

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



Artwork by local artist Sue Donohoe



Castle Cary Town Council

The last few weeks have been challenging for Somerset Council and the implications of proposed cuts of £100 million will present many issues for us locally. We publicised an opportunity for residents to have their say through a Somerset Council consultation which closed at the end of January.

The results can be seen on this link:

<https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s24439/Appendix 8 - Summary of findings from budget consultation exercise.pdf>

We held two promotional consultations on Saturdays in January, particularly for people who have no access to the internet, and produced the following report - <https://castle-cary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Off-line-consutation-on-Somerset-Council-budget.pdf> which was fed back to Somerset Council.

The biggest concerns locally are that Dimmer Recycling Centre is being considered for closure and that the No 1 bus run by SW Coaches is up for re-tender, along with negotiations regarding the Somerset Council subsidy. Coupled with the already publicised proposed cuts to non-statutory services, residents and your councils are naturally very concerned and are lobbying accordingly to our elected members, officers and our MP.

Information about the latest developments are on this link: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/council-seeks-to-minimise-impact-while-bridging-100m-budget-gap/>

It is an ever-changing picture and you will have noted that three of the largest councils in Somerset have increased their local tax, known as the precept, sometimes doubling or, in Taunton's case, nearly trebling it. The linked article will tell you that, for example, the athletics track in Yeovil where many of our young people (including one of my children) have trained to National standards will be saved by Yeovil Town Council's commitment to services. It is all complicated, but in our recent budget setting meeting, we voted to extend an interest in some small patches of land at present maintained by Somerset Council and in the cleaning maintenance contract for the toilets in Millbrook Car Park. Our council already pays Somerset Council for the cleaning of the toilets and this contract may mean that if we can pay for the daily opening, closing and cleaning directly ourselves this might mean a saving.

Without too much further knowledge of the implications of cuts, we voted unanimously to ' earmark' £25,000 in case we need to contribute to services. This cost, along with the repayments for the Caryford Hall Loan, the cost of the proposed 20mph limit (shared with Ansford) of £3840 and the cost of a proposed youth worker for the next three years, means that we proposed, and agreed unanimously, a rise of Council Tax for a Band D property of £25.83 per year for 2024/25.

We very much hope that central government will reappraise the situation for all local authorities to save the very traumatic results of a section 114 being imposed.

Some of the pain in cuts is the maintenance of pavements. They are inspected for safety regularly and report individual cases but if you are concerned, please report on this link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/> It is much more effective if members of the public also report issues.

By the time you have read this newsletter, many of our works to replace broken pavements in the High Street and Fore Street will have been completed. Another local issue is litter, rubbish and of course the inevitable dog waste. We are acutely aware that if we are to lose Dimmer, another issue might be fly-tipping. We are actually experiencing this currently in the town cemetery, of all places, where the bins allocated for organic waste have all sorts of plastic, non-compostable materials and even babies' nappies. Obviously this needs to be cleaned up and removed at a cost, not only in money but time; staff, volunteers and Councillors are feeling at our wits end. We have put new notices up, but if they are ignored again, we will reluctantly be removing the bins altogether.

The Town Council voted in the last meeting to take up the offer from Somerset Highways to instigate 20mph limits in all the gateway roads into the town and some other roads where speeding has been an issue. We have to pay for this scheme, and it is going to be installed sometime after the Traffic Regulation Order is put in place for us and the other councils which are participating across the County.

All these local issues are discussed, and actions agreed in public (excepting HR issues and some sensitive contractual issues) in our full Council and sub-committee meetings usually on a Monday evening at 7.00pm.



Everyone is welcome and if you wish to talk you can have three minutes at the start of any meeting. Here is the link to our meetings page - <https://castle-cary.co.uk/council/meetings-agendas-minutes/>

There is also a helpful link to a guide for residents - about the Council <https://castle-cary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Public-participation-leaflet-CCTC-January-2024.pdf>

Our website www.castle-cary.co.uk has a great deal of information on it and has recently been updated with a volunteering link to organisations in our town which need volunteers to continue their excellent work. If you are new to the area or perhaps find yourselves with some spare time, please do enquire with any of the organisations which you might be able to support.

<https://castle-cary.co.uk/residents/volunteering/> Volunteering is a valuable opportunity to use your existing skills and learn new ones, make new friends, and help the organisation to continue the good work.

Some of the recent work undertaken by councillors has been to work with community volunteers to write a Community Resilience plan. This is a plan that will address keeping residents safe in a weather-related emergency or other emergencies such as train crashes, explosions and more. We are fortunate to be advised by a number of local experts living in and around our community. The plans will be published when they are completed.

Lastly, Dave Marsh has loyally served our community for over 30 years with his shop in our ever-changing High Street. We hope he has a long and happy retirement, and it is with some relief that the shop continues - with Jan as a familiar face in a new environment. We wish Jan much happiness in his new venture.

Best wishes,
Judi Morison
Chair Town Council



Castle Cary Town Council

Clerk: Lisa Davis

Email: town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 07780 635013

Deputy Clerk: Katie Armstrong

Email: deputy.town.clerk@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 01963 359631

Marketing and Communications

Administrator: Catrin Loxton

Email:
markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: 01963 351763

**Contact the Clerk's Office on
(01963) 359631**

Information Point: Volunteers

Email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk
Tel: (01963) 351763

Councillors:

Judi Morison (Chair)	
Frances Alden	Dave Gill
Linda Ball	Trevor Oats
Margaret Bebbington	Pek Peppin
Philippa Biddlecombe	Angela Piggott
Robert Brown	Tom Trouton
James Camm	

Council meetings are open to the public and take place in The Shambles on Monday evenings at 7.00pm. 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.

Somerset Councillors:

Mr Henry Hobhouse Tel: 07970 867108
Mr Kevin Messenger Tel: 07969 150646



Ansford Parish Council

It may not be the best notification with which to begin our Spring 2024 edition, but as you may already be aware, Somerset Council's £100 million financial shortfall will have a significant impact on the provision of services, leading to unprecedented reductions in maintaining many public amenities in parishes.

In the meantime, parish councils are urgently trying to assess what services SC will no longer be providing, so that we can then begin to re-allocate budgets where possible. For example, some grass verges would have to be mown by private contractors at market rates (and perhaps much smaller patches that could be strimmed by volunteers?) The clearance of vegetation from footways is another task that could be undertaken, as well as outsourcing the emptying/servicing of the small public litter/waste bins affixed to posts/fences.

Our council has focused on setting a budget for the next tax year, by making appropriate cost savings wherever possible, and we are currently assessing a number of contingency plans, and prioritising jobs that parishioners had highlighted in the Community Plan consultation, but it should be realised that without large scale central resources (i.e. manpower and machinery) that we have all relied on (taken for granted) in the past, we will now have to carefully select only those elements where our limited budgets can at least provide a basic service, and be responsibly managed in the most cost-effective way possible.

Taking into account the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, we have made a number of cost reductions on annual expenditure in order to finance some new initiatives and have deliberately kept a tight rein on setting our proportion of the Council's precept for the next financial year, resulting in a modest increase for our 2024/2025 Council Tax demands.

However, as all parish councils in Somerset have had to submit precepts prior to receiving any relevant budgetary data from the Unitary Authority, may we assure parishioners that when their program for devolved services is finally published on 20th February, it will be closely scrutinised. This situation will no doubt require continuous adjustment for the much of the year ahead, during what is certainly going to be a particularly challenging transition process.

Castle Cary & Ansford Newsletters

As the overall cost of producing four editions of the Newsletter in 2023 was almost £8,000, we looked at alternative ways in which to continue supporting it, utilising sensible economic principles.

At last month's Council Meeting, with input by representatives from local organisations in Castle Cary, Ansford councillors gave notice to disengage from the distribution service, with a proposal for a substantial reduction of printed copies.

Having heard many parishioners' views on their preference to read newsletters on the Council's website (thereby lessening unnecessary print wastage & associated issues), the actual print-run could be substantially reduced to a relatively low number of copies. For homes without an internet connection, newsletters could be obtained from the Market House and the Library, and for housebound residents in Ansford requesting a copy, they could be hand delivered to your home by a volunteer.

This would allow funds to be directed to other crucial services that Somerset Council will no longer be providing. For instance, as the No.1 bus service is under threat of being discontinued, parish councils along this route may have an option to help with subsidising this essential service, thus the significant savings from revising the printing and distribution of newsletters could then be used to provide a really important public amenity, for the benefit of our community.

Station News

The final phase of heavy construction work at Station Lane - to reposition the sewers & electric cables - is now under way, and a temporary diversion has now been provided, so the new car park is once again operational. The final resurfacing of the whole of the track around the southern part of the car park will then complete the work, thereby releasing the final batch of 27 new parking spaces. Thereafter, the Public Right of Way/Bridleway will then reopen, much to the relief of local walkers and riders.

Opposite the station ticket office, the final phases of the development of the Creamery visitor centre is progressing well, and where hard-landscaping of the large garden area is currently taking shape, prior to a soft opening expected to take place around the Easter period.

cont/...



Caryford Community Hall

It is very pleasing to see the new extension steadily reaching its full height, with the roof and external brick plinth almost complete. Construction of the connecting lobby/corridor to the main hall is well advanced and general interior works to stud walls, and first-fixes of electrical components are now gathering pace.

***With best wishes,
Ansford Parish Council***

Ansford Parish Council

Mr P. Clark, Mr C. Edwards, Mrs D. Pinnions,
Mrs B. Williams, Mr R. Leary,
Mrs D. Henderson, Mrs F. Houlton

Ansford Parish Clerk: Mrs Ruby Coombes
Little Benham, Knole, Langport
Somerset TA10 9JF. Tel. 07891 161756
Email: clerk@ansford-pc.gov.uk

Monthly Parish Council Meetings are held at Caryford Hall on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7pm.

Agendas can be seen on the website or on the Parish Notice Boards.

Website: www.ansford-pc.org.uk

The Market House***Good News!***

Our application has been successful! Finally, after a long wait, we have Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission to do work to our Market House.

As you probably know, the Market House is a superb and unique example of Victorian Gothic architecture and is Grade II* listed. The magnificent top floor rooms are – and will be – available for public use.

The only structural change planned will be the addition of a lift which will give access for all to the upper floors. Other works will be reversing later alterations to bring the building back to its original Victorian glory.

Work will be phased. We will be applying for grants and seeking sponsors and benefactors to help pay for these improvements, and we also need people to help with local fund-raising.

Works will be monitored locally by a Market House Group and a small panel of professional advisors.

If any resident is interested in having a tour of the building, there will be a series of these. The first is on Sunday 25th February at 3pm, followed by Sunday 10th March at 3pm, 10 tickets will be available for each tour at Bailey Hill Bookshop – £5 each – but of course larger donations will be welcomed.

There will be progress reports on the Castle Cary Town Council website (www.castle-cary.co.uk) and in future editions of this Newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: LATEST NEWS!

Cary Residents

In response to APC's editorial, CCTC would like to reassure Cary Residents that we intend to maintain production and delivery of our Newsletter (with cost cuts).

This is in-line with your response to the Community Questionnaire.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!***Do you like meeting and helping people?***

The Tourist and Community Information Desk at the Market House is looking for volunteers to join the team.

We offer advice for tourists about Castle Cary and the surrounding area, while also providing information on town matters for local people. If you would like to join the team, you would shadow existing members, before taking on a regular time slot of your own. New residents, as well as established residents, are welcome to apply.

*If you are interested in finding out more, please drop in and see us.
We are at the Market House from 9.30 - 12.30 Monday to Friday
and 9.30 - 12.00 on Saturday.*

Or email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!





Arts Society Mid Somerset Programme March & April 2024

Tuesday 19th March

The fascinating world of colour and how we see it - John Ericson

This lecture is devoted to an exploration of colour. It is built on the premise that our appreciation of colour and how we see it, is at the very core of our common interest in art and the arts. Sometimes colour is referred to as 'the secret influence' as we are often unaware of how it significantly affects the choices we make every day.

Tuesday 16th April

The Fourteenth Street School. Representing New York in the 1920's and 30's - James Renshaw

The Persian Empire exploded into life during the middle of the 6th century BC and was the largest empire in the world for the next two centuries. In around 515, its third Great King, Darius 1, commissioned the building of a new city, Persepolis, with his palace at its centre. What can this palace and its art tell us about the ideology of this extraordinary and influential empire.

Why not try a lecture as a visitor for £6.00 per lecture in March (this will rise to £7.00 from April 2024,) and then consider annual membership? We currently have spaces. Lectures start at 11.00am and are preceded by coffee at 10.30am. We meet at Caryford Community Hall

The Arts Society Mid Somerset
midsomerset@theartssociety.org

Writers' Circle Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm

If you enjoy creative writing and need time and peace in which to write, come and join our small group. We meet weekly at the Market House.

For details email:
Laura Tilling -
tillinglaura@gmail.com

Cary History Society Presents

Educating Cary:

Schools, Pupils and Teachers Since 1740

Illustrated talk by Chris Culpin

Sunday 3rd March at 4pm

Caryford Hall, BA7 7JJ

Tickets £5 from Bailey Hill Bookshop
and on the door if space allows

Castle Cary Museum

In Castle Cary Market House, BA7 7AH

Re-opens: Thursday 28th March.

Opening hours:

Monday – Saturday 10.30am – 2.30pm

Special display to celebrate
the museum's 50th anniversary.

Admission free. Donations welcome.

Volunteer helpers needed – contact
castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk

**THE MUSEUM HAS A NEW INSTAGRAM
ACCOUNT PLEASE FOLLOW US!**

@castle_cary_museum

INFORMATION POINT

NEW LIFE, NEW INTERESTS, NEW FRIENDS!

Just moved to Castle Cary or Ansford?
Pop into the Market House any weekday or
Saturday morning from 9.30 to mid-day to
pick up a new resident's WELCOME PACK
and to chat to the volunteer on duty at the
Information Desk about opportunities to follow
your own particular interests and hobbies.

Contact the Information Desk: **01963 351763**

(leave a message if we are not there)

Or email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk

We will respond as soon as we can!





Millbrook Hub, Community Larder & Food Bank

Thanks to the wonderful contributions from local supermarkets and the generosity of the public, we were well stocked with food and seasonal treats in the run up to Christmas.

We are so grateful to Gillingham Food Bank, Lidl and Morrisons and local shops for their donations. Additional running costs of about £800 per month for electricity, essential stock and Emergency Food Boxes, are funded by Cary Cares so thank you for your donations to our charity.

Between April and December 2023, we recorded more than 2,000 visits and we gave out more than 8,000 kilos of goods. When we have a surplus, our Larder table outside is open to everyone. Come along and help us reduce food waste.

If you live in Castle Cary or Ansford and would like to register at the Food Bank, please call by and speak to one of our volunteers. Registration is simple. We are open on Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9.30 – 10.00am or 3 – 4pm or on Saturdays 9.30 – 11am.

Lastly, a big thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers, who turn out, whatever the weather, to run the Larder!

If you would like to help

Contact: www.carycares.org.uk

or 01963 602013

Leave a message and we will be in touch!



Macmillan Cancer Support

The Castle Cary Macmillan Fundraising team are excited to be holding the annual Big Quiz again in March after having to do it virtually in recent years. It will be on Friday 15th March at Castle Cary Rugby Club. Teams are a maximum of six people, and the cost is £10 per head to include a light supper. There will be a bar and raffle as always. You will need to register and pay in advance (contact details below). The evening starts at 7.00pm, with supper served at 7.30pm and the quiz starts at 8.00pm. We'd love to make this our most successful quiz ever, so we look forward to seeing you there.

We also want to celebrate that we raised an amazing £12,262.20 during 2023. This was through cake stalls, swishing, the Big Coffee Morning, Cary's Christmas Cracker and an outstandingly generous donation!

Thank you to everyone who supported us last year and we look forward to doing it all again in 2024. We have events booked, so if you would like to help, we have a volunteer WhatsApp group. Just email us with your details and we will add you to the group.

Contact: Janet Loe - 01963 351112

castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com

Cary Cares

Your local charity: funded by the community, for the community.

Following the overwhelmingly positive response to our Christmas appeal, we distributed around 100 'gift parcels' to local residents living alone and around 35 bags of festive food and goodies to local families whose children are in receipt of free school meals.

We received so many messages of gratitude, we know they make a real difference. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the local residents who donated festive food, space for packing and wrapping, or financially towards this appeal, we simply could not do this without your support.

In addition, we would also like to thank Cooper and Tanner for generously allowing us to use their office as a dropping off point; The Market Garden for supplying beautifully wrapped plants for each gift box; and Battens Charitable Trust, the pupils of Ansford Academy, Castle Cary Bridge Club, and Hadspen Village Hall Committee for their generous financial support.

As we move into 2024, we continue to give grants to families and community groups needing help. Most recently we have provided funding for a defibrillator to be sited at Caryford Hall. To find out more about what we offer, or to access our services, please visit our website.

The Cary Cares Team

carycares1@gmail.com

www.carycares.org.uk

(Registered Charity 1196363)





Royal British Legion

The committee are very pleased to report that the 2023 Poppy Appeal in Castle Cary and Ansford raised an amazing £7,200. A big thank you to everybody who contributed. The British Legion does an amazing job of supporting our veterans who can have a wide variety of needs.

If anyone wishes to become a collector or get involved with the appeal or the Royal British Legion in general, please contact Simon Bebbington (details below) Or likewise if anyone is aware of veterans in the town who might need some support.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Contact: Simon Bebbington

07587 180639

1simonbebbington@gmail.com



Christian Aid

Christian Aid is working in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel with partners supporting marginalised, dispossessed and traumatised people there, as well as in many other parts of Asia, Africa and South America.

CA always works with trusted local groups, ensuring that help gets to where it is needed and that development programmes suit the situation. You can find out more about what CA does at www.christianaid.org.uk, and can also donate online.

Across the UK, our main fundraising programme is Christian Aid Week, from 12th to 18th May. We will begin with a united service at All Saints' Church on 12th May and end with a Coffee Morning at the Market House on Saturday 18th. During the week we will be delivering information and envelopes to houses throughout the town.

The co-ordination of Christian Aid in Castle Cary and Ansford has now been taken over by Kaff Laws. Her phone number is in the Contact Details inside the back page of the Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has helped during the time I have been Chair of Christian Aid here. I will continue to be involved and I hope you will too.

David Osborne

Anglican Church

Please see the website (castlecaryallsaints.org.uk) for information on our regular Sunday services, as well as our special Lent and Easter services; all are welcome!

If you haven't tried Messy Church yet, do give it a go. It takes place at All Saints', starting at 3:30pm on the fourth Saturday of the month. It is designed primarily, but not exclusively, for young children and includes a fun craft activity, short worship, delicious food, and singing. Everyone is welcome.

We have a concert coming up on Sunday 17th March at 4pm in All Saints', to be given by Trio Paradis, who will be familiar to some of you from their series of afternoon concerts last year. Tickets (£10 in advance, £12.50 on the door) available from Bailey Hill Bookshop; the Market House, and on the door. Concerts in May and June are also being finalised, so please keep an eye on social media and our website for announcements.

We continue to email a weekly newsletter and service; please contact us if you would like to join the mailing list or would like to receive a visit, or further information about weddings, baptisms, or other services.

Rev'd Elisabeth Isted

vicarcaryansford@gmail.com

01963 350394



Churches Together in Castle Cary & Ansford

Thank you for sharing 250 mince pies with us at the 2023 Christmas Cracker event.

In February we remember the season of Lent. We are sharing a service at The Methodist Church, to launch The Lent Appeal. We plan to support Carymoor Environmental Trust, and Rupert Farthing will tell us about the work of the Trust. Adult volunteers assist the staff in delivering educational visits for schools and adults with additional needs, and help care for the natural environment. Final gifts will be given at church services on Easter Sunday.





Castle Cary Methodist Church

We meet to worship at 10:30am on Sundays. We would love to welcome you.

Evening Services are held at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

During Lent we will have a short reflection on Fridays at 7pm on the theme of Loving My Neighbour – reflecting on how much God loves us and how much we should love one another.

On Good Friday (29th March) this will be at 6:30pm. On Easter Sunday (31st March) meet us at the Market House at 6.10am to walk up to the Lodge Hill viewpoint or meet us there for our sunrise service at 6.30am.

Every Wednesday mornings between 10-12 you are welcome to come along to our downstairs schoolroom for Coffee for All.

Toddlers@theMethodist continue meet regularly on Tuesdays 10-12 in term time. Do come along with your pre-school children.

Lunch Club continues to meet on the second Monday of the month – please contact Judith Cole to book (01963 350570) for a low-cost meal and fellowship.

To hire our schoolroom contact: Patricia Fuller: 01963 351635

Minister: Rev Collin Moore - 07895 892740

collin.moore@methodist.org.uk

castlecarymethodist@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist

www.somersetmendiethodists.com/castle-cary-methodist-church

LOST PROPERTY

Lost items are often handed in to the Information Office at the Market House.

Generally, items are kept for up to 6 months and then, where relevant (particularly items of clothing), sent to the charity shop. We currently have several pairs of glasses, some odd keys and a couple of rings, some lost over 6 months ago that we would like to see claimed.

Please pop into the Market House during our opening hours if you have lost anything to see if we might have the item, as we are unable to keep items indefinitely. Thank you.

Castle Cary Tourist & Community Info Desk

Catholic Church

Easter is early this year on March 31st with Ash Wednesday on February 14th (Valentine's Day). Lent is traditionally a time to give up something or take on something extra. Clifton Diocese is encouraging us to refresh and deepen our prayer time. Opportunities for small prayer groups, Zoom recordings and meetings in Bath are all available.

More information can be found at www.cliftondiocese.com - hit the menu and then go to Faith and Formation for recordings of talks called *A Faith Full Journey*. Clifton Diocese in conjunction with Light of Truth is also offering a Lenten Retreat of six online sessions - contact/Light of Truth. This focus on prayer will also be a preparation for the Jubilee Year of the Church in 2025 announced by Pope Francis and will have the title *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Chrism Mass is Wednesday in Holy Week, March 27th, 11am at Clifton Cathedral. The oil of catechumens, the sick and holy chrism are blessed and distributed to the Parishes.

Dates for the Diary:

March 24th - Palm Sunday beginning of Holy Week

March 25th - Feast of the Annunciation



Toybox Pre-school

**A comfortable, fun place
for play and early learning
Ofsted: Good**

Vacancies for 2 – 5 year olds

Half day and all day sessions between 9.15am and 3.45pm. Term time only

Use your 15 or 30 hour government funding entitlement in a variety of ways.

Top up with additional self-paid hours at the same rate.

*From 1st April funding entitlement
for 2 year olds available.*

*In September we hope to extend our hours at
start and end of day*

Enquiries: 01963 359600
toyboxcastlecary@gmail.com





Church Contacts in Castle Cary & Ansford

Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford

The churches of the town collaborate and often hold services together. For the times of all church services, particularly around festivals, please see the separate table. And if you would like to know more, do contact us.

Chair:	Nick Niven-Jenkins	01963 351398
Secretary:	David Osborne	01963 351275
	drosborne2@btinternet.com	

Catholic Church: Ss Luke and Teresa, South Street, Wincanton, BA9 9DH

Castle Cary and Ansford are part of the Roman Catholic Parish of Wincanton. Mass times are on the Parish website; other Parish mass hubs at Bruton and Mere.

Parish Priest:	Father Francis Eyo MSP:	Francis.Eyo@cliftondiocese.com
Parish Office:	hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com	01963 34408
Safeguarding:	Angela Froud: contact Parish Office	
Contact for Castle Cary:	Nick Niven-Jenkins	01963 351398

Church of England: All Saints', Castle Cary, BA7 7EJ and St Andrew's, Ansford, BA7 7LD

Two churches in one parish. Services are held each Sunday: at 8.30am using the Book of Common Prayer, and at 10.00am with modern Common Worship and coffee afterwards. There is Messy Church, especially for families, at All Saints' Church on the last Saturday of each month at 3.30pm.

Website:	www.castlecaryallsaints.org.uk	
E-mail:	standrews.allsaints@gmail.com	
Vicar:	Revd Dr Elisabeth Isted	01963 350394
Administrator:	Katya Duncan	07483 866400
Pastoral Visits Co-ordinator & Reader:	Sue Kellagher	01963 351992
Safeguarding:	David Goodenough	safeguarding.standrews.allsaints@gmail.com

Methodist Church, Upper High Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7AT

Services each Sunday at 10.30am take a variety of forms: All Age Worship, Holy Communion, or traditional Methodist worship, followed by coffee in the School Room. There is Sunday School, a Youth Group, and several home groups. Sunday evening services are held fortnightly.

Website:	www.somersetmendipmethodists.com	
Email:	castlecarymethodist@gmail.com	
Minister:	Revd Collin Moore	01963 351598
Church Secretary:	Hannah Knight	01963 359663
Pastoral and Community Lay worker:	Leanne Hibberd	07949 216497
School Room Bookings:	Patricia Fuller	01963 351635
Sunday school and holiday club:	Anna Baker	01963 351659
Safeguarding:	Christine Davidson	01963 548016

Quaker Meeting at 30/32 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF

Meeting for Worship is held each Sunday at 10.30am followed by coffee.

Local Contact numbers	01963 370908 and 01963 359652
E-mail:	patcoleman888@gmail.com





Churches in Castle Cary and Ansford

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

March to May 2024

	Church of England		Methodist Church	
	All Saints', Castle Cary & St Andrew's, Ansford		Upper High Street, Castle Cary	
Sunday 3rd March	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St. Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints	10.30am	Morning Worship: Steve Derby
Sunday 10 th March	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: All Saints Parish Communion: St. Andrew's	10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Communion: Rev Collin Moore Evening Service
Sunday 17 th March	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St. Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints	10.30am	Morning Service: Rob Haskins
Palm Sunday 24 th March	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: All Saints' Parish Communion: St Andrew's	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship: Rev Collin Moore Evening Service
Maundy Thurs 28 th March	7.30pm	Liturgy of the Last Supper: All Saints'		
Good Friday 29 th March	10.00am	Walk of Witness starting at and returning to the Market House		
	2.00pm	Liturgy of the Last Hour: St Andrew's	7.30pm	Reflective Service
Easter Sunday 31 st March	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints'	6.15am 10.30am	Sunrise Service on Lodge Hill Holy Communion: Rev Robert Channon
Sunday 7 th April	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints'	10.30am	Morning Service: Barry Speddings
Sunday 14 th April	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: All Saints' Parish Communion: St Andrew's	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Service
Sunday 21 st April	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints'	10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Service: Jacqui Cobb Circuit Service at Wells
Sunday 28 th April	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: All Saints' Parish Communion: St Andrew's	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion: Rev Collin Moore Evening Service
Sunday 5 th May	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St. Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints	10.30am	Morning Service: Helen Wade
Sunday 12 th May	8.30am	Holy Communion: St Andrew's		
		10.00am United Service at All Saints' Church to launch Christian Aid Week		
			6.30pm	Evening Service
Pentecost Sun 19 th May	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: St. Andrew's Parish Communion: All Saints'	10.30am	Holy Communion: Rev Collin Moore
Sunday 26 th May	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion: All Saints Parish Communion: St. Andrew's	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship: Rev Michael White Evening Service
Catholic Church of St Luke & St Teresa, South Street, Wincanton, BA9 9DH: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5.30pm Sunday Mass: 10.30am each Sunday Weekday Mass: Mon & Tues 9.00am, Friday 11.30am; First Saturday of Month Mass 10.00am followed by 10.30am Exposition and Reconciliation Confessions: Saturday 10.30 – 11.30am For services at the Catholic Church in Holy Week and Easter , 24 th to 31 st March, please check times on the website or in the weekly newsletter.				
Quaker Meeting: 10.30am each Sunday at Friends' Meeting House, 30/32 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF				
To check on possible changes please see relevant the Church website : details on the Church Contacts page				





Castle Cary Commerce Association

Founded last autumn, the Association's goals are to represent all businesses, the High Street and to actively promote Castle Cary as a destination for independent shops and businesses.

The Association strengthens communications between businesses and the local community and with the Town Council and Local Government.

We are keen to hear from owners of shops, eateries, guest houses, health and beauty therapists and services to welcome to our membership.

David Simon

castlecarycommerce@gmail.com

01963 359102



Brue Valley Rotary

Service Above Self

Brue Valley Rotary held its annual North Cadbury Wassail on 20th January at the Catash Inn, who provided excellent food, cooked on a barbecue. There were the Wyvern Jubilee Morris dancers, a Mummers play and a prize raffle. The Wassail ceremony took place at a neighbouring orchard, with community singing and a Wassail Queen providing the traditional 'toast and a drink for the apple tree'. Before the ceremony, free Mulled cider and apple juice were provided by Brue Valley Rotary.

Over 100 people attended, with over £700 raised from the raffle, Catash Inn and donations, which will be donated to the President's local charity Key4Life.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so successful including all of those who attended.

What else has the club taken part in recently?

- Much needed skittles practice ready for our next game.
- Support for the water project in Kamuchanga Hospital, Zambia
- The presentation of a cheque to Youth Connect South West following a talk by the CEO.

We try to put the fun back into fund raising!
If you think you would enjoy this,
Contact Liz Stokes - 01963 351906.

Gentle Walking to Keep You Mobile

A short walk each day really boosts health and well-being, but it's not much fun walking alone, so join our little team and at least walk once a week! We use surfaced paths/pavements, (no steep hills), and explore the hidden footpaths/snickets/ginnels/alleyways (what you call them depends on where you come from!) in Castle Cary and Ansford - there are lots! We walk for a mile or so, very slowly. There's time to chat about things we see - a weed coming into flower, someone's imaginative house extension, exciting cloud formations. Even if you use a walker or wheelchair, we'll plan routes you'll manage.

Regular walks start again on Monday afternoons, 22 April onwards. We'll meet at 2pm sharp at Catherine's Close Community Room and return at 3pm-ish for a cup of tea. If the weather's really appalling, we'll forget the walk and focus on the tea and chat!

Contact: Laura Tilling - 01963 351461

tillinglaura@gmail.com

Part of County Wide Somerset Health Walks by SASP see www.sasp.co.uk/health-walks.

Interested in leading a walk?

You can also become a volunteer health walk leader
 email: walks@sasp.co.uk



Castle Cary Litterati Castle Cary & Ansford Community Litter Picking Group

Why not come and join us on the first Sunday of each month for an hour to pick up litter from around our lovely town. We meet at 11.00am at the Market House, Fore Street, Castle Cary. I have hoops and pickers available to borrow, even ones suitable for children.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Our upcoming dates: - 11.00am

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Sunday 7th April 2024

Sunday 5th May 2024





Caryford Hall

Contractors are making steady progress building the extension to the hall, which will provide two new meeting rooms, new ladies toilets and additional storage space. Now at the half way point in the contract, construction is just about on schedule for a planned completion during the second half of May.

The Hall Committee is provisionally planning to have a Grand Open Day at the Hall during July, probably on Saturday 20th. Visitors will be able to see what has been added and discover the wide range of activities currently taking place there. They will also see the new opportunities which a larger and more versatile building provides to the town.

Do you run a group which could use the new facilities or want to start one up? We are already taking bookings, so if you are interested, do not delay and get in touch. A leaflet with the next Town Newsletter will give further details of this event.

We continue to run a programme of fundraising events to help us pay for the new equipment and furniture needed for the larger building and towards the cost of Phase 3 of our improvement scheme. See www.caryfordhall.co.uk/latest-news-events

Ian Bynoe

ian@caryfordhall.co.uk
01963 350655



Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

Our aim is to promote friendship with those in Rémalard and to encourage visits; particularly with young people; to develop personal contacts and an understanding of French culture and activities.

We will soon be embarking on our trip to France to celebrate 40 years of twinning and there is still time to join us if you are interested. Rémalard is a lovely rural part of Normandy and we are always made most welcome when we visit.

Join us at our AGM or one of our planned events if you would like to know more. Our AGM is taking place at the Shambles in the Market House on Wednesday 28th February at 19.30 hours.

On Saturday 28th March we are having a social gathering at Caryford Hall. This is an opportunity for those going to France to have a get together and for any perspective new members to come along. This will be followed by a Coffee Morning at the Market House on Saturday 20th April. It would be great to see you at one of these events.

Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to know more about us.

Roy Higgins

Chair Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

Cary Mufulira Community Partnership Trust

Celebrating 30 years of linking with Zambia

Unbelievably, it's now 30 years since David Weatherly and five other teachers from Ansford Community School (including me) began planning our first visit to the Zambian Copperbelt to link with Mufulira High School. Since then hundreds of people of all ages from each community have shared culture, cuisine, knowledge, friendship and much more through real linking visits and, more recently, virtual connections. Many of them say it's changed their lives. It certainly changed mine!

The Cary Mufulira Community Partnership Trust was set up as a registered charity to support our linking. Its AGM is on Thursday 27th February at 7pm by zoom (some of our Zambian colleagues can be with us virtually - an exciting development certainly not possible 30 years ago.) Do contact me if you would like to join in.

Our major celebration will be on July 14th, hopefully at Caryford Hall. We'll be joined (visa applications permitting) by teachers from Mutundu and Mine Primary Schools (linking with Wincanton and Bruton Primary Schools) and, either virtually or really, by Goodson Mbewe who will provide some of his wonderful music and game-songs. Put the date in your diary.

Laura Tilling

tillinglaura@gmail.com



Somerscience Festival 2024

6th May, 10.00 – 17.30

The Somerscience Festival is back in 2024! This time there will be over 90 different activities from nearly 70 organisations, bringing Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths breakthroughs to South Somerset families in a fun and engaging way. And it is FREE -with no need to book!

The main venues will be: Haynes Motor Museum; the Market House; Caryford Hall and Ansford Academy. Maybe you'd like to find out about airline safety mechanisms or how the famous Henry vacuum cleaner is put together. Or what about seeing how we map the oceans or what lives in the deep?

There will be space shows, chemistry magic shows, and psychology workshops, and a full biozone, with activities covering immunology, foot health, stem cell research and how fish help us find out more about disease.

Plus, a whole programme of talks and a key debate chaired by Sarah Dyke MP on whether Somerset can become the green technology hub of the UK.

Our website (<https://somerscience.co.uk>) has all the details and a printed brochure will be available from 1st March at the Market House!

Spread the word! If you'd like to know more, or join us as a volunteer on the day,

Contact: Colleen - 07375 890751



Castle Cary Bridge Club

We are a very friendly club now playing face-to-face bridge at Hadsden Village Hall at 7pm on a Thursday evening at which we run a host system so having a partner is not necessary. Members also join Sherborne Bridge Club on Wednesday evening to play online bridge using the Real Bridge platform which is brilliantly interactive.

To access please go to:

www.bridgewebs.com/castlecary/

then follow the link via the Bridge Website or

Contact Barry Blight - 01963 440351

Cary's Christmas Cracker

What a good call we made on December 7th to ignore the yellow weather warning of 50mph gales and torrential rain!

Setting up was wet and windy, but the evening calm and dry. Our local charities made approximately £2500 from their stalls – Rotary made £900 on burgers and jigsaws! Take heed and book for 2024!! The music offers were well received, and the community carol singing was amazing. Food and drink all consumed, craft stalls busy and Father Christmas shook hands with well over 100 children. Thanks to all who helped in advance, on the day and those who came along.

Good news for 2024 is that we already have the go-ahead on the road closure for 2024, at a cost of £575 for two years (cheaper than 2023!). This means that the event this year is viable providing we have volunteers to help organise and run the event. A number of people have worked on this event for over 10 years and are leaving the working group, so new volunteers and ideas are needed – planning meetings are already scheduled for 2024.

PLEASE JOIN THE WORKING GROUP!

Judi Morison:

judi.morison@castle-cary.co.uk



Cary Repair Cafe

We held a fantastic Repair Café on Saturday 27th January; 37 items submitted for repair, most were fixed, but 11 were taken home by repairers for attention. Sadly several people had to be turned away due to the team running out of time.

We currently meet on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Methodist School Rooms from 10am till 12noon. Great coffee and cakes available and a friendly place to meet and chat.

We're a happy band of volunteers - we are keen to expand our team and are especially in need of help to organise and staff the reception desk and undertake general tasks to allow the venue to run smoothly. Just baking a cake for us (we pay for the ingredients) is such a help! Do come along and see the cafe in action.

Rosemary, Stephen and Tim

Caryrepaircafe@googlemail.com





Castle Cary Tuesday Market

Your Tuesday Market is celebrating its 10th birthday! Ten years ago Castle Cary Town Council commissioned research into starting a market once again, using our Market Charter of 1468. Residents and businesses were consulted, and appropriate stall holders were found and invited to pitch-up on a weekly basis at the Market House.

Many of the original traders are still with us and we have seen some come, go and return! One thing is for sure, they create a friendly, buzzy meeting place every Tuesday and the variety of goods for sale is eclectic! The market is a highlight in Cary's week and is one of the attributes that set us aside from other Somerset towns. Please support it and your High Street. Here's to the next ten years of shopping locally in Castle Cary!

Please keep an eye out on our social media and noticeboards in the town for more information on how we plan to celebrate our 10th Birthday in March!



Camelot Area u3a

Our first monthly speaker meeting of 2024 featured Lottie Dale whose talk 'Falling with Style' provided an in-depth and often amusing overview of her skydiving career of over 1200 jumps including competing at national level.

The next speaker meeting is at Caryford Hall on Friday 23rd February at 2:30 pm when Kay Winch will present '16th century kitchen maid'. The talk is humorous and educational and there is a surprise at the end! Kay has worked in Glastonbury Abbey as a costume guide for almost 15 years. She will explain how she came into this role and developed her character as a 16th century kitchen maid. Come along – non-members simply pay a bargain price of £2 and there's free tea and biscuits!

Our 25 interest groups continue to thrive; there really is something for everyone!

Roger Weldhen

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

**Shop local and support
small businesses at
Castle Cary's Tuesday Market!**

Castle Cary Tuesday Market

**Every week from
8.30am - 1.30pm**

Cheese Fish Homemade Cakes
Bread Jewellery & Baked Goods
Meat Local Cider Fresh Fruit
and much more... & Veg

The Market House, Market Place
Castle Cary, BA7 7AH



Castle Cary Fire Station

Well, what a busy start we're having to 2024: 3 property fires; 2 road traffic collisions; 3 flooding incidents; 4 automatic fire alarms; a severed electric cable during the high winds; a vehicle fire and many others.

As our funding comes from Council Tax, we do our best to ensure the service we provide to the community is second to none. Our availability for January was over 98%, which is a great improvement on last year. Castle Cary has no full-time employees. We're solely crewed by on-call firefighters.

We're all well aware of the effects of climate change and this is now becoming apparent in the incidents we attend, such as flooding. Another incident type that is likely to rise in the coming years is grass/heath fires. We're fortunate to have an off-road vehicle at Castle Cary that's fitted with a Brendon Pump (Fogging unit) that's designed for this purpose and we're now stepping up our training on this equipment in readiness.

For now though, please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any fire safety advice.

Watch Manager John Wenglorz





Castle Cary Primary School

We successfully joined the Academy for Character and Excellence on 1st December 2023, and we are looking forward to exciting developments for the school. Work has already started with staff and children on the development of the curriculum and all our children start new learning experiences after February half term, which I know they are going to enjoy. The curriculum has always been at the heart of all we do in the school, and I am certain that the ACE curriculum will further enhance that with a focus not just on academic excellence, but also on the development of the character of children and their ability to learn how to learn.

The school is going through various stages of on-boarding currently with the Trust and we look forward to a fabulous new website which will be shared with the community very soon. The values of ACE are very closely aligned with the current values of our school; community, collaboration, equity, uncompromising excellence and integrity and we know that these will develop further as we work with the Trust.

More can be found out about ACE on their website: <https://www.acexcellence.co.uk>.

Sarah Martin
Headteacher



Castle Cary Community Library

Our next book sale will be on Saturday 16th March at the Market House in Castle Cary. A great way to stock up on books as well as enjoying a coffee and a home-made cake. We also welcome donations of books beforehand – these can be taken to the library.

Your community library may be small, but it has a lot to offer! Membership is free and you can access a vast array of books from the regional Libraries West service as well as a range of online materials.

The library is run by the charity Friends of Castle Cary Community Library and is staffed entirely by volunteers. If you would like to support the charity and become a friend of the library please drop in and talk to us, we would love to see you!

Opening hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 4.30pm plus Saturday 10am – 12.30pm. We also have a photocopying service.

We look forward to seeing you in our lovely local library soon. If you are not already a member, do pop in to see just how much is available through the library.

Contact: 07579 049109.

www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk



CATBus

Here at CATBus we have hit the ground running this year, with the busiest January on record. Demand for our Ring & Ride service continues to build, and our Social Cars have been so busy through the winter months.

Anyone can join the CATBus, it's £15 a year, then you just pay your fare. We pick you up from your front door, take you to your destination and return you home at a pre-agreed time.

At the end of May we hope to be adding two new buses to our fleet, which will enable us to work with Castle Cary Town Council, providing transport to the weekly market and possible weekend visits to Wincanton Leisure Centre.

If you run a group or club, we can provide a bus and driver (up to 16 seats) for organised trips. Just call the office above and we can give you a very competitive price.

We are a charity, providing Community Transport to our defined area of Bruton, Castle Cary, Wincanton and the outlying towns and villages. We are here to connect you to essential services, if you haven't used us before, give us a try, you won't be disappointed.

Contact: The CATBus team - 01963 33864

 **ringandride**
Transport For All



Cemetery Chapel

The Cemetery Chapel (as well as the cemetery in Castle Cary) is open to all, regardless of their belief. It is no longer a Christian building, it's non-denominational so everyone is welcome.

It is the perfect place to hold a small friendly service to commemorate and celebrate the life of a loved one. Your remembrance can be as formal or informal as you wish, and as unique and special as you want it to be. You can organise and plan it yourself or find a celebrant, priest or friend to help you.

While the chapel was built in 1897, it has been brought up to modern day standards. The inside is intimate and attractive with flexible seating for up to 40 people. There's a small kitchenette, a toilet and car parking. To look inside, the chapel is open at weekends and Bank Holidays 10am – 4pm, or by appointment.

The location is a 15-minute walk from the centre of town at the end of South Street. The location is tranquil and uplifting with panoramic views across the Somerset Levels to Glastonbury Tor. This beautiful location is on your doorstep and an alternative to the usual options.

Contact: Castle Cary Town Council

01963 351763

or Charles Simon (Friends of the Cemetery Chapel) on 01963 350276.



Tools for Self-Reliance

Tools for Self Reliance is a charity which ships tools and equipment to self-help projects in African countries and gives training for their use.

Our tool sales at the Market House resume on 24th February and continue on 27th April and 11th May.

These, and our contributions to the annual Oak Fair at Stock Gaylard in August, help to raise several thousand pounds towards the costs of shipping and training.

The Castle Cary group meets in the D & T workshop at Ansford Academy on Tuesday evenings in term time (from 6 - 8pm), in order to sort, clean and repair a wide variety of items (some volunteers also work on them at home). Feel free to visit us there to see what we do - and decide whether you'd be interested in joining us.

We welcome donations of hand sewing machines and carpentry, metalworking, blacksmithing, bicycle and mechanical repair tools, which we refurbish where necessary. We also accept miscellaneous items, garden tools etc. for redistribution or sale. However, we are not a house / shed clearance service, so please only give us items which you think are definitely worth renovating.

**Contact: Amon on 01749 813239
to discuss collection.**

EatCary

Winter is a difficult time for gardeners with dark evenings and freezing weather so the camaraderie at EatCary helps keep us going. As does the cake! Spring is coming and time to start sowing and planting.

Come up any Saturday at around 2.30pm and meet us. The broad beans and onion sets must go in soon and we must prepare plots for other crops. If the weather is too awful, we'll be in the polytunnel where we have winter saladings to pick and will be sowing seeds in modules to take home to grow on our window sills as it is still too cold in the polytunnel.

We're now harvesting the last sprouts, delicious roasted with a little oil, S&P and herbs. Roasting turns any winter seasonal vegetables into an easy, comforting side dish. Adding parboiled potatoes, sausages or chickpeas for example makes it a complete meal in one dish - simples! We've loads of exciting seeds, and you're welcome to start veggies off for your own back gardens.

We're up the little path on the left in Maggs Lane, right at the start before you reach Ansford Academy's driveway. Just come along or contact Laura for more information.

Contact: tillinglaura@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/EatCary





CARY IN BLOOM

Would you like to be part of a Community Working Group to organise our next entry into the South West in Bloom competition?

If so, please email: Penny Steiner at penny@castle Cary.net to get involved.

Carymoor Environmental Centre

Although winter is generally a quieter time at Carymoor, we have been very busy preparing for the year ahead. Our education team have been visiting primary schools with our Schools Against Waste programme, inspiring the younger generation to care for our planet. School visits continue over the winter with a Day at the Dump being popular at this time of year.

Regular volunteer groups have been working hard, planting trees, coppicing and hedge-laying. If you would like to join our friendly volunteers, please do get in touch with us, we have a variety of jobs including indoor ones helping the education team to prepare for school visits.

Unfortunately, conservation tasks are being severely hampered by a broken tractor which we are desperately trying to replace via a Crowdfunder campaign.

We always have a lovely selection of courses on offer. We run pottery courses, willow weaving, rural skills and events for toddlers and families. Some courses are funded by Somerset Skills and Learning while others are paid for, supporting our charitable aims.

Do look at our website (www.carymoor.org.uk) to find out more about our forthcoming events and opportunities to visit our site.

Carymarsh Nature Reserve

Spring is starting to emerge from the dark winter days. The winter jobs at Carymarsh have been completed - trees pollarded, another section of hedge layed and brambles beaten back under control.

The banks along Carymoor Drove are brightened by primroses, cowslips and if you look carefully, violets. The hedgerows, woodland and reedbeds are full of bird song. Wildflowers around the ponds are starting to emerge, while meadow flowers will follow soon.

This 10-hectare private nature reserve is just two miles from Cary between Cockhill and Dimmer (near Carymoor Environmental Centre). Visitors are welcome to visit the reserve, wander the footpaths that wind through the woodland and along the edge of the wetland, or just sit and enjoy the abundant nature and the peace and quiet.

In order to avoid disturbing the breeding birds and trampling the wildflowers, we ask that people stay on the footpaths. Dogs must never be allowed near the ponds or reedbeds and must always be kept under very close control – in addition to breeding birds, the reserve is home to various mammals like deer and foxes and also to several Exmoor ponies.

**Contact: Dave or Helen Boyer
07903 276315**

Castle Cary Gardening Association

Spring will soon be really sprung and so now is the time to think 'garden'.

March 6th – Somerset's Butterflies and Day Flying Moths, and their food plants; from Les Cloutman. Plant to fight back at the destruction of our nation's biodiversity and help the 40% of UK wildlife that is endangered.

April 3rd – Planning your Garden Borders; from Julie Haylock of Sandhurst Garden Design. Where and what to plant to make your garden look decisive and make it work for you.

May 1st – Fuchsias My Way; by Derek Dexter. If this sounds a bit specialist, he is a really entertaining speaker and comes highly recommended.

May 11th - ANNUAL PLANT SALE. At the Market House until midday. A great morning out where you can buy plants grown locally by our members who know how they cope with local conditions. Many unusual plants at bargain prices. Also - refreshments and a raffle.

We are a club of variously skilled and enthusiastic gardeners. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Caryford Hall; 7pm for 7.30pm, starting with refreshments and then a talk lasting around an hour. **Membership details are on our wonderful website www.castlecarygardening.co.uk**





Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

CARNIVAL 2024 – The all-important dates for your diary are Saturday 12th October for our evening illuminated procession and Saturday 5th October afternoon for our much-loved children's carnival.

COFFEE MORNING – We will be joining the wonderful Vintage Market on Saturday 2nd March at the Market House. Please come and support us, we will be serving up teas and coffees, mouth-watering bacon sarnies and delicious home-made cakes.

BINGO! From Wednesday 6th March we will be kicking off our Bingo season with our Eggstraordinary Easter Bingo. Come and join the Easter Bunny to find your special prizes. Bingos are back on the first Wednesday of every month at the Scout Hut, Castle Cary. Doors open 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all.

FANCY HELPING OUT? We would love to welcome some more new faces to Cary and Ansford's carnival family. One option is to help the friendly and informal committee organise the vital fund-raising events. Another possibility is to get involved closer to carnival, perhaps by marshalling, or collecting.

Tracey Higgins (General Secretary)

07929 266576 www.ccacs.org.uk
carnivalgeek01@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety/



Sing For Fun

It's official.... singing is great for your health and not just for fun! If you need convincing to come and join us, then these are the reasons why....

Enhance your mood, manage your stress, strengthen your lungs, help your memory and concentration, improve your sleep, increase your tolerance to pain and enjoy the social side and meet our community.

We meet in the Market House on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month from 2.15 - 4pm. Serving afternoon tea and homemade cake from 2.30-3pm then singing from 3-4pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - JUST COME ALONG

Contact Philippa - 07889 311445

Cary Comedians Carnival Club

Cary Comedians Carnival Club celebrate the addition of four new members, but still needs more performers. We now have a smaller generator so there is more room on the extended cart providing room for extra performers.

Comic feature carts ideally need 18-20 performers in order to portray a comic theme. With only seven comic feature carts in carnival today (compared with 19 carts 20 years ago) our club is a precious star attraction in our unique illuminated carnivals.

There is no age barrier to membership. How would you like to perform to 500,000 spectators? That is the size of the crowds coming to watch and now many more clubs like ours can be seen on the internet all over the world; any skills can be learnt by members during construction, so don't hesitate, come and join us and have fun.

Our HQ is at The Brookhouse Inn. All help, whether in membership or not, is always appreciated. Created in 1977, now in 2024 the club has many talented members willing to share their skills and create more carnivalites!



Castle Cary Choir

'Singing is good for you'!

Castle Cary choir had an enjoyable and busy Christmas time. Thank you to all who supported us.

We now look forward to learning new music for our next concerts. This year we are doing something a little different for our June Concert - Gilbert & Sullivan *Trial by Jury* at The Methodist Church, Castle Cary. This is a new venture for our choir and we are looking forward to it enthusiastically.

If we can help raise money for a worthy cause, please make contact. We'd love to help by putting on a concert for you.

We rehearse Monday evenings, 7.30pm - 9.30pm in the Methodist Church, Castle Cary.

Contact: Susie Higgins, Secretary
01963 351025

or contact any choir member.





CATS

What a shame that you will be reading this just after our show has finished!! We have been working incredibly hard over the last five months to bring our latest show – *The Wizard of Oz* – to you all. I can only hope that you came to see us and had an enjoyable evening out.

Being part of a society such as CATS is a big commitment, whether appearing on stage or being involved in the different aspects of production that are so vital to putting on a full-blown musical. It is vital that we have good audience numbers, not only financially but also because that is why we do it – for our audiences who share our love of live theatre.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you have an interest in any aspects of theatre – performing, construction, painting etc – the list is endless! We would love to hear from you!

In the meantime, I hope you enjoyed our journey to Oz!

Mark Tromans, Chair, CATS
castlecarycats@gmail.com



Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes

Behind the scenes, our Pre-Season training is underway as the girls start learning new dance routines during these winter months. There are just a few spaces available, so any girls, aged 6-18yrs, who would like to be a majorette, should come along now. All abilities welcome and no experience is necessary. Fitness, friendship, mental well-being, co-ordination, confidence, the benefits are endless.

This season we will be raising funds for some much-needed troupe equipment upgrades. It appears the Cygnets are quite a 'speciality' and what we need is not available at Morrisons – and Aldi won't price-match either! If any local businesses are looking to sponsor us (VAT and tax free) please get in touch.

Our annual Easter coffee morning, with cakes and bacon butties, is on Saturday 30th March at the Market House, see you there. We are also planning to hold a bingo – more details later!

Our events diary is open and already taking bookings. *If you would like the Cygnets Majorettes to perform at your event, or for any more info:*

Email: cccynets@gmail.com or visit:
www.castlecarymajorettes.org.uk



A World War II-era - 'Hidden Story' in Somerset

Shared in a 2-week long exhibition from Monday 18th March to Monday 1st April in the Market House, Castle Cary, BA7 7AH. The GLADE Centre in collaboration with Somerset African Caribbean Network is delighted to present an exhibition curated by Professor Lucy Bland, based on her Award-Winning book *Britain's 'Brown Babies'* – stories of children born to black GIs and white women in the Second World War.

Professor Bland interviewed more than 50 people who were born in Britain to Black GI fathers and white mothers between 1942 and 1945. Dubbed the 'brown babies' by the African American media, it is estimated that almost half of these 2,000 children were placed in children's homes in the UK. It is these shared experiences of growing up mixed race, often with absent parents during wartime, that the exhibition gives a voice to.

The World War II-era social history exhibition tells of the years of World War II and its immediate aftermath, when black American GI's were in Britain, a local interest being the story of their children with the white Somerset women they befriended.

The book won the Social History Society's Book of the Year prize in 2021 and the digital exhibition won the best Digital Engagement prize at the Museums Association's annual Museums Change Lives Awards in November 2021

Contact: Susann@glade.org OR: Lynn 07546 200 332
<https://aplacecalledhome.glade.org/>





Castle Cary Cricket Club

Our season is just about on us, and we are looking forward hopefully to another successful year. As you know, we won our respective divisions and have been promoted to higher leagues. We also picked up the award for the most successful Cricket Club in Somerset 2023.

Our season begins on May 4th when our 1st team play North Perrott away and our 2nds are at home to Long Sutton. Please come and watch and enjoy our bar facilities.

On April 20th we are playing a friendly match against Yeovil CC at 2pm.

Training continues on 4th & 11th April 6pm at Hazlegrove School and April 18th & 25th 6pm at the Cricket club.

Any budding cricketers wishing to join us, please let us know. Either through our Facebook page or www.castlecary.play-cricket.com/home or contact me, details below.

New this year. We are starting a youth section in to coach young people how to play cricket. We hope to start with Saturday morning sessions in April or May. This is very much in the planning so keep a look out in our local media for details of the training and coaching sessions.

Last year we introduced sponsorship of matches by local businesses, which proved very successful.

For further information & sponsorship opportunities

Contact: Tony Wilcox - 07968 002569
tonywilcox51@gmail.com



TOWN EVENTS LISTING

A simple listing of events and activities open to the public in Ansford and Castle Cary

Go to www.castle-cary.co.uk/events/
 Scroll down and click on the red 'HERE'
 Updated at the start of each month.
 Covers the whole year.

Please email: tourism@castle-cary.co.uk to add missing items or make corrections.

It's a new venture in communication and we need your help!

Castle Cary Bowls Club

Why is bowls played only by old people? Well, it isn't! Nationally, bowls is popular with all ages, and younger members are actively encouraged to play. Do we wear a blazer and tie? No way! Times have changed and Bowls England has brought clothing rules bang up-to-date. Colourful team uniforms are now the norm and we will be sporting our new state-of-the-art uniform very soon.

Does it cost a lot of money? Like any sport, there is no upper limit on what you CAN spend, but it costs NOTHING to get started. You can have a go most Tuesday evenings during the playing season. No special clothes or equipment, just flat soled shoes (trainers). We will lend you some bowls. Try it for two or three Tuesdays and only join if it suits you (new members half price).

As well as bowls, we have social events throughout the year, and our licensed bar offers competitive prices. Next season we will be introducing 'Bowls Bash', a short version of the game completed in about an hour. Ideal for a quick game after work.

Phone Charlie on 07977 754109.

Further information can be found on our website or contact the secretary, Dave Lee, at castlecarybowlsclub@outlook.com



Castle Cary Rugby Football Club

We are over half way through the season and are enjoying success over all sections of the club, with both our Seniors & Juniors playing some excellent rugby, and, most importantly, enjoying themselves.

New members are always welcome, with children able to start once they are 4 years old, training on a Sunday morning (sessions start at 9.30am) and our Senior Men (18 years and over) train on a Thursday evening from 6.45pm. Social members are welcome, join us on a Saturday afternoon to watch a game and enjoy a drink. We are also showing all the 6 Nations games at the club.

Keep an eye on our social media posts for all the latest information and what is going on.

Contact: castlecaryrfc1888@gmail.com

for further information from playing to club hire.





FOUNDED IN 2014, OUR HUMBLE
LITTLE CLUB CONTINUES TO
GROW, ATTRACTING A VARIED
MEMBERSHIP FROM; ENDURANCE
CYCLISTS, MID-WEEKERS, TO
SOCIAL WEEKEND RIDERS,
YOUNG & OLD, FEMALE AND MALE
ALL ARE WELCOME.

"Get back into Cycling"

As part of our 10th Anniversary Celebrations, we are organising a "Get back on your Bike" rides in April, May and June, aimed at those cyclists who haven't been out for a while, for what ever reason.

These rides will be a gentle group ride that will be guided by one of the experienced Bruton Cycle club members and will follow a fairly flattish course of approximately 40-45km, (24-27miles).

They will start from **Church Bridge**, Bruton **at 10:00**, and there will be a coffee/cake stop along the way. So please come & join us on the following Sunday dates:

➤ **14th Apr, 12th May, 9th June**

Please contact Peter Tubb by email: ptubb@hotmail.co.uk or through our contact page on our web-site.

[HTTPS://BRUTONCYCLINGCLUB.COM/](https://brutoncyclingclub.com/)



Tai Chi

Tai chi is often described as 'meditation in motion', but it might well be called 'medication in motion'. There is growing evidence that this mind-body practice, which originated in China as a martial art, has value in treating or preventing many health problems. And you can get started even if you aren't in top shape or the best of health.

In this low-impact, slow-motion exercise, you go without pausing through a series of motions named for animal actions — for example, 'white crane spreads its wings' — or martial arts moves, such as 'box both ears.' As you move, you breathe deeply and naturally, focusing your attention, as in some kinds of meditation, on your bodily sensations.

Tai chi differs from other types of exercise in several respects. The movements are usually circular and never forced, the muscles are relaxed rather than tensed, the joints are not fully extended or bent, and connective tissues are not stretched.

Tai chi can be easily adapted for anyone, from the most fit to people confined to wheelchairs or recovering from surgery.

Classes are: - Wednesday 2-3pm, Caryford Hall; Friday 10-11am, Scout Hut; and 11.30-12.30 Caryford Hall.

**Contact: jo.webb@mbzonline.net
01749 342033 to book.**

Cary Runners

Cary Runners is a small group of local runners who enjoy each other's company while jogging along the country roads or through the lanes and fields.

If you want to start running, get back into running or just become a bit fitter, then Cary Runners might be the group for you. We have runners of all abilities – we make sure that everyone fits in. If you are able to run 5km in about 35 minutes, then give us a try.

Many of our runners enter races, usually 10km or half marathons, so if you're training for an event, you might find it easier if you have others to encourage you.

We meet every Monday at 18:30. During spring and summer (after the clocks change at the end of March) we meet at Orchard Farm, Cockhill (near the Cary Comedians carnival float). During the winter we meet outside the George Hotel.

If you would like to join us, you can turn up at 18:30 on a Monday evening.

**Contact Dave Boyer - 07903 276315
or Amelia Ware - 07733 101554**

You can also find out about the group on www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/





CASTLE CARY & ANSFORD LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



- Alcoholics Anonymous** – 0800 917 7650
All Saints' & St Andrew's Churches – 07483 866400
Alzheimer's Society – 01458 251541
Ansford Parish Council – 07891 161756
Ansford Academy – 01963 350895
Arts Society Mid Somerset – midsomerset@theartssociety.org
Bellringing – 01963 350002
Brue Valley Rotary – 01963 351906
Café Scientifique Somerset – 07375 890751
Camelot Rounders – 07969 233760
Care4Cary – 07803 855208
Cary Carers – 01963 359081
Cary Cares – 01963 602013 / carycares1@gmail.com
Cary Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS) – 07715 510359
Cary Comedians Carnival Club – 07983 716016
Cary History Society – caryhistsoc@gmail.com
Cary Runners – 01963 350418
Caryford Community Hall – 01963 548016
Caryford Short Mat Bowls – 01963 359069
Carymoor Environmental Centre – 01963 350143
Castle Cary Allotment Association – 01963 350618
Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society – 07711 266969
Castle Cary Bowls Club – 07977 754109
Castle Cary Bridge Club – 07985 435412
Castle Cary Choir – 01963 351025
Castle Cary Community Library – 07579 049109
Castle Cary Craft Chat and Cake – wistmansoak@icloud.com
Castle Cary Cricket Club – 07527 628956
Castle Cary Senior Football Club – 07759 136945
Castle Cary Gardening Association – 01963 240837 /
www.castlecarygardening.com
Castle Cary Majorettes (Cygnetts) – 01963 350603
Castle Cary Memory Café – 07889 311445
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 – 07866 173511
Castle Cary Town Museum – castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk
Castle Cary Twinning Association – 01963 351025
Christian Aid – 07786 057137
Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford –
01963 351275
Cinema in Caryford – 01963 359000
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 –
www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk
Macmillan Cancer Support – 07714 030813
Martial Arts – 07738 599670
Methodist Church – 01963 351598
Methodist Church lettings – 01963 351635
Mid-Somerset Flower Club – 01963 351811
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 – 07587 180639
Saturday Stitch – 01749 860304 / 07929 097374
Save the Children Shop – 01963 351681
St Margaret's Hospice – 0845 070 8910
Scouts/Cubs/Beavers – 07773 515511
Singing for Fun – 07889 311445
Somerset Beekeepers Association – 07894 039933
Somerset Sight – 01823 333818
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport –
01963 33864
Sustainable Cary – On Facebook @sustainablecary
Table Tennis Club – 07955 346637
Tiddlywinks – 07817 629004
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
Walking for Fun – 01963 351461
Walking in England – john@walkinginengland.co.uk
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.ansford-pc.gov.uk

CASTLE CARY TOWN CRIER

Would you like to receive snippets of information about events and issues in our town?
To sign up - email: carytowncrier@castle-cary.co.uk and ask to be put on the mailing list.



THE MARKET HOUSE

CASTLE CARY

The Market House is available to hire!

For Weddings, Parties, Meetings, Exhibitions and much more...

Local Rates Available!



Please get in touch to discuss your event and arrange a visit to explore our unique venue.

Email markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk

or call 01963 351763

 @markethousecastlecary

 @themarkethousecastlecary