



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 76, FEBRUARY 2025 - APRIL 2025

Important news about The Bell Inn

Meeting in our Village Hall - Saturday 8th February at 10am

The facts are: -

- The Bell Inn is in danger but we can save it.
- In the last edition of this newsletter Cherie told us that she had regretfully put the pub up for sale.
- It is now up for sale or rent and Cherie wants to move back to the Reading area.
- If there are no buyers, very soon the Pub will shut its doors, potentially leaving it vulnerable to becoming a private dwelling

What can we do: -

- Raise funds to purchase the Bell Inn to safeguard its future as a public house, as a place to have a coffee with friends, to have lunch or to just meet up.
- Run it for the benefit of the community and create a hub, not just a pub. Our community would have a say in how it is run.
- **Come along to a meeting in our village hall on Saturday 8th February at 10am to find out more.**
- Be aware that it is essential for you to attend the meeting or register your interest beforehand if you want to save the Bell Inn.

If you want to know a bit more before the meeting then please turn the page and read the inside cover.

Thank You

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 Sunday 20th April 2025.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

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

Thank you for reading on. Below are some key facts and information in brief. More detail will be given at the meeting on 8th February.

- We will need significant funds to purchase the Bell.
- A Community Benefit Society ("CBS") is a legal entity which is run for the benefit of the community and not the shareholders.
- Any profit it makes can only be used to reinvest in the pub, used to benefit the wider community or pay interest to shareholders (best practice not more than 5%).
- A CBS is the most popular type of legal entity for community pubs as it involves the local community and is useful for attracting grants and other funding.

Key points of a CBS

- One member one vote (regardless of number of shares owned).
- Members to appoint a management committee at the Annual General Meeting.
- Shares can fall in value but not increase.
- Shares can be withdrawn by the member but not for the first three years and then only subject to approval by the committee and there being sufficient reserves available to redeem them (best practice up to a maximum of 10% of the total share capital per year).

We can save the Bell for the benefit of the community but we do need to know how committed the community is to saving it.

The plan is for the Bell Inn **NOT** to be staffed or managed by volunteers from our community. It will be run by a manager who will be either employed or given tenure by the board of shareholders.

There are other ways to help such as giving some of your time or expertise or just attending events or introducing others to join in.

However if you do feel inclined to purchase shares please either email Martin at; cmbshares@gmail.com giving your name address phone number and value of shares you would be willing to purchase.

Or put a note through Martin's door at Fairmead House Higher Street Curry Mallet TA3 6SY. Minimum purchase £100 maximum £100,000.

All replies will be kept strictly confidential by Martin and not even disclosed to the other committee members.

The purpose of this is to determine how much we might raise from a share issue and therefore how much we would need to raise from grants and donations.

We are not collecting money now and this is **NOT** a share offer and you are **NOT** committed to apply for the exact same amount when and if we do offer shares for purchase.

Time is limited so please reply by **Saturday 15th February.**

If you want to talk about it call Martin on 07367 066831.

Please be aware that if not enough interest in saving the Bell is shown by the community then it would be pointless for the current committee to commit any more time to the project and it will cease, leaving the fate of our pub in the hands of others.

We hope to see you in our village hall on 8th February at 10am.

Notes from the Farm

Historically there has been a general assumption that family-owned businesses are a good thing, providing people with goods, services and employment, often delivered with a personal character that is usually lacking with big corporations. This has been recognised in a kind of social contract where at succession on the death of a family member the business has qualified for relief from inheritance tax to allow it to keep trading. For farmland this has been Agricultural Property Relief, and there has also been Business Property Relief for other activities. This doesn't mean that tax is avoided as much as deferred; whilst the business is trading profits are taxed as usual, but if the business or its assets are at any point sold then they are subject to Capital Gains Tax in the normal way.

As you will have seen the Government have decided that from next year these reliefs will be limited to one million pounds. Of course a million pounds is a substantial amount of money for anyone if one was free to spend it, but in terms of the money that can be tied up in a business or the income it might generate it's not that much and a lot of farms and other businesses have working capital that is far in excess of that. A lot of people have crunched their numbers and have concluded that even with ten years to pay it would be impossible to meet the liability out of their already taxed profits and that they will have to stop trading as selling sufficient assets to pay the bill would leave an unviable rump.

The Government are going to have continuing difficulties with this issue. Firstly, before the election they met the NFU and categorically denied that they had any plans to change the existing system. Then they said the changes would affect very few businesses which is simply untrue. After that they pivoted to saying that the scheme was being used for tax avoidance by non-farmers, which could surely have been dealt with by having a qualification requirement. It then transpired that they had not conducted an impact assessment, so either they hadn't thought through the consequences of the policy which is dreadful, or they did know and it is a deliberate piece of social engineering which is worse.

The Government was elected with an aim of a more redistributive tax system. However, as it stands, they could destroy the centuries old family farming system to raise a relatively small amount of money, and in ways that go beyond financial leave us all poorer for it.

Justin Adams

Beer & Curry Takeaway

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



As I write this we are just a couple of weeks after the hectic Christmas period and I (like others I suspect) am still recovering. However, I am also keen to see what 2025 may hold in store. For our WI members though, they already know they have a lot to look forward to.

In **November** our scheduled **speaker** was unavailable but thankfully a substitute was found (a member) who told us about her **years as part of the travelling community**. She gave a very insightful talk of the traditions and taboos that are commonplace beliefs and how she was university educated - a rare event for this minority group. Our **craft group** met on the **20th** and a **coffee and chat** event was held at **Monkton Elms Garden Centre** on the **26th**. Also a **'True to your Art – Painting & Prosecco'** class was held on the **23rd**.

Our members started **December** off with our **monthly meeting** which was a seasonal topic – **Wine and Cheese Tasting**, a popular choice. This was followed by a **bring and share buffet** social. As is usual in December WI members generously donated **Christmas related goodies** to our monthly **foodbank collection**. Our **book club** met on the **13th** and we held a fundraising **Christmas raffle** on the **14th** at the monthly HB Farmers Market. Over 50 WI members attended a **Christmas Carol Service** hosted in the village hall on the **17th**. A lovely traditional event thoroughly enjoyed by all as were the tea and mince pies after!

On the **10th January** we welcomed **Bob Selway** who gave a practical talk and demonstration on **'Wood and Wood Turning'**. This is also the month when we vote on our choice of **Resolution** that will be adopted as our **annual campaign in June 2025**. In this year's shortlist are **1. Let us talk about incontinence, 2. Bystanders can be Lifesavers, 3. Join the repair revolution, 4. Eliminate landfill of medication packaging**. Topics can be put forward by any member and a national ballot decides which goes forward for adoption.

Up and coming:

- ✓ In **February** we look forward to our talk on **'Homelessness and how ARC can help'** given by **Rosie Hather**.
- ✓ **March** sees another **theatre visit** to see **'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'** at Westlands in Yeovil.
- ✓ **Robert Tinker** will be entertaining us with his **'Funny film clip collection'** on the **13th March**.
- ✓ On **April 10th** our talk **'Route 60 – Driving Safer for Longer'** is by **Steve Greenhalgh**.
- ✓ **HBWI** will be holding an **Easter Egg Tombola** at our local **Farmers Market** on the **12th**.
- ✓ 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

Much Remembered

On Saturday December 14th a few of us bade farewell to Pat Craddock, as she left Headwell Close where she and Rex had lived since 1995: Pat and Rex, in times when their mobility was better, were staunch supporters of the village shop and engaged readily with everyone whom they met on their travels. Rex died last March, his funeral arranged with much fanfare for his beloved Aston Villa. Pat will now be living closer to her family.

Issue # 61 in May 2021, upon their departure to live in Bristol, carried tributes to the substantial contributions to Curry Mallet life by Mike and Pam Ive over the 30+ years of their residence here. Pam passed away early in December. Her funeral in Clifton was mirrored in part by an Order of Service held concurrently at All Saints Church in Curry Mallet, where many tributes were offered up by friends from organisations with which Pam had been associated. The local Service provided much shared succour and fellowship for those unable to attend in Bristol.



Pam in Mike's garden last Summer

What, No Power.....

Those of us living in the Rock Hill and Marshway vicinities found ourselves without electricity on the morning of Sunday November 24th, in the aftermath of Storm Darragh: At 08.00am that morning, Western Power's initial response message gave 6pm as the predicted re-connection timing and that 509 properties had been affected by this particular high-voltage line failure. So tolerable, then. By 7.30pm that evening and heard by candlelight, their prediction had been revised to 3.00pm the following afternoon. Not so good. In the event, power was restored at 00.27am Monday morning. We are fortunate in having a ready supply of wind-up torches, candles, and a charging unit for mobile 'phones, together with a battery-operated radio, but avoiding normal access to the fridge or freezer was tiresome.

You are probably aware that 'phoning 105 provides direct contact with the electricity network, and even to a human call-handler if necessary; for those with special needs, the frail and the elderly, the electricity network has a Priority Services Register, with direct 'phone no 0800 0320311. Use the 105 'phone no. to notify the network if you think your personal circumstances warrant inclusion on this Priority Register. Climate change will cause more frequent adverse weather episodes, - such as gales or flooding, and when such occasions arise very many communities will be affected, so the resources of the maintenance engineers will be severely stretched. Longer periods without power are to be expected.

Curry Mallet is served by three separate overhead power lines, - the Rock Hill line over from Creech St Michael, the Manor & Park Farms' line up from Isle Abbotts, and the rest of the village through from Hatch Beauchamp. These lines operate independently so, in the event of power cut, you may know people in a different part of the village who still have power and might be able to offer you some assistance.

Godfrey

Church News

Curry Mallet Primary School held a Christmas Service at All Saints Church at the end of term. Welcomed by Reverend Joanna, the school pupils, teachers, parents and grandparents filled the Church, which had been decorated with art work and paper angels. The lights sparkled on the tree that had been donated by Green Shutters Nurseries. Class 1 sang nativity songs, and a boy soprano sang the opening of Once in Royal David's City before the children and parents joined in. There was a performance by a newly formed Violin and Ukulele group before Class 2 read poetry. After more carols and readings the service ended with the whole school singing We Wish You a Merry Christmas.



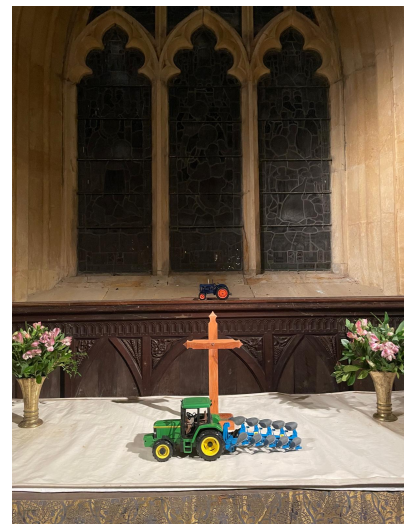
Plough Service



On a cold Sunday January night the annual Plough Service was held at All Saints Church. The service led by Sue Mcken began with the farmers bringing the ancient plough into the church for blessing, with tool's, soil and seed. Rob Waldron, Rural Life advisor in the Diocese and a farmer himself, gave an interesting talk about the challenges faced producing crops in the farming year. A donation from the collection will be made to the Farming

Network Community Charity. After the final hymn, the traditional We Plough the Fields and Scatter, and a blessing, soup and bread was served to warm everyone before the journey home.

Mike Bawler - Church Warden.



Carol Service at Park Farm 2024



What a fabulous evening at Park Farm barn on Saturday 21st December. Over 200 people counted, a newly born calf half an hour before the start, a lovely service with great acoustics and full-on carol singing. Not to mention the great socialising afterwards and the generous giving, which resulted in a cheque for £329 going to the Childrens' Hospice South West. A big ' Thank you ' to James and Laura Down for gifting us such a wonderful venue, to Joanna for taking the service and to Giles for playing a great variety of Christmas music. Let's not forget everyone for coming along, thank you all for such a memorable Carol Service in Curry Mallet.

Tim Frazer



Pictures courtesy of Mike Bawler

Baps, Books, Bric à Brac & Bakes

What an amazing community gathering at the Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed one of Mike's 'fab baps' or a piece of scrummy cake and thank you for your generous donations made to the village hall funds for books and bric à brac on Saturday 18th January

It was really lovely to see so many of you in the Hall. There was a real buzz in the air with lots of catching up and chatting over a coffee or two - a real heart warming community affair

Well done to the village hall committee for working so hard in the kitchen, keeping everyone fed and watered and thank you to everyone else who helped us out on the on the day

Your donations of your books and bric à brac and of course the wonderful cakes is very much appreciated.

The money collected plus the profits from the sale of baps and hot drinks has filled the village hall coffers by £476.

Jane Talbot (Village Hall Committee)



Pictures courtesy of Willie Vigus

Your Precept for 2025/26

Somerset Council finances are still very tight and as a result they are pushing as much non-statutory work across to Town and Parish Councils. In the coming year the Parish Council will need to cover costs of work that we haven't needed to previously. Unfortunately, Somerset Council are not clear about the jobs we will need to pick up and at what cost. Therefore the Parish Council was advised to hold a small reserve to cover emptying the dog waste bins and to begin building a reserve to clear ditches and culverts. The Parish Council budget was agreed at £11436, which is an increase of £19.40 per year on a band D property.

Our budget is available to view. Please contact clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

Sheepwash Repair - Appeal for Photographs

The Curry Mallet Parish Council have recently been liaising with the Duchy regarding the Sheepwash, which is now in need of repair. A Duchy building surveyor has agreed to assess the condition of the Sheepwash and decide whether the builders who are currently working on the collapsed wall by Curry Mallet Primary School can also carry out repairs to the Sheepwash.

To aid with this, the Duchy have requested photographs which demonstrate how the Sheepwash should look. If anyone has any photographs which may be useful for this, especially ones from around the time when the structure was previously rebuilt, this would be of great help in ensuring that these urgent works can be carried out to the best possible standard. Photographs can be emailed to clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk. If you are unable to email a physical photograph, feel free to leave them with me at The Manor House, Curry Mallet, and I will arrange for them to be scanned and returned.

William Wilkes-Wood



Village Noticeboard - Carpenters Wanted!

While Curry Mallet is equipped with locked noticeboards for official notices, there is currently no provision for a dedicated, public community noticeboard in an accessible location. Curry Mallet Parish Council are looking for carpenters who might be willing to produce a suitable outdoor noticeboard to be situated in the centre of the village. The Parish Council would cover the cost of materials for the project.

If you would be interested in volunteering your services, please contact the Parish Council by email at clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk.

William Wilkes-Wood

News from The Manor House

Happy New Year, everyone! As of Saturday the 1st of February, the Tea Room at The Manor House will be open once again after our winter break. We have been busily baking and cooking ready to welcome everyone back. As before, the Tea Room will be open from 12:30 til 5pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition to the Tea Room, the Panelled Room is still available to hire for private functions. We also have a newly refurbished Family Room available for the Bed and Breakfast, bringing our total number of bedrooms up to four. The Family Room comes with a double bed and two single beds and features a beautiful view across the fields to the Blackdown Hills.

We can be contacted for bookings at 01823 481 471, or by mobile at 07931 751 553.

Will and Fleur



Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall



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



Bookings & Enquiries

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



BAD Education

Classic Rock Night

(Covers eg :Free Bad Company Stones ZZ Top AC/DC)

Saturday 22nd February 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

All funds in aid of our Village Hall



Annual Quiz and Ploughman's Supper
Friday March 21st at 7.30 pm
Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Test your general knowledge with Quiz Master Chris Marks.

Teams of 4

Cash Prizes

Entry fee: £6 per person, which includes a ploughman's supper

Bring your own drink and glasses.

Real ale and lager carry-outs available from the Bell Inn

Tables must be booked by Wednesday March 19th

Book with:

Graham Harvey - 01823 480791

Or text David Edwards – 07787 148516

Any profits from this event will go to the Village Hall

