



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 77, MAY 2025 - JULY 2025

Exciting Progress on The Bell Community Pub Project

There has been fantastic momentum in our community's efforts to save and restore The Bell as a thriving local pub. Following a very successful village hall meeting on the 8th of February — with 80 people attending in person and 2 joining from abroad — we're thrilled to report a number of major milestones.

The Bell is now officially registered as an Asset of Community Value, a significant step in securing its future. In addition, we have formally registered Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub Limited with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), giving us the legal structure we need to move forward.

We've been overwhelmed by the strength of community support: 111 individuals have pledged a total of £115,000 in shares — a huge testament to the passion and belief in this project. A community-wide survey, completed by 131 people, has provided invaluable insights to help shape our vision.

We're also grateful for the generous donations already received from Beercrocombe Parish Council, Curry Mallet Parish Council, and the Villages Entertainment Group to help cover initial setup costs.

Next steps include developing a detailed business plan, setting up a bank account, launching the formal share offer, and continuing applying for grants.

Together, we're well on our way to bringing The Bell back to life as a vibrant, community-owned pub and social hub. Thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far — and stay tuned for more updates soon!

Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

As you all might know by now we opened the Coffee Shop on the 10th April in the old Post Office and Stores, and what an amazing start we have had!

If you are passing by why not pop in and see us?

We do a selection of coffees, teas, cold drinks, cakes, crisps and sweets.

Dogs are very welcome.

Mary and Eloise



Monday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Tuesday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Friday	10:30am - 4:30pm
Saturday	10:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED
Bank Holidays	CLOSED

Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Somerset Day Celebrations



Sunday 11th May 2025
Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall
2pm - 5pm

Raising Money for the Village Hall, School & Church



Fun Dog Show

**Best Somerset
Apple Cake**



Best Childrens' Somerset Themed Hat



Best Arrangement in a Jam Jar

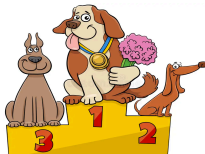
**Cake Sale, Teas & Coffees,
Ice Creams, Toy and Sweet Stall,
Wine or Water??**



**Also Planting of a Tree to Commemorate the
80th Anniversary of VE Day**

Come along, bring your friends, family and your dog!
Cakes and flower arrangements for judging to arrive by 2.30pm

Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Somerset Day Celebrations



Fun Dog Show Classes

1. **Cutest Puppy** (All dogs aged under 2 years old)
2. **Prettiest Bitch** (All female dogs of any age)
3. **Handsome Dog** (All male dogs of any age)
4. **Best Trick**
5. **Dog Who Looks Most Like its Owner**
6. **Scruffiest Dog**
7. **Best Child Handler**
8. **Best in show** (1st place winners from all previous classes)

Entrance Fee £2 per class per dog (except best in show)

Rosettes and certificates will be given to the top 3 in all categories and a trophy for the overall Best in Show.



Recipe for cake competition on Somerset Day 11th May.

SOMERSET APPLE AND CIDER CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1¼ lbs Sultanas
- ½ Pint medium/sweet Cider
- 1 lb Caster Sugar
- 12ozs Butter
- 4 Standard Eggs
- 1¼ lbs Plain Flour
- 1½ lbs Cooking Apples
- 3 Level teaspoons baking powder
- 2 Level teaspoons mixed spice

Preheat oven to 180C/350F Gas 4 or 170C Fan Oven

Makes two 1lb loaf cakes or a large roasting tin 30cm x 25cm (12" x 10"). Grease and line the tins.

- 1 Place sultanas in a basin and cover with the cider, leave in a cool place overnight until the sultanas are plump and have absorbed most of the cider.
 - 2 Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, add beaten eggs gradually.
 - 3 Add sifted flour, baking powder and spices, the mixture will seem stiff at this stage.
 - 4 Add chopped apples (these can be the size of your choosing but should not be too big), sultanas and any remaining cider, and mix thoroughly.
 - 5 Put mixture into prepared tin/tins and bake in centre of oven.
- The loaf tins will take 40/45 minutes and the large roasting tin 1¼ to 1½ hours. Test with a skewer to make sure the middle is cooked.

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

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

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

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

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

Frances Saunders on 01823 480022

News From The Manor House

The Wisteria is out in the courtyard of the Tea Room and filling the air with its glorious scent. The bees have been buzzing around its flowers and the pigeons building their ramshackle nests in its branches.

I love this time of year as we move into late spring and the garden begins to come back into life after the damp gloom of winter.

It is sad that The Bell has closed and for those of you who are missing those lovely cooked breakfasts we have extended our opening times on Sunday Mornings and are now offering a Full English Breakfast made with local prize winning sausages, local bacon and free range eggs.

We have lighter options to choose from as well, including freshly baked croissants with a wide selection of homemade jams and preserves. Gluten, dairy free and vegan options are on the menu too.

We are still offering our homemade lunches and cream teas with homemade scones which you can enjoy either sitting in the courtyard garden or inside in the Tudor Panelled Room.

Fleur and Will

Tea Room Full Opening Times

Wednesday & Saturday 12.30pm to 5pm

Sunday 10am to 5pm



Update from Your Village Hall

It is that time in the annual diary when the current Village Hall Committee takes time to review what has happened during the past financial year and gets ready for our AGM, which this year will be held on the 12th May at 5pm.

It has been a very busy and exciting year in many ways. We have changed the main source of heating to Infra-Red panels and, so, removed the gas tank from the grounds. There have been a few challenges as we all get used to the different heating system but I think we are now seeing the benefits of a warmer hall, even though the cost of running the panels has been “interesting” to watch. We can indeed watch that in real time as the other big change has been to install PV panels on the roof, with batteries in the lobby. Watching the smart meter on the App on my phone has become the new entertainment as we cheer on sunny days and groan on cold evenings! We hope that over the summer we will start to get some revenue which will help to offset our costs in the winter months. These investments would not have been possible without Grants from bodies such as the Lottery Fund, ACRE and the Beercrocombe Trust as well as generous donations from our regular users, topped up further by over £2300 of funds raised from events at the hall. Thanks particularly to Chris Dale and Jane Talbot for winning grants and leading organising events respectively. The Bad Education evening was a particular highlight for senior boppers.

It is also always worth reviewing how the hall is used throughout the year. We have our regular users such as Badminton, Bowls and Round Window Clubs as well as the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers during the winter. There are also the occasional VEG organised evening events with Take Art to look forwards to.



However, we have not attracted any new regular users for many years so the hall is often empty during much of the day during the week and at weekends. We do have a good number of local people using the hall for parties or other family events but there is plenty of availability for much more use from the community. With plenty of space, inside and out, and cooking facilities, including a BBQ, it is a great place to hold an event. We even hold insurance for people hiring bouncy castles for their children's parties and who knew we still have a table tennis table.

The role of the Village Hall Committee is not to run activities ourselves but to make the hall available to those who do want to run things. So what kind of activities are missing that people in our villages would like to see? Please do let us know and/or come along to the AGM to discuss what we might do to maximise the use of this community asset. Perhaps we can help get something new going in 2025.

It costs somewhere between £8000-£10,000 a year to run and maintain the hall so as well as encouraging more use we will continue to hold more fund-raising events during the year. Look out for notices for Pimms and Publications in August, some kind of Band entertainment in the autumn and a pre-Xmas Baps and Bric-a-Brac. And if you think of any more enjoyable “alliterations” we should be planning please let us know.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the hall in the past year in whatever capacity, including hiring it or coming to events. We are always looking for more people to be on the Committee and help with running the hall or just to help us with a little light maintenance. If you could help please get in touch. We are quite a friendly bunch, it is not that time consuming and it all helps to maintain the community of our two villages.

Frances Saunders

Notes from The Farm

Occasionally we have visitors here who know nothing about farming at all. This isn't at all surprising to me; if you spend your life pounding the pavements of London why would you have any real idea of how big cows are or what a maize plant looks like. This also works both ways as I was unaware that if you are part of the wrong demographic there then just crossing the road into a different postcode will put you in mortal danger from gang violence.

Quite a lot of effort is put into trying to get people onto farms with open days, but I suspect that the people who go to these are not necessarily the ones that would learn the most from them. In turn farmers who go to London, meet other farmers at a protest and then go straight home again probably are not getting as much from their visit as they could be.

The different experience of the rural and urban populations is not a recent phenomenon. My grandparents all had evacuees posted with them during the war, and although my two grandmothers didn't know each other and lived fifty miles apart, they both did the same thing when the children from the East End arrived – they burnt their clothes in the range to get rid of parasites. Having then kitted them out in more hygienic apparel they were then able to begin a long and sometimes challenging process of adapting to this new and very strange environment.

My maternal grandmother became very attached to the children who stayed with her and so when the war had ended and they had left, she decided to travel to East London to visit them at home. The children displayed considerable resourcefulness and to the incomprehension of their own family laid out afternoon tea for their visitor with a tablecloth and napkins. Then as now both the rural and urban populations had a lot that they could learn from each other.

Justin Adams

Beercrocombe Parish Council

After discussion at the parish council John Down offered to sort out the flooded path on the boundary with Curry Mallet by Mushroom Farm. The adjacent stream has eroded the path which can flood to a foot deep in wet weather making it impassable. Thanks to John, James and Michael Trout for their fantastic work!

Thanks also to Willie Vigus for access to his field which made the whole operation possible.





Hoorah for the beautiful start to our British spring with lovely above average temperatures during the end of March and first part of April. From conversations with others I know I am not alone in welcoming such a warm start. Likewise, I can confidently say a very warm welcome awaits all who come to join us at our various meetings and activities.

February introduced us to the homeless situation which is a problem for just about every authority on our towns and cities.. Rosie Hather of ARC (formerly Taunton Association for the Homeless) explained that they are a charitable organisation supporting over 359 people a year. Their mission is to offer supported accommodation where people can be inspired and empowered by their own strengths. ARC works hard to support rough sleepers and it was eye opening to see how 1:1 support can make such a difference to a journey of recovery.

Our members were thoroughly entertained at our March meeting when we were reduced to fits of laughter by speaker Robert Tinker with his 'Funny film clip collection'. He covered lots of classics from Keystone Cops silent films to the Two Ronnies and Morecambe and Wise plus a whole range of hilarious clips inbetween clips.

A very useful talk was arranged for the April meeting that saw Steven Greenhalgh tell us about 'Route 60 - Driving Safer for Longer'. This is a relevant consideration as a fair few members have reached the milestone of 60+ and drive regularly. As the title suggests it's a programme designed to help older drivers maintain and improve their driving skills. Importance was placed on how Our driving habits change over time but also the need to address any changes in health and ability that may affect driving.

Over 20 members enjoyed our annual Spring meal at The Hatch Inn, Hatch Beauchamp on the 19 March. As usual the food was delicious and the staff very efficient and friendly, so a good time socialising was had by all.

Our book club, craft group and coffee/chat meet ups continue to give members opportunities to socialise every month in addition to our regular meetings.

Up and coming:

- ☒ On the 8 May we hold our AGM and select our committee members and a new President.
- ☒ This is followed on the 15 May when members organise a meeting to thank the outgoing and remaining committee members for their hard work over the previous year. This is also a social affair with a bring and share plate of food!
- ☒ Our programme sub group have been working to source new speakers/demonstrators, etc. for the coming year with a new programme distributed at our main meeting.

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

'Dick' Whittington Remembered

A packed crowd of ~130, with several obliged to stand, gathered on March 7th at Taunton Crematorium to bid farewell to one of Curry Mallet's most colourful characters of longstanding; - ever cheerful, engaging and with an easy charm, Dick lit up the community, not least through his choices of colourful shirts. His passion for railway steam engines was much in evidence at his Service where also he was well-represented by many fellow members of Taunton Model Engineers.

Adieu, Joanna & Neill Porter



On Sunday March 2nd, our Village Hall overflowed with many visitors from nearby parishes, as together in fellowship we enjoyed a bustling and noisy lunch to mark Rev'd. Joanna's last Service as Rector for the Seven Sowers Benefice: In her sadly curtailed ministry of merely four years, Joanna brought a new zest to our corporate worship, - on occasions demanding positive responses from the congregation to her Welcomes and Dismissals. Her emollient care for families afflicted by illness, and toward the anguish of the bereaved, has been greatly appreciated, likewise her commitment to



people less fortunate than ourselves, - particularly in relation to the needs of local food banks and of immigrant communities more widely. We will miss her cheerful exuberance and organisation of Services, and also Neill's patient listening over coffee to the observations of very many parishioners.

Godfrey

Beer & Curry Takeaway

"Beer and Curry Takeaway" is your quarterly Newsletter. Views expressed in this edition are not necessarily those of the editorial team or its sponsoring parish councils. Copyright, unless otherwise stated, is that of the newsletter or the individual authors. We do not accept liability for the content or accuracy of the newsletter including that of the advertisers.

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

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

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 July 2025.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

Church News

Curry Mallet Primary School held an Easter Service at All Saints Church in the first week of April before the Easter holidays. On a beautiful sunny afternoon the Church was filled with the children's crafts. The service began with the hymn Sing Out an Easter Song. Various classes sang other hymns and read poetry. Head teacher Mrs Hill presented Easter Egg prizes to the winners and runners up for their Easter Gardens, Easter Bakes, and Easter Bonnets. The children put on paper Bunny rabbit ears and sang the Hot Cross Bunny. The children led parents and grandparents around the church viewing the crafts displayed in the windows.

- ❖ Wednesday 7th May 4pm Annual Parish Church Meeting to be held in Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe village hall.

Services;

- ★ Sunday 4th May 10am Parish Communion
 - ★ Sunday 18th May 10am Morning Worship
 - ❖ Annual Plant Sale and produce, with bacon or sausage baps and tea, coffee and cake to raise funds for All Saints Church will be on Saturday 17th May 10am -1pm.
 - ❖ All Saints PCC will be running a cake stall at Somerset day on Sunday 11th May 2pm – 5pm at Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall - proceeds from the cake sale will go to the church funds.
- If you would like to donate a cake please contact:
- Mike Bawler, Church Warden.



Pictures from the Easter Service at All Saints Church

