

Winter
2018

Camerton Parish News



Published on behalf of
Camerton Parish Council

Number 137

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www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit
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01225 366000

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

Editor's letter

ARWEN ROSS

It's that dark time of the year again, that time after Halloween and before Christmas when you really become aware that winter is coming. Thankfully, though, not in the "Game of Thrones" sense (I for one am glad that winter doesn't last for years!).

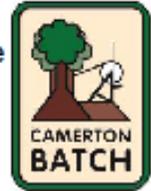
Nonetheless, sometimes it can feel like this cold, dark season stretches out in front of us like an endless slog filled with rain, wind, muddy dogs, grey mornings and seemingly constant viruses.

Luckily, there are plenty of events lighting up the darkness at this time of year, with fireworks, carnival floats and seasonal celebrations to see us through until the world begins to turn for us again.

Locally, our Community Hall and Church will be bringing people together over the festive season with food, song

and celebrations both sacred and secular (see back cover for dates, and read on for more details). So in the spirit of another festival of light, Diwali, may we all celebrate "the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance" this season and beyond. Happy reading!

**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 and management committee opportunities. Forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Louise Fry, 4 Sunnyvale, Durcott Lane, Camerton, via www.camertonbatch.com or louise_fry@btinternet.com

Membership is free and open to all

Parish Council News

CHRIS TAYLOR

Dear Parishioners

I cannot believe I am already writing this for the December issue of the newsletter. It only seems a short time ago that we were enjoying the lovely summer and autumn sunshine.

By the time that you are reading this the latest stage of the new local plan will have gone out for consultation and the parish council will be responding. Another consultation that we have responded to recently is that on Bath's Clean Air Charging Zone. While the parish council completely understands the need for cleaner area in Bath, we have expressed our concerns on the financial impact in parishes such as Camerton that have such poor public transport that there is no alternative but to drive into the centre of Bath.

Talking of buses, we are concerned about the ever decreasing availability of public transport in Camerton. Therefore the parish council is working with other parishes on the feasibility of

introducing a community bus serving amongst others Camerton. This would provide transport to the Odd Down Park and Ride site. Some initial funding has been secured from BANES Council for this project. We also continue to raise the poor rural transport issue at the various external meetings that the parish council attends.

The other issue that we are working on is speeding. At present the most likely way of addressing this issue is for the parish council to set up a Community Speedwatch group.

Community Speedwatch is where members of the parish join with the support of the police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated, enforcement and prosecution follow.

Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by our neighbourhood policing team. The scheme aims to cater to the problem of real or perceived speed-related offending, and through partnership with the community it is to be used in circumstances that are necessary, justifiable and proportionate in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Therefore once we have progressed this a little further we will be looking for volunteers to take part. In order to help with planning

Did you know...

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*** Subject to Status**

the feasibility of this idea it would be great if you could let us know that if we proceed with this project you would be interested in getting involved. Please send your name and contact details to the clerk at camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk and when we know more we will be back in touch.

Camerton Community Hall

CAMERTON COMMUNITY HALL WINTER TALKS

What a great evening to kick off the Camerton Winter Talks. A packed Community Hall was on the edge of their seats listening to the ultimate professional TV presenter Chris Sperring's talk on "Owls", which was delivered in a very competent and humorous way. Chris is the Hawk and Owl Trust's Conservation Officer in the South West and in this role he spends time visiting landowners to advise on conservation, running surveys to record and monitor owls, giving dozens of talks on owls and making scores of visits to schools.

The audience was very interested in the Barn Owl and when it came up on screen there was a buzz around the room. Because of the loss of traditional nesting sites it is estimated that four out of five barn owl pairs now breed in boxes. So it was interesting to hear about the work being undertaken to secure the future of this special

bird by providing new nest sites, and by working with landowners to create new habitat as well. Chris commented: "I have every belief that we will ultimately be increasing the barn owl population of Somerset, and helping a diversity of other wildlife along the way".

The last talk of 2018 will be given by ex-police dog handler Pete Chaplin on Friday Dec 14th at 7pm.



Peter Trimming, CC by 2.0

Final Events for 2018

	<p>Winter Talk – A Job with a Bite!</p> <p>Friday 14th December, 7pm: Join Peter Chaplin to hear of his time in the Dog Section of the Avon & Somerset Police and adventures with man's best friend. £5 on door including hot drink/snack. Bar</p>
	<p>Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Sunday 16th December, 12.30 for 1pm, £15. Under 11s £6. Under 4s Free. Glass of cheer, Turkey/Pork or Vegetarian option. Winter Pancake</p>
	<p>New Year Celebration 2018</p> <p>Monday 31st December, 8 till late. Retrospin bringing the biggest hits from the 70s, 80s to the present. Prepaid tickets only £10 including light supper</p>

Pre-paid Christmas Lunch and New Year Bookings: 07866112689
We look forward to welcoming you

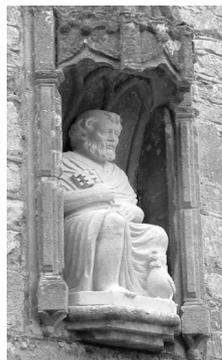
Meadgate, Camerton, Bath BA2 0NL Registered Charity No. 308263
For more information: www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk

St. Peter's Church

We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of Bath & Wells has been pleased to appoint the Revd Tony Roake to the position of Assistant Priest (House for Duty) within the Benefice of Timsbury with particular responsibility for the parishes of Camerton and Dunkerton. Tony is currently Rector of the United Benefice of Christchurch, Nailsea. He is a vastly experienced priest, having been in ordained ministry for over 40 years and has served in urban as well as rural parishes, in the North of England as well as the South, including Sussex and Bournemouth. He has served at Nailsea for six years and prior to that was Chaplain of the Anglican Church in The Hague, Netherlands and Chaplain to the British Ambassador to the Netherlands. Jill, his wife, is a part-time teacher.

Tony is and has been a keen sportsman, having played professional football for Port Vale when he was a teenager and continuing to play both cricket and football until quite recently.

We look forward enormously to welcoming Tony and Jill to the benefice.



Christmas

This year, our Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 23rd December, starting at 3.00pm. Do come and join us for this wonderful celebration. As always, the Christmas Eucharist will be on 24th December, starting at 11.30pm. You will all be made very welcome at either of these services.

Fund Raising

As you can imagine, it costs a lot of money to keep St. Peter's Church going and, with fewer and fewer numbers, fund raising has become essential. Since the summer, we have had a Flower Festival (with thanks to Farmborough Floral Art Group), a Walk in the Court Gardens (with thanks to the Biggs family), the Harvest Supper, the annual Variety Concert (in aid of Freewheelers Bloodbikes) and, by the time you

receive this, a Jumble Sale and a coffee morning.

Any of you who walk through the churchyard must notice how well it is kept; this is all done by a band of volunteers, not all of whom come to church. The main concern now is the state of the church path, which is in great need of repair and needs to be resurfaced. We have been quoted in the region of £17,000 (incl VAT) so, if you use the church path for any reason, walking the dog, on an organised ramble, visiting a grave and so on, please consider supporting our events or making a donation.

Donations can be sent to The Rectory, Skinners Hill, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0PU.

Other News

Gay Fear is standing down as Tunley's poppy seller, a task she has undertaken for the past 50 years. This has been a wonderful sense of duty in remembering all those who have died or been injured as a result of war. She went from house to house in all weathers and, in this her final year, with a broken wrist. Well done Gay for 50 years of devoted service.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a joyous, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Ann Meloy, Lay Reader

Churchwardens: Liz Dakin, David Dando



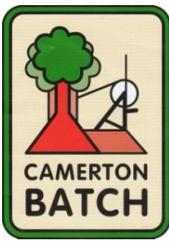
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Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

TONY FRY

The Batch improvements are progressing, but we still need to complete the eastern end replanting. On surveying the recently felled areas it has been decided that this piece of work can only be undertaken by professional foresters due to the dangerous slope of that part of the Batch. We have obtained an estimate for this work but unfortunately the cost is greater than our current funds. We are now planning to undertake the work in early spring of next year. Except for the eastern end, the Batch is in a fairly good shape other than the Red Hill entrance information centre, which needs to be renovated and the 5-bar gate replaced. This also has been programmed for early spring.

With respect to the nature aspects, all is thriving well with many of the inhabitants now hibernating. Due to the hot summer many of the animals, especially the insects, have thrived well. Winter is a time of

deprivation for most of the inhabitants including the insects, but the cold can also help the small animals as it destroys harmful fungi.

As I mentioned above, funding is not easy and we now rely on the Batch lottery only, which is holding its own but does not provide sufficient funding for major projects, although it does provide for the maintenance activity. We are applying for grants from local charities that help with nature projects, but these are far and few between. Therefore our fundraising approach is to demonstrate to potential grant providers the mental and physical health improvement resulting from the provision of a nature reserve which people can walk through and benefit from its peace and tranquillity. The Parish Council helps by funding the footpath clearance involving the path edge trimming and grass cutting.

serve Supporters Group



December brings with it the £1000 lottery prize in addition to the monthly prize of £100 so if you are interested in taking part in the monthly lottery please contact Louise Fry on 01761 471280. As I stated above, this is our sole source of funding.

Just a short report this quarter, but the Batch committee and I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Tony Fry

CAMERTON COMMUNITY HALL

MEMBERSHIP

FREE to all Parishioners 18 years and over

Benefits:

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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

Environmental Enhancement

HEATHER EDWARDS

It's the middle of November whilst I'm writing this. Hopefully, some of you will have noticed that the Coal Truck and the Boundary Planters at the 'D' and Tunley Hill were planted up for the winter. Knitted poppies were added to the displays as a mark of respect for the recent Armistice Day 100th Special Anniversary.

These displays will not require much (if any) attention during the winter months but we would be very grateful for help with watering during the summer months (May through to end Sept).




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Please, it would be much appreciated if anyone, or a few people living near one of these displays, could perhaps agree a rota to share this task. It would be a pity to lose these planters after all the effort that was expended to acquire and maintain them during the last six years.

On a brighter note it will soon be Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Heather Edwards 470175



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Neighbourhood Watch

Brian Edwards

Hello everyone, what wonderful colours the trees have been displaying this Autumn, sadly the leaves are all falling and Winter will truly be upon us when you receive this Newsletter. With the dark evenings, hope you have all adjusted your lighting time switches. Remember, a darkened house will possibly attract a passing burglar; lights on in some rooms is a great deterrent if your property is unattended.

As Christmas approaches, ensure no shopping or personal items are on display in a vehicle when left unattended. At home, don't leave wrapped presents on display, whether they are underneath the tree or not. Take extra care when buying on-line, use secure payments, keep passwords secure, ensure security on your computer is up to date and don't open emails or attachments that you are not expecting.

Cold Calling – Phone call to a resident in Peasedown St John from a male claiming to be a police officer and telling the resident that their bank

account had been hacked by criminals. The resident became suspicious, put the phone down and called the police on 101. The fraudster had kept the line open and then pretended to be a call centre on 101. Resident was told to put debit cards and PIN numbers into an envelope and place the envelope under the outside mat. The envelope was taken from its hiding place within 15 minutes and the resident later found that cards had been used to withdraw money from a local cashpoint.

Please be wary when dealing with bank or bank card details over the phone; be absolutely certain of whom you are dealing with.

Thefts in Bath – A disturbing report about a number of similar instances. Two unknown men have been reported preying on vulnerable women in Bath City Centre. The men target elderly women when they use banks and cash machines and are carrying shoulder or open type bags. Working as a team they watch these women use a cash machine/ATM, film the PIN numbers on

Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

Supporters Group



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£100 PRIZE EACH MONTH

WITH A FABULOUS BONUS DRAW IN JUNE FOR

£500

AND ANOTHER AMAZING BONUS DRAW IN DECEMBER FOR

£1000

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ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CAMERTON BATCH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE
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LOUISE FRY, 4 SUNNYVALE, CAMERTON, BA2 0QD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. REGULATED BY BANES LICENSING DEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GAMBLING ACT 2005



CBLNRSRG Secretary: Louise Fry, 4 Sunnyvale, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0QD. Louise_fry@btinternet.com

mobile phones and watch where the women put their bank card and any cash they have withdrawn.

The men then follow the women and whilst one man distracts the victim, engaging them in conversation, the other steals the card and cash from the victim's bag. They then go to the nearest cash machine to try the card and if the PIN number is successful withdraw cash and fraudulently shop using the card.

Please take extra precautions when using a cash machine/ATM, especially as Christmas is approaching. Always shield

your PIN number and be wary of anybody standing too close.

If you see anything suspicious or uncertain about anyone calling at your door, never let them enter your house. Call a neighbour or your local NHW contact, or call the police on 101; if its serious dial 999, or you can call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and stay safe.

Brian Edwards 01761 470175

Avon and Somerset Police Report

ROB HENDRA, PCSO, PAULTON & PEASEDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Knife crime has been in the news a lot recently; sadly I am sure that everyone heard of the young man stabbed in MSN in September. When this happens on our doorstep, or to someone who we know, it feels more real and for many of the community it is the main topic of conversation at those times. I downloaded the following from the Avon & Somerset police website:

While knife crime is a serious issue, the reality is **99 per cent** of young people **do not** carry a knife. However we also know that young people can be under tremendous pressure from friends and peers. That's why it's important that we start the conversation now to make sure they have the facts and support they need to make the right choices.

The impact of knife crime goes beyond the victim and the offender. It affects parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends. People's lives can be ruined forever. Talking about knife crime is difficult but by doing so you could be saving a life.

Childline has information specifically about knife crime and young people can also call the confidential helpline for advice- 0800 1111

The Mix has some great, straight talking advice, specifically aimed at young people already affected by knife crime

The **#Knifefree** campaign has some stories from young people who used to carry knives and now don't. It also has lots of information about

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BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

talking to and supporting young people.

So please allow me to use this article to highlight these great organisations – I am sure that there are many others out there as well. If you are concerned about somebody you know then take the time to speak up on their behalf and let us all be part of positive change to ensure that these awful incidents don't happen again.

Thankfully calls to police for the Camerton area were few. Mostly they were categorised as concerns for welfare and a few accidental calls to emergency services as well.

Amongst all the bad news remember and tell each other that we do live in a safe community. It is all of our responsibility to look after each other, to help others where we need to and to ensure that we are all part of making our community great. Despite these austere times that we are still living under the Police are not giving up and I strongly encourage you to not give up on each other either.

Rob Hendra

Police Community Support Officer



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Radstock Museum

What's on at Radstock Museum:

NEW YEAR, NEW EXHIBITION AT
RADSTOCK MUSEUM

“MODEL ENGINEERING. Micro to
MACRO, including Meccano”

The display will include working and static models of all kinds from railway engines the size of your little finger, to a 6” scale model traction engine built by the late Ron Torr from Gurney Slade. There will be models of Somerset & Dorset railway locomotives and rolling stock, coal mining machinery, stationary engines of different kinds, aeroplanes from two world wars, and the Titfield Thunderbolt, last seen on the Camerton branch line. It is hoped that there will also be model-making demonstrations, including Meccano, in which visitors can participate. The exhibition will run from February 1st to the end of April.

Tuesday 12th February: Radstock Museum's Bygone Days Talk Team presents: “From Boy to Man in the Somerset Coalfield”. By Bryn Hawkins. Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, 7:30pm, £4, under 18s free.



Bryn will tell many stories about his family and working life, which started at age 14 as an engineer apprentice with the National Coal Board. He will be showing rare film footage of the local mines as well as PowerPoint photos to accompany this fascinating talk. Please note this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month instead of the usual 1st Tuesday of the month.
radstockmuseum.co.uk

Tuesday 19th February: Radstock Museum's Science in Radstock Talk: subject TBC. Radstock Working Men's Club, 7:30pm, £3, under 18s free. See radstockmuseum.co.uk for details nearer the time.

Thursday 21st February: Children's half term holiday event at Radstock Museum. 10am-12noon with arts, crafts and games. Theme TBC. See: radstockmuseum.co.uk nearer the time.

Norton/Radstock Ramblers

We have had some really lovely walks this year, some in the wet and cold weather in the spring, some in the very hot weather of the summer, and some in autumn, which is the most beautiful time of year to walk with the changing colours all around us. Now as we approach winter, we look forward to wrapping up well and walking in the cold frosty weather.

Whatever the weather, walking is a great way of seeing the countryside, making new friends and getting exercise.

Our walks programme is varied and consists of short, medium and long walks that are led by various members of the group.

We walk nearly every Sunday and the 1st & 3rd Wednesday in the month.

If you would like to know more about us, please look us up on the website for all the latest walks and information which is updated on a regular basis.

www.nortonradstockramblers.org.uk

Norton/Radstock Ramblers is part of the Ramblers Association.

Carol Price.

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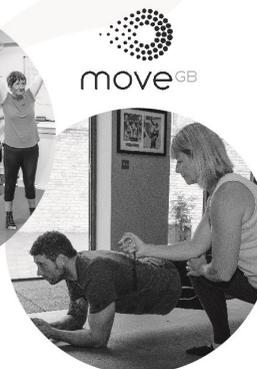
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Balance offers a range of popular
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age, size, shape or fitness level.

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of our classes:

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BOXERCISE**




move^{GB}

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Oba: 07780 683 598

www.balancelifestyleandfitness.co.uk

Cam Valley Wildlife Group Events

Wednesday 9 January 2019

Botany drinks 7-9pm at Palladium Electric in Midsomer Norton (the new Wetherspoons pub in the High St). A chance for Botany Walkers to socialise over the winter months. All welcome.

Wednesday 6 February 2019

Botany drinks 7-9pm at Palladium Electric in Midsomer Norton. All welcome.

Wednesday 20 February 2019

7.30pm: Talk on Stourhead's tree sparrow project by Tamsin Holmes of the National Trust. Tree Sparrows declined in the UK by 95% between 1970 and 2000. Tamsin Holmes of the National Trust will tell us about their project to encourage the revival of this endangered species. Coffee & cake from 7.30pm, talk at 8pm. Members £2, non-members £3. **At SWALLOW – see directions below**

**Our venue for indoor meetings:
SWALLOW, Old Engine House, Old
Pit Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3
4BQ**

If coming from Midsomer Norton, go up Silver Street, turn left into Charlton Rd, then at the end go left onto A367 towards Radstock. Go past the row of shops on the left: Fosse Way Co-op store & Whitstones fish & chip shop. About 300 yards further on, just past the zebra crossing and past Buildbase on your right, turn left at the sign for 'Sun Chemical' opposite the children's playground/bowling club. This is a single track road – go along, road curves to the right, and just past the bend is the entrance to SWALLOW (sign on noticeboard at entrance). Go through the gateway and the meeting room is straight ahead on the far left. Plenty of parking. Please note that SatNav may take you astray!

If you need any more information about anything please phone Judy on 07460 278311 or email judy@swallowcharity.org.



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.

OCTOBER 2018

We welcomed two new members. It is very encouraging to see numbers building again. It was agreed that we will fundraise for

SWALLOW in the coming year. This charity is based in Midsomer Norton and provides support for teenagers and adults with learning disabilities. We welcomed back Roy and Linda Steggles from Spering Court Rescue Centre. We presented them with a cheque for £200 a result of our fundraising. Roy regaled us with stories of the varied animals he has rescued from appalling conditions, bringing two of them with him; Gizmo, a very calm eagle owl, and an equally stunning but less relaxed Alaskan snowy owl. Roy is now intending to take a well-deserved back seat from the day to day running of the centre. We wish him a long and happy retirement. With the owls safely back in their cages we sat down to our Harvest Supper. A big thank you to all the members who helped make the event a success and assisted with the clearing up at the end of the evening.

The next meeting is 11 December.

Midsomer Norton & Radstock Community Service Vehicle Trust

The Community Mini Bus is here to help those who have difficulty getting out and about!

If you are a group of people who would like to get to Lunch clubs, Church outings, etc. then why not contact our Co-ordinator and enquire if the mini bus would be suitable for your needs? Don't miss out on events around the area because you can't get to them!

If you would like to know more, or would like to use the Mini Bus, or perhaps become a volunteer driver, 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. All will be revealed in the next issue.

Photo by Tony Fry

The Autumn 2018 edition's photograph was coming out of the School Lane onto Court Fields. The first correct entry received was from Julieann Biggs.

Dates for your diary

Wed 5 Dec, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Meeting Room, Purbeck Holiday Lets
Tue 11 Dec, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Fri 14 Dec, 7pm	Camerton Community Hall Winter Talk by ex-cop dog handler Pete Chaplin
Sun 16 Dec, 12.30 for 1pm	Christmas Lunch, Camerton Community Hall, adults £15, under 11s £8, under 4s free. Book with the Hall Secretary, Sue, on 07866 112689
Sun 23 Dec, 3pm	Carol Service, St Peter's Church
Mon 24 Dec, 11.30pm	Christmas Eucharist, St Peter's Church
Mon 31 Dec, 8pm	New Year's Eve Party/Disco. Admission £10 including light supper. Please book with the Hall Secretary, Sue, on 07866 112689
Tue 8 Jan, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Fri 18 Jan, 7.30pm	Quiz Night, Camerton Community Hall
Wed 23 Jan, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Meeting Room, Purbeck Holiday Lets
Fri 25 Jan, 7pm	Winter Talk, Camerton Community Hall
Tue 12 Feb, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Fri 15 Feb, 7.30pm	Quiz Night, Camerton Community Hall
Wed 20 Feb, 7.15pm	Camerton Local History Group, Court Barn
Fri 22 Feb, 7pm	Winter Talk, Camerton Community Hall
Wed 27 Feb, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Meeting Room, Purbeck Holiday Lets

Deadline for the next issue is **8 February**.

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