



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 80, FEBRUARY 2026 - APRIL 2026

Village Hall “Bell Inn Quiz”



**The Spring 2026 Dates
Always on Monday at 8.00pm**

February 2nd

March 9th (NOTE: not first Monday)

April 6th Easter Monday

May 4th Bank Holiday Monday

Put them in your diary now!

Tables of up to Four Contestants - £8 per table

All takings as Cash Prizes after Village Hall rental

This is a BYO event

This is a great community meet up supporting the Village Hall. A chance to exercise those grey cells in a general knowledge quiz, argue with team mates and have a good laugh!

(If you haven't got a team of four, please come anyway – sometimes teams are short of members or you can make a table of less than four if you wish. I post reminders on the Villages WhatsApp Group and this can be a way to form a team.)

Chris Marks

Somerset Day

Following the success of last year's Somerset Day celebrations at the Village Hall, we are hoping to do the same again this year. This will take place on Sunday 10th May from 2pm till 5pm. If you would like to have a stall at this year's event, please contact me by telephone on 07931 751 553, or by email at fleurouisagrace@gmail.com

Fleur Wood



Notes from the Farm

When we were part of the Common Agricultural Policy in the EU there were production subsidies, guaranteed prices, butter mountains, wine lakes – and stability. One of the arguments for leaving this system was that the prices were artificially above world market levels so dismantling it would cause food prices to fall. Of course since Brexit this arrangement has all become history, you can see products in the supermarket from parts of the world that you never did before and yet food prices continue to rise relentlessly.

At the farm level it feels very different. Things have become much more volatile, but currently with the exception of red meat farm prices are at a very low level and often at or below the costs of production. The glib explanation for this disconnection is just to blame the supermarkets but as with a lot of things the situation is quite complex. One of the big factors is that as the food we eat becomes more processed the cost of the raw materials becomes less significant in the overall price; it is all the other things in the process that make up an ever-bigger proportion of the cost. Transport, handling, packaging, chilling, power, labour, laboratory testing, business rates all have their own pressures which feed through to the final prices.

The increased volatility also doesn't help either. For a product such as cheese which is often in storage for six months before sale the processors can get caught with expensive stocks just as the price is falling away so they end up sharply dropping the price they pay to their farmers. International politics also seems to be more unstable than before and now trade seems to routinely used as a policy weapon which distorts the flow of goods right around the world. A few words from a world leader can change market sentiment quite abruptly.

All this means that when you get to the checkout and the machine has stopped telling you about unexpected items in the bagging area and you step back in disbelief at the total it is now displaying for you, the figure doesn't necessarily have much direct relationship with what is happening down on the farm.

Justin Adams

Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

Happy New Year!

After a lovely break, we're back - the door is open and the coffee machine is on!

If you're passing by, pop in and see us. Alongside our regular coffees, teas and hot chocolates we're also now serving Chai Lattes and Dirty Chai Lattes.

Our Winter Opening times are:



| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Monday | 10.30 - 3pm | Friday | 10.30 - 3pm |
| Tuesday | 10.30 - 3pm | Saturday | 10.30 - 1pm |
| Wednesday | Closed | Sunday | Closed |
| Thursday | 10.30 - 3pm | | |



It'll be lovely to see you!

The Bell Inn Community Pub - Campaign Update

The Save the Bell campaign continues at a pace!

We were very excited to be featured in the national press - as part of The Telegraph's 'Save our Pubs' campaign. The full article was on their website on Sunday 11th January and then a smaller piece and picture on Monday 12th in the paper edition. Thanks to Chris Dale for getting us noticed and in print.

At the time of writing this we have 107 share holders, which is fantastic. The Share Offer is still open so if you know of anyone who would like to join us then please point them to our website, where they can find all the information and buy shares online.

Social media

Our social media team (Vernon, Kate & Rebecca) have been very busy creating content and posting on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook. Thanks to everyone who has followed our accounts and are 'liking', commenting and reposting our posts - it really does help.

We have done 10 posts on Facebook and Instagram since November – with views totalling 1.7k which is a great start. The simple post that we did on TikTok following the Telegraph article got 25k views! It's all really important to get our message spread far and wide.

Fundraising

We are grateful to everyone that has signed up to **Easyfundraising**. We now have 37 supporters who are quietly donating every time they shop online with over 8000 affiliated retailers (eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco as well as travel companies and all the big insurance companies). It's very easy to sign up and you can shop on any device and in some stores. Huge thanks to Patsy and Chris who managed to get a large donation from the manager at the store when they purchased recently from Bensons for Beds.

It's very easy, so please consider signing up - the QR code will take you to our supporter page and give you all the instructions. Or ask one of the committee for help if you get stuck!



GRAND MOTORSPORT RAFFLE

WIN: VIP Hospitality with the Napa Racing Team for 2 people at a 2026 BTCC race day!

See how a VIP day looks at <https://youtu.be/MLreT2F-TGE>

Tickets just £5.00 each
Draw closes 31st March 2026

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BUY YOUR TICKETS
or go to bit.ly/CMBRaffle



Our **Grand Motorsport Raffle** is now live - this is a fantastic VIP hospitality package that has been donated to us by the Napa racing team (enormous thanks to Martin Davey for organising this). Tickets are just £5 each and the draw will be made on 31st March. The winner can choose from races across the country so please share this with friends, family and colleagues. It's a fantastic prize.

Crowdfunding page - launching very soon!

This is the big push for the campaign. Our Shareholders have been incredibly generous, but to meet our target to buy the pub and re-open it we need more money and from anywhere in the world – this really is make or break time!

So, our Crowdfunding page is set to go live on **Friday 6th February**. It will run for an initial 12 weeks and if we reach

our target we can 'stretch' the target further. This is where we really need everybody's help to generate our crowd-funding audience! Kate and Rebecca need as much support as possible from you all, following the three social media platforms: liking, commenting and sharing each post.

We need you all to talk to friends, family, and colleagues, firstly to get them to follow our social media accounts, but then really importantly, to ask them to make a small contribution as soon as the crowdfunding site launches. Success is very dependent on momentum. If we can get lots of small contributions in the first few days, the chances of success will be increased as we will be exposed to a much bigger audience.

If any of us knows anyone with even a small degree of celebrity or fame, then we need to try and persuade those people to make a small donation, because that will become a magnet for other people to donate.

We will create a 'script' and circulate on the villages WhatsApp group soon, so that you know what to say!

The CMB Community Pub Committee

The Telegraph Log in 

See all News 

We wanted to save our pub but Labour axed the funding we needed

Chris Dale and around 100 would-be shareholders are still fighting to raise the £260,000 they need for The Bell Inn

 176  Gift this article free 



Chris Dale (right) stood outside The Bell Inn, which is the local for hundreds of residents across Curry Mallet and the nearby village of Beercrocombe Credit: Jim Wileman



Curry Mallet Primary School



The children were excited by our Fizz Pop whole school workshop on Wednesday 7th ! The Fizz Pop Scientist Angie, conducted a range of experiments with the children. Each child learnt about air pressure with balloons flying above their heads and lung capacity. We met Angie's friend Balloon Bob and explored how he might fit into a tall, slim glass beaker. Sadly, this didn't end well, with Balloon Bob exploding! The children even learnt how a scientist can create carbon dioxide smoke rings. It was fascinating to see these flying over our heads and to hear the children's scientific learning developing.





The children were so enthused by the workshop that our Fizz Pop After School Club, which is being run each Thursday, is now oversubscribed! We cannot wait to see the science learning that is developed in this club as the term progresses.

Thank you to Fizz Pop Science for bringing this super opportunity to Curry Mallet Primary School.

Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall



- ★ Kitchen with serving hatch
- ★ Separate meeting room
- ★ WiFi
- ★ Tables and chairs
- ★ Removable stage
- ★ Stage lighting and sound



For Bookings & Enquiries contact:-

Justine Butler: 07966 587305
email: cmbvillagehall@gmail.com

Church News



The Bells rang out at St James Church Beercrocombe on Christmas Morning for the family service. Everyone gathered and admired the tall decorated Christmas tree in the Church, asking how did they get it in and reach the top? The joyful service was led by Rev'd Sue Hounsell.



All Saints Church Curry Mallet didn't have a Christmas day service this year. The School held their Christmas service at the end of term, so the Church was decorated with flowers, greenery and decorations that the children had made. The Christmas tree, once again kindly donated by Greenshutters Garden Centre, was decorated with coloured lights and Baubles.



Plough Sunday took place in January with the farmers carrying the ancient plough into the Church and presenting Soil, Corn and Tools for blessings. After the final Hymn "We Plough The Fields and Scatter" soup and bread and conversation was enjoyed by all.



Services at All Saints

Sunday February 15th 10am Morning Worship.

Sunday February 22nd 10am Parish Communion.

Friday March 6th 10am World day of Prayer.

Sunday March 15th 10am Morning Worship.

Friday April 3rd 10am Good Friday Service.

Sunday April 19th 10am Parish Communion.

Easter Sunday April 5th service is at Hatch Beauchamp Church this year.

Mike Bawler. Church Warden.



Let's start by wishing our Beer and Curry Takeaway readers a very Happy and peaceful New Year. Many of us will be welcoming in 2026 with ideas of what we want to achieve in the coming months, perhaps a dry January, take up exercise or just socialise more. Whatever resolutions are top of your list be assured that Hatch Beauchamp WI offers a warm welcome to ladies of all ages throughout the year.

In December we were fortunate to have Mary Chisholm with us as she took us through 'The Christmas Story in Renaissance Art'. We were educated in how, through paintings and frescoes, the biblical story was told by many well known Renaissance artists across Europe in the middle ages. Patrons, who commissioned the works, often liked to have their own image depicted within the artwork as recognition of their status and wealth not to mention immortality. A 'bring a plate' Christmas buffet with Prosecco ensured lots of socialising, fun and laughter afterwards.

Special events are planned for 2026 as we have reached our centennial year and it promises to be an exciting one culminating in our 100th birthday in December so lots to look forward to. At our January meeting Amanda Webb led us through a practical workshop to make a willow heart sculpture as a keepsake to start our celebrations off. This is being followed on the 24 January (in the traditional manner) with a Centenary Tree Dedication Ceremony after which members will enjoy tea and crumpets.

Up and coming:

- ✓ 12 February, 'Somatics: a gentle movement practice, releasing the body without stretching. Led by Sarah Guest
- ✓ 12 March, 'St Giles Animal Centre', Our speaker is Mark Whiffen.
- ✓ 21 March, Westlands theatre visit to see 'Fiddler on the Roof', preceded by lunch.
- ✓ 9 April, 'Belly Dancing' with Heather Eggins. (Our members are always game for new experiences!)
- ✓ Every month, in addition to regular meetings a book club gets together, as do members for a 'coffee and chat' session which is held at different locations.

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

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 April 2026.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

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

News From the Manor House



Firstly, we'd like to once again thank everyone who has come here - from our Bed and Breakfast guests, to our Tea Room customers, to the wonderful crowd who made the Christmas light switch outside The Manor House and the Curry Mallet Coffee Shop the biggest and best it's been so far. Now that the Christmas lights are down, we've been looking ahead to what should hopefully be an exciting New Year.

We have both resolved to make 2026 the year that we put The Manor House, and Curry Mallet as a whole, on the map as a hub for the arts, and we already have plenty of exciting news to announce on that front.

When the Tea Room opens its doors once more after our Winter Break on January 30th, it will feature a new collection of fine art in our Tudor Panelled Room. These pieces, created by the late Isabel 'Liz' Samwells, former resident of Croft Orchard in Lower Street and mother of Lizzie Frazer, include a delightful variety of botanical and canine subjects - some of which will be available to purchase.

Another artistic scion of Curry Mallet, the director, writer, gardener and activist Derek Jarman, will also be celebrated here at The Manor House later this year with an evening of dinner and theatre. Jarman, whose father was an officer at RAF Merryfield, fondly recalled his formative years spent here, and now actor and writer Mark Farrelly's one-man show will bring Jarman's story to life, right here in the very building he once called home. More details for booking will follow in the next Beer and Curry.

Looking further forward, we are preparing to become a venue for this year's Somerset Art Weeks. For those who are unfamiliar, this is a festival which showcases a dazzling variety of talented local artists across the county through open studios and exhibitions from September 19th through to October 4th. We already have some artists who are preparing to exhibit at The Manor House for this event, but we would love to get even more, so please get in touch if you have some work you want to share with the world!

For anyone who might feel inspired by all of this, we will have two different ways for people to get involved with making some art starting very soon. Firstly, starting from February 10th, we will be hosting a weekly art class at The Manor. These sessions, guided by Brian Sweet - the artist whose works are currently exhibited in our Great Hall - will run from 2pm to 4:30pm every Tuesday from then on and will cost £12 a head. These promise to be a perfect opportunity for anyone to develop their artistic skills, whether they be a complete novice who swears they can't even draw a stick man or a seasoned painter looking to pick up where they left off or try something different. Those who have their own art supplies are encouraged to bring them, but some essentials will be available to those who need them.....



From February 21st, we will also be hosting social Arts & Crafts mornings every Saturday from 10am. Whatever projects you might wish to work on, from sketching to knitting to model-making or anything else besides - bring them here and have a chat and a cup of tea while you're at it! Please feel free to contact us if you have any enquiries about the classes or social mornings through our details below.

We can't wait to welcome you all back again soon, and hope you will enjoy all the new and exciting things we have to offer this year, along with our food, drink, gifts, cards, and our signature spread of jams and preserves. If you find yourself stuck for a Valentine's Day gift, nothing says 'I love you' like a pot of Sloe Gin Jelly. Speaking of which, the Tea Room will be open on Saturday the 14th of February, and we'll be sure to have some particularly luxurious Specials for the occasion should you wish to treat someone special (or yourself). Our Tea Room opening hours are 12:30 to 5pm on Saturdays and 10am to 5pm on Wednesdays and Sundays. We can be contacted for bookings or other enquiries by telephone on 07931 751 553, or by email at fleurouisagrace@gmail.com

Fleur and Will

Curry Mallet Parish Council

The Parish Council confirmed their budget for 2026/2027 at the meeting on Monday 19th January. The Parish Council now has to fund services that had previously been funded by Somerset Council, along with a contribution to election costs. The budget for 2026/27 was approved at £12770 which represents an increase of 11.23% to the annual charge of a band D property. This would bring the equivalent band D charge to £93.02 for the year.

We currently have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are looking for a new challenge and are passionate about where you live and want to make a difference, then why not join the Parish Council? Contact the Clerk for an informal chat and more information. clerk@currymallet-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

There have been several instances of fly tipping in the village recently. This should be reported online to Somerset Council, along with a photograph if you have it. www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/how-to-fight-fly-tipping

It is probable that the fly tipping is from outside the village, however there are simple steps to take, should you use a third party to remove waste on your behalf:

- ◆ Never pay cash
- ◆ Check that any waste carrier has the right licence and ask them where the waste will go
- ◆ Get a proper receipt and a copy of the "waste transfer note"
- ◆ Record names, contact details and vehicle information
- ◆ Take particular care in using social media to get waste removed

Carols in the cow shed.

Carols in the cowshed at Park Farm took place the weekend before Christmas, thank you to the Down family for hosting the event and all who helped put on another successful Carol service. Once again, we were greeted by a new born calf in the maternity bay, and the large attendance filled the cattle shed. The Carols and readings were led by Julie Kimber and Tim Frazer, with Giles Adams on the organ. Readings and poems by farmers and villagers, with a talk by Rob Walrond, Farmer and parish Rural advisor who talked about the comparisons of how the baby Jesus was born into the smells and cold of the cattle shed, rather than warmth and sterile surroundings you would expect.

Mulled wine, fruit juice, mince pies and sweets were enjoyed by all afterwards.

Donations of £400 collected on the night was split equally between tearfund.org.uk and All Saints Church.



Beercrocombe Village WhatsApp.

Beercrocombe Parish Council want to make sure those in our village know of the Beercrocombe WhatsApp group which is a forum for local information and useful if there are incidents such as road closures, flooding or power cuts. If residents wish to join they should contact Selina Jervis on 07966 154059 with their phone number.



Bad Edukation brought us another great night of classic rock, including a tribute to Ozzy, to our village hall.

Lots of singing and dancing, not much room on the dance floor at times!

The band say that we are a great audience and that they love playing to us - They will be back in the not too distant future, so keep an eye out for tickets.



Tai Chi

It has been lovely to see so many people at the new Tai Chi classes in the Village Hall. Currently there are two classes running, one starting at 3:30pm on Mondays followed by a second class at 4:30pm. Why not come along and give it a go?



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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 websites, as well as in print form.

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

Scarlett Smith : "Any Objections?"

Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Friday March 13th at 7.30 pm

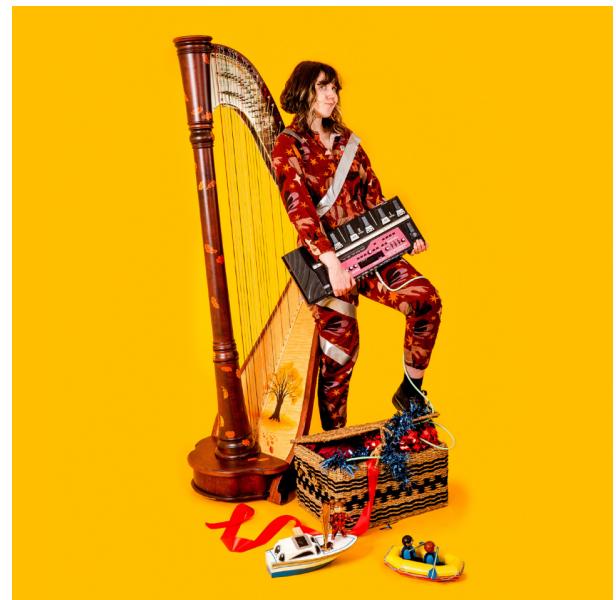
In association with TakeArt

Tickets include a pre-show Ploughman's Supper

Armed with her harp and an insatiable curiosity, join Scarlett in her "Any Objections" comedy show, as she shares the ups and downs of the wedding industry and her consequential desire to rebrand. While looking back over some questionable enquires, her open-minded nature turns trepidation into inspiration.

Blending live looping harp covers of popular songs, self-produced indie-pop jingles, and fast paced punch lines, comedian Scarlett Smith will take you into her whimsical world where chaos meets creativity.

'Any Objections?' is a playful celebration of defying stereotypes, embracing self-expression, and making space for joy and silliness in a messy world.



"Fizzles with energy" - Bristol 24/7

"Impressive and entertaining... an absolutely charming show, bundled with beautiful music and heartwarming fun." - Backstage Bristol

Show contains some light sexual content – suitable for age 17 and upwards

Tickets cost £14 and include a Ploughman's Supper before the performance. They 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

Scarlett Smith is 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.