

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2020 Issue



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Castle Cary Town Council

As our 'new normal' starts to establish itself our High Street shops, cafés, pubs and services have embraced Covid-19 requirements to keep us all safe. Many have redecorated and there are some physical changes. Mr Nick Johnson has been a presence on the High Street for 23 years running a highly successful antiques business. At one point he had three shops in a row but latterly his one shop was always a focus for a bargain and catch up with Nick's charming welcome. We will miss him and know that he will be thrilled that Carly Franklin has opened a shop called 'The Shed', crammed full with antiques and reclaimed goodies. In addition, as a lovely tribute to Mrs Chinn the Somerset Wine Co. has opened a garden facility and named it after Carletta. We all hope that our shops will retain their unique flavour as an attraction in Castle Cary's High Street and we thank all the hard working staff and owners for their fantastic contributions. We also welcomed back our Tuesday market, on a slightly smaller scale to start with, but hopefully expanding gradually and safely.

In the last few days the Castle Cary Community Library team has announced their re-opening schedule. We are delighted that the volunteers have been able to work through the myriad of risk assessing and challenging cleaning regimes and know that people will be confident that their trip to the Library will have their safety as a priority.

We expect that our trusty team of Town Council volunteers will be resuming a tourism and information service from the Undercroft very soon. We are grateful that they are so keen to take it on again applying all the usual precautions to keep them and the public safe.

We are aware that many residents are moving into the town and hope that, once the volunteers are back, our Welcome Information Pack will be available to welcome you to our town. In the meantime there is a great deal of information on our website: www.castle-cary.co.uk or feel free to email the Town Clerk or any Councillor for further information and sign up to Cary Crier for news. All details are on the website.

The Council has been as busy as ever in the last few months and working from home, mostly. We have welcomed a new Councillor in Ken Gray. Ken is a newish resident and is keen to embrace all the Council's plans. We are pleased that his experience in national Government as a senior Civil Servant will bring some additional expertise in the anticipated challenges as changes in our own County and District Councils are discussed.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Holly Callow, our Bookings and Marketing Manager, but happy that her family plans for a future in France have come to fruition so smoothly. We wish them all well in their adventures.

The newsletter for Castle Cary and Ansford which invites reports on local events and activities.

We welcome articles from Castle Cary and Ansford groups and organisations.

Please keep below 250 words.

If you include notice of local future events do give full and accurate dates and times.

Deadline for copy for next newsletter:

FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2020, 9.00am

Distribution from

FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2020

Email to deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk or send to "Newsletter", The Market House, Market Place, Castle Cary BA7 7AH.

We prefer copy by email, but don't worry if this is not possible for you.

Our Councillors have been busy in our community and our thanks go to Steve and Philippa for clearing Paddock Drain, the Fairfield volunteers, to Nick and Bob for renovating the Millbrook loos and completing the Basketball hoop installation. This long awaited facility was partly funded with a generous donation from Churches Together through Youth Matters and I'm sure the young people will enjoy using it. We plan to offer the renovated space at Millbrook Toilets at a reduced rent. This will be for an open office or workshop as a business start-up to someone who has been made unemployed as a result of Covid or a young person starting a new venture. We will shortly be advertising this space.

You will also have noticed that the Horsepond is beginning to blossom and there are new plant pots on the back wall. This work is carried out by volunteers and is a warm welcome to tourists and residents alike.

Cary Cares and volunteers have worked tirelessly since March to organise shopping, support and food boxes for our residents and our thanks go to Ainsley and David for their commitment and hard work as it continues to offer the service. We are very pleased that, should a second wave apply to Castle Cary and Ansford, we have the security of their continued services.

The CAT bus has arranged to resume service from September (see article in the newsletter).

In the next few weeks we will see if we can open more services and we very much hope that the Shambles will be open for bookings as soon as possible. We wish you a safe and relaxing time slow shopping and living in Castle Cary.

Judi Morison

A Full List of all the 2020 Council Meetings is on the Council notice board at the front of the Market House and on the website www.castle-cary.co.uk

CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Zöe Godden

Email: town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk

Tel: 07780 635013

Deputy Clerk: Claire Craner-Buckley

Email: deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk

Tel: 07561 611756

The Clerk's Office is currently closed

Bookings and Promotions Manager:

Vacancy. Email: markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk. Tel: 007752 261687.

Currently closed.

Information Point: Volunteers

Email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk

Currently closed

Councillors:

Margaret Bebbington	Judi Morison (Chair)
Philippa Biddlecombe	Pek Peppin
Stephen Biddlecombe	Sally Snook
Julian de Bosdarl	Penny Steiner
Nick Crowley	Nick Weeks
Robert Gilbey	Rob Worth
Kenneth Gray	

Council meetings are open to the public and are currently taking place digitally via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7.00pm. Please email the Town Clerk if you would like to take part.

Full details of meetings are on the noticeboard & website.

Meetings held include Full Council, Finance & Management, Marketing & Communications, Properties & Infrastructure and Planning Committees.

South Somerset District Councillors:

Mr Henry Hobhouse Tel: 01963 440272

Mr Kevin Messenger Tel: 07969 150646

County Councillor:

Mr Mike Lewis Tel: 01935 851536

Sustainability Update Autumn 2020

We have been working hard over the last few months to keep up the momentum with our work to become a more environmentally aware Council and Town.

Below is our proposed positive vision for our town, some of this is already happening of course and some of it we are working towards:

Positive Vision for Ansford and Castle Cary

'We are a thriving, caring, resilient and happy self-sustaining community, with local food, many local jobs and active safe travel and green energy prioritised. We do not waste our resources and feel that protecting the heritage and enjoyment

of the beautiful area in which we live is more important than material considerations; we appreciate its biodiversity and will nurture it for future generations'.

We welcome your input and thoughts on this, so we can develop an agreed positive vision and way ahead for sustainability and our town.

In another new development, the Full Council agreed at their meeting on 20th July that Greener Cary would become part of a new **Environmental Working and Advisory Group** formed by the Council. This group will meet quarterly and is a collaboration between the Town Council, Ansford Parish Council, Greener Cary and hopefully other bodies and groups and interested individuals in the town. All are welcome!

The Terms of Reference for this group are currently being drafted, the objective being to work toward carbon neutrality for the town by 2030, in line with many other authorities and organisations around the country.

The group aims to steer and act on the Town Council's already approved environmental agenda, as detailed in its Environmental Policy, Strategy and 'Green' Actions checklist. It aims to encourage and support environmental initiatives in the community. The checklist will of course be ever-expanding and developing with everybody's input and is a useful way to monitor and record progress.

If you would like to be involved then please contact us.

Of course, there are many local groups and organisations already doing vital environmentally inspired good things. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Hopefully you might be inspired and see an opportunity to become involved with these groups or start an initiative of your own.

Here are some ideas that need you!

Encouraging Insects – The Wildlife Trusts have launched a new report 'Reversing the Decline of Insects'. There is a lot of work to be done here. Please contact us for a digital copy of this visually stunning and impactful report and action plan. Pollinators are already being encouraged by the wildflower area on Fairfield Meadow and in an area of the cemetery too. There is also a broader wildflower project taking place in Ansford and Castle Cary that you can read above in another article.

Community Energy – there have been recent webinars by Community Energy England about the opportunities here. These are advertised on the Town website and Facebook. If you would like solar panels in your street, this might be something you would like to get involved in?

Oak saplings – South Somerset District Council have up to 1000 looking for good locations and

going free! Are you a group or a landowner who could accommodate some of these?

The Council Environmental Working and Advisory group can support you with a project plan template that could help you formalise your aims and objectives. We will also aim to help you contact the right people to get things going. And with South Somerset District Council offering environmental project grants of up to £12,500 and Somerset County Council having set up a £1m fund for environmental projects: what's stopping you getting started on something that you are passionate about?!

Active travel initiatives encouraging walking and cycling have expanded enormously in the wake of the Covid 19 crisis, supported by the Government with a £2m fund. Active travel encourages healthy modes of transport and supports social distancing. Many people have taken up cycling for fitness and exercise and seen the benefits for health of walking when possible. The Town Council have recently given their support to the Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset proposed to Somerset County Council by Somerset Climate Action Network, Taunton and Bridgwater Cycling Campaign groups & Bruton Town Council. It asks the County Council to – 'Remove barriers and lead joint funding bids to plan and develop effective cycling and walking infrastructure in all Somerset towns and key rural locations'.

South Somerset District Council has a team of Environment Case Officers who are working on various projects including considering Castle Cary for an electric vehicle (ev) charging point. This could potentially be in place by the end of 2021.

They have also launched their new Environment magazine: 'Get Sussed' – Sustainable South Somerset Education, full of more ideas and projects. For a digital copy please email ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk.

Please contact the Town Council initially via Claire Craner-Buckley Deputy Town Clerk on email deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk with your feedback or enquiries.



THE MARKET HOUSE CASTLE CARY

*Are you organising a Party? An Important Meeting?
An Exhibition? Your Wedding?*

**THE MARKET HOUSE IS AVAILABLE TO HIRE
as soon as we can operate again**

The Market House, Market Place, Castle Cary BA7 7AH.
Tel: 01963 351763
Email: markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk

Dimmer Community Liaison Group

With continuing Covid-19 restrictions, the group has not been able to meet and, due to security concerns, Viridor has not yet set up a virtual meeting.

A written update from Viridor can be found on the Town website: <https://www.castle-cary.co.uk/dimmer-liaison-group-minutes-reports/> along with an additional response to a further question. We hope to persuade Viridor to convene a virtual meeting in September.

Sally Snook CCTC representative

Fairfield

It has been lovely to see the field being used so much over recent weeks, children enjoying the pump track on bikes and scooters, people admiring the colourful wildflower and sensory gardens, families enjoying a walk or a picnic but sadly not too many people on the outdoor gym!!!

You will find a questionnaire enclosed in this newsletter and we really hope that you will complete it and return it to the Market House in Castle Cary by 18 September. We still have some of our grant funding to spend and the Friends of Fairfield and both Councils have some suggestions on how this should be spent – namely on a climbing fort for the adventure playground and a sun shelter. We believe that you the users of the field should have a say before we purchase and install the equipment. More details explaining about the pros and cons of the installations and pictures of the equipment can be found on our website www.castle-cary.co.uk or call in at the information office during opening hours to collect a small information pack. We look forward to receiving your comments.

A lot of the work on maintaining Fairfield over the last few years has been done by volunteers and we are planning another volunteer day on Saturday 26 September 09.30 – 12.30 (or longer). We will be working on extending the wildflower meadow, chopping wood, planting bulbs, building eco bug hotels and more, so bring gloves, secateurs, spades and muscle power and join us.

Penny Steiner
Penny.steiner@castle-cary.co.uk

Planning

Cary Town Council has had enquiries about the number of developments taking place in Castle Cary and Ansford.

The issues are complex but here is a short summary.

You need to be aware that most of the

developments you can see being built have been opposed by your Town/Parish Councils, largely on the grounds that they will, in a very short time, increase our population by about a third and endanger the very special character of our small town.

However, we (that is the Town and Parish Councils), do not make the decisions.

The Government has a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and using this, and conforming to it, the District Council draws up what is called a Local Plan.

The District Council's Local Plan

In this, areas are designated for new housing.

In the current Local Plan, the "Direction of Growth" in Cary/Ansford is loosely the area between and behind Torbay Road and Station Road, and the plan says that number of new dwellings should be a minimum of 374 by 2028. We now have planning permissions passed for around 650 new dwellings.

How has this happened?

When an application to build comes in, your Town/Parish council is invited, by the District Council, to comment – and we do. The decisions are made in the first instance by the District Council's Planning Department. If their opinion is different from that of the local people (us), our District Councillors generally ask that the matter goes to what is known as South Somerset's "Area East" Committee (consisting of all the elected members in the area). If there is still disagreement the matter may go to the higher Regulation Committee.

If the plan is finally turned down the Developer has the right to go to Appeal and the matter is judged by a Government appointed Inspector whose decision is final. Nearly all these developments were opposed by your Town/Parish councils but due to the availability of land, and the Government direction that Inspectors should look favourably on new housing developments, these were passed at Appeal.

What have we done about it?

In an attempt to control this hugely controversial sudden growth of our town, Cary Town Council drew together a small group of volunteers – including two representatives from Ansford – to write a Neighbourhood Plan. All residents were invited to contribute and comment on the Plan while it was being made, and many of you did so. It then had to be approved first by the District Council, and then by an independent Examiner (who was largely supportive but asked for a few changes). Having passed those crucial stages in 2019 we had to have a Referendum, which was held in the Market House so that all residents could vote on it. It was passed by a large majority and the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted. It now has legal status and can

influence the development future of our settlement.

One of the points made in the Neighbourhood Plan (and this was supported by the Examiner) was that no more planning permissions should be granted until the current ones were completed and occupied. This is to give new residents a chance to become integrated, and for the infrastructure to catch up!

However, we cannot stop the planning permissions already granted.

The following developments are currently under construction in the "Direction of Growth":

- Weavers Fields (formerly Well Farm Ansford), 37 dwellings largely completed.
- Lovel's Farm, Ansford (Backhouse), 75 dwellings
- Wayside Farm, Ansford (Stonewater), 125 dwellings
- Yarlington Homes, Ansford, 75 dwellings

Additionally –

- Persimmon Homes, Castle Cary, 165 dwellings. Between Station Road and Torbay Road. Not yet started
- The BMI Site between North Street and the A371 Cumnock Road. Development of the site supported by the Town Council in principle but we have objected on the grounds that there is a very serious deficiency in onsite parking. This is now at appeal.
- Foxes Run. Complications of site boundaries and an unexploded WWII bomb have delayed progress but there is planning permission granted (at appeal) for 27 dwellings.
- The Constitutional Club on Station Road has recently been sold with planning permission for 10 houses and the new owner wishes to build 9. Construction likely to start soon.
- 200 houses on the field above the Station. Turned down at District Level – but may go to appeal.

So, we hope you can see, we are doing our best. We all have to accept that there is a need for more housing and that we should do our bit, but we find it regrettable that these developments are being built in such a haphazard way, and that our small Town has been loaded with more than its fair share, largely because land has become available.

And of course, we are nervously awaiting details of current changes to the planning laws.

To see our current Neighbourhood Plan:
<https://www.castlecaryansfordnp.uk/>

Pek Peppin
Castle Cary Town Council

A new front door – do I need planning permission?

Surely not, you're thinking, but if you live in the Castle Cary Conservation Area, the answer is **YES, YOU DO!** True, but not well known, so here's a reminder...

The Conservation Area includes most properties in North Street, High Street, Fore Street, Woodcock Street, Lower Woodcock Street, Fore Street, Church Street and South Street, and a few others besides. In other words all the historic parts of the town. It's not just a Conservation Area but it's also covered by an "Article 4 Direction", which means that planning permission *is* required for all changes to the external appearance of the street frontage of your property, including new doors, replacement windows, gates and fences, satellite dishes and even new paint colours.

If this all sounds like extremely detailed control, then yes it is but it's worth doing because the historic character of our town, which many tourists come to admire, is highly dependent on small details like doors and gates and windows. It's not a way of making everybody have the same, or stopping renovation or modernisation, but a way of making sure that new things fit in well with the old, so that the town as a whole keeps its attractive character for the benefit of all.

You won't be surprised to learn that, as with all things planning-related, it's actually a bit more complicated than we have space to tell you here, so if you're thinking about home improvements, please check with the SSDC planning office or website, to see whether or not you are affected by this.

Neighbourhood Plan Group
www.castlecaryansfordnp.uk

Ansford Parish Council

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter, with a broad range of updates and plans for our parish.

New Website – www.ansfordpc.org

Over the last few months, we have been working with a local consultancy to make a number of improvements to our website, and after some fairly comprehensive re-design features were agreed, we hope that parishioners will approve of the much more user-friendly layout, together with several additional links to other Parish/Town/District and County Council services etc., which should be of particular help to families who required assistance during the recent lockdown period.

The newly developed website is now nearing completion, and we are making some final

THE COMMUNITY COOKERY BOOK PROJECT

Question. What do the following have in common?

- 1) the story of a wedding cake made for our Queen
- 2) a prawn cocktail with raspberry sauce
- 3) lamb fillet with parmesan risotto
- 4) dog and cat treat recipes

Answer. They will all be found in the Castle Cary & Ansford Community Cookery Book. Included are over 100 mouth-watering recipes sent in by members of our community during lockdown, stories from artisan food producers who have been busy keeping us fed and watered during these last few months, and great pictures taken by local people.

Question. What's it all about?

Answer. During lockdown an idea came about to produce a community cookery book which would be sold to raise money for the Town Charity.

Question. What is the Town Charity?

Answer. Many people do not know this but the Town Charity was set up many moons ago for the "relief of the poor of the parish". Over the last few months of change and turbulence, it has been funding Cary Cares who have done an amazing job looking after people in our community who need help. This is likely to be ongoing with the uncertainty of another lockdown ahead so we need to help boost the funds for future needs of our residents.

Question. When and where can I buy the book to support this good cause?

Answer. By the end of October around the town. A "community" project and a perfect Christmas present!

Karin Hurd ccacookbook@hotmail.com

enhancements on a daily basis, although routine adjustments will continue to take place indefinitely. If parishioners would like to bring matters to our attention, such as announcements about local events, social activities and various interests that could be included on our website, please let us know. We would also welcome colour pictures of seasonal landscape scenes in and around Ansford, not forgetting that our parish has a number of excellent viewpoints of the surrounding countryside. Whilst on your rambles, we hope you find time to snap away and then email your shots, perhaps for inclusion in our 'photo gallery'. [*They will need to be HD quality, please!*]

Fairfield

The play area has now re-opened but we ask that social distancing is still maintained as far as possible within the family 'bubble'. Small gatherings can take place but social distancing will still apply. Please take care as no one wants a

re-introduction of lockdown or shielding, that has caused so much distress during the past few months.

Caryford Hall

As you may already be aware, a virtual meeting has taken place recently and a new committee has been formed. Mrs Barbara Williams has kindly offered to represent our Parish Council at Caryford Hall's Committee meetings. Plans are well underway for the re-opening of its facilities, with them having to meet the Government's strict guidelines. For all of the regular User Groups attending activities and meetings, the numbers of people participating must be carefully controlled and they must also sanitise any item used, both on entry and exit. As soon as we have more information, it will be posted on our website.

Parish Meetings

We are still continuing to hold our monthly virtual meetings but hope that we are soon able to return to meet at Caryford Hall, during late Summer/early Autumn. The Parish Council Agendas will continue to be posted on the notice boards, and also on our website, including records of the Minutes. For further details of our Meetings, please contact the Clerk.

Planning Applications

Within our new website we are planning to provide links to all new applications, and to include copies of the public's responses that have been sent to South Somerset District Council, regarding planning applications in Ansford.

If you are directly affected by a planning application you will usually receive an official notification from SSDC, and will have the opportunity to comment. Please do use this chance to make your views known, by using the link on our website to post your support / concerns, as they are taken into account when the planning officers make their recommendations. For help and advice on how to access this facility, please contact the Clerk.

New housing developments at Station Road

Weavers Field is almost complete, with nearly all houses now occupied or reserved, although the builders have not been able to finish the road and footpath surfaces, due to severe delays with their contractors, caused by the pandemic. The public Right of Way footpath [WN2/6] that links Lower Ansford Road with Station Road and Fairfield has now been re-opened, although the adjoining field is covered in long grass and nettles, so beware of stings!

Diagonally opposite Weavers Field, the **Woodforde Meadows** development of the first phase for 50 new homes is now being marketed, and a showhouse is currently being prepared for public viewing. The second phase for a further 25 new homes is to follow in due course.

Love's Farm has reached 50% occupancy, and

the remaining construction of the larger type of homes is well under way, with several of them having been pre-sold or reserved. There are 74 homes in this first phase, with a second phase expected later.

Finally, the development at **Mulberry Meadows** (formerly Wayside Farm) is gathering pace, this being the largest of the four sites, for 125 new homes.

We always welcome your feedback on any issues or concerns that you may have during the current year, and ask that you contact our Clerk: Mrs. Angela Roberts (07969 399 559) or email us at ansford.clerk@yahoo.com.

With Best Wishes

Ansford Parish Council

ANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Mr C. Edwards – Chair
Mr N. Begg, Mr G Clothier,
Mr A. Gibbons, Mrs D Pinnions,
Mrs B. Williams

Ansford Parish Clerk: Mrs Angela Roberts,
Bay Tree Cottage, 6 Torbay Road, Castle Cary,
Somerset BA7 7DW. Tel: 07969 399559
Email: ansford.clerk@yahoo.com

Virtual meetings held monthly but we hope to return to Caryford Hall soon. Agendas can be seen (a minimum of three clear days in advance of meetings) on the village noticeboards around the parish at Woodforde Green, Lower Ansford, Ancastle and by St Andrew's Church. The agenda will also be available on the Council website.

Website: www.ansfordpc.org

Castle Cary and District Bereavement Support Group

This is a closed, peer support group for those going through the sorrow of bereavement – whether before or during the Covid 19 pandemic. It was set up because I was alone at home during lockdown and feeling pretty dreadful with nowhere particularly to express myself.

It is for people of any faith, no faith or lost faith. It is a safe space to post photos or memories or express feelings.

Search Facebook for Castle Cary and District Bereavement Support Group. This group is not affiliated with any other Bereavement Support Group either 'real' or online.

Katya Goubsky
katya.goubsky@gmail.com

What's On in September – November 2020

We have decided to include a Diary of Events in our newsletter. We will collate dates from the articles that you send to us but if you have a specific event that will happen during the period of the current publication and want us to list this please send the information to Claire Craner-Buckley deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk in advance of the copy date of the next issue. You can also post your event on the website www.castle-cary.co.uk

Date	Organisation	Event	Venue	Contact
17 August	Caryford Hall	Re-opens	Caryford Hall	ian@caryfordhall.co.uk
18 August	Castle Cary Library	Re-opens	Library	cclib@somerset.gov
Aug/Sept	Church Services	Resume	Various	See article for dates
Aug/Sept	Moat Garden	AGM	TBC	annejelliffe@gmail.com
September	Cat Bus	Re-starts		sscatbus@gmail.com
September	Chamber of Commerce	AGM	TBC	lucie.reader@btinternet.com
3 September	Carnival Society	Big Comedy Quiz Deadline		deborahpexton@gmail.com
7 September	Toybox	Re-opens	Swainson Building	toyboxcastle Cary@gmail.com
7–13 September	Somerset Beekeeping	Asian Hornet Week		
13 September	Macmillan Cancer Support	Open Garden Cake Bakes		castle Cary macmillan@gmail.com
16 September	Churches Together	AGM	TBC	standrews.all saints gmail.com
25 September	Camelot U3A	AGM	TBC	colfocc@gmail.com
26 September	Friends of Fairfield	Volunteers Day on field	Fairfield	penny.steiner@castle-cary.co.uk
17 October	Carnival Society	Walking Treasure Hunt Final entries		deborahpexton@gmail.com
End October	Castle Cary Town Charity	Lockdown Cookery Book launch		ccacookbook@hotmail.com
13 November	CCTC & APC Newsletter	Copy Date		deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk
14 November	Twinning Association	Coffee Morning	The Market House	07593 628153
5 December	Twinning Association	Fish & Chip Quiz	TBC	07593 628153

Somerset Beekeeping

The other day I was watching some bees on the landing board of a hive and there was a fight going on. Closer inspection showed that a drone, (male bee), was trying to get back in to the hive and a worker (female) was grabbing it by the leg and edging it to the brink of oblivion. It was a David and Goliath job as drones are bigger than workers – but the worker didn't give up. Eventually the drone got fed up with being dragged around and flew off.

Male bees are of no use in winter as their sole role is to mate with a queen on the wing in the summer. If they stayed in the hive they would just sit around and eat food, (yes, I have heard all the jokes before), so they are expelled. The queen and her workers will need plenty of food stores for the winter months, and the bees born in late summer live for six months rather than the six weeks during the active spring and summer seasons. Beekeepers also have to decide now what actions, if any, they are going to take to ensure the health of the overwintering bees.

Asian Hornet week runs from 7-13 September. Why not download the free 'Asian Hornet Watch' app onto your phone? It contains

photos of Asian Hornets and similar insects. It also enables you to send off a photo for identification. So far there have been no confirmed Asian Hornet sightings this year. Let's hope it stays that way.

Les Kimberley SE Somerset BKA

Bowls Club

Here we are at the end of August and the weather is just right for bowling. We opened on Saturday 1st August, for members and guests to enjoy a 'roll up'. For now it is limited to Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoon/early evening only, but this is under constant review. Our season hasn't long to run as we will close in the middle of September. By now our annual tour would have taken place, this year we were going to Bracknell, and we would have played against 3 other teams. It is always a pleasure to visit other greens as much as it is to welcome teams to our green. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus it has not been possible this year. We have also missed our club competitions, County and National competitions and league knockout cup. Our annual tournament has also been cancelled.

In a recent BBC post, bowls was number 9 in a list of socially distant activities that could be enjoyed at this time. We are a friendly club and always ready to welcome new members, so should you want to 'have a go', give me a call or e-mail, we would be pleased to welcome you.

Carol Lowe 01963 359573
carolcliff.lowe@btinternet.com /
www.castlecarybowlsclub.moonfruit.com

Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

The Carnival Society is very disappointed to say that there will be no carnival in Castle Cary this year.

The committee had hoped to host a small event on carnival day, however with the restrictions on gatherings likely to remain in place, the committee sadly decided to cancel even these plans.

"It was important to be clear before people began to prepare." said Di Pinnions, Society Chair.

"Now, along with all carnival clubs and carnival towns across Somerset and Dorset we can turn our attention to putting on the best carnival ever in 2021!"

And that begins with fund-raising! The committee has come up with two socially distanced ways of having some family fun over the holidays – and boost carnival coffers.

A Walking Treasure Hunt around Castle Cary

– follow clues around our town to be in with the chance of winning a Halloween themed prize!
Entries in by 17 October.

The Big Comedy Quiz – missing your local quiz night? Have some fun with this one instead.
Entries in by 3 September or watch out for the next one – coming soon!

Get your entry forms from McColls, or contact Sue Pexton on 01963 350022, email deborahpexton@gmail.com.

For latest news, visit our web site:
www.ccacs.org.uk, FaceBook page
<https://www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety/>
or contact Society Secretary, Caroline Sharley on carolinejsharley@gmail.com.

Cary Comedians Carnival Club

What an extraordinary year! Normally it takes 6 to 9 months to build a new illuminated carnival float. However, with Covid-19 restrictions the club has only now permitted six members to build each Saturday. Each year the club has to regularly fundraise but this has not been possible. We will use all of our reserve fund to build for 2021 but to survive we shall need more members, more donations, more sponsors and all the help we can get.

All clubs need more chippies, painters, artists, costume makers, mechanics, electricians and sound engineers. If you have any of these talents please do join us.

Carnival in Cary would have celebrated a centenary this year. Sadly this cannot happen. No carnival in the Wessex GP circuit will go ahead in 2020. Hopefully all nine towns in the Wessex circuit will take place next year, as well as the county Guy Fawkes carnivals of Somerset.

This would have been our 44th year – we are one of the most successful comic feature clubs in the Wessex GP circuit and the county Guy Fawkes carnivals, winning more than 20 times the Mid-Somerset G&F championship. The club, at the invitation of CISPP, entered Ilminster carnival one year to save their carnival and to be featured in BBC TV's John Craven's series "Britain's Heritage Heroes". Let us all keep positive and look forward to the return of carnival in 2021.

Gordon Stockman

Carnivals in Somerset Promotion Project

What has CISPP to do with Castle Cary? The answer is that it was conceived by Sue and Gordon Stockman (Life Members of Cary Comedians and CCACS) in 2007/8 and was created by them with Geoff Shearing of Bridgwater, Dr Andrew Tallon of UWE Bristol and John Dando of Glastonbury carnival in 2009.

You may see the exhibition van and loudspeaker unit regularly going through Castle Cary. It attends schools, country shows, carnivals and a variety of country events to promote our unique illuminated carnivals.

CISPP has attended well over 100 schools since 2009 and produced several DVD/films including an educational film for schools.

Originally this project, which had the exhibition van funded for one year by the national lottery, was intended for 10 years. The CISPP project has however mushroomed into various carnival projects and films (including John Craven's film for BBC TV) that with 14 members on the committee we hope that CISPP will continue for another 10 years.

This is a completely voluntary organisation which fundraises each year to keep it going and to encourage more people to join carnival clubs and town committees that work hard to provide unique outdoor performance arts each year.

Gordon Stockman

Cary Cares Update

Cary Cares was formed in March 2020 in response to the varying community needs arising from the Covid 19 pandemic. Initiated by Churches Together and seed-funded through the Town Charity, we are here to support residents in our community, whether it is help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, a friendly phone call, or through the provision of a free food box.

We operate a daily helpline (01963 602013) and have over 100 volunteers registered to help out. In the first four months of the pandemic we've handled over a thousand queries and completed over eight hundred shopping and medicine deliveries for residents who are self-isolating or shielded. Volunteers tracked down cans of tomatoes, plain flour, specialist cat food and even loo rolls! They filled orders for plaice goujons simply because that was what one gentleman in his nineties, fancied for his tea! In addition, we have provided over 240 free Food boxes to those in need and have established a network of 'support calls' to ensure the more isolated members of our community are regularly kept up to date with news and developments.

As one of our donors remarked "...for all this has been terrible, it has been good to see the very best in people and to appreciate that, when the chips are down, the majority of people want to help others and do the right thing". Certainly, until the risk of further 'lockdowns' has passed, it's intended that the volunteer network remains active to ensure that we are there to support those in need.

Ainsley Creedy, Cary Cares Volunteer Coordinator
email: carycares1@gmail.com

Caryford Community Hall

Caryford Community Hall reopened for permitted hirings from 17 August 2020. The Committee has carefully applied all relevant Government guidance in order to do this safely: by arranging the additional cleaning required, installing new signage and equipment and other practical changes to reduce the risk of Coronavirus being brought into the Hall or transmitted there. We welcome users back to our Hall – we are sure that all those hiring and using the Hall from now on will do their bit by keeping to these new requirements.

Several long serving members retired from the

Committee at the July AGM. These included our Chair, Liz Middleton, and Treasurer, Roger Middleton. We are very grateful for all they did for the Hall and in particular helping us to achieve the first phase of our Extension Project.

Our President, Lee Mosley also stood down at this time. Lee has been continuously involved with the Hall since its beginning: on the Committee which raised the money to build and open the Hall in 1994 and serving in many different ways since then.

They will all be greatly missed.

We are still needing new people to join us. If you are interested in becoming Secretary or Treasurer or simply keen to help us tackle the wide range of tasks involved in running a busy, modern community facility, then please get in touch or visit the website www.caryfordhall.co.uk/recruit.

Ian Bynoe
ian@caryfordhall.co.uk, 01963 350655

CAT Bus –

plans to re-start services from Autumn 2020

South Somerset Community Accessible Transport is aiming gradually to re-introduce normal bus service operations from September, beginning with the resumption of its school transport contract service as pupils return to school for the Autumn term on 7 September.

Registered members of the CAT bus's regular 'Ring & Ride' service will be contacted by the SSCAT bookings desk during early September, to let them know when they will be able to book journeys. Depending on numbers expressing an interest, and on the current virus state, normal services could be running by mid-September. As the office in the Balsam Centre, Wincanton will not be manned before 7th September, users are requested not to telephone the bookings desk before this date.

For the safety of passengers, sanitised cleaning of all vehicle contact surfaces will have been undertaken at the start and finish of each working day. All passengers will be required to provide and wear their own face masks when using the CAT bus service and provide their own hand sanitiser.

Passengers may be asked by the driver if they, or anyone in their household, are currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, which must be answered honestly.

Remember: Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives.

Cary Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS)

You may recall in the last newsletter we announced that, due to current COVID-19 restrictions and the understandable concerns people have, we were unsure what the future held for our annual production. We can now confirm that unfortunately 'Little Shop of Horrors' will no longer be brought to the stage in February 2021. Even if restrictions have been completely lifted and our audiences' confidence to gather in large numbers has been restored by the autumn, we still won't have enough time to stage a successful full musical show to the standard our audiences have come to expect of CATS.

All being well, we intend to bounce back in February 2022 and we also plan to restart Junior CATS. We will of course provide further updates as time goes on and the situation becomes clearer.

We hope to see you in the not too distant future. Our best wishes to you all.

Cemetery Chapel

We don't have a lot to say at the moment but want it to remain in everyone's minds that the cemetery is open for visitors, and the amazing view over the Somerset levels towards Glastonbury Tor remains!

Sadly, due to Covid 19, the chapel remains closed to visitors except when there are funerals.

However, we have good news about the compost loo. The Friends of the Cemetery Chapel have worked hard to persuade the Town Council that it should be re-opened along with other toilets in the town. We know it's a valuable facility to all who visit the cemetery whether they are travelling from near or far.

Our Tapestry Unveiling which was due to take place in May but was cancelled, is still outstanding. It will happen but we just don't know when.

Castle Cary Chamber of Commerce

The Castle Cary Chamber of Commerce is a group that aims to be a coordinating voice for businesses in and around Cary; and to make things happen for our members.

We have over 100 businesses on our mailing list and more than 40 members. Our website provides an online presence and a place to share useful information for local businesses, including pages specifically related to support for businesses during the pandemic. Please take a look at www.castlecarychamber.org.uk.

We know there are more fantastic local businesses out there. We'd love to add you to our mailing list and for you to join the Chamber. For more information, contact rob@castlecarychamber.org.uk.

At our AGM in September, the current Committee will be standing down. If you are interested in any of the roles (chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary), please contact lucie.reader@btinternet.com.

Castle Cary Choir

Every aspect of the music industry has been affected by Covid-19 including community choirs and at the time of writing group singing is not possible.

Castle Cary Choir have, however, resumed Monday evening meetings online using Zoom. This has its challenges as while our Musical Director has been able to guide us through the music, our sound has to be muted while we sing. The reason for this is that when everyone sings together online there are slight time differences giving a distorted effect called latency. You may have seen choirs performing together but this is actually produced by each person performing individually and then putting all the recordings together.

It can feel very strange to sit in front of a computer or an iPad and sing without being able to hear anyone else, but our rehearsals have been well managed and fruitful. As much as anything our choir is about community and the Zoom meetings have successfully enabled us to stay in touch. So, despite our current rehearsals being rather different they are looked forward to by our members. They have been well attended, with between 30 and 40 members online every week which is quite an achievement.

At present we plan to continue like this but of course everyone is looking forward to the day when it is deemed safe for us to meet together in the Methodist Church again.

To keep updated check out www.castlecarychoir.org.uk or contact our secretary John Roberts 07970 039007.

TRADE DIRECTORY

We're sorry not to have included the trade directory in this edition of the newsletter but hope to have it ready for the Winter edition.

CHURCHES IN CASTLE CARY AND ANSFORD

Catholic Church: Ss Luke and Teresa, Wincanton

Parish Priest: Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk 34408
 Special Minister for Castle Cary: Nick Niven-Jenkins 351398
 Website: stlukeswincanton.org.uk

Church of England: All Saints', Castle Cary & St Andrew's, Ansford

Enquiries: 07483 866400
 E-mail: standrews.allsaints@gmail.com
 Churchwarden & PCC Treasurer: David Baldwin 359000
 Churchwarden & PCC Vice-Chair: Katya Duncan 351581
 Pastoral Visits Co-ordinator & Reader: Sue Kellagher 351992
 Readers: Gillian Sinclair 350725
 Madron Osborne 351275
 Safeguarding Person: Judi Morison 350160
 Stewardship Secretary: Val Chainey 359420
 Chair of All Saints' Development Project: David Osborne 351275
 Bellringing at St Andrew's: Philip Townshend 350502
 Website: www.castlecaryallsaints.org.uk

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Craig Manley 351598
 Steward & Local Preacher: Rob Haskins 350950
 Pastoral and Community Worker, Pastoral Co-ordinator & Local Preacher:
 Elizabeth Manley 351598
 Local Preachers: Steve Derby 01749 860571
 Patricia Fuller 351635
 Anna Schiffer ex dir
 Safeguarding Person: Anna Baker 351659
 Church Secretary: Hannah Knight 359663
 Church Treasurer: Steve Baker 351659
 Music: David Knight 359663
 Website: www.carymethodists.org

Quaker Meeting at 30/32 High St, Wincanton

Local Contact: 350980

Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford

Chair: Judith Cole 350570
 Secretary: Revd David Osborne 351275

Church Services

The situation is changing and all our churches are adjusting to life with social distancing and restrictions on singing. Government directives and church guidelines for the use of church buildings are being revised frequently, so it is not possible to say for certain what church services there will be during the next three months. But churches will meet for worship if they can. Please check websites to keep up to date.

Both **All Saints' and St Andrew's parish churches** are **open for private prayer** on Wednesdays from 10.00am till 2.00pm and advice on health precautions are posted in each church. From September, All Saints' will also be used for other meetings as it provides a large space where social distancing can be maintained.

The plan is to have a Holy Communion service at 10.00am on the first Sunday of each month at **All Saints' Church**: 6th September, 4th October and 1st November. There might be services on other Sundays as well and a service for home use is produced each week. This is all subject to change so please check the notice board in The Pitching - or the website: castlecaryallsaints.org.uk.

The **Methodist Church** is continuing with its weekly Zoom service. www.carymethodists.org. Regular updates of events and future worship are available via the online notice sheet ccmcnotices@outlook.com. Minister: 01963 351598.

St Luke & St Teresa Catholic Church, Wincanton

Currently mass is celebrated on Sunday at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm. During the week there is Mass on Mondays and Tuesdays at 9.00 am, on Fridays at 11.30 am, and on Saturdays at 10.00 am, followed by Confession and Exposition. Mass is not being celebrated at other churches or mass centres.

For more information contact the Parish Office on 01963 34408 or email:

hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk

www.stlukeswincanton.org.uk.

Quakers are now meeting again weekly in Wincanton at 10.30am.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/wincanton

If you would like to receive the weekly service of one of the churches please contact:

Church of England:

standrews.allsaints@gmail.com, 07483 866400

Methodist Church: David and Hannah Knight, 01963 359663

When we are able to return to our normal pattern of services it may be as follows:

Church of England	8.30am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 10.00am Parish Communion On the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month the 10.00am service is at All Saints', Castle Cary. On the second and fourth Sundays the 10.00am service is at St Andrew's, Ansford. The 8.30am service is always at the other church.
Methodist Church	10.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Evening Service
Catholic Church of St Luke & St Teresa, Wincanton:	Mass at 10.30am each Sunday
Quaker Meeting at Friends' Meeting House, 30/32 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF:	10.30am

There are usually special arrangements at festivals.

Church of England – All Saints

What a strange few months we have had! In January our much-loved Vicar, Liz, left us for her new parish in Frome. We had a lovely farewell service for her and the churchwardens recruited retired clergy from this and surrounding parishes to take our services for us.

Then along came Covid 19 and our services had to stop. During lockdown we began to produce a 'Service Alone Together' which we have been emailing to our congregation and publishing on our website.

Now that restrictions have started to ease, we are able to offer a Communion service on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints'. It was a joy for those of us who are not shielding to come

together in worship on August 2nd – observing all the Covid 19 safety rules. This service will be repeated each month as long as regulations allow and we hope to add more, while continuing to publish the Service Alone Together for those who can't physically make it to church. We are using All Saints' rather than St Andrew's for now because the larger space enables us to comply with social distancing.

At the same time, we are working hard on producing our 'Parish Profile', which is the document which forms the basis of our advertisement for a new vicar. This is nearing completion and we hope to be able to advertise early in September. If all goes well, we hope to welcome our new vicar early in 2021.

Contact Katya Duncan, Administrator on 07482 866400. Email standrews.allsaints@gmail.com.

All Saints' Development Group

Despite the All Saints' Development Group (ASDG) Events Programme for 2020 having to be shelved, we are all still here working on the church renovation project with All Saints' PCC.

Having raised £150,000 +/- thanks to Viridor Credits, All Churches Trust, National Churches Trust, Somerset Churches Trust and more importantly **YOUR SUPPORT by attending events**, you'll see scaffolding going up during September as work on the roof begins **HOORAH!**

We're sure you will agree that the impressive spire on Cary's skyline is truly special and a slice of heritage to be valued. Sadly during a recent inspection, some of the pinnacles were found to be dangerous hence the fencing around the tower and the bells being silenced. **We're working on it:** more grant applications!

Then **THE MOST EXCITING BIT:** we can launch an appeal for the re-fit of the interior, to accommodate social activities as well as worship.

HOT OFF THE PRESS is the news that we have received £25,000 from Garfield Weston and £5K from Beatrice Lang Trusts towards the re-ordering, so the ball is rolling...

This third phase is perhaps the most beneficial to all townsfolk and consequently we ask again for your ideas about potential user groups and uses. The Star Festival and Murder Mystery demonstrate how All Saints' offers us an amazing opportunity to utilise a large, safe space at a time (post lockdown) when it is most needed.

Finally, we now have an updated website which is linked to Facebook, enabling us to reach you more frequently. Please use it to contact us.

Parish Church Admin CC&A
standrews.allsaints@gmail.com

Churches Together in Castle Cary & Ansford

In February, 2020 (a long time ago), a United Service was held in All Saints' Church. At the service, The Lent Appeal was launched. Steve Hart, from C.A.P., Christians Against Poverty, was the speaker. We took away Smartie Tubes, to fill with money during Lent, to support this charity. Please keep your filled smartie tubes, we will collect them as soon as it is possible. Many services, and meetings have been cancelled, due to the pandemic, but we will slowly, and carefully return to a new norm.

We plan our AGM for 16th September, more information will be available nearer that date.

Churches Together, under the leadership of The Revd. David Osborne, has guided the initiative Cary Cares, with many volunteers willing to give their time, and businesses supporting. The whole community has shared in friendship, concern, and practical help. Thank you. Generous donations have been added to The Town Charity, and much admirable support is still continuing.

Sadly our United Service at The Market House, and The Walk of Witness, on Good Friday, were cancelled. We shared a United Service at the start of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, courtesy of Zoom and video links, which were very much appreciated.

This newsletter is returning to its printed format, we pray that our links as Churches Together will improve positively, and safely.

Val Chainey for Churches Together

Wincanton Quakers (Religious Society of Friends)

Like all our Churches, we are missing our usual activities and long for the return to how it was. We are finding ways to work and worship differently, hence we are practising both face to face worship (at which the mandatory precautions are observed) and Zoom worship which is surprisingly satisfying. We are finding new ways to support projects and charities we have nurtured in the past.

Many of us remain optimistic yet of course concerned for the future and we are confident in the support we find in The Lord. We miss and stay in contact with those who we used to see regularly and do not now.

We meet Sundays, 10.30am at the Friends Meeting House, between 30/32 Wincanton High Street BA9 9JF for silent worship which has re-started since July.

Do contact ahmorisco@yahoo.co.uk or Ray Leary, 01963 350980, if you wish to join us in either way.

Andy Hall

Castle Cary Methodist Church

We were just about to reopen our building with its new lift when lockdown happened and we are still in the process of negotiating the regulations to allow us to return.

In the meantime we have been meeting to worship via Zoom on Sundays at 10.30am. It's been great to have so many of our church community together on a screen. You can join us to say hello from 10.15 on a Sunday morning – worship begins around 10.30. We also publish an audio recording of our worship via Youtube/Facebook. We have also run our holiday club 'virtually' this year too.

The best ways to keep in touch with us are to follow us on Facebook (Castle Cary Methodist Church), or sign up to get our email bulletin (ccmcnotices@outlook.com). Our minister, Rev Craig Manley, can be contacted on Craig.Manley@methodist.org.uk or 01963 351598

Cinema in Caryford July 2020.

Tessa and I have, sadly and reluctantly, decided Cinema in Caryford will not be showing our monthly films until at least Spring 2021.

We recognise and appreciate the huge amount of work the Caryford Hall Committee has done and is still doing to make it possible to use the Hall safely.

Two reasons mainly:

1. We need to have a minimum number of people in order to break even and we would not be able to safely accommodate that number in the Hall.
2. Our target audience is in the age group that is the most vulnerable to Covid-19 and we do not think they would come.

We have all enjoyed wonderful films over the past nearly seven years and the process of building up Cinema in Caryford with the help of our dedicated team of volunteers.

We will be back.

All the very best to everyone.

Tessa and Jeannie

EatCary

Have you ever thought about growing your own vegetables? EatCary is one way to do this, not the same as an allotment. We share growing and we share produce. We have an enormous polytunnel to start things off in and also to grow aubergines, tomatoes, peppers, grapes, and to make sure we have a salad leaf supply throughout the winter. We experiment with unusual varieties, and we make our own compost and plant feed. We grow exotics too, both in the

polytunnel and the main beds. We don't stop at vegetables either – we grow herbs and flowers too, not just for culinary purposes but for our pollinators and for the sheer beauty of it.

We run a whatsapp group so that we keep in touch over what we are doing, and we have a website where you can see some of our wonderful vegetables.

Do come to see what we are up to. We are up the little path on the left at the very start of Maggs Lane.

Laura Tilling (tillinglaura@gmail.com)

Castle Cary Fire Station

In spite of the decreased level of activity amongst the general population during lockdown, the Castle Cary firefighters have remained engaged in training and responding to incidents throughout the spring and summer.

In the last 6 months, we have assisted crews in Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service in controlling a protracted wildfire in Wareham Forest; attended Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) to extricate people who were trapped; extinguished fires in houses, businesses and in the open; attended medical emergencies and worked with our NHS paramedic colleagues in driving ambulances during the pandemic; there is no 'typical' shout.

We have been maintaining our skills through a combination of practical training at the station, off-site training (e.g. breathing apparatus refresher courses at the DSFRS Fire Training School at Exeter Airport) and e-learning packages put together by the Service Academy to maintain theoretical knowledge of fire engineering topics, such as managing asbestos at incidents and water delivery techniques.

On a more personal level, there have been changes within the station, too. We said a very sad farewell to retired Firefighter Pat Heffernan who passed away in May; Firefighter Chris 'Taffy' Watts retired after over 20 years' service; Firefighter Brad Pike gained celebrity status and kept the entire county amused during lockdown with the antics of Biscuit Bear; and, at the time of writing, Crew Manager Darren Clarke and his wife Emma are expecting their first baby to arrive any moment!

The station is now recruiting more On-Call Firefighters and a number of potential applicants have already come forward. For any queries about this or anything else we do, please get in touch via Facebook or drop a note into the Station and one of us will get back to you.

Castle Cary Gardening Association

Well, this should be the article laden with enthusiasm and mild exhaustion having done the Annual Show. However, as with a lot of really important events, this hasn't been possible. Ironically the veg and flower entries were likely to be the most spectacular after so much gardening in lockdown early on.

The rest of this year's programme is also on hold but we have managed to secure 90% of the speakers from this year to try again next year. It has only meant that February and March needed a re-think. So we would have been about to hear from the ever-popular, diminutive Dr Anne Bebbington about the 'Flowers and Butterflies of the Swiss Alps' followed in October by the RHS writer Sally Nex's talk on 'Gardening without Plastic!' So for those who are organised enough to have a 2021 diary – and they are now available from Bailey Hill bookshop – put these in! The dates are September 2nd and October 7th 2021.

We usually meet in the church rooms beneath the Methodist church in North Street every first Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments and the talk starts at 7.30pm and lasts around an hour. Annual membership is £7 and visitors are only £1!

All details on <http://CCGA.btck.co.uk>.

We wish you all a safe autumn and may you and your families stay well.

Erica Holt (Chair)

Castle Cary Community Library

The Library is open again!

We re-opened on 18th August – but with reduced opening hours –

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-12noon and 2pm-3pm
- Fridays and Saturdays 10am-12noon.

Friday 2pm-3pm is reserved for those using the public computer – contact us to book a session.

Hours may change so check before visiting.

Customers and staff must maintain 6ft social distancing. In our tiny library this limits our visitors to one "bubble" or household at a time. You won't be able to browse the shelves, but our volunteer staff will help find books you'll enjoy reading. Pick up an "Order and Collect" form from the library, or print it from our website and fill it in to tell us the sort of thing you would like.

On the plus side there will be no reservation fees or fines for the time being.

Computer users can still "borrow" the vast array of electronic resources available – see the Libraries West website. If you're not yet a library

member, pop in and register, or you can register on line.

We're looking for ways during these difficult times of expanding the reading matter we have on offer. Many people will have read avidly during lockdown, and one way forward would be to ask for donations of new titles which have had good reviews, to lend to our readers. We would welcome comments on this.

Children, if you're wondering what is happening about the Summer Book Challenge find out from www.sillysquad.org.uk – and send in a parent for your pack of stickers etc.

Contact the library on 07579 049109 or email cclib@somerset.gov.uk. Our website, www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk will give current details of opening hours and other developments.

The Local Information Centre

Hopefully by the time you read this our local tourist and community information service will have resumed its services. For those of you who are new to the area we are situated in the ground floor of the Market House. Normally the public would come into our office and find themselves surrounded by leaflets of all sorts: our Castle Cary leaflet, information about nearby tourist attractions, bus and train timetables, accommodation possibilities, local health and wellbeing services, leisure opportunities. This printed material is very limited at the moment, but gradually building up again, so do come and ask. We also have the local free magazines and tourist guides.

As I write this we are planning to begin with an information table in the Undercroft, so do look for us there if the usual office appears to be closed. Our hours initially when we re-open will be 10am – 12noon on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

We also usually organise the coffee morning bookings, and those of you who have these booked for 2020, we will give you as much notice as possible about whether your coffee morning is cancelled or can go ahead. We'll be looking soon at bookings for 2021 – watch out for information about this.

Laura Tilling, 01963 351461

Macmillan Cancer Support

The last six months have been the strangest that many of us will ever have lived through. In Somerset, we have been fortunate that the number of Coronavirus cases, and therefore the number of deaths, have been extremely low but our hearts go out to all those who have lost a loved one during this period.

As we all know, Coronavirus is not the only medical problem in town and we still need to support people living with cancer. All charities, Macmillan included, have suffered a huge reduction in donations and, locally, we have been unable to run any fundraising events since the beginning of March.

Now for the good news! We have an event lined up in September which will be going ahead (subject to any local lockdowns!). It will provide you with an opportunity to show off the baking skills you honed to perfection during lockdown.

In short, we need cakes! We are supporting a National Garden Scheme Open Garden in Coleford on 13 September. They anticipate that they will have around 300 visitors so we need lots of cake! If you are able to bake something for us, please let us know.

E-mail us on castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com or phone Janet Loe on 01963 351112.

Castle Cary's Tuesday Market

Tuesday 7th July was a day for Cary to remember: it was the day when the friendliest Market Town in Somerset staggered out of an enforced lockdown...

Our regular traders of 6 years, and some new-comers, arrived at 6.30 to pitch their gazebos and lay out their produce and goods around our well-loved Market House. Much planning had preceded this long-awaited morning, purely to mitigate the risk to customers and traders. The result was a plethora of cones, signs, ropes and high-viz!! Positive comments ensued though and thanks to the townsfolk adhering to the guidelines, the day buzzed along – people eager to see and communicate with each other again.

As the weeks have passed, we have been able to evolve a simpler system, confident in the fact that we are **STAYING ALERT; STAYING SAFE.**

We are hoping to open the Undercroft soon which will mean more stalls can trade safely and offer you more.

Finally, from all of the Stallholders at The Tuesday Market, a special "thank you" for supporting their return; from me a special "thank you" for the support the Town Council and Volunteers have given.

Angela Piggott

The Moat Garden

The badgers snuffle under new plants – but they don't find all, and the garden has survived the hot, dry periods well. The two-legged visitors young and older seem to enjoy the space, and vegetable crops are good.

We would really like someone to care for the fenced area – newly re-pathed, & now much easier to keep tidy around beds and fruit. A contained 'job' at your time choice.

Thank you to Caitlin, for the smart gate sign. For her DofE community service, she has completed a few ventures in the garden. It is really good to have new people adding interest and their ideas to the garden. Caitlin also finished and sited the Bug hotel, begun at PLAYFEST '2019 – so if your children took part, the 'hotel' is visible without going into the school compound.

Others have taken on the 'path cutting' through the long grasses, and the Triangle area, and perhaps the long grass will have been scythed by another. Every person helps the garden grow, and we 'kid ourselves' we are getting a little more under our control, and welcome others to help in whatever way they prefer.

The May garden gates plant sale, was a wet success! Thank you so much for the donations; used for basic upkeep and the tree work fund.

An October sale is hoped for, on a smaller scale but it is such a good time for planting. Another date will be our AGM end August/beg Sept – keep an eye open.

Contact us :

Ida West: 01963 350899 / 07919 803610

Anne Jelliffe: annejelliffe@gmail.com

A Newt Season

I was very pleased to receive an invitation to contribute to the quarterly newsletter, not least so that I can thank everyone in Castle Cary who has supported The Newt over the last few months. Our dedicated team have been committed to providing a place of fresh air and respite during an incredibly difficult time. Seeing many local and familiar faces, whether stopping by for supplies, bringing the family for gelato or simply enjoying a stroll in the garden, has been hugely motivating and rewarding.

After an eventful summer, we are now looking forward to a fruitful Autumn. Harvest season offers the chance to celebrate the work our gardeners, farmers and chefs put in during lockdown to sow and grow a variety of field crops – keep an eye out for special harvest menus, talks and demos around the end of September. As fruit in our orchards ripens, we are particularly excited about Apple Day (*Wednesday 21st – Sunday 25th October*) when we will be honouring all things apple over a five-day celebration. Our Cyder Team are busy planning a host of activities, displays, samples and surprises, while our chefs are cooking up some delicious apple-based treats.

If you'd like to keep in touch, you can sign up to our weekly newsletter for regular stories, recipes

and events. Sign up via our website: www.thenewtinsomerset.com.

We hope to see you in the garden soon!

*Ed Workman, CEO
The Newt in Somerset*

Cary Ramblers Group

Our group remains suspended due to our Government's restriction to a maximum of 6 people from different households meeting outside keeping at least 2 meters apart.

However, not to be daunted some of our members have continued to ramble alone or in pairs maintaining a safe distance. We have kept to local walks where car sharing can be avoided. Areas include Bruton, Wyke Champflower, Cole, Carymoor Drove, Galhampton, Yarlinton, Alford and North Cadbury.

It remains to be seen when we can resume our group in a legal and safe way. It is hoped that this will not be too long in the future. When that time comes, we will probably lead a local walk without the need for car sharing, or a walk further afield where we drive ourselves to the start of the walk.

Our group must never be allowed to cease. We are nearly 40 years old that brings reflection and fond memories of past and present members leading spectacular walks for us all to enjoy. These include walks in beautiful Somerset and neighbouring Wiltshire and Dorset. We should feel proud and privileged to belong to such a popular and successful group.

For more information about the Cary Ramblers Group please contact Anne Pitt on 01963 359621/07854 597158 or email anne.pitt60@gmail.com.

Cary Runners

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect both our physical and mental health, looking after ourselves has never been so important. Running is a great way of enjoying our spectacular countryside and improving your fitness. Cary Runners is a small group of local runners who meet every Monday at 18h30 for a gentle jog, usually with several small groups tackling different routes and distances according to each person's level of fitness. We strictly observe all social distancing guidelines, while still enjoying each other's company.

During the summer we meet at Orchard Farm, Cockhill to jog between 5 and 8 km (3 to 5 miles) along country roads, lanes and occasionally off road. Once the clocks change (end Oct) we will

meet at The George Hotel, also at 18h30 on Mondays, to run around the streets of Cary or nearby country lanes (with hi-viz and torches). Whether you are a seasoned runner or a beginner, and regardless of your level of fitness, you'll find running much easier when you have others to encourage you. If you would like to join us either turn up on a Monday evening or call Dave Boyer (01963 350418 / 07903 276315) or Dan Patrick at the George Hotel (07966 224261 / 01963 350761) for more information. You can also get details of our runs on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/

Somerset Sight

Somerset Sight is an independent Charity supporting people with sight loss in Somerset. Est. 1919.

Since the 1990s we have run our Flagship Volunteer Visiting Service, we have in excess of 200 wonderful, trained volunteer visitors across Somerset, they regularly visit local people with sight loss for support, company and outings etc, making a vast difference and improving their lives.

We have found that during the Covid19 crisis many of our members have found life even more difficult than usual, and without fail our fabulous Volunteers have really stepped up further to help and support people in their community who live with visual impairment. Many are themselves in isolation due to age or have family who are in the shielding category, but have continued to keep in contact by phone offering much needed help, support and company helping to reduce isolation and loneliness further at this most challenging time.

Having spoken to many people over the past weeks both Volunteers and Service Users, we have been struck by the praise and gratitude that has been expressed not only for our Volunteer Visitors, but for our charity as a whole and all the many services that we provide.

We are always looking for more Volunteer Visitors to help us to support visually impaired people throughout **your** local area, if you have a few hours to spare and would like to hear more:

Please contact admin@somersetssight.org.uk or call 01823 333818. (Reg Charity No: 1154472)

Tools for Self-Reliance

Tools for Self-Reliance is a national charity which supports self-help projects in African countries, thus enabling people to earn a livelihood using the tools and training we provide.

After a 6-month cessation due to Covid 19 restrictions, we intend to resume our Tuesday evening sessions in the D & T building at Ansford Academy at the start of the Autumn term. Here we will be meeting to restore and repair a wide variety of tools, including Singer sewing machines, to send to Africa.

Other items (e.g. household and garden tools) are not always suitable for Africa but can often be sold to raise funds for shipping and training. Due to the current situation we are not able to hold any of our public sales, but if local people are in need of specific items it is worth contacting our secretary, Amon, on 01749 813239 to see whether we can supply them.

We are always happy to welcome new members, so whether or not you have any restoration expertise please consider calling in to see what we do – and maybe even joining us!

We welcome all sorts of donations, including garden tools and hand sewing machines, so when you're clearing out your shed or workshop and come across something unwanted please DON'T throw it out. You can let us have any spare tools and we'll decide how best to put them to good use. Again, please contact Amon to arrange collection.

Toybox Pre-School

We are currently gearing up to re-open for Autumn Term 2020 from the week beginning 7th September. Toybox is a charity-registered Pre-School judged as a "Good Provider" by Ofsted. We offer term time day care for 2 to 5 year olds at the Swainson Building next to Ansford Academy from 9.15am to 3.45pm. We have parking and an outside play area at our site, in addition to our well laid out hall. Pictures and full details can be found on our website <https://toyboxpreschool.weebly.com>.

We offer access to the government's Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds of 15 hours free childcare per week, or 30 hours for eligible working families, as well as fee paying or eligible 2 year funded children. Please email us on toyboxcastleary@gmail.com if you would like more information. We have spaces available for September onwards and would love to hear from you if you are looking for childcare.

Contact number: 01963 359600

Email: toyboxcastleary@gmail.com

Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

The above Association's aims are to promote and foster friendship between the people of Castle Cary & Ansford district and those of the Rémalard district of Normandy. We also hope to broaden the mutual understanding of cultural, recreational and social activities of the linked towns.

For membership details please contact:-

Mike Baker, *Hon. Chairman* – Tel 01935 851005

Pauline Hall, *Hon. Secretary* – Tel 07593 628153

Unfortunately, like so many of the local clubs and Associations over the last 5 months we have had to cancel all previously arranged events. Hopefully with the easing of lockdown restrictions we will be able to go ahead with the following dates:-

Coffee morning (The Shambles)

14 November 2020 (provisional)

Fish & chips quiz night (Caryford Hall)

5 December 2020 @ 6.30 pm

We hope it may be possible to hold a social gathering during August/September for members but this will depend on current Government guidelines. This information will be conveyed to members by email/post.

Camelot U3A

As we move through the summer we are beginning to do more than was possible a month ago. We know how much the Camelot Area U3A members like to spend time with each other and some of our interest groups have adapted to meet in one form or another over the last five months.

The Caryford Hall committee are working hard to re-open; if all goes well, we will be able to hold our AGM with a guest Speaker on Friday 25 September. To ensure the safety of everyone attending the number of seats will be limited in order maintain social distancing and the Hall will be well ventilated in line with the committee's regulations.

Local lockdowns may still occur and disrupt progress, but it will not dampen the U3A spirit and Caryford Area U3A will be back when safety allows. Many members have already renewed their membership, and those who haven't have until 1 October to do so.

We are still welcoming new members, so if you're not a member and wish to join in with one of our many activities or to just to socialise with like-minded people, please visit our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/camelot-area/home> and navigate to the contacts page where you can

request more information or a membership application form.

Robert Reeves
Chairman, Camelot Area U3A
e: coltofcc@gmail.com
T: 01963 351269

The wildflowers of Castle Cary and Ansford

Everybody walking past the mini-meadow in Fairfield commented on how lovely it was during June and July, full of poppies and cornflowers, which the bees and other pollinators loved. The Friends of Fairfield plan to double its size.

We are all beginning to realise the importance of wild flowers and grasses as part of a sustainable and healthy ecology. The Town Council has allowed the wildflowers to grow in one part of the cemetery, and they made an amazing display among the gravestones, particularly the bugle, oxeye daisies and birdsfoot trefoil. Part of St Andrew's Churchyard is similarly species-rich, and I am hoping that the PCC can be persuaded to stop mowing that area from March to August so that the bees and ourselves can enjoy the flowers there too.

The District Council is keen to develop wildflower verges, and made a start with the banks at the bottom of Maggs Lane which have been full of flowers including bulbous buttercups, vetches, plantain, yarrow and more.

We mustn't forget that some people prefer plain greensward and treat all wild flowers as ugly weeds. But a happy compromise should be possible – there are plenty of green spaces in Cary to choose from, where wildflowers won't inconvenience anyone or block drivers' sightlines. Let's use some of them to provide food for our pollinators and conserve biodiversity for a sustainable future.

Anyone interested in helping with this project, please get in touch.

[Laura Tilling \(tillinglaura@gmail.com\)](mailto:tillinglaura@gmail.com)

Please recycle after use



Castle Cary & Ansford

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



- Action for Children** – 01963 351554
- Alcoholics Anonymous** – 0800 917 7650
- All Saints' & St Andrew's Churches** – 07483 866400
- Alzheimer's Society** – 01458 251541
- Ansford Parish Council** – 07969 399559
- Ansford Academy** – 01963 350895
- ATC 2277 (Cary & District) Squadron** – 07717 683404
- Bellringing** – 01963 350002
- Bible Study Group** – 01749 860571
- British Heart Foundation** – 01963 350022
- Camelot Rounders** – 07969 233760
- Care4Cary** – 07803 855208
- Cary Cares** – 01963 602013/carycares1@gmail.com
- Cary Allotments** – 01963 350917
- Cary Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS)** – 07715 510359
- Cary Comedians Carnival Club** – 01963 440472
- Cary History Society** – caryhistsoc@gmail.com
- Cary Runners** – 01963 350418
- Caryford Community Hall** – 01963 351324
- Caryford Fitness & Leisure** – 01963 350600
- Caryford Short Mat Bowls** – 01963 359069
- Carymarsh Nature Reserve** – 01963 350418
- Carymoor Environmental Centre** – 01963 350143
- Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society** – 07711 266969
- Castle Cary & Ansford Women's Institute** –
07402 765932
- Castle Cary Bowls Club** – 01963 359573
- Castle Cary Bridge Club** – 01935 850122
- Castle Cary Ceramics Group** – 01460 54117
- Castle Cary Choir** – 01749 342163
- Castle Cary Community Library** – 07579 049109
- Castle Cary Cricket Club** – 07527 628956
- Castle Cary Football Club** – 01963 350587
- Castle Cary Gardening Association** – 01963 350618,
ccga.btck.co.uk
- Castle Cary Majorettes (Cygnetts)** – 01963 350603
- Castle Cary Out of School Club (The Hive)** – 07496 348233
- Castle Cary Primary School** – 01963 350520
- Castle Cary Rainbows and Brownies** – 07985 246833
- Castle Cary Ramblers** – 01963 359621
- Castle Cary Rugby Club** – 01963 351178
- Castle Cary Town Museum** – 01963 350680
- Castle Cary Twinning Association** – 01963 31619
- Chamber of Commerce** – 07860 313018
- Christian Aid** – 01963 351275
- Cinema in Caryford** – 01963 350132
- EatCary** – 01963 351461
- Fair Trade Group** – 01963 350629
- Friends of Cary 2000** – 07803 855208
- Friends of Cemetery Chapel** – 01963 350276
- Friends of Castle Cary Library** – 07813 628447
- Guide Dogs for the Blind** – 01963 350182
- Greener Cary** – greenercary@gmail.com
- Judo Club** – 01749 890308
- Macmillan Cancer Support** – 07714 030813
- Market House Dance Studio** – 07805 571590
- Martial Arts** – 07738 599670
- Methodist Church** – 01963 351598
- Methodist Church Lettings** – 01963 351635
- Mid-Somerset Flower Club** – 01963 351811
- Millbrook Surgery Friends Group** – 01963 350210
- Moat Garden Project** – 01963 350899
- Netball** – 07903 244213
- Parson Woodforde Society** – www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk
- Red Cross** – 01963 350830
- Rainbow & Brownies** – 07985 246830
- Rotary Club (Brue Valley)** – 07767 488719
- Royal British Legion** – 01963 548009
- Save the Children Shop** – 01963 351681
- St Margaret's Hospice** – 0845 070 8910
- Scouts/Cubs/Beavers** – 07773 515511
- Somerset Beekeepers Association** – 07855 899257
- Somerset Wildlife Trust (SE Area)** – 01749 812127
- South Somerset Community Accessible Transport** –
01963 34594
- Table Tennis Club** – 01963 351571
- Taekwon-Do Club** – 07759 405601
- Tiddlywinks** – 01963 350341
- Tools for Self Reliance** – 01749 813239
- Tourist Information Group** – 01963 351763
- Toybox Pre-school** – 01963 359600
- U3A Camelot Area** – 01963 351269
- Use Less Share More Group** – 01963 351461
- Workers' Education Association (WEA)** – 01749 860352
- Youth Matters** – 01963 350160
- Zambia Links (CMCPT)** – 01963 351461

Castle Cary Town Council, Market House, Castle Cary BA7 7AH
Tel: 01963 359631 – website: www.castle-cary.co.uk
Ansford Parish Council website: www.ansfordpc.org.uk