

# Fivehead & Swell

## Community Matters

*Published every two months*

*By Fivehead Parish Council*

**No 200 December 2020**

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| <b>INFORMATION</b><br>Editor<br>Harry Price<br><br><b>Published by</b><br>Fivehead Parish Council<br><br><b>Advertising Contact</b><br>Harry Price<br>Tel 01460 281573<br>E-Mail:<br>harryprice183@btinternet.com<br><br><b>Printed By</b><br>Parish Magazine Printing Co<br><br><b>Items for the next edition of the newsletter</b> should reach the Editor Mr. Harry Price, 7 Ganges Close, Fivehead (01460 281573) By <b>Tuesday 26th January 2021</b> for distribution early <b>February</b><br><br>Email the editor at<br>harryprice183@btinternet.com<br><br>© Fivehead Parish Council<br><br>Cover Photograph<br>Steven Law<br>Smoothpixels.co.uk | <b>INFORMATION</b><br>Useful contact numbers and other information<br><hr/> <b>PARISH COUNCIL NEWS</b><br>Planning news and a new Councillor<br>What we can do to help our community this winter?<br>The refurbished telephone box and future book exchange<br><hr/> <b>PLAYING FIELD NEWS</b><br>Update on the latest developments<br><hr/> <b>VILLAGE HALL</b><br>Latest update and 100 club winners for October & November<br><hr/> <b>LATEST ON THE CROWN INN</b><br>News of developments and survey results<br><hr/> <b>THEATRE TRIPS</b><br>Possible bookings for 2021 & 2022<br><hr/> <b>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION</b><br>Remembrance Day in Fivehead<br><hr/> <b>St. MARTIN'S &amp; St. CATHERINE'S CHURCH NEWS</b><br>Scott's spot Christmas is cancelled? All your services for Christmas<br><hr/> <b>CURRY RIVEL PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br>New Head at local school shares her vision<br><hr/> <b>THE BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>Welcomes new Minister in January<br><hr/> <b>CROWN FIVEHEAD GOLF SOCIETY</b><br>Ends the season in fine style<br><hr/> <b>FOOD AND DRINK</b><br>Your recipe for this festive season<br><hr/> <b>WHAT'S ON</b><br>Latest activities and Editor's notes on issue no. 1 | <b>2</b><br><br><b>4-5</b><br><br><b>6</b><br><br><b>7</b><br><br><b>9</b><br><br><b>10</b><br><br><b>11</b><br><br><b>12-13</b><br><br><b>14</b><br><br><b>15</b><br><br><b>16</b><br><br><b>21</b><br><br><b>24</b> |
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By supplying material for publication in Community Matters, you are giving consent for its publication on the village website at [www.fivehead-village.org.uk](http://www.fivehead-village.org.uk)

# Useful Information

## EMERGENCY AND HELP SERVICES

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| Emergency No. (All Services)  | 999           |  |
| Non-Emergency Police No.  | 101           |  |
| Non-Emergency Medical No.   | 111           |  |
| Samaritans  | 116 123       |  |
| Age Concern   | 0800 00 99 66 | <a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk">www.ageuk.org.uk</a>                                       |
| Citizens' Advice  | 03444 889 623 |  |
| Somerset Community Connect—local care and services to help you choose the right care and support. |               | <a href="http://www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk">www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk</a> |

## MEDICAL

|                           |              |  |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| Langport Surgery          | 01458 250464 | <a href="http://www.langportsurgery.co.uk">www.langportsurgery.co.uk</a>               |
| North Curry Health Centre | 01823 490505 | <a href="http://www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk">www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk</a> |
| Musgrove Park Hospital    | 01823 333444 | <a href="http://www.tsft.nhs.uk">www.tsft.nhs.uk</a>                                   |
| Yeovil District Hospital  | 01935 475122 | <a href="http://www.yeovilhospital.co.uk">www.yeovilhospital.co.uk</a>                 |

## SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

|  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
|  | 0300 123 2224 | <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk">www.somerset.gov.uk</a>                             |
| County Councillor - Clare Aparicio-Paul  | 07879 313117  | email: <a href="mailto:capaul@somerset.gov.uk">capaul@somerset.gov.uk</a>                |
| Highways and Travel                      |               | <a href="http://www.travelsomerset.gov.uk">www.travelsomerset.gov.uk</a>                 |
| Rights of Way-Volunteer & Trails Officer | 01823 358250  | <a href="http://www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map">www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map</a> |
| Somerset Waste Partnership               | 01823 625700  | <a href="http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk">www.somersetwaste.gov.uk</a>                   |

## SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

|                                      |              |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
|                                      | 01935 462462 | <a href="http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk">www.southsomerset.gov.uk</a>                       |
| District Councillor - Malcolm Cavill | 01823 481335 | <a href="mailto:malcolm.cavill@southsomerset.gov.uk">malcolm.cavill@southsomerset.gov.uk</a> |

## PARISH COUNCIL

|                           |  |              |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Kate Beacham (Chair)      | 6 Ganges Close   | 01460 281414 |
| Laura Howard (Vice Chair) | The Old Manse  | 01460 282911 |
| Ken Male                  | Tanyard Farm   | 01460 281233 |
| Nina Cameron              | 18 Ganges Close  | 01460 281358 |
| Phillipa Brett            | The Old Bakery B&B                                     | 01460 281115 |
| Robert (Rob) Wynn         | Meldon   | 01460 281288 |
| Bruce Ferguson Dr.        | Poolhayes Swell  | 01458 250138 |
| Jayne Parsons (Clerk)     | White Lias House,<br>Turnhill Rd, High Ham<br>TA10 9DF | 07432 275954 |

E-Mail contact for all matters [fiveheadpc@gmail.com](mailto:fiveheadpc@gmail.com)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

|                                 |              |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Drama Group—Kevin Stevens       | 077940226149 | <a href="mailto:kevinmstevens11@gmail.com">kevinmstevens11@gmail.com</a>        |
| Harry Price                     | 01460 281573 | <a href="mailto:harryprice183@btinternet.com">harryprice183@btinternet.com</a>  |
| Playing Fields — Frank Doggett  | 01460 281549 |   |
| Post Office — Curry Mallet      | 01823 480236 | <a href="mailto:currymalletstores@gmail.com">currymalletstores@gmail.com</a>    |
| Golf Society— Richard Hadfield  | 01460 281904 | email: <a href="mailto:rkhadfield@btinternet.com">rkhadfield@btinternet.com</a> |
| Short Mat Bowls— Heather Gorton | 01460 281995 | email: <a href="mailto:h.gorton74@gmail.com">h.gorton74@gmail.com</a>           |

# Parish Council

## Parish Council News

Property and planning developments continue to be at the forefront of our parish life. Since the last issue, The Parish Council's application to register The Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value has been successful. Being on the register means this will be a material consideration when South Somerset District Council's Planning team is deciding on the Change of Use application for Fivehead's only remaining pub to become a residential dwelling. Further updates will be provided on the Parish website.

The characterful, listed property, Langford Fivehead, has recently gone through the Change of Use process to restore it to a family home, and welcomed its new occupants in October.

Working hard through lockdown, the District Council has accomplished the assessment of its Five-Year Housing Land Supply for 2020-2025. The good news is that our area has a supply equivalent to six years and the District Council will be working hard to maintain this positive position. This will form the backdrop to making future decisions on development in our Parish.

Fivehead is classed as a rural settlement, and as such, is not identified as an area for development; however, there is a shortage of low cost, affordable housing across the country and it is a priority for the District Council to deliver affordable homes. In the New Year, the Parish Council will be undertaking a survey to have a better understanding of the difficulties people, particularly in younger and older age groups, may be having in finding suitable, affordable housing within the Parish. With your help to complete the study, we can assess the real need in our local community and plan for the future.

For policing matters, our Parish is looked after by two Police Community Support Officers based with the Ilminster Beat Team. Crime in our area is low, but they would encourage anyone with farms or horses to join either 'Farm Watch' or 'Horse Watch' by contacting the team on 101 or sending them an email at [stephen.trace@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:stephen.trace@avonandsomerset.police.uk). Rural crime is on the rise in surrounding villages, so if you can be extra vigilant and report any suspicious activity or vehicles, this would be helpful. Further information can be found at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/protecting-your-home-and-property/protecting-rural-property/>



In November, the Parish Council welcomed a new Member to the Council, Bruce Ferguson, bringing local representation for Swell. Bruce moved to the village with his wife, Lorna, just over three years ago, from South Wales. He is keen to bring some of the experience and skills that he learnt in the NHS, working as a clinician, and in managerial and executive roles. He believes strongly that the health of an individual is interconnected to the health of the environment they live in and is looking forward to getting involved with our community plans.

Looking after the wellbeing of our community during the pandemic has been the primary aim of the Parish's informal network of volunteers, including helping with shopping, dog walking and distributing medicines. If you are isolating, over 70, live on your own, or are without a computer or car, and need help, please get in touch with your Cluster leader. For a reminder of who this is, please contact the Parish Clerk.

If we all continue to do our best with the simple things like handwashing, keeping our distance from others and wearing masks when we are in closer contact, our cases will hopefully be even lower after this mini lockdown. With vaccines on the horizon, we can start to look forward to a return in normality in the not too distant future. The festive season may not be quite the same, but as the whole year has been an anomaly, we have learnt to be good at 'adapting' and will find ways to share good cheer with friends, families, colleagues and neighbours, whatever the situation.

With all good wishes for a peaceful time and a happy and healthy New Year

Jayne Parsons Parish Clerk

Contact details: Email: [fiveheadpc@gmail.com](mailto:fiveheadpc@gmail.com)

# Parish Council (cont)

## How we can all make a difference...

You may not be in a position to volunteer personally, but there are lots of ways to help your community:

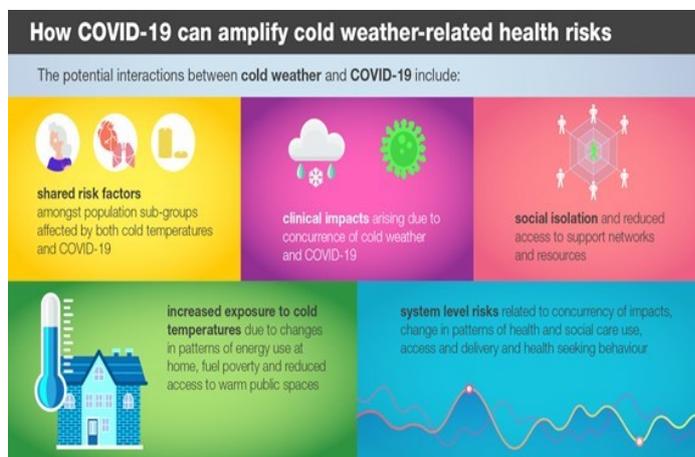
### If you don't need it, donate it...

If you can afford to give your winter fuel payment, you can help someone to stay warm and well, so they are less at risk to becoming seriously ill with flu and/or coronavirus.

Somerset Community Foundation hopes to help over 500 vulnerable older people with donations.

Donate online at [www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter)

Or Call 01749 344949



The Government has also put in place a £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support families and children. This will allow Councils to help the hardest-hit individuals, as well as provide food for children over the holidays. The funding will be divided, with at least 80% reserved to support with food and bills, and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. Local Authorities will receive the funding at the beginning of December 2020.

### Think local...

Supporting local businesses at this time with help ensure they will still be there after the pandemic is over. A movement called '**Adopt a Shop**' started in Ireland and is spreading far and wide. All you have to do is pledge to spend with three local, independent businesses that you feel are good for you and the community.

When you are shopping online, try typing in what you want, then add a comma, followed by your local town, to see if you can source it locally.

The £5 concept is also another great way to support local businesses. If you spend £5 locally and everyone else does the same, this can make a huge difference to the local economy. For more information, visit [www.totallylocally.org](http://www.totallylocally.org)

**Fivehead book exchange – coming soon...** Get ready to donate your unwanted books, or swap them, so others can enjoy them over the Winter months. Fivehead's former phone kiosk is undergoing a transformation and will soon be open as a mini self-serve library. Watch this space...

### Finally, a big thank you...

...to our volunteer who has restored the Fivehead phone kiosk opposite St Martin's Church. Whilst Remembrance Day events were disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions, our kiosk was a powerful visual reminder with cards of the fallen displayed on its windows (see photo).

...and congratulations to our editor on this 200<sup>th</sup> edition of Community Matters. Harry Price single-handedly coordinates the editorial, advertising, print and distribution of the Parish newsletter, and has plenty more ideas in store for 2021!

...to St Martin's Church and Greenshutters Nurseries, who are organising this year's Christmas Tree for Fivehead's village festive centrepiece.



# Fivehead Playing Field News

Who knows what the future holds when ever-changing rules make it impossible to plan ahead? All we can do is give an update as to the position as at this newsletter (200<sup>th</sup>!) deadline, the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## Children's Playground

The playground has been open throughout and this will continue. It's not quite so popular in the cold weather but parents should make sure they keep their distance from other families, and use hand sanitiser which they should bring with them.

## New Playground Fencing

We are still in the process of raising the necessary funding for this project and we are hopeful of imminent success.

## Fivehead Football Team

Fixtures will restart on Saturday 5th. December with a reserve team match

The Playing Field Committee wishes you all the very best for Christmas and the coming year.

Frank Doggett      Chairperson

# Shop News

As always thank you for your continued support, hopefully I'm supplying the right items!

Enclosed with this issue is an order form for milk, cream, fruit and veg etc. for Christmas week which I can deliver to your door or can be collected from the shop.

Here we are at the end of a very difficult year, with Christmas just around the corner. Travelling and mixing with other family members still unknown at this time.

If you have neighbours who are elderly or alone and their family are unable to come to them, please check they are ok and maybe take them a Christmas dinner, you may be the only one they see over Christmas.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy, hopeful New Year.

Sue and Chris

# Avian influenza (bird flu)

*Poultry and other captive birds*

An [Avian Influenza Prevention Zone](#) (PDF, 39.1KB, 6 pages) (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England effective from 5pm on 11 November 2020. All poultry keepers in England (whether they have commercial flocks **or just a few birds in a backyard flock**) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions. If you keep poultry (including gamebirds or pet birds) or other captive birds, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the AIPZ. Your stock needs to be feed and watered under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds. Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases such as avian influenza and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak. All bird gatherings within the AIPZ are prohibited therefore the general licence that had permitted bird gatherings has been revoked.

For more guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

# Village Hall Management Committee

## The View from the Village Hall

The sad news is that like everyone else, the Village Hall has succumbed to countrywide lockdown! All our regular customers are forbidden to use it so we are effectively SHUT! Hopefully, our dance and fitness classes and badminton may be able to restart from 2nd December.

As our ongoing costs now exceed our monthly income, we are making losses for the next few months, the first time for many years.

Our only, modest, income is from the increasingly popular monthly "100 Club" draw, where for a £30 payment, you could share in a £100 win ( 1st prize £50, 2nd £25, 3rd £15, 4th £10) EVERY month and at the same time support YOUR hall. The first prize for the December draw will be £100.

More positive news is that there have been new changes to the management. The committee would like to publicly thank the retiring secretary, Margaret Knox for all her sterling work since she took over the role, recognising that her tireless dedication and knowledge was not only a great asset to them, but personally to Kevin, our chairman. In wishing Margaret well for the future the committee announced that Dave Cunningham ( of TV fame!) has agreed to try to reach her high standards as secretary.

Richard Guthrie has been elected trustee to replace Ellen Balmer who is resigning after, again, many years devoted service. If you feel able to support the hall by becoming a trustee, please contact Kevin Stevens.

The November 100 club draw was the final draw of the 2020 club. In order to keep the hall running, we will again need to sell all one hundred numbers of the 2021 club within the local community and hope you will feel able to support us. This also helps keep the hiring rates competitive. To that end private bookings by 100 club members will receive a 10% saving on booking fees when we can again accommodate such bookings. Membership to the 2021 100 club is available through Paul Narey, Tel No 01460 281966, or Richard Hadfield, 01460 281904.

We all hope for better fortunes in serving our lovely village in 2021.

Chairperson: Kevin Stevens 07794226149

Treasurer & Booking Clerk: Richard Hadfield 01460 281904



## 100 Club Winners

### October 2020

|        |                |     |
|--------|----------------|-----|
| No. 99 | F. Doggett     | £50 |
| No. 3  | M. Wilson      | £25 |
| No. 27 | B&S. Westworth | £15 |
| No. 38 | P. Armen       | £10 |

### November 2020

|        |              |     |
|--------|--------------|-----|
| No.102 | M. Way       | £50 |
| No. 65 | G. Smith     | £25 |
| No. 92 | J&S. Morling | £15 |
| No. 31 | S. Allington | £10 |

# Bereavement support

The Somerset Bereavement Support Service is here if you've been bereaved and need emotional support or someone to talk to.



Ben Goh/MarieCurie

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9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

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*Also:*  
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01458 850654 or Street 01458 443677



Pound Pool, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6LZ  
01458 272297 or Langport 01458 250509



# Save Our Crown

## And the survey said....

We are extremely grateful to all of you who took the time to complete the survey on what you would like from your Village pub, which was kindly distributed with your October newsletter and available online.

A whopping 97% of you understand that a Village benefits from having a pub and 72% said having the pub in the Village influenced your decision to live here. Many expressed their gratitude in having newspapers and groceries available, which would be sorely missed if the pub closes permanently.

It turns out a lot of us do like a tippie with friends too. Nearly half of respondents admitted to visiting a pub more than once a week, some going several times a week, with the majority stating it was to enjoy socialising with friends and the convenience of having the pub so close.

The top reasons for going to the pub were to eat and drink real ales. We also like to meet our friends in our skittles/drama/darts/golf groups, listen to live music and quizzes are a draw too. Many came up with good suggestions for future activities from coffee mornings to breakfast clubs and using the space as a base for Village events such as Open Gardens.

Almost 20% of you have offered your time and skills to maintain and run the pub, with 40% offering to invest. Overall a highly positive result, which will help to guide the next steps.

It was very disappointing though that this positive attitude was not mirrored by the current management in their interview with The Leveller (Nov edition). (<https://leveller.live/2020/11/15/during-lockdown-get-the-leveller-online/>).

The Editor himself admitted his article was biased, probably because Steve and Jacqui have had the magazine on display in their pub for years. He neither challenged the claims made by the Chastells about the lack of village support, nor engaged with villagers or Save Our Crown – who had made the initial contact with The Leveller asking it to run the story - hoping a bit of publicity might be helpful either with the marketing effort or in seeking potential investors if the Village did decide to attempt a community purchase. It looks like Steve and Jacqui's comments were simply taken as true. We will all have an opinion on that.

The impression this article gives is that the reason for the pub failing to thrive was wholly down to the community failing to support it for no justifiable reason.

It is clear that Steve and Jacqui want to move on and we wish them well wherever they go. If any lessons are to be learned for the future, it is that owning a Village pub comes with responsibilities to the community; it is also a good plan to listen to your customers.

The pub is still on the market as a going concern (albeit closed) and it is genuinely hoped that the impression The Leveller article gives of the village and its supposed hostility towards the pub is not going to make any potential purchasers or investors out there think twice!

South Somerset District Council has just registered the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value'. This gives us 6 weeks to decide if we wish to attempt a community purchase, and then gives us 6 months to submit a bid. This protected status can be renewed every 5 years. This registration will also be considered by the Planners when they decide on the application for change of use, hopefully in early December.

Save Our Crown is meeting with advisers regarding a community bid to buy and will be updating the community soon.

Pip Brett      Save Our Crown Community Group

# THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME

100 YEARS



## We Will Rock You at Bristol Hippodrome

If you were hoping to come with me to see We Will Rock You back in March. This show was of course cancelled and rescheduled to February 2021. I have just been notified that it has been moved again and our trip is now booked in for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Your booking has been reserved, but of course you are not committed to going until my payment date, which I will try get fixed for a date in early April.

The theatre has stuck to the same ticket price, but I suspect the coach hire charge may increase after all these months of inactivity. I will keep any increase as low as possible.

Other trips are still hoped for through 2021 and into 2022. The present situation is attached.

| Date           | Show                            | Seating       | Time* | Price   |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|---------|
| Postponed to ? | Kiss Me Kate                    | Stalls Band A | 17:15 | £48     |
| Tue 23 Feb     | Bourne's Nutcracker             | Stalls/Circle | 17:15 | £41/£51 |
| Wed 31 Mar     | Il Trovatore                    | Stalls/Circle | 17:00 | £46/£56 |
| Tue 18 May 21  | Les Miserables                  | Stalls/Circle | 17:15 | £62/£70 |
| Wed 9 Jun 21   | We Will Rock You (2nd new date) | Stalls        | 17:15 | £45/£58 |
| Tue 20 Jul 21  | School of Rock                  | Stalls        | 17:15 | £52/£62 |
| Tue 23 Nov 21  | The Commitments (new date)      | Stalls        | 17:15 | £50     |
| Tue 10 May 22  | Strictly Ballroom (new date)    | Stalls/Circle | 17:15 | £36/£51 |
| Mon 20 Jun 22  | Mamma Mia (new date)            | Stalls        | 17:15 | £49/£61 |

Time\* is departure from Curry Rivel. Other pick-ups: Langport + 5 min  
 Somerton + 20 min; Keinton + 30 min; Shepton + 50 min  
 OR Street + 35 min, Wells + 55 min

For more details or  
**Booking**

E-mail

[coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com](mailto:coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com)

or visit the website

[www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk](http://www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk)

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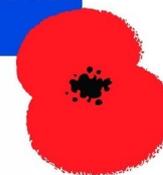
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# *The Royal British Legion*



## **Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead Branch**

### **Remembrance in Fivehead**

A small congregation represented our community in paying its respects to those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Country. Representatives from the Royal British Legion, Parish Council, Baptist's Chapel and St Martin's Church attended the Village Green on Remembrance Sunday, where Rev. Mervyn Wilson conducted a thought provoking service in this difficult year.



We were fortunate that plans were made in good time to allow the service to go ahead, closely following the restrictions we are all living under. Thanks must go to all those who helped to ensure the service went ahead and to Jon Rose who worked hard to finish renovating the telephone box which hosted some biographies of our Fallen servicemen.

## *Fivehead Fellowship & Leisure Club*

We are rapidly approaching the end of the year 2020 which has been a very strange one. I expect many of you, like me, have missed the meetings of the Fellowship Club and its friendly gatherings. It is with sadness I have to say we will not be able to have our usual Christmas lunch at the Village Hall due to the coronavirus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their work and support they have given me to keep this club running. I would like to thank all the members for their support over the years thus enabling the club to thrive. I am delighted to say then Gordon Balmer has agreed to take on the treasurer's role and we welcome him onto the committee. We wish Meg Tyler on the best for the future in their new home and thank her for all the work she did as treasurer of the club.

We are still looking for someone to take over the role of speaker organiser. If anyone would like to know more about what is involved in this role they can talk to Sheila Land.

I wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and hopefully we will all be able to meet again soon in the new year.

Anyone who would like to join the club will be more than welcome to come. We are a very friendly group that enjoy as well as the talks, lunches and outings a nice cup of tea, biscuits and a good chat after the meetings. The annual subscription is only £7 while the tea and biscuits are 50p. Visitors are also welcomed to attend with a charge of £1 per meeting.

If you have any enquiries regarding the club please ring me on (01460) 282957

Chris Jackson, Chairman

## *Editor's Comment*

With the ongoing situation with the Crown Inn (page 9) we wish the group success in their endeavours. We would be interested to know what would be the management structure envisaged for a community owned pub, who would make the decisions etc. We have a successful and expanding shop (at the filling station) and an established coffee shop at The Stable, what we need is a vibrant & successful pub, not a mix between a shop, a coffee shop and a newsagents. **Give us a pub!**

# UNITED BENEFICE OF CURRY RIVEL, FIVEHEAD AND SWELL

## St Martin's Fivehead



### Churchwardens

Meg Tyler Tel: 01460 281574

Ellen Balmer Tel: 01460 281578

## St Catherine's Swell



### Churchwarden

Anna Rees Tel: 01458 253067

**Rector:**  
Revd. Scott Patterson  
Tel: 01458 251375

**Reader:**

## Scott's Spot – December 2020

## A Happy Covid Christmas?

Christmas is cancelled, they say. It just won't be the same with Covid stalking the streets and damping everything down. How can we properly celebrate if we're restricted to just 6 people meeting? How frustrating not to be able to meet with friends in the pub for a properly relaxed Christmas drink or meal. So sad that there will be no school nativity plays this year, complete with comedy camels and little girl angels. How disappointing that those Christmas parties can't really happen in the way we would like. How sad that those traditional carol services have been cancelled because we can't even sing. And what about the delights of Christmas shopping, all ruined by mask wearing, and social-distance keeping, and not being able to try anything on? No...despite the hope of effective vaccines on the horizon, the Covid-Grinch has stolen Christmas, and it just won't be the same. 2020 will be a Christmas to remember for all the wrong reasons. Perhaps you share some of those sentiments.

Well it need not be so. Because the real Christmas is all about light breaking in amongst the darkness of this world in a way that can illuminate and transform even the pains and frustrations of a pandemic. The Covid-Grinch has no power to alter, spoil, erase or cancel **anything** that Christmas is really about. The periphery may be restricted, but the heart of the Christian Christmas beats boldly on. Covid cannot alter the fact that the arrival of God's promised Saviour was long foretold. Covid cannot change the unique marvel of the 'immaculate conception' whereby a sinless Christ came amongst us. Covid cannot suppress the witness of Mary, with her faith so beautifully expressed through word and action. Covid cannot snuff out the angel's message to the shepherds that: **"to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."** Covid cannot erase the very good news that in the arrival of this baby, God's rescue mission for sinful humanity was launched. Covid cannot reduce the sheer love that stands at the heart of Christmas and points with anticipation to the adult Jesus who on Good Friday faced the death we deserved for our sin, and washed the guilty clean. We may not be able to sing of it together, but Covid cannot social-distance us from God's love, peace and hope, or from a real Christmas making a real difference to everything. *Joy to the world, the Lord has come!*

When, for you, the real Christmas fills your vision and shines like that magi-leading star, then it is entirely possible – no, entirely appropriate - to rejoice and know even a 'very happy Covid Christmas'.

My prayer for us all this Christmas: that alongside healing and safety we may also know a surprising richness, joy and peace that far surpasses expectations. Amen.

Revd. Scott.

**DIARY THERE ARE CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) AT 10.30 am ON THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOM BEHIND CURRY RIVEL CHURCH. BCP = Book of Common Prayer, CW = Common Worship, UB = United Benefice**

**Notice from Revd Scott Patterson: Due to Covid 19 social distancing & hygiene precautions the service pattern below is not 'normal'. Apologies if a service you love is missing but in the meantime I've chosen to work with the principles of not mixing more than 2 'church family bubbles' on any one day (me as the point of contact), or using the same church building twice.**

### December Services

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Thursday 3rd.</b>  | 10.00am (BCP) Communion in <b>St. Andrew's Church</b>  | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
| <b>Sunday 6th.</b>    | 10.00am All Age Family Service followed immediately by<br>10.45am said Communion Service<br>6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)   | <b>Fivehead<br/>Fivehead<br/>Curry Rivel</b>    |
| <b>Sunday 13th.</b>   | 9.30am Prayer Book (BCP) Communion Service<br>11.00am Parish Communion (CW)  | <b>Curry Rivel<br/>Swell<br/>Curry Rivel</b>    |
| <b>Thursday 17th.</b> | 10.00am (BCP) Communion in <b>St. Andrew's Church</b>  | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
| <b>Sunday 20th.</b>   | 9.30am Morning Prayer (CW)<br>11.00am All Age Family Service followed immediately by<br>11.45am said Communion   | <b>Fivehead<br/>Curry Rivel<br/>Curry Rivel</b> |
|                       | <b>2-4pm Our three Benefice Churches will be open for anyone to bring their decorations &amp; prayer labels to festoon the church Christmas trees. <u>Look out for your special delivery!</u></b>  |   |
| <b>Thursday 24th.</b> | <b>Christmas Eve</b><br><b>2-4pm Sadly no Crib Service, but instead another opportunity to bring your decorations &amp; prayer labels to one of our three Benefice Churches, &amp; to decorate the Christmas trees.</b><br><b>11.15pm-Midnight Christmas Communion</b><br>(Ticketed - please see local press & websites) | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
| <b>Friday 25th.</b>   | <b>Christmas Day</b> (Ticketed - please see local press & web-   |   |
|                       | 8.30am. Prayer Book (BCP) Christmas Morning Communion<br>10.30am Family Christmas Communion  | <b>Swell<br/>Fivehead</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday 27th.</b>   | 10.00am All Age Communion Service  | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
|                       | <b>January 2021 Services <i>Happy New Year</i></b>   |   |
| <b>Sunday 3rd.</b>    | 10.00am All Age Communion<br>6.00pm Evening Worship or Evening Prayer  | <b>Fivehead<br/>Curry Rivel</b>                 |
| <b>Thursday 7th.</b>  | 10.00am (BCP) Communion in <b>St. Andrew's Church</b>  | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
| <b>Sunday 10th.</b>   | 9.30am Prayer Book (BCP) Communion Service<br>11.00am Parish Communion (CW)  | <b>Swell<br/>Curry Rivel</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday 17th.</b>   | 9.30am Morning Worship<br>11.00am All Age Family Service followed immediately by<br>11.45am said Communion Service   | <b>Fivehead<br/>Curry Rivel<br/>Curry Rivel</b> |
| <b>Thursday 21st.</b> | 10.00am (BCP) Communion in <b>St. Andrew's Church</b>  | <b>Curry Rivel</b>                              |
| <b>Sunday 24th.</b>   | 9.30am Parish Communion (CW)<br>11.00am Morning Worship  | <b>Fivehead<br/>Curry Rivel</b>                 |
| <b>Sunday 31st.</b>   | 9.30am All Age Communion Service<br>11.00am All Age Communion Service  | <b>Swell<br/>Curry Rivel</b>                    |

# CURRY RIVEL CHURCH OF ENGLAND



## PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

**'Caring, Curious & Confident'**

Hello everyone

I am writing to you during difficult times. Nonetheless, I am delighted to be the Head Teacher of Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School and Little Pips Nursery. Although I joined the school in April, in many ways this Autumn term has been another new start as we have been able to meet all the children and families for the first time.

I have worked in primary schools for 25 years: as a class teacher, Advanced Skills Teacher (AST), Assistant Head, Deputy Head Teacher, Acting Head Teacher and as a Head Teacher in Burnham-on-Sea. As a young class teacher in London and as a teacher trainer in Nepal, I developed a love for teaching and learning that has continued and strengthened as my career has developed. During four years of headship, I have provided strong strategic leadership, always putting the children at the centre. My experience of being a Head Teacher has taught me that a successful and happy school depends on a strong school community working together.

COVID risk assessments and implementing safer working practices have dominated our return to school of course. However, the children have settled back to the routine brilliantly and we are so grateful to the support of our families. We have adapted to the new routines of class bubbles, regular handwashing and additional cleaning; it is different, but teaching and learning continues and the children are enjoying being back with their friends and being engaged in their lessons and being curious about the world around them.

We have introduced some new initiatives to help drive progress for our children, especially for reading, with the purchase of new Big Cat phonics books and the Accelerated Reader scheme. All of the teachers are enjoying teaching PE (previously taught by coaches) under the leadership of our PE leader Mr Bridgeman. As I write this Mr Bridgeman is running a school 'Mini- Olympics' with each bubble competing in the house teams (Quantock, Polden, Mendip and Blackdown). Such inter-house competitions will run half-termly, ensuring all our pupils enjoy the experience of shared activity, team work and competitions. All our pupils also enjoy outdoor learning (in our amazing ground and orchard) and computing lessons (taught by our IT lead) to support learning across the curriculum.

As a church school, our links to the local community are so important. We are a 'caring' and 'compassionate' school, so it is vital the children have an understanding of the needs of others but more importantly that they have a chance to 'do' something. This year we received a record number of donations for our Harvest Festival, with food being donated to the Curry Rivel Food Bank. Rev Scott led our Harvest Festival service (via an on-line platform) and will also lead us in our Remembrance service in November. Daily Collective Worship continues as I lead assemblies from my office broadcasting to the classrooms (media training required!).

We have all embraced technology during this time and like many schools we are using remote learning platforms to support our learners- we have chosen 'Google Classroom' as this is the tool used at Huish Academy. It is all very new, but we are all learning together. It is a worrying time, but here at Curry Rivel School it is an exciting time as we go on a journey of improvement and development.



The school is a friendly and warm place, and certainly has a family feel. Please follow us on Facebook, visit our website and if you know anyone who is applying for a primary school place, please encourage them to come our open day on 8<sup>th</sup> January - places must be booked.

Ali Pook

Head Teacher



## Letter from The Manse

At Fivehead Baptist Church we can now introduce you to Matt and his wife Sarah. Matt will be our new minister from January 2021. They will move into the Manse -Silver Street Fivehead and hopefully will soon feel settled into the life of Fivehead Village.

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome them into the life of Fivehead Baptist Church!

Matthew and Sarah have 6 children. Originally from East Sussex, they moved to Somerset in 2006 and enjoy life very much in the South West. Matthew has worked as a church minister since 2002 and believes Christianity can do great good in local communities around the world, bringing people together to share life in helpful and hopeful ways. Matthew enjoys art, music and science.

### News from The Stable

Well 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us and The Stable has been no exception. At the turn of the year we again gave away £1000.00: £500 to the developing world via TEARfund and £500 to the village playing field to help with secure storage. During the early spring we were busy and had managed to give away more via our tips donations. We reached our 8th birthday during lockdown, so no celebrations or birthday cakes then! However, we used the opportunity to decorate. Decoration was a strange, solitary experience- as a community venture, we are used to working together, but this event required us to work alone and leave gaps between each session. We also improved our access for the disabled.

Reopening required us to reduce our tables inside, but we do have extra room at the rear. We were hugely encouraged by customers waiting outside 10 mins before opening on our first day back. When the weather allows, we have increased our outside seating.

Our conversations with the mobile Post Office, who initially approached us 7 years ago(!), have, at last borne fruit and we are pleased to host the Post Office weekly on a Thursday 1.15pm—3.15pm. Now we are locked down again, the PO is still operating and as we need to unlock for them, we are providing a takeaway service for that 2-hour window.

We feel privileged to be able to serve the community and provide a meeting place ( albeit socially distanced, for the time being.)

For details of all services, especially with respect to Covid and Christmas, please see the Church website. [www.fiveheadbaptist.co.uk](http://www.fiveheadbaptist.co.uk).

Wendy Cutts

# Crown Fivehead Golf Society

The Crown Fivehead Golf Society rounded off the year with a visit to Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club on Friday 23rd. October for the final official event of the season; The Chairman's Outing.

The day was cloudy and overcast but with only a small amount of drizzle and a short spell of rain 16 members finished the day in fine weather.

The Chairman's Trophy was lifted by Bob Durrant with 35 points, 2nd was Malcolm Head with 32 points & 3rd Phil Lock with 30 points.

The spot prizes proved to be a clean sweep for the first three players out, Longest Drive 5th hole: Phil Lock, Nearest the pin 16th hole: Malcolm Head & nearest the pin in 2 18th hole: Phil Dibble

There followed the meal (3 Farmhouse Sausages with mash & onion gravy, and Brioche Bread & Butter Pudding with Seville Orange sauce & Ice cream) all legally seated in 2 bubbles of 6 and 1 of three.

A fine end to a difficult and curtailed season, we can only look forward and hope for better times in 2021. Anybody wishing to join the Society can contact any of the following:

Gary Smith 01460 281555 email [gary.smith555@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:gary.smith555@btinternet.co.uk)

Harry Price 01460 281573 email [harryprice183@btinternet.com](mailto:harryprice183@btinternet.com)

Richard Hadfield 01460 281904 email [rkhadfield@btinternet.com](mailto:rkhadfield@btinternet.com)

## Short Mat Bowls

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Heather and all at the Bowls Club, hoping that we can reopen in 2021 with new enthusiasm and additional members.

Anybody requiring details contact Heather 01460 281995

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The Editor

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our readers and my  
band of delivery  
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&**

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&  
Happy New Year**



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Thursday 10.00am to 5.00pm  
7.30pm to 9.00pm  
(Youth Café)  
Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm

Thursday Nights are Youth Café - open to any young people aged 11-19. Cheap drinks and snacks

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## Support your local businesses

In these present difficult times we should try and support our local business as much as possible.

Many of whom may have to close in their present form and adapt to alternatives to try and survive.

A lot of whom advertise in this publication.  
We wish them well

ST MARTINS, FIVEHEAD AND ST CATHERINES, SWELL

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2020

This year due to the current situation of restricted numbers our Christmas Day Services in both churches will have to be pre-booked.

St Catherines - 8.30am Christmas BCP Communion please contact Anna Rees either by phone 01458 253067 or email - [pittcourt@talktalk.net](mailto:pittcourt@talktalk.net)

St Martins - 10.30am Christmas Family Communion please contact either Trish Allen by phone 01460 281674 or email - [trish333@btinternet.com](mailto:trish333@btinternet.com) or Ellen Balmer by phone 01460 281578 or email - [ellenbalmer@icloud.com](mailto:ellenbalmer@icloud.com)

## Applying for a primary school place for September 2020?



### OPEN DAYS

27th/28th NOVEMBER 2020

8th January 2021

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## What do you know about the history of your Village

If you have anything of interest about the Village or any subject please contact the Editor

Look out in the future issues for local history from the notes of

**Ella Louch**



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# Food & Drink

## Venetian Roast Duck (Anitra alla Venezia)

### Ingredients

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - (2.25kg) 5lb Duck      | 1 – Clove Garlic, chopped       |
| Salt & Pepper              | 4 – Tablespoons Marsala         |
| 2 – Teaspoons chopped Sage | Juice of 1 orange               |
| 2 – Celery sticks, chopped | 150 ml (1/4 pint) Chicken stock |
| 1 – Small Onion, chopped   | 1 – Teaspoon Lemon Juice        |

### Method

Season the duck cavity liberally with salt & pepper and insert the sage, celery, onion & garlic.

Prick the skin all over and place the duck breast side down on a rack in a roasting pan.

Cook in a preheated oven, 180°C (350°F), Gas Mark 4, for 1 ½ hours, drain off the fat from the pan and turn the duck over. Heat the Marsala & orange juice and pour over the duck.

Continue roasting for 1 hour, or until tender, basting occasionally.

Transfer the duck to a warmed serving dish and keep hot. Skim the fat from the pan juices, add the stock & lemon juice and bring to the boil. Check the seasoning and strain into a sauceboat.

Garnish the duck with orange slices & parsley to serve along with potatoes and vegetables of your choice.

Something to enjoy this festive Season!

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# DIARY OF EVENTS

| Day/Date/Time               |         | Description            | Where                 |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday 26th. January       |         | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE    |                       |
| Mondays @ 6.00 pm           | Weekly  | AMG fitness Classes    | Village Hall          |
| Wednesdays @ 4.45 pm        | Weekly  | Dragonfly's            | Village Hall          |
| Usually 1st. Monday 7.30 pm | Monthly | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall/<br>Zoom |

## Editor's Note

This issue of your village Magazine is **no. 200** a significant landmark. **Issue no. 1** was published in **September 1987** and consisted of 6 A5 pages and was produced on a typewriter. The Editor was **Mrs. May Smith 9 Ganges Close** who only produced 3 issues before leaving the village when the mantle was passed next door to **Pat Price**. **Pat** continued to edit the magazine until June 2015. And so from those humble beginnings, the magazine has continued growing in stature until we changed to the present format , 24 full A4 pages in colour in **February 2018**.

The original one carried an introductory letter from the then **Chairman of the Parish Council** a certain **Mr.K.H.Male** (still serving the Community today). Reports from the **Playing Field Committee** chaired by **Mr.K.Stevens** (also still serving). **The Friendship Club** (now Fellowship Club) was planning an October visit to **Bampton Fair**. In the Council news there were ongoing planning issues regarding housing developments (no change there then)

Another item from the **Fivehead Cricket Club** included a report on a Charity Match versus the **Titans** led by **Mushtaq Mohammed** ( of Pakistan fame) who scored 216 for 5 wickets which had the reply of 128 all out from Fivehead. Afterwards at the Crown Inn a cricket bat signed by the **Pakistan & England test teams & BBC Test match commentators** was raffled and a total of over **£600** raised for **Cystic Fibrosis**.

There were also reports from Playgroup and W.I. both thriving units in those days and a poem from the Drama group to promote their upcoming Pantomime.

Space permitting, in future issues I will be including further snippets from the past and hopefully some history of the Village from the jottings of **Ella Louch** who was born in **Bridge Cottage, Butchers Hill 7th. September 1921**

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