

September 2023



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Curry Rivel 2023 Flower Show



Congratulations to all of the 2023 Curry Rivel Flower Show award winners

Kevin Loe

This year's show, held on Saturday 12th August, was a great success. Entries were nearly three times up on last year, from 22 to 64 exhibitors. Visitor numbers to the show were also up. The village hall was a riot of colour and scents.

Many thanks to Mike Mason for photos of the displays before the show was open to the public.

Huge thanks must go to those who help run the show, helped the exhibitors set up their displays, assisted the judges in their marking, ran the raffle, baked and sold the cream teas and cakes, etc.....

Master of ceremonies, Steve Allinson (Chair of the Curry Rivel, Hambridge & Drayton Food Bank), who also won a cup for his fruit entries, was presented with a cheque of £300, in aid of the Food Bank, by former Chair of the Flower Show committee, Anne Hembrow.

Steve also presented trophies to: K Thornton (Top Vase), D Lewis (Top Tray), A Stein (Flower

Classes), D Lewis (Vegetable Classes), A Allinson (Fruit Classes), L Colebrook (Decorative Classes), C Paton (Baking & Homemade Classes), M Hembrow (Men's Baking Classes), J Chapman (Painting Classes), I Drew & V Pearson (Craft Classes), H Spencer (Up to 8 Classes), G Leigh (Photography Classes).

The show was judged by all to be a great afternoon out and a return to form for the Curry Rivel favourite. Why not enter next year? As well as being good fun, it can be wonderful for one's mental and physical health; or you could come and help with running next year's show!

We would like to attract entries for the young. Maybe you can think of ways to help with that and other aspects of the show. You can find out further information by emailing: <https://curryrivelflowersh.wixsite.com/curryrivelflowershow>



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Tributes paid to former Councillor Derek Yeomans

Marcus Hembrow

It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the passing of Derek Yeomans. A man who gave great service to the village through his time as Parish Councillor and through his involvement with much of village life. He served as a selfless Parish Council Chairman dealing with the challenges of Covid, the retirement of the Clerk after 36 years of service and the contentious matter of Linton House. The healthy position the Parish Council enjoys today is a reflection of his time in post and passion he brought to the role. As recently as this Spring he was organising the planting of a community orchard at Westfield and managing a working party for the maintenance of the cemetery. Flags at Somerset Council buildings were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect and the representatives of the council paid tribute.

Derek was elected to South Somerset District Council (Burrow Hill Ward) in 1999, and also to Somerset County Council in 2001, for Langport and Curry Rivel, serving as Chairman of the Somerset Waste Board and the Regulation Committee. Standing down from the County Council after 16 years' service, Derek continued with his work as a District Councillor at South Somerset where he sat on several committees, including as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Derek spent more than 40 years in the Merchant Navy, Fleet Air Arm, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. He made Curry Rivel his home, where he looked after the interests of residents, as their parish councillor. Somerset Council colleagues offered their sincere condolences to family and friends. And they pay tribute to their friend Derek, a man dedicated to duty, with a passion for public service and environmental issues.

Chair of Somerset Council, Councillor Mike Best said, "Derek Yeomans was a

well-respected Councillor during his time in office who worked for his community and the greater good of Somerset. I served with him for many years on South Somerset District Council especially on the Audit Committee and witnessed first-hand his great attention to detail and passion to get things right. This was recognised after he came off the Council and was brought back as an independent member of the committee to retain his knowledge and guidance. Most of all I will miss his dry sense of humour and of course making sure he brought plenty of biscuits to his meetings! He will be sadly missed in his community and our thoughts must go out to his family and friends at this very sad time."

Conservative Leader David Fothergill commented, "Derek was everything that a local representative should aspire to be. He was deeply involved in his community, he fiercely stood up for his residents and he was willing to play a much wider role in the successful delivery of services across the County. He brought energy, drive and passion to his many roles and was well respected by all he had dealings with. He will be very sadly missed by his friends, family and all those who knew him."

Councillor Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, added, "Derek Yeomans was a true gentleman who, as a Councillor, stood up for his community, where his dry wit and 'panto' performances will be so greatly missed. He contributed to the wider work of the councils he served on, as Chair of Area North Committee at South Somerset District Council and, after he stepped down from the council, serving as the independent person on their Audit Committee. At Somerset County Council he was



widely respected as Chair of the Regulation Committee."

Marcus Hembrow Chairman of Curry Rivel Parish council said of Derek, "He was a man of service shown by firstly his 40 years at sea and later as a County, District or Parish Councillor, he was generous with his time and stood up for the interests of the Parish. Fittingly at his last Council meeting in July he spoke in support of the residents' opposition to the proposals for land at Warwick House. Derek was a great advocate for nature and the environment and in his memory the Parish Council will plant an apple tree at Westfield as part of the Community Orchard. Residents and Parishioners should be proud and thankful for his service."

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Installation of exercise track for Westfield

Matt Geen

Curry Rivel Parish Council is pleased to announce that work on installing the exercise track around Westfield is expected to begin on 29th August. It will take 2-3 weeks to complete depending on the weather and ground conditions. This track has been made possible by the award of three-quarters of the funding from Somerset Council via a 'Section 106' agreement with housing developers that was signed in 2009. The balance of funding for the track will be provided by Curry Rivel Parish Council, as planned for in the 2023-2024 budget.

When the Parish Council consulted with the community about plans for Westfield, a perimeter track was one of the ideas that was most liked, so we are delighted to finally be able to deliver

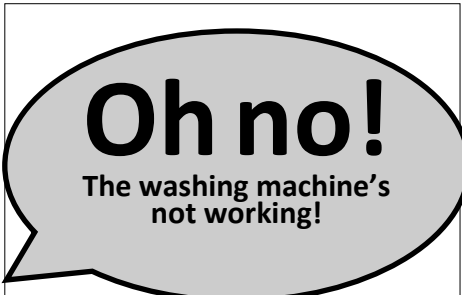
this. We ask that you abide by all safety cordons while the work is in progress and supervise children and dogs to prevent them entering the work zones. We would have preferred not to do this work in the school holiday, but it would have meant a delay to have turned down this timing. We are looking forward to seeing you enjoy the new track.

Other Westfield work

The play equipment is professionally inspected monthly, and a more detailed annual inspection has taken place recently. As a result, a few minor repairs are now scheduled for

September and the matting in the play area will be serviced within a few months.

Following a tree safety inspection, we regret to say that the Ash tree on the mound in the play area is suffering from Ash die-back. There is presently no danger, but the tree must be felled, and this will also happen in September. Parish Council policy is to plant at least 3 trees for every one lost to damage or disease, so more trees for Westfield will be purchased to compensate for the loss of the Ash tree.



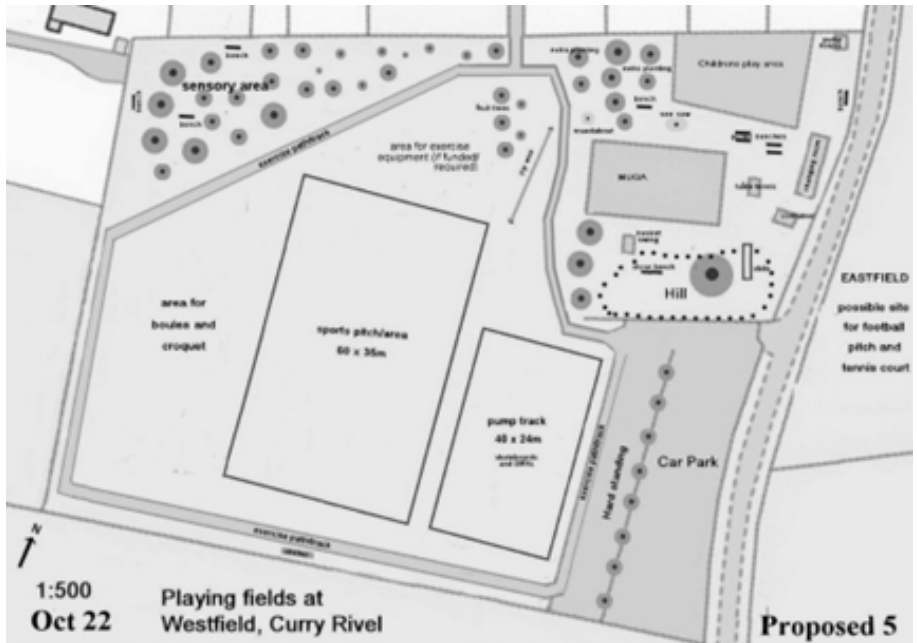
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1st	A Head	£120
2nd	C Anderson	£63
3rd	D Annetts	£51
4th	Anonymous	£35
5th	S V Hembrow	£24
6th	T Sharp	£17
7th	J Geary	£15
8th	S Goodenough	£13
9th	V Beacham	£12
10th	W Smith	£10
11th	L Whitlock	£10
12th	M Powell	£10
13th	M Steele	£10

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Alison Cockrell

The Banshees of Inisherin (15)

Friday 15 September 2023



Padraic and Colm have been lifelong friends on the island of Inisherin off the west coast of Ireland. Then Colm suddenly puts an end to their friendship. Aided by his sister Siobhan and a young man Dominic, a devastated Padraic tries to make amends. But Colm refuses to listen and becomes resistant to his former friend's conciliatory moves resulting in him giving Padraic an ultimatum with shocking consequences.

A dark-humoured tragicomedy starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as the two friends.

Also stars: Kerry Condon, Barry Keoghan and Gary Lydon.
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News of Charity Theatre Trips

Chris Cox

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



Three new trips are: in November to the ever popular **Annie** starring Craig Revel Horwood (moonlighting from 'Strictly'), then in March to the revival of the Lloyd-Webber/Tim Rice musical **Jesus Christ Superstar**, and in April to the Royal Ballet production of Tchaikovsky's **Sleeping Beauty** with full orchestra .

The full list is:

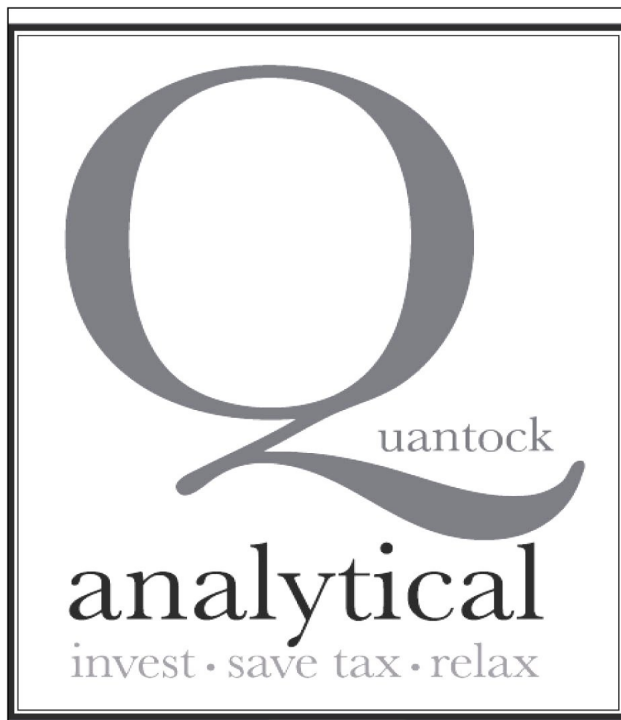
Pretty Woman: Wed 1 Nov; **Annie:** Tues 21 Nov; **Life of Pi:** Wed 17 Jan; **Wicked:** Thu 22 Feb; **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Tue 12 Mar; **Everyone's Talking About Jamie:** 27 Mar; **The Wizard of Oz:** Wed 3 Apr; **Sleeping Beauty Ballet:** Fri 19 Apr; **Hamilton:** Thu 2 May (Full) & possibly in June; **Come From Away:** Mon 26 Aug.

The best way to keep up to date is at www.charitytheatretrips.com where there are full details and a booking form. You can also book by e-mail to charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com, or phone Chris on 01458 273085.

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Curry Rivel farmers win South-West regional award for conservation

Jane Hamlin

The Home Farm in Curry Rivel is far more than just a home to the Lang family. It is also home to unusual and rare species such as great green bush crickets and marbled white butterflies. Henry, Richard and Harry Lang have recently won the Regional Barn Owl Award in recognition of the best of farmland conservation and positive environmental practices across the whole of the south-west of England.

The Home Farm is a diversified arable farm run by brothers Henry and Richard, and Richard's son Harry. Over 30 years ago Henry and Richard noticed that there was a decline in the biodiversity of the farm. They had grown up on the farm and had delighted in the wonderful assortment of wildlife all around them, but now they could see that cowslips, skylarks, butterflies and bees were not as common as they had once been. Consequently, they resolved to make changes to protect and encourage wildlife for future generations whilst still managing a commercially successful farm.

The hedgerows have been managed thoughtfully and the field margins around all the fields are vibrant with a mix of wildflowers. Having been planted 20 years ago with a traditional seed mix they also help to protect the water quality. Over forty different species are grown in these margins - including oxeye daisies, pyramid orchids, yellow rattle and knapweed. The blackthorn in the hedgerows provides food for the caterpillars of the declining and rare brown harebreak butterflies. The Langs make sure that no insecticides are sprayed during the spring or summer months. The margins also provide a home for voles. As these in turn provide food for barn owls, which are also thriving on The Home Farm, it is appropriate that the award the Langs have won is called the Barn Owl Award!

The Langs are careful to minimise fossil fuel consumption and energy use on the farm. They grow their crops in a rotation that builds fertility and minimises the risk of weeds and disease and they have developed ways to enhance the habitat of areas on the farm that are less productive. They are also careful to monitor their environmental impact on a wide range of plants, animals, birds and

insects. Eight ponds and lakes have been created for wildlife as well as 15 acres of native woodland. Henry and Richard are very keen to educate future generations about the English countryside and so they also participate in the Kingfisher Award Scheme for which they welcome primary school groups to the farm for hands-on activity-based learning about farming and wildlife.

The farm has been described as "an exemplar of modern farming showing that commercial agriculture and habitat conservation can work side by side and are not mutually exclusive" by those who know far more about farming than I do.



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September Meeting

AGM & Talk by Helen Toon

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Speedwatch Recruitment

John Casebourne

Somerset County Council's road safety team has warned road users of the fatal five behaviours that are the main causes of serious injuries and deaths on our roads. The fatal five are: speeding, careless driving, not wearing seatbelts, using a mobile phone, and drink and drug driving.

Here in Curry Rivel many are deeply concerned about preventing a death or serious injury on our local roads. These are parents, grandparents, or just people who care. To be honest, there's not a lot we can do if people refuse to wear seatbelts, use their mobiles or insist on driving home after a few jars, but we can so easily encourage people to think about their speed — the most common factor — and/or the way they are driving. That is the reason why you see people standing by the roadside in hi-viz jackets doing a job that many would say ought to be done by Police Officers. But whatever your politics and no matter what you believe the reason to be, it is probably true to say that resources are stretched and our Police Force, with conflicting priorities, cannot always help communities.

Communities, therefore, are beginning to realise that self-help is a must! Your community in Curry Rivel needs your help. We are lucky here that we do have a (small) team of dedicated volunteers who believe in taking action to take charge of our road safety. They give, mostly, a few hours a month and consider it not a huge sacrifice to make in order to effect change for our community. Some volunteer much more, but a couple of hours a month from even a quarter of us would make a difference. It is undoubtedly true to say that Speedwatch nationally challenges some peoples poor standards of driving and may, on a rare occasion, result in a barrage of verbal abuse. Fortunately, Speedwatch does not have a real problem like this in Curry Rivel — just the occasional gesticulation from a speeding vehicle rapidly leaving the scene. How brave!

Most importantly, and contrary to some beliefs, Speedwatchers are not a group of old people out to see how many offences they can report. No, it isn't a competition! It gives them more pleasure to have no speeders recorded than a large number. If you are a parent or anyone else needing to be convinced, just stand with them to see the safer roads because of their presence. Most intelligent and considerate individuals do, instinctively, slow down!

We all know it is too easy in a modern vehicle to travel at speed, without actually realising it. The presence of a group of folks in hi-viz at the side of the road is a bit like an electronic speed monitor — it doesn't book you (although three 'strikes' may get you a visit from the local constabulary) but it does remind you that maybe you are going a little too fast. The ultimate goal is to alert both residents, and those from outside the area who maybe don't know our village, to unpredictable hazards — a child or animal running out from a side street, a car door opening, someone backing out of their drive into the road (yes, they do!) and to think about the consequences of poor driving standards, and speed. If you can't stop in time to avoid such hazards, you are probably driving too fast for the road conditions. With speeding the number one threat on our roads, you could very well change the lives of two families for ever!

Speeding is proven to be the prime cause of death and injury on our roads. We can't change that in isolation here in Curry Rivel, but we can try to change it for our village. If you think you could offer a couple of hours a month (or more if you like) and don't know where to start, you could perhaps let members of our Parish Council know, or send an email to editor@curryrivel.org.uk — it'll be passed on to our local team.

Training is given, and you can devote as much or as little time as you have available. Read more about the Fatal Five at dsfire.gov.uk/safety-on-the-road



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The Big Summer Concert

Jane Hamlin

For over 20 years St Andrew's Choir and Strings has been holding its Big Summer Concert to entertain the audience and give local musicians a chance to show what they can do. The first of these was in 2000, when the church choir was accompanied by a small ensemble of music graduates from Exeter University. This sowed the seed for an annual event. Unfortunately, there has been a break for a few years because of the Covid pandemic, but it returned with a bang this year on Saturday 22nd July.

A packed church was able to enjoy a delightful programme of musical gems sung by the church choir and accompanied by several local musicians. The string ensemble grew into a full string octet with three young players – Amy Patterson, Iona Davies-Sowter and Imogen Patterson joining for the first time. Sprinkled between the choral pieces were wonderful solo cameos by younger members of the community. Daisy Rendell played a Scott Joplin tune on the clarinet, Paddy Sowter played a piece by J.K. Mertz on his guitar, Leah Pitman played the *Pink Panther Theme* on the piano, Dexter 'Padamadan' played a solo piece for the double bass, Amy Patterson played *Gondoliera* by W.H.

Squire on the 'cello, Matilda Sowter, on the saxophone, played *Romance* by Ronald Binge, and Imogen Patterson played *Oriental* by C. Cui on the violin. Patrick Rendell demonstrated his talent with the *Carillon for Organ* by Louis Vierne. There was also an opportunity for the audience to join in with the singing. The entertainment was topped off with a raffle and wine.

The audience was able to show its appreciation through enthusiastic applause and generous donations to a local charity. Josephine's Star offers support to children in Somerset when someone special has died. It is a small charity, formed by professionals who know how important it is for children to have the opportunity of help with their grief. Josephine's Star provides one-to-one support over a period of sessions. In each session they use many ways to help a child to develop coping strategies. Unfortunately, support for child bereavement is very limited with little or no funding from the government. This is why charities, such as Josephine's Star, are so important. The event raised £839 for the charity.

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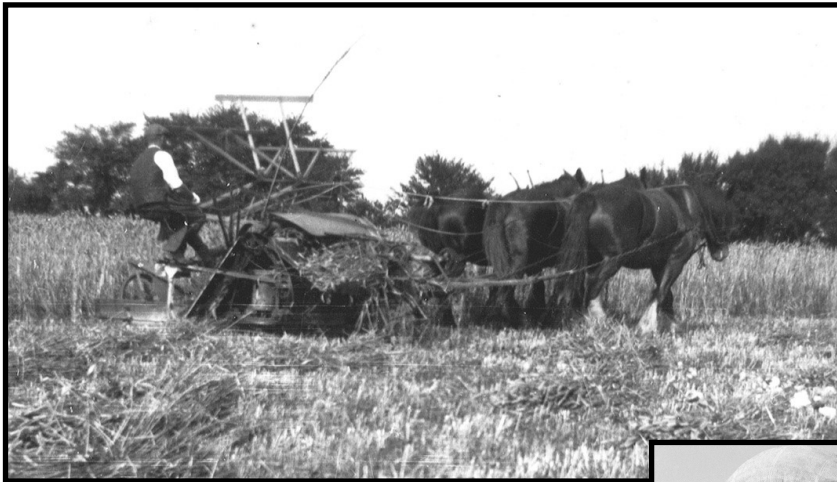
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Curry Rivel: A Century in Photographs



The Barnard family harvesting wheat with a horse-drawn binder in 1929.

Teasels were a commercial crop in Curry Rivel until the late 1970s. Gordon Chedzoy of Park Farm with his daughters, Susan and Jennifer, at harvest time. Teasels were used for napping the baize of top quality snooker tables.



Harvesting the teasels are Minnie Dabinett and Josie Mitchell, née Gulling, who was "Miss West for the Week" when this photo was taken in 1957.

Ken and Joan Haigh mechanically baling hay on land behind houses in Bawlers Lane in the late 1960s.



Letter to the Editor

On behalf of the Curry Rivel, Hambridge and Drayton Food Bank, please may I express our sincerest thanks for the very generous donation of £300 from the Curry Rivel Flower Show. It was lovely to attend that event and see all the hard work that had taken place to make it such a success. My congratulations to everybody who took part.



We have also been very blessed this summer with many donations of fresh fruit and vegetables and these have been very much appreciated by our clients.

Thank you again
Steve Allinson

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Closing the WI year

Carolyn Paton



July saw the end of the WI centenary year, and was celebrated at a delicious lunch provided by members. A rolling series of photographs which showed a wide variety of WI activity, both past and present, accompanied the meal; these generated so much interest that some people had to be persuaded to come and load their plates!

for Women, which supports action for women in rural areas overseas. The WI net spreads far and wide!

Warm applause greeted the return to full health and participation, of both the longest standing member of our Institute, Neta Chorley, and the President Anne Geach. Across the years individuals have revealed all sorts of talents and skills among the membership, but a new one came to the fore on this occasion, as Gina Beauchamp's poem celebrating the Curry Rivel WI was read aloud:

100 YEARS OF CURRY RIVEL WI

*A hundred years of caring and sharing,
Helping, creating, baking and making.
A hundred years since our sisters began
A society, that continued and ran, through
Post war depression; another world war,
That threatened our safety right down to the core.*

*With steadfast devotion always at hand
The WI continued to stand and fight
For good causes throughout the land.
With tea, cakes and quiches,
embroidery, flags
Helping at lunches, tea parties and bags
Of ideas for our courses and meetings.
We welcome all those who walk through
our door.*

*No jam and Jerusalem just honest
greetings.
A century of good work, and even more.
And so, Curry Rivel can raise a glass high
To our wonderful, long lasting WI!*

This contribution was very much appreciated, and Gina received the well-deserved congratulations of the company, who felt it encapsulated much of the breadth of the interests and activities undertaken by the WI. In fact, just to illustrate the point, post- this 'official' end-of-year event, a fun treasure hunt based around Drayton and organised by Sally Hair took place, culminating in coffee and cake at the Drayton Arms, who very generously contributed a prize to the winning pair of competitors. At this event the sum of £44 was collected in aid of Rural Action



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Bygone Days

Janet Seaton

Glee Clubs

Glee Clubs were societies formed for singing unaccompanied part-songs.

The London Glee Club began in 1783, but it wasn't until 1891 that Curry Rivel started its own Glee Party. They gave their first concert in the School Room on 7 January 1891. The Langport & Somerton Herald of 10 Jan 1891 reported that "The room, which was crowded with an appreciative audience, had a bright appearance, the wall at the back of the platform being adorned with flags and banners, ivy, holly and other evergreen". Members of the glee party were: "Mesdames Gee, Wm. Lang, Wm. Munckton, Pope, and Titford; Misses Caines, Chambers, Cuff, Gee, Lenton, Lock and Vereker, and



Messrs Lenton, A E Miles, P Mounter, G K Weaver, H Weaver, Wheller & Dr Vereker."

David Sutcliffe will talk about 'Winter customs'. All welcome; non-members £4.

Langport & District History Society

Our next talk will be at 7.30pm on 4 September at the Sports & Social Club, Eastover, Langport. Local researcher

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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.

September

Sunday 3rd

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family and Friends Service + refreshments
 11.15 **FH** - Said Communion CW
 6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP
 11.00 **CR** - Parish Communion CW
 + **Kids Church (t.b.c.)**

Tuesday 12th

10.00-12.00 **CR OSR** - Craft & Coffee

Saturday 16th

3.30-5.30 pm Messy Church **CR OSR**

Sunday 17th

9.30 **FH** - Morning Worship
 11.00 **CR** - All Age Family & Friends Service + refreshments
 12.15 **CR** - said Communion CW

Thursday 21st

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Thursday 15th

10.00 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th

9.30 **FH** - Parish Communion CW
 11.00 **CR** - Morning Worship CW
 + **Kids Church (t.b.c.)**
 6.00 pm **SW** - Evensong BCP

October

Sunday 1st

10.00 **FH** - All Age Family and Friends Service + refreshments
 11.15 **FH** - Said Communion CW
 6.00 pm **CR** - Evening Prayer

Curate's Corner

Growing

I recently had the privilege of celebrating the Leavers' Assembly with the year 6s at Curry Rivel Primary school. It was a proud moment looking back on how much they had grown and matured over the years into these fantastic young people. My thoughts and prayers are with them as they transition to larger secondary schools where they may feel a bit small as they navigate the new surroundings.

Every now and then, I notice one of our house plants overgrowing its pot, threatening to topple over. I must then find a bigger pot to transplant it in. Like the students, what once looked big and strong in the old pot, now looks small and fragile in its new one.

Just like with plants and children, for growth to happen, we often go through times of upheaval. We leave our place of comfort, and experience new challenges which may at first feel daunting but allow us room for growth.

There is a famous story in Matthew's Gospel of Peter walking on water. The disciples are there in the safety and familiarity of their boat, when they see Jesus walking towards them on the water! As a follower of Jesus, Peter wants to do what his friend is doing. To walk on water though, he had to get out of the boat. It didn't go so well for Peter as he quickly gets scared of the waves and sinks, needing Jesus' hand to rescue him.

At first this seems like a story about Peter's failure to trust in Jesus, but I think it is the opposite. None of the other disciples experienced, even for the moment, walking on water. They were 'sensible' and played it safe, staying in the boat. I must admit I would probably have done the same.

From St. Andrew's Registers Baptisms

We welcome into God's church.
 6th August - Maisie Iris Cooper

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.

I seriously dislike trying things that I'm not immediately good at. If babies thought that they would be sensible and not risk a fall or failure they would not take that first step and then never learn to walk. We know it is in falling and failing countless times that we learn to walk and talk, and even love! Of course, it helps to do this in the context of loving relationships. It is a gift to have compassionate people around us who can see our best attempts and not resent us or give up on us.

Life often brings seasons of new challenges, let us be people who are courageous enough to get out of our boats. As we do, I pray that we may know the love of God who goes with us to hold our hand when we sink. Let us also practice being a compassionate community where we can allow each other to grow even if it means stumbling a few times in the growing process.

In the Autumn term, we will be starting an informal café style church service in the Old School Room at St Andrew's Church. It will be a space to be together to explore and discuss faith in everyday life in a relaxed environment suitable for all. We will meet every other **Sunday at 4:30pm** and share tea and refreshments, initially pizza at our kids request!

Do just come along if you are interested or get in touch for more details. **Our first get together will be 17th September**, hope to see you there.

Rev'd Mark McKnight

St. Andrew's Rotas September

Brass - Julia Gauler

Flowers

2nd & 9th - Annette Stein

16th & 23rd - Margaret Davey

30th - Harvest

Cleaning

2nd - Carolyn Paton

9th - Nicky Barker

16th - Liz Rendell

23rd - Lynne Comley

30th - Tina Geary



Essential formation!

On **Saturday 30 September**
there will be a

Harvest Moon Barn Dance

in the Village Hall, in aid of repairs to the
North Chapel windows of St. Andrew's.

Doors open at 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Tickets @ £ 14 (to include Ploughman's
supper) can be obtained from:
the Post Office and Sandpits, on-line
from curryrivelsta@gmail.com, or from
Sally and David on 01458 253431.

See also separate article below.

Anyone can do it !

Carolyn Paton

Never tried barn dancing? Now
is the time to give it a go. You
can come to the Village Hall on
Saturday 30th September for 7pm
(doors will open at 6.30) and get
settled in for a fun evening at the
Harvest Moon Barn Dance.

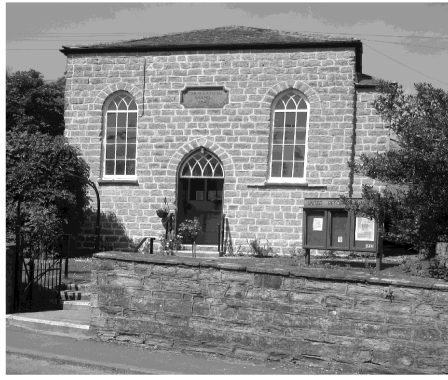
It's all in aid of the North Chapel
windows at St Andrews, repairs to
which are currently unaffordable.
Don't know any dances? No
problem! The caller will tell us what
to do as we go along.

Get too hot and bothered? There
will be a bar.

Need to re-charge the batteries?
There will be a break to eat a
delicious ploughman's supper,
which is included in the price.
There will also be a raffle, so you
could come away with a prize into
the bargain!

Tickets at £14 are available at the
Post Office and at Sandpit's.
They can be bought online from
curryrivelsta@gmail.com, or by
phone from Sally and David
01458 253431

United Reformed Church



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

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

URC Minister: Rev. Tim Richards 01458 252799

Prayer & Fellowship is something you will see advertised monthly going forward. As a worshipping community we have met together in various ways over the years to share and pray about our concerns for the world and in support of each other. Originally at a weekday breakfast, then mid-morning over coffee and cake, going forward we will be using one of our Sunday morning services for this purpose: conversation, fellowship and prayer.

Everyone is welcome.

A View from the Orchard....

September month: the tail end of summer, September is the season of ripening and fruition, a month of harvesting the bounty of our hedgerows, gardens, allotments, trees and fields. I remember walks as a child with Granny (her of cricket bat fame) to pick blackberries, her walking stick a useful hook to reach those branches too high to reach, fingers stained a purple which took a few days to fade. When living in East Anglia we had the perfect conditions for growing courgettes; the whole terrace of cottages would have such a glut it was hard to find anyone to take them off our hands! This year neighbours here are sharing their bounty of runner beans with us – delicious!

Fruition: defined as full realization, the achieving of maturity. I have just enjoyed afternoon tea with a group of parents and their daughters.

September

**Services are now taking place in our
Chapel building only (no longer
available via Zoom).**

All below Services start 10.30.

3rd - Rev Tim Richards

10th - Prayer & Fellowship

17th - Mrs Jo Morling
(incl. Holy Communion)

24th - Joining with mid-Somerset
URC Group Service **at Street**
with Rev Tim Richards

A View from the Orchard ctd

Almost a graduation party for Curry Rivel & Drayton Rangers, it was also their last ever gathering as the Unit is now closed. The Unit has come to fruition – without a Guide Unit to feed into the Rangers as the present Rangers reach 18+, they and it come to maturity.

Looking around the table I was reminded of village events the Guides & Rangers have been involved with; serving at Bangers and Mash, the Dickensian Christmas Craft Fairs, helping with directions at Open Gardens, washing up and staffing stalls at St. Andrew's Summer fete, fundraising at Drayton Street Fair, waitressing for the Royal British Legion, attending with dignity Remembrance Day services....

I would like to say **Thank You** to this last group and all those who have passed through the Unit over the years. And express appreciation for the efforts and commitment of their leaders, most recently Vicky Harvey, Thersea and Katie but also notably Jane Brooke who lived & breathed the Guiding spirit.

Their mission: 'through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves & make a positive difference in their community'. I think we can safely say 'mission accomplished'.

Ali Richards.

Curry Rivel Open Gardens 2024

Gina Beauchamp

It's time to start planning for our next village Open Garden event. Which will be held on Sunday June 16th 2024. We have the same organisers as before, and are pleased to announce that we can welcome a new Co-ordinator, Debs Hockley. This very enjoyable day raises money for good causes in the village and last time raised almost £1400. Wander around our beautiful village and enjoy several amazing gardens and a cream tea in one of various venues.

We will have some open gardens from previous years but are always looking for new ones. It doesn't matter how big or small your garden is or how neat and tidy. Rewilding is a big thing now and more people are leaving lawns to turn to meadow. Opening your garden is very rewarding and you will meet lots of fellow gardeners and receive many compliments too!

help on the day or just find out more, please get in touch with Debs on cropengardens@gmail.com or mob 07789661288

A meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 25th September at 7.30pm . Please come along to find out more.

If you would like to open your garden, offer to help organise,

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...In September

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

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

9.30	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30-2	Friday Club	Village Hall
7.30	Movie Night (3rd only)	Village Hall

SATURDAY

9.00	Cycling Club	Bridge Cafe
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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

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

Sports Clubs

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

Social

Flower Show		250311
Out & About		0788 737 7942
Royal British Legion		01460 281115
Twinning Association		01460 281905
Women's Institute		253078
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton		252813
Sedgemoor Garden Club		250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association		741880
Curry Rivel in Bloom		762296
Friday Club		252791
Health Walks		250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030	
Forget-Me-Not-Café		252710 & 396123
Movement to Music, Becky Bostock		07706 734604

Arts

Entertainers		250311
Music Club		250863
Art Club		253126

Community Facilities

Food Bank (help@curryrivel.org.uk)		07714 265384
Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)		07789 661288
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) clerk@curryrivel.org.uk		07534 318840
District Council		01935 462462
County Council		0300 123 2224

Religious

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

Deadlines for October 2023 Edition

Advertising: 5pm Thursday 7th September
Send to: crn.nigel@outlook.com

Comments & Articles: 5pm Monday 11th September
Send to: curryrivelnews@gmail.com

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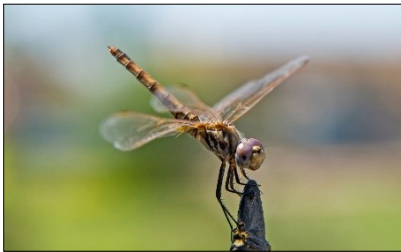
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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF NATURE
Insect Trickery - They Are So Clever

Over one million insect species have been discovered worldwide, of all shapes, sizes and colours. (Although scientists believe there could be up to 10 million undiscovered species.) Here Nigel Grinsted describes what they go to to survive.

Migration - how far would you travel to find a mate?

The Globe Skimmer Dragonfly (which isn't found in the UK) flies up to 3,750 miles to find suitable ponds to lay its eggs. The multi-generational journey can be up to 11,200 miles – almost halfway around the equator! But our own Painted Lady Butterfly beats that,



Globe Skimmer poised to pounce sometimes travelling up to 4,500 miles from Africa to the Arctic in one generation. Then, it's believed, later in the year they do the return journey. Incredible!



Beautiful Painted Lady – they're probably in your garden now

"Don't eat me - I taste awful"

Another long-distance traveller is the Monarch Butterfly. Its caterpillar eats leaves of the Milkweed plant which contain a distasteful and harmful toxin. It doesn't harm the Monarch caterpillars



but it makes them and the butterfly distasteful. So birds leave them alone. But I'm confused. Now look at these pictures. On the left is the Monarch. On the right is a completely different species: the Viceroy. Both live in North America. They're almost identical. You

could assume that, during its evolution, the Viceroy has mimicked the poisonous Monarch as a defence strategy. But here's why I'm confused: the Viceroy is also distasteful to birds. So why the need to mimic? Answers on a postcard. **"I'm a snake - stay away"**

The caterpillars of the beautiful Elephant Hawkmoth and Small Elephant Hawkmoth are impressive. Just behind their heads they have markings that resemble eyes. When they are threatened by say a bird they puff up this area, the "eyes" grow substantially and the bird has second thoughts about breakfast. Even though the bird had probably never seen a snake. Both are found in the UK.



Scary caterpillar of the Elephant Hawk Moth Another scary caterpillar is the Puss Moth. Have a look at this:



Scarier than Alien!

If I were a Robin, I don't think I'd want to meet him on a Willow branch first thing in the morning.

Flash tactics

One of our most widespread and beautiful UK butterflies is the Peacock with its striking eye patterns on its wings. The underside of the wings resemble a dark dead leaf. So if it's sitting looking like a dead leaf and it's disturbed, suddenly four bright eyes appear to confuse the attacker. Very clever. You



From this to.....this in a flash!

can find Peacocks sleeping in your shed or loft during winter months. Best to leave them alone.

I'm just a twig—leave me alone too! Some moth caterpillars move by "looping" rather than crawling. When not moving they often hold on to a



Peppered Moth larva has twiggged it branch with their rear legs and sit like a small twig. There's more than one way to look like a twig. Here's a broken birch twig:



Otherwise known as a Buff Tip Moth

The sweet taste of the protection racket

There are several species of parasitic wasp that, given the chance, lay their eggs in caterpillars where they develop eventually killing the caterpillar. One butterfly, the Silver Studded Blue, protects itself by secreting a sweet liquid which ants love.



In a mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship, in exchange for the sugary drink the ants act as bodyguards to the caterpillars keeping parasites and other predators at bay.

Woolly Bears

Many caterpillars are hairy to discourage birds from consuming them. The hairiest is the Garden Tiger Moth caterpillar, often referred to as Woolly Bears.



Woolly Bear caterpillar

However one bird has overcome the hair deterrent - the clever Cuckoo has worked out how to tear open the caterpillar and consume the contents, discarding the woolly jacket. Tasty!