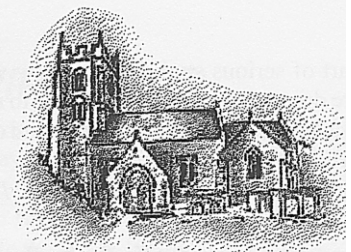


Castle Cary & Ansford



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

The newsletter for Castle Cary and Ansford which invites reports on local events and activities.

We welcome articles from Castle Cary and Ansford groups and organisations. Please keep below 250 words.

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

Deadline for copy for next newsletter: Thursday 3 Feb 2011

Email to cctcnewsletter@btconnect.com or send to "Newsletter", The Market House, Market Place, Castle Cary BA7 7AH

We prefer copy by email, but don't worry if this is not possible for you.

CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL

We welcome Glenn ("Gabby") Hayes to the Town Council as our latest co-opted councillor. Gabby moved to the area in 1975 after leaving the Royal Navy and joining Plessey in Templecombe where he worked as a software programmer until his recent retirement. He now lives in Castle Cary, and as well as his hobbies of gardening and computing, has a keen interest in local issues. We still have one vacancy for a Councillor.

The Town Council's new **Strategic Plan** is now nearing completion. The aim is to have a proactive approach towards the developments we feel you would all like to see in our town, and to have policies and proposed actions to help us achieve these. Our key priorities at the moment are the Market House project; tackling parking and traffic issues, ensuring appropriate employment and business development in the town whilst maintaining its unique character and retail activity, and maximising the community use of our physical assets to the full. Our detailed policies and strategy will be published shortly.

Town Councillors are currently very concerned about the District Council's plans for the town's future development. A local consultation exercise on Castle Cary and Ansford's **Settlement Status** was carried out by South Somerset District Council on 23 October at the Market House. This dealt with proposals for housing, light industry and town infrastructure in Castle Cary and Ansford until the year 2026. The main proposals included the provision for the building of 500 houses in and around the town, for the allocation of five hectares of light industrial land, and for improvements in the town's road infrastructure and

schools, doctors' surgery etc. The allocations for houses and industrial land are linked; the second is conditional on the first.

The Town Council's position is that 500 houses is too many (the number represents a 30% increase) and that the limit should be 250 most of which would be on already identified sites such as the BMI site. In the Town Council's view, the town's infrastructure could not cope with something like an additional 800/1000 cars and the layout of the town does not lend itself to any significant change. We are given no guarantee that if 500 houses were to be built there would be any major improvement in infrastructure.

Town councillors are additionally concerned that much of the District Council's supporting data is well out of date and therefore possibly gives an inaccurate indication of the present situation.

Those who did not attend the consultation can find details of the District Council's plans for our town on



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS EVENING

Join us on

**Thursday
9th December
5.30 – 8.30 pm**

for late night Christmas shopping with a difference.

You will meet **Scrooge** (and if you look or listen hard enough Marley's ghost), and meet lots of other **Victorians peddling their wares**.

There will be **Punch and Judy, story telling, games** and of course **Father Christmas** for the children, plus **street entertainment and music** for all.

It will also be your last chance to buy a ticket for our **Grand Christmas Draw** (proceeds to the Market House Project), first prize £500, or have a go at our fabulous **tombola**. Children who have entered the **"Spot the Window" competition** will find out who the winner is, and the **best dressed Victorian child** will also be chosen. Don't miss it all! Oh, and don't forget the **shops and local charity stalls will be open too**, with exciting and unusual gifts for you to buy.

their website. Go to www.southsomerset.gov.uk/corestrategy. You can then register (if you wish) and give your own views about appropriate development for our town and its community environment. Or you can send your comment by post to Spatial Policy Team, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT – or email to planning.policy@southsomerset.gov.uk. You need to respond by 5th December.

As usual, Town Councillors have spent time looking after the Council's various properties. Earlier in the year, part of the ceiling of the **Pavilion** changing rooms collapsed, and it was discovered that this was due to a serious leak in the roof. Thanks in large part to a grant from Viridor Credits, the roof has now not only been repaired but upgraded, so it will remain sound for years to come. Meanwhile, the boiler has been replaced with a more efficient and reliable model, and work will start in December to improve the facilities in the referee's changing room.

The **Cemetery Chapel project** continues with support from the Friends Group, which recently held a delightful poetry and music event at the Chapel, which showed off its potential as a small scale meeting place. The next aim of the project is to provide a toilet on site for visitors to the chapel and cemetery.

The **Market House** is still owned by the District Council, but as part of the project for roofing over the

Shambles and making a better community amenity of the ground floor, progress is being made towards an asset transfer on a long lease to the Town Council, or, if that proves problematic, at least the leasing of the ground floor to the Town Council. Exciting plans for the project are nearly finalised, fundraising continues, and a major grant application to Viridor is in hand.

As a first step towards the renovations, the staircase at the back of the Town Clerk's office is shortly to be removed. This will mean that the Community Office will need to be closed for a couple of weeks during the work. The outcome will be a much larger and better organised office for the clerks, and more space upstairs in the Town Museum.

The tickets for the **Grand Christmas Draw** in aid of the Market House project are now on sale, and the winners will be announced at the end of the **Victorian Christmas Late-night Shopping Evening** on 9 December (see box for details). Other major fundraising events for the project are in the pipeline.

The Town Council's **Tourism Group** continues to be active, and its volunteer team in the Market House now has access to a computer through the District Council's Weblinks Project. This will enable our tourist and community information volunteers to use the web to answer questions from the public. A major revision of the Castle Cary and Ansford leaflet is now under discussion, together with the possibility of more web-based information. Additional signposting both within and into the town is about to go ahead through Market Towns Investment Group funding. The group has much work to do and would welcome additional volunteers.

You will be aware that **Castle Cary Library** is currently operating under very restricted opening hours. This is because of staff shortages rather than the current financial threat. The Town Council has been collecting names of volunteers who may be prepared to provide practical support to the remaining professional staff during the present reduced hours, and discussions are underway with the County Library Service over how this can best be managed. We have 23 names on our volunteer list already and would welcome more. The Town Council is not a library authority and therefore has decided it is inappropriate to commit any funds to the library at present.

We understand that the reduced opening hours will continue until mid February 2011 when the County Council (which is responsible for public library services in Somerset) will make decisions about each of its libraries, as part of its cost cutting exercise. A major consultation over the future of the county's smaller libraries, like ours, has already been undertaken, resulting in possible future survival models ranging from an entirely volunteer-run community library which gets no support from the County Library Service at all, to a county-run library

CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Alan Jeffs; *Deputy Clerk:* Clare Ratcliffe
01963 359631; castlecary.town@btconnect.com

Councillors:

Nick Weeks (*Chair*)

Barry Moorhouse (*Vice Chair*)

David Dilnot Robert Gilbey

Gabby Hayes Jim Hood

Jacky King Susanne Moorhouse

Neville Morley Nell McMorland-Hunter

Terry Philpott Laura Tilling

Full Council meetings: monthly on Mondays
7.30 pm in the Methodist Schoolroom.

Next five meetings: 12 Dec, 17 Jan, 14 Feb,
21 March, 18 April. Public welcome to attend.

Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for
the 1st Monday of each month when there are
planning applications to be considered.

District Councillors:

John Crossley, tel: 01749 860245

Henry Hobhouse, tel: 01963 350115

County Councillor:

Bob Little, tel: 01963 220288

Member of Parliament:

David Heath, tel: 01373 473618

Minutes of the Full Council meetings can be
viewed on www.castle-cary.co.uk or at the
Market House.

funded locally. We understand that there will be further consultation, and the Town Council, which considers the continued existence of Castle Cary Library as vitally important, is involving itself actively in this as it develops.

Recent discussions with representatives from the **Highways Department** indicate that immediate severe financial restrictions to that department's expenditure will make ongoing maintenance of the town's infrastructure difficult for the department to manage. But it is important that you continue to report problems to us.

By the time you read this the District Council will have completed the refurbishment of the **Millbrook car park public toilets**, which will now have a **baby changing facility**.

*Clare Ratcliffe,
Deputy Town Clerk*



TELL US WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

We welcome contributions from local groups to our Town Calendar, Newsletter and Website

The **Town Calendar** for the current month is displayed in the Market House window and also goes on our website (www.castle-cary.co.uk) but it is only as good as the information fed into it. SO PLEASE LET US KNOW BRIEF DETAILS OF YOUR FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN CASTLE CARY OR ANSFORD. Its aims are to stop organisations clashing over their dates, and to make it easy for you to check what is going on. We keep the calendar for the whole year in the Market House; and this month and next month are on the website.

To give us outline details - time, venue, short title - ring 01963 351763 (downstairs desk at the Market House), or put a note or your printed programme through the door or pop in to the Market House on a weekday morning. Our tourism volunteers will then add the information to the calendar. If you are just starting to plan a future activity, do ring to find out if anyone else is planning something major on that date.

All **Castle Cary and Ansford charities and not-for-profit organisations** organising activities and events in Castle Cary and Ansford are welcome to submit short articles free-of-charge to our Newsletter, which is distributed door to door and is also on our website. The deadline for the next Newsletter is 3 February 2011, and the Newsletter will be distributed well before Easter. See box at the beginning of this newsletter for details. Do include reports on past events and details of future ones, references to your websites etc etc but please don't give us more than 250 words.

We cannot include entries from organisations which focus on events outside Castle Cary/Ansford.

We have a list of Castle Cary and Ansford organisations on the back of the newsletter - please check and let us know if your organisation is missing or the details are wrong.

ANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

I am pleased to say we had a new Councillor join us in October. David Elson has lived in Ansford for many years, and brings a wealth of experience with him. We wish David the very best of luck in his new role, and hope he enjoys the challenge.

Progress is being made on the **Bus Shelter** along Churchfield Drive. We were hoping to have the shelter erected before the winter months, but unfortunately it is taking time to sort out the legal side of things, so it may take us a little longer than originally envisaged.

I have received a reply from Highways regarding our request for a handrail to be installed, at the steps leading down from Hallett Road to St Andrew's Close footpath. Unfortunately, due to cost restraints they are unable to do this for us. However, the Council will look into the possibility of funding this project itself, but as yet no quotations have been received.

During the past few months several open meetings have taken place to discuss our **Conservation Area**. We have recommended to SSDC that we would like Cumnock Terrace (including gardens and garages), and Barley Close to be included. Another area discussed was the Gully Field (land adjacent to Priory View). The Church looks over this area, and we believe it is a lovely open space. However our concern is that should this land be included, would it impinge on any future development? At this stage we are not proposing this area is included in the Conservation Area, but would like it to be looked at. Our Conservation Officer hopes to have a draft appraisal ready by Christmas for our consultation. This process will continue until a final draft is approved. These appraisals will be discussed at our monthly meetings, so if you would like to see the draft paperwork, please see our noticeboards for agenda details. If you are unable to attend our meetings, please do let me know and I will send you a copy.

As mentioned last year, we will be having some work carried out on the trees at **Ashlea**. When the work is done, I hope it will not cause too much disruption to nearby residents, but please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused. We will also ask our Tree Surgeon to look at some other trees in the parish that you have suggested need attention. Obviously we will be guided by his recommendations. Whilst talking about trees, would anyone like to take up the role of Tree Warden for us? Since Peter Davies relinquished this duty the parish has been without a warden. It would not take very much of your time, just the occasional walk around the parish, and being available to advise the Council. We do have very good support from SSDC, but it would be super to have a person within the parish with a love for trees who we could call upon. If you are interested please do let me know, or contact one of our Councillors.

During the coming months you will see some new

bins appearing around the Parish. We are looking to replace the one at Jubilee Gardens, a larger one at Maggs Lane and new bins for Station Road and the bus shelter. We also intend to purchase another Grit Bin for Ancastle Avenue.

It has been another busy year for the Parish, and I am sure it will continue to be. Next year will be difficult as we begin to feel the cutbacks that will have to be made by County and District Councils. Castle Cary Library, as I am sure you are all aware has already come under review. Can I assure you that our Councillors are working with the Town Council, County and District Councillors to try and soften the impact these cuts are going to have on us. Your support and input is also greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Councillors, and for myself, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Just a reminder, if I can be of any help on any parish issues please let me know. I can be contacted by email: Alisongoodman@fsmail.net or tel: 01747 841091, during office hours.

ANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs J Cronie – *Chairman* Tel: 01963 350708

Email: janette.cronie@btopenworld.com

Mr G Clothier – *Vice-Chairman*

Mr C Edwards

Mr S Edwards

Mr D. Elson

Mrs H Merrifield

Mrs D Pinnions

The Parish Council meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Betty Churchouse Room, Caryford Hall. Dates for the next four meetings are: 8th Dec 2010; 12th Jan 2011; 9th Feb; 9th March. Members of the public are welcome.

ANSFORD SCHOOL

It has been an eventful term at **Ansford School**. In October we were visited by OFSTED. They were very impressed by our children, commenting on their close to outstanding behaviour. They also recognised the close ties we had with the local area and awarded us ‘Outstanding’ for community cohesion, only the second secondary school in Somerset to achieve this accolade. The inspectors also felt that Ansford was ‘Outstanding’ in the way the students became involved in their own communities and also for the level of ‘Care and Guidance’ offered by the school.

This came as no surprise as rarely a week goes by without Ansford students being involved in a major activity that enhances their learning. A highlight of the term was the production of ‘Annie’ that played to packed houses on its four night run. Directed by Head

of Drama, Suzy Jones, with musical direction from Tom Hamil, the show involved all the primary schools, including Upton Noble, in the chorus.

Other high spots of the term included the sponsored walk in September, when 800 students, including many primary pupils walked from Ansford to Lovington School to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the secondary school.

Students took part in many volunteer projects on our theme day, including a ‘Maggs Lane Clean Up.’

Our next big event is the ‘Blitz Day’ on the 17th November, again, an event to celebrate our birthday and recalling life in the 40’s. If you would like to get involved, and it will be great fun, contact Steve Craggs on 10963 350895

* * * * *

BOWLS CLUB

What a sparkling and successful season it has been! It’s congratulations to our men who came top of the Mid Somerset League and now get promoted to the first division next year. It’s also congratulations to our mixed teams who played in the Wessex Friendly Knockout Cup games where we won the cup for the second year running and came 4th in that league too. It’s commiserations to our ladies who, despite enjoying their games and trying their best, could only manage third from bottom in their league. Various groups of players also went further in County Competitions than ever before – both ladies and gents reached the quarter finals of their events before being beaten. Our younger players also continue with us and their bowling skills have progressed well with one of them being selected to play in several Somerset County U25 games.

Our final Saturday of the season in September was, as usual, our Charity Day – fun and games on the green in fancy dress! We were “visited” by a myriad of characters including Elvis, Cat Woman, the Pearly King and Queen of Islington, an England Footballer and Count Duckular to name but a few. Thanks to the generosity of our members we raised over £155 for our two charities, the Air Ambulance and Tenovus. Visit our website at www.castlecarybowlsclub.co.uk.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Y.C.

* * * * *

CARNIVAL SOCIETY

As you probably know, **Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society’s** carnivals were another great success this year.

Our children’s carnival was well supported – by our entrants and the good folk who watched it and gave generously. You may have seen reports in the Western

Gazette (and other papers) that covered this, featuring Carnival founder Ray Boyer, who gamely takes part each year! Yet again, Ann Hallett organised this event – thanks to Ann for making it run so smoothly!

Our evening illuminated carnival went well, and our procession took place under clear skies. We had record crowds and a welcome increased police presence, recognising that our carnival now rates with the likes of Frome in the size of audience it attracts. Our ‘home’ clubs – Cary Comedians and Britannia – did well, and we attracted some of the best clubs in the south-west: Revellers, Hot Rocks, Just Georges, Magnum and many others.

Our collections were slightly down on last year; but, at a total of well over £2,000, we’re very grateful for all Cary folk and visitors gave. We’re confident we can still give significantly to our many local deserving causes, next February. If you need a donation from us, get our donations form from our web site (www.castlecary-carnival.org.uk) or phone our Secretary Sue Stockman (01963 440472).

The Children’s and Illuminated Carnival results (plus some great photos) are on the CCACS web site. If you don’t have access to the internet, we can send you the results: contact Paul Hansford (01963 359276).

Paul Hansford
paul.hansford@btinternet.com



CARY AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY (C.A.T.S.)

Rehearsals for Oklahoma are now in full swing. We have a strong cast led by a ‘professional’ Curly, and everyone seems to be having great fun. We have quite a good line up for the chorus, but should any of you like to join us it is not too late. We continue to rehearse at Ansford School every Tuesday and Thursday evening, starting at 7.15.p.m. prompt. Should anyone want anymore details please ring me...Audrey Rice (Chair) on 01963 350510.



KNITTING

I would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining a Creative Knitting Group in Castle Cary and Ansford.

I am an enthusiastic knitter and would like to start a group to share skills, experience and inspiration. I would welcome contact from knitters of all levels of experience – including people who would like to knit but need some help getting started.

If this interests you, please either email me at katya.goubsky@btinternet.com or phone **01963 351581** and leave a message.

CARYFORD COMMUNITY HALL

As we move into a very busy winter, we are delighted (and very proud) to announce that **Caryford Community Hall** has been awarded Hallmark III status. This is a real feather in the cap of Castle Cary, as it means our Hall ranks among the top community halls in the county. Obviously we are not going to rest on our laurels, and, as I write this, hard-working members of the committee are redesigning our kitchen to accommodate our new dishwasher and extra workspace, so that the Hall is even more user-friendly.

We should very much like to thank the five excellent young men from Ansford Community School who helped our Hon Chairman prune the hedge surrounding our grounds. The boundary is looking so much tidier for their efforts, and we are very grateful to Mr Earle-Marsh for arranging the session.

Finally, this October we were very sad to lose Maggie Dilnot from our committee, and hope that she will continue to be a *Friend of Caryford Hall*. Maggie’s fundraising skills and boundless energy will be very hard to replace, and her departure leaves a big space in our group. As usual, if anyone feels that he or she could help us in any way, either on the committee or as a ‘friend’, we would be very grateful.

Annie Morley, Minutes Secretary,
Caryford Community Hall Association

For all bookings, please contact Annette Bedford on 01963 351534



CAVALCADE OF MOTORING

Unfortunately the spectator attendance at the **Castle Cary Cavalcade of Motoring** was down this year, although there was a good showing of various vehicles. As a result, the profits, in all respects, were somewhat reduced, and so the donations to various organisations have also had to be reduced. These donations are as follows: Cary Scouts and Cary Comedians £75; Cary Football Club, Brue Valley Rotary Club and the Majorettes £50; Scout Fellowship under their new name £40; the Methodist Church and British Red Cross £25; the Cricket Club £20; and Ken Jeanes £10. Donations to charities: Macmillan Cancer Care and Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £50; and the Yeovil Freewheelers £25.

Please, if anybody connected with a local organisation would like to help, either by joining the committee – we would welcome you with open arms! – or helping on the day and receiving a donation for the organisation, contact either Ann Webster on 01963 350182 or Dave Stickland on 01963 240489. We are desperate for new committee members. The Cavalcade will be on Sunday, 10th July, in 2011, and we usually have about four committee meetings a year.

CERAMICS GROUP

The Group's programme resumed on 7th September with a talk by Debbie Skinner on Ironstone China and the Mason Family. On 5th October Jean Barratt updated us on her researches into Keeling porcelains. On 2nd November Dr. Tim Foster gave the Betty Reid Memorial Talk on Collecting 18th century ceramics; and after the Group's AGM on 7th December at 2 pm. David Prendergast is to speak about Custard Cups.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Tuesday, 1st February 2011 when Pat Preller will be talking on New Hall: the Later Wares. On Tuesday, 1st March the speaker is David Beaton on Padmarks on British Ceramics, 1810-1835.

Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday in the month (except after bank holidays) in the Methodist Church Room, Upper High Street at 2.30 pm. Guests and other visitors are most welcome. They pay a fee of £4 per meeting, which will also include tea and biscuits, but it is hoped those interested will take out a yearly subscription (currently £25) to join our friendly group. You do not need to know about ceramics – just have an interest.

For more information telephone the Secretary, Duncan Chalmers on 01460 54117.



COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE MARKET HOUSE

Demand for these is ever increasing.

We have discovered that in general if two groups use the space at once they each do better than one if there on its own. So please when you book, say what you want sell (coffee, cakes, bric-a-brac, cards, plants etc) and do (children's activities, consultation, raffle etc) and how much space you need. We may then ask you if you are prepared to share with another organisation doing different things.

Some groups have **cancelled at the last minute.**

This is very unfair. The Market House Project loses the benefit of their donation, and we have no coffee morning to give the town "buzz". It also stops other groups booking. Please only book if you are as certain as you can be that the coffee morning will go ahead, and if you do have to cancel give us at least a month's notice.

Coffee morning organisers could also help by sending a **letter from their group in support of the Market House Project** (to glaze over the Shambles and make it a comfortable meeting place with toilet and kitchenette). This will help with grant applications and would be really appreciated. Send to the Town Clerk at the Market House, please.

CHOIR

Castle Cary Choir has been hard at work learning new music under the musical direction of Martin Emslie, with Emma Clarke, our accompanist.

Although we have all been working hard on the new pieces, our recent recruits have had an extra challenge as most of the music is brand new to them! We are so delighted to have great new voices to swell our ranks. Please come along to one of our concerts to find out just how different the choir sounds. The next concerts, all starting at 7.30pm, are:

Friday December 10th at the Methodist Church,
North Street, Castle Cary

Friday February 18th, St Mary's, Bruton,
in aid of the Heart Foundation

Friday March 18th at RNAS Yeovilton,
in aid of Help for Heroes

Details about tickets and soloists will be announced later. Please make a diary note of the March concert; we will be joined by a BanSd in addition to soloists, to make it a really special fund raiser. At Easter we will be singing with the French choir during their visit.

Castle Cary Choir consists of male and female voices, of all ages. We rehearse at the Methodist Church, North Street, on Mondays from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Contact Amy Trott on 01963 351 042, for details about joining the Choir, or to find out about hosting a concert for your charity, speak to any choir member or contact Sue, Choir Secretary, on 01749 830 293, or email sue.catlett@btinternet.com.



CHRISTIAN AID

Our next fundraising event will be our annual Christmas Coffee Morning at the Market House on Saturday December 4th, from 10am to noon, which will include a cake stall and a raffle. We shall be selling hot mince pies with the coffee and members of CATS will be singing carols to add to the festive atmosphere.

For more information please contact Marilyn Simcox on 351751.



CHURCHES TOGETHER

Christmas seems a way off as this newsletter is prepared. In addition to all the events mentioned below and elsewhere, attention is drawn especially to the Ecumenical Buffet Supper which will take place on 22nd January 2011, a date rather earlier than usual. The Lent Appeal, to be launched on that evening, will be for an overseas charity called "Motivation – quality of life". This charity works in many parts of the world

ensuring that local people have the skills to build and provide appropriate mobility equipment and services for disabled people in the communities where they are needed. They also strive to improve the physical, social and economic situation of disabled people, often ignored in many parts of the world. An illustrated presentation will be given by David Constantine, a local man from Hadspen. All are welcome; please help us to support this worthwhile cause, also enjoy an excellent supper in good company.

On the evening of the Victorian Market we will be holding our usual stall in the Market House serving hot mince pies (free of charge) together with leaflets giving details of all the Advent and Christmas services. The Nativity Pageant will take place as it has done for the last few years on the morning of Saturday 11th December in and around the Market House, concluding with carol singing. The United Carol service is being hosted by all Saints' Church on Sunday 19th December at 6.30 pm.

Nita Gee (Hon. Sec.)



CRICKET CLUB

Arrangements for **Castle Cary Cricket Club's** 175th celebrations are developing well, with a representative French cricket team arriving to play Cary during their celebration week on Thursday July 30 2012, the day before the official Olympic opening ceremony in London.

The reason for this event follows the 1900 Olympics in Paris when an English side, made up of cricketers from both Castle Cary and Blundell's School Tiverton, Devon, won the one and only cricket gold medal.

So it seemed most appropriate to celebrate this event near to the Olympics being held in London and to further recognise their 175th anniversary of Castle Cary Cricket Club.

We hope the whole town will help us celebrate that week by watching the cricket, playing, sponsoring and entertaining our French guests. TV and the local press will be involved and it will be an opportunity to put the Town on the map.

On a more mundane note winter nets commence on the first Sunday in March at 10.00am for juniors and 11.00am for seniors at Caryford Fitness and Leisure Centre. All are welcome. 2010 was a successful season for the club and we are always looking for new members whatever their age to strengthen the club. We run under 12, 14 and 16 junior sides and two Saturday elevens in the Somerset League in Divisions 2 and 7.

For more detail do please contact me as we are looking for new members and sponsors in particular.

Steve Chaudoir, Chairman, 01963 440770
steve.chaudoir@btinternet.com

GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Once again, by the time you read this, gardens and allotments will have been 'put to bed' for the winter and it's time to plan for next year. Why not include joining **Castle Cary Gardening Association** if you've never thought of it before? We have had some really interesting talks this year, ranging from Roman Market Gardening, through Gardens of New Zealand, to our most recent one – a brilliant talk by the Head Gardener at Stourhead. I'm sure everyone who attended was impressed by his sheer enthusiasm for his subject.

The final talk this year is on Wednesday 1st December and has a distinctly Christmassy theme, 'Ivy, mistletoe, frankincense and myrrh': all are welcome.

Apart from the monthly talk we also have visits; this year our main trip was to Highgrove House, which was the most fascinating garden, a great day out. Next year we will be going to Mottisfont Abbey to see the fabulous rose collection.

The first two talks next year are:

3rd February – Books of Flowers and Florilegiums: Chris Hicks, bookbinder

3rd March – Behind the Scenes; Chelsea, Hampton Court, Tatton Park and Shepton! Chris Smith from Pennard Plants

If you want to join for 2011, please come along to the December or February meetings. Alternatively, contact Janet Hutchfield, our membership secretary, who will be pleased to sign you up. Tel; 01963 351489. If you join before February we have 25% discount cards for onions/spring bulbs bought at Castle Gardens or Brimsmore.

Look out for the posters advertising the meetings and trips. They are located outside Lush's, the Post Office, Heather's Flowers and Dave Marsh's, approximately ten days prior to the event.



METHODIST CHURCH

As summer fades to a somewhat soggy memory and the year wears on, more and more as a church our activities are inspired by thoughts of community.

The highlight of our autumn events was the Harvest Festival supper and service, the proceeds of which were given, as usual, to the Bristol Methodist Centre. This church & community initiative helps homeless people in Bristol by providing food, clothing, showers, social support and advice on finding accommodation and employment.

And now, with Advent upon us, our preparations for a community Christmas are well under way.

Our Advent activities centre on a Christmas Tree Festival which opens on the evening of 9th December with a Victorian Christmas Decoration workshop

from 4:30pm; Friday 10th is the Castle Cary Choir concert at 7:30pm and on Saturday, a memorial service will be shared with the other town churches at 6:30pm. The church will be open from 10am Friday and Saturday to see the trees (which are all dressed by different town organisations) and the festival closes on Sunday afternoon with a fun and relaxed 'Carols & Cookies' around the Christmas tree at 4:30pm.

Christmas services include Midnight Communion starting at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve, a family service at 10:00am Christmas morning and a short reflective service at 10:30am on Boxing Day.

Please contact me for further details of any of these events. Our regular services are held at 10:30am and 6:30pm every Sunday and you will always find a warm welcome.

Rev. Ken Chalmers, 01963 351598



THE MOAT GARDEN

Castle Cary Moat Garden has been mainly funded by the Big Lottery Community Spaces programme. The project was set up 4 years ago by a group of volunteers, with the aim of turning a derelict area at the foot of Lodge Hill into a productive and beautiful wildlife and community garden.

Walk up Paddock Drain (the public footpath next to The George Hotel) and just before the steps leading to Lodge Hill you'll find the garden on your right. Go in through the arched gateway in the newly restored Ham and Cary stone wall and you will see a strikingly carved tree stump, the work of local sculptor Anthony Rogers. To the right of the path you can see the Primary School's new fruit and vegetable garden, which in its first year has produced a mountain of beautiful produce.

The garden is home to protected badgers' setts, and has been planted and designed with the aim of encouraging a wide variety of wildlife. We hope soon to be able to provide interpretation boards describing what species to look out for.

Plans are now under way for the second phase of the garden, the completion of the project with a multi-purpose open-air meeting place/performance area alongside the garden, next to the footpath. Funding has already been obtained and designs are currently being considered, so work should start early in 2011 – watch this space!

If you'd like to get involved in any way – either as a Committee Member or occasionally helping out with gardening or other maintenance tasks – we'd love to hear from you. Contact Jill Larbalestier on 01963 359697, or Melissa Meek on 01963 359418 (or email melissameek2001@yahoo.co.uk).



MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We still need more people to help man the community and tourist information desk at the Market House. If you have a morning or afternoon a week to spare and enjoy meeting and helping people, do give Laura Tilling a ring on **01963 351461**.

MONDAY CLUB

We meet every Monday term time in the Swainson building at Ansford School between 6.30 – 7.45 pm, for children in years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. There is an entrance fee of 70p and the children can bring money for the tuck shop.

We organise various crafts, sports and trips throughout the year and are preparing ourselves for the darker evenings where we undertake more indoor activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Crown Pet Foods for their very generous donation.

New members and helpers are welcome if you feel you would like to join us. For further information contact Zoe Mitchell.



NATIVITY PAGEANT

The Pageant will take place as usual on Saturday morning 11th December at 10.00am with community carol singing and then the pageant itself will start with the arrival of Mary & Joseph at the Inn, and will proceed from there with various readings as the nativity story unfolds.

Further details from Audrey Rice, tel 01963 350510.



QUIZ EVENINGS

We meet on the first Sunday in every month except for January when it will be the second Sunday, and August we keep clear for the holiday season.

We start at 8.00.p.m. and it lasts for about 2 hours, actually we are usually home by 10.00 p.m.

We have tables of 4 people, with 10 rounds of 10 questions, covering a wide range of subjects.

We break half way for refreshments, and of course there are excellent prizes for first, second, and third winning teams, and even a kit kat bar for the losers, and blow the expense!!

It will cost you just £1.00 for a very entertaining evening. We hold the quizzes in the Methodist schoolroom, so we will see you there!! Ring me if you have a query: Audrey Rice, 01963 350510



RAINBOWS

Castle Cary Rainbows has had yet another busy year – too much to go through everything, but here is a little taster of what Cary Rainbows have been up to.

Well, it started way back in September 2009 with a party in Taunton to celebrate 100 years of Guiding, with lots of things for the girls to do – craft, etc – and then it all ended on 20th October 2010 with a camp fire in a field near the BP Hall with all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides renewing or taking their Promise. We had six Rainbows making their Promise.

In between, Cary Rainbows have been to Cary Museum, joined in with the St George's Day Service at Wincanton, and of course the Cary Carnival, where we did Children of the World. One of our Rainbows won the Chairman's Cup and also won a prize in the poster competition. Well done Kayla!

After half term we are having a Halloween party then we will be busy making sweets for the Victorian Evening on 9th December. So you see the girls have been very busy.

If any girls aged 5–7 years would like to join us, we meet at the BP Hall just up past Castle Cary Primary School on Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.15 pm. Please contact Jackie on 01963 350004 or Teena on 01963 351419.

* * * * *

RAMBLERS

The year goes round again and, during the summer and early autumn months, **Castle Cary Ramblers** have walked the Mendips, the Quantocks, and Dartmoor, striding across parts of Dorset, Somerset and Devon. On the whole the weather has been kind to us and we never fail to count our blessings at living in the midst of so much glorious scenery and in having the health and strength to walk 7 or 8 miles in a day and come back tired but happy having topped up our memory stores in readiness for the winter: cows crowding round us as we ate our lunch in Ebor Gorge, searching for a bridge to cross the Stour, feasting on blackberries while waiting to cross a stile, even the mist closing in on Dartmoor.

Once again members of the group helped out as marshals on the day of the schools' walk in July. This year's walk, up to 8 miles for older students, marked the 70th anniversary of Ansford School. The Ramblers are stationed around the course and provided basic first aid, drinks and rubbish collection.

Tomorrow's walk takes us to Westonbirt Arboretum for a day of autumn colour.

After some deliberation, one important change was made to our procedures – Jelly Babies were swapped for Liquorice Allsorts for our lunchtime treat – it didn't last, after two walks and some confusion it was decided that the old ways are best.

DORSET AND SOMERSET AIR AMBULANCE

The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance recycling bank at the Constitutional Club, Castle Cary is a very useful source of income for the Air Ambulance.

The banks are currently generating over £2000 per week of crucial funding for the charity. The helicopter costs in excess of £3,800 per day to run, and this money has to be raised largely through charitable donations and initiatives such as our recycling schemes.

Danielle Mugridge, Bag It Up Ltd
Danielle-mugridge@bagitup.org.uk
Tel: 07500 885549

We meet at Catherine's car park on alternate Wednesdays, if you would like to know more, watch the notice board or contact *Robin Pierce 01963 350686*

Jane Walker

* * * * *

TIDDLYWINKS TODDLER GROUP

We are a parent/carer, baby and toddler group held at the Caryford hall, Ansford every Wednesday in term time from 10-12pm. The cost of £1.50 per family includes fruit, biscuit and juice for the little ones and tea or coffee for the adults. So come along enjoy a coffee and a chat while your children play and make new friends.

New and old members are always welcome, contact Audrey Stokes 01963 350341 for more details.

* * * * *

TRADICRAFT GROUP

Castle Cary is a *Fair Trade Town*, along with many other small towns and major cities. But what does that mean? Briefly, in relation to the population of Castle Cary and Ansford, it means there are sufficient shops selling *Fair Trade* goods, catering outlets, businesses and schools which support *Fair Trade* in various ways. (For example, we run a very popular fortnightly "tuck shop" at Ansford School and provide all the tea and coffee used in the staff room). This satisfies the requirements of *Fair Trade* status. Our places of worship also have *Fair Trade Church* status. The *Fair Trade* Foundation was impressed by the number of *Fair Trade* outlets for a town the size of Castle Cary. However, we can't rest on our laurels and the local *Fair Trade* group seeks to promote *Fair Trade* goods when and wherever possible.

Do look for the *Fair Trade* logo in the local shops

(and also in large stores such as Marks and Spencer and the Co-op); consider buying good quality fairly-traded goods or, if you are already a “fair-trader” increase the variety of goods you already buy. You can find **Ansford and Cary Traidcraft Group**’s stall at the Market House on the third Tuesday of the month, or for local purchases (or a copy of the catalogue), please ring Marilyn Simcox on 01963-351751 or Gill Bagnall on 01963-350629.

We can also arrange for a stall to visit your workplace or organisation and by ordering through our group, you will save the postage and packaging charge.

For more information please contact Marilyn Simcox on 351751.



TWINNING

Dates for your diary:

We served refreshments all day at the Market House, for the French Market on 17th October, and there will be a Quiz Evening run by Audrey & Gordon Rice on 11th December.

23rd January 2011: Members Lunch

12th March 2011: Social at Caryford Hall

22nd March 2011: AGM at Caryford Hall

22nd-25th April 2011: French visit to Castle Cary

25th June 2011: Coffee morning at Market House

22nd -25th July: Proposed Scout and Members visit to Rémalard.

17th December: Christmas Quiz.

As you can see it is a varied and interesting programme, but we could always do with new members, and also Groups to join us which could be matched up like for like with our French partners. Have a good think about it, it is really great fun, and lasting friendships have been made.

For further details ring Audrey or Gordon Rice on 01963 350510



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)

The Annual General Meeting of **Camelot U3A** in September was well attended and members were able to show their appreciation to the Chairman, John Rudolph, who was voted in for another year of office and the present Committee who meet regularly to ensure that the organisation runs smoothly. The membership stands at 336 but the continued aim is to attract new members and to encourage the formation of additional leisure and learning groups.

New groups for 2010/2011 such as Short Rambles & Listening to Operas on DVDs have proved popular,

in fact the latter has been so successful that it has already been split into two.

Monthly Meetings could be better attended as we have had some very interesting speakers – Janet Lawrence on “Lessons from a misspent writer’s life”, the Rev John Angle on “Life in Palestine” and a second visit from Richard Grundy on “Splendid Isolation” about living on Tristan da Cunha.

All Members can attend these meetings, which are held on the last Thursday of the month at the Constitutional Club, Castle Cary at 2.30pm, and bring guests (£1.00 per guest). Everyone can be certain of a warm welcome, a raffle, a free cup of tea and a biscuit.

Future meetings are as follows:

December – No meeting

Thursday 27 January: Speaker Tony Davies “Everyone is living in the wrong place.” Population movement from Adam & Eve to 2011.

Other dates: Thursday 24 February & Thursday 31 March: Speakers to be announced later.

Constance Earl (Publicity)



USE LESS SHARE MORE GROUP

We held an exciting day of money-saving, world-saving activities on 30 October, but were a bit surprised at how few people were interested in finding out how to reduce their home energy costs, cook cheaply from local food or amuse the children cheaply. However we shared some yummy homemade soup and scones, pressed lots of apples, and all of us found out more about the problems much of the rest of the world faces in feeding itself and looking after its future.

We meet usually on the first Friday of the month, and share food and ideas, so do join us if you are concerned to make the world a better place to live, with more sharing and less over use of resources. Contact Laura Tilling on 01963 351461 or ltilling@waysidecc.freemove.co.uk.



WOMEN’S FRIENDLY HOUR

In the last edition of the newsletter I did not have the programme to hand, so I will just add details now for information just so that you can see what sort of things we do.

20th Sept: Communion with Rev. Ken Chalmers

27th Sept : National Trust Properties. Tom Burr.

11th Oct: School Days. Pat Harrison.

25th Oct: All about Wales. Rob Haskins.

8th Nov: Number Trees. Patricia Fuller.

22nd Nov: Poetry at its ‘Best’. Alan Best.

6th Dec: Christmas lunch and Outing.

The format remains much the same, starting our afternoons with words of welcome, a hymn and a short prayer. Then there will be a speaker for 20-30 minutes, after which there will be tea and biscuits, a chance to chat and to have a look at the Bring and Buy Stall.

Ring me, Audrey Rice on 01963 350510 if you wish to know more, Other than that all those of the female gender are very welcome to come along and see for yourselves ... it could be fun!!



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Castle Cary & Ansford WI has had an excellent few months. We have gained a new member, had a very entertaining meeting with Amy the llama, a fish and chip supper at Shepton Mallet and an outing to the Octagon to see "The Boyfriend".

We now look forward to our November speaker to tell us all about Charles Dickens, and our Christmas Party in December.

We already have a full and varied programme organised for 2011. We may be a small institute but we are a strong and cheerful group. We look forward to welcoming more members. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Millbrook Community Room, Millbrook Gardens at 7.15 pm. Any ladies interested? Come and give us a try, you will be most welcome.

Margaret Cheshire-Briggs, Secretary
01963 359419



WILDLIFE TRUST

The South East area group of the Somerset Wildlife Trust hold a winter programme of monthly talks on wildlife related topics at Caryford Community Hall, Ansford on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, but excluding January. The cost is just £2 to non-members, free for children and coffee/tea is served from 7.30pm with the talks beginning at 8pm. See local notice boards or www.castle-cary.co.uk for talk details, www.somersetwildlife.org.uk/events or phone 01749 850456 for more information.



ZAMBIA NEWS

During October we had six visitors from Mufulira visiting schools and getting to know more about UK life. Three teachers from Mine Basic School, two with their husbands, were hosted by Bruton Primary School, and Fedraw Chifuwe, already known to many of us from his past involvement in the "Exchanging

Futures" project, was hosted by Sexey's School. All joined in a Zambia Community Links session where we looked together at Zambia's progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. There were visits to Castle Cary Primary School, which is linked with Muleya Winter Basic, and Mr Chifuwe met the Ansford School Exchange students to discuss their project work in Mufulira next year – a major theme will be the affects of Mufulira copper mine on . The whole group enjoyed Castle Cary Carnival.

Plans for Ansford School's student exchange to Mufulira forge ahead, with the students engaged in energetic fundraising. They are in good communication with their Zambian partners, thanks to generous funding from the Minor Metals Trading Association for the upgrading of computer facilities at Mufulira High School.

The next "IntroZambia" visit to Mufulira, organised by Laura Tilling, will be just before Easter 2011 instead of in February as originally planned, and anyone interested in finding out more about ordinary life in Mufulira is welcome to join the group. Ring 01963 351461 or email ltilling@waysidecc.freemove.co.uk for more details.



Make space for a child

It takes years to decide to adopt, seconds to take the first step...

Adoption means giving a loving home to a child who can no longer live with their birth parents. When you adopt you take on all legal rights and responsibilities for the child. It is a lifelong commitment. Somerset County Council has launched a new website www.adoptioninsomerset.org.uk to help you to decide if you can find space for a child in your life.

There are currently around 340 adoptive families in Somerset, but more are always needed. Somerset County Council is currently looking for adoptive families for single children of all ages, loving homes where brothers and sisters can remain living together, and supportive families for children who have had a difficult past. Whilst the process to become an adoptive parent is rigorous, the main requirement is that you can provide a loving and supportive family for a child or sibling group.

Linda Barnett, Somerset County Council's Head of Children's Services, said: "Being able to provide a loving home for a child who can no longer live with their birth parents is such a rewarding thing to do. This is the perfect time to find out more. Somerset County Council is committed to giving children the best start in life.' We match each child to the right family and so we welcome a wide range of people with different backgrounds and experiences.

To take the first step please call 0800 587 9900 or visit www.adoptioninsomerset.org.uk.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- ACF, Castle Cary Platoon – 07894 389891
Action for Children – 01963 351554
Alcoholics Anonymous – 01963 359298
All Saints' & St Andrew's Churches – 01963 351615
Alzheimer's Society – 01935 473597
Ansford & Cary Community Bus – 01963 350895
Ansford & Cary Traidcraft Sales – 01963 351751
Ansford Parish Council – 01747 841091
Ansford School – 01963 350895
Ansford School PTA – 01963 351629
Ansford Youth Centre – 01935 433008
ATC 2277 (Cary & District) Squadron – 07717 683404
Bible Study Group – 01749 860571
Britannia Club – 01963 351459
British Heart Foundation – 01963 350022
British Red Cross – 01963 350830
Camelot Area U3A – 01963 350626
Camelot Rounders – 01963 350576
Care4Cary – 01963 351288
Cary & Camelot Table Tennis Club – 01963 440172
Cary Allotments – caryallotments@live.co.uk
Cary Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS) – 01963 350510
Cary Comedians Carnival Club – 01963 440472
Cary Conservative Association – 01963 350977
Cary Guides – 01963 350936
Cary Reels – 01963 350276
Cary Runners – 01963 350418
Cary Wives Group – 01963 351473
Caryford Community Hall – 01963 359649
Caryford Fitness & Leisure – 01963 350600
Caryford Short Mat Bowls – 01963 351560
CaryLive – 01963 350276
Carymarsh Nature Reserve – 01963 350418
Carymoor Environmental Centre – 01963 350143
Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society – 01963 440472
Castle Cary & Ansford Women's Institute –
01963 359419
Castle Cary Bowls Club – 01963 351908
Castle Cary Bridge Club – 01963 351689
Castle Cary Ceramics Group – 01460 54117
Castle Cary Choir – 01749 830293
Castle Cary Cricket Club – 01963 350841
Castle Cary Football Club – 01963 240485
Castle Cary Gardening Association – 01963 350618
Castle Cary Majorettes (Cygnets) – 01963 350603
Castle Cary Out Of School Club (CCOOSC) –
07506 406887
Castle Cary Primary School – 01963 350520
Castle Cary Railway Club – 01749 860571
Castle Cary Rainbows – 01963 350004/351419
Castle Cary Ramblers – 01963 350686
Castle Cary Rounders – 01963 350728
Castle Cary Rugby Club – 01963 370642
Castle Cary Town Council – 01963 359631
Castle Cary Town Museum – 01963 351324
Castle Cary Twinning Association – 01963 350369
Cavalcade of Motoring – 01963 350182
Christian Aid – 01963 351751
Churches Together – 01963 359027
Ditcheat Moviola – 01749 860542
Friends of Cary 2000 – 01963 351707
Friends of Cemetery Chapel Group – 01963 351751
Guide Dogs for the Blind – 01963 350182
Judo Club – 01749 890308
Ju-jitsu and Ninjitsu – 07854 127439
Liberal Democrats – 01963 350541
Linx Project & React Bus – 07737 283722
Living History Group – 01963 350168
Macmillan Cancer Support – 01963 359027
Market House Dance Studio – 01963 351503
Methodist Church – 01963 351598
Mid-Somerset Flower Club – 01963 351811
Moat Garden Project – 01963 359418
Monday Club – 01963 350931
Mothers' Union – 01963 350621
National Blood Transfusion – 01963 350279
North Cadbury Tennis Club – 01963 350832
Quiz Evenings – 01963 350510
RoadPeace – 01963 359044
Rotary Club – 07767 488719
Royal British Legion – 01963 350461
St Margaret's Hospice – 0845 345 9671
Saturday Cinema Club – 01963 351554
Scouts/Cubs/Beavers – 01963 359411
Scout Active Support – 01935 474212
Silver Street Writing Group – 01747 840840
Somerset Association for the Blind – 01460 54995
Somerset Wildlife Trust (SE Area) – 01963 240580
South Somerset Community Accessible Transport –
01963 34594
Speedwatch – 01963 359631
Taekwon-Do Club – 01749 830976
Tiddlywinks – 01963 350341
Tools for Self Reliance – 01963 351219
Toybox Playgroup – 01963 351523
Traditional Market & French Market – 01963 350461
Use Less Share More Group – 01963 351461
Women's Friendly Hour – 01963 350510
Zambia Links (CMCPT) – 01963 351461