



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 82, AUGUST 2026 - OCTOBER 2026

Save The Bell

Awards, AGM and more!

Yet again it's been a busy few months for the Save the Bell Inn campaign.

One to watch award. We were chuffed to be nominated for one of the Plunkett UK Rural Community Business awards as one of the 3 fledgling businesses selected for the 'One to watch' category. We didn't win but it was a big feather in our campaign hat to be runners up as there are over 400 community pub projects at the same phase as us! Chris Dale and Kate Gibbins spent the day at the event, networking and collecting our certificate and came home full of ideas!



AGM. Thanks to everyone that attended the AGM on 17th July. The committee members updated shareholders on progress over the last year, presented the annual accounts and were unanimously voted to stay on for the next year. Discussions followed on our plans for the next few months including:

- * Launch the second phase of the share offer (early autumn). We need to plug the current 41% target shortfall. This means attracting more shareholders from the villages and beyond.
- * Corporate shareholders/sponsors: Target local/not so local companies to buy shares. Lots of companies have a social responsibility policy - do you work for one? We need to attract them.
- * Be more Hub than Pub! We need to further reframe our story to push the community hub and show how that can benefit the whole community. Let us have your thoughts on what you want.
- * Community involvement: we need more help! The committee (whilst great) cannot do everything. Could you help with a small, occasional task? Eg. Website skills (Wix platform). Delivering materials to villagers. Introducing new residents to our campaign. Do you have young people in your home that need a volunteering project (D of E or EPQ)? We have the people that can assist them. Do you have a specific fundraising idea? These are just some of the suggestions and thanks to those that have already come forward. Just contact a member of the committee or email us info@cmbcommunitypub.com with you thoughts/offers of help.

Relaunching the share offer is key. In order to make a credible offer to the current owner we need more shareholders and more money in the bank to plug that 41% gap. There is value in having a pub in the village, there is even more value in having a great pub...

“A rural pub closure erodes a villages social and economic fabric, often causing local property values to fall by 10-15%”

(Professor Cabras, Head of Financial Management department, Newcastle Business School. (Publication: European Planning Studies Journal, Feb 2020.))

The average house price in TA3 is £359,500 (Land Registry 2023-2026).

15% reduction in property value is a drop of £53,925

10% reduction in property value is a drop of £35,950

5% reduction in property value is a drop of £17,975.

Which makes a £1,000 investment in the Save the Bell campaign look like a no-brainer!

And finally... Our two Pop-up Pubs have been really successful. The support from local breweries and presses (On the Level, Fine Tuned and Brays) enabled us to make good profits to add to our funds. Thanks to everyone that came along and to the team for setting them up and making them great fun. Look out for details of the next one...

Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre - You were a hit with Class 3 at Curry Mallet!

What an amazing opportunity residential trips are for our children! They provide a unique experience where the children are encouraged to become more independent, to take risks, to try new adventurous activities and to learn about themselves in a different environment. As a school we feel that residential visits are invaluable for our children and ensure that each child takes part in a different residential experience in Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6 at our school.



On Monday 22nd June Class 3 were excited to set off for their residential at Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre. With the heat wave forecast, the children were fortunate to be heading to a slightly cooler Exmoor. The children relished the freedom of Exmoor National Park and soaked up all the new experiences that Pinkery had to offer. Some of the highlights from the residential included scrambling through

the dark cave tunnel at Pinkery Pond, orienteering around the Pinkery site, archery, low rope team building challenges, grass sledging, bush craft skills, climbing and exploring the stream.



Class 3 were a credit to our school and made memories that we hope will last a lifetime. We are very grateful to our staff Ms. Harwood, Mrs. Otton and Miss. Bull who looked after the children so brilliantly over the 3 days.

Your Village Hall

When I moved to Curry Mallet just over three years ago I thought how lovely it was that the village had a hall, shared of course with our neighbours in Beercrocombe. Since then I've been to several fundraising events and through them met so many lovely people. We really do have a special community, and the village hall plays such an important part in bringing us together, strengthening old friendships and making new ones.

If I'm honest, until recently I never really gave much thought to how the hall was run. Like many of us, I just assumed it somehow happened. Well I now know exactly how it happens because I have just recently taken on the role of chair of the village hall committee.

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone on the committee. They work incredibly hard behind the scenes to keep the hall running, organise events, carry out maintenance and generally keep everything ticking over – all while keeping costs as low as possible. It's a fantastic team of volunteers.

Now I'd love to hear from you.....

What would you like to see happen in your village hall?

Are there activities, events or improvements you'd like us to consider?

We can't promise to do everything, but we can promise that every suggestion will be listened to and discussed. After all, it is your village hall.

Like many community organisations, we are feeling the impact of rising costs. We rely on income from hall hire, fundraising events and donations to cover our running costs, so every booking, every event, every donation and every helping hand really does make a difference.

Talking of helping hands.....

I'd love to create a list of local volunteers who would be happy to help out now and again. You don't have to join the committee or make a huge commitment. Whether you are good at gardening, painting, plumbing, DIY, sewing, baking cakes or simply putting the kettle on for the workers, I'd be delighted to have you on the list. Everyone has something they can contribute.

This autumn we are hoping to give the hall a bit of a spruce up. We'll be organising a couple of working days and, if enough people volunteer, just a couple of hours from each person could make a real difference. A case of many hands makes light work.

If you'd like to be added to our volunteer list, or have any ideas for the hall, I'd love to hear from you.

Email: annscaman@gmail.com Telephone: 07837691576

Anyone who knows me knows I'm always happy to stop for a chat, so please don't be shy!

Finally, one of the easiest - and possibly most enjoyable ways to support your village hall is simply by coming along to our fundraising events.

The next one is a Cream Tea afternoon on Saturday 15th August 2pm - 5pm (see advert right).

I hope to see lots of you there. Please come and say hello, introduce yourself and share your ideas in person

Thanks so much for reading, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ann (Scaman)

Also **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday 6th December** for a community event with a Christmas vibe.



Notes from the Farm

If you are having trouble sleeping on hot summer nights, might I suggest reading 'Farming Roadmap 2050: Growing England's Future', a government report that has just been published as a plan for agriculture for the next quarter of a century? It envisages a future for farming where profitable businesses provide quality foodstuffs produced in an environmentally benign way and public goods in the form of wildlife habitats alongside this activity. These are of course laudable aims, but these 73 pages of machine-written word salad didn't immediately make it clear to me how we might achieve them.

As well as having been put through the AI blender the plan is keen to stress that it has been produced with consultation, but I think this means 'consultation' in the peculiarly modern sense of 'we have put up an online comment box which we will then ignore as we pretty much know what we are going to do anyway' so they can say they have fulfilled their obligations to 'stakeholders'. Anyway, I have fought my incipient narcolepsy and read the whole thing to see if I could discern how things might evolve.

These were my conclusions; -

Government regulation will increase.

Commercial buyers will increase environmental demands.

Existing environmental schemes will wither away through lack of funding.

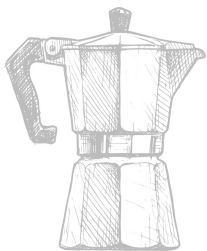
There will be limited protection from food imports produced to lower environmental and welfare standards.

Overall the message is 'this is what we expect you to do, but broadly you are on your own'. Even the title of the report is odd- Farming Roadmap 2050- who uses a roadmap these days? Maybe 'Farming SatNav 2050' didn't sound right either. Whichever guide we use it looks like a road to nowhere.

Justin Adams

Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

What a summer we're having, it has been so nice to see so many people outside The Coffee Shop enjoying the sunshine. We have now added Iced Coffees to our quite extensive list of coffees (I can pretty much do anything if I google it). Pop in if you get a chance it will be lovely to see you.



Monday	10.30 - 4.00pm	Friday	10.30 - 4.00pm
Tuesday	10.30 - 4.00pm	Saturday	10.30 - 1.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	10.30 - 4.00pm		



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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

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 Tuesday 20th October 2026.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

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



What a start to our summer... three heat waves and more likely to come. Record temperatures being set and broken within days. For those ladies wanting to get out of the heat we can assure you of an air conditioned meeting hall but still a warm welcome.

Since our last article we have enjoyed a good sharing social after our AGM in May when we elected our new committee and President. This was followed in June by a delicious cream tea with invited guests (tables beautifully laid out with fine china, flowers on every table and waitress service for refreshments). A very interesting talk was given by John Townson in St John's, Hatch Beauchamp about all the memorial tablets and plaques around the church. We learnt much about the people who lived in and around the village and their fascinating lives and connections to the area at our June meeting.

July is our traditional Garden social meeting but for the first time the 'garden' element was cancelled due to the above 30°C temperatures and the socialising was achieved in the much cooler village hall. An unexpected opportunity came up in July for us to hold a WI cake stall at the monthly Farmers Market in Hatch - a challenge we relished to help raise funds for our centenary celebrations - after all who doesn't love cakes!

Up and coming:

- ✓ Westlands Theatre visit on 24 July to see 'Rhythm of the Dance'.
- ✓ 13 August, 'Mission Penguin' by Ursula Franklin.
- ✓ A friendly skittles match at the Hatch Inn on the 17 August.
- ✓ A talk about 'Magnificent women and flying machines' 10 September. (True stories of women who flew, from a balloon flight in 1785 to Helen Sharman in space.)
- ✓ A steam train outing to Minehead from Bishops Lydeard on 17 September.
- ✓ 8 October 'A fun way with scarves' with speaker Jan McNeill.
- ✓ Another Westlands visit to see 'The Great British Bake Off Musical' on 31 October.
- ✓ Our regular monthly book club and coffee/chat meetings.

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

The Village Hall BELL INN QUIZ



The quiz is a great way for our community to meet together for an evening – bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Temporarily (we hope) relocated to our Village Hall

Tables of up to Four Contestants - £8 per table

After payment for the hall rent all takings as Cash Prizes

Your chance to shine in a general knowledge quiz where you can argue with team mates and have a good laugh!

**Dates for 2026/27: October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th,
January 4th, February 1st, March 1st, April 5th.**

Curry Mallet All Saints Church News

On one of the hottest days of the late May Bank Holiday weekend, the annual plant sale with coffee morning, bacon or sausage baps, and cakes for sale was held at Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe village hall. It was a busy morning, thank you to everyone who produced plants and made cakes to sell, and all those who helped on the morning setting up the hall, selling plants and serving teas, coffee, baps and cakes. Thank you to all who came along to make the event a great success. After costs an amazing amount of £1,500 was raised for All Saints Church Funds, this final total included money from plants left over and sold later, and £150 from selling plants at the Somerset day event.



Up and coming services at All Saints Church



Sunday 16th August 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 13th September 10am Parish Communion

Sunday 27th September 7pm Harvest Thanksgiving. Donations of non-perishable food will be distributed to Taunton Foodbank and Ilminster Foodbank. Soup and Bread will be served after the service.

Sunday 18th October 10am Morning Worship.

Mike Bawler - Church Warden.

SYLVIA ADAMS

Often when someone dies at the age of 94 the funeral is sparsely attended for the simple reason that many of their contemporaries have already gone ahead of them. However, for the recent funeral of Sylvia Adams the church in Curry Mallet was very nearly full and the Hatch Inn afterwards even more so with people paying their respects for a long and interesting life.

Sylvia grew up in Farrington Gurney in North Somerset, the youngest daughter of a Methodist lay preacher. She took a law degree at Bristol University and qualified as a solicitor at a time when the legal profession was overwhelmingly male dominated. Having met Maurice and become a farmer's wife they took on a new tenancy and moved to Curry Mallet in 1971.

Her greatest interests were always education and the law. She spent decades as a school governor, started her own practice as a solicitor at the age of 50, and after many years as a magistrate in Ilminster and Chard she became chair of the Family Court in Yeovil. She was always concerned with the law and Justice; very occasionally she would feel that the two things were not quite aligned and she would try to push the former as far as possible in pursuit of the latter.

Above everything else she was always interested in people, finding out who they were, where they came from, what made them 'tick', and if possible, she liked to help them. At the funeral there were people that she had known for over 75 years and others from Beauchamp House that she had only known for a few months. Physically a little lady she became smaller still in old age, but remained a big character right to the end. She will be much missed.



Who's Doing All the Talking?

A garden microphone has spent the week putting names to the village chorus. The findings so far include a 4am Tawny Owl and one extremely talkative Wood Pigeon.

Long before the first kettle goes on, Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet are already in full conversation. Robins sing from the rooftops, Wrens rattle away inside the hedges, and Jackdaws call as they pass between the two villages. Most of us know the sound. Fewer of us could name every singer, especially the ones we hear but never see.

A new website, Birds of Beercrocombe (birdsofbeercrocombe.uk), is putting names to them. A small microphone in the garden at Pippins listens around the clock, and when it recognises a call, the identification appears on the site within moments.

In its first few days it logged more than two thousand calls from twenty-six species. A Tawny Owl called at four in the morning. A Grey Heron flew over at first light. Barn Swallows passed through all day. And two-thirds of everything heard was wood-pigeon, which will surprise nobody who sleeps with a window open.

The listening is done by BirdNET-Go, a piece of artificial intelligence trained on many thousands of recordings of birdsong. If you use the Merlin app on your phone, this is the same idea, except it never stops. It compares a few seconds of sound with the patterns it has learned and suggests the most likely species.

It is quick, but it is not an expert birdwatcher. Wind, mowers and several birds singing at once can mislead it. One morning this week it confidently reported a Cirl Bunting, a rarity scarcely found outside South Devon; the likelier culprit is a Yellowhammer, whose song is similar. Treat its answers as good suggestions, and enjoy catching it out.

A word on privacy: all the processing happens on a computer at Pippins, nothing is streamed to the internet, and short recordings are published only once an automatic check has confirmed they contain no human speech.

On the website you can browse what has been heard in the last hour, day or week, see a collage of recent visitors (the illustrations, fittingly, are AI-generated too), wander the species atlas, and play the actual recordings behind each identification. As the seasons turn it will become a diary of the village year: the swallows leaving, the winter voices arriving, the dawn chorus rebuilding itself in spring.

Visit birdsofbeercrocombe.uk, then step outside. The easiest way to begin birdwatching is to stop and listen.

Heard something interesting, or a singer the microphone has missed? Share it in the village WhatsApp groups. Ideas for the website: speak to Josef Nankivell at Pippins, Beercrocombe.



Hold the Date

19th February 2027 at 8.00 PM in The Village Hall

Maddie Storvold – Canadian Singer-Songwriter

“Tough and sweet like gravel in honey, Maddie can make you laugh and cry, think and ache - all in the same hour. Storvold’s music seeks to tell a story, to challenge us, to spark delight, and to touch a fragile part of the human spirit.”
– **BeatRoute**

For more details see the next issue of the Beer and Curry Takeaway

CarmenCo present “A Pocket Opera”

Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Friday November 20th at 8.00 pm

In association with TakeArt



CarmenCo's "A Pocket Opera" is more than a concert: It is a performance of Spanish music presented as a play, which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen but is told from her point of view. Dare you consult the cards with her? What does she think of the men in her story? Did she foresee her gruesome ending? And does she like the opera Bizet wrote about her?

The three musicians perform entirely from memory, enabling them to act with each other, and to engage the audience members in the show, frequently walking amongst them and involving audience members in the dialogue. They even dance while playing, in a fully choreographed party scene which wows audiences.

CarmenCo will have you in turn laughing out loud, and listening with absolute silence to the immersive and evocative music. Look forward to a fun-filled evening of fantasy, comedy, drama and tremendous music.

"An unusual, highly entertaining evening... The three first-rate musicians rose to the challenge of acting and dancing as well as musical performance... Superb range of musical colour and artistry throughout the programme" - Ayrshire Post

"The feedback from the concert has been huge, universally everybody loved it. The number of times I have been stopped in the street this week to compliment the performance is countless." - concert organiser, Portesham for ArtsReach Dorset

To get a flavour of this performance search on-line for "CarmenCo Pocket Opera Trailer"

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

CarmenCo 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.