



Beer and Curry Takeaway

ISSUE NO. 83, NOVEMBER 2026 - JANUARY 2027

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Curry Mallet Coffee Shop

After a very long hot summer autumn has finally arrived and what a great year we have had! As a heartfelt thank you why not come and join us together with **The Manor House** for our annual **Christmas Light Switch-On**. It's a little earlier this year - we'll be gathering on Wednesday 25th November at 6 pm. Wrap up warm, bring the family and join us for Christmas music, mulled wine, mince pies and the little ones will have a chance to meet Father Christmas himself and share their wish lists. It will be really lovely to see you.

As the nights are drawing we will be slightly reducing our opening hours from Monday 2nd November as follows:



Monday	10.30 - 3.00pm	Friday	10.30 - 3.00pm
Tuesday	10.30 - 3.00pm	Saturday	10.30 - 1.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	10.30 - 3.00pm		



We will also be taking a little break over the Christmas period closing The Coffee Shop from 22nd December 2026 and re-opening on Monday 18th January 2027

We would like to thank you for all your continuing support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you soon.

Mary Adams

Curry Mallet CofE VC Primary & Pre-School

We have enjoyed an action-packed start to the school year this half term at Curry Mallet CofE VC Primary & Pre-School. Everything from the creation of Viking helmets to giant conker runs, Area Football and Cross-Country Tournaments to Harvest Craft Workshops have inspired the children in their learning.

Fine & gross motor skills are developed at Pre-School



After enjoying the book 'The Leaf Thief', the children were excited to explore 'The Pumpkin Thief' last week in Pre-School. Inspired by the story, the children have been busy exploring pumpkins in lots of exciting, hands-on ways!

Pumpkin Investigation: The children loved scooping out the seeds and exploring the different textures inside the pumpkins, using their senses and sharing their observations.

Hammering Fun: They made their own little hammers to hammer golf tees into pumpkins, developing hand strength, coordination and control.



Gross Motor Adventures: To conclude the week, the children headed outside to pull tyres across the playground, building strength, balance and coordination while having lots of fun!

Class 1 go crazy for popcorn at Forest School!



Our Reception and Year 1 children have been learning about their 5 senses this half term and which part of the body is associated with each sense. In forest school they had fun with a popcorn experiment to encourage them to think about their senses.

The children touched the popcorn kernels before cooking and felt that they were smooth. However, after cooking they described them as "...a bit bumpy Mrs Leighton." The children discussed what they could hear as they were cooking. The little popping sound as each kernel exploded put a real smile on everyone's face! The children described smelling the fire and the wood smoke and their mouths began to water as they could



also smell the popcorn cooking. By far the best part of the experiment was tasting the popcorn! What a great experiment to bring the children's science learning to life.

Viking helmets are created in Class 2



The children in Class 2 have become fully engrossed in their history topic of the Vikings this half term. Their learning has deepened as they have worked in groups to research the Viking period using the Chrome books. Last week the children loved getting messy in design technology as they began to create their own Viking helmet from paper mâché. We cannot wait to see their finished Viking creations.



Children have fun exploring changes of state and chemical reactions in Class 3

This half term in science Class 3 were excited to explore chemical reactions. Having inserted mentos into a bottle of Coke the children stood back in amazement to view the explosive reaction caused by the chemical reaction!



Gathered around a camp fire in our Forest School the children predicted, observed and recorded changes of state as they watched wax turn from a solid into a liquid, water turn from solid ice into liquid water and eventually evaporate as steam and marshmallows turn from a squishy solid into a melted liquid form. The learning was so much more impactful for the children as



they could experience these changes in front of their eyes. The toasting of marshmallows was particularly enjoyable as they got to taste them too. Thank you for bringing the children's learning to life Mr Gibson.

As the half term progressed we looked forward to our Harvest Festival at Park Farm, Curry Mallet before a well-earned half term break.

Date for your diary – Curry Mallet Primary and Preschool are hosting a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November from 11am until 2pm. Everyone welcome!

Curry Mallet School PTFA Christmas Fayre – 28th November

Come and join us at Curry Mallet School on Saturday 28th November 11am-2pm for our wonderful annual PTFA Christmas Fayre! It's the perfect opportunity to kick-start your Christmas shopping, with a fantastic selection of small local businesses offering everything from handmade jewellery to delicious freshly made cakes. Our fabulous hog roast will be returning for a second year, alongside the chance to meet Father Christmas, and to enjoy a range of fun festive activities for children.

We would love to welcome you to our wonderful village school, so please come along, soak up the festive atmosphere and celebrate the start of the Christmas season with us!

**CURRY MALLET
PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

Come and join us for our

Christmas FAYRE

Saturday 28th November 2026
11am to 2pm
At Curry Mallet Primary School, TA3 6TA

Craft & Gift Stalls Christmas Games & Music
Hot Food Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Plus...Meet Father Christmas

All welcome!
Raising funds for
Curry Mallet Primary School PTFA

Curry Mallet All Saints Church News

September was a busy month at All Saints Church with Baptisms, the first being Cleo Pitman and then Hugo Heal. A sad occasion was a service to celebrate the life of Alan Woodward followed by his burial in the churchyard.



The end of the month was Harvest Thanksgiving led by Rev Julie Kimber. A well-attended service heard a poem called The Farmer written by Sue Ikerd, readings, hymns and presentation of Bread, Water and Flowers for blessing. Local farmer John Down gave a talk on the struggle farmers are having this year producing crops and cattle feed because of the drought. With the lack of grass farmers are already using winter feed stocks.

Thank you to everyone who decorated the Church with flowers, sheafs of corn, and fruit and vegetables. Soup and bread were enjoyed by everyone

after the service.

Donations of non-perishable foods were gratefully received by Taunton and Ilminster foodbanks, thank you to all who donated. Also, a donation of £250 was sent to the charity Farming Community Network.

Services

Sunday 1st November 10am Parish Communion.

Sunday 15th November 10am Morning Worship.

Sunday 20th December 10am Morning Worship.

Christmas Day 25th December 10am Family Service.

Sunday 10th January 7pm Plough Service.

Sunday 17th January 10am Morning Worship.



Christmas Carols at Park Farm Curry Mallet

You are warmly invited to join us for
Carols with the cattle in the cowshed!

On Saturday 12th December at 6pm

A return to a simple, traditional style of readings and carols

Followed by Mulled Wine, fruit juice, and mince pies

Donations to: Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Charity

Please wear warm clothing and stout footwear, and bring a torch.

(Sadly, on this occasion – No dogs)

Parking on the farm



Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th November 9.30am-12.30pm
At Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall
To Raise Funds for All Saints Church.
Bacon or Sausage Baps, Slice of Cake.
Sale of Jams & Chutneys.
Raffle.

New Organ Seat at the Church

I was very touched by the interest shown in the broken organ seat recently and the kind people that replaced it. Michael Bawler is the Churchwarden and he patiently undertook sorting it out – with Ian Davis from Fivehead making the replacement and Fiona in Curry Mallet almost breaking my heart by offering to make a cushion.

Although the original was made of chipboard, it was probably my fault it broke as when I was playing the hymns for my mum's funeral in May, I launched myself on it and heard a very slight crack. It was a few weeks later that my 100kg from stage left saw it off for good.

It was Sam Dawton who instigated the campaign around 35 years ago to replace the previous harmonium. Sam was one of a kind and I am still indebted to him for his energy and encouragement. His wife Jan was taught piano by the composer Herbert Howells so it was very fitting that her immense talent was connected.

I first played the organ in Curry Mallet church in 1978, aged 13. It was Lent and I was shaking with nerves playing the first hymn, 'Forty Days and Forty Nights'. I anxiously looked at the congregation, thinking that each was staring at me. I have often been struck by people like Sam and many rectors since that would have complimented my playing even if it had been terrible. That really is how the world should be.

Queen Elizabeth II was served by 15 prime ministers during her reign and I feel a parallel, with me doing the serving. Mr Edwards was the rector at that time and could not have been kinder, as have all his successors been since. In the ensuing 48 years a few have really stood out. Reg Beevers had an incredible connection and delivery. So many clergy are extremely erudite but some have an extra dimension with their relationship to life here on earth. I have to be frank that I rarely listen intensely to what is said in church. However I do absorb the intonation and will never forget the prayers after Friday evening choir practise by Stephen Rees-Jones on dark winter nights in the early 1970s. "Lighten the darkness we beseech thee oh Lord....". Those words resonated with the torchlight being led up Church lane afterwards in that darkness with Michael Bawler's gentle sister Margaret suggesting to the 7 year old me that I "make a noise quietly."

Some will still remember Paul Reynolds who for a number of reasons stands supreme in the memory of my family. It really is exceptional when an advocate reaches in and touches your life.

Living history, and some dead history too. It's there, silently embracing us as we live our busy lives.

Giles Adams

CarmenCo present "A Pocket Opera"
Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall
Friday November 20th at 8.00 pm
In association with TakeArt

If you think you don't like opera try this....



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 musicianship was wonderful, I loved Emily's beautiful voice and the story telling was spellbinding. What I had absolutely not expected was that it would be so entertaining as well as dramatic and touching - I laughed out loud when I was listening. A lot!" - concert organiser, Frome Concerts Group

"What an outstanding performance by the extraordinarily talented and delightful CarmenCo ensemble. It was a magnificent evening ending with rapturous applause" - concert organiser, Arts in The Langfords

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 patsywallace@gmail.com
- * On-line: <https://takeart.org/whats-on>

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.**

Maddie Storvold - Canadian Singer- Songwriter

Live at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall

Friday 19th February at 8.00 pm

In association with TakeArt



Somewhere between a stand-up set, a kitchen-table confession, and a finely crafted folk song lives the music of Maddie Storvold. With a voice that can hush a room and a storyteller's instinct for capturing the irreverent and the heartfelt, Storvold pens songs that feel instantly lived-in.

A standout voice in Canada's folk and roots scene, Storvold first captured national attention when she won the CTV's The Launch with celebrity mentor Bryan Adams, earning widespread recognition for her powerful voice, and producing a single, "Don't Say You Love Me" that shot to #1 on the Country Charts in less than 3 hours. Since then, she has taken her music across the country, performing at festivals and venues throughout Canada and the UK, and building a loyal audience drawn to her authenticity, heart, and playful humour.

"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

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.

Community Activities

Preparedness for Flooding

Those of you on my Neighbourhood Watch listing (presently somewhat incomplete and in need of update) will recall my warning message last July, concerning the then anticipated risk of wildfires affecting our rural vegetation and hence to people and property; in other parts of the country and elsewhere, those risks subsequently materialised, - causing much damage and some loss of life: Fortunately, we here in Curry Mallet were not affected but, over 20 years ago, the words of an elderly neighbour then in her 80s continue to haunt me; as a child her home was once surrounded by fires in the adjacent fields, - a terror which had never left her.



Curry Moor, Hay Moor & New Rd
NNW 04/01/2014

Without wishing to adopt the guise of a latter-day Cassandra, I return to a topic which exercised many of my former contributions to this newsletter, - that of preparedness for flooding. Exceptional rainfall locally in December 2012 and January 2014 caused much misery and inconvenience in the localities in and around the Somerset Levels, and some Curry Mallet properties sustained ingress of water, - primarily where lanes became mass-transit routes for runoff from the slopes of the Fivehead Ridge. The parish council of that era spent much time collaborating with South Somerset Highways, the District and County Councils (for advice and grants) and the Environment Agency, to seek to ameliorate the risks.

One of the results of the 2014 flooding debacle was the formation of the 'Somerset Rivers Authority', and, through my Neighbourhood Watch channels, I've been advised that Bel Derring from this authority would be willing to talk to local groups about preparedness. Her offer is as follows, -

I work with Somerset Rivers Authority, helping communities across Somerset feel more confident and prepared for flooding. I am always keen to connect with local groups as they play such an important role in bringing people together and looking out for one another.

To help your community be more prepared, I can offer friendly, practical talks and workshops on topics such as creating a simple Household Emergency Plan and the Ten Steps to Emergency Preparedness. The aim is not to worry people about emergencies, but to share straightforward actions that can help individuals, families and communities feel more prepared and better able to support each other when something unexpected happens.

We also work with schools, libraries, community groups and many other organisations across Somerset to help build resilience in ways that are engaging, positive and relevant to local people.

If your community would be interested in a talk or an informal conversation about how we might support you, I'd be delighted to hear from you. bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk

Readers of this column over many years will perhaps recall my not-infrequent invocations to keep drain gullies and roadside ditches clear of debris. Back in February 2014, a copy of the County Council Civil Contingencies' Householder Emergency Checklist was provided to each Curry Mallet address within that issue of this newsletter. Included measures such as "grab-bags" for emergency evacuation as well as general preparedness should flooding suddenly occur. Perhaps those now more closely involved with the wellbeing of this community might wish to pursue Bel Deering's invitation.

Godfrey

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As I write this I am overlooking my garden which is bathed in late autumn sunshine and in the distance I have a clear view across the fields to the Blackdown hills. I know I am very fortunate to enjoy this view and also the warm friendship of my fellow WI members.

A number of our members thoroughly enjoyed their Westlands Theatre visit in late July to watch 'Rhythm of the Dance '. The consensus was a stunning performance by the Irish dancers and amazement at the talent on display. We also learnt that Dame Sarah Mullally, the current Archbishop of Canterbury has joined the WI and is looking forward to supporting our organisation in its work. This was followed in August with a friendly skittles match at The Hatch Inn, where a lot of fun and laughter could be heard.

At our September meeting we were all fascinated by our speaker and author Sally Smith who gave a presentation based on her book 'Magnificent women and flying machines '. Sally took us from women's involvement in earliest balloon flights, moving on to aircraft through to Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut in history. Also this month several members enjoyed a trip to Minehead on the West Somerset Railways steam train and a lunch out by the seaside.

Our October meeting saw a change of speakers due to illness but we were not in the least disappointed with Brian Wright who stepped in at a moment's notice to talk to us about 'Superstitions '. He knowledge of the subject was engrossing as he took us through history showing how many of these superstitions and sayings came into being.

Up and coming:

- ✓ 24 October, Somerset County Federation WI annual meeting.
- ✓ 31 October, Sherborne theatre trip to see 'The Great British bake off musical.
- ✓ 14 November, Community Cafe at The Farmers Market, HB village hall.
- ✓ 9 December, SCFWI Carol Service.at Wells Cathedral.
- ✓ 10 December, Singsational and Centenary celebration.
- ✓ 16 December, Taunton Vale Group Carol Service.

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

Round Window Club

The Round Window Club members and helpers attended an annual lunch out at Hurds Hill house near Langport for the second year running in September. All very much enjoyed a 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee in the splendid surroundings of the country house.

Do you enjoy cooking? Would you like a volunteer role locally?

Round Window Club meets fortnightly on a Wednesday in Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall. Members are older people living alone – we have a maximum of 12.

We serve a hot drink and do various activities during the morning before serving a two-course lunch.

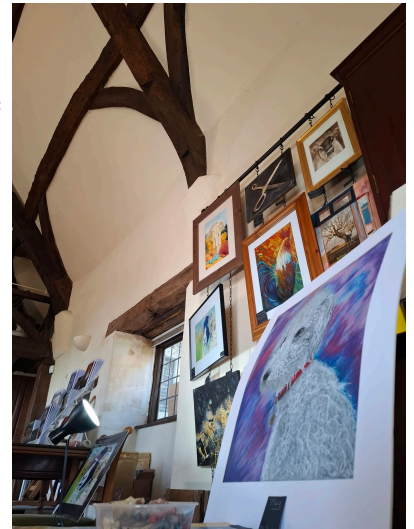
We are looking to increase our team of cooks, if you think you can help then contact Helen on 01458 259654 or 07817688079, or Roger Hughes on 01823 480044.



News from The Manor House

Firstly, I am delighted to say that our first ever exhibition for Somerset Art Weeks was a great success. We had well over 200 visitors over the course of our opening - some familiar village faces and loyal customers, but many from much further afield who came to appreciate the remarkable wealth of artistic talent our little village has to offer. We fully intend to run another exhibition for next year's Somerset Art Weeks, and we would love to be able to showcase even more local talent. Please get in touch if you would be interested in exhibiting with us, either for Somerset Art Weeks or for our gallery space at any other time. We already have one interested party whose three-dimensional stained glass will grace our hall next year, and there's plenty of room for more!

I would like to extend some thanks here to everyone who came to see us for Somerset Art Weeks; to Brian Sweet, Carol Winsloe and Fleur Wood, the featured artists who made it possible; and also to Mark Winsloe, whose able assistance in preparing for the exhibition was absolutely invaluable.



Our art classes have also now recommenced in the Great Hall after a brief hiatus during Somerset Art Weeks, running every Thursday from 2PM till 4:30PM.

For future events, it will soon be time for our annual Halloween haunted house, open for trick-or-treaters of all ages from 5:30PM till 7:30PM and raising money for good causes in the village. There won't just be art chained up in the Great Hall...

The Christmas Light Switch-On will be earlier than usual this year, occurring on Wednesday the 25th of November to ensure the availability of the much-anticipated musical stylings of Giles Adams. The switch-on itself will be at 6PM, but the gathering will start at 5:30PM between The Manor House and the Curry Mallet Coffee Shop with mince pies, mulled wine and song. Money raised will go towards the Village Hall.

Some of you may have noticed the sudden absence of the phrase 'cash and bank transfers only' from our signs and menus - while we can and will gladly take payment through such methods as before, for those of you who don't have a bunch of change rattling around in your pockets and/or would rather not be fiddling around with a banking app, we can also now take card payments.

We also have another new addition - a jigsaw library, already well stocked with dozens of jigsaws in various styles and levels of difficulty, all checked for missing pieces before being added to our ever-growing collection. If you're looking for an amusing diversion to while away the dark evenings of winter, why not stop by and see if we have a puzzle that takes your fancy? We only charge a £1 donation per jigsaw - money which will be added to a pot to expand the library yet further.

If you're looking for inspiration for Christmas gifts, we now have more options for you to choose from than ever before, including beautiful cards, mounted or framed art prints, our vast selection of jams, marmalades, sauces and preserves and plenty of other odds and ends besides.

The Tea Rooms last day of opening before we close for the festive period will be Sunday the 13th of December, and we will reopen on Wednesday the 3rd of February - though as ever, we can still accommodate group bookings for the Tea Room on any day during our winter closing period if booked in advance. The Bed & Breakfast will remain open for bookings throughout.

We can be contacted by telephone on 01823 481 471, or by telephone, text or WhatsApp on 07931 751 553.

William Wilkes-Wood

Notes from The Farm

I thought after the last issue that I really should stop writing about the government's administrative failings in rural affairs, but then there was the fiasco of the application window for their flagship environmental scheme only being open for 5 hours at no notice and the website crashing. I am sorely tempted, but quite honestly I am fatigued with this stuff, and I suspect you are with reading about it.

Actually I am generally fatigued. It has been a horrible year. Aside from government idiocy and exceptional weather there was Bluetongue virus, Wessex Internet cutting underground water mains and heat stress in cows. The drought and the heat gave us the worst harvest for 50 years, taking me right back to where I started as a teenager, the infamous summer of 1976.

In 1976 I went on a school trip to Foxes Wool Mills in Wellington where lines of ladies stood at looms making cloth and making ribald remarks to embarrass schoolboys. The building is derelict now and the jobs have all gone, along with so many others; coal miners, typesetters in newspapers, bank clerks etc, and many more jobs are now under threat from AI. Farming has changed so much in that time, but at least it is still here. All around folks are planting crops for next harvest and trying to look forward rather than back in a triumph of hope over experience.

Next year has to be better. Doesn't it?

Justin Adams

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 Wednesday 20th January 2027.

Email: iberryorchard@gmail.com

Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall

A Big Thank You and Festive Fun at Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our Cream Tea and Pimm's Afternoon in August. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting the village hall, and together we raised almost **£600**!

The hall was full, the queue was long, and there was lots of happy chatter and friendly faces, creating a lovely community atmosphere.

The committee puts a great deal of time and effort into organising fundraising events throughout the year, so it is particularly rewarding when an event is so well supported. Every contribution helps us raise valuable funds to maintain and improve the hall for the benefit of our local community.

We are very grateful to everyone who came along, helped out, donated, baked or contributed in any way. Your support really does make a difference, and it is lovely to see the village hall bringing people together.



Children's Christmas Painting Competition

Rules:

- ★ The theme is Christmas.
- ★ Your painting must include a Christmas tree.
- ★ Use A3 or A4 paper (any medium – paints, crayons, pencils, etc.).
- ★ You can enter one painting only.
- ★ Please write your name, age and contact details (parent/guardian's email or phone number) on the back of your painting.

Age Categories:

- ★ 6 and under
- ★ 7 to 9 inclusive
- ★ 10 and over

Prizes:

- ★ There will be a 1st and 2nd prize in each age category.

Judging:

Judging will take place at the community Christmas event on **Sunday 6th December.**

Bring your entry to
Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall
 between 3 and 5pm on the 3rd December.
 If that's not possible please call Ann on
07837 691576

★ You don't need to come to the event to enter. ★

★ We will be using your masterpiece to help decorate the hall! ★

****Now, looking ahead to our next event on Sunday 6th December!****

We are busy planning a fun-filled festive event and are really hoping for another fantastic turnout. There will be plenty going on for all ages, with among other things fairy cake decorating, a ping pong ball challenge and *Find the Curry Mallet Treasure*. There will be seasonal refreshments and a bar!

We are also running a **children's painting competition** see poster with details on how to enter on page 11 We would love to receive lots of entries. We are planning to display the paintings around the hall to help create a lovely festive atmosphere, so get those paintbrushes ready and let your creativity shine! Instructions on how to enter are.

And, as you can see from the photo below, there will be an opportunity to take some fun festive photos of your own, too!

We hope the afternoon will be full of laughter, fun and community spirit, with something for everyone to enjoy. So please spread the word, bring along family and friends, and come and join us.

We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday 6th December** for a festive afternoon of fun, friendship and fundraising!

With thanks - Ann (Chair of committee)

