



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 79, NOVEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

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The Beer and Curry will be published on the Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet Parish Council websites. By submitting content for the Beer and Curry, you are agreeing that you are happy for your contribution to be published on these website, as well as in print form.

www.beercrocombe.org.uk and www.currymallet-pc.gov.uk

Christmas Carols at Park Farm Curry Mallet **You are warmly invited to join us for Carols with** **the cattle in the cowshed!**



Saturday 20th December at 6pm

Carols, Poems and Readings.

Followed by Mulled Wine, fruit juice, and mince pies.

Donations will be split between tearfund.org who provide life-saving aid in the Middle East, and All Saints Church funds.

Please wear warm clothing sturdy footwear and bring a torch.

(Sadly, on this occasion no dogs)

Parking on the farm.



The Village Hall BELL INN QUIZ



The quiz is a great way for our community to meet together for an evening – bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Temporarily (we hope) relocated to our Village Hall

Tables of up to Four Contestants - £8 per table

After payment for the hall rent all takings as Cash Prizes

Your chance to shine in a general knowledge quiz where you can argue with team mates and have a good laugh!

**Dates for 2025/26: November 3rd, December 1st, January 5th,
February 2nd, March 9th, April 6th.**



Curry Mallet CofE VC Primary School

Open Mornings

Tuesday 25th & Thursday 27th Nov 2025

09:30 - 12:00



01823 480 421

office@currymalletprimary.co.uk

Lower Street, Curry Mallet
Taunton, Somerset, TA3 6TA

A Village School Where Every Child Thrives!

Curry Mallet Preschool



At Curry Mallet Preschool we have begun our Autumn topic which includes exploring changes in the environment, baking with apples, making Autumnal playdough and collecting natural materials in the woods.

We are a unique small setting, that focuses on outside play and using natural materials to enrich the children's imaginative play.

Our opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 8.40am - 3.20pm

We currently have a few spaces left.

Please Call 01823 480421 or email Preschool@currymalletprimary.co.uk for any enquires or to book a tour.



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 Tuesday 20th January 2026.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

Appropriate articles will be included subject to space and printing conditions.



As I write this I'm looking out of my window to grey skies and a much cooler temperature and can't help comparing it with the beautiful sunny (and yes HOT) summer we've just experienced. One thing you can be sure of though is that there is always a very warm welcome to ladies of all ages at our WI. With lots going on over the Autumn there's plenty of variety for all to enjoy.

Following our August break we reconvened in September with our book club meet discussing "Homecoming" by Kate Norton. On the 10 September a number of members took part in a Sourdough Workshop run by Michael Storey. In addition to bread there was also sourdough fruit malt loaf and cake, along with sourdough pastries and crisps. A real culinary education event. We welcomed Sally Kershaw to our monthly meeting with her talk 'Make me a winner' - how to enter and win competitions. Sadly I was away for this talk but will be quizzing fellow members to see if anyone has been successful! Our coffee and chat meet was held at Barrington Court on the 24 September ending a successful return month.

October is equally busy. Our guest speaker for our regular meeting was Kay Townsend who gave us a fascinating history of how the fairground originated and also the rides. With her photos and talk entitled 'My Life on the Fairground', she took us back to the 13th century through the middle ages and Victorian times right up to the fairground we are familiar with today. Kay's talk was both interesting and entertaining. At our meeting we also had a collection for the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Members from all over Somerset donate a variety of items (toiletries, socks, gloves, notebooks, pens, colouring books, crayons, food with 2026 dates inc. sweets, biscuits cake, etc.) to make up Shoebox parcels for those in need. Another WI theatre trip on the 18 October to Westlands in Yeovil is booked to see 'Come from Away' which is always a relaxing fun time.

Up and coming:

- ◆ Group meeting at North Curry 22 October with ideas for seasonal decorating cakes.
- ◆ 8 November Farmers Market Hatch Beauchamp hall with WI Christmas raffle.
- ◆ Open meeting 13 November 'Homelessness and how ARC can help'.
- ◆ 11 December meeting 'The Christmas Story in Renaissance Art'. Christmas party.

Hatch Beauchamp WI meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at HB village hall. It's a great opportunity to meet local women for fun and friendship, to learn new skills and take part in a range of activities. If you're 18 and over why not come along to find out more about us. Or give our Secretary, Alison Redfern a call on 07300 288615.

Val Dale

Hold the Date

13th March at 7.30 pm

Scarlett Smith – stand-up comic and harpist

The Village Entertainments Groups first event in 2026 will be something a little bit different.

Scarlett Smith's one woman show – "Any Objections" draws on her experience of playing as a harpist for weddings. After debuting at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer, Scarlett is now touring and we are delighted to be able to bring her to Curry Mallet. Described as "fizzing with energy", Any Objections is a playful celebration of defying stereotypes, embracing self-expression and making space for joy and silliness in a messy world.

To start the evening, we will be serving a ploughman's supper which will be included in the ticket price.

Notes from the Farm

There has long been a niche market for farmers providing kosher food for Britain's small Jewish population. Kosher milk production, for example, requires farmers to accept a few limitations on what cows are fed and then before the milk is collected a rabbi will turn up and say some prayers over the tank and then seal it shut. Of course the point at which this subject becomes contentious is in meat production as there is a religious exemption from the animal welfare laws that require animals to be pre-stunned at the point of slaughter.

The situation with the much larger Muslim population is more complex. A similar exemption from the law exists, but many though not all Muslims are content to eat meat from animals that have been pre-stunned and in fact over 80% of Halal meat in the UK has been slaughtered in this way. Animals which have been ritually slaughtered in both Kosher and Halal can be deemed to not meet the religious standards for other reasons yet be ok for general consumption, in other words those of us outside these communities may be unwittingly eating it. In the case of Halal the amount of meat produced vastly exceeds the use by the Muslim population, and some organisations have started providing only Halal meat now as a default as it simplifies their supply chain.

There are currently 24 plants in the UK performing non-stun slaughter. Some of these also use the pre-stunned method and are allowed to self-certify, so even if you google the numerical code on your packaging you may be unable to be sure of what you are eating. A lot of our work in the food industry is geared to enabling consumers to make informed choices, but on this issue which would seem to me to be one of the most important of all we have a glaring anomaly. One way to clarify this would be to ban non-stun slaughter outright. Seven European countries have done this, but I suspect there is no political appetite for doing this here in the current climate.

Justin Adams

The Bell Inn Community Pub - Campaign Update

Many thanks to everyone who attended the meeting on 4th October. We had a great turnout of enthusiastic people from both villages and further afield. One of the points discussed was how we can make use of the 'social media algorithms' to get our campaign in front of a wider audience. It's all a little out of our collective comfort zone!

It was decided to run a 'digital workshop' at 10am in the village hall on Saturday 8th November. A 'crack' team of digital volunteers has come forward and they will help run the session, which will help people understand and use the prime social media channels to support The Bell Inn Community Pub campaign. We will also try and shoot some short videos of participants who can tell their own stories of The Bell. It is these personal 'real life' stories that could get us noticed on the platforms and with a bit of luck, go 'viral'. So please think about any funny, poignant or astonishing stories you might have to share and we can do the rest.

The share offer continues as this goes to press, with a couple of more weeks to go, and at the time of writing we had just broken through the £90k barrier, and we have 75 members, which is fantastic. We are really hoping that by the time you read this we will be at 100 members and past £100k. Please continue to champion the cause to family and friends near and far, and if you made a pledge back in February and still haven't donated, please do so as soon as possible.

Keep checking our website for updates on our new fundraising page that will give you details of all upcoming events. You can also sign up to our newsletters by going to the foot of any page of the website (www.cmbcommunitypub.com) and filling in your details.

The CMB Community Pub committee



Church News



Harvest thanksgiving was held at All Saints Church on a Sunday evening in September, led by Rev Julie Kimber. The John Deer tractor made its way from the Altar at Beercrocombe Church to the Altar at Curry Mallet Church for the service. Thank you to all who decorated the Church with Flowers, corn sheaf's, and fruits of the harvest. Bread, Water, and



Flowers were presented for blessings, harvest hymns were sung. Shona Gilmore-White gave a talk on the work of the Taunton foodbank, which was very interesting to hear all that they do. The donations of Non-Perishable foods were distributed between the Taunton Foodbank and the Ilminster Foodbank, both thanked us for the much needed food items which were gratefully received.

After the service as usual everyone enjoyed the traditional serving of soup and bread.



Sunday 9th November Curry Mallet join Beercrocombe, West Hatch, and Hatch Beauchamp at the war memorial in the grounds of Hatch Beauchamp Village hall for the Remembrance service.

Sunday 16th November 10am Parish Communion at All Saints.

Saturday 29th November 10am – 1pm at Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe village hall there will be a coffee morning with Bacon or Sausage Baps and a produce stall to raise funds for All Saints Church.

Wednesday 17th December School Christmas service at All Saints

Saturday 20th December Carols in the cow shed 6pm Park Farm.

Sunday 21st December BCP Communion 8.30am at All Saints.

25th December Christmas day service 10am St James Church Beercrocombe.

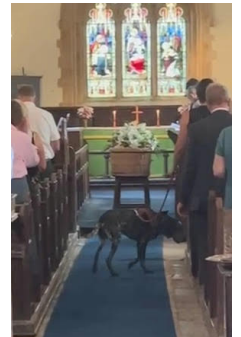
Sunday 11th January 2026 Plough Service 7pm at All Saints.

Two sad occasions at All Saints Church in August, the funerals of Haydn Whitehouse and Sally Pizzii, both long term residents of Curry Mallet. Haydn was a talented artist and some of his paintings went on display in the Manor House hall after his funeral. He painted many backdrops for shows put on at the village hall many years ago. Condolences to his wife Monica and family.



Sally Pizzii was active in many things and had a small holding in Beercrocombe for 40 years and looked after lots of different animals. She had a passion for fly fishing and pony club activities. Her loyal dog "Boo" attended the funeral with his new family, and her Pony "Ty" was brought to the vestry door of the Church to look down the aisle to say farewell. Condolences to her two sons and all her family.

In October another long term resident of Curry Mallet James Mallet-Harris passed away. James lived at Mallet Court with wife Primrose where they ran the Plant Nursery. Specialising in unusual trees grown from seed James was well travelled especially in the Far East and USA collecting plants. Many premier awards were won at Chelsea flower show, and he was also very involved with the Taunton flower show for many years. Condolences to Primrose and James' family.



Mike Bawler - Church Warden

Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

The leaves are falling, the evenings are drawing in, our Marquee is up and our autumn drinks have arrived! As well as our classic Teas, Coffee and Hot Chocolates we have now added Gingerbread, Chai, and Pumpkin Spice Lattes and Coconut or Hazelnut Hot Chocolates!

Halloween Friday 31st October

If you are out and about, we will be staying open until 8pm for all the Trick or Treaters or anyone who just fancies a late coffee or Hot chocolate, it would be lovely to see you.

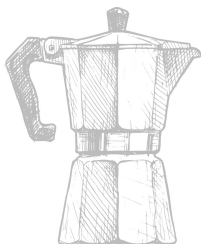


Christmas Lights - Thursday 4th December from 5.30pm

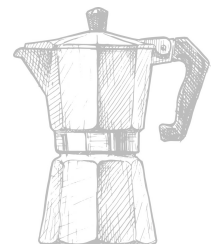
Pop down for a mince pie and mulled wine for the now annual Christmas Light switch on, we may even sing a few carols!

New Shop Opening Times:

Please note our new times from Monday 17th November through to the beginning of March: -



Monday	10.30 - 3pm	Friday	10.30 - 3pm
Tuesday	10.30 - 3pm	Saturday	10.30 - 1pm
Wednesday	Closed	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	10.30 - 3pm		



The Round Window Club

On Wednesday 27th August, 24 members and volunteers of The Round Window Club enjoyed a very special outing.

One of our members, Alice, celebrated her 100th birthday in August, a **very** special occasion! Also the club started 30 years ago, this year.

So, to mark both these milestones we were made very welcome at Hurds Hill, Langport.



We were served a glass of bubbly on arrival and then tucked in to a delicious two course lunch. One of our members had made Alice a beautiful cake.

A very memorable day.

Helen Hanney.

The Round Window Club meet every other Wednesday mornings at the Village Hall.



For sale



Unwanted gift
Used once only
As new.
Will except
£125
Tel Chris on
07584 951000



Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall



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



Bookings & Enquiries

Telephone: Justine Butler, 07966587305
Email: cmbvillagehall@gmail.com



Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall

Licensed Bar - Card or Cash

All funds in aid of our Village Hall

Classic Rock Night

Covers from: Free, Bad Company, Rolling Stones, ZZ Top, AC/DC and many more. Get your dancing shoes on!

Saturday 15th November 7.30pm (Doors 7.00pm)

Tickets £10

Don't miss out.

Contact Jane: 07850 721175

CURRY MALLET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON



Mary & Eloise from the Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

Fleur & Will from the Manor House

With

Chris & Adrian

Invite you to

Switch on the lights!!

Thursday 4th December at 5.30pm outside the Coffee Shop

6pm Lights Switch On

Mince pies, mulled wine and squash

Carol singing accompanied by the famous Giles Adams

It would be wonderful if as many people as possible would put up lights and switch them on, on the same day

News From the Manor House

Well, it's been a busy few months over here! Having finally finished the mammoth task of preparing our Great Hall for the public (after which neither of us ever want to open another cardboard box of assorted decades-old paraphernalia as long as we live), we now have a space fit for a Baron ready to be hired for parties, exhibitions, weddings, funerals and much else besides. It's also a nice place for a pot of tea, being open regularly as part of the Tea Room.



Given that Curry Mallet seems to boast an utterly disproportionate number of fine artists amongst its population, it seemed only right to use this newly-available space to celebrate some of that local talent. Our first such exhibition was one very close to our hearts. Many of you will no doubt have heard of the passing of our neighbour, Haydn Whitehouse, noted in the previous issue of the Beer & Curry in an eloquent tribute by Chris Marks which rightly highlighted his skill as an artist, honed through a long career in Commercial Art. We were honoured to have been able to showcase his fine and varied output of art when we hosted his wake, and for a time afterward as an exhibition, and we thank his widow Monica sincerely for entrusting us with his works to share with others from the village and beyond. Our current exhibition features another Curry Mallet artist of great talent, Brian Sweet, whose works range from dramatic nautical battles to colourful and lively depictions of historic beauty spots around the South West and the wider country - many of which are available for purchase.

There are many more things to look forward to here as well. As always, we will be open on Halloween night for the unique trick-or-treat experience of a truly haunted Manor. As this will be the first time our whole Great Hall will be open for haunting, it should be the best one yet! Any funds we raise on the night will be going towards a new Village Noticeboard open to all in the community, which is planned to be situated outside our boundary wall, near the existing Parish Council noticeboard.

The very next day, of course, will be another one for the calendar, with the much-anticipated Auction of Promises for the CMB Community Pub Group taking place at the Village Hall. Of the many exciting prizes which the community have gone above and beyond to put together, we have been able to add a few to the pile, including custom-commissioned works of art and unlimited tea and coffee at the Tea Room for two whole months!

Finally, the annual Christmas Light Switch-On now has a date! You can join us the Adamses and Chris and Adrian outside the Curry Mallet Coffee Shop from 5:30pm on December 4th to prepare for switching on at 6pm - complete with the added bonus of musical accompaniment by the talented Giles Adams for carol-signing to really get the festive spirit going.

The Bed & Breakfast will be staying open as usual throughout the festive period - with bookings already confirmed over Christmas, if you need some extra beds for visiting relatives or well-wishers then now is the time to get in touch!

The Tea Room will close for the winter on December 22nd, re-opening on January 31st. Until then, as well as warm, hearty food and drink, we have a wealth of choice for potential Christmas gifts on offer, from cards and crafts by the artists of the Village to a dazzling variety of preserves, chutneys and relishes to complement your Christmas fare. We look forward to seeing you here!

Fleur and Will



News from Curry Mallet Parish Council

You may not be aware, but the Duchy of Cornwall own the land that the village hall and play area is built on, along with the playing field for the school. The Village Hall Committee have been paying the rent for the village hall and land, whilst the Parish Council pays the rent for the playing field at the school.

The present Duke (HRH Prince William, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall) has offered a rent abatement to all charities renting from the Duchy from 1st April 2025 and this will stay in place until the present Duke is no longer Duke of Cornwall or the Duchy is no longer the landlord. This means that the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council no longer pay rent to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Parish Council is undertaking some projects around the village:

Installation of a new wooden notice board near the Manor House. This will give enough room for community events, along with Parish Council notices. We will ensure that it will be placed in a safer area than the current noticeboard. Quotes are currently being sought.

A small working party will be convened to clear the debris that has accumulated in sheepwash and to clear part of the water course that flows into sheepwash. This will be ongoing.

Somerset Council have limited finances and are charging town and parish councils for services that might have been offered free of charge in the past. One of these is scaling back the ditch and culvert clearing maintenance. The PC is investigating how it might ensure ditches and culverts are cleared for the winter. If you are aware of a problem area, please contact one of your Parish Councillors or email the Clerk:

clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

We are pleased to welcome Mark Winsloe as our Tree Warden. Mary Hughes stepped down as Tree Warden after 20 years tireless service and we thank her for all she has done. Mark can be contacted on 07533 178335 or markwinsloe@aol.com.

There have been increased instances of fly tipping in the village. Please continue to report fly tipping and potholes via the Somerset Council website.

And finally.....We currently have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are looking for a new challenge and are passionate about where you live and want to make a difference, then why not join the Parish Council? Contact the Clerk for an informal chat and more information. clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.



Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall

Saturday 29th November 10am -1pm

Coffee Morning in aid of All Saints Church

Bacon or sausage baps

Produce sale: Jams, chutneys etc.



TRUE FOXES

Recently featured on BBC Spotlight
Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall
Friday November 28th at 8.00 pm
In association with TakeArt



True Foxes have firmly established themselves as one of Cornwall's most exciting emerging acts. They are a family duo, playing a unique blend of folk and Americana and their debut album – Howl – has received widespread critical acclaim with regular airplay across the world.

Amie, compared to artists such as Brandi Carlile and Dolly Parton, brings soulful vocals and earworm song writing on guitar. Chloë complements Amie's vocals with ethereal harmonies and melodic bass lines. The duo's sisterly banter adds an emotional dimension to their live performances.

"The pure energy is quite infectious." - Alan Cackett, Maverick Magazine

To hear True Foxes' music visit their website <https://truefoxesmusic.co.uk/> or find them on YouTube or Spotify

Tickets cost £12 and are available from:

★ By phone: 077 888 17619 or email patsyjwallace@gmail.com

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