



# Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 75, NOVEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

## Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Following the village hall investment plan, we have been able to install 24 PV panels and batteries in October. These should provide at least 70% independence from the grid and contribute recurring feed-in tariff payments of several hundred pounds per annum based on current FIT rates. The batteries are placed in the entrance lobby and will not be an obstruction to the main doors.



We have also raised funds to support the installation of infra-red heating panels in the main hall and meeting room which will start at the end of October. This will improve the thermal comfort of both areas and with wi-fi thermostats we will be able to control temperatures remotely.

The committee will discuss the temperature levels and controls with user groups and it is expected we have an 'open day' to show off our improvements and see if other user groups could attend - we need more to balance the books!

The committee have worked hard to make these improvements which is for the benefit of whole community. Great thanks go to Chris Dale who has been very successful in obtaining grants; the cost of the PV panels and batteries is covered in full and about three quarters of the IR cost. Fantastic work! Grants have been provided by the National Lottery, ACRE, Somerset Community Foundation, Clarks, Beercrocombe Village Trust and Parish Council, and the users - Short Mat Bowls, Round Window Club, VEG, plus a generous anonymous donation. Thanks also to Forest Electrical Ltd and AVS Ltd, our local providers, especially AVS who provided the work without charging for installation.

On Saturday 23rd November the village hall will be open to show the new heating and PV panels and batteries. We will start at 2pm for a couple of hours and complimentary Prosecco, tea and coffee will be available.



# Christmas Carols at Park Farm Curry Mallet

You are warmly invited to join us for Carols with  
the cattle in the cowshed!

Back for it's second year, and set to be better!  
Saturday 21st December at 6pm



Carols, Poems and Readings.

Followed by Mulled Wine, fruit juice, and mince pies

Donations to the Children's Hospice South West

Please wear warm clothing sturdy

footwear and bring a torch.

(Sadly, on this occasion no dogs)

Parking on the farm



## Losing It!

**We lost our shop – we hoped it could be saved – and it was!**

This was due to great efforts by local residents - the building owners Chris and Adrian and Kate and Andy, who run the Trading Post at Lopenhead.

Sadly, it did not work out as a going concern - which is a sad loss and a reminder of the old adage: **“Use it or lose it!”**

In their Facebook posts Kate and Andy were very upbeat about the community support and they great time they had doing it – but it must be a great disappointment to them as it is to all users.

Whether there will there be an effort to find another tenant remains to be seen.

Sounds silly to say but **“do we deserve it?”**

Having been part of the group that investigated the possibility of a community shop and realising how difficult that would be here with the level of support we found - we should be really grateful that it ever did happen.

So, farewell to the shop and thank you to all the super staff who worked there. I will be one of many who will miss you – comments on Facebook prove that.

Chris Marks

In happier times:



## Beercrocombe Village Book Box

During the summer of 2024 a group of Beercrocombe parishioners undertook a major refurbishment of the BT K6 Kiosk bought by the Parish in 2009. Since 2009 it has served as a book exchange and has become a much appreciated asset. On 20 August 2024 villagers gathered to raise a glass to our new Book Box.

As ever the background to these village events provides a useful reminder of the importance of the Parish Council and parishioner participation in our community. In 2008, Julia Wright, a Parish Councillor, heard of the BT proposal to sell off their kiosks and raised the idea of buying our defunct telephone box for the parish. In spite of general scepticism from other members of the Council, including myself, she worked through all the bureaucracy of buying the kiosk and getting the electricity disconnected by Western Power. The latter was, in comparison to the £1 purchase price of the kiosk, costly and to fund this expense Julia formed a Friends of the Telephone Kiosk group that raised about £100 from supporting villagers. Following this local fund raising the District Council also gave us a grant of £250 which was ring fenced for Kiosk Maintenance. By July the following year the Parish Council had rallied around the proposal and voted unanimously to buy the Kiosk. Parishioner Chris Dale and other 'Friends' then repainted the Kiosk and converted the interior to book shelving. Looking back we should all be thankful to Julia and the Friends of the Telephone Kiosk for their forethought.



I hope this little story reminds parishioners that living within a rural parish is not just a place of abode, but means being part of a community for which participating can bring large rewards for everyone.

Bob Burrough

## 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 January 2025.**

Email: [iberryorchard@gmail.com](mailto:iberryorchard@gmail.com)

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

Dear friends, neighbours and customers,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this to you.

Unfortunately, I have had to make the decision to sell The Bell Inn.

Whilst I have tried my hardest to provide something for everyone in our pub, it is no longer financially viable for me to continue. I

have invested everything I have into the pub but it has become harder and harder to make enough money to pay the monthly bills.

I am hoping that I find a buyer quickly and if that's the case, I'll try and keep the doors open whilst going through that process, but in order to do that I'll need your help. In addition to mortgage costs and the cost of the products we sell, there is electricity, water, wages, gas, oil etc. that all need to be paid to keep the doors open. Every purchase, whether it is a coffee, pint of beer or a plate of nachos helps. The harsh reality is that if I cannot pay this months bills, I will need to find a job and I would then have to close until a sale happens.

If there are any residents who would like to look at turning the pub into a community owned venture, then I'd be happy to discuss this possibility. This could be the way to ensure the pub stays in the village for the foreseeable future. There are apparently still grants available via the Community Ownership Fund but I believe this will end in March 2025.

I'd like to thank all those of you who have supported us, whether it's been popping in for a regular coffee and a chat, or having a meal or a drink on a regular basis. You have kept us going this long and we appreciate your efforts.

We still have a few events lined up before Christmas which we hope will be well supported, as well as our regular nights and we would love to see you here showing any prospective new landlords that the Bell Inn is worth keeping open.

If you haven't used the pub since we took over, come in and see us. We'll always make you feel welcome whether you are on your own or with friends. The coffee machine is always on when we're open too so you don't even need to have a beer.

**Here's our current plan for the next couple of months. All our music events are free entry.**

Quiz nights on Monday 11th November / 2nd December

Pizza/ Ukulele - every other Tuesday ( next one is 29th October)

Thursday morning - coffee and chat 9am-12pm

Halloween party- Adults 26th October ( Live music, games, fancy dress etc). /Kids 27th October 5-7pm ( games, goody bags, pumpkin carving competition)

Open Mic Night - 2nd Sunday of the month ( next one 10th November)

More live music on 23rd November (60's Band) and 21st December (Jack and Harriet)

Christmas Eve- Christmas Carols and other Festive Fun!

**Food is still being served as follows:**

Thursday- Nachos and Chilli 6-8pm

Friday - Burgers, Steaks, Fish and Chips etc. 6-8pm

Saturday - Brunch ( Full English Breakfast etc.) 10am-1pm/ Open for coffee and chat too.

Sunday - Roast 12.30 til 3pm

Cherie Emmitt





Where did summer go? I must have blinked because we are now well into autumn with the colourful change of scenery but chillier temperatures. If ladies out there wish for more colourful changes do consider coming along to our WI where we give a warm welcome to new members and offer friendship and various activities to enjoy throughout the year.

We reconvened in **September** with our **book club** meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by an extremely **amusing and intriguing talk** entitled **'Why is his truncheon bigger than mine?'** by speaker **Debbie Wood**. As you might have guessed Debbie, a former police officer, entertained us with anecdotes of her career. Our **Craft group** met on the 19<sup>th</sup> and **'coffee and chat'** took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> at **Barrington Court**.

A group of our members started **October** off by decorating a **WI window in St. Johns church, Hatch Beauchamp** ready for the **Harvest Festival** service which included creating a stained glass window effect in beautiful autumn colours. At our **monthly meeting** we were educated on **'Sourdough Bread making'** by **Michael Storey**. His chat was very illuminating on the health benefits of using ground wholemeal flour and he provided samples of freshly baked bread and cake using his sourdough. Everyone agreed it was delicious and couldn't wait to try making their own. Our **book club** and **craft group** met as did our **coffee & chat** at **Perry's Cider, Dowlish Wake**. A matinee **theatre visit** to **Westlands Entertainment Centre** took place to see a production entitled **'Some Enchanted Evening'**. This was a compilation of songs from musicals and light opera and performed by **The Octagon Choir, Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society and the Westlands Company**. There were some outstanding solo performers and the whole show was a truly uplifting experience.

In addition during **October** our WI members responded generously to the annual **WI Christmas Shoebox appeal** with enough donations to complete four boxes.

#### **Up and coming:**

- ✓ In **November** we will meet **Kay Townsend** for her talk **'My life on the Fairground – what life is like on the road'**. This is an **OPEN** meeting so anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.
- ✓ HBWI to run the kitchen at the **community café** at the **Farmers Market** on **9<sup>th</sup> November**.
- ✓ **Group WI Christmas Carol Celebration** in the Village Hall (**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm**)
- ✓ **Wine and Cheese Tasting** special at member's **Christmas social** on **12 December**
- ✓ In **January**, **Bob Selway** will give us a **demonstration** about **'Wood and woodturning'**.
- ✓ Plus a **book club, sewing & craft group** and a **Coffee and Chat** meet each month.

Throughout the year **HBWI** does a **food bank collection** at our meetings and Taunton foodbank lets us know what is needed the most.

If you are interested in joining or just finding out more about us contact **Alison Redfern, HBWI Secretary** on **07300288615**. We meet at **19:15 on the second Thursday of each month at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall**.

Val Dale

## Curry Mallet Community Activities

### Kierly's Comet

This column, in the previous issue, made reference to the forthcoming Surface Dressing programme by Somerset Highways' contractor: For many Curry Mallet residents, the work undertaken in August was their first exposure to such treatment, - unsurprisingly given, comet-like, the county's rural lanes are scheduled to receive this treatment only once every ten years. This periodicity assumes clement summer weather conditions between April and September, and sufficient residual budget for the programmed work to be completed in that season; over the past twenty years, planned work has frequently had to be carried over to subsequent years, - sometimes by several years as for Headwell. Compared to previous dressings undertaken since 2004, the work undertaken in August by Kierly appears far superior; the spreading by their Romanian team was executed with great speed, thoroughness and much thicker coverage than hitherto. Hopefully the new surfaces will prove durable and not prone to formation of puddles and then pot holes. Heaven forbid that any utility now wants to dig up these lanes.

### Slippery Surfaces

Weatherwise, this has been a most unusual summer, - one report suggesting it to have been the second worst harvest on record. Locally, many fields of maize have yet to be cut and, with ground now substantially saturated, much mud will be deposited on the lanes after the crop has been gathered. As with patches of ice in winter, vehicle braking efficiency is severely diminished over muddy surfaces so, as in the words of a famous F1 racing commentator, unwary drivers "head straight to the scene of the accident". November 2012 experienced similar late harvesting, and a fast-turning tractor flipped its trailer onto its side. On that occasion, no one was injured, but the agricultural contractor experienced substantial delay through the need to bale out the trailer's load. That year as I recall, in Beercrocombe a car was hit by a utility company's van unable to brake in time due to the slippery surface.



Godfrey

## Beer & Curry Takeaway

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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](http://www.beercrocombe.org.uk) and [www.currymallet-pc.gov.uk](http://www.currymallet-pc.gov.uk)

**VEG Contributes to Footpath Improvements.**

The path between Headwell and the School has been improved thanks to a combined effort between volunteers and our local footpaths coordinator Gary Blinko.

Gary had secured a free load of gravel from Somerset County Council and VEG (Villages Entertainments Group) paid £200 for machine time to improve drainage and begin spreading the gravel. The job was completed on Saturday 5th October by a small team of volunteers armed with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes who spread the remaining gravel to deal with the worst areas of the path. Many thanks to the volunteers - pictured below - who responded to the call.

The weather was kind, and Cherie at the Bell Inn was even kinder by supplying the weary workers with free coffee to round off a morning well spent. Very many thanks to Cherie for supporting a community effort.

VEG uses any surplus from our shows at the Village Hall to support local projects. We are also supporting the Village Hall with the heating and solar panel installation. If you are aware of a project that would help the community VEG may be able to help.



From left to right, Mark, Chris, Amanda, Patsy, Shaun, Gary with Blue and Peter. Not pictured is Ted Stone from Beercrocombe who did the machine work.

Chris Marks.

**Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall**



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



**Bookings & Enquiries**

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

## Church News

All Saints Church held its Harvest Thanksgiving service led by Rev Joanna Porter on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Harvest was celebrated with readings and Hymns. A basket containing a bag of corn, Bread, fruit and vegetables was presented for blessing alongside water, and Sunflowers representing harvest. The Church was looking splendid with flowers, fruit and veg, and corn sheaf decorations, from the porch through to the windows all around. Rev Joanna thanked everyone involved in decorating the Church and make it look so welcoming. Two large boxes filled with non-perishable items of food that had been donated was divided between Taunton Foodbank, and Ilminster Foodbank, both thanked us for the much needed food. From the collection a donation of £115 will be sent to the Farming Community Network. After the service Soup and bread was enjoyed by all.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance service at Hatch Beauchamp War Memorial.**

**Services at All Saints**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November Morning Worship 10am.**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November Parish Communion 10am.**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December Parish Communion 10am.**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January Plough Sunday 7pm.**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January Parish Communion 10am.**



**Coffee Morning at Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall**

**In aid of All Saints Church Funds**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 12**

**Come along and have a Bacon or Sausage Bap, (Vegetarian available), with your Coffee or Tea - Meet up with friends and exchange Christmas cards before the December rush.**

**There will also be homemade cakes, jam, and chutneys on sale.**

**All Proceeds will go to All Saints Church Funds**





## Notes from the Farm

Although not on the scale of Hogwarts where everyone has an owl, we have a pretty good population here, at least with Little Owls and Tawny Owls. Barn Owls have been a much more variable story over the years.

When I was a boy, we had a couple of old barns that had resident Barn Owls and when they were sold off for conversion to houses the Duchy provided an owl box which we duly put up facing out over the orchards. This remained unused apart from a pair of vagrant pigeons that squatted in it for a while. Then we had a visit from the Barn Owl Trust who said that the first box was too small and they put up a second bigger box which had a landing platform built in. However, they didn't tell the owls that the first one wasn't suitable as they then moved into it and stayed for the next three years.

Since then both boxes have been unused and we have only very occasionally seen Barn Owls on the farm which makes me think that the fundamental problem is a lack of suitable habitat rather than accommodation. As I have referred to before we have been undertaking various environmental schemes that should make the area more amenable for the small mammals that make up the owl's diet. There have been signs that this is working without the need for any wizardry. The other day we picked up a dead Barn Owl. Whilst I was disappointed that this one didn't make it I am encouraged that we have them back on the farm at all.

Justin Adams



## Quiz question: Who Visits the Bell Inn?

A rhetorical question – but with the shop closing I would like to reiterate: **Use it or Lose it.**

Having a village pub is a major plus for a community - not just as a facility where we can meet and eat if we wish - quite simply it is a venue that can bring the community together. It is also recognised as a facility that increases local property values. So great all round.

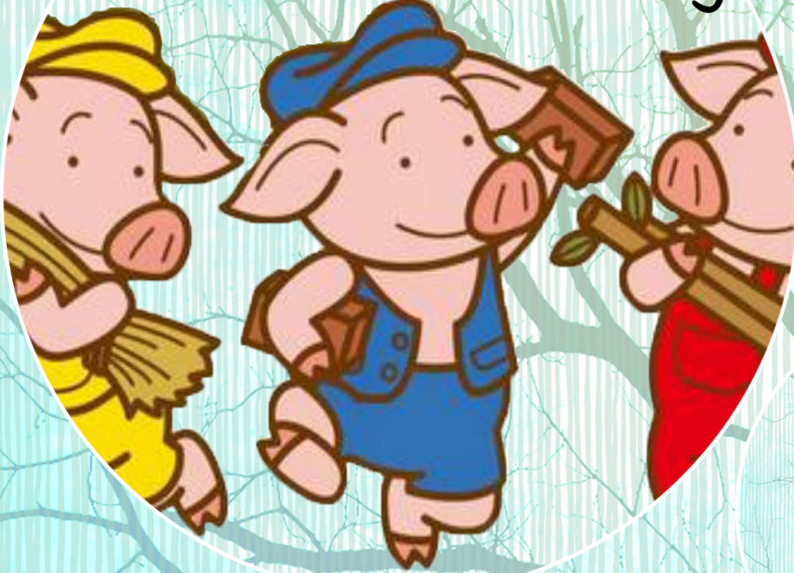
Which brings me on to the monthly general knowledge quiz at the Bell. Why not try it? A cheap evening of entertainment with friends - slightly competitive but mainly for fun. All the entry money of £4 per table goes as prizes. With a full house of tables, the pot would be around £40 split first second and third place. A short part two, 10 question, written quiz is £1 per table winner takes all. Start time is 8.00pm.

**Forthcoming dates are 11<sup>th</sup> November (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), December 2<sup>nd</sup>, (there may be an additional December quiz with all proceeds to the local charity of the winning team's choice), January 6<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then usually, the first Monday of the month until the summer.**

**It would be great to see some new faces – and winners!**

Chris Marks

What do Three Little Pigs



Red Riding Hood



And the Big Bad Wolf have in common?



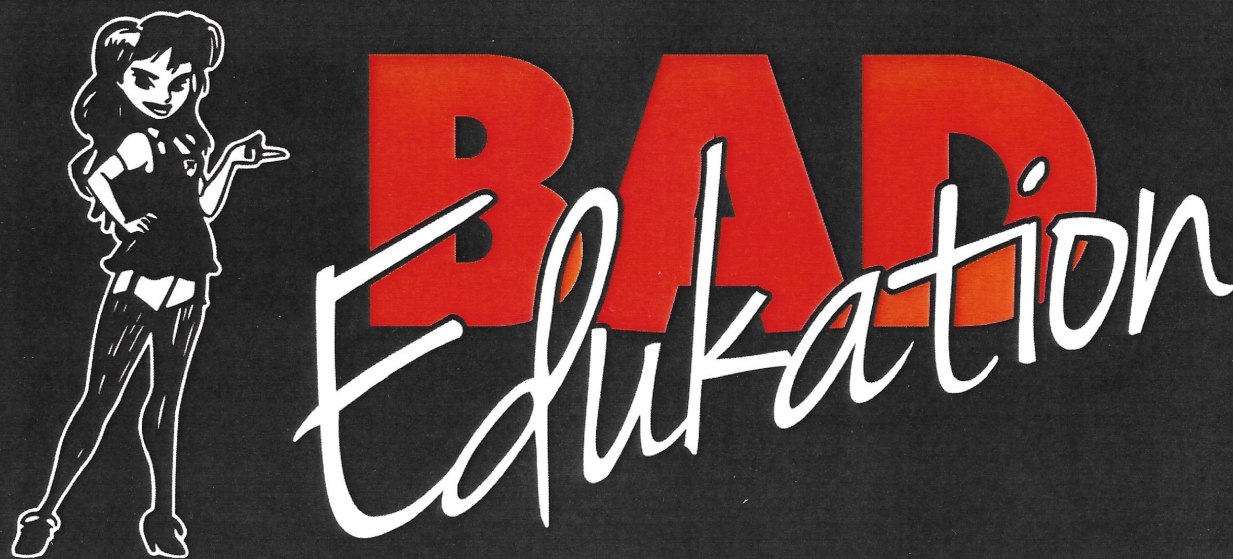
Meet them all in the woods near you at

Fivehead Drama Group's  
Annual Pantomime

Save the dates:

Evening performances - January 17th, 18th  
Matinee - January 18th

More information on ticket prices and  
where you can get them coming soon!



## **Classic Rock Night**

**Saturday 9th November 7.30pm  
(Doors 7.00pm)**

**Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe  
Village Hall**

**Tickets £10 (incl. snacks)**

**From Jane: 07850 721175**

**Licensed Bar - Cash or Card**

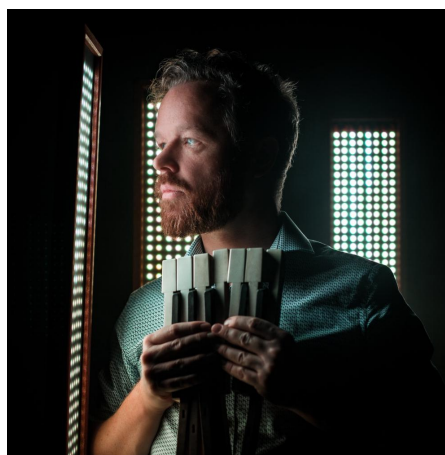
**All funds in aid of our Village Hall**

# Larkhall : Piano of the Future

## Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

### Friday January 31st at 8.00 pm

### In association with TakeArt



What if you could see music?

In January we are bringing something very different to our village hall. Meet Larkhall - award-winning concert pianist, visionary and creator of the Shazam Music App - and Otto, his computer co-performer. Together they meld music and technology in the show "Piano of the Future".

Otto isn't just your ordinary AI; it's a virtuoso in its own right. It possesses the remarkable ability to decipher the intricate musical nuances within a song, and then translate them into stunning visuals that dance in perfect harmony with the sound. Imagine being able to not just hear, but actually see the music, with astonishing precision and creativity.

Weaving together music, art and technology, using a large screen and light towers, Larkhall offers a unique, unforgettable concert that pushes the boundaries of creativity.

We saw Larkhall at a TakeArt preview and couldn't wait to bring his show to Curry Mallet. This is bound to be popular so book your tickets early.

To get a taste of what to expect visit [charliehooperwilliams.com](http://charliehooperwilliams.com) and click on the "videos" tab.

Tickets cost £11, or £6 for 18 years and under, and are available from:

- ✿ By phone: 077 888 17619 or email [patsyjwallace@gmail.com](mailto:patsyjwallace@gmail.com)
- ✿ On-line: <https://takeart.org/whats-on>

The Bell Inn will be offering pre-show suppers. Contact the Bell Inn for further details.

We aim to make all our events as accessible as possible. Please let us know if you require any support or special facilities and we will endeavour to meet your needs. Contact Patsy Wallace : [patsyjwallace@gmail.com](mailto:patsyjwallace@gmail.com)

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