



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 78, AUGUST 2025 - OCTOBER 2025

Great progress so far on the pub purchase

- 🔊 A Community Benefit Society (CBS) has been set up to be the vehicle for purchasing The Bell Inn - One member one vote.
- 🔊 Our Website is being created and will be launched shortly
cmbcommunitypub.com This will be where you will find all the updated information about the CBS, the project to buy the pub and all the relevant documents.
- 🔊 The Business Plan has been written. This contains all the background to the project and a detailed five year plan. It is important that you read this before investing in the CBS.
- 🔊 The Share offer prospectus has been prepared. This is an offer to invite individuals and organisations to become a member of the CBS by buying shares - Minimum target £160,000,
- 🔊 A RICS Red Book valuation of The Bell Inn has been undertaken and paid for.
- 🔊 An offer has been made to purchase the freehold and is now under negotiation.
- 🔊 Next Steps are to agree the price to purchase the pub and we will continue to apply for grants. We will also launch the website and the share offer. There will be another community meeting in the Village Hall - watch out for a date.



Bakes, Books, Bric a Brac & Booze Saturday 9th August from 2pm CM&B Village Hall



Villagers - bring your family and friends.

Come and join us in the Village Hall garden (in the hall if it rains)

For a cream tea or slice of cake with
a glass of Pimms or Prosecco, or a cup of tea or coffee

Try your luck on the Wine or Water Stall

Browse through the Books & Bric a Brac

(All donations to the VH)

ALSO Stalls - Clothing / Jewellery / Puzzles

It will be great to see you there.



September 1st 2025:

The Village Hall (Pub) Quiz is coming back!

Yes, the quiz is back for the autumn and winter – temporarily relocated to the village hall pending the hoped for reopening of The Bell Inn.

Teams of four, bring you own drinks and nibbles, all takings in prizes after hall rental cost. You know you want to!

At £8.00 per table, it's a bargain fun night out. A short second written quiz is £2.00 a table – winner takes all.

This is a chance to meet people in the villages, perhaps form new teams- why not ask that other nice couple if they would like to form a team? Joining in at The Bell for the Quiz was one of the first things we did when we moved here in 2001.

Try these questions out for size – they are the sort I ask. *Don't ask Google! Answers to be found elsewhere in this issue.*

1. On the subject of regional nicknames where in Somerset might 'Tubbies' come from, and where in Norfolk would the womenfolk be nicknamed 'Kinky Linda's'? Half a point for each correct answer.
2. Which city in the south west was the Roman town known as Isca Dumnoniorum?
3. What Shipping Forecast Sea Area is found directly west of us?
4. What is the main ingredient in a 40% bottle of gin?
5. Which country does Kahlua come from?
6. What two dances are included in the NATO phonetic or broadcast alphabet – eg; Alpha. Bravo, etc.? Half a point for each correct answer.
7. Who was the runner up in the women's singles final at Wimbledon this year?
8. Which is the northernmost castle in Wales, Caernarvon, Harlech or Conwy?
9. In the Return of the Saint TV series with Ian Ogilvy what car did the Saint drive?
10. What train, made famous in song, ran from New York to New Orleans via a city in Tennessee that gives it its name?

If you score more than 5 you will do well in the actual quiz. 7 or 8 makes you a likely winning contender. But, however you do you will enjoy it – especially when you get talked out of the right answer by your team.

Chris Marks - Quiz Master

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 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 Monday 20th October 2025.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

Update from the Village Hall

It may be the “quiet season” in the hall but that does not mean nothing is happening and the Village Hall Committee still has things to do and report on. At our AGM, back in June, we welcomed Justine Butler to the Committee as she took over the role of Bookings Secretary. So if you want to enquire or book the hall for an event Justine will be the go to person – still to be contacted via cmbvillagehall@gmail.com We also thanked Mike Bawler, for his many years of service in the role – as he stood down - although he remains on the Committee. Fleur Wood also stood down from the Committee. We therefore had a vacancy for another co-opted member. It was agreed at our last Committee meeting that Stella Harris should join us as a Trustee and she will be welcomed at our August meeting.

Some of you may have seen the news in the press that the Duchy of Cornwall has been reviewing how much it charges lease holders like us who are small charities. Indeed Curry Mallet village hall was picked out for special mention in the articles. The really good news is that from this new financial year they will only charge us a pepper corn rent (of zero!) rather than the £1,169.98 they charged us last year. This decision really makes a difference as rent was a big part of the nearly £8000 it costs to run the hall each year. There are some conditions attached – of course there are – as this rebate only applies whilst Prince William is the Duke of Cornwall. Another reason to sing “God save the King”. It should help us keep the costs to hire the hall unchanged for the coming year, despite the increasing costs of electricity and so on.

Last year we installed new IR heating as well as the PV Panels and battery system. This summer we are going to put in some additional insulation in the roof. This may not save much energy but we are hoping it will make the main hall feel warmer. As we have found IR heating feels different since it does not heat the air like a gas heater or air blowers but heats things and people. Get the hall full of people and it does feel very hot so if we can stop more of that heat escaping we hope it will help! Thanks to Chris Dale, again, for getting a grant to help with the costs of installation.

On the not so good side. We have suffered a bit of vandalism around the outside of the hall. Firstly, someone ripped a drain pipe and guttering from the wall of the storeroom – it looks like they had been trying to climb onto the roof using it. Thanks to Andrew Plumbly for mending it. We have also had reports of young people climbing onto the roof of the container – which is of course dangerous if they should fall off. Most recently the two picnic tables, that had been donated by the old village shop, were moved across the lawn to a position under the trees, which is not a big problem in itself, but they were then destroyed and broken up. Some of the wood had been used to create small ramps on the lawn for cycles to use as jumps. These ramps had nails protruding, again not safe. Most of this damaged wood has been cleared away. We probably will not replace these tables as they are expensive and we cannot guarantee the vandalism will not happen again. We are currently considering whether we should install CCTV to monitor the grounds and car park areas. This is not without its challenges as there are legal aspects over access to images taken on CCTV. However, looking on line, a number of other village halls have installed such systems and feel it has been a deterrent. Before we do anything, we will consult the village as it would capture images of everyone who uses the car park area and potentially users of the play area. What do you think? Any other ideas on how to deter vandals would be gratefully received. It is your village hall!

Finally, don't forget to come to the hall for Pimms and Prosecco (and scones!) on the 9th of August from 14:00. A chance to meet and eat in the summer sun – assuming it stays that long.

Village Hall Committee

Notes from the Farm

Like most big organisations Arla has a public relations team who put out positive stories about the company. Most of these are pieces about investments in factories or reducing their carbon footprint, although the only ones I normally read are those relating to the milk price, and most of them would attract no attention at all. So when in December they released an anodyne statement that they were going to trial a feed supplement called Bovaer which could reduce methane emissions from cows I don't suppose for a minute they were prepared for what happened next.

From a short press release it quickly became a social media phenomenon, weaponised by anti-dairy activists to a major headline story and a full-blown food scare in that curious way that seems both very modern and medieval at the same time. Arla tried hosing the flames with facts about how the product had been in development for 15 years and already given approval in 68 countries, but when there were pictures of people putting dairy products in the bin over something that hadn't even started, they decided to wait for it all to die down naturally and the world to move on.

It is still there in the darker corners of the internet and seems to have become a small part of the grand unified conspiracy theory along with chemtrails, building 7 at 9/11, fake moon landings, 5g masts and all the rest of it.

I personally am not really in favour of Bovaer. I am sure it is safe but I think a better way for farmers to mitigate climate change is to store carbon by increasing the organic matter content of the soil rather than using feed supplements, and given the reaction I am not sure the product will ever get much uptake anyway. In the meantime we still get a few press releases but they seem to be sticking to pictures of folks in white hats and coats opening a new Mozzarella plant or whatever.

Justin Adams

Date for your Diary!



***Back by popular demand and to raise funds
for our Village Hall***

A Classic Rock Night with Bad Edukation

Saturday 15th November

In Tribute to Haydn Whitehouse

I will be one of many to mourn the recent passing of Haydn Whitehouse who lived at Weavers Mead on Harris Lane with his wife Monica.

I was introduced to Haydn and Monica by Pete, the then landlord of the Bell Inn soon after we moved here in the summer of 2001. The pub quiz season was approaching and Pete suggested forming a team of four with Monica and Haydn. This we did and we proved quite successful on and off – with our knowledge complementing each other. Haydn, inexplicably to me, knew a lot about opera and classical music. The Bell back then had a separate room with a pool table and Haydn was a keen player as were many regulars and Monday was pool night – the room was thick with tobacco smoke but it was great fun. Haydn was nicknamed by some as ‘wily’ – a comment on his style of play more than his character I think, but Wily Whitehouse has a nice ring to it.

Haydn’s career was in graphic art primarily in advertising and he was also a keen amateur painter producing some excellent work in a variety of styles. He was able to copy famous works by the Old Masters as well as creating his own work. He did an excellent painting of Pete and his son Ashley as a farewell gift to them when they sold the Bell Inn and left the village to head back to their roots in Leicestershire.



Most people in the village – if they had not met him in the pub or shop – would be aware of Haydn for his spectacular work on the scenery for the annual pantomime. Haydn’s artistry allowed him to conceive and plan a backdrop some 12 feet by 8 feet and then undertake the job of painting it whilst directing



unskilled folk like me to fill in the colours and big bits with his coaching. I suppose it must have been much the same as working as an apprentice for Titian or Rembrandt but with a sense of humour.

A sense of humour and a wry take on life were Haydn’s hallmarks. Some have likened him to the comedian Andy Hamilton, and Haydn’s mannerisms and the way he spoke were indeed much alike. I believe they share roots in London.

Although I don’t have the full story, I believe Haydn had a very full and possibly wild life in swinging London of the 1960’s, working as he did, in the advertising sector. So perhaps he needed a move to the relative calm of Curry Mallet to recover after retiring. Weavers Mead - an ancient listed thatched building was quite a challenge and Haydn spent a lot of time and energy on garden projects in particular – his wildflower meadow, which was a sea of red poppies in its first year, features in the wedding photos of a couple with parents in the village. I also remember an emergency visit to help out with a burst kitchen water pipe – an ancient lead pipe in the stone wall. The kitchen was under several inches of water when I arrived but Haydn was stoic.

Sadly, the village shows ended, the pool table was no more after the Bell was revamped and Haydn and I had to go further and further afield for a lunchtime catch up and a few games over a pint. Inevitably time and other pressures and particularly Covid all played a part in meaning not seeing each other much in recent years. Something I will always regret.

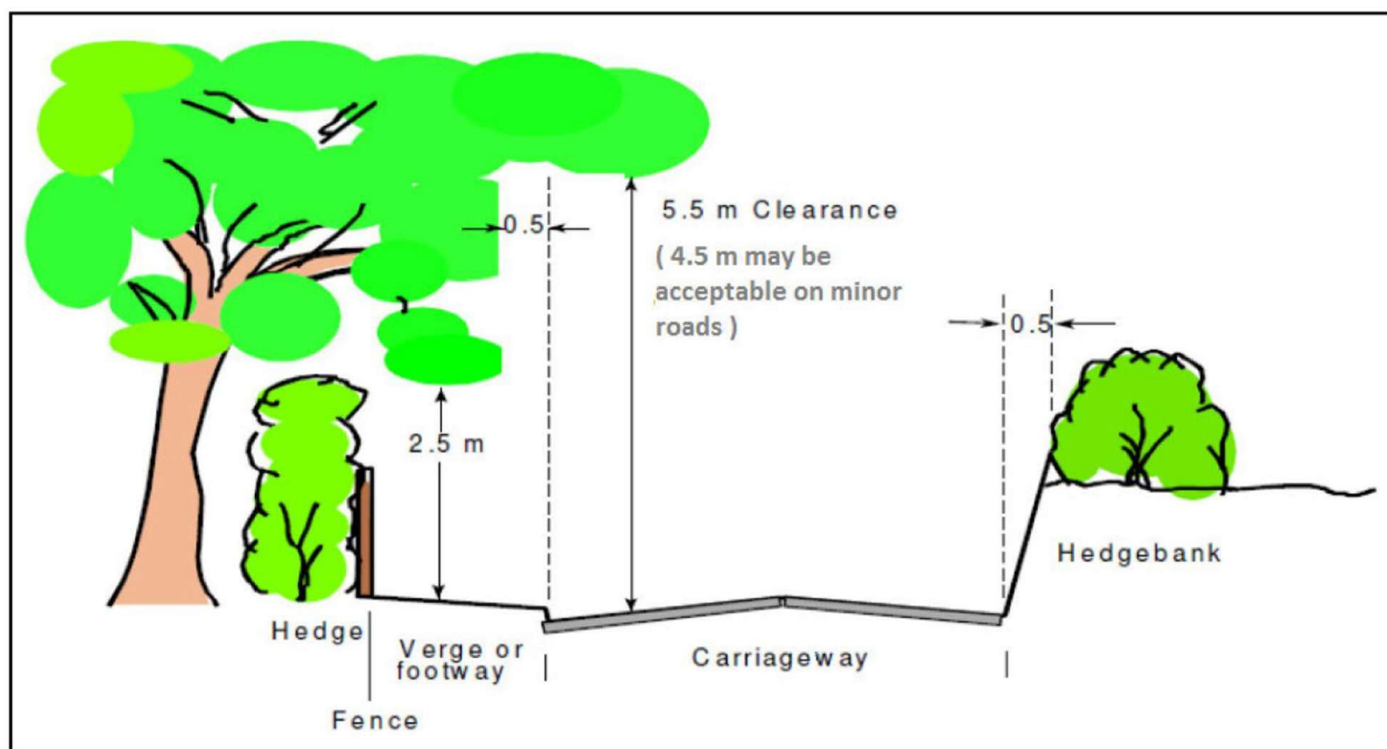
Haydn was looking forward to returning home from a short stay in hospital but sadly died before this was possible.

I am sure all our thoughts and warmest wishes go out to Monica.

Farewell Haydn, friend of Curry Mallet and village character – you will be very fondly remembered.

Chris Marks

VEGETATION OVERHANGING the FOOTWAY AND / OR CARRIAGEWAY



Roadside grass verge management is carried out by Somerset Council (SC) between May – August annually and details are published on the SC website; . [Roadside grass cutting](#) & [Grass cutting on Somerset Council housing estates](#). The SC 'South Somerset' Area office – our area - received in excess of 650 concerns raised by the public relating to overhanging vegetation in 2023 (Jan to Dec) and 671 in 2024, with approximately 30% of those relating to private land and property owners where notice had to be served.

When hedges or other vegetation overhangs the public highway, particularly when the growth is very full, pedestrians and/or vehicles using the public highway may be hindered, which can also result in an increased risk of accident.

You may not be aware that the responsibility for cutting back the vegetation, which causes this hindrance, is the responsibility of the owner/occupier of the property from which it grows.

Generally the bird nesting season should be considered to be between late February and August with the most appropriate time to carry out any works being generally Jan – Mar, whilst the vegetation is dormant and when there is less likelihood of birds nesting.

SC realises that there may be occasions within the bird nesting season where maintenance is required, hedge cutting works can be carried out providing an inspection of the hedge is carried out (and recorded) prior to any cutting works being undertaken.

SC and your local Parish Councils hope that you will be able to cooperate and help to protect the safety of the public by identifying where overhanging vegetation is occurring at your property and taking the necessary remedial action.

Beercrocombe Parish Council



Well who would have thought that by mid July we would have already experienced, not one or two, but three official heatwaves! I'm guessing if this weather continues it won't be long before we face a water ban too. Whilst our members are feeling the heat they have no problem in extending their warmth to welcome all newcomers.

In May we held our AGM and elected our new committee and President. Members listened to a condensed version of all the events we had been part of and opportunities that had arisen during the previous 12 months. It's quite something to look back and realise just what choices are on offer throughout the year. Craft group meetings, a book club, coffee and chat meet ups, demonstrations, talks, fund raising, theatre visits and much socialising in addition to our regular monthly meetings.

A very practical and extremely useful talk by Linda Fisher was given in June entitled 'Protect the ones you love. The importance of wills and lasting power of attorney'. Having these legal documents in place can make such a difference to carrying out the wishes and looking after needs of loved ones as none of us knows what the future holds. Even after putting affairs in order the need to regularly update these documents is a necessary safeguard.

Traditionally our garden meeting is held in July, often with some trepidation due to our uncertain English summers. However, this year it fell in one of the heatwaves I mentioned earlier. It was a bring and share supper and naturally the food had priority for the limited shade with our members seeking any areas they could find out of the sun whilst vigorously fanning themselves. The consensus was that it had been the hottest garden meeting anyone could remember but that didn't stop us having a very good evening.

August is the only month we don't meet up but we look forward to starting again in September with advice from Sally Kershaw on 'How to be a winner. How to enter and win competitions '. Sounds like fun with potential added bonuses.

Up and coming:

- ★ 'My Life on the Fairground' by Kay Townsend in October
- ★ A Sourdough Workshop in September
- ★ Visit to Westlands in Yeovil for lunch and a musical theatre trip to see 'Come from Away' based on the true story of 7000 stranded air passengers and a small town's heartwarming response to hosting them.

Hatch Beauchamp WI meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at HB village hall. It's a great opportunity to meet local women for fun and friendship, to learn new skills and take part in a range of activities. If you're 18 and over why not come along to find out more about us. Or give our Secretary, Alison Redfern a call on 07300 288615.

Val Dale

Answers to Quiz: -

Q1 - Bath and Kings Lynn. Q2 - Exeter. Q3 - Lundy. Q4 - Water. Q5 - Mexico. Q6 - Foxtro and Tango. Q7 - Amanda Anisimova. Q8 - Conwy. Q9 - Jaguar XJS. Q10 - Chattanooga Choo Choo.

Church News

On a Saturday morning in May the annual plant sale took place at Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe village hall to raise funds for All Saints Church. A big thank you to Celia Hawkins and all her family for producing plants for the sale, setting up, selling and clearing down on the day. Also thank you to all those who also helped on a busy morning. With refreshments, bacon or sausage baps the whole event raised the fantastic amount of £1,400 to much needed church funds. This amount included leftover plants that continued to be sold from outside at Mary's coffee shop, well done to all and thank you to everyone for supporting this event.



A dead Macracarpa tree had to be felled in Curry Mallet Churchyard as it was in danger of falling down, in the worst case scenario damaging the Church building. To keep the cost's down the wood and chippings have been left in the Churchyard. If anyone is interested in buying the wood contact Mike Bawler. Anyone wishing to bring a bag and collect wood chippings, there is plenty of it, I would happily meet you and accept a donation to Church funds.



Sunday 10th August 10am Parish Communion.

Sunday 21st September 7pm Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Soup and Bread. Donations of non-perishable food items will be distributed between Taunton Foodbank & Ilminster Foodbank.

Mike Bawler - Church Warden.

Curry Mallet Community Activities

Of Tony Reed

Tony, who died in March, was a well-regarded member of the local community in general and of Beercrocombe in particular. He was much given to providing material assistance and meaningful observations through his activities for St James' church as treasurer and bell-ringer, for the parish council, the local Neighbourhood Watch (- for which, until 2008, we shared 'surgeries' with the local police officers) and in many other ways. A thoughtful and wise individual, with a twinkle in his eye reflecting a healthy scepticism regarding official pronouncements. According to his daughter, generations of science-minded teenagers will have benefited from his caring and inspirational teaching over many years.

Thanks to Willy Vigus for the recent photo of Tony.



The "who Cares" Question

Some 25 years ago, I was compiling a Personal Statement, a cv in other words, for submission when applying for new employment; a piece of friendly advice was offered me by a colleague who ran a Marketing Consultancy in Central London: He said "for every statement you make about yourself, ask the question, - so what, who cares?". This piece of advice came to mind when considering what I might write for this newsletter column. As many fellow columnists will testify, one rarely receives any feedback as to whether one's scribbles are of any interest or value. Nowadays, every commercial enterprise has to have a 'Mission Statement', - something to give their employees a warm glow and/or to attract potential customers to their wares or services. Most such statements, especially those set out on the sides of their lorries and vans, are bland, vacuous tosh and largely meaningless. In the words attributed to a famous American wit of nearly a century ago, "there is less to this than meets the eye".

Godfrey

FUN DOG SHOW
 11 AM
 SUNDAY 3RD
 AUGUST
 20th
 ANNIVERSARY
 Greyhound Trust
 Best Veteran
 Pretty Bitch
 Best Cross
 Best Short Coat
 Best Rescue
 Best Puppy
 Handsome Dog
 Best Pedigree
 Best Long Coat
 Child Handler
 Greyhound Boy
 Greyhound Girl
 Stalls
 Refreshments
 Auction
 Village Hall
 Hatch Beauchamp
 Taunton
 TA3 6SG

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 21st September 7pm



All Saints Church Curry Mallet
Join us to celebrate Harvest.



Donations for Taunton Food Bank and Iminster Food Bank Will be accepted of non-perishable foods.

Refreshments after the service of soup and bread.



Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

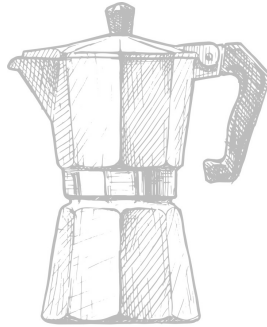
What a fantastic three months it has been since we opened!

We've absolutely loved seeing so many of you and hope you are enjoying our little coffee shop as much as we are.

If you haven't found us yet, we're tucked away in The Old Post Office by the pub in Curry Mallet – come in and say hello!

We're open:

Monday	10.30 – 4.00
Tuesday	10.30 – 4.00
Thursday	10.30 – 4.00
Friday	10.30 – 4.00
Saturday	10.30 – 1.00

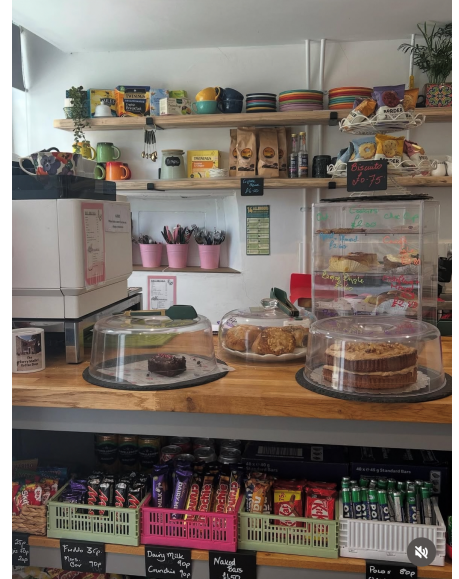


We serve a wide selection of coffee, cakes, cold drinks, crisps, sweets and even a few ice creams for those hot days – it's so lovely sat out under the tree in the shade on a hot summer's day.

We are always happy to listen to your thoughts and suggestions and we have had some we are working on. If you have something in mind let us know.

Look forward to seeing you.

Mary and Eloise



FOR SALE

Field or driveway gate. Old but solid with hockey stick end. Measures 2.9m (9.5 ft) wide so suits a 3m opening or thereabouts. Current steel hinge loops are for 18mm (3/4 inch) diameter pins



Very stable and easy to use motor boat with cuddy cabin. Ideal for family use, fishing or pottering on river, estuary, lake or inshore. It is a RYDS 435FC built in Sweden in the 1990's and is still in very good condition with original gel coat and transfers. The cabin is fitted with blue velour cushions. It currently has a Johnson 15 hp electric start two stroke outboard but this ought to have a service before use. Full remotes fitted. Sold with ropes, fenders and buoyancy aids.

It has a galvanised breakback road trailer with spare tyre and lighting board and cable. The boat does have a storage cover - it still works but this is showing its age. A lot of kit for not too much – we would like around £1850 for it. More photos available on request or come and see it to discuss.

Contact Chris on 07568128493





Somerset Day Dog Show



**Somerset
Apple Cake
Winner**



Somerset Day Teas Team

**Somerset Day
Hat Winners**



**80th Anniversary of
VE Day Tree Planting.**



Wine of Water Stall



Flowers in a Jar Winners

TRUE FOXES

Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall
Friday November 28th at 8.00 pm
In association with TakeArt



True Foxes have firmly established themselves as one of Cornwall's most exciting emerging acts. I saw them at a festival two years ago and am delighted that we can now bring them to Curry Mallet. True Foxes are a family duo, playing a unique blend of folk and Americana and their debut album – Howl – has received widespread critical acclaim with regular airplay across the world.

Amie, compared to artists such as Brandi Carlile and Dolly Parton, brings soulful vocals and earworm song writing on guitar. Chloë complements Amie's vocals with ethereal harmonies and melodic bass lines. The duo's sisterly banter adds an emotional dimension to their live performances.

"The pure energy is quite infectious." - Alan Cackett, Maverick Magazine

To hear True Foxes' music visit their website <https://truefoxesmusic.co.uk/> or find them on YouTube or Spotify

Tickets cost £12 and are available from:

- **By phone:** 077 888 17619 or email patsyjwallace@gmail.com
- **On-line:** <https://takeart.org/whats-on>

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

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

If you would like to be on the Village Entertainments Group's mailing list for other events at the village hall please message Patsy: patsyjwallace@gmail.com The mailing list is only used for this purpose and is not shared with any other organisation.