

Castle Cary & Ansford Community

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

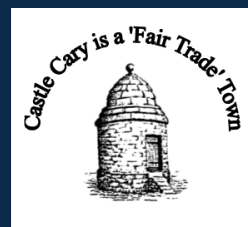


Photo: A Glimpse of Spring by Cary Good Things

Sponsored by



The Newt
in Somerset





YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL RETAILER

- Showroom including freestanding and built in electrical appliances
- Sales, installation and recycling included
- Totally independent
- FREE Next day delivery available (subject to availability)
- Repairs to most domestic appliances
- Servicing Castle Cary and surrounding towns and villages, including: Somerton, Langport, Shepton Mallet, Wells, Street & Glastonbury.





01963 351110 | bishop@abishoplectrical.com
4 High Street, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7AW



Castle Cary Bridge Club

We are a friendly club playing duplicate bridge and welcome new members. We play on Thursday evenings at Caryford Hall, Castle Cary at 7pm.

Contact Margaret Bebbington on 07985 435412 or Belinda Simson on 01458 223470 for more information

Caryford Community Hall

Our hall thrives on the energy, ideas and generosity of volunteers from the town. A small team keeps it busy: but we need more hands to help!

Whether you can offer a few hours a month, or special skills, we have a role for you. Every contribution, big or small, will make a difference, keeping this community space vibrant and in top shape. Join us today and help to make a lasting impact!

Contact Ian Bynoe – email: ian@caryfordhall.co.uk
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1192922

Castle Cary Newsletter Advertising Opportunity!

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

email: Catrin – markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.gov.uk



Shop local and support small businesses at

Castle Cary Tuesday Market

Every week • 8.30am - 1.30pm

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

The Market House, Market Place
Castle Cary BA7 7AH

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 Town Council

I feel it is necessary to unfold the decision on forming a new council. This proposal was generated by Henry Hobhouse. CCTC voted in favour at the start of the consultation in order to give a clear indication of our leaning on the matter.

From the outset I had been particularly clear that whatever the outcome, it would be an indication of the feeling of our parishioners.

As the issue unfolded, it showed that although the respondents from Castle Cary were clearly in favour, there were not enough, and hence this resolution didn't have the support required to validate it.

This is where we now stand, and CCTC can continue our focused approach. We will be again organising our events and look to maximise our resources to fund our community projects, whilst supporting our many volunteer organisations.

Now that winter is coming to an end, we can look forward to spring, and the start of our activities. One item I need to highlight is the Youth Project in the form of the weekly Youth Club that has temporarily moved to The Market House on a Tuesday evening. We look forward to welcoming more youngsters in the lighter evenings.

The Market House has continued with its development and the new kitchen and billiard room are now open for hire, enhancing the existing facilities, along with an extra toilet.

It is also good to note the number and frequency of talks being carried out by the Museum with their range of topics, great work! By attending a talk you're supporting The Market House Project.

Trevor Oats, Chair
Castle Cary Town Council



Annual Town Forum

Wednesday 20th May
from 6.15pm
Caryford Hall

Castle Cary Town Council

Clerk: Lisa Davis

email: town.clerk@castle-cary.gov.uk

Tel: 07780 635013

Deputy Clerk: Terena Isaacs

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

Tel: 01963 359631

Marketing and Communications

Administrator: Catrin Loxton

Email:

markethouse.bookings@castle-cary.gov.uk

Tel: 01963 351763

Contact the Clerk's Office on
(01963) 359631

Information Point: Volunteers

Email: tourism@castle-cary.gov.uk

Tel: (01963) 351763

Councillors:

Frances Alden

Linda Ball

Margaret Bebbington

Philippa Biddlecombe

David Bright

Robert Brown

Gavin Crisp

Dave Gill

Judi Morison

Trevor Oats (Chair)

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

Mr Kevin Messenger

Tel: 07970 867108

Tel: 07969 150646



INFORMATION POINT

NEW LIFE, NEW INTERESTS,
NEW FRIENDS!

Just moved to Castle Cary or Ansford?

Pop in any weekday morning or Saturday morning, to pick up a WELCOME PACK and chat to one of our friendly volunteers about local opportunities, interests and hobbies.

We also advise visiting tourists and provide community information to local people.

You'll find us at The Market House:
Mondays to Fridays, 9.30am – 12.30pm.
Saturdays, 9.30am – 12noon

Afternoon Volunteers Wanted

Do you like meeting and helping people? We're looking for volunteers to help man the Information Desk for a couple of hours on weekday afternoons during the summer season. Training is provided.

If you are interested in joining the friendly team, please drop in and see us.

Contact the Information Desk:
01963 351763

(leave a message if we are not there)

Email: tourism@castle-cary.gov.uk



INSPIRED JOURNEYS 2026

An exhibition of textile art, mixed media, modern quilts and felting

11 to 25 April 2026

***At The Market House,
Castle Cary BA7 7AH***

10 am to 1.30 pm weekdays

**10 am to 3.30pm Saturdays,
11, 18 & 25**

***Free Entry, Dogs Welcome,
Disabled Access on request
Sales Table, Gifts & Cards***

textsetartists@btinternet.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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**

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 1st July 2026**

Distribution from: Friday 17th July 2026

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

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.gov.uk and ask to be put on the mailing list.



News From The Market House

We are delighted to announce the recent renovations upstairs on the top floor are now complete. We have created a fully fitted kitchen adjacent to the Billiard Room, complete with oven, microwave, hot cupboard, industrial dishwasher, fridge and tea and coffee making facilities. Therefore, your booking in the Assembly or Billiard Rooms can now benefit from a kitchen available to hire.

It's been a busy start to the year, and we were pleased to host our first wedding ceremony in the Assembly Room. Congratulations again to Ann and David! If you are looking for a unique venue for your wedding ceremony and celebrations please do get in touch, I'd love to show you around and discuss further.

The Market House is available to hire for all your event needs; from meetings, talks and exhibitions to workshops, celebrations, weddings and more!

I look forward to hearing from you.

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.gov.uk or check the website calendar for availability – www.markethousecastlecary.com

Please do follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/themarkethousecastlecary and Instagram www.instagram.com/markethousecastlecary/ to keep up to date with events and life at The Market House!



Ansford Parish Council – News Update

Ansford Parish Council is pleased to report that the Somerset Community Governance Review has concluded with a clear and positive outcome: Ansford will remain an independent parish. Throughout the consultation, residents demonstrated strong and consistent support for retaining Ansford's separate identity, with voting responses providing unequivocal evidence in favour of independence. This community mandate played a decisive role in the final recommendation and reflects the value residents place on local representation, accountability, and the distinct character of the parish. The Council extends its thanks to everyone who took part and helped secure this important result for Ansford's future.

Councillors met on 11th February 2026 for the Parish Meeting, to review ongoing projects and set priorities, with particular attention given to highways, planning matters, and community engagement. Plan for the Maggs Lane playing field wait for Somerset Council legal department to progress the ownership. Highways and pedestrian safety remain central concerns, and the Council continues to work with Somerset Council to address issues such as potholes, drainage, and speeding through key routes in the parish.

Updates were also received on local planning applications, with councillors emphasising the importance of sustainable development that respects the character of Ansford while meeting housing needs. Work continues on maintaining community spaces, including footpaths and green areas, and residents are encouraged to report any issues so they can be addressed promptly. The parish council in partnership with Somerset Council are establishing a play area at Lovel's Farm and look to adopt both this and the play area at Mulberry Meadows this year.

In line with its commitment to openness, the Council is reviewing its communication channels to make information more accessible. Residents are warmly invited to attend future meetings and take part in shaping the parish's ongoing work.

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

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

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

Cary History Society

We are happy to announce our next illustrated talk: The Lost Manor of Cary – the making of our town? by Prof. Will Vaughan

Sunday 10 May 3pm at Caryford Hall BA7 7JJ

Doors open 2.30 – Refreshments available.

Tickets £5 from Bailey Hill Bookshop from mid-April.

The Society focusses on the history of Castle Cary and the surrounding settlements and donates any profits to local historic causes.

Contact: For other Cary History Society events – caryhistsoc@gmail.com and ask to be put on the mailing list.



Pavilion Project Update

Is everybody in the community aware of the desire to replace the ageing Sports Pavilion on the Donald Pither Field? – if not, you are now! The pavilion has not been fit for purpose for several years and our sports teams need a facility that will allow them to compete in the higher leagues. The new facility would include changing rooms for all genders as well as community space for other sports and youth related use, including a kitchen.

Currently we have the design and the planning permission. Tenders for the build are being sought. Funding is uppermost in our minds at present. We have almost £250,000 from Somerset Council designated S106 money – this is money paid to the local authority for new developments in the town, from developers, specifically for the Pavilion which they deem an essential need for our community. There is anticipation of more in the future. We are applying for grants. We are approaching local businesses for their support. But we would like and need the local community to be involved. We are seeking donations – no sum is too small. If you would like to donate this can be done into the CCTC bank account:

Castle Cary Town Council
Sort Code 20-99-40
Account No 50710946
Reference – Pavilion Project

Or use the QR code below to donate to the Cricket Club's fund.

Please help to future-proof our facilities for our ever-growing town. We thank you for your support.

Simon Bebbington
Lead Volunteer Fundraiser
Pavilion Project



The Pavilion Project

As the Pavilion project starts another year it is important to share how much work, and effort has got us to our present position.

- Full Planning has been granted
- There are significant resources secured against the section agreements held by our community because the development of Castle Cary and Ansford.
- The tender documents are being prepared in order to obtain quotes for the building.
- A team has been instructed to start bidding for grants to fund any shortfall.
- The community are fundraising, the Cricket and Football clubs have gofundme pages and
- The White Hart holds a regular quiz.
- Plans are being finalised to organise a party to rival Glastonbury!

All this is down to the hard work not of those who have recently joined the project but also those who have performed their roles diligently in the past.

It has been a long and arduous journey but now light can be seen at the end of the tunnel. Lend your support and come along spend some money, enjoy yourself and help build a facility that our community can be proud of.

Trevor Oats,
Chair CCTC

A Deserving Cause

Copies of *Growing Old Inevitably*, Shirley Lane's gentle and amusing exploration of old age, are still available at Bailey Hill Bookshop. Donations (suggested £10 per copy) will go towards the new Castle Cary Sports Pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field.





Arts Society Mid Somerset

Spring – Summer Programme 2026

The Arts Society Mid Somerset opens its new 2026-27 season of art themed illustrated Lectures with a talk on 21st April about 'The Beatles – Here, There and Everywhere' by Jamie Hayes.

The subject for the 20th May lecture is 'Inspired by Stonehenge'. Our speaker Julian Richards will tell us how Stonehenge influenced artists such as Turner and Constable.

On 16th June we are 'Dining with Parson Woodforde and Jane Austen: Eating at home with the Georgians' by Peter Ross.

The final talk before our Summer break is 'The Garden in Ancient Egypt' on the 21st July.

The Arts Society Mid Somerset holds its very popular and well attended series of lectures on the third Tuesday of the month at Caryford Hall starting at 11am. Tea and coffee is available at £1.50 from 10.15am.

An annual membership of the Society costs £55 and includes ten lectures, the Arts Society Magazine 'Review'; and there are visits to places of interest and special study days or mornings. Lectures are open to non-members who pay £8 per lecture making membership excellent value.

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



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.

Castle Cary Museum

The Museum will re-open on Saturday 28th March and will be open Monday – Saturday 10.30 – 3.30pm until late October

This year's event 'BOTTOMS UP!' will look at a selection of interesting objects from unusual points of view. There will be a quiz, a competition and – back by popular demand – Museum tea-towels will be for sale.

Our coffee morning is on 11th April – a date to put in your diary.

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours a week to help run the museum. No experience is needed and training will be given if required... We are a friendly group of people interested in old things, local history and meeting a wide variety of local people and visitors.

Contact: 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



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, our community very generously raised nearly £7,000 – we thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

If you are aware of any veterans in the town who might need some support, please get in touch with Simon Bebbington. He will also be pleased to try and answer any other questions 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 Simon Bebbington, the current Chairman.

**Contact: Simon Bebbington, Chair
1simonbebbington@gmail.com
07587 180639**





Brue Valley Rotary Club

Not only has it been exceptionally wet since the last Newsletter, but the Club has been really busy.

Our main focus has been fund raising for the Free Prostate Cancer Testing Event being run in partnership with the Somerset Prostate Support Association at Caryford Hall on Saturday 21st March. Thanks are due to all who supported us at the Castle Cary and Bruton Christmas Evenings, the Coffee Morning at Bruton and the tremendous turnout for the Wassail at North Cadbury when we were fortunate enough to have a dry evening!

Additionally, we have helped Shepton Mallet Rotary at their annual Bonfire & Fireworks display, collected at local hostelrys for Children In Need, provided collectors for Marie Curie, helped Chelwood Bridge Rotary pack Water Survival Boxes and assisted with Christmas Tree collections for St Margaret's Hospice.

Our attention is now turning to the Club's Annual Rotary District Golf Day at Wheathill Golf Club on Thursday 10th September in aid of the Children's Hospice South West. If you are interested in providing sponsorship for the event or entering a team, please do contact us.

Contact: Nicky Creed 07967 685997
contactus@bruevalleyrotary.org
www.bruevalleyrotary.wordpress.com

Cary Cares

Cary Cares continues to support people living in Castle Cary and Ansford. The Community Larder continues to provide food and essential items to local residents. If you need support, or would like to volunteer or donate, please get in touch. Together, we can ensure no one in our community needs to go hungry.

An important part of Cary Care's role is to provide funds to ensure that everyone can participate in community life. We invite local groups to apply to our Community Grants. These small grants are designed to help people participate more fully in community life. Whether you run a club, activity group, support network or creative project, we want to hear from you. If your group has an idea that could bring people together, please consider applying. Application forms can be downloaded from our website.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Appeal. Your generosity made a real difference to local households over the festive season. Community spirit is what makes our town so special, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Steve Baker, Chair of Trustees
Contact: carycares1@gmail.com
01963 602013
www.carycares.org.uk



Castle Cary and Ansford Christian Aid Group

This year's Christian Aid Week will run between Sunday 10th May and Saturday 16th May 2026. We will start the week with a Churches Together service at All Saints' Church, Castle Cary on Sunday 10th May at 10:00am. In this service we will reflect on the work of Christian Aid partners in Nairobi supporting people to farm in the inner city to feed their families and earn an income. 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 16th 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.

More information about the charity and it's work can be found on: www.christianaid.org.uk

Thank you for your support of this cause.





Macmillan Fundraising Committee

Well, Spring definitely seems to be here so it's lovely to see all the flowers and trees coming into bloom. It's hard to think back to our last fundraiser in the cold at Cary's Christmas in December! We made a phenomenal £475 with our usual cakes and children's activities.

When you get this, we will have just held our annual quiz at Castle Cary Rugby Club which is always a success and we would like to thank the rugby club for their brilliant support as always. Our next fundraiser is a Table Top Sale being hosted by Penny Steiner on 18th April. If you would like to take a table please email us (details below)

We are planning plenty of fundraising for the coming year and are also supporting Cary in Bloom with all their activities. So follow us on Facebook or look at the Cary Calendar to find out about everything. The money we raise goes to help fund the crucial work done by Macmillan Cancer Support so thank you to everyone.

Contact: castlecarymacmillan@gmail.com



The Iona Community

We are an international ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. A local Iona group organises services on the first Sunday of each month at 4.00pm in one of the local churches. Everyone is welcome at these.

The Community also runs Iona Abbey, a centre for guests on the island of Iona in the West of Scotland, and an outdoor activity centre on the Isle of Mull. It has a publishing house, Wild Goose Publications, and employs the Wild Goose Resource Group who run worship workshops around the UK. But the main work of the Community is through the lives of its members.

For more information about the Community visit: iona.org.uk

Contact: 01963 351275, David Osborne

Churches Together in Castle Cary & Ansford

To start the week of prayer for Christian Unity, members of the churches, and friends, joined for a morning service at the Methodist Church. Revd. David Osborne led our service, and Amy, from The Yeovil Hospital Charity, joined us at the service. Amy gave information referencing departments at the hospital. We have adopted the charity, to support, during Lent, bringing our gift envelopes back to the churches on Easter Sunday. We will join again for the Good Friday Pilgrimage, from The Market House, on Friday 3rd April, starting at 10am.



Anglican Church

Please see our website and Facebook page for information on our regular Sunday services, as well as special Easter services and other events. You will find a warm and friendly welcome at any and all of our gatherings.

We have been very pleased to welcome some new members of the congregation in recent months and would be delighted to welcome more! These are very troubled times, but we would love to share the hope and reassurance we find through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Messy Church goes from strength to strength and is much enjoyed by all who attend. The next two meetings will be at All Saints', Castle Cary at 3.30pm on 28th March (when we'll be creating the Easter garden) and 25th April. 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.

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
castlecaryallsaints.org.uk**





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

Chair of Churches Together: Judith Cole 07739 638105

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. Anyone is welcome to join our **Good Friday Pilgrimage** round the town on 3rd April, beginning at the Market House at 10.00am and returning there an hour or so later. We will not this year be walking up Lodge Hill. On **Easter Day, 5th April**, there are services in all the churches as well as one at dawn on Lodge Hill organised by the Methodist Church. For details of all services see the separate church websites or phone the contact numbers below.

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 & Administrator Tracie Woodcock:

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

E-mail: 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





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:	castle Carymethodist@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	castle Carymethodist@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 7.30 pm on Good Friday (3rd April) and we will worship at the viewpoint on Lodge Hill at 6am on Easter Sunday (5th April)

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.

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

Email: castle Carymethodist@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/castle Carymethodist>

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

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

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@somersetcc.org.uk

www.somersetcarers.org





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 3114445
for further information.**



Castle Cary & Ansford Good Neighbours

Since the summer of 2025 a small group of community representatives have been meeting to discuss ways to tackle loneliness and social isolation in the town – inspired by the work of the team of Health Coaches at Millbrook Surgery.

Step one is to create a network of befrienders based in social groups and clubs across Castle Cary and Ansford and we'd love you to be part of it!

We've extended an invitation to every social group, club and society in Castle Cary and Ansford, and asked them to nominate members to join a Good Neighbours workshop – ideally those who already have responsibility for welcoming new people. Workshops provide an opportunity to learn about social isolation, loneliness and the power of befriending, identify (and breakdown) barriers to inclusion, and share ideas for welcoming new members to create and foster meaningful relationships.

By the time you read this newsletter we'll already have hosted the first two workshops, but it is not too late to participate... the next Good Neighbours workshop takes place at The Shambles at 6.30pm on Monday 30 March 2026. To book your place visit the Information Centre team.

Contact:
emily.maccormack@sparksomerset.org.uk

Castle Cary & Ansford Twinning Association

We recently held our AGM and are now finalising details of the forthcoming visit to our twin town of Rémalard in Normandy. We shall travel by coach and ferry via Portsmouth and Caen on Thursday 28th May, returning on Sunday 31st and are looking forward to the usual warm welcome and full programme of activities organised by our French counterparts.

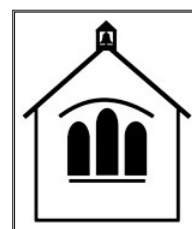
We continue to organise coffee mornings and social events, such as a summer barbeque and an autumn quiz. We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact us.

**Contact: Membership Secretary, Roy Higgins
higgins.Roy@sky.com
Chair: Susan Keen – keensue5@gmail.com**



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





Castle Cary Fire Station

We're still on the lookout for new recruits at Castle Cary Fire Station and would like to encourage anyone interested to contact us via our website, social media platforms or come and see us on a Wednesday evening between 19:00 – 21:00.

We are currently a 13-strong crew made up of people from all backgrounds and require more people to keep the fire engine available 24/7 and future-proof the station and fire cover in and around Castle Cary.

We can offer flexible contracts that fit around your lifestyle and offer a great benefits package including good pay, quality training and many qualifications and transferable skills, which can be used in other employment, such as first aid and even LGV driving courses after your development period.

There's no upper age limit. Applicants just need to pass the pre-entry tests, which can be found on our website.

New recruits are trained to be professional firefighters and to respond to real emergencies straight after their 2-week course. Why not try something new and exciting, while getting paid?

Contact: Watch Manager John Wenglorz

jwenglorz@dsfire.gov.uk or via the platforms mentioned above



Saturday Stitch

For members our craft group has been a real highlight, especially through the Autumn and Winter months. The in-house workshops have been varied giving everyone the chance to try something new in a relaxed, friendly setting.

From creating needle-felted angels to mastering the mysteries of magic loop knitting, there's always something to stretch our skills. We've stitched practical porridge bowl holders and twisted fabric scraps and rope into coasters and bowls and shared plenty of tips and encouragement along the way.

The group is special, it has a lovely atmosphere with a good balance of learning, creativity and humour.

Saturday Stitch continues to thrive, and we look forward to another season of creativity together. Demand remains high, membership is currently full and we operate a waiting list for those wishing to join, do get in touch. 1st & 3rd Saturdays at Caryford Hall

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

In the meantime, an excellent alternative is 'Connecting Threads' which offers a similar friendly and creative environment. 2nd & 4th Saturdays also in Castle Cary

Contact: Linda Thornton – 07715 147640



Cary Good Things

Cary Good Things was set up by two locals to celebrate all the Good People and Good Things that make Castle Cary so wonderful. Our Community Calendar is your one-stop spot to find out what's going on: events, workshops, talks, support groups, community gatherings, choirs, repair cafés, charity fundraisers, movie nights and theatre, all in one place. Anyone can access and share it, no account needed.

We also curate our own series of events such as workshops, makers' mornings, talks and seasonal dinners, spotlighting local talent and bringing people together. There's a working lunch learning programme, 'Level Up Your Lunch Break', in the pipeline for freelancers, small businesses and the curious, open to all. There's a community directory in the works too.

Get in touch if you would like to share your area of expertise with our community. We handle everything: venues, planning and marketing, so you can simply show up, connect and enjoy.

To explore what's on, add your event to the calendar or learn more, scan the QR code. Whether you're attending, hosting or sharing, we've got Good Things going on.





Caryford Community Hall

With this newsletter you will receive a copy of our April to July Events Brochure with details of music, films, theatre, talks and the next Hidden Gardens Day on 31 May. We hope there will be something for all tastes and interests and at a reasonable price. If you have not come to a performance or event before, why not give this a try?

The Main Hall was built in 1993 and, now being well over thirty years old, the roof needs specialised treatment and repainting to extend its life. We have secured a grant of nearly £11,000 from the National Lottery to put towards the high cost of this work. Thanks to all those residents who play the Lottery and enable grants like this to be paid to us.

Last year the Hall's trustees held a consultation under the Charities Act on their proposed sale of a strip of land on the Hall's northern boundary with Maggs Lane. We expect very shortly to announce the trustees' decision following this process. When we do, we will post a notice on our website and also send this to everyone who responded to the consultation.

Contact: Ian Bynoe – 01963 350655

ian@caryfordhall.co.uk

<https://caryfordhall.co.uk> Follow us: Facebook.com/caryfordhall

Instagram @Caryford_hall or scan the QR code for more information



Toybox Pre-School

Registered Charity 1038101 OFSTED Good

We're creating a new play area just outside the pre-school so that children can be outside in fine weather. First, we must fence the area off for the children's safety and security. Then we'll turn it into an exciting play space, with a play barn, sandpit, gardening patch, messy kitchen, a row of play shops, and room for bike riding and just running around in the open air. We're raising money for all this. We'd welcome your help.

We now host a 'Check & Chat' session for parents and babies on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9.30am where you can get your baby weighed and speak to a health professional. We hope to offer further useful sessions for parents of young children in the near future – look out for details.

If you'll be looking for a place for your pre-school child (2 – 5 years old) to start in September, do get in touch to find out what we offer and to arrange a visit. Ring 01963 359600 or email

Contact: 01963 359600; email

toyboxcastle Cary@gmail.com

www.toyboxpreschool.weebly.com

Camelot Area u3a

Now Spring is firmly here, hopefully we can start to enjoy some drier weather. Our walking groups will be making the most of any good days, plus our photography, gardening and art groups.

Good news regarding our yearly fees, they remain at £17 for the fourth-year running, with associative fees still only £7. Included are our monthly talks which range from historical to humorous – our guest comedian/magician was highly entertaining last November.

Talks coming up include: 'The Voyage of the Beagle' in March, 'Thomas Russell' in April, 'The Women who Went Round the World' in May and 'Tales from Downton Abbey' in September. Held on the last Friday of the month, at Caryford Hall, from 2pm to 4pm. All details are on our website and non-members are welcome for a small fee of £2, refreshments included.

You can join your local u3a at any time, start your own interest group or help on our committee. We have a couple of vacancies and are a friendly bunch. Help is at hand for anyone that feels a little unsure about what is involved and for anyone wishing to become a group leader with a new or additional activity. A new member commented the other day that the u3a has not only provided new interests but also an opportunity to meet people that he never would have before.

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair

www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk



The Newt in Somerset

Thank you for bearing with the ongoing building works at The Angel Inn. It's really starting to take shape and we're looking forward to welcoming you through the doors in early autumn. It will be another beautiful addition to our high street and a space we hope you will enjoy.

Meanwhile, the ever-brilliant Cary in Bloom committee are hard at work once again. We were delighted to produce and sponsor the seed postcards currently being delivered to every household in Castle Cary and Ansford. They celebrate just some of last year's highlights and include all the important dates for this year. Once you've finished with yours, simply soak it, tear it up, pop it in the soil and watch it bloom.

Before then, we're excited to share that our Great Garden Show will run from 9–17 May. For the first time, day tickets will be available, alongside a full programme of gardening inspiration, talks and activities. We hope to see you there.

Zoe Young, Community Liaison Officer

Contact: zoe.young@thenewtinsomerset.com



Castle Cary Tuesday Market

Well, these last few days seem like spring has sprung, daffs are out and the magnolias are budding! Two dry market weeks in a row. What's not to like?

We will soon be welcoming Clare back to Castle Cary with her fabulous array of plants, just ready for your spring garden planning!

Paula Carnell will be back in April with her healthy bee products, and we hope to attract some new stalls to add to our great team of traders.

If you haven't visited Matthew – who handcrafts knives, chefs' knives and leather bags, wallets and lots more – then please do. I should mention he will undertake leather repairs and knife restoration so come and say hi. Did you know that Paul, who supplies meat, runs his own smallholding and all the meat is reared by him and brought to the market? It is frozen immediately as he does not have a chiller outlet so is as fresh as you can get.

We know it's a difficult time for everyone at the moment, the world's gone mad, however on a Tuesday morning we hope we bring a bit of lightness and a buzz to our lovely town. Keep coming, keep supporting us and a big thank you to our loyal customers.

The Market Team



Castle Cary Community Library

Bibliotherapy. Since Covid everyone has been talking about their mental health! Being taken in hand by a competent author can be an escape to a contained world where individuals can celebrate the joys of silence and solitude. This is the National Year of Reading with the aim of returning us to that habit of lingering, savouring and conjuring the personal meaning of a text: this is one of the many reasons for our Community Library.

Change may be ahead due to the recent sad death of Bridget Laver, who leased us the Library building and was devoted to Castle Cary and the Library.

Continuing activities include Storytime, a visit from Janet Montgomery, the retiring High Sheriff, and from Mendip School which caters for young people with autism, speech and communication difficulties. These events have been highly successful, and we would like to repeat them. People admired the new self-service admissions kiosk and the recent book reorganisation. School liaison continues as do the coffee mornings and book sales.

We would like to do more and would welcome your help. If you would like to ensure the Library continues as a community asset and increases the number and range of books and activities available why not join the Friends or become a Trustee? We need you! Newcomers to the town with young children may want to ensure the Library continues and strengthens its offer to children.

Mary Gray, Library Trustee

Library Contact: 07579 049109

ccylib@somerset.gov.uk





Castle Cary Youth Club

Castle Cary Youth Club is a warm, welcoming space for **secondary school age young people (Year 7 and up)** to relax, have fun, and feel part of something positive. We meet every Tuesday from 4–6pm at The Market House, but will be moving back to the pavilion on the Donald Pither Memorial Field when the lighter evenings return.

Each week offers a mix of activities designed to suit different interests—creative projects, games, challenges, and plenty of chances to try something new. Young people can get involved as much or as little as they like, with supportive youth workers always available for a chat or to help them join in. Every session **includes free food and drinks**, making it an easy, friendly place to spend time after school.

Whether someone wants to be active, get creative, or simply unwind with friends, the youth club provides a safe, enjoyable environment where everyone is valued. It's a great way for young people to build confidence, make connections, and feel part of the Castle Cary community.

Rob Rumming-Pain, Team Leader, Youth Connect South West



Speed Watch

The Castle Cary Speed watch team have had trouble dodging the rain to be out and about reminding us to maintain a safe speed limit this winter, but we are back!!

Last year, our town centre streets reduced from 30mph down to 20mph.

We are very lucky that many of our local drivers are respectful and cautious through the town, but we have a lot of children and vulnerable folk crisscrossing the roads to get to school, work and the shops. Since the Co-op's long-awaited move to the bottom of town, it has made the Triangle an unplanned crossing for pedestrians. PLEASE remember that pedestrians have priority over drivers when crossing the road at any of the junctions, so all drivers need to be prepared to stop!

The Speed watch team are hoping NOT to catch anyone exceeding the speed limit, as it causes a lot of paperwork, but remember, if you are clocked 3 times or more you will be receiving a knock on your front door from our local Police!!

If you fancy becoming a volunteer,

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



Ansford Academy

As the spring term gains momentum and the sunshine is finally here, I find myself reflecting on what truly makes a school 'great.' While exam results are of course central to all the work done in schools, to me the links with the local area, groups and businesses are vital to ensuring the school is at the heart of a thriving local area and a true 'community school'.

We are very much looking forward to being part of this year's Cary in Bloom, especially the Sunflower Festival! Our students are already actively engaged, and we look forward to seeing their creations.

Some of our students also recently took part in a road naming competition for Redcliffe Homes run by Ansford Parish Council which focused on black history and persons who contributed to science, politics, the arts or civil rights. I'm delighted to say one of our students won and received a book voucher to use in our local Bailey Hill Bookshop. The successful winning name was Woods Drive, named after the inventor Granville Tayler Woods, who was a prominent inventor and electrical engineer.

We are also really looking forward to hosting our first coffee morning at The Market House on the 18th April from 10am-12 noon; please come along and meet our wonderful students.

**Karl Musson
Headteacher
Ansford Academy**





Castle Cary Primary School

Castle Cary Primary School has been proudly strengthening its connections within the local community once again. Our children have enjoyed several wonderful opportunities to take part in local events and represent the school.

At Christmas, our Year 2 pupils performed their country dancing outside the Market House, bringing festive cheer to the town centre. They were beautifully supported by our Year 4 children, who sang along and helped create a joyful atmosphere for everyone watching. Our fabulous choir also brought festive cheer while singing at The Newt, which was a great experience for everyone involved.

Our School Councillors represented Castle Cary Primary at the celebration of 30 years of Carymoor. They were thrilled to meet local MP Sarah Dyke and take part in marking such an important milestone for our area.

We are now looking forward to our next community project: Cary in Bloom. The children will be getting involved in lots of growing, crafting, and creative activities as we help 'paint the town yellow.' It promises to be a bright and exciting collaboration for everyone!

Castle Cary Primary is proud to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you!

Amy Brouard, Headteacher



Brambling

Before the birds start nesting again can you grab your secateurs and look around your garden paths and hedges / fences and tidy up around your properties to help us all enjoy our pavements.

Keeping our boundaries clear avoids our children and families stepping onto the roads to avoid the prickles and thorns.

This also helps our team of Brambling volunteers who are setting out onto our streets again to keep them tidy.

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you can join us on Sunday 22nd March at 10am outside The Market House, and then on the 3rd Sunday of each month until it gets too cold again, we will be thrilled to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you there with your secateurs and gloves!!!

Contact: Philippa – 07889 311445

EatCary

Come and join us on Saturday 9th May, between 2.30 – 4pm. Help us with some gardening and find out more about the way we work and why we do it. Wear old clothes and welly boots or strong shoes. There's no need to bring tools – we have lots.

If you're an expert, help us with new tips and ideas. We do a lot of experimenting with new crops and new methods. If you're a beginner, we can help you learn some basic gardening skills – sowing, pricking out, potting on, composting etc. There is lots to do now it's spring. If it's raining, we can work in our large polytunnel.

Bring the children – we have small-scale tools so they can help.

At 4pm we'll stop for tea and cake on our lovely patio – bring a flask. And there will be some salad stuff to pick and take home, and maybe a few veg seedlings to plant out in your own garden.

We are up the little path on the left at the start of Maggs Lane, just before you reach Ansford Academy. If you have mobility problems, contact us in advance to arrange access.

Contact: Laura Tilling

tillinglaura@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 1154857



Carymoor Environmental Centre

We very much enjoyed supporting the Vintage Market this month and running the café. It was great to meet so many people and to chat about what we do.

This winter has been a bit of a challenge on the reserve with the amount of standing water and mud, but our school groups have made the most of it, and we ran two successful family days in half term for Somerset Parent Carer Forum and Yeovil4Families.

Coming up in Spring we will be running two Wildflower ID courses and a scything course for those interested in learning more about nature and conservation. We also have a five-week Wild Tots course, based in our woodland area, starting on Weds 22nd May. These courses are funded by Step up Somerset for low-income learners or those with a Health and Wellbeing need.

Contact: www.carymoor.org.uk





Tools for Self-Reliance

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

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

We welcome donations of hand sewing machines, carpentry, mechanical, gardening and miscellaneous tools, which we refurbish as necessary.

The sun shone for our February tool sale and coffee morning at the Market House, and we raised a record amount. These funds, and our contributions to the annual Oak Fair at Stock Gaylard in August, all go towards the costs of shipping and training. Look out for us again at The Market House on 11th April and 9th May.

Contact: Amon – 01749 813239 to arrange collection.



The Moat Garden

At its brightest now with spring flowers, before the trees come into leaf. Primroses abound and the resident robin to chat with – he never stops.

Thanks to Brue Valley Rotary for helping us with pruning work, most goes to the dead hedges but there is hazel we can share for bean poles and stakes.

Building bird boxes in January saw some young people wielding hammers. We have a few packs left, and a 'sparrow street' (3 boxes tog.) for yourself or the town. You can put boxes up any time, the birds get used to them and they will be there for winter roosting.

Our coffee morning with Sustainable Cary funded the water catchment roof, increasing flow to water butts for the use of the raised bed growers. One bed is still available this season.

Picnic table base repair: two smooth grey paving slabs 60x60cms still needed please, if unused in your garden.

Do come and join us in caring for this wild garden space: we have lots of gardening options to enjoy, but also need support in 'the backroom', to share ideas and the jobs.

Contact: Ida West – 07919 803610

email: themoatgarden@gmail.com

Facebook: The Moat Garden, Castle Cary

Castle Cary Gardening Association

Welcome to the Spring, as leaves unfurl and the spring flowers show us their glorious best. Gardeners make their wellie-clad way into the garden and our club continues its programme of talks. Our Plant Sale is a popular event, so get there early. Importantly the plants are grown by our members which means those selling them know them, and you know the plant will grow here locally.

We meet at Caryford Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm, for free refreshments, with the talk starting at 7.30pm. Annual membership costs £10 and provides discretionary discounts at Schimmel Hardware, Julian Shave and, seasonally at Castle Gardens. But you can just come along for a single talk for £2.

Events:

April 1st: 'Summer Flowering Bulbs – the Living Jigsaw', Mickey Little from Avon Bulbs.

May 6th: 'Going for Gold – Exhibiting Show Gardens' RHS Chelsea Flower Show, BBC Gardener's World Live and Taunton Flower Show, Julie Haylock; Sandhurst Garden Design

Saturday May 9th: 9am-12noon Plant Sale at The Market House, Castle Cary

June 3rd: 'Propagation', Joy Payne

Contact: www.castlecarygardening.com





Cary in Bloom 2026

Following on from our wonderful success in the RHS South-West in Bloom competition last year – three gold medals, the Ayres Cup, two outstanding awards for the Primary School and Eat Cary, Best Portfolio in the South-West, Viridor Composting Trophy and the most wonderful community spirit in town during the summer.

So, what could be better than doing it all again? The working group has lots of plans for our 2026 entry. The community, local businesses and our local organisations can all get involved.

Follow us on social media, via posters and just general conversations to find out more about: -

- The Living Wall Project – The bus shelter will continue to be dressed with tins of plants. Donations of summer plants welcome.
- The Millennium Wood Project – A new project for 2026. Volunteers needed.
- The Sunflower Festival – No Scarecrows this year but sunflowers in any form. Entry form enclosed.
- The Art Exhibition – Open to all, but following the theme of sunflowers and golden blooms. Forms available at The Market House.
- The Community Garden at The Newt – Our own pot garden on display at The Newt in July. Plant a pot to represent your organisation.
- The Sow, Grow and Bloom Festival – July 11th on the Donald Pither Memorial Field. A massive family event with activities, entertainment, food and more.

A lot for everyone to take part in.

Contact: Penny Steiner, Chair of Cary in Bloom Working Group

penny@castle Cary.net

Cary in Bloom Art Exhibition

Castle Cary will be entering SW in Bloom again this year and as part of our entry we are again planning an art exhibition. It will be a themed exhibition open to all creatives, focusing on sunflowers and other golden blooms.

This community exhibition runs from Monday 29th June to Sunday 12th July and welcomes exhibits in all media. We hope it will be a joyful, uplifting event where you can promote your work and your groups.

If you are a maker in creative arts, please look out for an entry form from your arts group or pick up a leaflet from the information office at The Market House. Entry forms need to be submitted by June 19th.



Castle Cary Litterati

Why not come and join us blitz Castle Cary of unsightly litter. We are a group of 20 individuals who try and make a difference once a month. It only takes an hour to make our little piece of paradise look special.

If you are as keen on looking after the environment as we are, we meet on the first Sunday of the month, 11.00 a.m. at The Market House in Castle Cary.

We have litter picking sticks and hoops available to borrow. Hopefully we'll meet you soon.

Rowan





Cary Comedians Carnival Club

Once again in the 2025 season, the club won the Wessex Grand Prix Comic Feature championship. They followed this with being 4th in a new class at Bridgwater carnival and a 5th overall in the Somerset County Carnivals circuit. They were runners-up in the Mid-Somerset Gangs and Features and won acclaim for having some young new members performing alongside our established performance team.

The club has recently doubled its membership but still remains one of the smallest clubs in the Somerset carnivals. There are so many skills needed: roadcrew, tractor drivers, mechanics, carpenters, painters, designers, light and sound specialists, electricians, costume makers and make-up artists.

The club is based at The White Hart in Castle Cary and all are welcome to our monthly meetings. The club continues to thank the Boyer family for use of their carnival shed. The club is run by volunteers with the necessity of all year-round fundraising. We take part in around 14 carnivals each year and carnival towns raise over £100,000 annually for local charities. We have chosen our 2026 theme but with no Glastonbury Festival – no stewarding to raise funds towards the cart build. Therefore any donations or sponsorship would be most welcome. Lastly we are grateful for all the local support given to us taking us into our 49th year.



CATS

Wind In the Willows has just finished. What a show! Lots of smiling faces on and off-stage.

Such a show takes more than 18 months of planning and preparation then 6 months of intense work by the cast and backstage crew. It is great fun and hearing the reaction of an audience enjoying themselves is just fantastic.

There will be a Murder Mystery later this year. Watch out for the date and location.

If you are between 6 and 16, and enjoy acting, singing and dancing, we have CATS Juniors. Come along on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 at the Scout Hall.

The next event will be the AGM in the next few weeks. Come along and find out what we get up to. Our next show will be Shrek in February 2027. The auditions will be in September 2026.

Contact: castlecarycats@gmail.com

Follow us:

Facebook.com/castlecarycats/

Instagram.com/castlecarycats/



Castle Cary Choir

Finally, it's spring and, like the birds, we are singing our hearts out getting ready for our next round of concerts. We have one already booked for 15th May at Yeovil's Holy Trinity Church to raise funds for St. Margaret's Hospice, and we are in the throes of planning a summer concert here in Castle Cary. Watch this space!

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church so if you feel like coming along and joining in you will find a friendly group of people who just love singing together. It doesn't matter at all if you can't read music or haven't sung in a choir before, we are open to all. There are no auditions so don't be shy. Come and join us.

Contact: Choir Secretary –

janmills23@icloud.com

www.castlecarychoir.org.uk

Reg. charity 1188547

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.





Sing For Fun

Is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of every month in The Market House in Castle Cary from 2.30-4pm to which EVERYONE is welcome!

Did you know that singing together has proven health benefits? Group singing boosts mood, reduces stress, and helps forge social bonds. It's also great exercise for your lungs and posture! As summer is now looming, it invites us to get active and connect, there's no better time to rediscover the physical and emotional benefits of singing.

Our 'Singing for Fun' afternoon gives all these benefits and more. Homemade cake and a cuppa all for £2 it's a bargain with benefits! Come and give it a go and see for yourself how much brighter and lighter you feel when you leave.

We look forward to welcoming you! Oh, and don't worry if you don't think you can sing, you'll be amazed, we all think that, but together we create a lovely sound! Come and try it!

Contact: Philippa – 07889311445.



Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

CARNIVAL 2026 – All-important dates for your diary: Saturday 7th October for our much-loved children's carnival. This year's theme is 'It's All A Bunch Of Hocus Pocus'. So, pull out all of your spookiest Halloween costumes. Saturday 14th October for our evening illuminated procession.

COFFEE MORNING – please come and support our coffee morning on Saturday 7th April at the Market House. We will be alongside the Vintage Market selling mouth-watering bacon sarnies, teas, coffees and delicious home-made cakes.

CALL MY WINE BLUFF! Help swell carnival coffers by joining us for a light-hearted evening, where a panel of three local wine enthusiasts, try to convince you they know what they are drinking! No wine knowledge required... in fact preferred!

Tickets are £35 and include 4 tasting glasses of wine, and a ploughman's supper. Available from Schimmel Hardware and The Giggling Grape. Caroline@gigglinggrape.com. Friday 12th June at The Market House, doors open at 7.00pm, 'bluffing' starts at 7.30pm sponsored by Caroline Sharley, The Giggling Grape!

If you would like to help out with any event, please contact us.

Contact: www.ccacs.org.uk

Follow us: Facebook.com/CaryCarnivalSociety



Cygnets Majorettes

Spring is almost here! Over the winter the Cygnets have been doing lots of hard work preparing for this coming summer fete season. They have not only been learning new dances but also some brand new content and twirls to include within these dances. The behind the scenes team have been working on a new look for the girls too.

Spaces for new recruits are currently available for girls aged 6 – 26 years. We train on Fridays 7pm at Caryford Hall.

Our Coffee Morning is at The Market House on Saturday 21st March.

Bingo! We are holding a bingo on Saturday 21st March at Caryford Hall, eyes down at 7.15pm. Fantastic prizes to be won. Thank you to all who have helped so far, you're amazing!

Look out for the Cygnets at an event near you soon

Contact: cccygnets@gmail.com

www.castlecarymajorettes.org.uk

Follow us: Facebook.com/castle Cary cygnetsmajorettes





Castle Cary Football Club

As we approach the end of the season, the club finds itself in a strong position across all teams. The First team and Reserves are both sitting in the top three within their respective league divisions. With a strong finish, both teams could make promotion this season which would be an amazing achievement for all the players and coaches involved.

The Veterans team (over 35's) have enjoyed another season in the Somerset Veterans League.

All the youth teams enter the final weeks in the hope of finishing strong and standing a chance to reach divisional cup finals. Again, a fantastic effort from all the boys and girls alongside all the coaches involved.

Follow us on all socials to check out our next fixtures and upcoming events, we welcome you all to come along and support us at the Donald Pither Memorial Ground.

We are always looking for new members to join the club.

Contact: castlecary.seniors@gmail.com



Castle Cary Youth Cricket

The Youth section continues to grow with lots of children developing their skills and enjoying their cricket.

Winter training has gone very well with over 50 children being coached by six coaches in the under 10, 12 and 14 age groups. The boys and girls enjoyed the training, which was a mix of drills, indoor matches and fun. The under 10s and 12s have also played matches at indoor cricket festivals.

Summer training commences at the Donald Pither Memorial Field as follows:

Under 11s (Dynamos) – from 6th May at 4:45pm to 5:55pm.

Under 12s – from 6th May at 6pm to 7:15pm

Under 14s – Saturday mornings from late April, date and times tba

Teams are entered into the Mid Wessex Leagues and Cups, which will mean at least ten games for the boys and girls to enjoy for all the age groups.

We are looking for any players keen to try out Cricket and especially any girls who are keen as we hope to field at least one girls' team in 2027.

Please come along to support the Youth Section at our Coffee Morning at The Market House on Saturday 28th March from 10am.

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

Castle Cary RFC

Where Community Comes Together

Looking for a friendly place to catch up with neighbours and meet new people? The local Rugby Club is more than just a sporting venue – it's a welcoming community hub, and everyone is invited.

Whether you're a lifelong rugby fan, new to the area, or simply looking for a relaxed evening out, you'll find a warm welcome here. You don't need to know the laws of the game to feel at home. On match days, you can enjoy the atmosphere from the sidelines, while during the week the clubhouse offers a comfortable space to unwind with a drink and good company.

The clubhouse is open on **Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6.30pm**, making it the perfect midweek spot to socialise.

We're proud to be at the heart of the community, bringing together families, friends, supporters and newcomers. With regular social events and live sport on screen, there's always a reason to pop in. Come along with friends, bring the family, or drop in on your own – you'll always find friendly faces waiting.

Greg Power – Chair

Contact:- To stay up to date with fixtures, events and club news, follow our social media pages or visit www.castlecaryrfc.com



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 Bowls Club

Family Open Week

To kick off the season, we are hosting a Family Open Week during Easter, from Sunday 5th to Saturday 11th April, between 2.00 and 5.00pm each day. Families are invited to spend the afternoon with us, enjoying complimentary bowls sessions and coaching, alongside music, snacks, and drinks. Whether you wish to take part in a casual, friendly roll up or play competitively, there is no pressure – just come along and give bowls a try.

Membership Offers: We are pleased to offer free membership to under 25s. New members can join at half price, and there is also a half-price offer for social membership, making it easier than ever to get involved with the club.

Club Nights and Fixtures: Starting from 14th April, club nights will be held every Tuesday at 6pm. The dress code is relaxed ^ = jeans, shorts, and trainers are all welcome ^ = and members can enjoy the licenced bar. Our fixture programme is highly flexible, catering to those interested in playing against other clubs. Matches are scheduled for most days and evenings, including men's, ladies', mixed leagues and friendly games.

Social Events: In addition to sporting activities, the club organises social events throughout the year, such as Bingo, Quiz, and Race nights.

Contact: Charlie Anderson 07977754109,
email – castlecarybowlsclub@outlook.com
[www.hugofox.com/community/castle-cary-](http://www.hugofox.com/community/castle-cary-bowls-club-19890/home)
[bowls-club-19890/home](http://www.facebook.com/carybowls)
www.facebook.com/carybowls



Tai Chi

Tai chi is beneficial because it combines gentle physical exercise, mindfulness and deep breathing to improve strength, balance, flexibility, mental health, and overall well-being.

Physical Benefits

Tai chi is a low-impact, slow motion exercise that strengthens both the upper and lower body, as well as core muscles, without the strain of traditional resistance training. Its flowing movements enhance flexibility and joint mobility, making it suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. Regular practice improves balance and proprioception, which can reduce the risk of falls, particularly in older adults, with studies showing up to a 50% reduction in fall risk. Tai chi also provides mild aerobic conditioning depending on the intensity and duration of practice.

Mental and Emotional Benefits

Often called 'meditation in motion,' tai chi promotes mindfulness by focusing attention on movement and breath. This practice reduces stress and anxiety, lowers cortisol levels, and activates the parasympathetic nervous system, leading to a calmer mind and slower heart rate. Research indicates that tai chi can improve mood, alleviate symptoms of depression, and enhance cognitive function, including memory and focus.

Classes in Castle Cary:

Wednesday 2-3pm Caryford Hall.

Friday 10-11am The Scout Hut

Friday 11.30-12.30 Caryford Hall

£5 per session

Contact Jo Webb jo.webb@mbzonline.net



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)





2026

7th March
4th April
2nd May
6th June
4th July
1st August
5th September

THE FIRST SATURDAY of every MONTH

Trading: 10.00am - 3.00 pm - Location: BA7 7AH - Call: 01963 359631
 @castlecaryvintagemarket



Wednesday Workshops

1st April, 12.00 - 14.00
Easter Chocolate Truffle Workshop & Light Lunch
 Creativity and Commensality with Emily Collett from As Raw AS **£48**



1st April, 18.30 - 20.30
Easter Floral Workshop & Light Supper
 Creativity and Commensality with Tracey Nadin from Flowers & Home **£58**



1st April 6.30-8.30
Easter Floral Workshop & Light Supper
 An Evening of Creativity and Commensality Upstairs at The Market House **£58**





Floral Workshop



CGT INFO



ChocWorkshop



Book Now, Stay Later:

Secure your respite stay in advance at Cary Brook.

- ✓ Plan ahead and pre-book your respite stay
- ✓ Secure booking with just a 25% deposit if booking more than two months in advance
- ✓ Your place is guaranteed, so you can plan with confidence*
- ✓ Book now and stay later - because your plans matter, and so does your peace of mind

*Terms & Conditions apply - see website for details.

Castle Cary | BA7 7EE

TRUSTED FOR 35 YEARS

somersetcare.co.uk/booknow
0800 817 4925








Castle Cary and Ansford Defibrillator Locations

Building Address	What 3 Words	Accessibility
Fire Station 2 Park Place, Castle Cary BA7 7EG	<i>///Mysteries.Begin.Beaters</i>	Always Available Attached to outside the building.
Catherine's Close Play Area Catherines Close, Castle Cary BA7 7HP	<i>///Closets.Typhoon.Comically</i>	Always Available Attached to outside the building.
Castle Cary RFC Brookhouse field, Alhampton, Shepton Mallet, BA7 7PF	<i>///nearing.moderated.gamer</i>	Always Available Attached to outside the building.
Castle Cary Railway Station Station Road, Castle Cary, BA7 7PE	<i>///decompose.cheeks.blaze</i>	Always Available Attached to outside the building.
Castle Cary Primary School Park Street, Castle Cary, BA7 7EH	<i>///green.players.paler</i>	Not always available check link DefibFinder – find the defibrillators nearest you.
Ansford Academy Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, BA7 7JJ	<i>///pulp.increment.reponses</i>	Not always available check link DefibFinder – find the defibrillators nearest you.
Caryford Hall Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary BA7 7JJ	<i>///Reclusive.Soaps.Cone</i>	Not always available check link DefibFinder – find the defibrillators nearest you.
www.defibfinder.co.uk		



Defibrillator locations



Please pick up after your pets!

It only takes a second to keep our footpaths and pavements clean for residents, children and visitors.

Thank you to all the responsible owners!





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
- 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 in Bloom** – penny@castlecary.net
- 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.castle Carygardening.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** – ccrfc.secretary@outlook.com
- 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** – sarah@caryfordhall.co.uk
- 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.castle Carylibrary.org.uk
- Iona Community** – **01963 351275**
- 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
- 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
- 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



9-17 MAY



THE GREAT GARDEN SHOW *at* THE NEWT *IN* SOMERSET



*A nine-day horticultural event with demonstrations,
plant sale, talks, workshops, dining and family fun,
all rooted in the gardens in their glorious May profusion.*

The Great Garden Show is open to all – no membership required.



Tickets on sale now

thenewtinsomerset.com

[@thenewtinsomerset](https://twitter.com/thenewtinsomerset)

