

Spring  
2018

# *News of Camerton*



Published on behalf of  
Camerton Parish Council

Number 134

# Useful contacts

Parish Council Chairman  
Chris Taylor

Purbeck House  
Bridge Place Road  
Camerton, BA2 OPD  
01761 471497  
camertonparishchairman@  
hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Vice Chair  
Maggie Hutton

Longacre  
Durcott Lane  
Camerton  
BA2 OQE  
01761 470954  
camertonparishvicechair@  
hotmail.co.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council  
Kathryn Manchee  
Office Hours  
Monday to Friday 9am—5pm

camertonparishclerk@  
hotmail.co.uk  
01761 411305  
www.camertonparishcouncil.co.uk

District Councillor for Bathavon  
West Ward,  
David Veale

david\_veale@bathnes.gov.uk  
The Gables  
89 Cooks Hill  
Clutton, BS39 5RD  
01761 452073

The Council Connect contact  
centre deal with telephone,  
text and email enquiries.

www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit  
councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk  
01225 394041

Your Neighbourhood Police  
Team

101  
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Curo Community Housing

01225 366000

Camerton Community Hall

07716129569  
<https://www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk>

# Editor's letter

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ARWEN ROSS

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Spring is a busy time of year, with everything and everyone starting to “wake up” again after the long slog through the winter. And Camerton is certainly starting to get busy; just take a look at the back cover of this issue - so many events I thought I would need an extra page!

The Hall Committee have clearly been busy organising some real treats for the coming season, with music, food and fun all on the agenda.

But that's not all - there's a real range of activities on offer in this issue, from bell ringing to croquet, not to mention art, culture, nature and history.

Thank you to everyone doing their own part, big or small, to make Camerton a beautiful, lively, safe and friendly place to be. It really does make a difference, and is very much appreciated.

## CAMERTON COMMUNITY HALL

### MEMBERSHIP

**FREE to all Parishioners 18 years and over**

#### **Benefits:**

**10% discount on Hall Bookings**

**Special Discount on Hall Organised Events**

**Regular event updates**

### FRIENDS OF THE HALL

**Want to help out occasionally, but don't want the commitment? Then why not become a Friend of the Hall and help when it suits you?...No commitment.**

**Contact: Heather on 01761 470175**

# Parish Council News

CHRIS TAYLOR

Dear Parishioners

I hope you all had a good Christmas and now we are looking forward to the spring and the warmer weather. Unfortunately we had too many grey wet days this winter. This has led to some water drainage issues on the roads but these have been cleared quite quickly once reported to BANES highways.

Next month, on Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Parish Council will be hosting the Annual Parish Meeting at Camerton Community Hall starting at 7.30 pm. I will be reviewing the events of the last twelve months and the Clerk will be reporting on the Parish Council finances for the financial year 2017/18. Our guest speaker this year is a representative of the charity Water Survival Box who will be talking about their work on providing a rapid response in situations that result in families having no access to safe drinking water, having also lost their homes and possessions. We hope to see many of you there. You will all have noticed the closure of the Batch

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at the end of December 2017 due to health and safety issues. The Batch is currently facing an uncertain future in terms of finance and volunteer resource. Therefore at the meeting we will also be explaining how both the Parish Council and you can help us to get this wonderful community facility back up and running as soon as possible.

Concerns about speeding throughout the parish continue to be a problem. As you can see from the police article later in this newsletter this can have awful consequences. Therefore we would urge all residents to drive safely on our roads. For our part the Parish Council will continue to work on trying to address this issue by working closely with BANES council and the police.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the success of the community hall. Only a year ago the hall was on the ropes and facing closure. Now, a year on, bookings are up, finances are on a better footing and much refurbishment has been undertaken. There have also been several community events and talks to help with the ongoing need to raise

funds to complete the programme of essential refurbishment. It's just a shame that the Parish Council cannot use the hall for our meetings. Not only are there very few slots available (thanks to the great success of the new committee) but we are, by law, not allowed to hold our parish council meetings in premises that are licensed for the supply of alcohol. That said, you are all very welcome to attend any of our Parish Council meetings.

Hope to see lots of you at the Annual Parish Meeting. Also don't forget we would also love to see you at future council meetings.



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# Camerton Community Hall

The new committee of the Camerton Community Hall has been reviewing the past year, a year of surprises, many achievements and a few disappointments.

Almost from the first week there was a big setback in store with the realisation that most of the electrics were in need of upgrading. Then came the discovery that there was a considerable amount of water being wasted owing to a number of leaks/overflows in the toilets.

However, on a more positive note it can be reported the dressing rooms (which had been redundant for several years) have now been completely renovated with all new lighting and showers. Also all toilets at

the hall have been replaced and the new electrics are nearly finished with new lighting in the hall, kitchen, bar and toilets.

In accordance with our new Habitat Management Plan (HMP), the small wooded area (Spinney) phase one has now been completed and we will be looking to complete phase two (path and learning area construction) by the middle of March 2018, when we will then be undertaking phase three (indigenous planting and bird/ bat box installation). It is hoped to have this Natural Habitat facility open fully to the public by the time we hold our now annual Summer Fete later this year. Once up and running we will continue to manage this facility and ensure it not only provides added

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Camerton Community Hall is proud to announce

Mendip Male Voice Choir will be singing their new 2018 programme

on

March 26th 7.30pm (Bar open from 7pm)

Tickets £8 or £10 on the door (if available) to include Tea/Coffee

Light refreshments available



For tickets ring Bryn - 01761 471350, Eric - 01761 414070 or Nick 01761 413842 or contact any member of the Hall Committee

natural habitat for flora and fauna, but is also enjoyed by the community as a whole, be it recreational or educational.

As part of the HMP we will be offering people the opportunity to have a living memorial to a loved one under our **Memory Tree Scheme**. This will enable members of the community to sponsor a tree in what is undoubtedly a beautiful location and in doing so support the natural habitat and of course the hall; more details to follow soon. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about this scheme then please contact *Clive on 07541 115728*

We have also installed numerous external lights for safety and security purposes along with CCTV. The latter not only provides added security but should deter any further unsocial

activity, which unfortunately had been happening some nights, particularly in what *was* the dark area at the bottom of the car park.

As many of you know, over the years the field has been used for a whole range of activities, many of which required access to proper and safe electric supply. We are pleased to announce that such a supply has recently been installed by way of several external hook-ups. By doing this we hope to maximise the use of the field whilst ensuring the growing demand for outdoor electric supply is provided in accordance with the latest relevant safety regulations.

A full list of all the refurbishment works undertaken will soon be posted on our website in time for the AGM; I have no doubt you will be pleased with what has been achieved

(cont'd)

in such a relatively short time.  
As you can see there has been a great deal of hard work put in by the whole committee, who have raised much needed revenue to pay for all the work that's being done at the hall through the Easter Fun Day, Summer Fete, Winter talks and Halloween Party, with many more different events to come during 2018.

The biggest income stream for the hall is the bookings. We have to thank our regular weekly hirers for their support (with more enquiries received every week) and the casual bookings are also well up, thanks mainly to the hall's new web site [www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk); people particularly like the location for weddings.

We currently have football back on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings; hopefully it will continue on into the future, and we are proud to boast the best dressing rooms in any parish for miles around!

A key objective now is to push on with events, and we are very pleased to announce a first for the parish: the acclaimed **Mendip Male Voice Choir** will be performing their new 2018 programme at the hall on **MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 7.30PM**. (Bar from 7pm)

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door (including tea/coffee) and can be bought from any member of the hall committee, or ring. *Bryn*:

01761 471350, *Eric*: 01761 414070 or *Nick*: 01761 413842 . If you have not heard 60 men singing in harmony then please come along - you will not be disappointed, the parish is in for a treat plus an opportunity to raise much needed funds.

Other up-coming events for your diary

**EASTER FUN DAY SATURDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**POP-UP SRI LANKAN RESTAURANT ON FRIDAY APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**ROCK N ROLL NIGHT WITH "THE FLAMES" SATURDAY JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**SUMMER FETE ON SATURDAY JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

There is a lot the committee would like to achieve but everything needs money. For example there are some really old heaters at the hall that need replacing and every effort will be made to install new heaters as soon as possible, so the fundraising campaign continues.

We need the community to get behind the hall events as much as possible, as it's crucial that this vital parish asset is maintained and upgraded to a high standard so that bookings continue to grow, money comes in and the facility can then continue to serve our community.



Who knows what, together, can be achieved? You only have to talk to anyone who, in the 70s and 80s, gave their all to raise the necessary funds to provide the hall that we have to enjoy today. Long may it continue!

Charity No. 308263.

[www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk)

Hall Bookings - 07716129569

If you would like to make a personal donation to the hall and potentially get matched funding added then please go to the [LocalGiving](https://localgiving.org/camerton-community-hall) website <https://localgiving.org/camerton-community-hall>



## Dunkerton WI

Dunkerton WI meets at Tunley Recreation Centre (BA2 0DZ) on the second Tuesday of the month (except for August). Meetings start at 7.15pm and end about 9.30pm. Every meeting we have a speaker or an activity. Tea, coffee and biscuits follow the speaker with lots of chat. We are a very lively, friendly group and our numbers are growing year on year - there are many members from Camerton. There is also a vibrant craft group and we are working on lots of ideas to develop new groups and activities.

If you would like to join us as a visitor you can be assured of a very warm welcome – our WI is a great place to meet new people. You can find out more by visiting [www.dunkertonwi.btck.co.uk](http://www.dunkertonwi.btck.co.uk).

JANUARY 2018

The Early History of Penguin Books was our speaker Mr Barry Edward's

subject. A former headmaster, he is an avid collector of first edition Penguin books and owns over 1400. He explained how founder Allen Lane was journeying from visiting Agatha Christie by train when he conceived the idea of publishing the first sixpence paperback in 1934. His idea was to provide reading matter for the masses. Up until then most workers could not afford the luxury of buying a book. The concept was a great success and Penguin books were, in time, sold all over the world.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS:

13th March - Spring Court Animal Rescue, by Roy Steggle

10th April - Life and Work of Marianne North, by Gina Merritt-Smith

8th May - Mercy Ships, by Angela Grist



# Camerton Batch Local Nature Re

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TONY FRY

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This report is one that I hoped I would never have to write, but unfortunately, I must report that the Batch is currently closed to the public on safety grounds. We have had to make that decision as all the steps and footpaths are now in such a poor state of repair and therefore are too dangerous for public use. Both main entrances have been closed and secured by chain and padlocks so please bear with us until such time that we can undertake the necessary repairs.

We hoped that we could just restrict the use to the central section with the eastern steps being closed as a result of the damage caused by the forestry management work undertaken last year. But whilst this was suitable for the Summer period, the Autumn and Winter periods have not been kind to us, with extensive damage to the remaining three sets of steps. This has been exacerbated by the reduction of members in the Batch Support Committee and hence a reduction in the maintenance role that the team can undertake. There are only four members remaining, so if there is

anyone who would like to join the committee you would be more than welcome.

We engaged a firm of woodland consultants to view the site and recommend the necessary remedial action. We now have their report and an estimate of the cost of replacing all the current sets of steps, work necessary to clear the Batch of fallen trees and debris plus the replanting of the Eastern end and part of the Northern faces. The associated costs for this work are in excess of £7,000, which is well above the Support Group's current reserves, and we have had to seek help from the Parish Council in this respect. The Parish Council Chairman has made reference to this in his report in this issue of the magazine. I will also provide a report on this situation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

We are still having negotiations with the company who wants the timber that was felled as part of the Phase 2 development work undertaken last spring. All the felled timber has now been cut to their required length of 2.4 metres. Unfortunately, the timber

# serve Supporters Group



stacks need to be moved nearer to the fence and gate of the field in order for the transport to be able to lift and stack the sawn timber for transportation. Hence, we are looking for help to move the timber, so if you can help in that respect please contact me. This is now an urgent requirement as the sale of the timber will help fund the Batch steps build.

It is evident from this report that we are under-resourced in terms of committee members, volunteers and funds. The sole method of funding is via the Batch lottery; however the numbers contributing have fallen quite rapidly and we now only make a small profit. So once again, if you can help by joining the lottery please do so as it's our only funding activity. If you want to join, please contact Louise Fry on 01761 471280.

As you can see we have a problem but are currently looking at all ways to raise extra funds. Increased numbers in the lottery is not the only approach. We are also looking at local grant aid provision and other nature organisation funding such as the Woodland Trust. In the last report I

stated that we may start a sponsorship scheme for steps and replanting. This is still under consideration.

I apologise for having to provide a rather gloomy picture, but I am sure with our resolve and help from you we can overcome this tough time and provide a safe Batch for all to enjoy.

Tony Fry

Chairman CBLNR

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The logo consists of a stylized house icon with a recycling symbol inside, above the text 'PURBECK HOLIDAY LETS'.

# The Precept

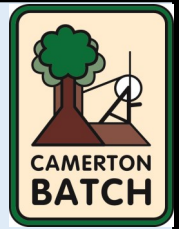
Parish Councils have been granted the power by Parliament to raise money (the precept) to enable them to manage local affairs and to provide for the local community. This money is collected as part of the local authority Council Tax and then paid out to the Parish Council. As this is public money an internal and external audit process ensures that it is managed correctly.

What do we pay for?

- Salaries
- Local Nature Reserve – Insurance and Health & Safety management/ maintenance
- Litter collection, waste bins and dog bins
- Membership of professional organisations to provide guidance, support and legal advice
- Public Liability and Employer insurance
- Auditing of Accounts – internal and external
- Meeting Rooms & public meetings
- Training for councillors and clerk
- Office equipment, stationery, telephone, etc

As we are a small Parish Council with little room to make cuts we have to

Camerton Batch  
Local Nature  
Reserve Supporters  
Group (CBLNRSG)



Members Required

Join this increasingly popular local group and help protect, maintain and develop this valuable historic local asset.

Membership offers reduced members only events, discounted open events and products, members only website section, newsletter and management committee opportunities. Forms can be obtained from Louise Fry, 4 Sunnyvale, Camerton, tel: 01761 471280, email: [Louise\\_fry@btinternet.com](mailto:Louise_fry@btinternet.com).

Membership is free and open to all

meet ever increasing costs from suppliers plus costs relating to changes to employment regulations and administration recommendations. We always seek best value for money. This year we have had to raise the precept to meet our obligations especially as more of our funding which we get from B&NES council is being phased out. Therefore the amount that an individual Band D property will pay will increase by 27p a week.

# Environmental Enhancement

HEATHER EDWARDS

By the time you receive this newsletter, the winter flowering pansies should be in full bloom and our purple boxes throughout the parish should be looking good. However, by May we will need to be selecting our summer bedding. So, this is my only opportunity to tell you that the flower colours we will be using for the boxes will be pink, white and red (a bluey red please - not orange).

The purple paint colour selected for the boxes is a bit like marmite – you either love it or hate it – but the displays are certainly unmissable and each year they attract a number of compliments. However, it is important, for continuity and impact, that we all use the same flower colours please.

Begonias are a good bet; they are reasonably priced and always seem to put on a good show until the first frost, irrespective of the weather in between.

Here's hoping we can look forward to a warm and sunny summer. In the meantime, if anyone has any concerns or queries about our environment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who fund and source the plants, and maintain your individual boxes for the enjoyment of us all. I would like to assure you that your work is much appreciated.

Heather Edwards 01761 470175



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**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE**

# Neighbourhood Watch

Brian Edwards

Welcome to the New Year 2018, I wonder what this year will bring us. So far it has brought us nothing but rain, drizzle and dampness, thank goodness there hasn't been any of the snow and ice experienced by the people further north. Hope I haven't spoken too soon. Of course you can never speak too soon when there are criminal activities occurring in our area, some a bit close to our patch.

Clutton - a van broken into and tools stolen. Obvious advice, do not leave any valuables in a vehicle parked overnight.

High Littleton - front and rear number plates stolen from a parked vehicle.

West Harptree - commercial property broken into and cash stolen from desk drawer.

Paulton area - blue panel transit van recently seen, occupants acting suspiciously. No details of van known. If seen please contact Police with description and registration number.

Bright orange 22 tonne log splitter stolen from an address in Peasedown St John. The machine was caught on camera being towed away down Brightdown Lane.



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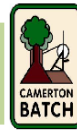


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# Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

## Supporters Group



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CBLNRSG Secretary: Louise Fry, 4 Sunnyvale, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0QD. Louise\_fry@btinternet.com

Rogue Traders often referred to as Nottingham Knockers operating throughout the BANES Council area – Combe Down, Farrington Gurney and High Littleton especially. Unknown males trying to sell garden furniture; these cold callers become verbally aggressive when residents refuse to buy any of their goods, which usually are of inferior quality. Nottingham Knockers are cold callers telling residents that they are previous offenders trying to go straight who then try and sell you poor quality over-priced goods.

Telephone scam - a man, claiming to be a police officer – DS Jason Colby of Putney Police Station, telephoning elderly residents in the Bristol area saying that two suspects have been found in possession of cloned bank cards for an account belonging to the

resident. He then wishes to confirm card number and PIN. Police officers and banks will never ask for such details. If you think you have been defrauded you can ring the Fraud Action Line (0300 1232040).

A 'micro-chipped' 2 year old female springer spaniel taken from her kennel in Shoscombe. Police are asking for any information to find her and reunite with her owner.

If you are concerned or see anything suspicious please call a neighbour, your local Neighbourhood Watch contact, or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111/the Police on 101; if its serious dial 999.

Enjoy your Spring, when it arrives.

Brian Edwards 470175

# Avon and Somerset Police Information

Recently I was asked by the Parish Clerk to conduct some research into the factors causing the road closures in the Camerton area. In particular this was after the latest serious incident on 5 December 2017.

It was frightening to read that in 2017 there were 8 reported incidents on Camerton/Skinners Hill alone. Sadly some of these incidents were life threatening or resulted in life changing injuries for the people involved. I know that residents are well used to making

detours around the inevitable road closures and disruption that these road traffic collisions (RTC's) bring. Please allow me at this point to thank you all for your patience and understanding at these times.

Whilst it is hard to pin down one factor likely to cause accidents on our car journeys, it is fair to say that inappropriate speed is mostly always a factor. Slow down, look at the road and weather conditions and adjust your speed accordingly. Drivers being distracted by outside factors also feature highly; leave your phone alone – it is not worth taking the risk. Lastly it is the 'risk takers' who endanger all of us; that devil-may-care attitude that is so repugnant in drivers and can often have far-reaching and tragic consequences.

I know that the local council are looking into the infrastructure of our road system and hopefully this will mean improved changes for all of our safety in the future. In the meantime please take heed of the above and drive carefully.

Also affecting the local community is the sudden rise in vehicle crime recently. From 1 November 2017 to 15 January 2018 there were 28 reported incidents of theft from



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motor vehicles (TFMV). Mostly it appeared as though tools were being targeted but many other items of value were also reported as stolen. Paulton took most of the brunt of this spike but I also know that some residents of Camerton were victims.

However there may be good news to report. At the beginning of January a vehicle containing many tools identified as being stolen overnight from the North Somerset area was located. The 2 occupants were later identified as being involved in criminality. Police investigating the series of thefts from the Paulton area are trying to ascertain if the 2

suspects could be responsible for the van break-ins locally. It has been noted that since the identification of the occupants' vehicle, crime in the Paulton area has decreased.

PS I also want to thank the local resident who kindly brought me a flask of tea and homemade cake whilst I was stationed for many hours on a freezing cold day at a road closure at one of the above RTC's. A small gesture from her that meant so much to me.

Rob Hendra

PCSO, Paulton & Peasedown  
Neighbourhood Team



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# Poppy Appeal 2017

On behalf of Timsbury Royal British Legion I would like to thank all the volunteers from Camerton, Timsbury and Tunley who spend hours on cold winter nights collecting door to door and all the businesses and various organisations that helped us raise a total of **£4379.38 for 2017** which is nearly **£600** up on the **2016** total. Without your support we would not be able to help the thousands of ex-service and serving men and women and their families. Absolutely



everything we do depends on the strength of our fundraising, of which the Poppy Appeal is such an important part.

**Anyone willing to help collecting in 2018 please contact Chris Fiddes on: 01761471691 Mob: 07923436950 or email: [cfiddes@btinternet.com](mailto:cfiddes@btinternet.com)**

**CAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL**



**CAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Invites you to**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**on**

**THURSDAY 19 April 2018**

**at CAMERTON COMMUNITY HALL starting at 7.30 pm**

The evening will commence with a talk by the charity

**Water Survival Box.**

A rapid response for emergencies throughout the world where families have no access to safe drinking water and have also lost their homes and possessions.

This will be followed by the Chairman and the Clerk of the Parish Council reporting on the parish activity highlights of the last year and our annual expenditure and income for 2017-2018.

The parish council will also be talking with parishioners on **THE FUTURE OF THE BATCH.**

Camerton Community Hall



Easter Fun Day

31st March 2018

12noon - 3pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Competitions - best Easter Hat, best decorated Easter cake,  
Egg & Spoon races

Raffle

Refreshments available



Entrance fee - £5 per car or, if on foot, £5 per family to  
include draw for a hamper

For more details see [www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk)

# Cam Valley Wildlife Group Events

## Sunday 22 April

**Bluebells and early butterflies at Long Wood, Cheddar.** Meet at 10am in layby near Black Rock reserve.....we will aim to car share as much as possible as limited parking. Morning walk – bring drink & snack.



## Sunday 20 May

**Bitterns & birds (including Hobbies) at Ham Wall, near Glastonbury.** Meet at 2pm in the car park – £3 parking charge if not RSPB member. Meare, Ashcott, Glastonbury BA6 9SX. Afternoon walk – bring drink & snack.

Gentle walk through the withy beds, or a longer circular walk along the River Tone and up to the viewpoint on the top of Windmill Hill. We hope to see lots of dragonflies.

## Saturday 23 June

**Stear Marshes near Bridgwater – return visit to this new WWT site.** Meet at 11am in the main car park Steart Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2PU. Lovely reserve full of birds and butterflies. Bring drink & packed lunch.

If you need any more information about anything please phone Judy on 07460 278311, or email [judy@swallowcharity.org](mailto:judy@swallowcharity.org).

## Saturday 28 July

**Willow and wildlife at Coates Willow Centre, Stoke St Gregory.** Meet at 2pm in the visitor centre – entry is free. There is also a café – the Lemon Tree. Meare Green Court, Stoke St Gregory, NE of Taunton, TA3 6HY.

# Cam Valley Arts Trail

**Cam Valley Arts Trail Group Spring  
Exhibition & Sale**

**Demonstrations and Taster Sessions**

**Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury  
BA2 0JQ**

**Saturday 28 April 2018: 11am-5pm**

Looking for that special gift or wanting a unique piece of artwork for your home? Then come and visit us in Timsbury on Saturday the 28th April.

Over twenty local artists of all kinds of disciplines will be attending - they will be demonstrating, showcasing and selling their work. A chance for you to meet the artists, see how they create their work, and try it out for yourself at the free taster art sessions.

Works will include many different

media: paintings, batik, ceramics, textiles, wood, glass, calligraphy and more. Here are a few comments from last year: Richard: "Super selection of different art and craft with very friendly people exhibiting - very impressive. We felt welcomed by everyone and inspired by all the talented exhibitors." Ken: "The quality and standard of the exhibits was good. Surprised how reasonably priced most items were. Most enjoyable and I look forward to more exhibitions at this high standard."

Entry is free and there will be refreshments. Remember to bring your wallet or chequebook as some artists cannot take card payments. Visit our website for further details: [www.camvalleyartstrail.co.uk](http://www.camvalleyartstrail.co.uk)



**- A. Lewis -**  
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# Radstock Museum

PLUNGE DEEP DOWN INTO THE  
RADSTOCK COALMINES WITH  
MUSEUM'S NEW VIRTUAL REALITY  
EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered what it might have been like deep underground in the coalmines of Somerset? A new Virtual Reality (VR) attraction at Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum will take you on a ride down into the mines of Radstock and on a journey back in time through the mine tunnels in a brand new, unique and exciting experience.

Take your seat for the fully 3-dimensional trip, pop on the lightweight headset, which fits comfortably over glasses; you will find yourself in the cage (the lift) which took the miners down underground and then your descent begins.....!

You are now in the role of a miner clunking and bumping down the mineshaft in the cage dropping at a rate of 60 feet per second, taking you deep underground. Once down at the pit bottom, you find yourself travelling in a coal truck along rails on the underground roadway. Turn your head to look all around you and see the pit pony stables and miners eating their meagre lunches.



Pass by miners cutting away at the coalface with picks and make way for a pit pony as it comes towards you pulling its load of coal to the bottom of the shaft.

A sudden rock fall in one of the coal seams off the roadway sends miners shouting and trying to escape with their lives, while in another seam a group of miners has accidentally blasted through into an old, disused flooded mine tunnel and water rushes in, leaving miners once again racing to escape.

The VR ride is the ambitious work of two students: Georgina Hill and Barry Lewis from Bath College, Somer Valley Campus in collaboration with Radstock Museum. Georgina and Barry have developed and implemented the ride for the final project of their

course, gaining them both a Foundation Degree in Applied Computing. The final project required the students to draw on all the computing skills they had acquired during the course as well as to demonstrate skills in areas such as project management and collaborating with a third party and client.

Barry and Georgina discovered that they work so well as a team that they are already planning a new and improved 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the ride where *you* the rider will be able to interact further by picking up implements and using them plus more!

Come and try our new ride, available free to all visitors (weekends only).

### WHAT'S ON AT SOMERSET COALFIELD LIFE AT RADSTOCK MUSEUM

3<sup>rd</sup> April, 7:30pm, Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton - Bygone Days talk by Dennis Chedgy, "The Mystery of Writhlington Manor and The George Washington Connection". £3

1<sup>st</sup> May-30<sup>th</sup> August, Radstock Museum: Exhibition, 150 Years of Radco



## Bell Ringing For Beginners

Have you ever thought about doing something different, a bit challenging?

Want to meet new people, learn a fun new skill and help others?

Why not give bell ringing a go.

We are a friendly bunch and would love to welcome you to a new hobby.

If you are free on a Tuesday evening and want to learn more contact David Bennett on 07802705663 or [dave.bennett@securemeters.com](mailto:dave.bennett@securemeters.com).

We look forward to seeing you.

# Midsomer Norton & Radstock Community Service Vehicle Trust

Last year the Midsomer Norton & Radstock Community Minibus celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration took place at Welton Rovers Football Club, where a buffet lunch was held for everyone who was connected to the Mini Bus, past and present.

Founded in April 1967, the bus was commissioned to enable the elderly, disabled, and small groups of the public, who found difficulty in getting to and from their houses, to go to their Lunch Clubs, Church Services, outings etc. without worry! This, in turn, helped them to feel part of

society, and not to miss out on events around the area.

And we are pleased to say that the Bus is still thriving today!!!

If you would like to know more, or would like to use the Mini Bus, or perhaps become a volunteer driver (we are urgently looking for new voluntary drivers to replace 2 recently retired drivers), please contact our Co-ordinator Mrs Debbie Gunfield on 01761 416910 for information, or our Transport Manager Mr Nick Rogers on 01761 413872.

Registered Charity No. 276166.





# Where is this?



Do you recognise this spot in the parish? If you think you know the answer, send your guesses to [camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk). All will be revealed in the next issue.

Photo by Tony Fry

The Winter 2017 edition's photograph was Red Hill House and Trees viewed from the Batch. The first correct entries received were from Wendy Venn and Vicky Venn.

# Camerton & Peasedown Croquet Club

## Jump-Start Something New

Winter is over. The hardier Camerton & Peasedown Croquet Club players have battled through the season's storms and emerged once again, hoping to steal a few hoops from their opponents this year. Now their revitalised lawns are verdant and even, ready for the fine-weather players, and Alice's Flamingos, to re-emerge and enjoy a rejuvenating spring.

Be pro-active too. Jump at the opportunity to join the club's 5-week Beginners' Course starting at 2 pm on Sunday 8th April through to 13th May – excluding Sunday 15th April. Don't worry if you can't make all five Sundays, comprehensive notes are provided as well as ample time to practice already covered or missed topics with the club's five qualified coaches. By the end of the first session, you will be well into experiencing the buzz of the game.

During the five 2½ hour sessions, you will discover golf croquet is not only a game of skill but also surprisingly tactical. But don't worry, you will be taught all its intricacies in the friendly



environment of the club. At only £25 for the whole course, laced with free tea or coffee, and with the use of the club's own equipment, you can't afford to miss this opportunity. All they ask is to wear flat soled shoes, like trainers. Many of the last year's course members are now avid players, like David Christie who won the club's fun-packed 64 Challenge Handicap Tournament in October that drew many from around the Southwest.

If, after being smitten by the new sport, you decide to join CPCC, your course fees will be fully refunded. For more information ring 01225 708540 and ask for Brian or Mo; alternatively ring 01225 427525 asking for Ros.

# Norton/Radstock Ramblers

## March walks

We are a small group of people, with one thing in common, we love to walk!

If you enjoy walking, why not join us on one or more of the following:

Wednesday 7th March: 6 mile walk, Greater Avon Valley Way. A Country walk West of Bristol. Walk start 10.00am. Large off- road layby on the Pill Road (A369) Map 156 Grid ref: ST538738. Postcode BS8 3QY. Leader Tessa, 01761 470453 or 07811008567. Meet 9am Paulton Car Park to car share.

Sunday 11th March: 6 mile walk, Blagdon Lake. Walk start 10.00am. North end of Blagdon Dam, turn right down Station Road. Post Code BS40 7UN. Ref: ST502600. Leader Beryl, 01761 412045/ 07800630004. Meet 9.15am South Road Car Park to car share.

Sunday 18th March: 6 mile walk around Gare Hill, close to the Longleat Estate. Walk start 10.15am. Deerwood Common/Witham Park. Ref: ST771390. Post Code BA11 5HR.

Leader Peter, 07974925484. Meet 9.15am South Road Car Park to car share.

Wednesday 21st March: 8.2 mile walk, Greater Avon Valley Way. Walk start 10.00am. Black Horse Pub at Clapton in Gordano. Map 154 Grid Ref: ST474739 Postcode BS20 7RR. Leader Tessa, 01761 470453 or 07811008567. Meet Paulton Car Park 9.00am to car share.

Sunday 25th March: 6 mile Circular picnic walk at Ilminster. Walk start 10.00am. Ilminster Parish Church, Court Barton. Parking on Station Road. Grid Ref: ST662541. Post Code BA3 2JL. Leader Sarah, 07869591189. Meet 8.45am South Road Car Park to car share.

For all information regarding the above walks and additional walks, please go to our website [www.nortonradstockramblers.org.uk](http://www.nortonradstockramblers.org.uk) Carol Price

## Dates for your diary

Sat 10 Mar 10am-1pm	Spring craft and gift sale in aid of Children's Hospice SW at Camerton Community Hall. There will be many varied stalls including crafts, homemade cakes, plants, toys and a tombola, as well as refreshments. A perfect opportunity to get Mother's day gifts.
Tue 13 Mar 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 21 Mar 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Meeting Room, Purbeck Holiday Lets
Wed 21 Mar 7.15pm	Camerton Local History Group, Court Barn
Mon 26 Mar 7.30pm	Mendip Male Voice Choir, Camerton Community Hall
Sat 31 Mar 12 noon - 3pm	Easter Fun Day, Camerton Community Hall
Tue 10 Apr 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 18 Apr 7.15pm	Camerton Local History Group, Court Barn
Thu 19 Apr 7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Camerton Community Hall
Fri 20 Apr	Sri Lankan Pop-up Restaurant, Camerton Community Hall
Sat 28 Apr 11am-5pm	Cam Valley Arts Trail Group Spring Exhibition & Sale, Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury
Wed 2 May 7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Meeting Room, Purbeck Holiday Lets
Tue 8 May 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 16 May 7.15pm	Camerton Local History Group, Court Barn
Fri 18 May 7pm	Camerton Community Hall AGM, Camerton Community Hall

Deadline for the next issue is 11 May.

Camerton Parish Council do not endorse any product or service that is advertised within this newsletter.