



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 81, MAY 2026 - JULY 2026

Somerset Day

This year's Somerset Day celebrations will be held on Sunday May 10th at the Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall, from 2pm until 4:30pm.

Applications are still open for stalls - community and charitable stalls can be applied for free of charge, and commercial stalls can be applied for with a £5 fee, payable to Curry Mallet Parish Council. To apply for a stall or send queries regarding the event, you can contact me on: 07931 751 553.

The Bell Inn Community Pub Group will be running a bar on the day, with all profits going towards our efforts to save our Local.

COMPETITIONS

There will be a variety of fun contests to get involved with at Somerset Day, with categories for Adults and for Children (under 16 years old).

★ Baking

- ★ Adults - Victoria Sandwich, Shortbread
- ★ Children - Cornflake Cakes.

(Recipes for these can be found on page 11)

★ Preserves

- ★ Any Age - Jar of Jam, Jar of Marmalade, Jar of Jelly, Jar of Chutney

★ Flower Arranging

- ★ Adults - An Arrangement in a Jam Jar
- ★ Children.- Arrangement in a Jam Jar

★ Art

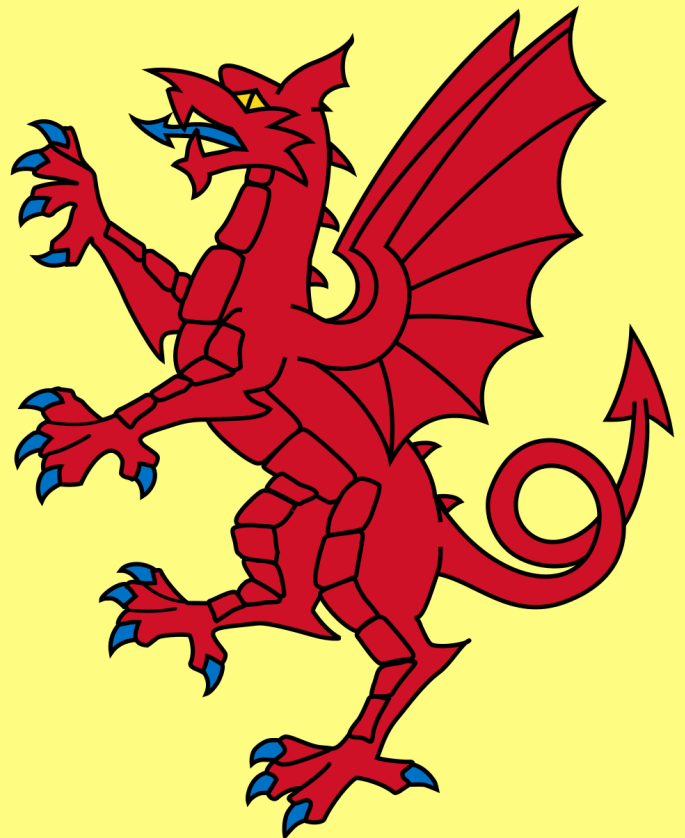
- ★ Adults - Painting Category, Drawing Category
- ★ Children - Open Category. (Any piece of art)

★ Dog Fancy Dress Competition

We hope to see you all there!

Fleur Wood

Chairman, Curry Mallet Parish Council





BAD Education

Classic Rock Night

Back by popular demand

Saturday 9th May 7.30pm

(Doors 7.00pm)

Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall

“Get your dancing shoes on”

Tickets £10

Contact Jane: 07850 721175

Licensed Bar - Cash or Card

Notes from the Farm

A little while ago we had a milk tanker breakdown. It didn't really cause any issues for us, but when the truck eventually turned up the driver explained that they used to keep a spare lorry at the yard, however the accountants had decided that it was cheaper not to do this and pay farmers to pour milk down the drain when something went wrong. I am sure in financial terms they are right, but this approach is typical of how things are organised these days; no spare vehicle, no reserve tank, no spares in the back room, no stocks of raw materials. We are all operating with the mindset that nothing much will go wrong, and that the supply chains will be able to quickly rectify it when it does.

However, if the last few years should have taught us anything it is that there will be shocks to the system. We have had Covid, Brexit, the Ukraine war and now the situation in the Persian Gulf. All of these sort of things are easier to deal with if there is some ability to carry on as normal, even if it is only for a short period while things settle down. Somebody asked me last week what the impact of the Iran war was likely to be on the farm. The honest answer is I don't know. The world is complex and there are likely to be unanticipated effects even if it all stops tomorrow. What I do know is that the cost of red diesel and fertiliser has doubled, so the fact that we have two tanks full of the latter bought forward gives us some ability to absorb this shock while we really ought to be thinking about how to be more resilient for the next one.

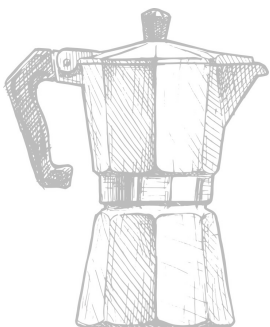
Justin Adams

Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

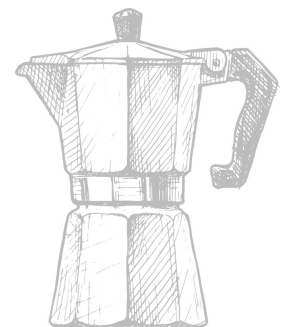
It is hard to believe we have been open for a year, it has gone so quickly!
(We are intending to mark it when the weather warms up.)

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who has popped in, whether it has been for a takeaway, a catch up or you have made us part of your daily routine, we are so appreciative.

Going forward we are going to slightly increase our hours from the 5th May until late October as follows:



Monday	10.30 - 4.00pm
Tuesday	10.30 - 4.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10.30 - 4.00pm
Friday	10.30 - 4.00pm
Saturday	10.30 - 1.00pm
Sunday	Closed



We celebrated Easter in style at Curry Mallet CofE VC Primary School

What a super lead up to Easter our children experienced this year! The celebrations began with the Easter Experience Workshops on Tuesday 31st March which were led by the Seven Sowers Benefice. Holly and her team of volunteers organised a series of workshops for each class which included storytelling, crafting opportunities and role play. These workshops were a real 'hands on' experience for the children as they explored for themselves the true meaning of the Easter story.



This year we ran a very successful Easter Craft Competition at school. The children were invited to submit entries under three categories: An Easter Garden, Easter Decoration or Easter Bake. A whole array of



creative entries came flooding into school on Wednesday 1st April, with Easter themed cakes of all shapes and sizes, Easter Gardens which had been laboured over and Easter decorations which demonstrated so much creativity. The judges certainly had a headache trying to decide who were the worthy prize winners! When the tricky decisions had been made, all of the creations were transported to All Saints Church, Curry Mallet, where they were used to decorate the church ahead of our school Easter Service.



Our Easter Service this year was held on Thursday 2nd April, when it was lovely to see so many of the school community gathered together in All Saint's Church, Curry Mallet. As a school we are lucky to have such a special church within walking distance to our school. We were proud of the children who shone in the service as they performed Easter songs, poems, crafts and prayers to an audience of their friends and families. It was lovely to see each class showcasing their talents, as well as our school choir who performed a song from 'Oliver'.

The end of term culminated with the annual Curry Mallet Duck Race which is organised by our PTFA. This event is a highlight in the school calendar, when the whole school community are invited to buy ducks which race in the stream which runs alongside our school site. There was much excitement as the ducks bobbed along the stream in the three races. With a number of delicious chocolatey prizes to be won, the stakes were high!

We certainly concluded the Spring Term on a high and are looking forward to welcoming our children back through our school gates on Monday 20th April for the Summer Term of fun filled learning.

Curry Mallet Parish Council

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Vacancy

Curry Mallet Parish Council seeks to appoint a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

The clerk appointment is home-based, part-time, permanent role (subject to a 3-month probation period), for 12 hours per calendar month. Attendance will be required at 12 evening meetings (held in Curry Mallet Village Hall) per year, which are currently held on the third Monday of the month. Attendance at occasional extraordinary meetings may also be required.

The successful candidate will be required to produce and publish formal agendas and minutes for the monthly meetings, organise any additional meetings, handle correspondence and planning applications, advise the Council on policy issues and carry out tasks as determined by the Council. The Clerk will be the contact (email, post and telephone) for all Parish Council matters. As RFO the Clerk is also responsible for all aspects of financial administration of the Council.

Previous experience or qualification is preferable but not essential as training can be provided. Competence with Microsoft word and excel are essential for this role.

Hourly rate will be from £14.13 per hour, in line with Scale Point 9 of the national joint council (NJC) recommended salary scales, commensurate with experience and qualifications. A dedicated laptop and printer will be provided. Some space will be needed to store Parish records.

For further information, please contact the current Clerk, Laura Gowers on: -
clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15th June at 6.30pm at the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall. This will include a short talk and tasting of cheese, wine and cider by The Little Cheese Shop from Taunton.



Beercrocombe Village BBQ

Beercrocombe will be holding the annual village BBQ on Saturday 13th June starting at 2pm. Frances and Martin have kindly offered the orchard at Meads Orchard as last year. If you are planning to come please let Andrew know on andrewplumbly1@gmail.com.

Fliers will be issued with the final details.



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 Monday 20th July 2026.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

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

Church News

News about the vacancy in the Seven Sowers Benefice, of which Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Church's are two of the seven parishes.

As you are probably aware it is over a year since our Rector, Rev Joanna Porter moved away from the Benefice. The process to replace her is a long and involved one, but we finally advertised on the Bath & Wells Diocese website in January. Unfortunately there were no applicants, which was not surprising as although we have a lot to offer in the seven parishes, there are many vacancies in the Diocese at present. The advert has now gone onto a new nationwide Church of England website, and we await the outcome. Meanwhile services are covered by an assistant curate and retired Vicars for the various services.

Curry Mallet Primary School held their Easter service at All Saints Church on the last day of term. The Church porch and inside all around the windows displayed Easter Decorations, Easter Gardens and Easter Bakes, made by the children. Prizes were awarded for the best in each category back at the school after the service.



The many parents and grandparents attending joined the children singing the first hymn "Sing out an Easter song". The school choir sang "Consider Yourself" from Oliver, and there were readings from the children. Head teacher Mrs Hill spoke about the meaning of Easter before letting the children take their families around the displays of their work. The whole school sang "Hot Cross Bunny" before class 3 read closing prayers written by them, and house captains thanked everyone for coming wishing them a Happy Easter.

Up and coming services at All Saints Church

- ◆ May 24th 10am Morning Worship
- ◆ June 7th 10am Holy Communion
- ◆ June 21st 10am Morning Worship
- ◆ July 19th 10am Morning Worship
- ◆ July 26th 10am Holy Communion

Mike Bawler - Church Warden



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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 websites, as well as in print form. www.beercrocombe.org.uk and www.currymallet-pc.gov.uk

CURRY MALLET & BEERCROCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall Management Committee will be held on Tuesday 12th May at 5:30p.m.

All residents of Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe are very welcome to attend.

After another year of major improvements to the hall, come along to find out how our finances and operations are going and let us know how you would like your hall to be used and developed further in the coming year(s) so it provides the space and facilities our two villages will find most valuable.

The hall is an asset for our two villages and we want it to be well used. If you have ideas for events or activities that could be undertaken in the hall, come and tell us what you would like to happen. Although the job of the Management Committee is to make the hall available and not to put on activities, perhaps we can help you to get some new things going.

We always need new members to join the Management Committee and volunteers to help keep the hall ready and welcoming for hirers – it is not that time consuming and you can make a difference to your community. If you are interested and would like more information in advance of the meeting contact:

Frances Saunders on 01823 480022

Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall



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



For Bookings & Enquiries contact: -

Justine Butler: 07966 587305
email: cmbvillagehall@gmail.com

The Bell Inn Community Pub - Campaign Update

Another busy few months!

Lots has been going on behind the scenes with the Save the Bell Inn campaign.

Fundraising

Our Crowdfunder went live early February and got off to a good start. We have had donations from all over the UK, the USA, France and Canada. We have also had some lovely messages of support including this one from June Harper who grew up in the village: "I was born in The Rock Inn at Curry Mallet in 1927. I walked to school every day down the lane by The Bell Inn with a boy called Derek. My cousin and I, Gwen White, still stopped for lunch many times while in our 60s after visiting the churchyard where our relatives are buried".

We haven't hit our target yet so please continue to tell anyone and everyone about it!

Visit to the Hope Pole at Limpey Stoke

Chris Dale and Fiona Duck met up with Simon Coombe at the Hope Pole back in early March. Simon is the Chairman of the Community Benefit Society that saved the Hope Pole and who was on the Radio 4 You and Yours phone-in with us back in January. Simon gave us lots of information about their journey, their fundraising and the hurdles they had to climb but it was really inspiring to see what they had achieved. It was interesting to see that they have almost 1000 shareholders! Our share offer is still open so please consider buying shares if you haven't already. Shareholders are the key to the success of community pubs.

If you are in their area then do pop in and visit - they have great beer and food in a fabulous location.

Update flyer

You should have received a copy of our latest update flyer through your door which gives you more details of the campaign and how we want expand the community hub. We are extremely grateful to the B&C delivery team and other volunteers for their help with distribution.

Motorsport Raffle Winner

Congratulations to the winner of our Motorsport VIP day raffle. It was won by Julian Raithby of Fivehead. We thank everyone that took part and special thanks to Martin Davey and the NAPA race team that donated the prize.

Meeting with our local MP

Many thanks to those of you who came to the village hall on 3rd April to meet with Sarah Dyke MP. It was a productive meeting and she fully understood why it is crucial to get the pub re-opened as a community hub. The loss of facilities in rural communities is some thing she is all too aware of. We discussed what practical steps she could take to help us and promised to push our campaign in parliament.



Somerset Day - Sunday 10th May

Come and have a chat with us at the upcoming Somerset Day event at the Village Hall on Sunday 10th May. We will be running a bar with local cider from Bray's at Meare Court Farm and local beer provided by On The Level Brewery in Ilton. Soft drinks, lager, and wine will also be available to buy. All profits going to our campaign.

So come and have a drink to support our campaign to reopen The Bell Inn.



I'm sitting at my kitchen window (fortunate to see open countryside and the Blackdown Hills) enjoying the spring sunshine and anticipating the warmer months ahead. Our members are also looking forward to the various activities that are planned in our centennial year.

Our monthly meetings for the last quarter were well attended and included 'Somatics: a gentle movement practice' which releases the body without stretching, guided by Sarah Guest in February. This was followed by an open meeting on the 12 March, a talk this time by Mark Whiffen about our local St Giles Animal Centre. Finally in March many members donned a money belt and shimmied, also using long flimsy scarves for some intricate armography, whilst belly dancing, led by Heather Eggins. Joining in was voluntary and as you can imagine there was initial self consciousness which soon erupted into lots of laughter. March also saw one of our theatre visits and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the YAOS's performance of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. A high quality event as usual.

As previously mentioned other events to celebrate our centenary are planned. A cream tea on the 14 June which includes members bringing a guest along, plus a theatre visit to see 'Rhythm of the Dance' in July.

Other up and coming plans

- ✓ 14 May – our AGM and Social
- ✓ 11 June – Hatch Beauchamp Local History, a talk in St John's parish church. Speaker John Townson.
- ✓ 11 July – Members Garden Meeting Social
- ✓ Every month, in addition to regular meetings a book club gets together, as do members for a 'coffee and chat' session which is held at different locations.

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

Games Club

at the Village Hall

Monday April 27th

Monday May 25th

Monday June 22nd

7.30 to 9.30

Bring your own games or play those that others have brought.

So far, we've played Chess, Backgammon, Articulate, Chameleon and a few more besides.

Not everyone plays every game, you come, you choose, you will have fun, I am sure. We have serious games and fun games and sometimes silly games.

No need to let us know, just turn up and join in.

£2 per person to cover the cost of the hall.

Recipes for Baking Competition:

Classic Shortbread

Ingredients:

- 200g unsalted butter (softened)
- 100g caster sugar
- 300g plain flour
- Pinch of salt (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan).
2. Cream the butter and sugar together until smooth (don't over whip—just combined).
3. Add the flour (and salt if using) and mix into a soft dough.
4. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and gently bring together.
5. Roll out to about 1 cm thick, or press into a lined baking tin.
6. Prick all over with a fork and score into fingers or wedges.
7. Chill for 20 minutes (helps keep the shape).
8. Bake for 20–30 minutes until pale golden (not browned).
9. While warm, sprinkle with a little extra sugar if you like, then cool completely.

Victoria Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 100g butter
- 100g caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 100g self raising flour

Filling:

- Raspberry jam
- Fresh whipped cream

Method:

1. Heat oven to 180°C, Gas Mark 4. Grease and/or line an 18cm sandwich tin.
2. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, adding a little flour with each.
3. Gently fold in the rest of the flour.
4. Put mixture into prepared tin and place in oven for 20-25 minutes, or until the middle springs back when touched.
5. When cool, fill with raspberry jam and cream.

No-Bake Chocolate Cornflake Cake

Ingredients:

- 200g milk chocolate
- 100g unsalted butter
- 3tbsp golden syrup
- 150g cornflakes
- Optional: mini eggs or sprinkles for topping

Method:

1. Melt the chocolate, butter and golden syrup together in a heatproof bowl over simmering water (or microwave in short bursts, stirring often).
2. Gently fold in the cornflakes until fully coated.
3. Spoon into cupcake cases or a lined tray.
4. Decorate with mini eggs or sprinkles.
5. Chill in the fridge for about 1-2 hours until set.

Plant Sale



Coffee morning with Bacon or Sausage Baps
Cakes for sale

At Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall
Saturday May 23rd 10am - 1pm



Proceeds in aid of All Saints Church Funds
Donations of any plants or cakes to sell will
be gratefully received.