



# NORTH CURRY NEWSLETTER

Articles of not more than 150 words, regarding village events of a voluntary or charitable nature, are accepted in good faith, by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month for inclusion via email to [Newsletter@northcurry.com](mailto:Newsletter@northcurry.com) or to the Editor Barbara Drakeford, Chorlton, Lillesdon, North Curry (Tel 490811)

## North Curry Parish Council

**NEW COVID RESTRICTIONS:** As the new guidance has been causing concern, we urge all parishioners to keep up to date with these announcements and endeavour to adhere to their advice to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

**CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE:** A reminder if you need any help or have any questions regarding Coronavirus, Somerset County Council have a dedicated helpline call 0300 790 6275 or go to <https://somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/get-help/> to access the details.

**ELECTIONS 2022:** As you may be aware, the district councils for Somerset are to become one, as a new Unitary Somerset Council. As well as elections for the new Unitary Somerset Council, the government has proposed that elections to the city, town and parish councils across Somerset are brought forward from 2023, to also take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It is expected that the notice of elections for this date will be issued on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Could you consider being a Parish Councillor? Further in this newsletter is the First of our series of two articles designed to inform you of what it involves.

**QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE:** This is to take place Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as an extended Bank Holiday and will provide an opportunity for communities and people to come together throughout the United Kingdom to celebrate. We hope all parishioners will be able to attend and participate in the extended weekend of celebrations to mark this special Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. The Committee set up by the Parish Council to co-ordinate events in North Curry has now put in place a timetable below of proposed events:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** A Jubilee Beacon event, held at Nythe Farm to join the national chain of beacons to celebrate the Jubilee. Food, a bar and music from 7:00pm with beacon lighting at 9:45pm.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** A church service to celebrate the Jubilee. Times for the service to be arranged.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June:** A day for individual groups/families to celebrate.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** The Big Jubilee Lunch in Greenway Playing Fields. Bring your gazebo, posh picnic and fizz. An excuse for posh frocks. Children's entertainment and music 12 noon onwards.

Further details on all events will be published as soon as possible.

**CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION 2:** A grant available to help Somerset people benefit from energy efficient installations worth up to £10,000 has been extended until June 2022. The Green Homes Grant Scheme allows eligible homeowners to apply for vouchers to install climate-friendly energy saving measures such as insulation, air source heat pumps, or double-glazing. The work can be worth up to £10,000, with nothing for homeowners to pay towards the cost of the works. To be eligible for the grants, the residents of the property must have a low income and the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the property must be rated D, E, F or G. Visit <http://heatsomerset.co.uk/> for more information.

**SOMERSET LIBRARIES:** Since libraries reopened their doors last April, Somerset Libraries have had over half a million visits and have welcomed over 16,000 new members. To encourage even more people to reconnect with library services and support communities as they start to recover from the impact of the pandemic, Somerset Libraries is running two initiatives from 21<sup>st</sup> January until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Children and young people aged 17 and under will not be charged for using any library services. This includes requesting books from other libraries, borrowing DVDs and no charges for the late return of items! The service will also be happy to clear outstanding charges, for all customers, incurred before 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, no questions asked for unreturned Library books. To take advantage of this 'welcome back' offer, visit your local library before 31<sup>st</sup> March and speak to a member of staff.

**The Parish Council Office is now open to the public. The Opening hours are:**

Tuesday: 1pm to 4pm

Wednesday: 1pm to 4pm

Thursday: 10am to 1pm

The Clerk can be contacted by telephone, post or email. Contact the Parish Council: 01823 490136 or [parishcouncil@northcurry.com](mailto:parishcouncil@northcurry.com)

Parish Council Diary for March 2022 – Please see our website, Facebook and Parish notice board for any updates.

The Parish Council monthly meetings are held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, any further considered planning the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at North Curry Village Hall.



## Volunteers Urgently Needed to Save Our Playing Field

The Playing Field Committee have been operating with a very reduced Committee for two years. We have reached the point that we cannot continue this way and there is a real threat of the Playing Field having to close.

There are many parents, grandparents and carers whose children use the area and play equipment. Now that Covid restrictions are being reduced we hope to be able to return to fund raising to keep the Playing Field in good condition and replace old play equipment, but lack of volunteers will limit this.

Volunteering is not a huge commitment; we all work and have family responsibilities. We hold regular Committee meetings, carry out some maintenance work at the Pavilion and Playing Field and hold two fund raisers each year.

We are now in a serious situation if volunteers don't come forward. If you would like more information about joining our committee, please contact John Quinn 07766 282397.

**Indifference will force the closure of the Playing Field and Pavilion. Please contribute to your local village community.**



### North Curry & District Amateur Gardeners

Good news! From March we will be back in North Curry for our meetings. The meeting day will change from the first Thursday of the month to the first Friday and we will be meeting in our beautiful village hall instead of the Pavilion.

We have met at the Pavilion for many years but with sometimes having upwards of 40 people we felt, reluctantly, that in these Covid times we needed to have a more spacious venue. We really enjoyed using the Pavilion and thank the Management Committee for all the work they have recently put in to redecorating and refurbishing and making it a great venue.

On **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, the topic will be "**Grandma's Garden**", in particular the Edwardian Garden, and **Yvonne Bell** will be our speaker.

We look forward to seeing you all at the new venue at the usual time of 7:45 for 8:00pm. Coffee and biscuits will be available as usual and, as always, everyone is welcome.

### Produce Market

There was some confusion about the times of the market in February. Some of the stalls can't make a 9:00 start so we are going back to 9:30 to 11:30; set up time 9:00.

Finishing at 11:30, we will be asking stall holders to fold away their tables so we can be out of the hall for 12:00. Thanks to all the villagers who came in February; it was a good market although there was a complaint that the market is looking more like a coffee shop than a market. If you have any complaints, please speak to Anne.

## The Parish Council Elections

This is the first of a series of two features designed to introduce you to the work of the Council and encourage you to consider standing for election to the Council next May.

### What is a Parish Council?

The Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own quite separate from that of its members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body. The Council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money. Parish councils have the legal power to take action, but they have fewer duties and greater freedom to choose what action to take than other tiers of local government. They can play a vital part in representing the interests of the communities they serve and improve the quality of life and the local environment. Furthermore, they influence other decision makers and can, in many cases, deliver services to meet local needs. In other words, your Council *can* make a difference.

### What does your Parish Council do?

Planning, highways, traffic, community safety, housing, street lighting, allotments, playing fields, litter, war memorials, seats and shelters, rights of way - these are the issues that concern parish government. The Government is encouraging parish councils to deliver *more* services and play a greater part in their communities. For example, your council has been heavily involved in the new developments Lockyer's Field and Loscombe Meadows. Of course, your Council *could* always decide to do very little; but you, the electors might then wonder why the Council exists at all.

North Curry Parish Council was established in 1894 by an Act of Parliament. This created the civil parish, separating it from the church after a long history of delivering local services such as care for the poor, maintenance of roads and collecting taxes.

Whilst parish councillors are unpaid, the Parish Clerk is a paid employee who provides advice and administrative support and takes action to implement council decisions. The Clerk is answerable only to the Council as a whole. The Clerk is the proper officer of the council in law. Legally, councils can agree to delegate decisions to clerks because they are professional officers whose independence allows them to act on behalf of the council.

Next month we will consider "What does a Councillor do?" and "Becoming a Councillor?".

### Music at (or for) the Parish Church

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm, Collegium Singers: **Sea Fever** - a concert of nautical songs and ballads. A narrative follows the tragic tale of a pair of ill-fated young lovers. We hear of the sea's full capacity for disaster in *Canticum Calamitatis*, written after the loss of the Baltic ferry MS Estonia in 1994, and its beauty and an allegory for redemption and renewal in *Never Weather-Beaten Sail* and *Wade in the Water*. Tickets £15 (students £8, under-12s free), NC Post Office.



## North Curry W.I.

The meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March will have as it's guest speaker Teresa Jones talking on her work as a local magistrate. This promises to be a very interesting topic.

### North Curry W.I. Soup and Pud

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

**Regrettably this event is now cancelled**

## Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club, Incorporating North Curry

**Junior tennis coaching** with Dan is now available every Sunday during term time. There are still places available for these regular Sunday coaching sessions:

9:00am - under 10 years

10:00am - 10 years & over

This term's remaining sessions will be charged on a pro rata basis, with a further 50% reduction for a block booking, thanks to the support from Somerset Community Foundation.

Pay & Play for one-off lessons is possible, but will be charged at the normal rate.

Please book via Luke Andrews:  
[Latennis@hotmail.com](mailto:Latennis@hotmail.com) 07437 404242

Or enquiries to: [ssgtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ssgtennis@gmail.com)  
07956 981679

Facebook:

[facebook.com/Stokestgregorytennis](https://www.facebook.com/Stokestgregorytennis)

In the event of bad weather necessitating cancellation of any session, you will be contacted by the coaching team.



## North Curry Short Mat Bowls Club

### GOOD NEWS

After almost two years of inactivity, Club members, male and female, were able to enjoy their first "Roll up" on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

If you are reading this, the chances are you would be interested to learn more about Indoor Bowling and you will be most welcome at any of our two hourly sessions.

The Club meets in the Village Hall on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00pm and on Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to midday.

Initially all you would need is a pair of socks or flat indoor shoes, the Club will provide all other equipment.

If you would like to come along to "have a go" you will be very welcome and we will make sure that members will be available to encourage and support you.

Your first three sessions will be free and thereafter £2.50 per visit plus an annual membership fee of £10.

Why not perhaps just come along, maybe with a friend, to watch one of the sessions to see if bowling is something you would enjoy.

If you would like any further information, feel free to email:

[iancogger@hotmail.com](mailto:iancogger@hotmail.com) or  
[lin\\_willis@hotmail.com](mailto:lin_willis@hotmail.com)



**NEW Highway Code 7:30 for 8:00pm**  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

We all need to walk – sometimes. Revisions to the Highway Code earlier this year give more protection to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders along busy roads with inadequate footpaths and dangerous junctions. The Somerset County Council Road Safety Team explain the changes, giving a speedy run through of the latest rules and skills to keep us safe on our roads.

The workshop lasts approximately 60 minutes and there will be opportunities to raise driving or road safety concerns during and afterwards.

You can join or renew your membership up to the AGM in July and collect your North Curry Society membership card for £5 or come as a visitor for £1. The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Membership includes admission to talks, discussions and refreshments. The continued use of masks, hand sanitising and distancing is encouraged.



It is with great sadness that we have to confirm that the May Fair will NOT take place this year.

Volunteers are particularly needed to ensure that this event is back in 2023.

## North Curry Village Hall

To hire the hall, go to

[www.hallbookings.northcurry.com](http://www.hallbookings.northcurry.com)  
no internet? then phone 07967 139636

For issues other than hiring  
email [villagehall@northcurry.com](mailto:villagehall@northcurry.com)



Available to hire as a venue for parties (children's and adults), meetings and celebrations. With a large outdoor area ideal for bouncy castles and games, in addition a multi-use games area (MUGA) for children and young people to have fun and let off steam.

To book see calendar and booking form at  
[www.ncpavilion.co.uk](http://www.ncpavilion.co.uk)  
or email [pavilion@northcurry.com](mailto:pavilion@northcurry.com)



<http://en-gb.facebook.com/NorthCurryPavilion>



## White Street News (North Curry Sport)

### Dog Mess on Children's Pitches:

Every day many people walk with their dogs around the White Street grounds. Sadly, a few people let their dogs roam around the pitches and let them leave their messes on the pitches. Each week, before children use the pitches, volunteers have the disgusting task of patrolling the pitches and removing messes left by dogs. We have reported this before, but the problem persists. We are arranging for new signs to make the message more obvious. If you see anyone letting dogs wander around, please do not confront them, and inform us of the day and time (along with a photo if you can take it discreetly) by emailing [whitestreet@northcurry.com](mailto:whitestreet@northcurry.com) and we will check CCTV recordings.

### Big Bash Needs New Organiser:

As we all know, the annual Big Bash has become a major parish event enjoyed by many of us. As well as being a super party, the event provided North Curry Sport with essential funding. After many years of fantastic effort and work, Midge, Richard and Hayley need to step back from organising the Big Bash. Assuming Covid restrictions allow the event to happen this year, we need a new organiser. The role involves booking suppliers, organising volunteers and overseeing the event. You would be supported by the North Curry Sport management committee. For more information, please contact Richard on [richardperrygardening@outlook.com](mailto:richardperrygardening@outlook.com)

### 200 Club:

Congratulations to these recent winners:

January: Youth Football Club, Crispin Hayllar, Mary Piers

February: Michele Olie, Youth Football Club, Portia Westhead

March: Adult Football Club, Anne Pike, Cricket Club

There are a few places left in the 200 Club. It costs just £12 to enter for the year. Just send a message to: [whitestreet@northcurry.com](mailto:whitestreet@northcurry.com) All proceeds support the running of the White Street site. Thank you!

## In Aid of The Appeal of Bells



### From kitchen table to Royal Wedding Cake!

Come along and hear the celebrated baker and author Fiona Cairns describe her fascinating journey.

She will be sharing her special memories, including creating the ultimate cake commission - the wedding cake for Prince William and Catherine

**19:30 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
in North Curry Village Hall**

Tickets £15 including a glass of wine and a sample of Fiona's delicious cupcakes!

Tickets available from the Post Office or online at [www.ticketsource.com](http://www.ticketsource.com)

## Appeal of Bells

### WHAT'S NEXT?

**Public meeting  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
in the church, 7:30pm**

Come and hear about progress.

Who will renew the bells?

How will they be renewed?

What are the next steps?

By the 8<sup>th</sup> we should have answers  
(more of them, at any rate)

All welcome

Free glass of wine from 7:00pm

### Worship at the Parish Church March 2022 (as at 10<sup>th</sup> February)

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> 7:00pm	<i>(Ash Wednesday)</i> Holy Communion with Ashing	Revd Simon
<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8:00am 10:00am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> BCP Eucharist Eucharist	Revd Martin Revd Simon
<b>13<sup>th</sup> March</b> 10:00am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> United Benefice Eucharist at <b>Stoke St Gregory</b>	Revd Jane
<b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8:00am 10:00am	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> BCP Eucharist Morning Prayer	Revd Martin Ralph
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b> 10:00am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Family Eucharist	Revd Simon with Ralph
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> 8:00am 10:00am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> BCP Eucharist Eucharist	Revd Simon Revd Jane

Lent Course sessions on *The Relevance of the Gospels* will be held at 4:00pm on Thursdays 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April, and Stations of the Cross at 5:00pm on Fridays. There will also be a Lent Course at **Stoke parish church** on Thursdays at 7:00pm (followed by Compline, about 15 minutes)

**The Revd Dr Simon Bale** [vicar@athelneybenefice.com](mailto:vicar@athelneybenefice.com)

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