

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 Issue



COPYRIGHT © JOSS MULLINGER

In this Issue...



Trade Directory

25-26



What's On

24



Churches Together

11-14

Castle Cary Town Council

It's a long winter this year but we hope you are managing in these difficult times. Cary Cares is still operating their scheme to collect medicines and shop for people as well as regularly providing food boxes. If you need some shopping or food please don't go without call Cary Cares on 01963 602013 and they will help to provide you with what you need. All the information you may require is on the town website on this link www.castle-cary.co.uk/cary-cares-a-local-scheme-to-help-those-who-need-it The Cary Cares scheme is a true example of the community coming together to help each other.

Your Town Council has welcomed our new Clerk Lisa Davis from SSDC. She's already working hard on the finances of the Council and you will see that the precept has been fixed at a minimal annual increase of £8.51 on a band D charge this year. We are grateful to the desk volunteers and to Laura Tilling for keeping the bookings up to date whilst we have a vacancy for an administrator, therefore saving the Council money. As a local Government organisation we were not eligible for any Covid-19 business grants or rebates and not able to furlough staff so we have been juggling our lost income against expenditure.

The Catherine's Close play area will be closed for a short time in February whilst new play equipment is installed. It will be a muddy job but when you see the zip wire and the new swings we hope your children will be thrilled.

We have recently received a number of complaints about dog mess fouling our pavements. The majority of dog owners are responsible and dispose of it safely but it only takes a few to spoil our daily walks and worse still for buggies to be covered in it. Also a reminder that dogs should stay on their leads on the Donald Pither Memorial Field. This is because if any dog mess gets on the football and cricket play

The newsletter for Castle Cary and Ansford 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 14th MAY 2021, 9.00am

Distribution from:

FRIDAY 28th MAY 2021

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.

areas it is a dangerous health hazard apart from being most unpleasant for players. There are numerous disposal bins near the walking area please use them. Do not, however, put dog mess in your garden waste bin. To report occurrences to the dog warden use this link: www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/dog-related-issues/dog-fouling

Despite very little traffic in lockdown, we are still receiving complaints about speeding particularly in Woodcock Street. When we requested volunteers to start a community speed watch team we only had two people come forward. It's an initiative between the Community, Police and Local Authorities. Would we have more volunteers if we were to request a team again? Let us know if you want to join a team. In the meantime do please raise a concern about speeding to the Police on this link: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/rsr

We welcome our new PCSO Megan Day who you will see on the Castle Cary beat with PCSO Tim Russell.

Finally our schools really deserve a big shout out in this latest lockdown. The staff of both schools have continued to

teach the children of essential workers, and there are many more this lockdown than before, and they are providing work for children at home. In this newsletter Headteachers Sarah Martin and Shonogh Pilgrim have given you a flavour of theirs and their staff's work and they also pay tribute to their parents. Many parents are juggling jobs and working from home, at the same time as teaching their children at home. It's a demanding day for them, full of anxiety trying to get the children and young people to work and also being anxious for them to 'keep up'. Together with the news being full of how children are being damaged, parents are understandably worried.

If you know someone who might need some support, the schools will direct you to people who can help. In addition MIND Somerset has a 24/7 helpline 01823 276 892 for adults and young people.

Let's applaud the work the teachers and school staff are doing and we hope very much that schools will be able to welcome all their children and young people back very soon. The Toybox preschool has also managed to keep open providing support to parents and their services have been much appreciated. In the meantime stay safe and warm and we cannot wait to welcome you back to the Market House for events, Saturday coffee mornings and the information desk service.

Judi Morison
Chair Town Council



CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Davis

Email: town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 07780635013

Deputy Clerk: Claire Craner-Buckley

Email: deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 07561611756

The Clerk's Office is currently closed

Marketing and Communications

Assistant: Vacancy

Email:
markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 07752261687

Information Point: Volunteers

Email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk
Currently closed

Councillors:

Margaret Bebbington	Judi Morison (Chair)
Philippa Biddlecombe	Farès Moussa
Stephen Biddlecombe	Pek Peppin
Julian de Bosdari	Sally Snook
Nick Crowley	Penny Steiner
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 and 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: 07969150646

Somerset County Councillor:

Mr Mike Lewis Tel: 01935 851536

Sustainability Update

Sustainability and environmental matters continue to underpin all the work that the Town Council is doing. A number of initiatives are underway that are helping to address climate change and the biodiversity loss crisis.

We are developing a Tree Strategy with a working group of Councillors.

A further successful Solar Streets Q&A session took place via zoom on 28th February, with local homeowners able to have their questions answered about this current scheme. Bruton and Castle Cary Town Councils and One Planet Bruton are working with west country solar installer IDDEA to offer significantly discounted solar panels for households in Bruton, Castle Cary and the surrounding area (up to five miles from either town). Households will benefit from reduced energy bills and if electricity prices increase, the savings will increase over time. As well as saving money, each installation will save around 1.5 tonnes of carbon every year (Information from the Energy Saving Trust). In addition, £50 will be given to a community fund for every domestic solar installation, and a minimum of £100 for a commercial installation, to be used towards green projects in our community. To find out more, including information about upcoming Q&A sessions, see <https://solarstreets.co.uk/brutoncaryplus> or email info@solarstreets.co.uk

The South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Environment Team is supporting all Town and Parish Councils and businesses to improve environmental performance. South Somerset District Council plans to put stickers on all street litter bins to encourage more recycling and thereby reducing waste going to landfill. SSDC is asking 'green' businesses to be part of their new Great Green Business Directory and it is also offering Carbon Reduction Business Grants. Please contact SSDC directly at ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk for more information.

Claire Craner-Buckley
Deputy Town Clerk

Fairfield

By the time you read this we will hopefully be seeing the real signs of spring. Last autumn a number of volunteers helped plant 1000 daffodil bulbs on Fairfield. I have seen signs of these appearing so hopefully we will see a golden yellow glow on the verges surrounding the field in the coming months.

The wildflower meadow was also extended. It may look a bit messy at the moment but we must remember that last year was the first year of the meadow on Fairfield and we saw lots of poppies, cornflowers and other species. Let's hope we have similar results this year.

The overall space continues to be used daily by local people and the new climbing fort is due to be installed in March, ready for the Easter holidays and hopefully, Covid and weather permitting, work will start on the link path across the stream to Station Road in March.

Continue to enjoy this fabulous open space in the middle of our communities and keep an eye out for details of volunteer days, when you can join The Friends of Fairfield to help with some general maintenance.

Penny Steiner

Castle Cary Town Council

Planning

Castle Cary Town Council Planning Committee has discussed several applications in the last few months. A couple of these will be of particular interest to local residents.

Torbay Road Site

In September & November we discussed applications by Persimmon Homes, owners of the Torbay Road site that has outline permission for 165 houses, approved way back in 2016.

Of particular concern to us was the access via Torbay Road. This is only for the construction and access for the first 25 houses. Once these are built, access for

the rest of the site will be via Station Road only. Much discussion as to the suitability of bollards or raised kerbs went on between the Planning Department and Highways and an amended plan has recently been uploaded to the SSDC website with bollards to prevent access beyond the first 25 houses.

Station Road

The developers of the Yarlinton/Abri Woodforde Green site have applied to change the mix and sizes of housing on the site. Although this site is in Ansford, Castle Cary Town Council is consulted as a neighbouring parish. The Council is strongly of the view that Castle Cary must have a mix of housing (including larger homes, single storey and sheltered housing) in order to promote a good social mix and preserve the character of the Town, its infrastructure and the local area. Moreover, our Neighbourhood Plan, which was ratified by a referendum and became part of the statutory development plan for Castle Cary and Ansford on 5th September 2019, states: 'further proposals for housing development within the direction of growth will be paused unless there is clear evidence that the additional housing will help meet a clearly identified local need for affordable or social housing (that need arising from within the NP area and its hinterland) that is not capable of being met elsewhere.' The latest application by Abri is to increase the number of dwellings in Phase 2 of the Woodforde Green site from 25 larger open market houses to 37 smaller dwellings, so this goes against the Neighbourhood Plan and, with one abstention the Planning Committee voted against this application. The observations of the Council are available on the Town website as before. Members of the public are welcome to attend planning meetings; you do not have to speak but, if you would like to, you may address the meeting for up to three minutes supporting or objecting to applications. All meetings are via Zoom during the current pandemic with a link published on the Agenda. Castle Cary Town Council does not make the decisions on Planning applications, this is done by Planning Officers at South Somerset

District Council. Your Planning Committee works hard to gather the views of the residents of Castle Cary and, working with Ansford Parish Council, the views of Ansford residents where appropriate, in composing the observations that are sent to SSDC. All details and Minutes are available on the Planning page of the Town website.

Phosphates

The phosphates issue I mentioned in the previous Newsletter is ongoing and several applications that have the potential to increase pollution of the Somerset Levels, are being delayed. It is a serious matter that has far reaching national effects and District Councillor Henry Hobhouse is working on this issue. We shall keep an eye on developments and shall begin monitoring the outlet of the sewage treatment plant in the Spring. Please do keep any eye on the Planning pages of the Town website for information on the latest applications, how to access the planning pages of SSDC, our monthly meetings (currently Zoom) and other updates.

Sally Snook

Castle Cary Town Council

Welcome to Castle Cary & Ansford

We are aware that new people have moved into the area over the last 12 months and because of Covid and lockdowns many of you may not be aware of our Information Point at The Market House. This is run by a group of volunteers who will be able to give you information about the local area, services, clubs and classes, places to visit and much much more. In fact they will put together a "Welcome Pack" for you.

However, until we are able to open the office again, if you have any queries why not contact them by email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk They will be very willing to answer questions and tell you about our wonderful town and parish.

Ansford Parish Council

With COVID 19 very much occupying our thoughts right now, we hope parishioners are keeping up to date with the latest guidelines, and hopefully this lockdown will come to a close as soon as possible. In the meantime, support from Cary Cares is still available for those who need help with shopping and collection of medicines etc., and our thanks ring out to all volunteers who have played such an important role in our community, over the past year.

Parish Meetings

We continue to hold our monthly meetings via Zoom conferencing, with Agendas posted on our website and noticeboards in the Parish. Please contact the clerk if there any items you would like to bring to our attention. If you would like to attend any meeting please let us know and an invitation will be sent prior to the meeting. Contact details are shown in the box below.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

If you would like to get actively involved with local issues and help with our plans to improve essential facilities for our parishioners, we would welcome your assistance. By joining our small team of councillors, we can set our sights on a greener and more sustainable place in which to live, for the benefit and satisfaction of all our parishioners.

Parish Online Computer Program

Ansford Parish Council have signed up to Parish Online which is a digital mapping service which will enable our parish council, parishioners and local organisations to view information regarding Ansford. This will include details about maps showing footpaths & rights of way, current planning applications, green spaces and other useful resources.

Speed Indicator Devices

Ansford Council are planning to set up a Speed Indicator Device at a number of sites within the parish, to help slow down speeding traffic. As we have to comply with Somerset County Council's strictly controlled regulations on exactly where a "SID" can be sited for a fixed period of time, the equipment will need to be progressively moved on to other sites, so this will require careful co-ordination with the contractor. Once we have gained the necessary approvals, plans for the initial installation can commence thereafter.

Caryford Hall

As the Caryford Hall Committee has recently refined its charity status, they are now preparing Phase 2 of the extension, and also some necessary upgrades to the main hall, and Ansford Councillors have recently agreed to assist with this important project. Once the country has completely recovered from the Covid-19 lockdowns, our parish council will resume monthly meetings at the Hall.

Ansford's Climate Emergency Community Fund Application

Due to COVID 19 and staff secondment to other departments within Somerset County Council, the final decisions have inevitably had to be re-scheduled (delayed), so we will have to wait to see if our bid has been successful.

If you would like us to add information about local events, activities or general information within our parish, please let us know and we can post them onto our website, as always we welcome your feedback on any issues or concerns etc.

With Best Wishes, Ansford Parish Council

ANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Mr C. Edwards - Chair, Mr N. Begg, Mr G Clothier,
Mrs D Pinnions, Mrs B. Williams + 2 Vacancies

Ansford Parish Clerk: Mrs Angela Roberts,
Bay Tree Cottages, 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.uk

Ansford Academy

On Monday 17th February 2020 a group of students and staff returned from our usual ski trip to Italy. This time though the return was the start of a year we could never have imagined. Since then the government have talked daily about their concerns for children because of the learning they have lost due to the pandemic. The media is full of these stories and of ones describing the decline of the mental health of our nation. It's hard to stay positive in the face of this but that is exactly what we've tried to do at Ansford Academy.

We have been affected like everyone by the sadness of a year without hugs, without being able to come together for momentous occasions, where we have said a premature goodbye to friends and family but we have also learned so much about ourselves that would have been lost in the rush and noise of normal life.

Our students, their parents and our staff have worked hard together across the internet to make sure as little formal learning as possible has been lost. As a community we have encouraged each other to find a healthy rhythm that allows us to work while also making the most of the increased freedoms in our day to do things we would normally dream of but not have time to do. We have celebrated each other's achievements while being honest about the days when just getting out of bed is the biggest achievement we

made. In all of it we have tried to make each day count rather than going into a state of treading water while we wait for everything to return to normal.

I could not be prouder of the independent, committed and creative young people who turn up every day online to make the best of the situation; of their parents who support them or of my lovely staff who consistently do all they can to keep our school virtually fully open.

A Parent's View of Lockdown

Life in lockdown take 3, thank goodness for modern technology and the countryside. As a Mum working at Yeovil District Hospital on the front-line Monday to Friday leaving my 2 children (Year 7 and Year 9) at home has been very tough, however I really could not feel any more reassured knowing Ansford Academy are supporting them in many ways. Lockdown take 3 has not been plain sailing, however, The Academy has been a shining light through this Covid Storm.

There is always someone available if we need to talk, both as a student but also as a parent. There are various resources for the students to access, from emails, video calls, interactive lessons and daily newsletters.

The internet for our family has been an absolute saviour – ensuring not only can they complete the school work set, but also so they can 'hangout' with their friends virtually. This keeps them in touch with each other, helping each other through these challenging times. The days can be very long and monotonous, so we have a rule – a daily walk in the countryside. With the evenings drawing out, and the days getting longer and warmer this rule is hopefully going to get easier, more enjoyable and a little warmer.

Lockdown as a student is so incredibly tough, missing friends, education and a daily structure, however Ansford have explored every way possible that the experience is positive. We are so fortunate that we have such a supportive Academy and wider community to ensure the students of our future gain the essential education they need and will exit this storm even stronger and more robust than when they entered.

Somerset Beekeepers Association

We have joined with a few other divisions of Somerset beekeepers to present our beginners course on line, this is not as good as our usual face to face course, but is better than nothing. We now have ten new members from our area. Let's hope we can get together during the summer for apiary meetings when the beginners can have hands on experience with the bees.

My bees were given their Christmas dinner (on Boxing day) this is just to top up their winter stores in case they need it. It's an insurance cover without actually opening the hive and inspecting the colony which would let out the heat. I then checked on this food in January and found that some colonies needed topping up again which proved to me that this insurance policy was worth paying.

Some bees can be seen flying on a warm day, which is nice to see, but what we are looking for are some worker bees bringing in pollen to the hive, which will tell us that the queen is laying and there is larvae to be fed. This means the yearly cycle has started again and we can look forward to hours of pleasure with our bees again.

Bowls Club

The New Year has so far continued in the same way as the last. We are in another lockdown and the future is still somewhat uncertain. I hope that many of you will have had your first vaccination, but we must remain vigilante. The bowls green is maintained continuously in readiness for the new season, whenever that might be. We are planning our usual programme of league and friendly fixtures and keeping positive. Bowls England, our governing body, is assisting bowls clubs to run an open day over the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend. We are very keen to take part and once we have some certainty about the new season, we will publish details of our open day.

Perhaps some of you watched the World Bowls Tour that took place recently at 'Potters' in Norfolk and this may have given you a taste to try the outdoor game. We look forward to welcoming our members old and new as and when we can.

Carol Lowe

01963 359573

carolcliff.lowe@btinternet.com OR

www.castlecarybowlsclub.moonfruit.com

you can also follow us on Facebook,

Castle Cary Bowls Club

Cary Cares

- Provides free food and essentials, if you are in need.
- Collects medicines/shopping for you if you are sheltering, whatever your age.
- Arranges phone calls if you would like someone to chat to.

To receive support, please contact our volunteer coordinators:

- Phone:(01963) 602013
9.30am – 1pm (Mon- Sat)
- Email : carycares1@gmail.com
- Facebook : [Cary Cares@CaryCaresCorona](https://www.facebook.com/CaryCares@CaryCaresCorona)

Since March 2020, our amazing team of volunteers have carried out over 1800 errands, including shopping & prescription deliveries. Following the overwhelmingly positive response to our Christmas appeal, in addition to 45 food boxes, we also distributed over 80 'care parcels' to local residents who were spending Christmas alone.

Importantly, we have now provided over 450 free supplementary food boxes to families in need in our community. If you're currently struggling to make ends meet, you are not alone. We are here to support you through this challenging time. Please, just ring our friendly helpline and we can deliver supplementary food and essentials out to you the same day – no questions asked.

As always a huge thank you to everyone in our community who continues to support us either through volunteering, or through your generous financial donations. We simply could not do this without you.

If you would like to make a financial donation to support the work of Cary Cares you may send a cheque payable to "PCC of Castle Cary and Ansford", to David Baldwin, PCC Treasurer, The Linen House, Bailey Hill, BA7 7ED, with 'Cary Cares' written on the back. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may transfer money directly to "PCC of Castle Cary and Ansford", 60-04-33, 68682514, using the reference 'Cary Cares'.

Ainsley Creedy

Volunteer Coordinator
01963 602013
carycares1@gmail.com

Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

With Coronavirus the gift that keeps on giving, we just don't know what will happen this year to carnivals across Somerset, and in our town. Many clubs rely on Glastonbury Festival for significant fundraising with that event cancelled, its uncertain times indeed. That said, we are planning to hold as exciting an event as we can – that is legal and safe. So the date for your diary is Saturday 16th October! It's clear that any procession will be very different. Ideas are being (excuse the pun) floated about, including a lantern procession, and please let us have your ideas too!

The committee are also busy fundraising. A special mention goes out to Sue & Deb Pexton for continuing with our very popular quizzes. Watch out for posters around the town and on social media. Also a big shout out to Wendy Hunt, our Vice Chair, who raised over £130 by not eating chocolate in January! And remember, if you're a Co-op Member you can raise money for costume making workshops with our local primary school children and professional carnival artists from Notting Hill. Simply show your Co-op card every time you buy anything and then choose the carnival society as your local charitable cause.

Watch out for more virtual fundraising events throughout the spring that will keep the spirit of carnival alive and well in Cary and Ansford!

For latest news, visit our web site: www.ccacs.org.uk, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety or contact Society Chair, Paul Burch on paully.b@hotmail.co.uk

Cary Comedians Carnival Club

The Covid19 Pandemic denied the promotion of annual carnivals last year but during the summer months 6 members meeting outdoors were able start building the next carnival cart.

Just in case you did not know, the club was formed in 1977 when our annual carnival was resurrected for the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Since then this comic feature club has won the Wessex Grant Prix carnivals (9 towns and 1 city) many times. We have also won the Midsomerset & Features cup over 20 times, the County Guy Fawkes carnival circuit Comic cup 3 times and been runners up over 20 times. It remains a top 3 comic feature club and hopefully carnivals will be able to resume in Autumn 2021.

As always, this club has a need for more members particularly for performers. Each club has to have more than 8 performers, 8 road crew and 2 tractor drivers to attend each carnival during the season. We only just meet this criterion so we need more members to join us. There are now only 38 carnival clubs left, whereas 15 years ago there were more than 80 clubs. At a time when social gatherings and activities are prohibited, it will be essential for community traditions to be revived and held for charitable purposes as well as outdoor performance. Carnivals need new floats as well as walking entries and bands and majorettes etc.

Please help us to keep Cary's only remaining carnival club alive and competitive for many years to come.

Gordon Stockman MBE

Caryford Hall

While the hall is closed to hirings, we are pressing on with converting the charity into one which is legally incorporated. In December, our new constitution was approved by the Charity Commission and now we are arranging the transfer of all the assets and liabilities of the charity to the new body. These changes have two important effects. Firstly, trustees will now no longer have the burden of personal liability for the general debts of the organisation. This has, in the past, reasonably discouraged some residents from joining the committee. That worry has now been completely removed.

Secondly, the new charity will have members - anyone who wants to show their support for the hall and what it provides to the town. Subscription will be free and we will launch our recruitment drive in the Spring. We still need help with the work of the committee in a number of ways. Have you ever thought that Caryford could provide an interesting and rewarding role for you? If yes, please contact me.

Although Covid is making it difficult to take forward the Extension Project, we have restarted work on planning the next phase of the construction scheme: designed to provide new meeting room accommodation and refurbished ladies' toilets.

Lastly, many thanks to South Somerset District Council which has provided us with some financial assistance when we are closed and helped to make up for our lost income. Some good news in these difficult times!

Ian Bynoe

ian@caryfordhall.co.uk

01963 350655

South Somerset Community Accessible Transport (CAT Bus)

Hello everyone we hope that you are all keeping safe and well, and that very soon we can all return to our normal activities.

We are pleased to inform you that CAT bus is still running a service for all our valued members, as well as offering to take non-

members to their vaccination appointments. We have, however, had to change how we operate to allow us to keep within the governments Covid-19 guidelines. Drivers are not able to assist people on and off the bus, nor should they help with taking the shopping into passenger's houses.

If you need to book transport to get shopping but cannot manage it yourself, we do allow you to be accompanied by an escort free of charge to help you...but please do check when booking as space on the bus is required.

If you would like to book or require more information please ring:

01963 33864

CATS

Under normal circumstances CATS would be in the final stages of putting on their annual musical production. Show week is usually February half term, so we should now be putting finishing touches to the acting, singing, dancing, costumes, scenery, lighting, sound, front of house and a myriad other aspects of what it takes to put on a show for you!

We have chosen "Calamity Jane" as our show for February 2022. This is a great family show with songs such as The Deadwood Stage, Windy City, The Black Hills of Dakota and that beautiful ballad - Secret Love. It is definitely a feelgood show!

We are a small and very friendly society (just ask our members, you must know someone!) that is always on the lookout for new members. We have had many newcomers to Cary over the past two years, so I can't believe there isn't some new talent out there! If you are interested please email marktromans11@gmail.com - it would be great to hear from you. If you don't feel you are fit for the stage, how about some other aspects of the production - there is set building, costumes, props etc etc - the list is endless.

In closing, I would like to inform you that we have our first coffee morning booked for Saturday July 31st from 10 to 12 at the Market Place.

Mark Tromans

Chairman, Cary Amateur Theatrical Society

Castle Cary Choir

Castle Cary choir members are still "zooming" to rehearsals on Mondays at 7.30pm and enjoyed a "virtual" Christmas concert, with guest stars Tom and Millie Toomey along with readings from choir members, which was joined by our members both old and new and from all parts of the Country.

Membership of the choir has been remarkable with average attendance in the order of 35 per week – it has been really important to keep up the community spirit and it is lovely to see all the smiling faces and of course there's been opportunity for a chat both before and after the rehearsal - vaccinations has featured widely in these discussions!

We hope to get back to meeting and singing together, and of course to performing concerts, as soon as possible but at the moment we will keep "Zooming!"

May we wish everyone a happy 2021 and hopefully a return to something like normality.

If your usual choir has not been able to rehearse during the pandemic and you would like to join us check out

www.castlecarychoir.org or contact our secretary John Roberts 07970 039007

Cemetery Chapel

In the last newsletter we brought news of the "Grave Finder", to be found in a green box, attached to the Cemetery Chapel wall, helping visitors find burial plots. We have had some great feedback.

There was one particular piece of feedback we thought we would share with you. It's from Merv Pullen, and he has said we could use his name. He's Castle Cary born and bred.

"Whilst visiting the cemetery I have spent time since the Grave Finder arrived discovering the whereabouts of family burials going back decades, but also old school friends, neighbours, work colleagues and Castle Cary acquaintances. It has given me much pleasure and brought back so many memories. My wife and I have also introduced our twin granddaughters to the cemetery. During times of Covid restrictions it has become one of their favourite places to run

around safely. They refer to the cemetery as The Garden of Rocks and Stones. So while my wife is kept busy tending our family graves and the grandchildren are running around, I have time to pour through the Grave Finder. It's such an asset to the cemetery for anyone looking for someone's final resting place. And, of course, there is always the compost loo if any of us have a need!"

Do go and take a look, it's free, it's open and it's local. While you are at the cemetery you can also enjoy one of the best views from Castle Cary over the Somerset Levels towards Glastonbury Tor.

Census 2021

Households across Ansford and Castle Cary will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served >>

in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity. Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk

Jill Loader

*Census Engagement Manager, Somerset
jill.loader25@field.census.gov.uk
Office for National Statistics
+44 07452 939451*

Christian Aid

In August last year Lebanon not only had covid-19 to cope with but a massive explosion reduced housing, hospitals, shops and grain stores to rubble. Through its local partner, Basmeh and Zeitoneh, Christian Aid has been helping with the emergency response, supplying food parcels and hygiene kits. Food supplies and hygiene kits have also been needed in Nepal where the pandemic has pushed up food prices beyond many people's reach. There Christian Aid has been working with Bal Sewa Samaj to supply what's needed to the most vulnerable people. In the north west of Syria where the war has destroyed schools and killed teachers, Christian Aid is helping to set up and run education centres which can also work online during the pandemic. There it is not just a matter of teaching but also providing support to traumatised young people. These are just some of the things Christian Aid does. We see devastation and struggles in the news but behind the scenes and when the media coverage has moved on people work to help others rebuild their lives, adjust to climate change, feed their families, and improve their society. Christian Aid works with them in many places. 10th to 16th May is Christian Aid Week. We will still be contending with covid-19

but so will other people across the world, many of them much worse off than us. So we will again be fundraising for Christian Aid. If you can help, please do.

David Osborne

All Saints' Church Development Group (ASDG)

Thank you, Castle Cary and Ansford! Together we have fixed All Saints' roof. We have replaced the slates on the nave and chancel with new battens, gutters and insulation, repaired some high level stonework, refurbished the drainpipes, and patched the roofs on the aisles. Your support has been crucial for getting this done. We have had significant funding from Viridor Credits, Allchurches Trust, Somerset Churches Trust, The Congregational and General Charitable Trust, and the National Churches Trust. But donors always want to know that the local community is also playing its part and you did that generously with your donations and by supporting events. The roof work by West Country Tiling was on budget and on schedule. There are two repairs outstanding. We have discovered significant damage to the vestry roof and that needs to be repaired, and the ornate pinnacles on the tower need to be made secure. We have some grants towards that but still need about £10,000 for each job. If you can help please contact the PCC Treasurer, David Baldwin, on 01963 359000 or baldwindavid67@gmail.com, or go to castlecaryallsaints/support-us where you can give online. While we get those repairs done we are looking ahead. Already we have had a survey carried out so we can work on improving access to the church, and begin the interesting internal repairs and changes. And when the lockdown eases the church will be available for groups to use. If you are interested call me on 01963 351275 or drosborne2@btinternet.com.

David Osborne

Church Services

As we are in another Lockdown and Government directives and church guidelines for the use of church buildings are being revised frequently, it is not possible to say for certain what church services there will be during the next three months. The churches will meet for worship if they can. It is hoped restrictions may lift so Easter services can be held. Please check websites to keep up to date.

Both All Saints' and St Andrew's parish churches are closed for services. St Andrews is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10.00am till 2.00pm and advice on health precautions are posted in each church.

All Saints is closed for building work. After the Lockdown restrictions are lifted it is hoped to have Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and another service mid-month. This is all subject to change, so please check the notice board in The Pitching or the website: castlecaryallsaints.org.uk

Catholic St Luke and St Teresa's Wincanton is open for services, but there's a change in the times of Masses as follows:

Monday and Tuesdays: Mass at 9.00 am.
Wednesday and Thursdays: No Mass.
Fridays: Mass at 11.30 am
Saturdays: Morning Mass at 10.00 am, followed by Exposition and Confessions.
Saturday Evening. Mass at 5.30 pm.
Sunday Morning. Mass at 10.30 am. The Sunday evening Mass at 6.30 pm, has been withdrawn until further notice.
If there are any further changes to Mass times, details will be on the parish web site www.stlukeswincanton.org.uk

The **Methodist Church** is continuing with its weekly Zoom service each Sunday morning. Details on www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist Readings, prayers and a Reflection from the Minister. Regular updates of events and future worship are available via the online notice sheet castlecarymethodist@gmail.com Minister 01963 351598

After Lockdown it is hoped to resume the fortnightly afternoon service in the church. Because of limited numbers bookings must be made on 07595 655292 (up to 24 hours in advance).

Quaker meetings are held 10.30am every Sunday on Zoom hosted by the Local Wincanton Meeting. All are welcome and anyone wishing to join should please either e-mail mclachlan3@mac.com or richardportera@gmail.com OR phone Andy Hall on 01963 350452.

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

Catholic Church
hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk
01963 34408

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
Monday and Tuesday at 9.00 am, on Friday at 11.30 am, and on Saturday at 10.00 am

Quaker Meeting

At Friends' Meeting House, 30/32 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF Sunday 10.30am

There are usually special arrangements at festivals.

From the Anglican Church

First of all, we have some very good news! The Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Isted has been appointed as our new Priest-in-Charge and will be joining us in April. Her licensing is scheduled for the 22nd, and we hope against hope that we will be able to welcome her properly with a big service, but we can't yet plan for this as it depends on what the Covid restrictions are at the time. At the moment, all licensing services are taking place on Zoom, so we shall have to wait and see. Elisabeth is currently Assistant Curate at St. Michael and All Angels, Yeovil.

We are disappointed to be in lockdown again, with our church services once more suspended. We continue to send out weekly services and notices by email and publish the services on our website.

We joined with Churches Together in a Zoom service for the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 24th and I think it is fair to say that all who joined enjoyed it. Many thanks to all who took part and especially to the Methodist church tech whizzes who hosted it and made it happen. St. Andrew's church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.00am – 2.00pm. All Saints' is currently closed because of the roofing work going on, but we hope to be open for private prayer before long. Please visit our website castlecaryallsaints.org.uk for updates on our news.

Katya Duncan

standrews.allsaints@gmail.com
07483 866400

Castle Cary Methodist Church

We hope you enjoyed our virtual Christingle service, the United Carol service and our town Advent Trail. In February we hosted a virtual visit from the President of the Methodist Conference – all via zoom of course. We are continuing to enjoy worship and fellowship via Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:30am and are looking forward to changes in restrictions that will allow us to meet in person. Do keep an eye on our Facebook page where you can

also sign up to our weekly notices email which includes links to recordings of our worship which are available on YouTube.

For more information:

Email: castlecarymethodist@gmail.com

Phone: Rev Craig Manley 01963 351598

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist

Web: www.somersetmendipmethodists.com/castle-cary-methodist-church

Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford

We welcome the opportunity to link with everyone in our very caring community, through the messages in this Newsletter. We'll begin with a big thank you, to Vale Signs, who gave our Christmas Market House Banner, and enabled us to donate £25.00 to The Children's Society.

It is still difficult to plan ahead, but hopefully future meetings and services will be more accessible. Our thanks to Steve Baker for enabling us to share, on-line, a service to start the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It isn't possible this year to meet for The Women's World Day of Prayer which this year is prepared by, The Women of The South Pacific, "BUILD on a STRONG FOUNDATION". We will have booklets available, and I am certain the radio will share services with us. At the beginning of Lent, we usually share a combined service, this isn't possible and no Smarties this year either! Our chosen charity will be Mary's Meals, a charity that originated in Scotland, which sets up school feeding programmes for schoolchildren in some of the world's poorest countries.

It will be possible to donate on-line, or ask a friend to help with your gift.

We will prepare for A Good Friday Service and try to take the Crosses to The Hill, but guidance must be taken from The Government's Recommendations at this time. We are all appreciative of the volunteers who support Cary Cares, and congratulate them on the production of "The Cooking Pot".

Val Chainey

For Churches Together

CHURCHES IN CASTLE CARY AND ANSFORD

Tel No.

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 & Administrator: 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 Visits 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

Worship coordinator: Judith Cole

350570

Sunday school and holiday club: Anna Baker

351659

Website: www.carymethodists.org

Quaker Meeting at 30/32 High St, Wincanton

Local Contact:

350980

Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford

Chair: Sue Kellagher

351992

Secretary: Judith Cole

350570

Cinema in Caryford

We had hoped to restart in the Spring, but this now seems unlikely, so we hope for the Autumn, probably with others taking over.

Tessa and Jeannie

01963 350132

tjgayford@gmail.com

Coffee Mornings and Market House Events

How special to all of us are our weekly coffee mornings and how sad that it is almost a year since we had such a gathering.

We are raring to go again and will of course let everyone know when we plan to re-open the Market House. If you have a booking for March or April please do let us know if you plan to go ahead with your event and we can discuss this with you.

Contact: - tourism@castle-cary.co.uk

EatCary

It's the dead of winter but we have lots going on. Mending compost bins, renewing woodchip paths, making up potting compost and feeding the soil, deciding what to plant where. Broad beans and onions are going in to their outside plots and in the polytunnel we have a few little seedlings braving the cold ready to spurt into growth in warmer weather. We're starting less robust seeds on our windowledges at home. We're still picking spinach beet and lettuce, with oriental saladings almost ready to crop – we've had something fresh to eat all winter but we hope to increase our production as we learn how. This year we're hoping to focus on trying for very early potatoes, growing more carrots, better succession planting, producing some REALLY BIG pumpkins on our new Hugelumps and somehow keeping the pigeons, which seem to be almost too fat to fly, off our crops.

Because of the covid-19 pandemic we try to ensure that only one person or "bubble" is on site at one time, but we miss our vital tea-break discussions – we're not allotments, we are a shared growing space so we work as a

team. To overcome our lack of meetings we are now – yes, you've guessed it – zooming. This means we can not only create a shared work plan but, as many of our members are new, learn to recognise each other! We'd welcome new members – do get in touch.

Laura Tilling

@EatCary

01963 351461

tillinglaura@gmail.com

Eat Castle Cary Food Festival

Our food and drink festival returns on Saturday 1st May after a covid-imposed absence of a year.

It will feature over 70 fantastic local producers including farmers' market favourites like ales, cheese, pies and bread; alongside brand new flavours and a brilliant range of street food.

The stalls will be open between 10 and 4pm, but Castle Cary businesses will be open (covid regulations permitting) throughout the day.

The stalls will be well spaced out and the organisers will be following all latest guidelines and best practice to ensure a welcoming market that supports the safe re-opening of the town.

In order to ensure pedestrian safety several roads in the town centre will be closed to all traffic from 7am to 7pm including: High Street, Fore Street, Bailey Hill, Florida Street and Woodcock Street.

The diversion will be same as the ones the Council uses for Big Christmas.

The organisers are urging anyone who can to walk, cycle or ride to the festival.

The organisers are continuing their campaign to be single-use plastic free and encourage people to bring their own bags. If you have any queries or questions about eat:Castle Cary please contact:

Bev and Sarah

at hello@eatfestivals.org



Community Larder

What's a Community Larder?

Castle Cary Town Council is working with Cary Cares, the Coop and food shops in Castle Cary to use their near 'sell by date' fresh food, canned food and any left over fruit and vegetables that are just past their best to distribute to anyone who doesn't want to see it wasted. We will also be happy to receive gluts from the garden and donations from our community.

We hope to open the larder three times a week in the mornings and afternoons and on Saturday mornings in March as the restrictions begin to reduce.

It will be in the newly named
Millbrook Hub
situated in Millbrook Car Park

If you would like to help to volunteer by doing a short shift with another volunteer then please let us know.

Suzi McKenzie is coordinating volunteers and can be contact on carycares1@gmail.com

Castle Cary Fire Station

Across Devon and Somerset, all wholetime (manned) and retained (on-call) duty fire stations are operating according to COVID-19 risk assessments and are doing everything possible to prevent contact with and transmission of the virus. In Castle Cary, where we would normally train together each week, firefighters continue to split into smaller groups to conduct training on our drill evenings to minimise the impact if there were to be a COVID-19 outbreak. Our crews are, again, helping out SWAST with driving ambulances which has been a great opportunity for our operational staff to support the fantastic work of the NHS during the pandemic.

On a more personal level and by way of good news; three from Castle Cary Fire Station have become wholetime firefighters in recent months and now do this work

alongside their retained roles. Last autumn, Joshua Duke-Williams beat thousands of applicants to join London Fire Brigade as a wholetime firefighter, while John Wenglorz and Anna Kirkin successfully completed the wholetime firefighter application process for DSFRS and now work at Yeovil and Exeter Middlemoor stations respectively.

Castle Cary's former Station Manager, Andy Cole, has been awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM) in recognition of his leadership as an Area Manager in Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service during the pandemic and we congratulate Andy on this tremendous achievement.

If you have any questions for the Station, please get in touch via Facebook, email akirkin@dsfire.gov.uk or drop a note into the Station and one of us will reply soonest. Best wishes and stay safe!

Footpaths and Rights of Way

I am taking over the role as the Footpath and Rights of Way contact for Castle Cary. Just signed up last week so not a lot to say but just wanted to let the town know the post exists. It is apparent more people than ever are walking during the current lockdown and indeed have been for the whole of last year using the myriad of footpaths in and around the town. I have some resources from the county council in support of this role which may help to answer questions. I would also like to highlight a scheme run by the county council and that is to 'ADOPT A PATH'. If you have a favourite path that you walk regularly this might be for you. If you are interested please get in touch and I will email you the details.

Once I have got to grips with my role I will make information available through town social media. If you have any queries, suggestions or observations please get in touch - do not promise an answer but will try my best. Please email the Deputy Clerk - deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk - who will forward them to me.

Simon Bebbington

Newly recruited Footpath Person.

Castle Cary Gardening Association

Castle Cary Gardening Association
Wishing everyone happy spring gardening. The snowdrops are out and about even though we can't be. The garden club is still unable to meet for all the well-rehearsed reasons and so we are about to embark on a new adventure – virtual meetings via Zoom. Last year's speakers list remains for this year and we are hoping to be able to get many of those speakers to deliver their talk directly into our own homes. Not all speakers offer this so we will keep members posted as we know what is possible.

Our next March 4th 'meeting' is to be a quiz which will be sent out via email on Monday March 1st. The answers will be via both email and Zoom on Thursday March 4th for 7.30pm. April 1st is awaiting confirmation.

Thursday May 6th will be Marion Dale's talk, 'Designing with Plants' via Zoom for 7.30pm. Those who were members last year have their membership carried over into this one so there is no need to do anything extra. We do welcome new members of course. Sadly for the moment it will have to be remotely. See our website for all our details.
<http://CCGA.btck.co.uk>

Greener Cary

Greener Cary has not disappeared. It's just in a state of flux. We were in a process of change and then covid struck and forced further changes on us all. But there are still plenty of us in Castle Cary and Ansford who are determined to make life greener. And even if we can't do things together we can still do them on our own.

Like reducing our carbon footprint. We know it's essential for life on the planet that we do that, and we can each do our bit. If we want to know what our own carbon emissions actually are there are lots of websites, such as carbonindependent.org, that will help us do the calculations. Knowing what aspects of our life are the big emitters can help us work out how to reduce our impact. Travelling less or differently will probably make a big difference. So too will buying our

electricity from a company like Good Energy or Ecotricity which only buys energy from renewable sources.

There may be a limit to how much we can change what we do, but we can probably help others. Carbon offset schemes do that. The one that Good Energy offers its gas customers helps other people have more efficient heating systems.

Other schemes plant trees which absorb carbon as they grow. Carbonfootprint.com operates one such scheme. But the Town Council is currently drawing up a tree planting strategy and there are no doubt other local possibilities.

David Osborne

Cary History Society

For obvious reasons, the Cary History Society has been unable recently to offer a programme of lectures, concerts, or visits. However, during lockdown we are producing a series of short videos on local topics of historic interest. Our first is The Castles of Castle Cary by historian Chris Culpin. This is a shortened version of the talk Chris gave in Caryford Hall in 2019 which was so well attended that he had to give a repeat performance.

Where was our castle?

What did it look like?

Why has it gone?

This 25-minute video provides a quick introduction to this intriguing subject.

If this and other topics relating to local history interest you – why not ask to join the 222 people who are already on our mailing list? Membership is free and we only charge a small fee for the events you attend.

Just contact caryhistsoc@gmail.com and ask to be added to the mailing list. We will send a link to the video when it is ready.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/caryhistorysociety/

Visit our embryo website. It is still under development. Here is the address:

<https://caryhistory.com>

Castle Cary Community Library

In common with all but the four main Somerset libraries, Castle Cary's Community Library remains closed during the current lockdown. We are looking forward to reopening as soon as we are able to. Please note that, during lockdown, fines on books that become overdue will be waived until we are able to reopen.

In the meantime, there are plenty of online materials such as e-books and digital newspapers and magazines that can still be accessed via the Libraries West website, as well as a range of activities for all ages – please visit:

www.librarieswest.org.uk and see what is on offer. You can also search the extensive catalogue of books on this website and decide which ones you would like to read once our own library reopens. We are also pleased to announce that Castle Cary Library has a lot of new books, both fiction and non-fiction, for all ages. For reviews and articles concerning children's books we recommend the website:

www.booksforkeeps.co.uk.

We a successful 'book bag' project before Christmas, with over 200 children's books being loaned out to 50 families just in time for lockdown. These books can be returned once we reopen and more borrowed. News on this will be available through Castle Cary Primary School.

A book sale is planned for Saturday 5th June at the Shambles, restrictions permitting.

We look forward to seeing you in our lovely local library soon.

www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk

Castle Cary Macmillan Fundraising Committee

Virtual Sponsored Walk 2021

We are already well into 2021 and Spring is definitely on its way. We hope that everyone is staying safe and taking good care.

We are planning some fundraising for this year to help support those people living with cancer and needing help from the brilliant Macmillan team. Later in the year

we hope to do face to face cake stalls and coffee mornings but at this stage our main fundraiser will be a year long virtual 'Sponsored Walk'. We are lucky enough to have the Macmillan Way right on our doorstep. Locally it goes from Alfred's Tower, through Bruton, Cary, the Cadburys and past Corton Denham and on to Abbotsbury. The fundraising plan is for supporters to walk parts of the Footpath – close to home and socially distanced – and then to ask family and friends to sponsor them and donate to Macmillan.

Please take photos of yourself and all the stunning views and email them to us - castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com . We can then post them on Facebook and other social media to celebrate everyone's support. Over the year we can put together a gallery of your favourite walks through the seasons and raise money in the process.

Please pay donations directly to our new Enthuse fundraising page through the following link:

<https://macmillan-org.enthuse.com/cf/walk-the-macmillan-way-in-2021>.

Also, if you would like to help with more activity in 2021 or discuss a fundraising event of your own please e-mail us on castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com or phone Janet Loe on 01963 351112.

Newt News

I hope you have been able to enjoy a walk in the gardens during lockdown and pick up a few treats from the Farm Shop. There is plenty to look forward to this month, from the first spring produce to our annual Wassail on Friday 5 March - you can join from home by watching it live on our Facebook page at 6pm. We are also continuing our live video workshops and tours, please check the What's On page of our website for details.

I would like to update you on Lodge Hill, a beautiful and popular walking route that we wish to sustain. The farm is much busier now than it has been in the past. We are mostly keeping heritage British White cattle, with cows and bulls grazing for at least seven months of the year. A suckler herd bred >>

for beef, these beautiful animals are not as docile as dairy cows and usually have a calf at foot, making them very protective; while the bullocks are like mischievous teenagers, weighing in at upwards of 550kg.

With the increased activity from moving livestock and vehicles, we wish to avoid any potential injury to walkers, their dogs, and livestock - we have had several sheep attacks in recent months. We have created a new 5m wide fenced footpath along the main route across the hill. Having listened to requests from local walkers, we have made this a double fence, for owners to let dogs off the lead without any worry about them chasing livestock, disturbing ground nesting birds or other wildlife that we are trying to encourage back onto the hill.

We have ordered new footpath signs and maps that should help everyone to understand exactly where they are able to walk; we would appreciate your support in keeping to marked footpaths. I look forward to seeing some of you myself while enjoying the walk to Castle Cary on a sunny weekend.

Ed Workman

Castle Cary Primary School

Returning to school in September was an absolute joy as we were able to welcome back our whole school family after a challenging end to the previous academic year. The autumn term proved to be much more settled than the media would have people believe and our children settled back into their learning adventure brilliantly. We managed to keep the whole school open for the entire term and things felt quite "normal" for us all.

Unfortunately, January brought us a different story, opening for just one day to be then suddenly closed to all but our critical worker and vulnerable children; we were devastated! Our amazing staff team had worked hard during the autumn term to put in place provision for children isolating and for remote learning should we have to close our bubbles and this had to be quickly put into action along with

provision for between 30% - 40% of the children still attending school, distribution of laptops and provision of food parcels. Our school has quickly settled into this new pattern but we are very aware of the challenges this presents to parents, many of whom are juggling supporting remote learning and working themselves. Having said that, the learning that is happening both in school and at home has been INCREDIBLE and we are proud of what our families are achieving given these very difficult circumstances. We very much look forward to welcoming all our children back; but for now we must continue to follow the guidance and keep our community safe.

Cary Ramblers Group

We remain suspended along with other groups and clubs across our nation during lock down 3. Local walks beckon us alone or in pairs to keep our minds intact and in good physical shape for better times to come.

Looking ahead, once we all have been vaccinated, current restrictions may begin to lift allowing us to resume our group sometime this year hopefully. Meanwhile some of our members continue to walk locally and enjoy the emergence of Spring 2021 with longer days, snowdrops, catkins, daffodils and birdsong to raise our spirits. However, the obligatory mud and over saturated ground can make walking quite difficult – a perfect workout!

Irrespective of the weather and political rulings we never fail to appreciate wonderful and spectacular views across our area. How lucky we are to live in such a beautiful county to explore; long may it continue and remain unspoiled.

So why not shake off the Winter blues and get your rucksack on complete with thermos flask and a good pair of sturdy waterproof boots? The benefits are priceless!

Please observe national Covid-19 restrictions introduced from 5 January 2021 for walking with family and friends: You can walk locally outdoors once a day as part of your daily exercise – by yourself, with members of

your household or support bubble, or with one other person. See link: Coronavirus advice - Ramblers

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

Royal British Legion

The committee has already reported on the success of last year's Poppy Appeal. For those who missed it, the town very generously raised just over £4,000. This is despite the unusual circumstances, lockdowns, social distancing etc. Well done and thank you Castle Cary and Ansford! We extend an appeal to serving and retired members of the armed forces to encourage you to join the British Legion and support all the good works it undertakes. The town currently has very few members and this limits our activities. If we had more, we could be more active and of course get together from time to time. If you wish to join please go to this link that will guide you through the process - www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership If anyone is aware of veterans in the town who might need some support please get in touch with Simon Bebbington on 07587180639. He will be pleased to answer any questions you might have regarding the Royal British Legion or pass your query up the line!

Cary Runners

Spring is coming – it's time to throw off those winter blues and get active! Cary Runners is an informal group of runners whose aim is to support and help each other with our running. As soon as the lockdown ends we will resume meeting every Monday at 18h30; until the clocks change at the end of March outside the George Hotel and then from April to October at Orchard Farm, Cockhill. We will continue to follow all Covid

guidelines to ensure that everyone is safe, while still supporting and encouraging each other to get as much exercise as is allowed. Perhaps of even greater importance during the pandemic, getting together for a bit of exercise helps us all get through these rather dark and dismal days. Speed or level of fitness does not matter, as long as you can manage about 5 km, no matter how slowly.

If you would like to join us, check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/ or call Dave Boyer (01963 350418 / 07903 276315) or Dan Patrick at the George Hotel (07966 224261 / 01963 350761) for more information.

Somerset Sight

Somerset Sight is a local charity which has been supporting sight impaired people across Somerset for over a hundred years and in 2019 won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. One of our services is the Volunteer Visiting Service whereby volunteers are matched locally with a sight impaired person for regular visits for company and support, and also helps alleviate their loneliness and isolation.

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks such as reading, correspondence, or making appointments, going out for a drive or just a cup of tea and a chat. Many volunteers get great satisfaction and enjoyment from their voluntary work, many friendships are formed and the people they support very much look forward to their visits. At the current time as face to face visits are not permissible, the service continues with regular phone calls until such time as a visit is allowed again.

For anyone who is sight impaired and would like to know more about our services or if anyone would like to volunteer for the Visiting Service, please contact us on 01823 333818 for further information. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Somerset Wildlife Trust

COVID-19 restrictions permitting, Somerset Wildlife Trust will be holding our usual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday 15th May in the Market Place, Castle Cary from 9am-12pm, in conjunction with a coffee morning for Christian Aid.

Lots of home grown plants and vegetables for sale and a raffle to raise funds for the work of the Trust. Please come and support us, and if you would like to donate spare plants please contact Dave Boyer on 01963 350418 or email boyer@orchard-farm.co.uk

The Arts Society Mid Somerset

The Society founded in 1991, is a member society of the The Arts Society (originally the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies - NADFAS), formed in 1968 by the late Patricia Fay OBE to stimulate interest and to increase knowledge of a wide field of fine arts subjects. Lectures are held in Caryford Hall, Ansford, Castle Cary normally on the third Tuesday of the month, except for August and September when there are no lectures.

There is extensive free parking at this attractive modern hall which has a 'hearing loop'.

The ten Tuesday morning lectures, given by professional speakers, are our core activity for the year. Details of forthcoming lectures are available on our website. There are also visits throughout the year to exhibitions, museums, art galleries, country houses and gardens. The Society is a very friendly group of people who enjoy sharing the same interests. The affairs of the Society are managed by a committee of elected members. The AGM is held in April.

If you'd like to join us or want to get in touch for any reason, please email us at enquiries.mid-somerset@theartssociety-wessex.org

N.B. We are unable to meet at Caryford Hall under present Covid-19 restrictions and all our lectures are being provided by Zoom.

Peter Robertson
Honorary Chairman

The Moat Garden

Make it a destination with seats to rest on or a midway breather if on your way to Lodge Hill and you will be rewarded with a colourful selection of spring flowers.

Reuben has been helping since autumn as part of his DofE commitment, improving the footpath and planting new bulbs.

There is always a patch to work on and we really need more friends to join us in the upkeep.

Pruning have kept us warm as we begin rejuvenating the top boundary hedge against the hill, space allows working 'with others' at a distance in all parts of the garden, so you can have company and it would be good to add to our berry and other wildlife plants on this hedge if anyone wishes to donate.

The school hopes to return to their vegetable beds this season and a volunteer for that area would be great.

Beds they can't use at present are still being shared by local families, with great productivity. One is changing hands so.....

Our plant sale has begun early with gooseberry bushes, a red variety, available now and a few perennials that have been growing in the beds over winter, ready for spring planting. Further plants will be at our garden gates, as last year, probably April/May.

Contact us:-

Ida West: 01963 350899 / 07919803610

Anne Jelliffe: annejelliffe@gmail.com

Tools for Self-Reliance

Tools for Self-Reliance is a national charity which supports self-help projects in African countries. The Castle Cary supporters group normally meets in the D & T workshop at Ansford Academy on Tuesday evenings, where we sort, clean and repair all manner of useful items. However at the time of writing we are again restricted to refurbishing tools and equipment from home.

The Covid lockdowns have also put a stop to our popular tool sales at The Market House. However, if you are in need of tools, Melissa

on 07815 031778 can safely arrange to provide items from our wide range at our store in South Cary. Items there include DIY and workshop tools, garden equipment, saws and axes, and much more.

We are always in need of donations of hand sewing machines and carpentry, metalworking, blacksmithing and mechanical repair tools, which we refurbish and send to Africa. We also welcome miscellaneous items, garden tools etc. for redistribution or sale. So if you're having a clear-out please set aside your unwanted items and let us decide how they can best be put to good use. Ring Amon on 01749 813239 to discuss safe collection. Covid permitting, we hope to resume our Market House sales later on in 2021, so let's hope we can see you then.

Tuesday Market

We very much hope that the presence of Cary's weekly Tuesday Market has given some folk a positive glimpse of normality and a small reminder of how vibrant our town can be and will be again!

The Town Council have worked hard with me to identify risks and put in place formal guidelines to keep the outdoor area safe. Sanitising and the wearing of face coverings is monitored and many thanks to you and the traders for adhering to this. The cones (purchased by the Council for Carnival, Market and other uses) have been invaluable for creating individual "avenues" to each stall and protecting our well loved fish monger from traffic!

The last few weeks have been bitterly cold and I couldn't sign off without thanking the stallholders and those of you who have braved the elements, for your tenacity!

A quick reminder too, that the rentals from the TUESDAY MARKET, despite the "low" season and current difficulties, continue to make a good net profit, which in turn is used for Town/Community expenditure that benefit us all.

Stay safe

Angela Piggott

Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

The above Association would like to take this opportunity to wish all its members and readers of this newsletter a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

A feeling of 'deja vu' comes to mind as I compose this article. We have not been able to hold any of our usual events including the 'Fish & Chips Quiz Night' and our annual dinner.

The resurgence of the COVID virus has made it impossible to consider any planned activities, indeed our proposed trip to Remalard during the Easter holidays is in jeopardy. Hopefully, with the very efficient roll-out of the vaccine we can consider arranging events towards the end of the summer. Due to the lack of social events it was decided that this coming year subscriptions for membership of the Association would be waived.

With everything crossed we hope to be able to return to some form of normality during the coming months and the next newsletter will contain a timetable of events. Stay safe.

We would warmly welcome any new members contact details as follows:-

Mike Baker

Hon. Chairman Tele. 01935 851005

Pauline Hall

Hon. Secretary Tele. 01936 31619

U3A Camelot Area

With many of our members having received their first vaccination, we have started to plan for the future as the weather improves, and the restrictions that have prevented our groups from meeting are eventually lifted.

The coming year will bring challenges for many of us, but it's never too early to start planning. As the saying goes 'to fail to plan, is to plan to fail'. We have therefore set out some (optimistic) dates for our regular annual events. Needless to say, these dates may change if >>

any government restrictions in place at the time prevents us from going ahead.

- Friday 9th April 2021 – Group Leaders Restart Coffee Morning
- Saturday 24th April 2021 - Group Leaders Lunch
- Wednesday 2nd June 2021 - National u3a Day & Camelot Area u3a Open Day
- Wednesday 16th June 2021 - New Members Coffee Morning

Last year, both the National U3A day and our Open Day had to be cancelled. This is a very important day in our calendar which not only acts as a platform to show off the talents of u3a group members, but also provides an opportunity for non-members to see exactly what the u3a movement is all about.

If you would like to extend your circle of friends and discover some of your own undisclosed talents, why not visit our website where you can post a message on our contacts page for more information.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/camelot-area/home>

Robert Reeves

Camelot Area U3A

Telephone: 01963 351269

Walking in Somerset

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Somerset

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



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

Zambia Links

Just under a year ago, with the pandemic just emerging, I was to travel with six teachers from Castle Cary, Bruton and Wincanton Primary Schools to visit their link schools in Mufulira, Zambia. I was also the ambassador for a revitalised link between Ansford Academy and Mufulira Secondary School, and had others with me pursuing various projects, including planning a ladies' rugby tournament, and supporting the provision of medical equipment in Mufulira hospitals. Of course it all had to be cancelled as were all the other linking visits which the

Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT) "umbrellas" - Bath Spa University's visit to Mufulira Teacher Training College, medical electives from Liverpool University, and any return visits from Zambia, were all postponed and now almost certainly abandoned for 2021 too. But we've used texts, Whatsapp, email, and lately zooms to maintain our links. What was impossible for our Zambian colleagues even 5 years ago, and not easy for us, is now commonplace. On 25th February CMCPT has its AGM by zoom and a number of Zambian colleagues hope to join us – from

Zambia - not without technical difficulty – frequent power cuts, out of date equipment and the cost of data bundles add to the challenge. But that we can all join together to discuss global issues is very exciting and may give us a way forward in these difficult times. The post-AGM discussion is on "Black Lives Matter". It will be enlightening to hear perspectives on this from Zambians living in Zambia.

Laura Tilling

*Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust
01963 351461 tillinglaura@gmail.com*

What's on February 2021 to May 2021

The events diary is obviously a little scant as Covid19 has put paid to most events and the future is still unsure. We have collated these events from the articles that you have sent to us but in future if you have a specific event you want us to list please send the details to Claire Craner-Buckley, deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk, in advance of the copy date for the next issue. You can also post your event on the town website. www.castle-cary.co.uk.

Date	Organisation	Event	Venue	Contact
25 th Feb	Zambia Links	AGM	Zoom	tillinglaura@gmail.com
1 st May	Eat Castle Cary Food Festival	Eat Festival	Castle Cary	hello@eatfestivals.org
15 th May	Somerset Wildlife Trust	Plant Sale	Market House	boyer@orchard-farm.co.uk
31 st July	CATS	Coffee Morning	Market House	marktromans11@gmail.com
16 th Oct	Carnival Society	Cary Carnival	Castle Cary	paully.b@hotmail.com

Trade Directory		
Business	Contact Details	Description
ANTIQUES and COLLECTABLES		
Jenny Martin Antiques	Castle Cary Email: martins.cary@talktalk.net Tel: 01963 350733	Gold & silver jewellery purchased also broken items (silver and decorative antiques)
FASHION		
HATS by Emelle	18, Clothier Meadow, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7HA Email: emelle7@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01963 351423 Website: www.getdressy.co.uk	Marion at HATS by Emelle designs and makes hats, fascinators and headpieces, both bespoke and ready-to-wear, for weddings, races, Royal garden parties and award ceremonies.
FINANCIAL, LEGAL and INSURANCE SERVICES		
Max Foote Associates Ltd	2 Bailey Hill, Castle Cary, BA7 7AD Email: info@maxfoote.co.uk Tel: 01963 351052	Accountancy & Tax Advice, Bookkeeping & Payroll
FLORISTS and GARDEN SERVICES		
Osborne Tree Services	Bruton Email: osbornetreeservices@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07896813934	All aspects of tree surgery Fully insured
FOOD		
The Slow Farming Company	Clanville Manor Farm, Castle Cary, BA7 7PJ Email: sally@slowfarming.co.uk Tel: 01963 350313 Website: www.slowfarming.co.uk	Farming here since 1898, our mission is simple: to produce nutrient rich food that nourishes both the people that eat it and the land that helped grow it. Free local beef delivery in affordable packs.
FUNERAL SERVICES		
Harold F Miles Funeral Director	Winton Cottage, South Cadbury, BA22 7ES Tel: 01963 440367	Family-run business, 24 hour service, Pre-paid funeral plans
HEALTH BEAUTY and MEDICAL SERVICES		
Heal and Sole Holistics	Station Road, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7BX Email: healandsole@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01963 350639 Website: www.healandsole.co.uk	Experienced, highly qualified complementary therapists, specialising in Reflexology, Indian Head Massage, Reiki Healing and EFT Tapping. Luxurious tranquil treatment room, safe private off road parking, AOR & CNHC registered

Manor Lodge Health & Beauty Clinic	The Triangle, Castle Cary, BA7 7BA Email: info@manor-beauty.co.uk Tel: 01963 351504	Relaxing, friendly health, beauty and cosmetic surgery clinic with over 30 years experience. Open for all treatments. Health and safety measures for Covid-19 in operation.
Secrets of Castle Cary	13 Fore St, Castle Cary, BA7 7BG Tel: 01963 351746 Tues-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm Sat 9.30am-3.00pm	Lingerie sizes A – H Mastectomy Lingerie Sports Lingerie Swimwear Hosiery
Suttons Stairlifts Ltd	The Works, Board Cross, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5DX Tel: +44 (0)1749 346900 Mobile: +44 (0)7711 774111	Family-run, local business offering new or refurbished stairlifts, either straight or curved, also rentals, services, removals and repairs. Free survey, honest advice, no hard sell and no hidden costs.
Jane Wintle Acupuncture	West Country House, Woodcock Street, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7BL Email:janewintleacupuncture@gmail.com Tel: 07538 719153 Website:janewintleacupuncture.co.uk	Fully degree qualified, insured and council licensed Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture practitioner. Week day and evening appointments available. Please telephone or email for further details.
HEATING, PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL and TELEPHONE		
Steve Adams Chimneys	Carystones, South Street, Wincanton, BA9 9DL Email:steveadamschimneys@hotmail.com Tel: 07932655267	Chimney Sweeping, Wood Burner & Flue Installations. For all your Chimney Sweeping, Bird guards, Wood Burner and Flue installations, contact Steve Adams Chimneys HETAS registered installer
Schimmel and Son Gas Water Heating	Leyton House, Fore Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7BQ Email: schimmelandson@msn.com Tel: 07956 542303	Highly experienced gas engineer and plumber. Gas safe registered. Recommendations on request



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 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 Allotment Association – 01963 350618
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 240837 /
www.ccgga.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
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
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 – 07894039933
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