

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



Photo: Robert Reeves





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HIGHER FARM

We are now open for dinner

We cook with what is growing on our natural farm every week, and ingredients from local farmers, foragers and gamekeepers. This week's menu:

Landrace sourdough, butter	4
Celeriac soup	8
House cured trout, garden pickles	9
Leek, rarebit, pickled onion	9
Duck parfait, preserved fig	11
Cheese, quince, oatcake	13
Beets, walnuts & curds	15
Slip sole, curry butter	18
Wooley duck, artichoke, prune	24
Pork chop, burnt apple (for two)	30
Winter leaf salad	5
Hispi	5
50 layer chips	6
Affogato	5
Clotted cream cheesecake	5

Dinner
Thursday - Saturday
6pm - 9pm



Higher-farm.co.uk
07879922943
Higher Farm, BA4 6QF

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Fore Street, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA77BQ

Mirandafrancis1986@gmail.com

**Castle Cary Newsletter
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See your business details included in
the Summer edition delivered to 1,250
households in Castle Cary and also
available online.

Limited Space is Available for the
Summer Edition - email: Catrin.markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk

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Castle Cary Town Council

We would like to thank the voluntary group representatives who came to the celebration and recognition of all the amazing volunteers in our communities. There were 34 organisations represented. The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset was most impressed by the welcome and the displays which groups prepared. Mr Saddiq took a great deal of time to talk to volunteers about their commitment to their organisations, how they are making a difference through their work and how it benefits their own lives positively. We were particularly pleased to have four Scouts from Ansford Academy who were our 'go-fers' and who worked extremely hard throughout the morning. They were a great example, and we thank Ansford Academy for allowing them to have the morning out of school. We were delighted that ITV West arrived, and Ben McGrail produced a wonderful film celebrating the event and highlighting some of our independent shops in our High Street.

You can view the short film on this link - www.itv.com/watch/news/inside-the-overlooked-somerset-town-with-over-a-thousand-years-of-history/1tmtvn

You can also see the photos of the event via this link www.flickr.com/photos/196431024@N05/albums/72177720323728852/

All our groups are on our website and in this newsletter - many are looking for volunteers and new members. See the link for contact details - castle-cary.co.uk/residents/volunteering/

Dog Owners: You will see new signs up on the Donald Pither Memorial Field telling dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and also to pick up after their dogs. We have asked dog owners repeatedly and it is becoming more of a problem on our streets, as well as in our community green spaces. Please be a responsible owner as it is dangerous for children to come into contact with dog faeces as well as being utterly unpleasant for anyone to clean off pushchair wheels or shoes.

Planning: In a separate article you will hear of some of the planning issues we have to deal with almost daily along with our Somerset Councillors. We are keen to ensure that plans in place are adhered to and as far as possible influence the design of houses that are acceptable in our community. However, just to warn you there is planning permission in place for a further 500 houses in Cary and Ansford. Once planning is in place from Somerset Council we can do very little apart from work with developers for the best possible outcomes.

Neighbourhood Watch: The Town Council cannot initiate a Neighbourhood Watch project but will of course support if you wish to start one in your small area. The following website has all the information you need to start a scheme. Please do let us know if you decide to set up a project. *More details:* www.ourwatch.org.uk/member-area

Street crossing etiquette: Please note that the Highway Code states that pedestrians have the right to cross the roads at junctions. This is particularly relevant to the junctions at Woodcock Street from Lower Woodcock Street and further down as the road meets the High Street.

Dates for your diary:

The Annual Town Forum will be on 14th May at Caryford Hall from 6.30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. This is your opportunity to meet your Councillors and to hear about what has happened in the past year and particularly how we have spent your money. Our Somerset Councillors are also invited to give a report.

eat:Castle Cary Sunday 13th April in the town centre. We welcome back this wonderful festival of food. Don't eat before you come!

VE Day: We plan to combine VE day celebrations with Somerset Day on Sunday 11th May from 2.30-5.30pm in The Market House. The event will include cream teas, cakes, local cider and Somerset food. We expect to have appropriate music and children's activities, along with all things Somerset - look out for further publicity coming soon.

And finally: After seven years as chair of the Town Council I am not putting myself forward as Chair in the annual election in May. It's been a roller coaster of work, fun and challenges which I have greatly enjoyed, but seven years feels like a milestone! I am grateful for the support of fellow Councillors; the staff dream team and residents. I shall stay on as a Councillor until the town and Parish Councils election in May 2027.

Judi Morison

Chair Town Council

***See page 6 for the latest news on the new Pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field.**



Castle Cary Town Council

Clerk: Lisa Davis

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

Tel: 07780 635013

Deputy Clerk: Terena Isaacs

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:

Frances Alden

Linda Ball

Margaret Bebbington

Philippa Biddlecombe

Robert Brown

Gavin Crisp

Dave Gill

Andrew Lane

Judi Morison (Chair)

Trevor Oats

Pek Peppin

Angela Piggott

Tom Trouton

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 - 07970 867108

Mr Kevin Messenger - 07969 150646

Castle Cary and Ansford Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter for Castle Cary and Ansford invites reports on events and activities from local groups and organisations.

Please keep below 200 words

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

Summer Newsletter copy deadline:

9.00am on Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Distribution from:

Friday 18th July 2025

Email your copy to:

markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk

Or post to: Newsletter, The Market House, The Market Place, Castle Cary, BA7 7AH

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
EVENTS LISTING button*

Updated at the start of each month.

Covers the whole year.

Please email: eventslisting1@gmail.com to add missing items or make corrections.

Ansford Parish Council

Mr C. Edwards, Mrs D. Henderson,

Mrs F. Houlton Mr R. Leary,

Mrs A. Parker, Mrs D. Pinnions.

Ansford Parish Clerk:

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



CCTC - All Things Planning

We are poised to begin a vital stage in the overall planning for our Town and Parish Councils. The existing Local Plan is due to be replaced in 2028, by a new Local Plan, of which all future Planning decisions should be observant, for the next twenty years.

This will be followed by the Neighbourhood Plan which will be the specific reference document for Ansford and Castle Cary regarding Development and Infrastructure needs.

It is vital that we start to organise ourselves so that we can input what we deem as the priorities, and the path that we would set for ourselves.

We have been at the whim of a shortage of house supply within the wider South Somerset area which has allowed excessive housing development in Ansford and Castle Cary. We cannot be subjected to this type of enforced development.

We need to set up an effective working group to see how best to gather the relevant information and how to present this to the County Council.

Can I ask all those who wish to be involved to contact the Town or Parish councils in the first instance, and I will arrange a public open meeting to air people's thinking on this matter.

If you have already expressed an interest, you will not have to do so again. I hope to be able to give details of the open meeting by the next Newsletter.

Items for consideration could be: - Housing, Transport, Education, Employment, Health, Recreation, Community

***Regards,
T Oats Chair of Planning CCTC***

NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST



Sign up to be notified by email when the latest edition of the Castle Cary & Ansford Newsletter has been published.

***You can do this by scanning the QR code
Or via the link - <http://eepurl.com/i1jpPs>
Or email: ansford_news@outlook.com***

Ansford Parish Council

We have applied for grants from both SW Rail and GWR towards the provision of a new zebra crossing on the A371. We await their decision.

Old parish council papers evidence residents complaining about trying to cross the A371 20 years ago.

Highways have agreed to fund improvement to signage and road markings on the A371 and this work is to be completed in the spring.

Additional locations for our speed indicator device have been agreed with highways and we work closely with all stakeholders to reduce speeding within Ansford.

We continue to support the residents of Elms Lane whose gardens are disappearing with each landslide into the A371. Constant lobbying from APC is getting their voices heard.

We are also investigating the need for a zebra crossing linking the two developments either side of Station Road, something planners should have forced the developers to provide. However, Somerset Council need to sort the sinkhole first!

We are supporting residents of Wayside Farm in various issues with both Stonewater and Somerset Council.

APC are pleased to inform you that after approaching the Newt, they have agreed to take over the cutting back of the footpath that leads to the station and The Creamery (February to October). These savings will go towards vital works identified in our parish.

There appears to be a lot of misinformation being circulated about Ansford Parish Council. Our mission statement is clear. We do not waste money, and our focus is on infrastructure that will make a difference to residents. Savings identified will go towards essential projects e.g. zebra crossings, if Highways permit. We are sure you all will agree, that is good use of your precept.

We were also able to keep our precept increase to 2.06%.

Finally, we are pleased to inform you that copies of this newsletter will be available online, at The Hut (where you can buy fresh produce and support an Ansford business), and at Caryford Hall.

Enjoy the daffodils and the signs of spring.

Ansford Parish Council



New Pavilion Projects

Help us to build the new Pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field



Donate to Castle Cary Cricket Club Pavilion Project

Scan the QR code or visit this link - <https://gofund.me/ff5f6e13>



Donate to Castle Cary Football Club Pavilion Project

Scan the QR code or visit this link - <https://gofund.me/68495e1e>



Since 2015 the Town Council, as the sole trustee of the Donald Pither Memorial Trust, has been planning to replace the existing pavilion which is currently not fit for purpose. The pavilion group includes the football and cricket clubs and other local interested people.

Planning permission was agreed in December, and we recently launched the project at a meeting for local businesses and at a coffee morning for residents. Both events were well attended and there was some very encouraging support from businesses for materials and management along with fundraising initiatives. Residents were able to talk to our architect Charles Gillespie and we were impressed with the commitment for the project. **It really is going to happen.** We have a considerable amount of money, mostly from Section 106 funds which were allocated on the basis that our growing communities need 21st century facilities, particularly for sport and leisure for all residents.

The building will be a modern, practical space for young people - the youth club is currently operating from there, as are several sports groups. It will be a space for inter-generational activities in a glorious setting.

Our next steps are to engage a person to fund raise which is what we did so successfully for the Fairfield developments. There is much to do to support and to this end both the cricket and football clubs have launched 'go fund me' pages and we have included the links opposite.

Judi Morison, Castle Cary Town Council

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 midday 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!

The History of Hadspen Gardens

Cary History Society & Cary in Bloom presents an illustrated talk by Arthur Cole, Head of Programmes at The Newt in Somerset.

Sunday 30 March at 4pm, in Caryford Hall.

Tickets (£5) from Bailey Hill Bookshop & on the door if space allows.

Doors open at 3.30pm – refreshments available.

Contact: caryhistsoc@gmail.com
to join the mailing list.

For information about Cary in Bloom please see the entry elsewhere in this Newsletter.





Mid Somerset Arts Society

The Arts Society Mid Somerset starts its Spring programme of events at Caryford Hall on Wednesday 9th April at 10am with a Day of Discovery hosted by Marc Allum, who is an antiques expert best known from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow. Morning sessions on 'The Anatomy of Collecting' and 'Fakes and Forgeries', are followed by lunch, then 'Bring an Object' to our own version of the Antiques Roadshow. Tickets including lunch are £40 for members, £45 for non-members. To book please contact Jane Rentall on 01749 342496.

On **Tuesday 15 April**, following a brief AGM at 10.30am, Kirsty Hartsiotis will talk to us about 'Arts and Crafts Stained-Glass in England's Churches' focusing on the West Country.

On Tuesday 20th May the Lecture is about 'Art Behind Bars: The Role of the Arts in Breaking the Cycle of Crime, Prison and Re-offending' by Angela Findlay.

The Bonampak Murals created by the Mayan civilisation of Mexico (650-850AD) are the subject of the Lecture on **Tuesday 17th June**.

All Lectures start at 11am. Coffee/tea at £1 is served from 10.15am. Members free; visitors £8.

**Contact: theartsocietymidsomerset.org.uk
07807 009768**



Writers' Circle

Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm

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

**Contact: Laura Tilling -
tillinglaura@gmail.com**

Castle Cary Museum

Help needed!! Are you interested in antiques? Old stuff? Our town's story?

Do you enjoy meeting and greeting members of the public?

If so, would you consider offering a few hours a week to help Cary Museum present its 2025 event 'Found in Cary' which will run from April to the end of October?

To find out more, please come to the Museum on Sunday 23rd March between 2.30 - 4pm, where members of the Committee will be available to chat to you about what is involved.

It would be handy if you could let us know you are coming but otherwise it is fine just to turn up!

Email: castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary:

Friday 28 March: Museum to re-open.

Saturday 12 April: Coffee Morning - Market House

Thursday 24 April, 4.30pm: AGM - Market House Shambles

Saturday 21 June: as part of "Found in Cary" three Cary treasures - normally held by the Museum of Somerset in Taunton - will be making a one-day visit to the Market House Shambles. Plus, there will be a Finds Officer to identify objects found in your garden.

**First Floor, The Market House, Castle Cary
BA7 7AH. (sorry no lift yet)**

Admission free, Donations welcome.

Follow us on [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/CastleCaryMuseum)

CastleCaryMuseum

Instagram - [@castle_cary_museum](https://www.instagram.com/castle_cary_museum)

Save the Dates!

Somerset Day Celebration

Sunday 11th May

2.30pm - 5.30pm

The Market House, Castle Cary
Cream Teas, Local Cider, Children's activities

Devito's Circus is Coming to Town!

From 2nd July, more details to follow





Millbrook Hub, Community Larder & Food Bank

(Registered Charity 1196363)

For the first newsletter of the year, we need to say thank you to so many people. Thank you for contributions for Christmas donated at Cooper and Tanner. The Larder was full of special treats, and we were able to fill bags for families at the Primary School as well as give them toys donated by the public through Lidl's Toy Scheme. As usual, thank you to Morrisons and Lidl, who collect public donations for the Larder, as well as giving us excess stock. We also thank the Gillingham Food Bank and local businesses.

We have the most amazing band of unpaid volunteers who are at the Larder five times a week, whatever the weather, ready to welcome visitors. Many of them have been with us since the Larder opened in June 2021. We celebrate our 4th birthday this year! So, a huge thank you to these kind volunteers. There would be no larder without them.

Sadly, the increasing need for a local food bank is shown in the figures that we record each month. This January was the highest ever - 360 visits and a total of 1,894 kilos of goods, averaging 5 kilos per customer per visit.

Do come and see us at the Millbrook Hub. Everyone is welcome to check the table outside in case there is something they can use to prevent it being thrown away. Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 – 10.00 and 3.00 – 4.00; Saturday 9.30 – 11.00.

Contact: carycares1@gmail.com www.carycares.org.uk 01963 602013.

If you would like help. Leave a message and we will be in touch!



Royal British Legion & Poppy Appeal

The committee has nothing to report apart from reflecting on the success of last year's Poppy Appeal. For those who missed it the town very generously raised just over £7,000 - we thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

This year sees the 80th anniversary of VE Day - Victory in Europe. This takes place on Thursday 8th May. A wreath will be laid at Castle Cary War Memorial to commemorate this day. A short service, with a silence, will start at 1055.

If you are aware of any veterans in the town who might need some support, please get in touch with Simon (details below). He would be pleased to try and answer any other question you might have regarding the Royal British Legion.

And most importantly of all. The current RBL Committee and Poppy Appeal organisers are looking to 'retire' after the 2026 Poppy Appeal. We are looking for at least three willing and able volunteers to take on the task. If you are interested, please contact us:

**Contact: Simon Bebbington, Chair
1simonbebbington@gmail.com**



Cary Cares

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Cary Cares Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, £3,000 was donated, along with enough practical items to give out 37 Christmas bags to families over the festive period. It costs around £1,000 each month to keep the community larder going, so your support meant that we could provide help to people through the winter months when bills are often at their highest.

We were excited to welcome our local MP, Sarah Dyke who visited us at the end of January. She spent a good hour looking around the larder and talking with trustees and volunteers about our work in providing a helping hand for people when they need it most.

Cary Cares is in urgent need of a new treasurer. We are a small charity, and our finances are fairly straightforward. However, we do need a treasurer who can be responsible for our day-to-day payments and donations, and to provide financial reports for our trustees. A background in finance is not essential. If you would like a chat about the role, please contact our Chair, Steve Baker.

Contact: carycares1@gmail.com or leave a message on 01963 602013





Macmillan Fundraising Committee

Our last fundraiser was the cake stall at Castle Cary's Late Night Christmas shopping event. As always, we were well supported and raised nearly £500. Thank you to all our helpers and to everyone who visited the stall.

Our next event is the Macmillan Big Quiz and Chilli Night which is on Friday 28th March at Castle Cary Rugby Club. Teams are a maximum of six people, and the cost is £15 per head which includes a black bean chilli supper. There will be a bar and raffle as always. The evening starts at 7.00pm, supper served at 7.30pm and the quiz starts at 8.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

You will need to register and pay in advance - email details below.

We have an amazing group of volunteer bakers who support us with refreshments so if you would like Macmillan to help with one of your fundraising events, please call Janet Loe on 01963 351112.

Or if you would like to be involved as a volunteer we have a volunteer WhatsApp group. Just email with your details and we will add you to the group.

Contact: castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com

Quiz - Terena Harrison on 07858 903471

Castle Cary & Ansford Christian Aid Group

This year's Christian Aid Week will run from Sunday 11th May - Saturday 17th May 2025. We will start the week with a Churches Together service at the Methodist Church on Sunday 11th May at 10.30am. In this service we will reflect on this year's country of focus, Guatemala, where the effects of climate change are being felt, destroying crops and livelihoods. Despite these conditions the farmers have hope and with the support of charities like Christian Aid they are able to find ways to continue their work.

During the week we are delivering donation envelopes to all households in Castle Cary and Ansford. You can donate through dropping off your envelope at a drop off point or by bringing it to the Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th May at The Market House. There will also be the option to donate online. If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the box for Gift Aid so the charity can make the most of your donation.

**For more information about the charity visit:
www.christianaid.org.uk**



Brue Valley Rotary Club

Successful Wassail raises over £700 for Alzheimer's Society. On Saturday January 11th the Club's annual North Cadbury Wassail at The Catash Inn was a huge success. Despite the winter weather it stayed dry and over 100 people came along.

The Catash Inn provided fantastic barbecue food, and the Wyvern Jubilee Morris dancers put on a brilliant show including their lively Mummers play. The traditional Wassail ceremony took place in a nearby orchard with mulled cider and singing around the apple trees with the Wassail Queen offering toast and drink to ensure a good harvest.

Thanks to a raffle, generous donations and the support of The Catash Inn we raised over £700 for the President's chosen charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

Save the Date - Club Information Evening

Join us for an Information Evening at The George Hotel, Castle Cary on Thursday May 1st from 6-8pm. Come along to learn more about the Club. Everyone is welcome and free light refreshments will be served.

Contact: Nicky Creed 07967 685997

www.bruevalleyrotary.wordpress.com





CHURCH IN CASTLE CARY AND ANSFORD

You will be welcome at any of our churches.

There are three churches in the town, and others nearby. Their websites give basic information. If you would like to find out more about a church, whether it is to get an idea of what the services are like, check times and details, or find out what else the church does, do please phone or e-mail one of the contacts for that church. Or contact the Secretary of Churches Together:

David Osborne 01963 351275 drosborne2@btinternet.com

Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford

The churches of the town collaborate in various ways and often hold services together. Churches Together helps this to happen and enables the members of the different churches get to know each other better.

Chair of Churches Together: Judith Cole 01963 350570

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

Castle Cary and Ansford are part of the Roman Catholic Parish of Wincanton. There are other parish Mass hubs at Bruton and Mere.

Mass times are on the Parish website: www.catholicchurchwincanton.co.uk

Parish Priest: Father Francis Eyo MSP: Francis.Eyo@cliftondiocese.com
 Parish Office: wincanton.sslukeandteresa@cliftondiocese.com 01963 34408
 Safeguarding: Angela Froud: contact Parish Office
 Contact for Castle Cary: Nick Niven-Jenkins 07879491686

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

Two churches in one parish, or one Church with two buildings. 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.

On the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month the 8.30am service is at St Andrew's in Ansford, and the 10.00am service is at All Saints' in Castle Cary: the church with the spire.

On the second and fourth Sundays of each month the 8.30am service is at All Saints', Castle Cary, and the 10.00am service at St Andrew's, Ansford.

There is also Messy Church, especially for families, at All Saints', Castle Cary, on the fourth Saturday of each month at 3.30pm.

All Saints' is also a venue for concerts, exhibitions, and other events.

Please check the website, e-mail or phone us if you want to check times and venues, or find out more about our services, particularly at festivals.

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 generally held on the second and fourth Sundays each month.

The School Room is available for meetings and other events.

Please check the website, e-mail or phone for more information or to check times.

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	castlecarymethodist@gmail.com
Safeguarding:	Christine Davidson	01963 548016

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

A 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



Castle Cary Methodist Church

We meet for worship at 10:30am on Sunday mornings both in our building and on Zoom. All are welcome to join us. Most weeks we have Sunday school. Evening Services are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Bible study groups meet at various times in the week, both in person and on Zoom.

During Holy Week, we will host a reflective service at 7:45 pm on Good Friday and we will worship at the viewpoint on Lodge Hill at 5:30am on Easter Sunday.

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

Lunch Club meets on the second Monday of the month – Book with Judith Cole (350570) for a low-cost meal and fellowship.

Youth Club – for secondary ages – table tennis, games, chat and tuck shop. 2:30-5pm Weds 16th April; Sat 17th May; Sat 21st June.

Holiday Club for primary age children will be held from Wed 30th July – Fri 1st August 2025 from 9-12 each day.

Minister: Rev Collin Moore - 07895 892740

castlecarymethodist@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist

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

To hire our schoolroom contact: Patricia Fuller: 01963 351635





Churches Together in Castle Cary & Ansford

Churches Together, shared, a morning service at All Saints' Church on 2nd March, to launch 2025 Lent Appeal. We learnt ways in which we can help SHELTERBOX, a charity that originated in Cornwall, our money sent to the charity will support, A Tent for Lent, giving homeless, and less fortunate people an opportunity to have homes, food and clothing. All our gifts will be taken to our churches at Easter Services. On Friday 7th March, a service to share The World Day of Prayer, was held at St Andrew's Church, the service prepared by the women of The Pacific Cook Islands. The Lent Course, In Hope, will be led by Revd. David Osborne, at The Methodist Church, and All Saints'. The Walk of Witness is planned for Good Friday, meeting at The Market House at 10:00a.m. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will begin with a shared service at the Methodist Church on Sunday 11th May. The Annual General Meeting is planned for Wednesday 18th June at the Methodist Church at 7.30p.m. Churches Together Steering Group hope that all households are able to access the times of our Church Services and Activities.



Wincanton Choral Society

Wincanton Choral Society continue their 35th Anniversary celebrations with a performance of Bach's magnificent St. John Passion at St. Luke and St. Teresa's church, Wincanton on Sunday 6th April at 7.30 pm. Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/wincanton-choral-society or on the door.

Contact: 01749 860457

Anglican Church

Please see the website (castlecaryallsaints.org.uk) and our Facebook page for information on our regular services, as well as special Easter services and other events. All are welcome!

If you haven't tried Messy Church yet, do give it a go: it will take place at All Saints' church at 3.30pm on Saturdays 26 April, 24 May and 28 June. It is designed primarily, but not exclusively, for young children and includes fun creative craft activity, short worship, delicious food, and singing.

We also have two concerts coming up: Castle Cary Choir will be celebrating its 60th anniversary on Saturday 12 April at 7.30pm at All Saints', together with the Wincanton Silver Band, and on Sunday 8 June at 4pm the Cesarz/Tabor duo (violin and piano) will be back by popular demand after their fabulous concert last year. Tickets will be available from Bailey Hill Bookshop and The Market House Tourist information office.

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

Rev'd Elisabeth Isted

01963 350394

vicarcaryansford@gmail.com



Community

Happy & Healthy

Happy & Healthy is a weight loss support group held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month at Millbrook Surgery from 5.30pm - 6.15pm.

This group offers support and information, and as such, we hope to have guest speakers on at least one session of the month. A few of the talks planned include topics such as 'Avoiding Type 2 diabetes'; 'Emotions and Weight'; 'Weight loss and its positive effects on medications'; 'Exercising for health for all abilities'; 'Focusing on more food instead of less to look after our gut health'.

Contact: Helen 01963 350210

helen.littell@nhs.net





Castle Cary Parish Charity

This charity, which was set up in 1914 'to reduce need, hardship or distress', provides grants to individuals who are experiencing severe financial hardship, and who live in Castle Cary or Ansford. Grants of up to £250 are available to those who can provide clear evidence of financial need. Applicants do NOT have to be church goers. If you would like to apply for a grant, please either contact Revd Elisabeth Isted on 01963 350394 or vicarcaryansford@gmail.com. Application forms are also available from Cary Cares, the Market House Tourist Information Centre, Millbrook Food Hub and Millbrook Medical Centre.



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.



Castle Cary Fire Station

Your local community fire station attended over 200 fire calls in 2024, making it the busiest year we've had since 2008.

We are currently finalising our annual training planner, and this year are aiming to be involved in six large cross-border training exercises alongside Avon Fire & Rescue and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue services. One of which we've already completed in Blandford, with the theme being a mass flooding scenario on the river Stour with multiple casualties both in and out of the water.

We're very much aware of climate change, and acknowledge that incident types are changing, with the increase of flooding during winter and grass fires during the summer. Hence the training event above.

We're also focusing on "back to basics" training in our bread and butter subjects, such as breathing apparatus and road traffic collisions. This is to ensure we keep our skills up, as generally property fires continue to decline, and vehicles are getting safer all the time.

Please let us know if you require anything fire safety related, and we'd be happy to assist.

Watch Manager John Wenglorz



Caryford Hall

Bookings for the Hall, including for new activities, have increased since the extension was opened last year with hirings up nearly 50% on previous years. Our attractive Small Hall has proved particularly popular for new hirings. Check on our website (www.caryfordhall.co.uk) for details of What's On and what is available to hire or to take part in.

We have recently made some improvements inside and outside the building: new curtains hung in part of the Main Hall to improve the setting for performances, films and talks; a new large Floor Cleaner purchased to replace broken equipment; and work has been carried out around the boundary fence to cut back overgrowing trees and bushes. Grants from the Somerset Community Foundation (towards our costs over the winter period) and from the Orrin Trust have helped us pay for these upgrades.

A number of trustees in key roles will be retiring at the next AGM in the summer. Our busy Committee is always keen to recruit new members who can offer relevant skills, ideas and some of their time to the business of managing this important community asset. Contact Ian Bynoe if you are interested or want more information.

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





Castle Cary Cemetery Chapel

Welcomes Everyone

The perfect place to hold a small friendly service to commemorate and celebrate the life of a loved one.



Seats 40 people
Car Parking
15 minutes walk from the centre
of Castle Cary
To view inside, the Chapel is
Open Weekends & Bank Holidays
10am-4pm

Enquiries:
Castle Cary Town Council
01963 359631

Camelot Area u3a

Your local u3a in Cary always warmly welcomes new members. If you fancy joining any of our 24 activity groups, or wish to start one yourself, please get in touch.

You can join online by using our new website www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk or just Google 'Camelot Area u3a'. You will find details of groups ranging from creative art, photography and music to walking and wine appreciation - just some of the activities on offer. We are delighted to announce that our annual membership fee is remaining at £17 for the third year running.

Just one of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to attend a monthly free talk, refreshments included. You can catch *Concorde* on March 28th, *Mud2Fire* on April 25th (pottery), and *Countryside Detective* on May 30th. Throughout the year we have extremely varied topics presented by some fascinating and entertaining speakers.

Please join us on a Friday afternoon at Caryford Hall from 2-4pm. Non-members only £2.

Hope to see you there,

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair
<https://camelot-area.u3asite.uk>



Castle Cary Community Library

On a rainy afternoon in January, children from Castle Cary Community Primary School visited the Library with Deputy Head Amy Brouard. The Friends of the Library had purchased nearly 30 exciting and colourful science books from the takings of their latest book sale, and these were given to the children to take back to school on loan until the end of the summer term, when they will be passed on to another local school for the following year.

The trustees had realised that there was very little provision for science in the library and that this shortcoming needed remedy in the light of the national drive to increase studies in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects at all levels. Teaching staff and a local retired science teacher advised on books suitable for primary school children. We bought their whole list from Bailey Hill Bookshop with the help of a generous discount.

A last minute reminder: don't forget to come and browse the wide range of books on sale at our Book Sale and Coffee Morning at The Market House on Saturday 22nd March, 9.30 to 12noon, in aid of the Friends of Castle Cary Community Library.

Contact: 07579 049109.

www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk





Castle Cary Tuesday Market

Well as of this week, Spring has made what I hope is not just a cameo appearance!!

How much better we all feel, when trotting down to our local market, to know that while buying our cheese and fish etc we do not have to battle the rain gods. But whatever the weather, as always, our lovely traders wait with a smile!

We are constantly looking to add to our team and hopefully we will be welcoming a few new traders soon, to widen the choice that we offer. I am hoping we will have some Organic Veg; I know in the past this has proved popular and a Sicilian pasta stall to compliment Pop's Thai.

Clare with her lovely home-grown perennials will be back end of March/early April so watch this space...

Keep supporting us and we will continue to be there Tuesday mornings, come rain OR shine.

Wendy, Market Manager

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

Castle Cary Tuesday Market

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

Meat & Fish Cheese Homemade Cakes &
Giftwear Fresh Fruit Baked Savouries
 & Veg Bread
 Flowers
 and much more...

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

Castle Cary Memory Café

For some, old age is a golden era of leisure, comfort, less responsibility and a joyous opportunity to spend time with, and watch, the grandchildren grow up. For others, it is too often a lonely and difficult time. Many have lost life-long and beloved partners, many are suffering deteriorating health, loss of hearing, loss of memory, loss of too many friends.

In Castle Cary, we are so lucky to have the MEMORY CAFÉ which meets for two hours in the morning, twice a month and is open to all but especially anyone concerned about worsening memory, people with diagnosed memory conditions and their carers. It is run by Steph, one of three health coaches from Millbrook Surgery, and a band of dedicated volunteers. Its chief objective is to get people together to share experiences and make new friends. We take part in a few gentle exercises to music, some quizzes, and a little light bingo and we are joined once a month by children from the primary school. All accompanied by tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes, but above all, fun! It is a very happy two hours.

Castle Cary Memory Café meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 10.30 – 12 at the Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Cary.

Shirley Lane

**Contact: Steph, Millbrook Surgery
01963 350210
or Philippa on 07889 3114445**



Saturday Stitch Craft Group

Saturday May 24th 10am - 12 noon we will be at The Market House, hosting the town Coffee Morning along with our usual Stash Buster Sale of wool, fabric and haberdashery.

Pop by to enjoy delicious drink and cake, say hello and pick up a bargain.

Stitch by stitch there is no better place to stock up and revel in creative craft.

**Contact: Sally Yeoman, Group Organiser
07929 097374
mail@sallyyeoman.me**





Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

We are currently celebrating 40 years of our official twinning with Rémalard, a small town in rural Normandy. Despite its name, the Association is not limited to residents of Castle Cary and Ansford but is open to anyone interested in cultural exchanges with our French counterparts. We have members from many local towns and villages.

Last May, 30 of us travelled by coach and ferry to visit members of our partner association in France, where we received the usual warm welcome from our hosts. Highlights of our trip were a visit to Monet's beautiful garden in Giverny and a concert in Rémalard church performed jointly by two local choirs and members of Castle Cary choir. Then we enjoyed a lively social evening with a buffet supper and dancing.

This year it is our turn to entertain our French visitors over the weekend of 8th -11th May. If you would like to join us, we welcome new members and would be pleased to hear from you.

**Contact: Membership Secretary -
Dave Stickland - daddytroll@gmail.com
Chair - Susan Keen, keensue5@gmail.com**



Castle Cary Carers Group

Castle Cary Carers Group, supported by Somerset Carers Service is a free, informal gathering for people who regularly offer a helping hand with daily tasks to a friend, family member or loved one. We socialise, share ideas and talk about our experiences. Professional speakers and service providers also visit to offer support and information.

We meet every first Thursday of the month from 10.30am in the Shambles, at The Market House.

Call or email us before attending for the first time in case of schedule changes.

**Contact: Flo on (01963) 202629
Kim.whitehead@btinternet.com**

For One-to-One support contact: Somerset Carers Service Advice Line: 0800 3168600
carers@somersetccc.org.uk
www.somsetcarers.org

Castle Cary Commerce Association

Over the winter months we have been working on a new town leaflet and postcard with illustrated map, this is due to be launched this spring, so look out for it in shops, train station, the Tourist Information Office and online. We are very grateful to Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council for their support. The leaflet will be distributed across the county and hopefully London train stations.

The Association has an Instagram page - @VisitCastleCary and a directory of some of the businesses on the Town Council website. There are some 80 businesses in the town, so if you are involved in one of them, please get in touch to make sure that you are included and involved in our promotion of this vibrant town.

The Association is keen to host and present all sorts of workshops to offer help and essential tools for business owners and staff. We welcome suggestions for one-off workshops from existing and potential new members.

Castle Cary Primary School

Our first year working with The Academy for Character and Excellence has been both exciting and inspiring for the children at the school. We have taken on their curriculum, and this has led to new learning experiences such as: Why do falcons need mud to survive? (Turtle Class), How are rocks and fossils different? (Dolphin Class), How is my body similar to a machine? (Octopus and Swordfish Classes) and How does global trade affect me? (Jellyfish Class). The children are all thoroughly enjoying enquiry-led learning and are always keen to talk about themselves as learners and share their journals – we are so proud of them all, every day.

The school also continues to engage with the local community. We continue to attend Memory Café every month and have now built new relationships with South Cary House and Highfield House, visiting residents monthly for planned activities which is fabulous! We are looking forward to our involvement in Cary in Bloom this year and would urge any green fingered members of the community to contact us should you have any plants that we can use in our new school gardens which will be developed over the coming weeks.

Sarah Martin, Headteacher





Somerscience: 5th May 2025 10.00-17.00

Somerscience is delighted to announce our 3rd festival celebrating all aspects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in Somerset. This year everything will be at Haynes Motor Museum, as so many people said they would like it all under one roof.

Our whole programme is FREE with no tickets required and there is something for all ages. Interact with the Science Fair where our contributors show you how your lives are affected by STEM research and applications, how they go about investigating and innovating, and how you can get involved in a future study or career pathway.

You might want to take part in experiments or interactive demonstrations; take in a show or two; get hands-on in a workshop; explore your health in the Merlin room or sit in on a talk on a subject of interest.

New for this year, we have Quantum Dance from the SW Dance Theatre showing how ballet and breakdance can illustrate quantum mechanics; the Science of Ice-cream showing you what is behind your cornet; the extraordinary Art of Astrophysics and much more! All human (and otherwise) life is here! And there will be plenty of food trucks on site as well as the café, so you can stay all day!

<https://somerscience.co.uk>

Live Well With Pain

Do you live with a long-term persistent pain condition? Does it affect your emotional well-being and get you down? Does it stop you sleeping well? Does it restrict your daily activities and stop you doing the things you want to do?

The Rural Practice Network (a group of 5 local GP surgeries covering Castle Cary, Bruton, Wincanton, Queen Camel & Milborne Port), has developed a non-medical pain management programme called Live Well with Pain – the Ten Footsteps – which is available to people registered with all 5 surgeries.

The programme helps people to learn skills to self-manage their pain and covers understanding pain & the brain, acceptance, pacing, goal setting, getting active, relaxation & mindfulness, sleep, communication, managing moods, medication, nutrition and managing setbacks.

There are monthly in-person and online Live Well with Pain cafés for people to come together to share experiences and discuss ways of managing and living well with pain; in Castle Cary the café meets on the 4th Thursday of the month from 10.00am to 12 noon at the communal lounge at Catherine's Close. (BA7 7HP)

Contact: sue.crisfield1@nhs.net

07749418850.

www.livewellwithpain.co.uk/ten-footsteps-programme/



Toybox Pre-School

Toybox is a committee run Pre-School based in the Swainson Building in Maggs Lane and takes children from aged two until they start school. The hours are 9.15-3.45, term time. Numbers are increasing again after the main cohort of children progressed to school in September, so please do call to discuss sessions if your child is ready to start. Lots of fundraising events are being organised for the Spring and Summer including an Easter Egg Hunt, a Quiz, a Photo Session and a Fun Day. All details will be advertised around the town and on Facebook so keep an eye out and make sure you save the dates.

We also have lots of exciting plans for upgrading the building and facilities and we are considering opening for longer hours each day. The first step will be launching a parent survey to find out what parents need and want and to see how we can support this and work towards providing the best service for the community. Watch this space!

Contact: Manager, Lin Norman, on 01963 359600

www.toyboxpreschool.weebly.com





Cary in Bloom 2025

In 2023 Castle Cary won one gold and two silver-gilt medals in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition. We are now working on an entry for 2025 and need your help to achieve three gold medals. This award is countrywide and will be judged regionally in July 2025. Castle Cary will enter the Southwest area.

It is not just about floral displays, we also need to demonstrate sustainability, concern for the environment and community involvement. Our small working group includes the Primary School, the Gardening Association, Eat Cary, the Moat Garden, U3A groups and the Allotment Association.

We are:

- Asking houses and businesses to display hanging baskets/window boxes/tubs to bring colour to our streets.
- Asking to hear about your 'green' projects to demonstrate how our town is becoming more sustainable.
- Building a living wall.
- Holding a scarecrow competition.
- Having a series of informative and educational talks
- Holding an exhibition on Cary in Bloom.
- Bringing the community together through creativity, gardening and fun

Contact: Penny Steiner - penny@castle Cary.net



CARY IN BLOOM 2025

JUNE/JULY 2025

GET INVOLVED

- PLANT A HANGING BASKET, A WINDOW BOX OR A TROUGH TO PLACE OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE
- ENTER THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL AND FOLLOW THE TRAIL
- JOIN THE SCARECROW WORKSHOP
- SUPPLY PLANTS FOR OUR LIVING WALL
- ATTEND OUR INFORMATIVE TALKS AND WALKS
- VISIT THE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
- ATTEND OUR COFFEE MORNING – 26 APRIL
- PREPARE SEEDS AND PLANTS TO DONATE FOR OUR DISPLAYS



CONTACT PENNY STEINER
penny@castle Cary.net

The Moat Garden

Spring is gentle in an untamed place; snowdrops are still nodding, and some, this year, where we are trying to establish a carpet of them, there are so many in the garden but not always where we plan. Primroses, and pulmonarias have the bees busy already.

Make a quick trip, or a sidestep on your dog walk, and just stand; listen to the birds, look at the spring flowers, smell the winter honeysuckle, take a breath, and go on with your day, hopefully with a smile.

All raised beds are in use this year, handy small plots near town. Any type of gardener is welcome to join us, mostly Monday mornings, but do call/message us. We really need more help to keep this garden wild - but usable.

The PLANT SALE supporting the garden upkeep will be May 17/18th weekend, as before at Knole House & Limestones in South St. We look forward to seeing new and returning people and thank you for your support.

The AGM on Saturday 17th May, 17.00pm at Limestones, South St welcomes friends and users of the garden to help us plan its care.

Contact: Anne Jeliffe & Ida West
07919803610
westidar@gmail.com





Carymarsh Nature Reserve

Spring is well underway. Our winter visitors, like starlings and the winter thrushes, are returning to northern Europe, while the hedgerows, woodland and reedbeds will soon be full of bird song. The banks along Carymoor Drove have splashes of colour from clumps of primroses, cowslips and, if you look carefully, violets. Frog and toad spawn are starting to appear in the ponds and soon the wildflowers around the edges will start to emerge; the meadow flowers will follow later.

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, foxes and several Exmoor ponies.

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



Castle Cary Gardening Association

This is that exciting time of year when the world changes colour from grey- brown via whites and yellows to lime and then every green – everywhere. This colour has been shown to enhance our general feeling of well-being, and this is why we garden.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Caryford at 7pm for an hour-long talk starting at 7.30pm. Membership also provides discretionary discounts at Schimmel Hardware and Julian Shave. Our members have a wide range of gardening skills and enthusiasm so please don't feel intimidated and come along to check us out.

For the diary: April 2nd – Neal Hatch gives a talk on Dahlias and is bringing some of his extensive range of dahlias to sell.

May 7th – James Cross, head gardener at the Bishops Palace will talk about those gardens, their past, present and future.

Saturday May 10th – our now famous Annual Plant Sale at The Market House until midday. Come early before the best plants are sold. Sales subsidise our Annual Show on August 2nd. The 2025 Show Schedules are already available online.

June 4th – Garden visit to Stoberry Gardens in Wells. Details tbc.

www.castlecarygardening.com

Carymoor Environmental Centre

After what feels like a very long and soggy winter, we are finally beginning to see some welcome signs of Spring on our nature reserve. We have already spotted an enormous queen bumblebee and a few red admiral butterflies enjoying the early pollen and sunshine.

Our volunteer groups are doing some fantastic work across the reserve. We have such a great breadth of skills with volunteers turning their hand to building maintenance, woodworking, wildlife surveying, creating new habitats and improving access for our new off-road tramper by widening paths and removing overgrowth. We also have volunteers who take photos of the activity and wildlife on the site. Do take a look at our social media if you would like to see what happens on this former landfill site.

Our Mini Explorer sessions continue each month, and we are offering the first session for free so that families can come for a taster. Sessions can then be booked monthly, or in bulk for a discount.

We have some lovely willow weaving courses coming up with a Berry Basket course, Trug, Handbag, a wet laundry basket and willow lampshades. In August we also have a repeat of our popular Bee Felting course.

Details of our volunteer groups, toddler and family events, and courses can be found on our website.

Contact: www.carymoor.org.uk





EatCary Community Garden

Thanks to the magnificent effort of our volunteers and friends from the Repair Café (and a donation from the Newt) our huge polytunnel has been renovated and recovered giving us a fresh new home for our seedlings and tender crops. Outside, the garden robin has supervised the composting of our plots and there are two new wildflower borders to the front. Autumn sowings of broad beans, onions and salads by Ansford Academy pupils have survived winter and are now growing strongly. There are still some leeks and kale to harvest, and the sprouting broccoli will soon repay our patience. After 'The Year of the Slug' we feel lucky to have anything left!

Want to grow vegetables but haven't the space, time or know how? EatCary is the place for you! Our friendly, supportive group meet on Saturdays 2-4pm to share the work and produce, which we also proudly share with our community via the Millbrook Community Larder.

If you're curious, drop by anytime or visit around 3pm any Saturday. Follow the small path from Maggs Lane just before Ansford Academy.

Our Plant sale and coffee morning is at The Market House on May 31st.

Rosie Rayner



Cary Repair Café

Despite our usual break in December, the winter season has been busy for the Repair Café.

In January we were visited by Sarah Dyke MP and discussed with her the work that we do to extend the life of household items, keeping them from being prematurely consigned to recycling or landfill. We also repaired a heated clothes airer she had brought with her.

We continue to be surprised by the range of items that are brought into the Repair Cafe including jeans and jumpers, bathroom scales and bird tables, coffee makers and convector heaters, bicycles and blenders, toys and tools and even an antique monk's bench.

So if you have something that needs the attention of our fabulous repairers, or if you're interested in the process of repairing; if you want to volunteer to be part of the team (welcoming, catering, repairing or organising) or you'd just like to attend a real community event and sample our fabulous home baked cakes and biscuits then do come along.

We meet on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10am - 12 noon in the Methodist Church School Room and you are assured of a warm welcome.

Contact: Stephen Rymer - caryrepaircafe@gmail.com

Castle Cary Litterati

We are local residents that meet on the first Sunday of each month to pick up litter on Castle Cary/Ansford main thoroughfares and playgrounds.

On our February pick we found the following: -

Cans = 101 Bottles - glass = 36

Bottles - plastic = 58

This is just what we counted in six random bags out of the thirteen that were collected.

It's quite amazing what people throw out of their car windows or drop while they are out walking. Castle Cary is a wonderful town with so much history and beauty, we should be proud of it and keep it tidy for visitors, ourselves and our children.

Join us at 11.00 am the first Sunday of each month at The Market House, Castle Cary. Bring your own litter pick stick, or I do have some to loan out on the day.

Rowan Rhodes





Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

CARNIVAL 2025 – The all-important dates for your diary are Saturday 4th October for our much-loved children's carnival and Saturday 11th October for our evening illuminated procession.

COFFEE MORNING – please come and support our coffee morning on Saturday 5th April outside the Market House. We will be alongside the Vintage Market selling mouth-watering bacon sarnies, teas, coffees and delicious home-made cakes.

BINGO! – Our very popular bingos are now back on the first Wednesday of every month at the Scout Hall, The Park, Castle Cary BA7 7EP. Doors open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. The next date for your diary is Wednesday 2nd April. Come along for great prizes and a warm welcome.

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.

Contact Caroline Sharley (General Secretary)
07711 266969

carolinejsharley@gmail.com

For the latest news and events:

www.ccacs.org.uk,

www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety/



Castle Cary Choir

Castle Cary Choir was founded in Oct 1965, so it is now our 60th Anniversary year!!

We begin celebrating with Wincanton Silver Band on Saturday 12th April in All Saints' Church, Castle Cary at 19.30hrs. This will be a wonderful evening of music. Tickets are available £10 in advance or £12.00 on the door.

On Saturday 31st May 2025 we are hosting our Diamond Jubilee Concert in Sherborne Abbey to raise money for YDH's new Breast Cancer Maple Unit. This will be an amazing evening for us whilst raising much needed funds for the charity. Look out for posters giving more details.

Friday June 20th we shall be singing in West Camel Church for their church funds.

We are a mixed voice ensemble singing a varied programme. We meet for rehearsals on Mondays from 19.30hrs – 21.30hrs at the Methodist Church in Castle Cary. We are happy to receive new members at any time. No auditions. No need to read music. Just a love of music and singing. Feel free to turn up. We'd love to welcome you.

If you would like us to sing and raise funds for a good cause, please contact any choir member or contact us via castlecarycommunitychoir@gmail.com

Contact: Susie - 01963 351025 castlecarycommunitychoir@gmail.com

Cary Comedians Carnival Club

Cary Comedians are in seventh heaven after not only winning the Wessex Carnivals Circuit Formula 1 Championship with six other great awards, but also third at Bridgwater and third in the Somerset County Guy Fawkes Association Carnivals in the Comic Feature class. Finally, believe it or not 'The Most Humorous cart' in the Mid-Somerset Gangs and Features Carnival Association.

Just look at our website to see that we are a family friendly club based at Orchard Farm, Castle Cary. The club not only has members from the locality but also from as far away as Warminster and Torquay. We are always looking for more local members and also sponsorship. We are a voluntary small carnival club having to raise thousands of pounds each year to create a humorous comic feature illuminated carnival entry to compete in our great unique carnival circuits in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Please note that all carnivals raise collections each year for their local charities as well as providing iconic entertainment not found outside the West Country.

Gordon Stockman





Sing For Fun

Come and enjoy an hour of endorphin-shaking, memory-strengthening, breathing-blasting and just good old fun with a cuppa and a piece of homemade cake on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of each month in the Shambles at The Market House, Castle Cary from 2.30 - 4pm.

Whether the sun is shining, or the rain is hammering down we will be there to raise your spirits in the warm and dry. EVERYONE is welcome, bring a friend if you can but don't worry about walking in on your own because you will be greeted with a big warm welcome and lovely people to chat to.

Do not worry if you think you can't sing. We all think that but it's amazing the sound we can produce all together and even better, how you feel when you leave.

We only charge £2. BUT if you don't enjoy it then you can have a refund!!

Contact: Philippa - 07889 311445



Cygnets Majorettes

Recently The Cygnets proudly took part in the Celebration of Volunteering in Our Community and were deeply gratified and honoured to receive a certificate from the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset. An awesome achievement for our beautiful little town and community. Thanks to everyone involved in so many ways. Our trainer even appeared on the ITV evening news!

Our members were asked why they like being a majorette. Here are some of their answers...

'It's fun, enjoyable and exciting'; 'Because of the dances'; 'With my friends'; 'I get to learn new things'; 'It gives me something to do'; 'Going to events and competitions'.

Our Pre-Season training is underway, which takes place in Caryford Hall, the girls start learning new dance routines during these winter months. There are just a few spaces available if any girls, aged 6-18yrs, who would like to become a majorette, come along now for a free trial, all abilities welcome and no experience necessary. Fitness, friendship, mental well-being, co-ordination, confidence, the attributes are endless.

Annual Easter coffee morning, with cakes and bacon butties, on Saturday 19th April at The Market House, see you there.

Our events diary is already taking bookings. Look out for the girls at local fêtes and fundays. Contact us if you would like the Cygnets majorettes to perform at your event, or are interested in joining.

**Contact: cccygnets@gmail.com
www.castlecarymajorettes.org.uk**



CATS

By the time you read this article it will be a month since our production of My Fair Lady. This was a great show, enjoyed by cast, directors and crew alike. It was also very well received by the audiences.

Societies such as ours really do need your support in order to stay in existence. CATS first show was in 1979, and we have been entertaining the residents of Cary and beyond since then. We love to welcome new members, be it on stage or behind the scenes – it is a monumental undertaking to put on a full musical, but the end results are well worth the effort. Our contact email is castlecarycats@gmail.com

Our next AGM is on Thursday 3rd April at 7:30pm at Ansford Academy. CATS will be providing refreshments at the Vintage Market on Saturday 5th July. I am also pleased to announce that our next show (in February 2026) will be Wind in the Willows – a great show for all the family!

This is sadly my last article as Chair of CATS as I have decided the time has come to retire gracefully! I would like to thank everyone in the society who has helped and supported me in my position as both Chair and Music Director over my 29 years association with the society.

**Mark Tromans, Chair, CATS.
Contact: castlecarycats@gmail.com**





Castle Cary Cricket Club

Reigning Olympic Champions in CRICKET!

Our season is just about on us, and we are looking forward to another successful year. As you know, our first team maintained their Premier League spot by finishing fourth in their division. While our second team did extremely well, finishing runners up in their division and gaining promotion.

The season starts on 3rd May with our first home match where the 2nd team will entertain North Perrott at 1.30pm. Every week we will have a match at Cary. The first and second team alternate their fixtures at home with the first team matches starting at 1pm. Please come up and support your local teams. We have a great facility, plenty of seating, a good bar, even a cup of tea and a children's playground.

Our players have been training indoor throughout February and March and in April outdoor training begins at the club on Thursday evenings. Have you played Cricket? Do you fancy a go?! Come up and have some fun. We are always looking for new players, young and older. We do have mid-week matches as well, normally cup competitions and the odd friendly game. We are always looking for Players, Sponsors and volunteers.

Home fixtures are as follows: -

May 3rd - 2nd IX v. North Perrott

10th - 1st IX v. Taunton Deane 2nds

17th - 2nd IX v. Taunton Deane 3rds

24th - 1st IX v. Chard

31st - 2nd IX v. Crewkerne

June 7th - 1st IX v. Frome

14th - 2nd IX v. Taunton St Andrews

21st - 1st IX v. Minehead

28th - 2nd IX v. Wincanton

July 5th - 1st IX v. Taunton St Andrews

12th - 2nd IX v. Bishops Hull

19th - 1st IX v. Wedmore

26th - 2nd IX v. Shaftesbury Road

August 2nd - 1st IX v. Bridgwater

9th - 2nd IX v. North Petherton

23rd - 2nd IX v. Purnells

30th - 1st IX v. North Petherton

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



Castle Cary Youth Cricket Project

The Youth section was reinvigorated in 2024 and we were delighted to see so much interest with nearly 30 boys and girls joining in the training. The sessions were very enjoyable and have been reinforced by winter training on Thursday evenings at Ansford Academy for Under 11s and Under 14s on alternate weeks.

We have 3 ECB qualified coaches and 6 members of the 1st and 2nd teams to ensure the sessions are enjoyable and informative.

Looking forward to the season ahead we have entered the Under 14s team in the Mid-Wessex Cricket League, we will have home and away games with Yeovil, Sparkford, Queen Camel and Compton House. Games will be played on Thursday evenings commencing on the 1st May.

Home fixtures are as follows: -

May 1st - Queen Camel

May 22nd - Yeovil

June 12th - Sparkford,

June 19th - Compton House

Our Under 11s will be entering festivals and playing friendly matches, these will be played on Sunday mornings.

Summer training will take place at the Cricket Club on the Donald Pither Memorial Field:

- Under 14s (years 7 to 9) – Saturdays, 9am to 11.30am commencing the 26th April.

- Under 11s (years 4 to 6) – Wednesdays, 5pm to 6.30pm commencing 30th April.

If your child wants to join in the fun please contact Steve Maybury and/or come along to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th March from 9.30am at The Market House to find out more.

Contact: Steve Maybury, Youth Chairperson
smaybury702@btinternet.com
or 07715 966793

New Local Walks Booklet

This booklet, produced by The Tourist Office, is available from The Market House or Bailey Hill Bookshop for £1.00.

The Tourist Office also has lots of information and leaflets for fun days out for everyone. We are open from 9.30am – 12.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am – 12noon on Saturday.





Tai Chi

Tai chi is a gentle form of exercise that originated as an ancient Chinese martial art. It has grown in popularity — people around the world practise tai chi for its general health benefits.

Tai chi is made up of smooth, graceful movements and breathing techniques that focus your mind. It's sometimes referred to as a 'mind-body' exercise.

The movements in tai chi are often circular. Your muscles are relaxed, and your joints are not fully extended or bent.

There are different styles of tai chi, which involve balance, strength, coordination and flexibility

Classes are £5 per session. At Caryford Hall, Wednesdays 2-3pm/Fridays 11.30-12.30pm

At the Scout Hut: Fridays 10-11am,

Contact: Jo Webb - 07730 397396
jo.webb@mbzonline.net to book.



Cary and Camelot Table Tennis

CCTTC currently have vacancies for competent players who wish to play friendly social table tennis. Come and give us a try – we charge just £3 per session, but your first session is free! Club Night is on Tuesday evenings at North Cadbury Village Hall, 6:30pm - 8:30pm. We have three tournament grade tables and can supply bats if you do not have your own. Matches are mainly doubles but some singles play is usually available, depending on the numbers attending.

Contact: Carol Turner (07955 346637) or
Andy Bentley (07890 441763)

Camelot Rounders

We are starting to prepare for the upcoming Rounders Season, playing as part of the Somervale Ladies Rounders League. Our playing season starts in April with practices and games starting in May until July/August. Our home pitch is on the Donald Pither Memorial Field.

We have managed to go up a division this year and will be in Division 1. We are looking forward to a challenging season and will be entering with high hopes.

If you fancied joining the team you need to be 14 years + no commitment necessary, play when you can. Please feel free to drop me a message, or if you fancy just coming along and watching we are there most Wednesdays.

Contact: Katie Newth, Camelot Rounders
Captain - 07969233760
Or Facebook under Camelot Rounders Team.



Castle Cary Rugby Club

Castle Cary RFC senior side have had a very successful season having played 18 games only losing 1 and 1 draw which puts us on top of our league and almost certain of promotion. Training for the senior side is every Thursday at 7pm and new players are very welcome.

Our junior section continues to grow and if your child would like to give rugby a try you will find a warm welcome at the club from 9:30am on a Sunday morning.

Chris Watts, Club President

Laptops4learners

Wondering what to do with any old or unused laptops? The Brue Valley Rotary Club, together with the Parish Charity, has joined the Laptops4Learners campaign to help redistribute 'redundant' computers in Castle Cary & Ansford. You can drop off laptops, PCs, tablets & phones so that they may be cleaned (data removed) and redistributed where they will benefit families with school age children. Equipment not suitable for re-use is broken down and the parts sold to raise money for more equipment.

You can rest assured that your data will be destroyed by an accredited company. Blackmore IT's recycling specialist, Simon Barfoot, is happy to answer questions. **Contact: donateIT@r3cycle.co.uk** Philipps Tyres have kindly agreed to be the collection point for the equipment.

Please note: • Printers are NOT accepted • Find My Phone MUST be removed from iPhones

• Apple products MUST be disconnected from their Apple account





Foot Martial Arts

Foot Martial Arts, located in Castle Cary, Somerset, is a family-friendly martial arts club dedicated to teaching a variety of disciplines to students aged five and above. With over 20 years of experience, the club offers instruction in kickboxing, ju-jitsu, Filipino Martial Arts (FMA), and self-defence.

Head coach Nick Foot holds a sixth-degree black belt in ju-jitsu, along with black belts in three other martial arts, and possesses coaching certifications in several modern self-defence systems, including a BTEC Level 3 in self-defence and conflict management.

Classes are held at Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, BA7 7EE. Foot Martial Arts is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, helping students build confidence, discipline, and physical fitness through the practice of martial arts.

Contact: 07738 599670



Castle Cary Bridge Club

Castle Cary Bridge Club meets on a Thursday evening in the Small Hall at Caryford Hall on a Thursday evening. Sessions start at 6.45pm with play commencing around 7pm.

We have a host system in place, so even if you do not have a partner, you can always turn up and be guaranteed a game. The atmosphere is relaxed and enjoyable and there are experienced players and directors on hand to offer advice and opinions if you want them. Refreshments are also available.

We would also like to advertise No Fear Bridge held at Galhampton Village Hall on Wednesdays at 2pm.

**Contact: Margaret Bebbington -
07985 435412 (Cary)**

Barry Blight - 01963 440351 (Galhampton)

Cary Runners

Spring is coming – it's time to throw off those winter blues and get active! Cary Runners is a small group of local runners who meet every Monday at 18h30 for a gentle run. During the summer we usually meet at Orchard Farm in Cockhill or outside the George Hotel to jog between 5 and 10 km (3 to 6 miles) along country roads, lanes and occasionally off-road.

We also take part in lots of fun organised events around Somerset and beyond, from 5 km park runs to half marathons and more.

Whether you are a seasoned runner or a beginner, and regardless of your level of fitness, you'll find running much easier when you have others to encourage you. We have runners of all abilities – we make sure that everyone fits in. If you are able to run 5 km in about 35 minutes then give us a try.

If you would like to join us either turn up at 18h30 on a Monday evening or call Dave Boyer (see below) for more information.

Contact: Dave Boyer - 07903 276315

www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/



Castle Cary Ramblers

Castle Cary Ramblers are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year and to commemorate the big day we are going to hold a Tea and Cake afternoon at Caryford Hall on the 16th June.

I am therefore asking anyone who were part of the group 30 or 40 years ago to please email me - Dayella or call Di (details below) I would very much like to hear from you in order to send out an official invitation.

The rambling group will be having their picnic walk on that day and all current members will be present too.

Contact Di - on 07866 173511

or - dayella_ruetsche@hotmail.com for more information.





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CASTLE CARY 2025

10am - 3pm

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April 5th
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th
August 2nd
September 6th

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Lost Property

Lost items are very 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
Information Desk**

Seed Swap

Spare seeds? Swap them for free with some you need at Castle Cary Library or just take a packet of free seeds. Also at the Book Sale at the Market House on Saturday 22 March or EatCary's plant sale, same place on Saturday 31st May.





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 202629** or email kim.whitehead@btinternet.com
- 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** – 07903 276315
- Caryford Community Hall** – 01963 548016
- Caryford Short Mat Bowls** – 01963 359069
- Carymarsh Nature Reserve** – 07903 276315
- Carymoor Environmental Centre** – 01963 350143
- Castle Cary Allotment Association** – 07539 022541
- 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 Gardening Association** – 01963 240837 / www.castlecarygardening.com
- Castle Cary Majorettes (Cygnets)** – 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 Senior Football Club** – 07733 321280
- 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** – 07710 265509
- 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** – 07968 054731
- 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



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*Email markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk
or call 01963 351763*

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