have to wait until another Hallowe'en. If you wanted to test whether your relationship was likely to succeed you could take two nuts and, naming one of them after your sweetheart and the other after yourself, place them in the fire. Apparently if they burn brightly together there will "always be love between you", but if the nuts crack and spring away from each other,



"there will be quarrels and possible separation."

So, whether you will carve out a pumpkin lantern and call on your neighbours demanding treats, or hide in the back of your house with all the lights out hoping to avoid them, have a happy Hallowe'en.

Oh no!

The washing machine's not working!

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Dear Curry Rivel News readers

Please can any reader identify this plant in the photo? It is growing in my front garden. I did have a number of these growing which reached a height of over one metre a couple of months ago and I asked a neighbour if they would identify the plant but I'm afraid they were too busy to look so I cut them down. In the meantime, I have another one growing which is about 30cm tall. The main leaf is at soil level with a stem producing very small dark crimson buds about 5mm. Any help to identify what the plant is would be most welcome.

Thank you.

Nigel, Stanchester Way



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Curry Rivel Village Hall

A Warm Future

Hazel Morris



Any regular users of the Village Hall will know that its heating system has not been without its problems. And last winter we experienced some lows and highs – some days no heat at all and others so hot it was dangerous! We even had to replace the pump to keep the system going despite our plans to review it.

And so, with the help of funding from SSDC, we have been able to completely replace the old system. There are now infra-red heaters installed throughout the hall and each room can be independently controlled. These are powered by electricity and in the next few weeks, solar panels will be installed to harness the energy required (and hopefully enough to sell some back to the grid). In addition to this, the suspended ceiling has been extended to fully cover the main hall and this has been insulated to reduce heat loss.

These changes have been made with both economics and the environment in mind. So, although it was a large capital outlay, we anticipate that the running costs of the heating will reduce, and we have definitely worked hard to reduce our carbon footprint.

One more major piece of work to be completed is the replacement of the flat roof on the extended part of the hall. This roof is several years old and is suffering wear and tear. Its replacement will not only reduce the risk of leaking but, with the addition of insulation, further reduce our heat loss. We have been awarded a National Lottery Grant and the Parish Council have made a generous contribution to the cost of this, so this work will also be carried out in the next few weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise to the neighbours of the Village Hall for any disruption caused by these works and to thank them for their patience.

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to all Village Hall users this winter!



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Heritage Open Days at the Alfred Gillett Trust in Street

Sam Cullen

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Every year in September it brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored, and histories brought to life – and it's all free!

This year, the Alfred Gillett Trust in Street celebrated 'Astounding Inventions' and showcased the Latin Verse Machine built by Bridgwater inventor John Clark in the 1830s. The remarkable automaton also known as 'Eureka' creates unique lines of Latin verse poetry at the turn of a handle and has delighted people for centuries as a feat of engineering and imagination.

The main exhibition will be open for ten days when visitors could find out more about this incredible invention. The exhibition was supported by a programme of events including talks, workshops and activities.

This programme included author of the incredible book "Story Machines", Mike Sharples who gave a talk and signed copies of the book. There was also an incredible talk '10 days, 10 women' given by Helen Close from the Women's Engineering Society.

The most recent programme of events including a chance to have a Latin taster session is available on the Alfred Gillett Trust website <https://alfredgilletttrust.org/whats-on/> or you can follow us on Facebook @agtsomerset.

The Alfred Gillett Trust is a heritage charity based in Street. You can find the Grange via car park two (off the A39 dual carriageway) for Clarks Village, opposite the restaurant terrace.

Make a note to look out for the Heritage Open Days in September 2023.

Heritage Latin verse machine



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St. Andrew's Church

To find out more, please visit us at:
www.curryrivel.org.uk or
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We warmly welcome visitors and new members of the community to any of our services and other events.

October

Please note that this month's diary as shown below is a change to the 'regular' monthly pattern on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays.

Sunday 2nd

09.30 CR - United Benefice
Holy Communion CW

Thursday 6th

10.00 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Saturday 8th

15.30-17.30 CR OSR Messy Church

Sunday 9th

10.00 FH - All Age Family & Friends
Harvest Service + refreshments

11.15 FH - Said Communion CW

6.00 pm CR - Harvest Praise Service
followed by cheese & wine

Tuesday 11th

10.00-12.00 CR OSR - Craft & Coffee

Sunday 16th

9.30 SW - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 CR - Holy Communion W

Thursday 20th

10.00 CR OSR - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 23rd

9.30 FH - Morning Worship

11.00 CR - All Age Family &
Friends Service + refreshments

12.15 CR - Said Communion CW

Sunday 30th

9.30 FH - Parish Communion

11.00 CR - Morning Worship CW

6.00 pm SW - Evensong BCP

Curate's Corner

Mark McKnight is the new Curate for the United Benefice of Curry Rivel, Fivehead and Swell.



Hang on a minute, isn't this Scott's Slot, you're not taking over, are you?

No, no, quite the opposite. A curate is like an apprentice vicar. Scott has kindly taken me under his wing to train me up to serve the church and local community, and to learn "vicaring".

"Vicaring"? You do know that is not a real word, don't you?

I have lots to learn.

So tell me a little about yourself Mark, where are you from and what did you do before this?

I was born in Thailand and grew up in Southeast Asia; my parents worked training Thai Church leaders there. I did most of my secondary education at a boarding school in India before moving to Yorkshire for my A Levels. After studying media at university and working in Thailand for a few years I moved back to England to retrain, becoming a secondary RE teacher. That's when I met my wife. We now have two children in primary school.

So now you are re-training to be a vicar in Somerset?

As a teacher, I always regretted that I didn't have enough time to listen more to the students and their families when they were celebrating life or struggling with it. Being a vicar feels like the coming together of things I love doing, of who I am and what makes me tick. It involves working with people and exploring how to do life well with one another. When Jesus was on earth, he talked about finding life, life in all its fullness. I understand my role to be one of journeying alongside people to discover what it really means to live well in the world we find ourselves in today. People sometimes think that Christians are only bothered about life after death, but what about life before death too?

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = Old School Room, Curry Rivel, 'behind' St. Andrew's Church

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

Curate's Corner ctd. . .

So you really believe this stuff then?

It might not always be that popular these days to "come out Christian" but I can't imagine my life without the comfort, love and hope my faith in Jesus gives me. I know some bad things have been done in the name of God, but there are heroes out there whose belief in God inspired them to do great, and sometimes underrated things. People like Mother Theresa, William Wilberforce, Bono, my mum (she's a personal favourite!).

Is there anything you want to say to your new community?

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who has been so kind already in welcoming me and my family here. Please do pop into one of our churches or stop me for a chat, especially if I'm looking lost!

St. Andrew's Rotas October

Brass - Sue Blackwell

Flowers

1st - Adrienne Holmes
8th - Harvest arrangements
15th & 22nd - Sandra Hill
29th - Adrienne Holmes

Cleaning

1st - Wendy Graves
8th - Anne Geach
15th - Anne Goff
22nd - Jackie &
John de Ronde
29th - Carolyn Paton



From St. Andrew's Registers

Funerals

May God grant them eternal rest.

7th September - Service to remember the life of

Oliver Crewdson Howard († 24th July)

Major 10th Royal Hussars (Ret)

Member of the Honourable

Corps of Gentlemen at Arms



St. Andrew's Autumn Fayre

There will be a small autumn sale
in the **Old School Room** on
Saturday 29th October 10.00 - 12.30

Craft (including hand-made cards & children's knitted items), cakes, books and some bric-à-brac will be on sale.

May be you can find that early Christmas present.

There will also be a tombola.

Refreshments will be available in
St. Andrew's Church.

Shoe Box Appeal 2022

This year will again see the annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for **Blythwood Care**, a Christian charity based in Scotland. In 2019 **110,926** boxes were distributed to children and adults in various countries of Eastern Europe.

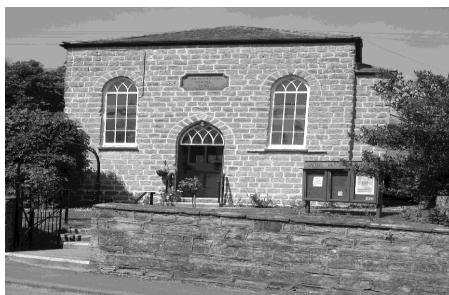
Leaflets with a list of items and other information will be available in St. Andrew's or preferably, they can be downloaded from the Blythwood Care website at <https://blythwood.org/shooboxappeal/>.

Your filled boxes can be delivered to Jackie de Ronde or Ginny Smith by the end of October.

Anyone who would prefer to donate rather than fill a box, please note that the donations will be sent to Blythwood care, towards the cost of transportation. You can also donate directly via their website.

Any queries or for those not able to download the leaflet, contact Jackie on 251355 or Ginny on 250997.

United Reformed Church



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

URC Minister: Rev. Tim Richards
01458 252799

October

Services are taking place at 10.30 in our Chapel building (unless indicated otherwise) and simultaneously via Zoom

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 sbeney6@gmail.com expressing your interest and he will make contact with you to explain how you can join with us on Sundays @ 10:30 am.

Sunday 2nd - 4pm at Street URC

Mid Somerset URC Group Service,
followed by tea
(N.B. NO morning Service at Curry Rivel)

Sunday 9th - to be arranged

Sunday 16th - Rev Tim Richards
incl. Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd - to be arranged

Sunday 30th - Mrs Jo Morling

When Life Throws a Curve Ball . . . the Learning

"Nothing can separate us from God's love – not life, not death, fears of today, worries for tomorrow, no curve ball negates Love"; this was where my written explorations about Challenge led me last month. On reflection, I am wondering whether this has been my most significant learning thus far?

Yes, I have learned more about myself - I do have it in me to rise to the challenge of my curve ball even when it feels less about my inner strength & more about there being no alternative but to rise & meet it. When the curve ball deviates again & again from its anticipated course, I learn I have the choice & therefore the capacity to 'deviate' (or go along) with it. I have begun to interpret what society generally deems as 'weakness' less as deficit & more as necessity – days of fear, experienced as tension, tears, anger, are not simply natural 'in the circumstances', but a necessary part of journeying towards acceptance, recalibrating & getting on with whatever comes next.

I have learned more about Support: the support of others - surprised sometimes by who is available & able, learning not to be disappointed with those who are not but rather differentiating between those who are able to sit with fear, those who can tolerate anger, those who lift my spirits, those who are available for a good belly laugh – no one individual necessarily able to be all things. In turn, a pause for thought about how I offer support, the words I use, the actions I undertake (the good intentions I don't act on), resolving to be more thoughtful, more careful, & when able, more present & available to others myself in the future.

I hope my curve ball changes the way I am with folk. Because it is the surprising generosity of kindness of others which has allowed me to notice I matter. And in those moments of the absence of a sense of God in this with me, it is through the vocal & silent, the active & inactive, the at hand & at a There is a song which goes 'God has no hands but our hands' – I am learning how to experience God's Love in & through the ministrations of others. How we are with others as people of faith or no faith matters – really matters.

These are some of my personal learnings – we all learn different things from our curve balls – but perhaps some learnings are universal: nothing in life is sure or certain but in exercising or experiencing kindness in thought & action to & from others perhaps this becomes more certain "Nothing can separate us from God's love – not life, not death, fears of today, worries for tomorrow, no curve ball negates Love".

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www.forseyandson.co.uk



Free workshops on sustainable land management

Emily Weatherburn

Partners from a number of local groups have come together to offer a free programme of workshops on sustainable land management for farmers and land managers across Somerset.

The workshops will aim to help land managers and partners alike better understand the opportunities, different perspectives and issues involved in a variety of approaches to sustainable land management. Key to this will be time at each workshop for discussion, with attendees encouraged to share their own experiences and ideas, and together begin to identify ways to bring about positive change across landholdings and landscapes in Somerset.

The sessions will explore subjects such as Natural Capital, Natural Flood Management, soil health and herbal leys, workshops will also look at the technologies, funding (including green financing and available grants) and support available to achieve farm business goals sustainably. Information will be provided by specialist speakers, including land managers with first-hand experience, as well as relevant industry speakers such as those working in different areas of green financing.

At a time of climate and ecological emergency, the way land is managed by farmers and other landowners/managers will play a substantial role in turning this around. This urgent need for change comes at a time when land,

and land managers, are under multiple and substantial pressures on a local, national and global level. Sustainable land management for nature, people and climate will need support at all levels, with everyone having their role to play.

Farm clusters in Somerset, including in Selwood Forest and the Mendip Hills, have already begun this process, by sharing experience and exploring different approaches to help deliver benefits for nature, climate and people.

Alix Zelly, Somerset Wildlife Trusts' Farm Cluster Facilitator, says:

"By joining forces across organisations, we are able to coordinate this programme of workshops to bring together farmers, other land managers, organisations and specialist speakers, to increase understanding of sustainable land management approaches, and start to explore what can work to deliver a sustainable future for people and nature in Somerset."

All the workshops are free to attend and are offered at a variety of locations on-farm, in communities and online. Booking is essential with the programme designed so that land managers can book onto as many or few workshops as they like.

It is hoped that further sessions will be added to the programme as it progresses, particularly where land

managers express an interest in a particular aspect of sustainable land management, so the partners ask that anyone interested keep an eye on the event programme for future events and get in touch if you have ideas on topics or speakers to share.

For more details on how to book your place(s) visit www.somersetwildlife.org/slm-workshops. A printed flyer is also available outlining all the key booking details, including how to book a place/s by phone (contact Jacob Hall on 07870 581655 at Mendip District Council who can post one to you).

If you are interested to hear more about the work of farm cluster groups in Somerset and how to get involved in your local area, please call Alix Zelly, Somerset Wildlife Trust on 07517910090

Wiltown Garage

Wiltown, Curry Rivel TA10 0JF
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Saturday 8am to 12pm
www.wiltowngarage.com



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Credit: © Paul Box/Mendip Hills AONB Service

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 October

Regular Events

MONDAY

10.00	Art Club	Village Hall
10.00	Table Tennis (kevl@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	Yoga	Village Hall
5.30	Beavers	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St. Andrews

THURSDAY

10.00	WI (2nd only)	Village Hall
2.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
6.30	Yoga	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council (1st only)	

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

SATURDAY

9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
3.30-5.30 (2nd only)	Messy Church	Old School Room

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer 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	0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion	01460 281115
Twinning Association	01460 281905
Women's Institute	253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom	762296
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
Art Club	253126

Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)	0771 6792760
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	07871 431706
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	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

Religious

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

Deadlines for November Edition

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

Comments & Articles: 5pm Monday 10th October
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!

WORLD'S WONDERFUL NATURE

We've been invaded!

Global warming isn't all bad, explains Nigel Grinsted

The hyper-hot super-sunny summer has caused a welcome invasion. If you have flowers like Buddleia or Lavender in your garden you may have seen some insects hovering in front of them, feeding with their long tongues (called a proboscis).

Day-flying wonder

These are wonderful Hummingbird Hawk Moths. They're day-flying moths, although they do fly at dawn and dusk too. The ones seen in late spring and early summer will have migrated from the Continent. Many of those seen later in the year will have resulted from eggs laid by the earlier visitors. The caterpillars feed mainly on various Bedstraws (Galium).

The moth is a common resident on the Continent but is a visitor here although it is thought that it may sometimes overwinter here if it's not too cold. In its 2022 Garden Bird Watch, the British Trust for Ornithology recorded 5.2% sightings (normally 1.3%) and believe 2022 is a record year for Hummingbird Hawk Moth migrations to the UK.

They're not alone

Many other insects migrate to the UK every Summer, including, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, wasps, bees and flies. Butterflies like the Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow are almost entirely migrants, although they do breed here.

Some migratory moths are incredible - the Convolvulus Hawk Moth and the Death's Head Hawk Moth are two of the largest moths to appear in the UK. This year both species have appeared widely across the UK. While very large and quite conspicuous, they're night flyers so not easily spotted. At least two Convolvulus Hawk Moths were spotted in Somerset recently. Other beautiful migrants include the Clifden Nonpareil, which may now be a resident in the UK and possibly in Somerset, the Oleander Hawk Moth and the Striped Hawk Moth.

Dragons are here too

Hover flies also visit us. Scientists estimate that at least half a billion cross the Channel every year. They are excellent pollinators and pest controllers, and are therefore great friends to farmers and gardeners. Dragonflies also migrate. Sometimes we see the Vagrant Emperor which travels from sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed the greatest distance that an insect migrates is believed to be the Globe Skimmer dragonfly that migrates from India to Africa across the Indian Ocean.

The mega-migrating Monarch

One of the most well known insect migrations is that of the Monarch butterfly which "hibernates"* in millions in particular woodlands in Mexico and California. It wakes in the spring and migrates north to various North American states and Canada. On the way it lays eggs on Milkweed and the resulting butterflies continue the journey north. They then make their way back to Mexico and California. No single butterfly does the whole trip. So clearly they have excellent satnav! (My questions - does a Mexican Monarch ever breed with a Californian Monarch and if so, where do the offspring go to?)

Flying high

We mentioned the Painted Lady earlier - this lovely butterfly migrates up to 9000 miles from sub-Saharan Africa to the Arctic Circle, visiting places like the UK on the way. That's more than the Monarch. And now they've found they return too, at a height of 500 metres. Amazing! This short article just touches on how beautiful, complex, resilient and fascinating insects are. And we haven't even looked at the beetles!

**Strictly butterflies and moths don't hibernate but go into a state of diapause. True hibernation is experienced only by certain mammals.*

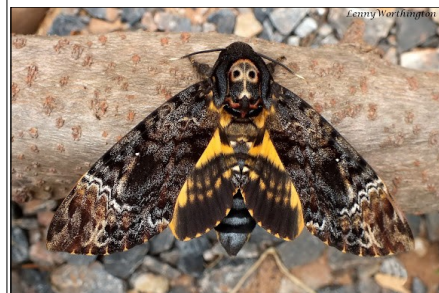
AREN'T THEY WONDERFUL?



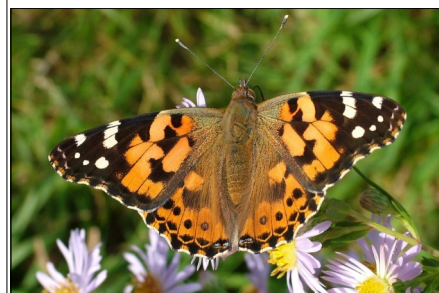
Hovering Hummingbird Hawk Moth



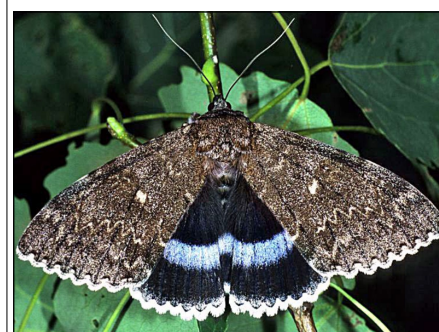
Convolvulus Hawk Moth: He can hover too



Death's Head Hawk Moth: lambs beware!



Long distance traveller: Painted Lady



Clifden Nonpareil: breeding in Somerset?