

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

# WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



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## Castle Cary Town Council

What a great start to my tenure as Chair of CCTC! A fantastic result from the Cary and Ansford in Bloom volunteers - all their hard work paid off with an outstanding result. I did notice that Cricklade's name was present on the Ayre Cup for four successive years - perhaps that's a goal worth pursuing!

This was followed by the ever-popular Carnival and visit from the traditional fair. Also, Philippa Biddlecombe has been working with Somerset Council to secure a supply of trees from the Forestry Commission to enhance the Fairfield and Donald Pither fields.

Congratulations to Bob Smith, who was awarded the Chair's Award by the Chair of Somerset Council Mike Best at the recent annual Chair's Award Ceremony in Taunton. Bob was nominated by CCTC for his outstanding contribution and services to our community and for his dedication as group lead volunteer of 1<sup>st</sup> Castle Cary Scouts.

We also have another award to celebrate in our community given to Steve Maybury. Steve attended the Cricket Collective Awards recently and won in the Inspired to Play Category that he was nominated for. Through his vision and dedication, he has rebuilt the Youth section at Castle Cary Cricket club, encouraging and coaching over 40 players weekly. Congratulations Steve and thank you for inspiring a new generation of cricketers!

There is the also the topic which has reached most ears, and that is the potential to create a new council for our community.

Castle Cary Town Council has endorsed the consultation towards creating a new Council replacing Ansford Parish Council and the Town Council.

We would like to state that this was the first formal discussion on this matter, and that CCTC had no influence on the independent petition.

We have a considerable amount of assets within Castle Cary, and we like to engage in as many community projects as possible. Unfortunately, this can create what seems an imbalance in the cost of organising such events. This cost is skewed by having a disproportionate lower number of parishioners carrying this cost, when compared to councils with similar assets. We always open our doors to all, and have never limited events to just CCTC residents.

I can assure everyone that this is *not* a takeover, and nothing other than the formation of a new council reflecting the views and needs of everyone in our community.

**There is a consultation process that anyone can engage in - Castle Cary and Ansford residents please make your feelings known through this medium:**

**<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/democratic-services/community-governance-review-ansford-and-castle-car/>**



**Ansford & Castle Cary  
Consultation QR Code**

We are here to serve the community, and we will reflect the wishes of our community so please fill out these forms.

We will continue to support/fund our wellbeing, and community approach. Hoping that you understand the reasons that underpin this cost.

The list of grants follows, and events undertaken since becoming Chair of CCTC.

- *Castle Cary and Ansford Carnival Society*  
£150 grant  
£400 towards barriers (from H&S budget)  
Free use of the Shambles for Children's Carnival and Illuminated Carnival
- *Toybox Preschool*  
£150 grant towards kitchen
- *Caryford Hall pantomime*  
£150 towards cost of heating, lighting and snacks
- *CAT Bus*  
£2,500 towards running costs for 2025/26
- *Castle Cary Community Library*  
£3,000 towards running costs for 2025/26
- *Events* - Pavilion Party and Car Show, Regular Coffee Mornings, Art Week with lots more to come before the end of the council year.

**Trevor Oats, Chair  
Castle Cary Town Council**



## 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

Judi Morison

Trevor Oats (Chair)

Pek Peppin

Angela Piggott

Tom Trouton

1 vacancy

**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

Mr Kevin Messenger

Tel: 07970 867108

Tel: 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.

- Spring Newsletter copy deadline: 9.00am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Distribution from: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

- Email your copy to: markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk or post to 'Newsletter', The Market House, The Market Place, Castle Cary, BA7 7AH

## 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*



## 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](mailto:markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk)  
or call 01963 351763

Instagram: @markethousecastlecary

Facebook: @themarkethousecastlecary

## TOWN EVENTS LISTING

The Town Events listing, kindly set up by Laura Tilling is no longer going to continue, for various reasons. However, if there is anyone out there who would like to take over and maybe develop the task then Laura would happily pass on information about how she does it and the spreadsheet as it stands - it is all in the public domain.

Just let Laura know on  
[tillinglaura@gmail.com](mailto:tillinglaura@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:carytowncrier@castle-cary.co.uk) and ask to be put on the mailing list.

## Ansford Parish Council

Mrs S. Easeman, 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](mailto:clerk@ansford-pc.gov.uk)

Monthly Parish Council Meetings are held at Caryford Hall on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 6.30pm.

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

**Website:** [www.ansford-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.ansford-pc.gov.uk/)

## 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**

## 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](mailto:ansford_news@outlook.com)



## News From The Market House

We've had a busy year of bookings: Birthday Celebrations, Baby Showers, Textile and Art Exhibitions, Talks, Business Meetings, and even a play! We were also pleased to host Funeral Wakes, Weddings, Christening parties and more! As well as these, our regular Community Group bookings, Vintage Market, Acoustic evenings and popular Saturday coffee mornings, were extremely well attended. Thank you all for choosing the Market House to host your function.

We have exciting news to share with you regarding recent work upstairs on the top floor. We have created a fully equipped kitchen off the Billiard Room, complete with oven, microwave, hot cupboard, industrial dishwasher, fridge and tea and coffee making facilities. Therefore, your booking in the Assembly Room or Billiard Room can now benefit from a kitchen for you to use. When the works are complete (early in the new year), we look forward to sharing photos of the new facilities with you.

Thank you for keeping The Market House busy during 2025, it's been a pleasure to welcome new and regular faces each week, and I look forward to a thriving 2026!

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

***Catrin Loxton, Marketing & Communications Administrator  
On behalf of the MCC Committee, Castle Cary Town Council***

For bookings please call – 01963 351763 or email [markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk](mailto:markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk)  
or check the website calendar for availability – [www.markethousecastlecary.com/](http://www.markethousecastlecary.com/)

Follow us on [Facebook.com/markethousecastlecary](https://www.facebook.com/markethousecastlecary) and Instagram @markethousecastlecary

## New Pavilion Project

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>



*Growing Old Inevitably* is the title of a small book written by Shirley Lane, who lives locally. It is an exploration of old age and is a gentle, humorous and heart-warming read. Available in November from Bailey Hill Bookshop, and other sources; cash donations of a minimum of £10 per copy will go towards funding the new Pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field. It is a beautiful little book and would make an excellent Christmas present for older members of the family!





## Mid Somerset Arts Society

The Arts Society Mid Somerset's final Lecture of 2025 on 9<sup>th</sup> December has the intriguing title of 'Snakes, Saints and Pawnbrokers'. Speaker Geri Parlbay will tell us about the more unusual and fascinating Christmas traditions.

The New Year starts with a Lecture on 20<sup>th</sup> January about the 1951 Festival of Britain, and on 17<sup>th</sup> February we will be revisiting Wells Cathedral. There are two events in March, including a Lecture on 17<sup>th</sup> March about The Glasgow Boys: Painting in Scotland. On 10<sup>th</sup> March we have a Special Interest morning of lectures on Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera costing £15 for members and £20 for non-members.

Lectures are held on the third Tuesday of the month in Caryford Hall, starting at 11am. Tea and coffee at £1.50 are served from 10.15am.

An annual membership of the Society costs £55 and includes ten lectures a year, the Arts Society Magazine called 'Review' four times a year, as well as visits and tours to places of interest, and special Study Days.

Lectures are also open to non-members, and visitors are charged £8 per lecture making membership excellent value.

**Contact: Membership Secretary -  
07807 009768  
www.midsomerset@theartsociety.org**



### Writers' Circle Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm

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

**For details contact:  
Laura Tilling -  
tillinglaura@gmail.com  
01963 351461**

## Castle Cary Museum

The Cary Museum closed for the Winter on 1<sup>st</sup> November. This year, during the winter months, there will be a short series of illustrated talks by local historians on topics related to items in the Collection.

The first of these is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in the Market House Shambles.

Entitled *The Mystery of the All Saints' Angel*, Prof. Will Vaughan will consider the unanswered questions relating to this fascinating survival from the 14/15<sup>th</sup> century. The Museum will be open briefly after the talk, to allow the audience time to view the carved wooden angel upstairs.

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

Refreshments available.

Any profits will be shared between All Saints' Church (which owns the Angel) and Castle Cary Museum.

***There will also be the opportunity to volunteer to help in the museum.***

**Contact: [castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk)**

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

**Admission free, Donations welcome.**

**Follow us -**

**Facebook.com/CastleCaryMuseum**

**Instagram - @castle\_cary\_museum**

## Cary History Society

**Alfred the Great and the Anglo-Saxon Sword  
Sunday 30 November at 3pm  
Caryford Hall, Castle Cary BA7 7JJ**

Dr Andrew Pickering (Chair of Bruton Museum & Fellow of the Royal Historical Society) will give an entertaining and intriguing, illustrated talk about a most remarkable Anglo-Saxon sword discovered beside the River Brue in 1984.

Tickets £5 from Bailey Hill Bookshop and on the door.

Refreshments available. Doors open 2.30pm

In aid of the Castle Cary Market House Project.

The Cary History Society organises events that relate to the history of Castle Cary and the surrounding area.

Join our mailing list:

**Contact: [caryhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:caryhistsoc@gmail.com)**





## Royal British Legion & Poppy Appeal

There remains very little British Legion activity in our community. If you are aware of anyone who might need help, please get in touch with us at the email below. We cannot directly help but will signpost to those who can. Equally, if you need more information about the activities of the RBL in the wider community, or are interested in volunteering, again please get in touch.

At the time of writing, this year's Poppy Appeal is in full swing and is being fully supported by the local community for which we are very grateful. I will report in the Spring Newsletter how much was collected in support of this very worthy cause.

If you would like more information about the Poppy Appeal, or would like to get involved as a collector, please contact us on the email below.

Additionally, we are looking for someone to take over the running of both the Poppy Appeal and the committee of the Royal British Legion - please contact Simon if you would like to discuss or need more information about this important role.

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



## 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 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.

## Cary Cares

Cary Cares is your local charity supporting people in the community with food, essentials and signposting, and reducing food waste.

Each month, Cary Cares, through the Community Larder in the Millbrook Gardens car park, provides about 1.5 tonnes of food and essentials to people in the community who need support. Even with the generous support of our supermarket partners, it still costs between £800 and £1000 a month to keep the larder open and supplied. Therefore, this winter, please consider supporting us to ensure that nobody goes hungry this Christmas.

You can do this by:

- Gifting a financial donation to Cary Cares via [www.carycares.org.uk](http://www.carycares.org.uk)
- Setting up a regular donation and 'gift aid' so that your help continues to support us
- Providing food and essentials donations to the Larder: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.30-10 and Saturdays 9.30-11
- Supporting our upcoming coffee morning at the Market House, Castle Cary 10-12 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December, where you can also make cash and card donations

Volunteers to support our work are always welcome - email us for more information. If you need support - email or visit us!

Thank you for your continued support of your community.

**Contact: carycares1@gmail.com**  
**01963 602013**



## 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.





## Macmillan Fundraising Committee

The members of the Macmillan Fundraising Committee have been involved in two events this summer which both raised an amazing amount of money. We were really pleased to be asked to support the Daytime Disco at Caryford Hall organised by Ria Stones. We provided refreshments and were so proud to be involved and to watch everyone who came have such a good time.

The second event was our annual Big Coffee Morning at The Market House. As always, we had lots of cakes, books and raffle prizes for sale and plenty of people came along to eat, drink and enjoy the atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who support us every year.

Our final event is our Festive Cake stall at Cary's Christmas late night shopping evening on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We will have fabulous cakes, Guess the Name of the Gnome and swags and mistletoe for sale. We look forward to seeing you there.

The money we raise goes to help fund the crucial work done by Macmillan Cancer Support so thank you to everyone. If you would like more information about help with an activity or joining our volunteers, please get in touch with us.

**Contact: [castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com](mailto:castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com)**



## Live Well With Pain

Do you live with a long-term pain condition? Does it negatively affect all parts of your life? Are you registered with Millbrook Surgery? If so, you are welcome to attend our Live Well with Pain café which meets at the Abri lounge in Catherine's Close (BA7 7HP) on the fourth Thursday of each month from 10am to 12 noon. We are a positive, friendly and welcoming group, so don't be shy! We follow the Live Well with Pain Ten Footsteps programme - <https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/resources-for-people-with-pain/ten-footsteps-to-living-well-with-pain/>

Dates over the winter months are: 27 November, then in December we will be changing meeting day and time due to Christmas and are meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 to 3.30pm with bring and share food and a Christmas quiz and then we meet on 22 January, 26 February and 26 March 2026.

**Contact: The health coaches at Millbrook Surgery or Sue Crisfield on 07749 418850.**

## Brue Valley Rotary Club

Brue Valley Rotary welcomed six new members this summer and they are already involved in club activities. It's been busy!

Social events have included visiting Dowding's Apple HQ, croquet at the Bishop's Palace in Wells, a Cadbury Castle walk and a Castle Cary treasure hunt. We have had speakers from the Alzheimer's Society, The Newt, CAT Bus and Somerset Prostate Support Association. We are helping to run a free Prostate Cancer Testing event at Caryford Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Fundraising has been successful with our griddle in action at the Wincanton Hospital Fête and The Pavilion Project Party. We have supported Castle Cary and Ansford Carnival Society at their Sunday Funday fundraiser and provided collectors at both Carnivals. Our past President's Charity, The Alzheimer's Society received £3,000. Our annual Charity Golf Day raised £4,400 for Children's Hospice South West. Next year's event is on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

The club raised significant funds at the Classics and Supercars Show. Funding applications from the next show (19<sup>th</sup> July 2026) will be open from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. On top of all this, the club's Race Nights continue to raise money for various charities and local groups.

**Contact: Nicky Creed 07967 685997  
[contactus@bruevalleyrotary.org](mailto:contactus@bruevalleyrotary.org)  
[www.bruevalleyrotary.wordpress.com](http://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. At **Christmas** we will be once again erecting a crib in the Market House and have carols and coffee there on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. We will also hold one united Carol Service for the whole town at All Saints' Church, Castle Cary, on Sunday on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 4.00pm. The times of the main Christmas services of the separate churches are on the Christmas card we will be circulating as well as on their individual websites.

Chair of Churches Together:    Judith Cole                      07739 638105

### 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](http://www.catholicchurchwincanton.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Father Francis Eyo MSP: [Francis.Eyo@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Francis.Eyo@cliftondiocese.com)

Parish Office & Administrator Tracie Woodcock:

[wincanton.sslukeandteresa@cliftondiocese.com](mailto: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, except in December, July and August.

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 Christmas and other festivals.

Website:                      [www.castlecaryallsaints.org.uk](http://www.castlecaryallsaints.org.uk)

E-mail:                      [standrews.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto:standrews.allsaints@gmail.com)

Vicar:                      Revd Dr Elisabeth Isted                      01963 350394

Administrator:                      07483 866400

Pastoral Visits Co-ordinator & Reader: Sue Kellagher                      01963 351992

Safeguarding:                      David Goodenough                      [safeguarding.standrews.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Join us this season as we offer gifts of presence and beauty. ALL ARE WELCOME to share, to remember, to doubt and to worship. Remember that you are a GIFT. All of us have inherent worth and beauty – not because of what we've done, or what we can give – but because of who we all are. GIFTED is the Methodist Church's message of good news to a weary world...

Are you longing for transformation but are feeling stuck? Are you searching for something more, something real – but unsure where to look? Come along and share with us this December.

7<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm - Blue Christmas - a service to remember those we have lost.

11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Tree Festival

14<sup>th</sup> December 4pm - 'Carols around the Trees'

21<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am – Nativity Service

21<sup>st</sup> December 4 pm - Town Carol Service @ All Saints Church

23<sup>rd</sup> December from 7pm - Cider & Carols at The White Hart

24<sup>th</sup> December - 11.30pm – Christmas Midnight Communion

25<sup>th</sup> December - 10.30am – Christmas Morning Family Service

**Minister: Rev Collin Moore 07895892740 collin.moore@methodist.org.uk**

**Email: castlecarymethodist@gmail.com**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist](http://www.facebook.com/castlecarymethodist)**

**<http://www.somersetmendipmethodists.com/>**

**To hire our schoolroom for just £10 an hour contact Patricia Fuller: 01963 351635**





## Churches Together in Castle Cary & Ansford

In July, Churches Together shared a service at All Saints', followed by a picnic, in the church. In September we gave thanks for Harvest, and joined for a shared lunch in the Methodist Schoolroom. Churches Together continue their Lunch Club, on the second Monday of each month, in the Methodist Schoolroom. We look forward to sharing mince pies at Cary's Christmas on 11<sup>th</sup> December.



### Anglican Church

Please see the website ([castle Caryallsaints.org.uk](http://castle Caryallsaints.org.uk)) and our Facebook page for information on our regular services, as well as special Advent and Christmas services and other events. You will find a very warm and friendly welcome at all of our gatherings.

If you haven't tried Messy Church yet, do give it a go. The next two meetings will be at All Saints', Castle Cary at 3.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> January. It is designed primarily, but not exclusively, for young children and includes bible-themed fun craft activity, short worship, delicious food, 'Jesus bingo' and sometimes even some singing.

Also coming up is our 'Carols and Company' afternoon, which will take place at 2pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at St Andrew's, Ansford. This is the 'Christmas edition' of our very popular *Hymns and Pimms* events and we'll be singing a variety of favourite carols and hymns, and seasonal refreshments will be available. Do come along!

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 any other services.

**Contact: Rev'd Elisabeth Isted**  
**01963 350394**  
**[vicarcaryansford@gmail.com](mailto:vicarcaryansford@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](mailto:Kim.whitehead@btinternet.com)**

**For One-to-One support contact: Somerset Carers Service Advice Line: 0800 3168600**

**[carers@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:carers@somersetccc.org.uk)**

**[www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org)**



### Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

We have been twinned with the small town of Rémalard in lovely rural Normandy for over forty years, so many people have enjoyed taking part in our exchanges. 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.

We welcomed our French guests here again last May and shared a memorable evening folk dancing before going to visit Abbotsbury Gardens and Swannery in perfect spring weather.

Next year it is our turn to visit France. We plan to travel by coach and ferry via Portsmouth and Caen on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, returning on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in joining the association, please contact us.

**Contact: Membership Secretary, Dave Stickland - [daddytroll@gmail.com](mailto:daddytroll@gmail.com)**  
**Susan Keen, Chairwoman - [keensue5@gmail.com](mailto:keensue5@gmail.com)**





## Castle Cary Community Library

The Castle Cary Community Library has just had a highly successful book sale. Rumour has it that we raised over £600. We plan to spend it on making improvements to the premises (which we rent) and increasing our provision of books and other services. The book sale was combined with a coffee morning where coffee, tea and delicious cakes were available. It was organised by a couple of Trustees and other committed volunteers who organise and run the library. There will be another book sale early in the New Year: donations of good quality books are very welcome.

Our Annual General Meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> November in the Market House at 7pm. All are welcome. It's a short meeting and there is a celebration afterwards to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and give them a chance to get to know each other better. There is often a short talk about a library-related topic.

We are also pushing on networking with other community libraries in this area to exchange ideas about expanding our provision and maybe moving to larger premises in the future.

Come and borrow our books. If we haven't got the one you want, we can almost always get it for you because we have the backup of the Somerset County Library Service.

**Mary Gray, Library Trustee**  
**Library Contact: 07579 049109**  
**ccylib@somerset.gov.uk**



## Memory Café

The memory café is a place for people with memory problems, or dementia, and carers to meet others in a similar situation. Share experiences, make friends, enjoy activities and find information and support.

They meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month 10.30 – 12 at the Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Cary. £2.00 per person, including refreshments.

**Contact: Steph at Millbrook Surgery**  
**01963 350210 or Philippa on 07889 311445**  
**for further information.**

## Saturday Stitch

Saturday Stitch is a warm and welcoming craft group. Whether you are a beginner or seasoned stitcher you'll find a friendly space to explore and learn using fabric and wool. From knitting and sewing to embroidery and quilting, our craft group allows you to learn, enjoy and be inspired in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Two Saturdays a month we gather together to work on our own projects, we have regular in-house workshops to learn new skills and perfect techniques.

More than just crafting, Saturday Stitch is a creative community. You'll meet like-minded people, enjoy good conversation and maybe leave with a new friend or a new hobby. Based in Castle Cary, every first and third Saturday 10am til 4pm.

**Contact: Sally Yeoman, Craft Group**  
**Facilitator - mail@sallyyeoman.me**  
**07929 097374**



## Speed Watch

The Speed watch teams have been out in Upper High Street and South Street recently since the limit reduced to 20mph.

Cars travelling over the permitted speed have their registration logged with the Police. We are there as much as anything to keep everyone safe by reminding you of the speed you should be travelling! When you are rushing, it is so easy to forget and that is when the danger comes. Thank you to everyone who observes the speed limits and for those of you who think we are a nuisance, we are only there to try and protect you from having an accident!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to support us once a week/fortnight at busy times of the day.

If you are interested a short training session is provided and then we can be out on the street for short sessions at a time.

**Contact: Philippa Biddlecombe -**  
**07889 311445.**





## Castle Cary Fire Station

With Halloween passed by and Christmas fast approaching we really want to ensure everyone has a safe and festive time with their families to finish off 2025.

December is our busiest month of the year for house fires. Below are our top recommendations to have a fire-safe Christmas.

Cooking is the cause of nearly half of all domestic fires. Never leave your (Christmas) dinner cooking unattended. Please make sure you switch off the oven and hob if you're leaving the house.

Take care around alcohol - alcohol can cause you to take risks, be distracted and sometimes even fall asleep. This can be a very dangerous combination with cooking.

Never leave your white goods on when you are not home or asleep. If a fire starts, it can go undetected and cause more damage.

Lastly, Electricals - extension leads generate heat so should be used carefully. Never make a chain of extension leads, and always fully extend wind-up extension leads.

Laptops, games consoles, phones and tablets can heat up when in use or being charged. Place on a hard surface and always use the official charger.

**Watch Manager John Wenglorz**

**Contact: [jwenglorz@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:jwenglorz@dsfire.gov.uk)**

## Camelot Area u3a

As Christmas is approaching with many plans for festivities, it can be a welcome break to enjoy our stress-free activities. To think of nothing else but sharing a few hours on a much-loved hobby with new and old friends, can be just what is required, at this time of the year. For example, wrapped up well for a glorious walk with a warming pub lunch, sounds perfect and we have walking groups to cater for all interests and abilities. If you fancy a walk on a Wednesday, Friday, a short or seasonal walk, go to our website to see dates and times.

If not a member, you can join anytime online. U3a membership includes access to the National u3a site where you can enjoy online learning, events and workshops, as well as puzzles and games. Our fees are £17 for the year and includes a free monthly Camelot Area magazine and a monthly talk, held at Caryford Hall; refreshments included, non-Camelot Area members only £2.

Come along on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, doors open 2pm, to see Jude Coram, a magician. Promises to be good fun, Jude comes highly recommended, lots of laughs, gags and of course, magic. There are more details of this and future talks on our website.

**Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair**

**[www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk](http://www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk)**



## Caryford Community Hall

Thanks to the sterling efforts of a Caryford trustee, we have secured a £10,000 grant from the Somerset Community Foundation's *Help Through Winter* Fund. This extra money will help to meet the additional costs of heating and running the facilities during the winter months as a Community Hub.

Enclosed within your newsletter (Castle Cary) or delivered to your home (Ansford) is an information card, telling you what the hall offers: a wide range of activities, events and opportunities and three very different spaces for hire at reasonable rates. Although busy, the hall diary is not yet 'full'!

Visit <https://caryfordhall.co.uk/hiring/> for more information about what's on and how to book.

One exciting event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 will be the hugely popular Children's Pantomime. This year it is Dick Whittington: a professional production from the same company which performed to a packed audience earlier this year. Our sponsors are Delaware Vets, Ansford Parish Council and Castle Cary Town Council. It is only due to their generous financial contributions that families will again be able to enjoy this seasonal treat, with affordable ticket prices (£5 for adults) and free places for under 12s. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets from Bailey Hill Bookshop.

**Contact: Ian Bynoe - 01963 350655 [ian@caryfordhall.co.uk](mailto:ian@caryfordhall.co.uk)**

**Website - <https://caryfordhall.co.uk/>**

**Follow us on [www.facebook.com/caryfordhall](https://www.facebook.com/caryfordhall) | Instagram @Caryford\_hall or scan the QR code for details of our busy programme of events for 2026.**





## Castle Cary Tuesday Market

A few seasonal words about the Tuesday market....

So, Christmas is nearly upon us again and we will be under Gazebos and trading right up to, and including, the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. So come on down for your Christmas goodies! Please note we will be closed on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December.

A few new stalls will hopefully be joining us: Alice selling wonderful, colourful Indian shawls and other items, and we're hoping to have Matt and Michael with Leather and Steel objects - perfect for an unusual present.

Leah, selling her delightful, slimming (not!) cakes, is due to give birth at the beginning of December. She will still be setting up her stall and this will be covered by her neighbour trader. There will, however, be two Tuesdays when she won't be there at all. We thought she ought to have some time off to actually have her new little baby!!

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, we'd like to say a BIG thank you to all our customers who support and appreciate our team of loyal traders. KEEP ON COMING ALONG, use it or lose it. Tuesdays would be so DULL without the buzz of our market in town.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

**Wendy, Paul and all the  
Market Trader community.**



## The Newt in Somerset

It's been another rewarding season both on the estate and in the wider community. We were thrilled to retain the highest Michelin Guide distinction of Three Michelin Keys, a reflection of the continued dedication of our teams. Meanwhile, the Cary in Bloom success continues to shine, and I'm delighted to be joining the committee once again for 2026.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the recent public consultation for The George and 1 Market Place. It was wonderful to see so many local residents, business owners, and community representatives engaging with the proposals and sharing feedback. All comments and correspondence are now being carefully reviewed to help shape the next stage of the project which will be presented back in due course.

As the nights draw in, The Creamery is preparing to keep spirits high with a season of quizzes, wine and cheese evenings, and hearty winter dishes. Be sure to mark Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November in your diary and book your place for Quiz Night, where teams can compete for an 'Afternoon Tea on the Maid of Somerset.' A perfect way to round off the year!

**Zoe Young**

**Contact: [zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com](mailto:zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com)**

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



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





## Cemetery Chapel

If you have recently visited the cemetery, you may have noticed a beautiful Cary Stone wall that has been built to the right of the drive as you look towards Glastonbury Tor. It has been built by Tom Trouton, who is well known locally as the creator of the amazing stone walls that surround The Newt. He has kindly donated the wall to the cemetery.

When the wall is finished with a smooth stone top, it will be ready to start accumulating a number of 'Memorials without Burials'. Small stainless steel plaques will be fixed on the top of the wall for anyone and everyone who wants one to remember a loved one. We imagine those being remembered will not have been buried in the cemetery but may be buried, or their ashes scattered or just died elsewhere. This wall will provide a calm place for their loved ones to remember them close at hand.

This scheme managed by Castle Cary Town Council has not yet been launched or the cost of a plaque decided - so watch this space.

Would you like a local focal point to remember a loved one whose remains are far away or otherwise inaccessible?

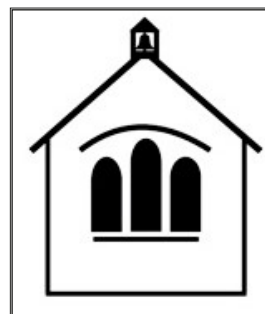
**Contact: Charles Simon - 01963 350276**



## 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



## Toybox Pre-School

Registered Charity 1038101 OFSTED Good

Toybox Pre-School has had a good start to the new academic year and all the children are settling in well. Whilst it is always sad to say goodbye to the leavers in the summer it was good to see their confidence and how ready they were to start school. We have been well supported by the community again this year and would like to thank Pip at The White Hart for fundraising on our behalf and The Newt for match funding the coffee mornings. This will go towards upgrading our outside play area to a 'free-flow' facility which will greatly benefit all the children.

We have qualified staff who help and encourage the children to develop essential social skills and to learn new things through activities, games and crafts. We also provide a sensory room with soft play, gentle lighting and appropriate toys.

If you have a two year old who is ready for pre-school, contact the Manager, Lin Norman, to arrange a visit to see what we offer. We are registering for next term now and can advise about the eligibility for the government grant for 15-30 hours term time only. We look forward to seeing you.

**Contact: Manager, Lin Norman - 01963 359600**

**[www.toyboxpreschool.weebly.com](http://www.toyboxpreschool.weebly.com)**





## Castle Cary Primary School

I have been very lucky to take over as Headteacher of Castle Cary Primary School, after Sarah Martin stepped back in August.

We started the year by being presented with our awards from the fabulous Cary in Bloom project. The children were thrilled to receive a Level 5 Award (the highest level) for their outstanding contribution to the Southwest in Bloom competition! We were delighted to be part of Cary in Bloom and felt the real community spirit. We are already planning our learning experiences for the next Cary in Bloom project!

We very much love being part of the community, and our Year 2 children planned a learning experience to explore the question, 'How does a carnival bring our community together?' Our Wraparound care provision (The Hive) also planned an entry into the carnival, and they all spent a long time designing some fabulous costumes. We were delighted to hear that The Hive received 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Turtle Class took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Children's Carnival.

We have also loved playing bingo at 'The Memory Café' and creating some wonderful masks at South Cary House. It is always a pleasure to be out and about in our wonderful community.

**Amy Brouard, Headteacher**

## Citizens Advice Somerset

As the colder months arrive, Citizens Advice Somerset is here to help local residents stay warm and well this winter. We know that rising energy costs and household bills can put real pressure on budgets, so our advisers are on hand to support you in finding practical ways to reduce costs and maximise your income.

We can help you check whether you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to and advise on how to lower your heating and water bills. We also have information about warm spaces in your community where you can find a welcoming place to stay warm and connect with others. For those finding things difficult, we can look at crisis and one-off grants you may be eligible for to support low-income pensioners and households in need.

You don't need an appointment to see us in person – your closest community access points are in Glastonbury, Street and Wincanton. Please visit our website for full details of locations and opening times.

You can also speak to an adviser by phone, Monday to Friday, 9am–4pm,

**Contact: Free phone 0808 278 7842,  
[www.citizensadvice-somerset.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-somerset.org.uk).**

## Volunteering Opportunity with Route1

If you are looking for a role supporting children and young people in Somerset, then our Route1 Advocacy or Independent Visitor role may be for you!

Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or a young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. This role emphasises building a long-term relationship with one child (visiting once or twice each month), undertaking activities together. Advocacy involves short term engagement with each child through particular issues at hand offering support, give advice, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their view, wishes and feelings.

If you are interested and would like more information please get in touch.

**Contact: [route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk) 01749 822801  
[www.route1advocacy.co.uk](http://www.route1advocacy.co.uk).**

## Castle Cary Youth Club

Meets every Tuesday 4-6pm in the Pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field. Year 7+ welcome for snacks, games, activities, a chance to talk and more! Run by Youth Connect South West and supported by Castle Cary Town Council

**Contact: Rob - 07875 488786 [rob.rumming-pain@ycsw.org.uk](mailto:rob.rumming-pain@ycsw.org.uk)**





## Cary in Bloom 2025

WE DID IT!!! We said in the winter 2024 edition of this newsletter that we wanted three gold medals in 2025 in the RHS South-West in Bloom competition. Guess what?? We got more!

Cary in Bloom secured gold medals in Horticulture, Environment and Community and we won the Ayre Cup (best small town in the South-West). Eat Cary and Castle Cary Primary School were both awarded outstanding in their categories and the town also picked up the South-West Tourism Salver, the best portfolio submitted in the South-West and the Viridor School Composting Award. What a fabulous day our working group reps had on 8<sup>th</sup> October when they went to the awards ceremony in Torquay.

This competition created an amazing community feeling in town during the summer. The wonderful plant displays, window displays, art exhibition, living wall and of course over 120 scarecrows dotted everywhere. A huge thank you to the amazing working group, made up of volunteers from both Castle Cary and Ansford. To the helpers who curated and staffed the art exhibition, the gardeners who made sure the cemetery, the allotments, the living wall, the gardens, the streets, were bright with flowers and to anyone I may have forgotten.

How can we let this pass? The team are already working on an entry for 2026 so help us 'paint our town yellow' next July with our sunflower festival.

**Contact: Penny Steiner - penny@castle Cary.net**



## Carymarsh Nature Reserve

Despite the drought, the reserve had a good summer; masses of wildflowers, and more butterflies, dragonflies and bees than we've seen for many years. We've recorded an otter on several occasions and recently a great white egret. Sadly barn owls had a terrible year with no successful breeding at all, while a survey to check for dormice found none - maybe the woodland is not yet mature enough?

The winter bird forage area just about survived the dry weather and will hopefully provide much needed seeds for our over-wintering birds as the cold weather sets in.

This small nature reserve is just two miles from the centre of Cary, between Cockhill and Dimmer. Visitors are welcome, but please, dogs must *always* be kept under very close control and should never be allowed near the ponds or reedbeds.

We ask that people stay on the footpaths and in particular avoid walking on the grass banks of the drove leading to the reserve. This is where spring wildflowers bloom and trampling destroys them. The lanes and footpaths are wet and muddy at this time of year, so remember to wear suitable footwear.

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

## EatCary

Registered Charity No. 1154857

We are currently in full Cary in Bloom mode. A new volunteer (many of you know her!) wrote after her second visit describing what she found even in bleak November:

'A large polytunnel, multiple raised beds, plots filled with blue flowering borage and bright orange calendula – the group of volunteers meet on Saturday afternoons with many members popping in throughout the week. I decided there and then I'd like to be part of this community. Chemical-free food has long been a priority for me and yet is getting increasingly difficult to source.'

The writer took home leeks, onions, celeriac and calendula heads (the latter to dry for winter teas). She didn't mention the chard and lettuces, still flourishing outside, or chillis, peppers, aubergine, cucumbers and tomatoes still cropping in the polytunnel, with kale and saladings nearly ready too. Our challenge is to keep good-for-you greens available year-round – we nearly managed it last year, supplying lots to the food larder too.

Do join us whether or not you have gardening experience. One of our members said 'It's like growing your own food, with helpers!' Come up any Saturday afternoon. We're up the little path on the left as you enter Maggs Lane, before the drive up to Ansford Academy.

**Rosie Rayner**





## The Moat Garden

Thank you to the visitors at the end of August for Sophie's Scything demonstration, searchers for small creatures, (six different spiders, shield bugs, millipedes, beetles, and others), AND to the musicians. We appreciated the music in the garden and hope to repeat.

We have catch pots, nets and magnifying glasses if you would like to come and hunt yourself.

A 'might you have some left in your shed' list please, before we buy.

For our rain saving project: corrugated clear plastic roofing total amount is 3m x 1m

Timber to support this and a second person to help us.

Picnic table base repair: 2 smooth grey paving slabs 60x60cms

Planning a bird box 'knock-up' end of Jan/Feb: any plywood, pine, untreated wood, minimum 15mm thick & about 150mm wide. Boxes for the Moat Garden, perhaps around town where appropriate, and your gardens. Starting simple, but we welcome anyone interested to help and expand. We also have logs suitable if you have the ability to gouge them out.

Do come and join us in caring for this wild garden space: we have lots of gardening options to enjoy.

**Contact: Ida West - 07919 803610**

**email: [themoatgarden@gmail.com](mailto:themoatgarden@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: The Moat Garden**

## Carymoor Environmental Centre

Our volunteers have been super busy this autumn and have made amazing progress with a number of ongoing projects on the reserve and around the centre buildings. We have cleared tonnes of reeds from our Long Pond to help improve water quality and create space for wildlife. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly groups. We meet on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the year. Do contact us if you are interested in finding out more.

In partnership with Somerset Wildlife Trust and South Somerset Environmental Network we held two wildflower information days and planted wildflower seeds across a new meadow area of the reserve.

There are a number of fabulous, funded courses on offer at Carymoor through Step up Somerset including a three-day Green Workout, Christmas Crafts, Willow weaving, Hedge-laying and wildflower ID courses. These can be booked through [www.stepupsomerset.org.uk](http://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk).

We are also running activity days for families who have a child or young person with physical or learning difficulties. Tickets are £8 per person for a day filled with inclusive activities on our nature reserve and in our centre buildings. Book via our website.

**Contact: [www.carymoor.org.uk](http://www.carymoor.org.uk) for details of all our events and volunteering opportunities**



## Castle Cary Gardening Association

We are a group of gardeners, with varying levels of expertise, joined by a shared joy of a garden, however you wish to define that. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and August) at 7pm, for tea/coffee, for a 7.30pm start at Caryford Hall, BA7 7JJ. The meeting involves an hour-ish long talk from a guest speaker on many and varied subjects roughly wrapped around the interests of a gardener.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> December meeting is *Steve's Weeds: The Pretty, the Useful and the Toxic*. Steve, from Castle Gardens in Sherborne, will explain what a weed is and their value to biodiversity.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> we start the new programme with Abigail Willis, from our wonderful bookshop, with her talk, *The Wardian Case and Other Bright Ideas that Changed Gardening*.

Membership runs from January to December but we start selling membership from our December meeting to provide that extra month for the benefits of discretionary discounts from Schimmel Hardware and Julian Shave. It only costs £10 for a year but if you don't wish to commit, come as a visitor for just £2! Full details from website below.

**Contact: [www.castlecarygardening.com](http://www.castlecarygardening.com)**





## Castle Cary Litterati

We are a small group of locals that hate litter, so once a month we get out for about an hour litter picking to try and keep our lovely town litter free.

Some UK litter facts: -

- More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK daily.
- Almost 48% of people admit to dropping litter.
- The amount of litter dropped each year in the UK has increased by 500% since the 1960s.
- 7 out of every 10 items of discarded litter is food packaging or wrappers.
- Around 122 tons of cigarette butts and related litter is dropped every day across the UK.
- 1.3m pieces of rubbish are dropped on UK roads every weekend. 1/3 of motorists admit to littering while they are driving.
- Cleaning up litter from the streets of Britain costs taxpayers around £500 million. not including parks and public spaces.
- Orange peel, banana skins and cigarette butts take up to 2 years to biodegrade, plastic bags take 10-20 years, and plastic bottles can last forever.

We meet on the first Sunday of the month, 11.00am at The Market House in Castle Cary. Litter picking sticks and hoops are provided.

## Brambling

Are you fed up with the weeds growing through the pavements?? If so, our merry band of 'Bramblers' needs you!!

We have recently been out making a difference to our paths to not only make our paths safe to walk along, but to also to look tidier. There are certain areas where we are having to walk into the road to avoid the rampaging vegetation. This is not safe especially for our less able folk and families with buggies.

On behalf of our very willing volunteers, can I also encourage you to look outside your house and clear away any weeds and overhanging growth making 'their' home in 'your' outside space! If the job is too big for you, let us give you a hand, or maybe generate your neighbours to have a 'Bramble Party'. It's much more fun as a group, all it takes is an hour or so. It's really satisfying when you see the difference it makes, and everyone then takes pride in it.

If you are keen to join in the group, please contact us. We can provide all the equipment, including refreshments to keep us all going! It's a great feeling when you look back and see the difference we make to the town.

**Contact: Philippa - 07889 311445**

## Repair Cafe

This year has proved to be a remarkable one for the Repair Café.

In September, the Group was presented with the BBC 'Make a Difference', Green Award for Somerset. Early in October, we received a substantial grant to establish a website and to improve our communications. At the end of October, the 500<sup>th</sup> appliance, an electric drill, was brought for repair and a small prize given to the owner.

Behind those events lie many hours of dedicated work by a team of twenty volunteers, welcoming, repairing, and serving refreshments. Together they have enabled:

More than 400 items to be given a new extended life. They ranged in type from Food Mixers, Children's Toys, Vacuum Cleaners, Battery Powered Tools, Radios, Strimmers and Lawn mowers, even a machine that dealt identical hands of cards for Bridge Competitions. Jumpers have been darned, trousers shortened, and zips replaced.

One ton of material has been saved from the energy intensive process of recycling – or worse still, from landfill.

The Repair Café provides both a hospitable place offering refreshments and a repair workshop.

We meet on the fourth Saturday of each month (except December) in the Methodist Church Hall from 10.00-12.00.

Like many Charities, we need more volunteers for each of three teams, Fixers, Admin and Hospitality. Do come along and see what we do.

**Contact: Stephen Rymer - 07972 588586**

**caryrepaircafe@gmail.com**





## St Margaret's Hospice Glorious Gardens

Somerset and Dorset were in full bloom this year as the Glorious Gardens campaign brought communities together to raise an incredible £31,471 to support St Margaret's Hospice.

From cottage gardens, allotments, school grounds and stately lawns, over 50 gardens opened, welcoming visitors to explore, relax, and enjoy tea, cake, and conversation.

'Every pound raised through Glorious Gardens helps ensure that our patients can receive compassionate, specialist care when they need it most,' said Holly Hackett. 'From nursing visits at home to emotional support for families, the impact of this campaign reaches far beyond the garden gate. We're so grateful to everyone who opened their gardens or came along to any of the openings.'

St Margaret's is already inviting gardeners across Somerset to take part in Glorious Gardens 2026.

'No matter the size of your garden every space can make a difference,' added Holly. 'We provide everything you need to take part, and you'll join a wonderful community helping care to flourish across Somerset.'

**For more information or to register your interest in opening your garden for Glorious Gardens 2026, visit [www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/event/glorious-gardens/](http://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/event/glorious-gardens/)**



## Castle Cary Choir

We are a mixed voice choir who just love singing and raising money for good causes. We meet every Monday at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, so if you would like to join us, just come along. You won't need to audition, and it doesn't matter if you can't read music. You will learn a lot about music, meet lovely people and lift your spirits through singing in harmony. Next year we will be exploring new music so it's the perfect time to join us. We would particularly like to have more men, so don't be shy, come and sing with us.

Right now we're rehearsing for our Christmas concert, when we'll be singing some different versions of old carols, some songs from musicals and of course some old favourites for everyone to join in. The concert will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, in the Methodist Church, at 7.30 pm.

If your charity would like us to put on a concert for you, contact our Choir Secretary on the email address below.

**Contact: Choir Secretary -  
[janmills23@icloud.com](mailto:janmills23@icloud.com)  
[www.castlecarychoir.org.uk](http://www.castlecarychoir.org.uk)  
Reg. charity 1188547**

## Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

The crowds were buzzing again this year!

After a very wet and windy start, the children's carnival took to the streets and filled them with 'Red White and Blue'. Our entrants all did an absolutely fantastic job and the different interpretations of our theme were amazing.

Skip to the following week and we had an amazing Illuminated Carnival. The autumn vibes were definitely in the air and the skies were lit up with fantastic lights from the large carts. You couldn't help dancing along to the wonderful beats of the bands and twirling along to the majorettes. The creativity from our walkers was just incredible. We hope everybody had a fantastic carnival.

As always we would like to thank everyone that help make our carnivals happen. It simply would not be possible without the wonderful support we receive.

DONATIONS – thanks to your generosity on the streets, we are able to give donations from the collection to local charitable organisations.

If you would like to join our lovely team or keep up to date with everything that is happening, then please contact us.

**[www.ccacs.org.uk](http://www.ccacs.org.uk) or our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety)**





## Sing For Fun

Sing Sing Sing!!! Singing for fun is held in The Market House in Castle Cary every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoon of each month from 2.30pm - 4pm. We serve afternoon tea and cake as well as providing fun and friendship with a very warm welcome!

Not only will you exercise your lungs (great breathing exercises) but your 'grey matter' will be dusted and many memories unleashed!!!

Come and join us anytime but if you're not sure just give Philippa a ring first to have a chat

**Contact: Philippa Biddlecombe - 07889 311445**



## Cygnets Majorettes

It's been an exciting year for the Cygnets Majorettes! There has been a variety of events which the Cygnets have enjoyed performing at, everything from the smaller care home fetes to the mega-huge arena at Amesbury Show. Local highlights include the community Pavilion Project Party, Carnival Funday and of course our favourite carnival - absolutely brilliant again this year. There is something really special about being a Cygnet Majorette and brightening people's day at a hospital fete.

We are beyond proud of our girls as their efforts and hard work has paid off at the competitions they attended, their fantastic skills have impressed the judges, and we brought home some serious silverware! Our best ever has to be the Celebration of Volunteering in Our Community award.

The Cygnets are revamping their dances and getting into the Christmas spirit with their costume change, all ready for those energetic Christmas Light Switch-ons and events, including Cary's Christmas on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Look out for them spreading festive cheer and their jolly dance routines.

They return to training on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January at Caryford Hall, this is when we welcome new recruits. Any girls aged from 6 years and upwards (no upper limit and no experience necessary) come along and see if you'd like to join.

As the end of season approaches and wraps up, the Cygnets would like to thank every one of you lovely people that have supported us throughout the year. Season's Greetings from your Cygnets.

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

## CATS

The CATS Murder Mystery is back! In November we had an evening of fun, food and sleuthing in North Cadbury Village Hall. If you missed it, there's more to come! Keep your eyes peeled for details.

In October, CATS Junior showed off their talents to friends and family at the Junior showcase. To celebrate their efforts and the season, they had lots of scary fun at their Halloween disco, with spooky photos soon to be released! If you are or know any young talented individuals, between 6 and 16, who enjoy acting, singing and dancing, come along on Saturdays from 10am to 12am at the Scout Hall.

Rehearsals have begun for our next production which will be *The Wind In The Willows*, from Wed 18<sup>th</sup> - Sat 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026.

You might have seen Toad and some of his friends in this year's carnival.

**Contact: castlecarycats@gmail.com**

**Facebook:**

**www.facebook.com/castlecarycats/**

**Instagram:**

**www.instagram.com/castlecarycats/**

**Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/**

**castlecarycats**

## Wincanton Choral Society

Christmas concert on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Catholic Church of St. Luke and St. Teresa, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Tickets - £15 (under 18's free) from

**www.ticketsource.co.uk/**

**wincantonchoralsociety**

or on the door.

**Contact: 01749 860457**





## Castle Cary Football Club

There's plenty of positive news around Castle Cary Football Club as we move through the season! Our Firsts, Reserves, Legends and six Youth Teams are performing brilliantly, showing great commitment each week.

This season has seen us strengthen the First Team in the Somerset Senior League, enabling us to reintroduce a Reserve Team of ex-Youth players to the Yeovil and District League. We've also added an U18 team for the first time in club history, competing in the Somerset U18 Youth League – providing natural progression from Youth to Senior football.

Both senior teams are sporting new kits, jointly sponsored by The White Hart and Delaware Foods. The club is also grateful to The Newt for sponsoring the whole club's teamwear.

Off the pitch, exciting events are planned. Our 100 Club continues to grow – please help spread the word. The White Hart Quiz Night is Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, raising funds for the new Pavilion project. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December we have Christmas Bingo at Galhampton Village Hall (doors 6.30pm, eyes down 7.00pm). Our Christmas Draw tickets will be on sale shortly.

This season, we have teamed up with VX3 Sportswear, with new kits featuring the Roundhouse engraved within the design. They have set up a CCFC club shop stocked with some great gear – perfect for Christmas stockings!

**Contact: [castlecary.seniors@gmail.com](mailto:castlecary.seniors@gmail.com)**

## Cary and Camelot Table Tennis

We play friendly, social table tennis on Tuesday evenings at North Cadbury

Village Hall, from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. We have 3 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.

Come and give us a try – your first session is free (£3 per session pay and play thereafter).

**Contact: Carol Turner - 07955 346637  
or Andy Bentley 07890 441763**

## Cary Runners

Cary Runners are a small group of local runners who support and encourage each other jogging around our streets and local country lanes.

We meet every Monday at 18h30, outside the George Hotel during the winter, for a gentle social jog of between 5 and 8km (3 to 5 miles) along country roads or around the streets of Cary and Ansford. Speed or level of fitness does not matter, as long as you can manage to run, however slowly, about 5km. A torch and something hi-viz is obligatory for all our winter runs.

If you would like to join us, either turn up on a Monday evening or call Dave Boyer for more information or follow our Facebook page.

Note that most of our day-to-day comms are via WhatsApp. We have over 150 followers on FB; to keep the WhatsApp chats manageable we only admit people who will be running with the group on a regular basis. So come along to our Monday evening runs and join up.

**Contact: Dave Boyer - 07903 276315  
[www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/caryrunners/)**



## Castle Cary Bridge Club

Castle Cary Bridge Club meets on a Thursday evening in the smaller hall at Caryford Hall. 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. What's not to like? We look forward to welcoming you.

**Contact: Margaret Bebbington -  
07985 435412 (Cary)  
Barry Blight - 01963 440351 (Galhampton)**



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## FREE PROSTATE CANCER TESTING EVENT



**Saturday 21st March 2026, 10am-4pm**  
**Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford,**  
**Castle Cary, BA7 7JJ**

Somerset Prostate Support Association is hosting a FREE event on Saturday 21st March 2026 for men aged 40 and over.

Every year in the UK 40,000 men are diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and around 10,000 die from the disease. Early diagnosis can be crucial to successful treatment.

Appointments take 10-15 minutes and MUST be BOOKED ONLINE, IN ADVANCE. It will NOT be possible to be tested on the day without a prior appointment.

To book your appointment at a time to suit you:-

1. Visit <https://myspatests.org.uk/events/>
2. Register yourself using your email address.
3. Click 'Find an event' - search for SPSA.
4. Select the event, scroll down, choose a convenient time slot and book it.

All tests are confidential and are carried out by qualified medical practitioners.

For any questions regarding the tests please contact Peter Hopwood:- telephone 01458 441669 or email [peterhopwood46@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopwood46@gmail.com).

Donations to SPSA for future testing events will be gratefully received either at the event or via [spsa.uk](https://spsa.uk) where you can donate online.

## Bruton Choral Society Christmas Concert

St Mary's Church, Bruton at 7.30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The wonderfully atmospheric and ancient building will provide the perfect backdrop to enjoy some festive music with a glass of wine to add to the good cheer. As well as some well-known Christmas music and carols for all to sing, our main piece will be Cecilia McDowall's Christus Natus Est (a 5 movement Christmas Cantata accompanied by strings, percussion and organ), with Angela Ashworth as our soprano soloist and St Mary's Children's Choir and pupils from Bruton Primary School as our guests. The occasion would not be complete without Ashley Marshfield and his now famous and virtuosic organ solos!

Advance tickets £12, £15 on the day, including a glass of wine, (children free) from Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161 or [www.brutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.brutonchoralsociety.org.uk)

## Castle Cary Newsletter Advertising Opportunity!

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

**Limited Space is Available  
for the Spring Edition**

**email: Catrin**

**[markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk](mailto:markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.co.uk)**





# Cary's Christmas

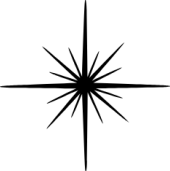
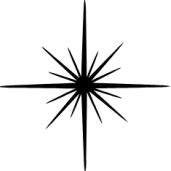
## Thursday 11th December

From 5.30pm

Castle Cary Town Centre

Late Night Shopping  
Festive Food & Drink  
Visit from Father Christmas  
Street Entertainment for all ages

*Please note the roads and High Street will be closed from 4pm*



Chapline Gold  
Pantos  
presents

# Dick Whittington

The Children's Pantomime!

★★★★★  
A cast of 5  
fabulous performers!

"Absolutely Brilliant!"



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Doors: 14:00 Starts: 14:30  
Run Time 2hrs including interval

Tickets from Bailey Hill Bookshop  
**Adults £5 ♦ Under 12s FREE\***  
(\*with a ticket and a responsible adult)

Generous grants from **Delaware Veterinary, Ansford Parish Council** and **Castle Cary Town Council**  
have allowed us to offer affordable ticket prices - **FREE** for local children under 12!



**Caryford Community Hall**  
Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary, BA7 7JJ  
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered No: 1192922)

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or call 01963 351763

 @markethousecastlecary  @themarkethousecastlecary





## Castle Cary Youth Cricket

Our youth section had an excellent first season playing competitive matches with nearly 50 boys and girls regularly training and playing matches. The under 14s played a full league and cup schedule, the under 10s reached their cup final and the under 11s played 8 matches at 3 festivals. There were regular training sessions for under 14s on a Saturday morning and under 11s on a Wednesday evening. We were delighted that parents volunteered to help and also cricketers assisted with coaching and many other tasks. It was a very successful season capped off with an enjoyable Awards Evening where Somerset cricketer, Alfie Ogborne, presented awards to Jake, Oscar, Bertie, Lilia and Will. The Club was also recognised at the Somerset Cricket Foundation Annual Awards where Coach, Steve Maybury received the 'Inspired to Play' award.

Building on these foundations, we will be entering teams in under 10s, under 12s and under 14 leagues in 2026. Winter training commences in January, and we will be running After School Clubs at local schools. We have formed a new Youth Committee, comprising parents and Cricket club members to deliver an even better 2026 season.

If your son or daughter wish to join in the fun, please contact us.

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



## CASTLE CARY CRICKET CLUB

### Players Wanted for 2026 Season

All abilities welcome – seniors, juniors, and newcomers

Matches on Saturday afternoons

Email us at [castle Carycc@gmail.com](mailto:castle Carycc@gmail.com)  
to register your interest.

## Castle Cary RFC

Hello and warm wishes to you from us at Castle Cary Rugby Football Club.

At CCRFC we have had quite a change. Our amazing senior men's team were promoted last season and are showing their opponents in The Counties 2 Somerset League what they are made of. They are being coached by Dan Beal and captained by Liam Atkins.

Our junior teams are going from strength to strength under the guidance of Jack 'Barney' Barnett. Emma Sayer is working with the girls of The Ravens and Karen, who has led our club over many years, has passed the baton on to me, as the new chair and Kristian Lye, the vice chair. Our president of many years has stepped down, and James 'Jimmer' Atkins has stepped into those big shoes.

My message is simple. Come down to our friendly club and be part of the new legacy. Enjoy the hospitality of our bar, watch exciting rugby and maybe even consider becoming a volunteer at our amazing club.

Our phenomenal club house is also available for hire for your party or event.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Greg Power - Chair**

**Contact:- <https://castle Caryrfc.rfu.club/>**



## Caryford Short Mat Bowls Club

We invite you to join us for a friendly game of indoor bowls. We will help you to learn and lend you bowls, just bring a pair of flat shoes. Your first two sessions are free, and we break for tea and biscuits at half time. We meet in the main hall at Caryford Hall every Tuesday afternoon from 2.15pm until 4.30pm.

**Contact: Trevor Woods - 01963 441030**  
**s33tjw@gmail.com**





## 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@theartsociety.org

**Bellringing** – 01963 350002

**Brue Valley Rotary** – 07967 685997

**Café Scientifique Somerset** – 07375 890751

**Camelot Rounders** – 07969 233760

**Care4Cary** – 07803 855208

**Cary Carers** – **01963 202629** or email [kim.whitehead@btinternet.com](mailto:kim.whitehead@btinternet.com)

**Cary Cares** – 01963 602013 / [carycares1@gmail.com](mailto:carycares1@gmail.com)

**Cary Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS)** – 07715 510359

**Cary Comedians Carnival Club** – 07983 716016

**Cary History Society** – [caryhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wistmansoak@icloud.com)

**Castle Cary Cricket Club** – 07527 628956

**Castle Cary Gardening Association** – 01963 240837 / [www.castlecarygardening.com](http://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 Rugby Club** – [castlecaryrfc1888@gmail.com](mailto:castlecaryrfc1888@gmail.com)

**Castle Cary Senior Football Club** – 07733 321280

**Castle Cary Town Museum** – [castlecarymuseum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.castlecarylibrary.org.uk)

**Jubilee Almshouses (charity)** – 01963 440472

**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** – 07919 803610

**Netball** – 07903 244213

**Parson Woodforde Society** – [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk)

**Red Cross** – 01963 350830

**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** – [www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk](http://www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk)

**Use Less Share More Group** – 01963 351461

**Walking for Fun** – 01963 351461

**Walking in England** – [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.castle-cary.co.uk)**

**Ansford Parish Council website: [www.ansford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ansford-pc.gov.uk)**



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