



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 70, AUGUST 2023 - OCTOBER 2023

Cycle Ride to Raise money for Motor Neurone Disease support and research – 7th & 8th June 2023

Thank you to all who supported us and wished us well on our two-day cycle from Bath to Fivehead and from Fivehead to Budleigh Salterton. We covered 107 miles, without mishap, enjoying beautiful Somerset and Devon countryside, bathed in sunshine. Highlights on the first day included looking back over Chew Valley Reservoir after a very tough cycle up the Mendip hills, whizzing down Cheddar Gorge for the first time, a welcoming cycle group meeting us in Isle Brewers and a super end to the first day in Fivehead at The Crown Inn. Starting On Day 2 being cheered on our way outside the Bell Inn, a lovely lunch stop and welcoming group at Combe Raleigh and being joined by 6 friendly cyclists from the Honiton Spinners Club on the last leg of our journey, who took us on

Chew Valley - Top of the Mendips



the quieter, more scenic route to Budleigh, where Ice creams and tea awaited us at the finish. We raised £10,000, which doubled our original target and a huge thank you to all the organisers and considerable planning that went on in the background. It made it a very worthwhile and enjoyable cycle.

Tim Frazer



Budleigh Salterton - we've done it !!

Beer & Curry Takeaway

Have your say - let us all know what's going on in and around our villages the next quarter!!.

Deadline for next edition is Friday 20th October 2023.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com



Hello all!

First, we'd like to thank those of you who have continued to show your support! The feedback we have been getting has been incredibly positive and word of mouth seems to be spreading as we are seeing new faces through the door every week! We appreciate all of you who have been in and help us to keep the lights on!

Since we last wrote about The Bell Inn, things have been moving along nicely and we now have a summer packed with events!

Our Monthly Monday Quiz Night has been paused until October, as has the Bingo but they'll be back!

The garden has had a makeover and now offers a lovely tranquil place for a drink and the Sunday afternoon acoustic music sessions are going down a treat. These sessions are continuing throughout the summer into early September. Take a look at the notices on our Facebook page and notice boards outside and inside the pub for dates and artists.

Recently we've frequently been visited by our local assistance dog Andy who is in training to be a pet for Veterans with Dogs and we have had lots of puppy cuddles to help raise funds for his training - he really is a beautiful chunk who is going to be great at helping an ex-service man or woman cope with life after serving in the forces.

We also held our 'Portugal Day BBQ' in the garden which was a great success and something a little different for Curry Mallet!

Thursday morning's Chat Room continues and we have some lovely regulars who pop in for coffee, cake and a chat so if you want to pop along you'll be made very welcome.

We are currently starting to plan our Christmas schedule (I know - we've not even had summer yet, I hear you cry!) and we'll be letting you know what that all looks like in due course.

However, the biggest news is that we now have a chef and we are serving food! Not just any food though.

Our Portuguese chef Gus is really cooking up a treat in the kitchen and puts his own twist on many of the usual pub classics and his 'specials' are very special indeed!

If you haven't yet sampled his delights we'd love to see you!

The menu can be found on our Facebook page (The Bell Inn Curry Mallet) so why not follow us and you'll also get to see all the events coming up.

Our food service times are:

- ❖ Thursday 6-9pm
- ❖ Friday 6-9pm
- ❖ Saturday 12-3pm and 6-9pm
- ❖ Sunday 12-3pm

As we have a very small kitchen and just one chef cooking we do ask, where possible, that you book in advance by calling 01823 802733 or emailing thebellcm@gmail.com. Parties of 6 or more may require pre-ordering so please let us know your party size and your telephone number if emailing.

Food is always cooked to order so at busy times, there may be a little bit of a wait but it will always be worth it!

We cater for vegetarians, children and can also offer some gluten free alternatives so why not give us a call

Just a little point - if you do book a table please do turn up promptly or give us a call to cancel if you can't make it so that we can offer the table to someone else.

KIDS EAT FREE!

To celebrate the opening of the kitchen, we are running a promotion through the summer holidays for our local families.

It works like this:

Local kids eat free on Thursday Evening and Saturday Lunchtime

For every adult main meal purchased, one free child's meal is available for any child under 14. (Two adults eating main meals = two free kids meals etc.)

T's and C's

Available between 6pm and 8pm Thursday (last food orders by 7.30pm) and 12pm and 3pm Saturday (last food orders by 2.30pm)

Adult Main Meals are any Mains or Specials, Kids Meals are from the Kids Menu only.

The Kids Meal is for a child under 14 who must be present (i.e. Kids Meals are not available for adults as part of this promotion).

Promotion starts on Thursday 20th July 2023 and Promotion ends Saturday 2nd September 2023

Just bring your copy of 'Beer and Curry' to be eligible!

We also run a loyalty card scheme for our drinkers too!

In August, the promotion will be 'Get 10 Loyalty Stamps and get One Drink Free' - full terms and conditions are available in the pub!

So why not become a 'regular' and earn yourself the odd free drink for your support?

So as you can see, there's lots that's been happening and loads more to come!

Don't forget, if you would like to use the space in the pub for your group meeting or special occasion then please do give us a call. We are a welcoming and inclusive pub and a safe place for anyone to visit on their own if they wish!

We look forward to seeing you soon - come and say hi!

Cherie

Curry Mallet Church News

There will be no Worship 4 All service in August due to holidays. From September the service will alternate with West Hatch on the second Sunday of the month.

Sunday 3rd September Benefice Holy Communion 10am

Saturday 16th September Autumn clean up at All Saints Church.

Come along to help us with some cleaning inside the Church, and cutting back the undergrowth around the churchyard perimeter, including some of the ivy climbing the walls. Bring along some tools to tackle these jobs. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday 24th September Harvest Thanksgiving 7pm.

Celebrate the Harvest and enjoy soup and bread after the service.

Donations of non-perishable foods will be collected and split between Ilminster foodbank and Taunton foodbank.

Mike Bawler - Church Warden

Notes from the Farm



The picture shows the first tractor here at Manor Farm, an International Titan, taken nearly 100 years ago. To a modern eye it doesn't look a particularly efficient operation, with two people needed to make a couple of furrows, running on a mixture of petrol and paraffin and not even the comfort of rubber tyres. However to Charlie Mico sat at the steering wheel I imagine it would have felt quite exhilarating with the prospect of freedom from having to trudge miles in the furrow bottom while looking at the wrong end of a horse.

Things have obviously moved on a long way since then, and like modern cars a tractor is now a computer on big wheels. Telematics have been in tractors for some time, and there have been a number of stories where the vehicle manufacturer has intervened where it has been detected as being driven inappropriately and it has suddenly stopped working. They have also refused to do repairs under warranty because they can analyse the driving history and if a young lad has put it in neutral and freewheeled downhill at 50mph they will know even if his employer doesn't.

When you buy a computer you pay for the hardware and you then have to pay subscriptions for software. Tractors are going to do the same thing; from next year one of the biggest manufacturers is intending to require monthly payments to have continuing access to its features. So we will hand over practical skills to the computer because it can do things effectively but probably lose those skills altogether in the process and then pay indefinitely for the privilege. That doesn't look like freedom to me but dependency and I don't find the prospect at all exhilarating.

Justin Adams

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Have you all, like me, seen the first half of summer as a two edged sword? On the one hand it's been lovely to see the sun and know that, unlike some English summers, we haven't had to take an umbrella or mac just in case of rain. On the other hand at last the rain has arrived and many of us very pleased to see the showers that our gardens were desperately gasping for. Personally I've been enjoying the warmth and sunshine of summer and can guarantee that warmth and a sunny smile will greet you at our members' regular meetings.

In May we held our Annual General Meeting and elected our new committee for the coming year. We said goodbye to some retiring long serving committee members, hello to some new recruits and elected our new President Liz Kingston. Not all of the meeting was business as we also raised a glass in toast to the coronation of King Charles III. On the 23 May we hosted a Somerset Federation Lunch with the theme 'Jewellery Foolery', which provided WI members with an opportunity to get their jewellery valued by an expert. By all accounts it was a very successful occasion and much enjoyed by all attendees and raised just over £315 to go into our funds. Lastly on the 25 May our annual Members meeting was held to thank the outgoing committee for all their hard work over the previous year... another enjoyable evening had by all!

On the 11 June six members went on an excursion to Milton Lodge in Wells. We were met by the owner, Simon, who gave us a potted history of how the house came into his family and how the garden was created over the last century. We were then able to explore at our own pace and finish in the café with tea and delicious cake. At our regular meeting we welcomed Andrew McElwee who spoke about being 'Behind the scenes at the National Trust'. His talk was based on his own personal journey of being appointed Manager of the Polesden Lacey Estate in Surrey and some of the 'mishaps' that occurred. His talk was very light, entertaining and amusing and had us in stitches at various points – definitely no nodding off.

Coming up we have:

- ✓ A **Garden Meeting in July** hosted in one of our members' garden to which we all bring a shared plate of food for this social gathering.
- ✓ An **inaugural coffee meet up** on Wednesday **19th July**.
- ✓ We take a **break in August** but resume again on **14th September** with a **talk** on 'Autism' by **Ben Nichols**, Chair of the North Somerset branch of the **National Autistic Society**. This is an **OPEN MEETING** to which anyone (not just ladies) can come along and be made welcome
- ✓ An **October** talk on 'Anglo Saxon art and architecture' by **Mary Chisholm**.
- ✓ **Taunton Historical Society** walking tour in **October**.

Throughout the year **HBWI** does a **food bank collection** at our meetings and Taunton foodbank keep us up to date to meet the shortfalls of required items. The response from our members is generous, targeted and welcomed by the recipients.

If you are interested in joining or just finding out more about us contact **Ann Norman, HBWI Secretary** on **01823 481843**. We meet at **19:15 on the second Thursday of each month at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall**.

Val Dale

Curry Mallet Community Activities

Sadly, farewell to Local Luminaries

Recent months have marked the passing of several present and former residents, all notable in different ways for their substantial contribution toward the well-being of this community: We remember David Orme and Roger Pitman for their performances in the annual Curry Mallet Christmas Shows, for their prowess at short mat Bowls and for their abiding service to the Village Hall Committee. Also, for David's many years' membership of the Parish Council, where his legal background provided a level-headed and pragmatic approach to the resolution of local issues.

Dave Player in his white pick-up truck was well-known throughout the parish, - not least for the quality of the cider he used to brew.



David & Roger, (and Bluebell), enjoying a walk.



Likewise, Daphne Brightwell, known both here and previously in West Hatch, for her skills in water-colour painting, patchwork quilting and poetry, together with active membership of the Hatch Beauchamp WI. Daphne (aged 97) was of a generation who undertook "to obey" as part of her marriage vows, an obligation she accepted dutifully yet wore lightly throughout somewhat daunting circumstances in more recent years. Her disarming smile lit up many occasions and elicited much help from others.

This community, and several others, mourn their passing and reflect gratefully upon their service to us.

Royal Mail Delivery Service

One Monday earlier in July, I was advised by the locum postman delivering that day's mail, that we would be receiving deliveries only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday that particular week as he was covering the Curry Mallet round in addition to his own, - presumably due a shortage of staff. Back in April, after several days without any mail deliveries and awaiting an overdue new cheque book from the bank, we 'phoned the Regional Sorting Office ([0345 774 0740](tel:03457740740), in case ever you need it, but be prepared to wait for someone to answer); on checking their delivery records against our postcode, the Royal Mail employee said "Ah yes, 2 days 'insufficient staff cover' and 1 day 'sickness absence'". He went on to say that Royal Mail offered no redress until one week's failure to deliver had been recorded by them.

You might have heard on the radio that late delivery of mail has become a major problem nationally, with people finding themselves in default for late payments, missing important medical or employment appointments, as a result of Royal Mail's failure to achieve timely delivery. So being pro-active, you might want to contact Royal Mail should you feel that some important communication is overdue.

State of our Roads

Gratifying for Curry Mallet to have been the beneficiary of so much carriageway patching latterly in June/early July, - doubtless resultant from the government's £5.4m "pot-hole grant" awarded to Somerset Council. Less welcome is the government's recent approval for longer vehicles; - as of May 31st, maximum vehicle length was increased by 2.05m to 18.55m, extending a pilot scheme started in 2011. At present, maximum vehicle weight remains 44 tonnes (although the Road Haulage Association is agitating for an increase to 48 tonnes). You'll be pleased to note that the Dept. for Transport advises that "*Under the new rules, operators will be legally required to carry out risk assessments and ensure they take appropriate routes*". Those of us who have sought compensation from haulage companies, for damage to walls or fences occasioned by very long vehicles attempting Houdini-style manoeuvring around unsuitably tight bends, drivers having become lost or misled by their satnav, may consider the Dept. of Transport's advice to be woefully naïve.

Winter Grit

Perhaps an absurd topic for consideration in the month of August but, by the next issue - in late October, winter grit stocks should be in place: Some months ago, I relinquished oversight of the parish's volunteers who kindly spread grit around the junctions and on the slopes of our lanes. If you need replenishment of your grit stock, or would care to contribute in this activity, please contact Laura Gowers, the Clerk to the parish council.

Godfrey

Curry Mallet plant sale

The annual plant sale in aid of All Saints Church was held this year at the village hall, with the addition of a cake and preserves stall, refreshments and Bacon or Sausage Baps. There were a lot of plants to sell, and at the end of the morning those not sold were moved to outside the old shop/post office, which has closed down and is much missed. The plants continued to sell with money left in an honesty box. The total amount raised was £1,335. A fantastic amount, beating last year's total. A big thankyou to Celia Hawkins and her family for organising, producing plants, selling and helping on the day. And thankyou also to all who brought plant's to sell, and helpers in the kitchen to make the day such a success.



The organisers



and the helpers



News from the Manor House

Some of you may recall from the May 2021 issue of the Beer and Curry that we had planned to open the courtyard garden to the public for cream teas. Unfortunately, life had other plans at the time, and we found ourselves unable to open as we intended. Now, however, the time has finally come when we can throw open our doors to customers from the village and beyond, with The Manor House Tearoom welcoming hungry and thirsty patrons this August. We will be serving freshly baked pastries and cream teas with a large variety of teas, fresh coffee and a selection of cold drinks including locally produced apple juice.



We are no strangers to the service industry by now, having welcomed paying guests to The Manor House as a Bed and Breakfast since May last year. It has been immensely gratifying to be able to provide an extra bed to accommodate friends and families of village residents, and to introduce people from far and wide to everything Curry Mallet has to offer. Almost everyone who has come through our doors has remarked on what a beautiful, peaceful, friendly and truly special place the village is – sentiments we certainly share. We currently offer a double room, a twin

room and a small bunk room. Direct bookings can be made by telephone on 01823 481 471 or 07931 751 553.

The courtyard will be open on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays from 12 til 5pm. We will open for the first time on Wednesday the 2nd of August. Step-free access is available, and dogs, children and all are welcome.

THE MANOR HOUSE TEAROOM, CURRY MALLET

BUY ONE CREAM TEA, GET ONE FREE ON PRESENTATION OF THIS COUPON

Will and Fleur



Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall



- . Kitchen with serving hatch
- . Separate meeting room
- . WiFi
- . Tables & chairs
- . Removable stage
- . Stage lighting and speakers



Bookings & Enquiries

Telephone: Michael Bawler, 01823 480 163
Email: cmbvillagehall@gmail.com

Curry Mallet Parish Council

The new Council year began in April and the Parish Council now has a new Chairman and Deputy Chairman. We welcome Cllr. Fleur Wood to the post of Chairman and Cllr. Johnathan Scott is now our Deputy Chairman. Huge thanks must go to Cllr. Chris Hussey who has been our Chairman for the last 4 years.

Play Area: Cllr. Mike Whitman is leading on the project to bring new and better play equipment to the small play area beside the village hall. *We want to extend our thanks to our community fundraisers, who have been working so hard to raise money for new play equipment. Thanks to their seed money, we were able to secure funding from the Duchy and National Lottery which, combined with money from the Parish Council, takes the raised total to £18,166; we are now most of the way to our £25,000 target, but donations are still very welcome.*

We will be going to tender in the next few weeks, but if you would like to make a donation, there's still time. Please email the parish clerk: clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

Footpaths: Gary Blinco is our volunteer footpath liaison officer and is doing great work around the village, as well as liaising with Somerset Council regarding maintenance of footpaths. Both the Parish Council and Gary would like to remind all walkers around the parish to close any gates that they open. There was a recent incident where cattle escaped into a field of wheat, through a gate that had been left open. The crop has been ruined and it's a danger to the livestock. Please remember; if you open a gate, please close it after you, when you're out and about in our lovely countryside.

Poo Bins: There appears to be a continuing problem with owners not picking up their dog waste in and around the village. The Parish Council have asked Somerset Council for a review of the amount of bins that we have. Currently, the Parish Council provide the bins, but Somerset Council collect the waste. The review will include Locality Officers from Somerset Council monitoring the dog waste bins and surrounding areas for waste not collected.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council has just renewed its contract with South West Ambulance Trust for the provision of the defibrillator on the village hall. The defib has been upgraded and Roger Hughes is now the guardian.

CCTV: Due to some vandalism in the play area and to the village hall itself, the Parish Council is investigating the use of CCTV on the building to mitigate against the anti social behaviour in that area.

LCN With the creation of the new unitary Somerset Council, came an undertaking to create 18 Local Community Networks across the county. Curry Mallet is part of the Levels and Moors LCN, which also includes Somerton, Langport and Martock as the larger towns, along with a variety of smaller parishes, stretching from Othery and Westonzoyland to Ash and Kingsbury Episcopi.

All 33 parishes are invited to send a representative from the Parish Council to the meetings and other stakeholders are also invited; such as Police, NHS and Voluntary sector organisations. There are also officers from Somerset Council and Unitary Councillors present. The first meeting has taken place, with a second being scheduled for September. It is envisaged that the meetings will enable parishes to identify similar themes and priorities and then have a louder voice to tackle any issues.

It has been suggested that the village publishes a list of people who are trained first aiders. These would be people available in an emergency in the village. If anyone would like to put their names forward, please email clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk.

Laura Gowers

Clerk

Curry Mallet Parish Council



House, home, village, community. Where do you think you live? Does a shop count for anything?

What makes a community? Definitions vary widely – to some it simply means they live in a village such as Curry Mallet or Beercrocombe – end of. I believe being part of a community means more than that.

I will cut to the chase, read on to the bottom if you need more!

The closure of the shop has put up a warning flag. It is one major loss in our community foundations. It was a social focus, a service, a lifeline for some without travel options. Now it has gone. Other villages have managed to open community shops – can Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe achieve this?

A Working Group comprising residents from both villages has been established to look at this question. It has major challenges – including can we raise enough money to buy the existing building and refurbish it? The present shop premises is now registered as an Asset of Community Value and we have the remainder of 6 months to see if we can, or want, to do this.

We are also looking at alternatives to the existing building and funding. We will need to set up some form of community business, however we proceed, and this will need funds and contributions from the community – are you willing to support this not-for-profit venture? We also need to know the level of demand and what for?

The previous questionnaire did not reach everyone and does not give us all we need to know.

We will be putting out future information and questionnaires. This might ask you if you are prepared to help in some way – as a shareholder, with support in time and materials – in any way possible. Please respond and tell us what you are willing to contribute and what you want.

Going back to community –

Is this you:

Some residents may never visit the Bell Inn, use the Village Hall, have never or hardly ever used the shop and never attend the Churches, any events in the villages or have children at the school.

Are they part of the community? They may feel they are – purely by where they live.

On the other hand, Estate Agents know that a house in a village with a shop, school, pub and village hall and even a Church will command a better price and sell more easily because those things say there is a community there. So, it must be more than just a house.

David Cameron promoted the 'Big Society'. What did that mean? – I think it suggested that society does benefit from a more community-based approach – volunteering, joining in, sharing effort to meet challenges, and generally supporting each other in many areas. Phil and Jane at the shop alongside many individuals were prime examples in the Covid crises ensuring people had supplies and support – sadly that was not rewarded by sales at the shop after the crisis faded.

In our villages we have many individuals and groups that do things for wider shared benefit. Isn't that more what real community is about?

Or is this you:

We have communities of activities; who play bowls or badminton together at the Hall. Of caring - the Round Window Club and the Churches. Of social connection - at the Bell Inn, Churches and Village Hall events. Of responsibility - those prepared to take positions on the Parish Councils and Village Hall Committee and those who organise events. Of Parents- whose children go to the village school some of whom are on the school governing body or otherwise help out through the PTA. And we each have circles of friends in the villages and beyond and work communities that stretch further still.

I have lived here for over 20 years and it is interesting to see residents arrive and contribute very little to the wider community while others, including recent arrivals, get stuck in and show they believe living here is more than living in a house.

I applaud them and thank them because they are helping make the place where I live, a better place.

Whilst in my pulpit I cannot end without making mention of two gentlemen we have recently lost who made great contributions to the communities of Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe in many different ways.

In April this year we lost **Roger Pitman** whose eulogy was read by his great friend **David Orme**. Then, tragically, David died in May. Both served the villages in so many different ways. My lasting memories will be of David and Roger as stars of the Village Shows – a regular December fixture in the early noughties – as were many of David's compering jokes! Alas I have no photos of Roger in his tour de force as the Genie in Aladdin Curry Mallet. Or of David in full flow getting very near the knuckle at times. But here are two pictures that give a flavour of the effort both made to entertain. They will be sadly missed and long remembered.



Roger as the Jolly Green Giant in Jack and the Beans Talk



David in full lawyerly flow in a sketch with Roger at the rear

Chris Marks



Pimms Publications & Patisserie Saturday 12th August from 2pm CM&B Village Hall



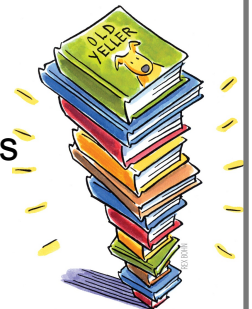
Villagers - bring your family and friends.

Come and join us in the Village Hall garden (in the hall if it rains)

For a cream tea or slice of cake with
a glass of Pimms or cup of tea or coffee

Browse through the secondhand books, DVDs and CDs
(donations to the VH)

It will be great to see you there.



VH Committee

Opa Rosa

Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Friday November 24th at 8.00 pm

In association with TakeArt



Fast gaining a reputation as one of UK's most dynamic bands, Opa Rosa are an energetic acoustic ensemble sharing music from the Balkan, Greek, Klezmer & Roma traditions. With their lineup of violin, clarinet, accordion, double bass and percussion, their unique and refined sound consists of an explosive and grooving rhythm section combined with intricate melodies soaring over rich and nuanced harmonic structures.

Deeply rooted in Balkan traditions, Opa Rosa's music aims to explore and reinvent the motifs of Eastern Europe by subtly drawing from other musical influences such as Post-Rock, Classical and Jazz. This Bristol-based band will have you up and dancing with an infectious energy that you cannot get elsewhere.

Enjoy a collection of vibrant and soulful melodies played with fiery precision, and let Opa Rosa take you on a foot-stomping journey through the Balkans and beyond!

For a taste of Opa Rosa's visit their website <https://www.oparosa.com/> or look for them on YouTube
Tickets cost £12 and are available:

* By phone: 07788817619 / 01823 481441

* On-line: <https://takeart.org/whats-on>

* There will be a **cash bar** at this event – please note that we are not able to process card sales

This event is promoted through TakeArt. For more information about TakeArt events in Somerset visit <https://www.takeart.org>