

Fivehead & Swell

Community Matters

Published every two months

By Fivehead Parish Council

No 219 February 2024

Tribute to a stalwart of the Village

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Fivehead business wins top award

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One pot cooking and healthy slimming recipe

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Cover Photograph

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the publisher. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the information supplied for inclusion in the newsletter is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information. We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations.

By supplying material for publication in Community Matters, you are giving consent for its publication on the village website at www.fivehead-village.org.uk

Useful Information

EMERGENCY AND HELP SERVICES

Emergency No. (All Services)	999	
Non-Emergency Police No.	101	
Non-Emergency Medical No.	111	
Samaritans	116 123	
Age Concern	0800 00 99 66	www.ageuk.org.uk
Citizens' Advice	03444 889 623	
Somerset Community Connect—local care and services to help you choose the right care and support.		www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk

MEDICAL

Langport Surgery	01458 250464	www.langportsurgery.co.uk
North Curry Health Centre	01823 490505	www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk
Musgrove Park Hospital	01823 333444	www.tsft.nhs.uk
Yeovil District Hospital	01935 475122	www.yeovilhospital.co.uk

SOMERSET COUNCIL

	0300 123 2224	www.somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Councilors - Mike Stanton	07802 472160	mike.stanton@somerset.gov.uk
Richard Wilkins		richard.wilkins@somerset.gov.uk
Highways and Travel		www.travelsomerset.gov.uk
Rights of Way-Volunteer & Trails Officer	01823 358250	www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map
Somerset Waste Partnership	01823 625700	www.somersetwaste.gov.uk
-		

PARISH COUNCIL

Kate Beacham (Chair)	6 Ganges Close	01460 281414
Laura Howard (Vice Chair)	The Old Manse	01460 282911
Robert (Rob) Wynn	Meldon	01460 281288
Bruce Ferguson Dr.	Poolhayes Swell	01458 250138
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Christina Munday	Cathanger Manor	01460 281589
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E-Mail contact for all matters fiveheadpc@gmail.com

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Sue Atwell Shop	07930278600	sue.atwell@hotmail.co.uk
The Crown Inn	01460 281322	adpubmanagement@gmail.com

Parish Council

Parish Council News



With festivities over for another year, a big thank you goes to Greenshutters for donating Fivehead's Christmas tree, which added seasonal cheer to St Martin's, at the heart of the village.

As the traditional Spruce went out, a fine Dwyck Beech (left) came in, planted in memory of Oliver Howard by his family and friends on 7th January, which would have been his 76th birthday. Oliver died in 2022 and is fondly remembered by many, as a friend, but also for all he did in his retirement for the church, village and charities, as well as for his service to our late Queen.

Tending of the Pound continued in December, whilst the remaining repair work to St Martin's perimeter walls was also completed. The new pointing will blend in with the older repairs once it has dried out and can be rendered flush with the stonework. A variation to the mortar (from pure lime putty to NHL2/lime mix) was passed by the church architect, to help with durability, particularly for the road-facing repairs, which have to sustain splashback from passing vehicles. By Spring, the benefits will hopefully be seen, as there will be less 'crannies' for weeds, like the 'prolific' ivy, to take hold - thanks to our Fixers for keeping them at bay in 2023, ready for the work to go ahead.

The new year for the Parish Council began with setting its budget and precept for the next financial year, starting in April 2024. This time it was set against a backdrop of uncertainty, as Somerset Council had declared a financial emergency and was still in complex discussions on how to close a budget gap of around £100m, driven mainly by increasing care service costs which are affecting many councils across the country. Parish and Town Councils were being asked to consider taking over some of the non-statutory services and assets from the Unitary Council in future, to help with cost-savings. Increased Council Tax would also be part of the mitigating considerations. In light of this, and the ongoing cost of living crisis, the Parish Council settled on a modest increase to its precept of around 5% for 24/25 (equating to £1.33 increase per annum for Band D properties), which would enable it to continue to support local grants and projects at a similar level as the previous year, despite fluctuating levels of inflation. At this stage, it does not anticipate taking on any new commitments, as it is already maintaining the closed churchyard, as well as Langford Corner and the Pound, and running the cemetery. It also supports the Village Hall and Playing Field charities (in the process of merging) with grants for maintenance/improvement projects, and is fortunate to have several teams of volunteers, who help with parish footpath maintenance, signposts, litter picking, the defibrillators and generally keeping things tidy.

Projects for 2024 will include the introduction of speed monitoring with a Speed Indicator Device for the parish, which is hoped will help keep the village roads safer and provide useful data to support speeding enforcement by the Police if it's needed; emergency and environmental planning; and ongoing village maintenance, with help from the Fivehead Fixers, who have been in action for just over a year now, making a big difference.

Additional funding from recent developments (known as Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL) is available to be spent over the next few years. The Parish Council welcomes any suggestions on how this might be used to improve parish infrastructure for residents. Please email your ideas to fiveheadpc@gmail.com by 28th February.

Looking forward to Spring and hoping for warmer and more stable weather,

With best wishes
Jayne Parsons Parish Clerk

Email: fiveheadpc@gmail.com

Parish Council - other news continued

News from the Fixers

The Fixers, having had a rest over the New Year, are now ready to start again. They have a busy few months ahead:

- The replacement oak posts for the Village Green have ready been put in
- The new Coronation bed will be dug and prepared when the ground warms up a bit
- Tidying up of the church and Pound areas will be done, once the stonemason has finished, ready for the Pound to be planted up, hopefully for the Summer



Flood survey

Now that the rain has stopped and the flooded areas around Fivehead and Swell have dried out a bit, I am doing a survey around the village to see if there are areas that the Fixers can help clear, to reduce future flooding.

I am about halfway through and have found several lost drains which might be able to be utilised and a couple of blocked sluices that might help when cleared.

I will be doing flow route tests, especially on Ganges and Butcher's Hill. Sometimes, just digging a grip at a low point around the village could ease the situation.



Some areas are the responsibility of Somerset Council to maintain and some areas are down to local landowners, but several ditch/stream areas in Fivehead and Swell have shared responsibility of adjacent owners. Working with everyone to do their patch might need lots of discussion, but the Fixers may

be able to help with some of the minor problem areas, before the next prolonged period of heavy rain. We will not cure all the problems, but I am sure we can help reduce them.

The Troutt family, as usual have made an excellent job of the stream/ditch going through their land, so thanks to them.

If you noticed any areas of flooding around Fivehead and Swell in the last spell of rain, can you please let me know where and why it seemed to be flooding; even if the Fixers can't help, the Parish Council can log all the areas and escalate awareness to Somerset Council if needed. You can contact dave.fiveheadpc@gmail.com

Thanks, Dave



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Also:
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Pound Pool, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6LZ
01458 272297 or Langport 01458 250509



Village Hall & Playing Field

The View from the Village Hall & Playing Field

Our report this time, I am afraid, cannot be regarding anything else but the very sad news of the passing of Graham Land, who was Treasurer and stalwart of the Playing Field Committee for many years. Graham will leave a void in this village that will probably never be filled, which is already becoming obvious. To see so many people at Graham's memorial service was a testament to the respect and love in which he was held.



We as a committee send our warmest regards & deepest sympathy to Sheila, Charlene & Tom, plus all Graham's family.

Graham would be pleased that the merger between the Village Hall & Playing Field is progressing, more of that in the next issue.

We pay tribute to Graham, and everything we do at the field in future will be with him in mind, knowing that he will be looking down on us with a guiding eye & wry smile when things don't go as they possibly should.

God bless mate

Contacts: Kevin Stevens (Chair Village Hall) Tel: 07794 226149
Frank Doggett (Chair Playing Fields) Tel: 01460 281549
Richard Hadfield (Hall Bookings) Tel: 01460 281904

Somerset Equine Groom WINS National Award

A self-employed lady from Taunton has won the prestigious Groom of the Year 2023, awarded by the Equestrian Business Awards.



Emma Cornish established Elite Equine Care at the beginning of 2023 and took the industry by storm. Nominated by her clients and assessed by industry peers, Emma was shocked to have not only been shortlisted along with 4 other finalists, but then went on to win the award at a gala award ceremony in Peterborough.

Emma has been involved in the equine industry since leaving school. At 18 years old, Emma passed her British Horse Society Assistant Instructors Certification (BHS AI), which led to many happy years in Warwickshire, working in a riding school and livery yard teaching riding and stable management.

Based in the South West for the past 20+ years, Emma continued to expand her knowledge and experience. With such an equine based employment history, Emma has worked in rescue, rehabilitation and eventing as well as boasting an impressive 12 years in the veterinary sector, holding a Practice Manager position for 8 years.

Emma has also travelled the globe using her expertise to volunteer at the creme de la creme of equine competitions - London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics, as well as 2 World Equestrian Games and most recently the European Eventing Championships in France.

Running her business from her home base in Fivehead, Emma is proud to offer local clients who benefit from her extensive equine and animal knowledge, which she constantly looks to expand with regular CPD courses, online symposiums and industry qualifications.

Elite Equine Care offers individual, bespoke care packages for private and commercial clients. Due to popular demand Emma expanded her services to include holiday and house sitting services too.

On winning the award "Groom of the Year" from the Equestrian Business Awards, Emma said "I was totally humbled to be not only nominated by my clients, let alone win it! I strive to provide the highest level of care to all horses and animals I work with. Professionalism, reliability, trust and communications are a high priority for me. I am here to provide an important service; if my clients beloved horses and animals are happy, then so am I."

To find out more about Elite Equine Care please visit the Facebook business page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089426226418>

Fivehead Rights of Way

FIVEHEAD FOOTPATHS WINTER 2023/24

Anyone in the village who would like to come and join the team of Footpaths volunteers is very welcome. Email me at marybraddock@btinternet.com for details. Volunteering includes walking a regular path, clipping back hedgerow overgrowth that impedes walkers and letting me know if there are more difficult items to deal with. Nothing arduous and something that can be done while out on a gentle stroll or walk.

Well, a wet winter when all the paths were mud bound or flooded, not much incentive to go out in wellies and drag back all that mud! I have to admit that I have been sticking to the roads through this time.

According to a BBC News article I read in January, there are 32,000 obstructions on footpaths in England and Wales, 4000 more in 2023 than 2022. Despite all the difficulties that Somerset Council are having I have to congratulate the team who support us here in Fivehead. Debbie Ebsary, our Ranger, is amazing and communicates regularly, we are very lucky to have her. We currently have just 2 issues and the need to replace a couple of way markers.

This walk is worth a try and can be found out to the east of Fivehead, very pleasant with chances of seeing skylarks and yellowhammers:



100 Club Winners

DECEMBER 2023

75	W. Swinburn	£100
101	R. Lawrynowicz	£25
54	L. Hoover	£15
36	C. Lawrence	£10

JANUARY 2024

107	M. & D. Braddock	£50
40	R. Eavis	£25
1	J. Cramp	£15
45	J. Peters	£10

The Stable – November 2023

The Stable team of volunteers would like to thank everyone for supporting the café throughout 2023. It was an amazing year! The café is for the community and you have made it the wonderful place it is. It's a huge pleasure to see so many of you in The Stable and hear how much you enjoy being there and enjoying our tea, coffee, and cakes!

As you may already know, we give away a large chunk of our takings at the end of each year, keeping only a reserve in case of any unanticipated expenses. At the end of 2023 we were able to give away £4,000.

£1,000 was given to World Vision

£1,000 was given to Dreamland Hospital, Kenya

£500 was given to Adventure Therapy

£500 was given to Bibic Developmental Therapy

£500 was given to Greatwood Camp

£500 was given to Youth For Christ, Taunton

This is in addition to the tips and other giving during the year (e.g. Village Defibrillator Fund and MacMillan). The total given away since the café first opened is in excess of £16,000. Thank you so much!

Thanks once again to all our volunteers and customers. One of our volunteers recently commented how lovely it is to be part of The Stable family. If you would like to volunteer, either behind the counter or as one of our cake-bakers, please pop in and speak to us.

Café Opening Times

Wednesdays 14:00-16:30

Thursdays 10:00-16.30

Thursday Youth Café 19:30-21:00

Fridays 10:00-16.30

Saturdays 10:00-13:00

St Martin's Bellringers

Every Wednesday 6.30pm

At the Church

Contact Details

linda.elphick160@btinternet.com

SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

**MONDAY EVENINGS
7.30PM**

**MEMBERSHIP
CURRENTLY FULL**

**CONTACT
MARY BRADDOCK
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME

100 YEARS



With ten trips planned for 2024/25, and counting, there is plenty to tempt you to join us in the beautiful Bristol Hippodrome.

The latest reservation is for Matthew Bourne's *Edward Scissorhands*. I have tickets reserved for Wednesday March 6th—a bit late in the day but done following high praise from a couple who went all the way to Plymouth to see it.

Matthew Bourne's magical dance production of *Edward Scissorhands* has carved a place in the hearts of audiences world-wide since its premiere in 2005. Based on the classic Tim Burton movie and featuring the hauntingly beautiful music of Danny Elfman and Terry Davies, Bourne and his New Adventures Company return to this witty, bittersweet story of an incomplete boy left alone in a strange new world. In a castle high on a hill lives Edward; a boy created by an eccentric inventor. When his creator dies, he is left alone and unfinished with only scissors for hands until a kindly townswoman invites him to live with her suburban family.

All shows listed below still have room on the coach and only *The Wizard of Oz* seems to be a non-goer unless I receive more bookings by mid-January.

The best way to keep up to date is at www.charitytheatretrips.com where there are full details and a booking form. Otherwise, book by e-mail to charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com or phone Chris on 01458 273085.

Choose from:

Wicked: Thu 22 Feb: £66/£76; **Edward Scissorhands:** Wed 6 Mar: £52/£61; **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Tue 12 Mar: £45/£54; **Everyone's Talking About Jamie:** 27 Mar: £40/£59; **The Wizard of Oz:** Wed 3 Apr: £47/£58; **Birmingham Royal Ballet's Sleeping Beauty:** Fri 19 Apr £38; **Hamilton:** Mon 10 June: £87/£97; **Disney's Aladdin:** Thu 25 Jul: £63/£73; **Come From Away:** Mon 26 Aug: £43/£68; **Only Fools and Horses:** Tue 4 Feb 2025: £61/£71

Chris hopes to see you on the coach sometime soon.



Welcome to
The Crown Inn
Fivehead

Opening hours:

Wed 16.00 - 23.00

Thursday 14.00 - 23.00

Friday & Sat 12.00-24.00

Sunday 12.00-17.00

Kitchen Opening

Saturday 12.00pm-2.00pm

Wednesday 6.00pm-8.00pm

Thursday Friday Saturday 6.00pm-9.00pm

Sunday 12.00-3.00pm

Booking advisable

Fresh Coffee available: Regular, Cappuccino, Latte

Quiz night every Wednesday. £1 per person. 8.30pm. Just turn up and join in!

Contact 01460 281322 Adpubmanagement@gmail.com

Facebook The Crown Inn



UNITED BENEFICE OF CURRY RIVEL, FIVEHEAD AND SWELL

St Martin's Fivehead



Rector:
Rev. Scott Patterson
Tel: 01458 251375

St Catherine's Swell



Churchwarden

Trish Allen Tel: 01460 281674

Churchwarden

Anna Rees Tel: 01458 253067

Scott's Spot – February 2024 Concluding Confirmation call...

If the community grapevine is being efficient, then you may have picked up that my time as your vicar is drawing to a close. After 11 years, the plan is for me and my family to move to Langport/Huish this summer where I shall take up the part-time role as Associate Minister for our new grouping of seven parishes. In due course a new vicar will be appointed and I look forward to working alongside them, but have decided for reasons of personal and family wellbeing to pass on the baton of overall leadership. If you pray, please do so for the advertising and recruiting process of our new vicar. They will after all need to work alongside me!

Before this change though, I'd like to offer an invitation to anyone - young or less young - to consider coming to one of our groups exploring the Christian faith, with the option of Confirmation after the course. Within the Church of England, Confirmation is the follow-up to infant Baptism where someone publicly chooses the Christian faith for themselves. Confirmation services are great celebrations led by a Bishop, and in our Diocese these services take place in Wells Cathedral in November.

So a final invitation from your vicar. If you're one of the many young people I've seen growing up through Curry Rivel Primary School, who enjoyed Collective Worship (remember *Open the Book?*), or *Messy Church*, and would like the chance to explore what a growing-up Christian faith looks like, then this is for you. If you're approx. 12-19 then check-out the 'Vox: *Share what matters*' trailer on *YouTube* to see where we'd start. What about getting in touch as a group of friends? Are you really going to let Secondary School R.E. rob you of something potentially beautiful, powerful and life-changing?

Or if you're an adult who have met me amongst community events or at weddings, funerals or baptisms and want to know more but have let fear or procrastination stand in the way, then perhaps now is the moment. Perhaps God is nudging you right now. Maybe Christianity is as bad as you think. If so, here's a chance to know for sure. Or maybe it's full of surprises and the real thing (the real Jesus) will blow your mind. For those in their 20s to 90s I offer the chance to read and talk through a short but brilliant little book called '*Being Confirmed*'. By the end you may not choose to take the public step of Confirmation (which would be absolutely fine), but you will have tried, and likely grown in the process.

If any of this is striking a cord please get in touch before the end of February and, depending on take-up we'll aim to make a start in early to mid March. My email address is: scott.patterson@btinternet.com and I'd be delighted to hear from you. It would be special to end my time here sharing my faith and experiences with those I've enjoyed sharing life with over the last decade. Will you join me?

With prayer for you, those you love and our community.

Rev'd Scott.

The United Benefice of Curry Rivel, Fivehead & Swell

Welcome to our Benefice. Here are the planned services for the months ahead. If you would like to receive the latest Benefice news, information, prayers, recent talks and other helpful material, then, to be added to the Benefice email list, please contact the Rector Revd. Scott Patterson at:

scottr.patterson@btinternet.com

CP = Book of Common Prayer, CW = Common Worship, UB = United Benefice

Planned Services for February

Thursday 1st	10.00am Prayer Book Communion in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Sunday 4th	10.00am All Age Family & Friends Service	Fivehead
	11.15am said Communion Service (CW)	Fivehead
	4.30pm Café Church in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
	6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)	Curry Rivel
Sunday 11th	9.30am BCP Prayer Book Communion Service	Swell
	11.00am Parish Communion (CW)	Curry Rivel
Wed 14th	7.30pm United Benefice Ash Wednesday Service	Curry Rivel
Sunday 18th	9.30am A Service of Morning Worship	Fivehead
	11.00am All Age Family & Friends Service + refreshments	Curry Rivel
	12.15 pm said Communion Service (CW)	Curry Rivel
	4.30pm Café Church in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Saturday 24th	 3.30pm—5.30pm in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Sunday 25th	9.30am Parish Communion (CW)	Fivehead
	11.00am A Service of Morning Worship	Curry Rivel
	6.00pm Prayer Book Evensong (BCP)	Swell

Planned Services for March

Friday 1st	10.30am World Day of Prayer	Fivehead
Sunday 3rd	10.00am All Age Family & Friends Service	Fivehead
	11.15am said Communion Service (CW)	Fivehead
	4.30pm Café Church in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
	6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)	Curry Rivel
Thursday 7th	10.00am Prayer Book Communion in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Sunday 10th	(including Mothering Sunday thanksgiving)	
	9.30am BCP Prayer Book Communion Service	Swell
	11.00am Parish Communion Service (CW)	Curry Rivel
Friday 15th	From 1.00pm School 'Experience Easter Outside'	Curry Rivel
Sunday 17th	9.30am A Service of Morning Worship	Fivehead
	11.00am All Age Family & Friends Service + refreshments	Curry Rivel
	12.15pm said Communion Service (CW)	Curry Rivel
	4.30pm Café Church in the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Sunday 24th	Palm Sunday	
	10.00am United Benefice All Age Communion Service	Curry Rivel
Monday 25th	8.30pm Short, meditative Holy Week services of Night Prayer	
Tuesday 26th	Please note these are on-line services that will be held via Zoom The link is available from the above email address	

Continued on page 13

Planned Church Services for March continued

Thurs 28th	Maundy Thursday 9.15am School end of term Easter Service 7.00pm 'The Last Supper' remembering Maundy Thursday	Curry Rivel
Friday 29th	Good Friday 2.00pm—3.00pm The Hour at the Cross 6.00pm Compline	Curry Rivel Swell
Saturday 30th	 10.30am - 12.30pm Easter Family Coffee, Crafts and Hot Cross Buns In the Old School Room	Curry Rivel
Sunday 31st	Easter Day 8.00am Prayer Book (BCP) Easter Communion 9.30am Family Easter Communion Service 10.30am Family Easter Communion Service 11.00am Family Easter Communion Service	Swell Fivehead Huish Curry Rivel
<u>Planned Services in April</u>		
Sunday 7th	10.00am All Age Family & Friends Service 11.15am said Communion Service (CW) No evening service at Curry Rivel - TBC	Fivehead Fivehead

Fivehead Naturewatch

Dave Braddock



One of the most overlooked birds in Fivehead and Swell is the dunnock, a small brown and grey bird. Quiet and shy, it is often seen on its own, creeping along the edge of a flower bed or near to a bush, moving in a rather nervous, shuffling way, often flicking its wings as it goes. It feeds mostly on insects and spiders and can be quite vocal. Sometimes known as a hedge sparrow but it is not a sparrow.

This shy and retiring bird has a secret. It has a riotous sex life. While most of us are still sleeping, sex in the shrubbery is going on. They do put it about a bit.

Males and females are very territorial, and their prime aim in life as is the case with all wildlife is to make sure their genes are passed on. Some dunnocks have one partner (monogamy) but males can have two or three partners (polygynous) a year at the same time. Female dunnocks are no better, they can have two partners at the same time (polyandrous) and both male and female dunnocks usually have four or five partners (polygynandry) on the go at the same time. So, as you can see there is a lot of activity going on.

Doing the permutations, some males and females could end up with seven or eight partners a year. No bird will ever know who the father is. Although it seems a strange strategy, it makes sense. The gene line will be very strong, and the female will have several males helping to feed the chicks after the five blue eggs have hatched.

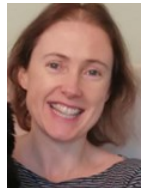
This is all going on in Fivehead and Swell each Spring in our garden hedges by these seemingly plain little brown birds.



CURRY RIVEL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

'Caring, Curious and Confident'

'Healthy trees bearing good fruit' - Matthew 7 v 17



Update from Curry Rivel Primary School & Little Pips Nursery

The children enjoyed learning about Spanish Culture this month, when we held our International Day of Languages. Classes were learning the language including colour, foods and greetings. Pupils were given a selection of Spanish food to try including Spanish cured meat selection, Spanish style tortilla, olives and churros. Thank you to the PTA for funding this. The children had a great time:

"We learned new words like greetings and 'What is your name?' and I liked all the food except for one." (Luca)

"We learned where Spanish is spoken and about places in Spain. I enjoyed speaking the language and I would like to learn more." (Izabelle)

Curry Rivel School Year 5/6 football team played Hambridge school this week. Well done to our team who won 11-1. Thank you to Mr Silver who prepared the field for the game, and Mr Bridgeman for organizing and refereeing. Riley and Joseph wrote this match report:

On Wednesday, a variety of boys from Years 5 and 6 competed in a friendly football match versus Hambridge. The game was played on our school field. The team that guided us to victory was Ronnie, Casper, Taylor, William, Noah, Billy, Riley, Ethan and Joseph and was coached by Mr. Bridgeman who also refereed. Thank you to Mr. Silver for putting up the nets and painting the lines. The scorers were Ethan, Joseph, Riley and William. The boys scored a whopping 11 goals and their team spirit was also great. Everyone should be really proud of their achievements and hopefully this will continue into their next tournament. Come along!



We have a lot to look forward to this term including: Meeting a Virtual Author, Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day and Book Fair, Science Week. We offer a range of after school clubs including Coding, Science, Baking and Choir.

Little Pips Nursery and The Nest offer high quality all year around provision for 0-4 year olds, and is very much part of our school. We also offer wraparound provision in school every day, 7.45am-5.30pm, at our excellent Apple Trees extended schools setting.

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Ali Pook, Head Teacher

Baptist Church



Rev. Matthew Cottington

www.fiveheadbaptist.co.uk

pastor@fiveheadbaptist.co.uk

Tel 01460 281182

Thoughts from The Manse

Fivehead Baptist Church meets for gathered worship on Sunday mornings (10:30am) in the church building at the bottom of Butchers Hill. Everyone is welcome.

Some aspects of church life can seem a bit strange. One example is the meal of Bread & Wine which has been part of church tradition since Jesus first gave it. Different churches celebrate this meal in different ways and at different times. It also goes by different names - Communion, Mass, The Lord's Supper, Eucharist – but at the centre there is always bread, wine, and the words of Jesus which link them to his death on the cross.

The meal is also a gathering and therefore speaks of community. As human beings we get together to eat and share company. We share stories, memories, laughter and love around tables as we eat and drink together. Jesus gathered people for meals often, including this meal of Bread & Wine.

In the ancient world of the Bible, gathered meals had added dimensions too. Meal tables spoke of social status and relationship. The Christian meal of Bread & Wine could sometimes shock people because everyone was welcome and everyone was brought together as 'family', no matter their status or identity. Rich, poor, black, white, male, female, young, old – all gathered together as equals around Jesus' table of Bread & Wine.

In the culture of the Bible special meals also told important stories. Many cultures, then and now, used meals to commemorate important events. The Bread & Wine is a meal that tells a story. The story it tells is the story of Jesus dying for us on the cross. The bread represents his body which he gave for us, the wine represents his blood that was shed as he died for us. The Bread & Wine tell us the story of the cross: Jesus gave his life in order to show us the extent of God's love and forgiveness and to bring us all together to him as equals - forgiven, healed, reconciled, loved, welcomed into God's community.

As churches head into Lent and Easter they will spend time thinking about what Jesus has done for the world. They will invite people to share in this gathered meal of Bread & Wine which Jesus gave as a picture of his love for us and how he gathers us together into community. The meal is simple – some bread, some wine. It may not fill your stomach, but that is not the point. As it tells the story of the cross it will fill you with the good news of Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. As it brings us round a shared table it fills us with his welcome as we gather together as equals around him.

Fivehead Social Media

Web: www.fivehead-village.org.uk

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Contact: fiveheadpc@gmail.com

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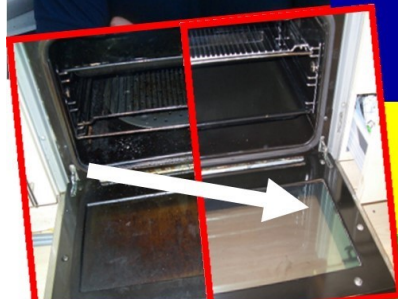


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Helping you stay warm this winter

I am sure many of you will have been wished Happy New Year by friends, neighbours and the people who pass you on the street. We hope that along with those good wishes you are also remaining warm and supported with your essential needs as this winter now turns colder. Many households are still trying to stay warm and put food on the table. No one should ever have to choose between heating or eating, but sadly this will be the reality for many in our communities.

Surviving Winter Grants Available

The Community Council for Somerset is again one of the local agencies responsible for administering the 'Surviving Winter Grant' funds which are made up from people who donate their winter fuel payments back to be used for those elderly in need. Surviving Winter grants are available for people over the age of 60 years and living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes, cook a hot meal, afford curtains at their windows, warm bedding along with a range of other issues that will keep them warm. If you or someone you know is struggling to heat their home, please do contact your local Village Agent or call CCS on 01823 331222. You will need the consent of the person you are referring to us.

For those under the age of 60 we still have many avenues we can use to find solutions and support so please do still contact us and let us see how we can be of help.

Our 'Knit for your Neighbour' campaign this month

We are still calling on all knitters, crocheters and quilters in Somerset to make blankets for those in need, helping them stay warm and healthy this winter.

All completed blankets can be dropped off at any of our Talking Café venues across Somerset. Blankets can then be collected through the Talking Café venues as well, or our team of Village Agents will make sure that blankets are delivered to the most vulnerable if unable to get to a Talking Cafe.

If you don't knit or sew, but would like to donate a blanket, we will also accept new blankets with tags on, but we are unable to accept secondhand blankets.

If you or someone you know needs help and support, please do get in touch either with your local Village Agent on the contact below or call our manned telephone lines on 01823 331222 (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm, excluding Bank Holidays).

Your nearest Talking Café: North Curry 3rd Friday Parish Office 2-4pm or Langport Library Every Thursday 10am-12pm

Sue's Village Shop

It is with a heavy heart that I am informing everyone that as of 1st April the shop will be closed down. With dwindling customer numbers it is now no longer a viable concern.

I sincerely thank the loyal customers who have continued to support me over the last five years that I have been open.

Best wishes

Sue & Chris

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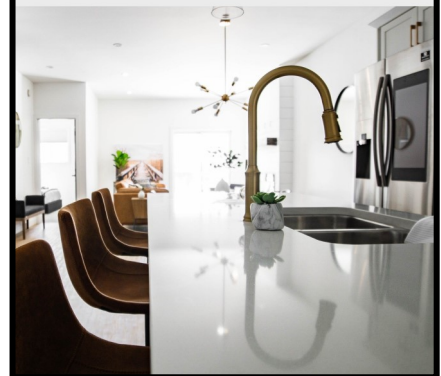
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for anyone aged 11-19

Fivehead Fellowship Club

Fivehead Fellowship Club – *bringing people together*



The start of another year and we already have a full programme of events for 2024.

Our AGM on 9th January was very well attended and the meeting started off with a fascinating talk from the RSPB about their work in our own Swell Wood Nature Reserve. We are indeed lucky to have such a wonderful natural facility on our doorstep - so please take advantage of it.

Coming up

Tuesday 13th February - Flower Arranging Demonstration - Cottage Flowers
Fivehead Village Hall 2-30pm (doors open 2-15pm)

This is not one just for women. Even the men can learn how to create a beautiful display to impress the ladies in their life – and it's just before Valentine's Day.

Tuesday 12th March – A Writer's Life for me - Michael Malaghan
Fivehead Village Hall 2-30 pm (doors open 2-15pm)

This is definitely one not to miss! Michael will entertain us with amusing anecdotes from a fascinating and varied career in writing - working everywhere from BBC Schools TV to the WI Speaker Circuit; the HBO filmset of *Churchill at War*, to an unexpected role at *The Daily Mail*! Real 'Laugh out loud stuff!'

Tuesday 9th April – Land of the Summer People – Ian Miles
Fivehead Village Hall 2-30pm (doors open 2-15pm)

This has to be of interest to all of us. Ian, Curator at Westonzoyland Museum, will explain why the Somerset Levels flood and the history of the attempts to control this, finishing with the work of the Museum and its ongoing development.

NOTE

Please remember - annual subscriptions are now due – only £10 for the year to February 2025

For further information please contact:

Sue at: sec.fiveheadfellowshipclub@outlook.com. or Margaret on: 01460 281341

Folk & Acoustic Music Night - Crown Inn

Next Folk Night Saturday February 10th Mike Silver

Future bookings 2024

March 9th "Glorishears" Graham, Vincent & Chris Edmunds : April 13th Arquebus Trio Alex, Ennis Sam Patten & Sarah Patten: May 11th Thornbridge : June 8th Tim O'Dowd & Alex Percy -Irish Music,: July 13th Chameleon - James Slater& Jan Newton: August 10th Singaround : September 14th. David & Issy Emeney : October 12th "Wildwood Jack" Adam Piggott & Jayne Freeman : November 9th. Tim Brine & Sue Franklin : December 14th. TBA

For more information contact **Laurie Burn**

laurieguitars@gmail.com

Tel: 07854 750545

Food & Drink

Chicken Parmigiana

(an easy Italian style chicken dish with a low-fat chunky vegetable sauce)

Ingredients

2 Tbsp Olive Oil	450g Plum Tomatoes, roughly chopped
1 Small Onion, finely chopped	15g Fresh Basil, roughly torn
2 Garlic Cloves, crushed	500g Skinless Chicken Breast Fillets
200g Small Mushrooms, quartered	2 Tbsp Grated Parmesan Cheese
1 Aubergine, diced	

Method

Preheat the oven to 190°C/Gas 5. Heat the oil in a deep-frying pan or flameproof casserole. Add the onion & garlic, stir for 2 minutes over a medium heat. Add the mushrooms & cook for 3-4 minutes until lightly coloured, stirring frequently. Stir in the diced aubergine, cook for 2 minutes, then add the chopped tomatoes and stir over a medium-high heat for 2 minutes to combine. Reduce the heat and leave to simmer for 15 minutes until thick. Stir in the basil and season to taste.

If using a flameproof casserole lay the chicken into the sauce. Alternatively arrange the chicken in a single layer in a deep ovenproof baking dish or casserole & spoon the sauce over. Cover & bake for 25 minutes or until the chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Towards the end of the cooking time, preheat the grill. Uncover the chicken, sprinkle the cheese over the top, put the dish under the grill for 1-2 minutes until the cheese is melted & bubbling.

Serve with warm ciabatta or baguette to mop up the delicious sauce

Serves 4

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Fivehead Drama Group

The stage and tabs have been taken down, the costumes, props & scenery put into store for another year, and we thank all those who attended our three performances of **Sleeping Beauty**. We had goodly numbers on Friday evening and Saturday Matinee and a capacity crowd on Saturday evening. We hope you all enjoyed it and look forward to your continued support. Thanks to all who helped us erect and dismantle the stage on the Sunday mornings, many hands make light work.



Our thoughts now turn to this year's **Summer Revue** (date yet to be arranged) when we look forward to entertaining you all with drama, comedy, music & dancing.

A special thank you to **Sheila Land** who put in 3 wonderful performances whilst under the most difficult circumstances, a real trouper's performance.



Diary of Events

Day/Date/Time		Description	Where
Wednesday 14th February	6.00pm	Valentine's Day Dinner	Crown Inn
Sunday 10th March	9.30am	Mother's Day Thanksgiving Service	St Catherine's
Sunday 10th March	12.00pm	Mother's Day Lunch	Crown Inn
Sunday 24th March	10.00am	Palm Sunday	Curry Rivel
Sunday 31st March	9.30am	Easter Day Service	St Martin's
Friday 22nd March 2024		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Mondays @ 7.30pm	Weekly	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
2nd Tuesday @2.15pm	Monthly	Fellowship Club	Village Hall
Wednesdays @ 6.30pm	Weekly	Bellringing	St Martin's Church
Usually 1st Monday 6.30pm	Monthly	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall

Crown Fivehead Golf Society

In December the Society presented a cheque for £1900.00 to **The Freewheelers** as the proceeds from their Charity raising in the last year. We started 2024 with the AGM on January 23rd at the Crown Inn, which was attended by 14 members. Tribute was paid to **Graham Land** who had sadly passed away. Graham was a founder member of the society being 1 of the 12 stalwarts who braved the north Devon coast to visit **Westward Ho Golf Club** in 1985 and formed the Society.

Our charity for 2024 will be **Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance** and we look forward raising a bumper amount for this deserving charity. At the meeting 3 potential new members were nominated and we look forward to welcoming them at our first outing in March.

Next year will see the Society celebrating its 40th year, something we are very proud of and which we plan to celebrate in style.

Our thanks must go to **Gary Smith** for his unstinting work and enthusiasm as Secretary & Treasurer, who has kept this organisation on track for the last 38 years.



Freewheelers cheque presentation