

Spring  
2021

# *Camerton Parish News*



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# Editor's letter

ARWEN ROSS

It's been a year since we last published a News of Camerton. A year which for some has been full of loss and loneliness, for others characterised by enforced inactivity, and for still others by perhaps the hardest work they have ever faced in their lives.

This special online edition celebrates all the positive and heart-warming activity that has still been going on despite everything we have all been

through in this toughest of tough times.

As spring returns and we cautiously start to poke our noses out of our dens of winter isolation, here's hoping we will be able to see more of each other and come closer together again this spring and summer.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy catching up with all the parish news again.



# Parish Council News

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CHRIS TAYLOR

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Dear Parishioners

Who knew when I wrote my Chairman's news for the last published issue of the Camerton newsletter just what lay ahead of us all. Due to the pandemic the parish council has not been producing a newsletter due to the lack of events and concerns about the safety of volunteers delivering it. However as it's now a year since the Spring 2020 issue it has been decided to produce a version for posting on the website. Therefore we would like to ask all who do get to see it online to publicise this issue to those more used to reading the normal printed newsletter. Some of the usual features won't be included e.g. Dates for your Diary but nevertheless we hope that you find this issue informative.

In other areas the parish council has been working as normally as possible. After some uncertainty from when the first lockdown was announced the parish council has been getting to grips, like many

others, with holding meetings on Zoom. Parishioners are always welcome to attend so please contact the clerk for joining instructions which, lockdown permitting, will be displayed on the agenda on the two main noticeboards located at the Daglands and at Overdale. The next usual parish council meetings are scheduled for the following Wednesdays: March 10 and April 14, both 7.30 pm and via Zoom.

Unfortunately the pandemic meant that last year our normal Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meetings were both cancelled. This year we have scheduled the Annual Parish Meeting for Thursday 22 April 7.30 pm. This meeting of the whole parish is normally held in the hall but this year we are still waiting for government advice on the format of this meeting and even if it can go ahead at all. However I believe it is very unlikely that the Annual Parish Meeting will take its normal format. At present the legislation that allows

remote meetings runs out after May 6 so it's anyone's guess what form our usual annual parish council meeting will take.

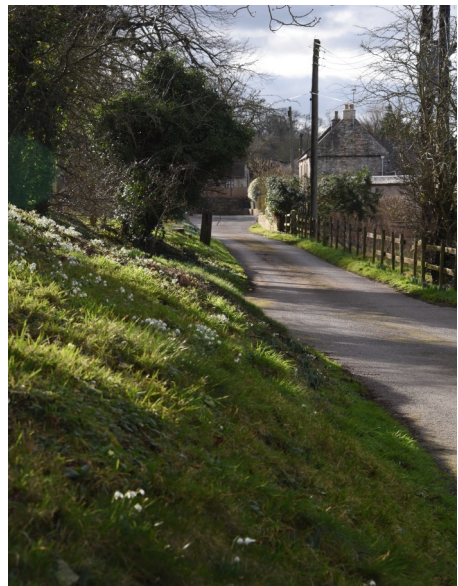
One of the key areas of activity during the last year has been working on tackling speeding. Despite the difficulties the pandemic has thrown up the Community Speedwatch group has been operating successfully for the last year. The parish council would like to thank the volunteers in the group for all their hard work. With the help of our two ward councillors Cllr Neil Butters and Cllr M McCabe the parish council is working with BANES Council to progress the implementation of traffic calming measures on Red Hill. The parish council has also been trying to resolve other highway issues, such as inconsiderate and dangerous parking. Please try not to park vehicles too close to road junctions as it makes it very dangerous for those exiting/entering junctions with several near misses reported in the parish during the last twelve months.

The parish council has been spending a lot of time and money on

the Batch as unfortunately there has been lots of ash dieback. Our thanks go to Cllr Collins for taking on the role of the parish council representative on the Batch management committee and her sterling work in promoting the 100 Club.

Other areas of work this year have been responding to planning applications and making comments on the latest partial update to the local plan.

As soon as possible I hope to start writing contributions to future printed newsletters. In the meantime, stay safe.



# Census 2021

## **Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society**

Households across Camerton will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with

help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

# 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 including dealing with diseased trees
- Litter collection
- Membership of professional organisations to provide guidance, support and legal advice
- Public Liability and Employer insurance
- Auditing of Accounts – internal and external
- Training for councillors and clerk

- Office equipment, stationery, telephone etc
- Cost of running meetings – in the past year this has comprised the cost of Zoom

As we are a small Parish Council with little room to make cuts we have to meet ever increasing costs from suppliers plus costs relating to changes to employment regulations and administration

recommendations as well as supporting the community facilities of the Hall and the Batch Local Nature Reserve. We always seek best value for money. This year we have had to raise the precept to meet our ongoing obligations especially as we have now lost all our funding that we used to get from B&NES council. Therefore the amount that an individual Band D property will pay will increase by 9p a week - note this is compared to last year's increase of 13p a week.



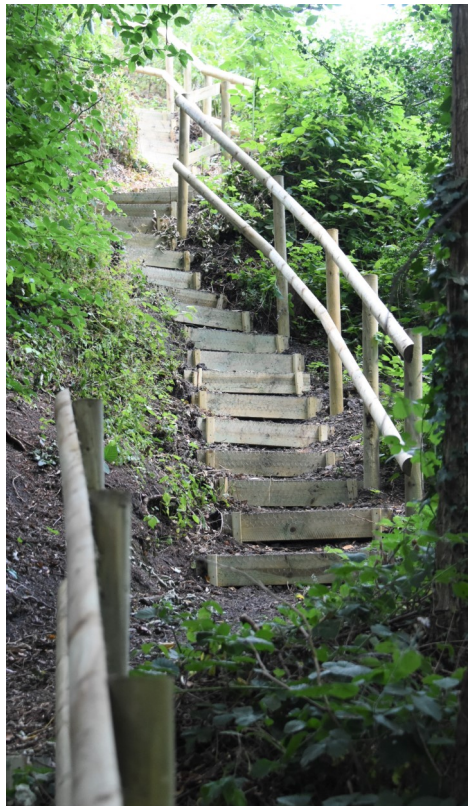
# Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

SUE COLLINS

Many of you will have noticed that a great deal of work has already been carried out dealing with Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) in the West of the Batch where a potential risk to property was identified, and further work of this nature will have to be done later on in the summer. Sadly there is currently no cure for Dieback which will devastate the landscape throughout the UK, and although research is ongoing as to whether a genetic tolerance can be achieved, it will take many decades before a conclusive answer is found.

The felling has been quite an expense for the parish and so, taking our cue from MTL Group who did the felling, we will be offering the timber in exchange for donations and thereby help to raise funds for future work. There will be further updates on this posted to the Facebook page [Camerton Batch](#)

[Local Nature Reserve | Facebook](#) and the website [Camerton Parish Council | Camerton Batch LNR](#) once the ground and weather are a little drier. Once a fair amount of the timber has gone we will then be able to plan the planting of the new trees MTL are very generously





# serve Supporters Group



donating to the Batch, some 250 to 300 of them, so keep checking back for updates on that also.

The 100 Club is a vital part of fund raising for the Batch and I'm delighted to say many new people have joined at the latter end of last year. The money raised will be used for various works around the site including repairs to steps and rails, the notice board shelter at the

entrance, etc. There are still a few spaces in the 100 Club if you haven't already signed up or would like additional numbers, drop me a line to [camertonbatchlnr@gmail.com](mailto:camertonbatchlnr@gmail.com) or give me a call on 07890 288026 for more details.

Stay safe, healthy and positive

Sue Collins

## **Member**

Residents of the Parish of Camerton 18 and over are entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting and/or become a Member of the Committee. Come along to an event or committee meeting and find out more.



## **Friends of the Hall**

Only a little time available but would like to help now and then? Become a Friend of the Hall without the commitment but ensuring you receive regular updates and invites to volunteer when you can.

To sign up, call Heather on 01761 470175

**Camerton Community Hall welcomes your support**

# Interested in Community Gardening?

The parish council has been approached by two parishioners who are interested in establishing a community garden.

Existing community gardens come in all shapes and sizes; they can be tiny plots, gardens on roofs, school gardens, private or open to the public. The scope of what community gardens can achieve also varies widely. They can provide fresh fruit and vegetables, a place for wildlife, improved play areas, an outdoor classroom and safe public spaces that are well-maintained.

For more information on community gardens please go to

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/resources/community-garden>

However, before any work starts on such an idea e.g. identification of a suitable piece of land for starters, the parish council is interested in establishing the level of interest in having a community garden in the parish. Therefore if you would be interested in helping set up and then run a community garden

please let the parish clerk know via email to

[camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

As the parishioners who suggested the project say, "Being a part of a community growing space we can become better connected to our food source and the environment around us. This helps to improve mental health and overall well-being. It is a great way for families and individuals, young and old to spend time together learning and investing in the future of the area they live in and the food that they eat. When people are more connected to the area that they live in, they will care for it more and look after what they have.

With increasing poverty and the need for food banks a community growing space can provide support to people who need it most.

Growing food within a community allows everyone the opportunity to invest in where their food comes from and provides security and empowerment on a local scale.

Food miles could be reduced by being a part of a community growing group as will the money being spent on buying food from far away. It could also provide a home for any extra seedlings you might sow at home and not have enough space for. If successful enough it could even produce food to sell to a

wider community to bring money into our community. For this to be possible people need to come together as many hands make light work. There is always a job or/and exchange of knowledge to share regardless of experience or age, this can provide opportunities to learn more for us all.”



## Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group

**JOIN THE 100 CLUB**

**£100 PRIZE EVERY MONTH**

**WITH A FABULOUS BONUS DRAW IN JUNE FOR**

**£500**

**AND ANOTHER AMAZING BONUS DRAW IN DECEMBER FOR**

**£1000**

**JUST £5 PER NUMBER EACH MONTH**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CAMERTON BATCH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

PAYABLE ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH MONTH BY DIRECT DEBIT

FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED BY EMAIL TO [camertonbatchlnr@gmail.com](mailto:camertonbatchlnr@gmail.com)

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



# Environmental Enhancement

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HEATHER EDWARDS

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Hopefully, some residents will have noticed that new purple flower boxes have been made and painted, by local residents, the wood provided by another local resident, and the boxes placed at various locations on the main through-roads in the parish.

Disappointingly, one of the boxes at the entrance to Travis Perkins was damaged shortly after it was newly painted, so sad, after all the effort and time given by local residents to enhance our environment.

If we are able to locate any plants this year, we would be grateful if those people who very kindly maintain the floral displays could try to obtain a coordinated colour scheme for the spring of orange/ purple/white or yellow. Given the current situation we will be grateful as always for whatever can be achieved.

Finally, I was appalled recently to note the amount of litter that is



spoiling the hedgerows throughout our parish. Perhaps, when out for a walk, we could consider taking a bag with us and pick up some of the litter to help the environment but only where it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Heather Edwards 01761 470175



Camerton  
Community  
Hall

## **Wedding, Anniversary, Birthday or regular group meeting?**

**Large hall, kitchen and bar facilities  
Spacious grounds and parking in a stunning  
countryside location**

**For hire from £12.50 per hour**

**(Discount applies for Residents of the Parish of Camerton)**

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

**or Tel: Booking Secretary on 07716129569**

**Book early to avoid disappointment!**

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**Camerton Community Hall, Meadgate, Camerton, Bath BA2 0NL**

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

**Registered Charity No. 308263**

# Camerton Community Hall: Spinney

Down the west side of the recreational ground is a small copse (spinney) covering some 800 square metres, originally planted circa 1980 with a range of typical copse indigenous trees. Since that time it has never been managed and was impenetrable, having been completely dominated by brambles.

It was decided to reclaim this valuable wildlife habitat and make it a facility for all the community to enjoy.

The work started in earnest in July 2017 when a group of 6 volunteers set about clearing the scrub and

brambles. In all it is estimated that after 4 long hard days of working in the hot sun, some eight tons of scrub was removed from the spinney allowing access once more and reclaiming an additional 600 metres of land for planting of new trees in phase 3 of the action management plan.

Other improvements have included the construction of paths including a wheelchair friendly one and two benches , the installation of bird, bat and bug boxes and an information and learning board, the planting of sixty new indigenous copse type trees as well as the creation of living willow



# (Colliers' Copse) Project Report



tunnels to depict the entry and exit from the coal mines.

With a sustainable, ever growing willow stock, it is intended to build at least one more willow structure as well as improve the ones we currently have.

Although most of the project is now structurally complete, regular ongoing maintenance continues and whilst current Covid 19 regulations prevail individuals and small family groups continue to enjoy what Colliers' Copse has to offer.

## APPEAL FOR GARDENING TOOLS

Could you spare any surplus / old gardening tools you no longer need please?

All the work on the Copse has been done with tools borrowed from various people. With the ever increasing need to maintain what we have now created we are in dire need of a whole range of gardening tools. So before we have to “dig” into our hard earned and precious Hall coffers, and in the interest of our “green” credentials, we would be very happy to re-use any spare / old /sad tools anyone wants to give us. Ideally we are looking for:

**Fork, Spade, Mattock, Rake (grass and soil), Trowel, Claw cultivator (long handled) Garden Tarpaulin / bag, secateurs, wood cutting/ pruning saw.....and anything else you can think of.**

If you have tools you would like to give to the hall please contact me,

Clive Turner on 07541 115728.

THANK YOU

# Camerton SpeedWatch Volunteer Group

At the start of 2020 a small group of 4 Camerton residents received training from PCSO Rob Hendra, which enabled them to form the Camerton SpeedWatch group. As a group we hold regular roadside sessions monitoring the speed of vehicles passing through the village. Vehicles recorded above set speeds are reported to the Police. As residents ourselves we are all too aware that some drivers are exceeding the local speed limits and it is our aim to make our village a safer area for all, especially given the lack of footpaths.

The purpose of the SpeedWatch group is to encourage and educate drivers to comply with the indicated speed limits and report those that do not. Seeing our hi-viz jackets acts as a visual 'brake' and allows drivers the opportunity to review their speed prior to being monitored.

Since our training in February 2020 the numerous Covid lockdown restrictions have unfortunately limited our group sessions.

The group is bound by a number of health and safety measures for both



our volunteers and the motorist's safety. These will be detailed in a future edition of the Camerton newsletter. Hopefully this will explain in particular why we cannot take up residents' kind offers of standing in their driveways, or why we don't hide behind trees, etc. when carrying out these sessions. However, our thanks to all residents for their continuing input and interest.



So, if you see us standing at the roadside please give us a friendly wave. We are human after all and appreciate any show of support for what we are trying to achieve, although we have had a few other more colourful gestures!

Anita Cockwell

Co-Ordinator

Camerton SpeedWatch Group

## Dunkerton WI

Dunkerton WI is a women's group linked to the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) and the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes (AFWI).

Under normal circumstances we meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 15 pm in Tunley Recreation Centre.

Since the start of the pandemic we have had to cancel all our meetings and at the moment we have no indication when we will be able to restart.

We have kept in contact with our members through emails and phone calls since March last year.

Under normal circumstances we have a craft group; we arrange speakers and also outings. Our membership comprises all ages and women travel to Tunley for meetings from areas across BANES.

At present we are considering running a seed/plant swap in the spring.

The AFWI have organised Zoom meetings covering coffee and chat sessions with a variety of subjects ranging from exercise workouts to interesting talks and workshops.

The WI runs national campaigns in which members are encouraged to participate.

When we are able we will recommence meetings, we welcome visitors for a taster meeting at £5 per session to see if it is something they would like to join.

Annual fees apply to all members.

If you are interested in our group please contact us on email at [Dunkertonwi@gmail.com](mailto:Dunkertonwi@gmail.com) or contact Jan on 01761 470995.

# Neighbourhood Watch

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Brian Edwards

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What a year this has been, let's hope that we can defeat this virus soon and try to get back to some form of normality. Although we have been in a series of 'Lockdown' situations during this past year the criminal element still continues, albeit not quite so vigorous, so we still have to remain alert.

COVID 19 – Scam currently doing the rounds. It starts with a text seemingly from the NHS saying that you are now eligible to apply for a Covid Vaccine and to click on the link to apply. The link takes you to a website which looks genuine and asks for details, e.g. name, date of birth, address and payment card details. This request should ring alarm bells as we should all know that the vaccine is FREE to everyone - advice therefore, do not click on links contained in unknown texts, never reveal any personal details, especially bank card/ payment details.

LOCALLY July 2019 - young woman killed in a car crash by the traffic light controlled bridge in MSN. The drink driver who admitted causing the death of the 20 year old woman has been jailed. The man, from Shepton Mallet, was sentenced on 20th January to 6 years and 8 months after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving when above the alcohol limit, driving through a red light and failing to comply with a drug test. On release from prison he will be disqualified from driving for 9 years.

ARMED ROBBERY – A man has been jailed for 13 years after pleading guilty to armed robbery at CO-OP Stores in MSN and Timsbury.

ROBBERY – The passenger side window was smashed on a van parked in North Road Timsbury; a wallet was taken.

ROGUE TRADERS – 3 males knocked on the door of a vulnerable resident and offered to do some gardening

work. The resident said that a quote was required before starting any work but was informed that they had already started work, they demanded £250 cash but were prepared to accept a lower amount when told the resident didn't have that much cash available. Culprits refused to give any contact details and insisted on cash payment.

Be very wary of cold callers offering to undertake work on your home as they always offer over-priced or unnecessary services and try to put pressure on the resident to agree to the work. Always use recognised companies or people that have been recommended to you from a trusted source.

**DOG THEFTS** – It is estimated that dog thefts have increased by 250% as Covid restrictions have caused a huge demand for puppies countrywide. 3 men have been arrested in Wiltshire following the theft of 2 adult dogs and 5 puppies in Bristol. A total of 12 dogs and 5 others also believed to have been stolen were seized. Dog owners are reminded to review and increase the security of their pets wherever

possible, ensure that they are microchipped and registered.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT** – A teenage girl was assaulted by a man on Kilmersdon Road, Radstock sometime between 7 and 8pm on Monday 25th January. Neighbourhood Police Officers have increased patrols in the area to provide the community with assurance.

**ATTEMPTED BURGLARY** – At a house in Roger Close, Clutton between 2 and 5am on Friday 29th January, but the culprit was disturbed.

As always, if you see anything suspicious or you are uncertain about anyone calling at your door, never let them enter your house. Call a neighbour or your local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) contact or call the police on 101. If it's serious dial 999, or you can call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Hoping we can all get back to normal life soon, until then enjoy your days, stay safe and healthy and please be vigilant.

Brian Edwards 01761 470175

# St Peter's Church



From The Rectory, Camerton.

In common with schools, businesses and organisations, we've not been able to "do church" in the usual way for quite a while now. Yet this doesn't mean that issues of life and faith have gone away. On the contrary, the way in which our lives have been altered by the pandemic has brought some things into sharp relief.

In his book, "Man's Search for Meaning", Viktor Frankl wrote these words: "Those who have a why to live, can bear with almost any how." Frankl knew just how unbearable the "how" of life could be: during WW2, he and his family were deported from Vienna to the extermination camps, and he was the only member of his family to survive.

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As a consequence of his personal experience, Frankl came to the conclusion that humans are "meaning-seeking creatures". We want to believe that there's more to life than the meeting of our basic survival needs of food, water, shelter, and safety. Even more, we need this to be true.

For the past year, we've been living through a period of time that's unprecedented in its impact on society in general, and on each one of us as individuals. Nothing since the Second World War has had such an effect on how we live and think. My guess is that

this life-altering period has made a lot of people ask some pretty fundamental questions about life, and the direction it's meant to take.

Having said that, finding a life-changing and life-extending purpose, though necessary, isn't easy; it's not simply a matter of doing something like changing your diet or starting a new exercise routine. Maybe a good place to start is with the recognition that "it's not all about you." In other words, meaning and purpose in life are not found by looking inward; they're found by looking outside of ourselves, and are to be discovered in what we can do for others. The late Captain Tom exemplified this approach.

In more normal times, volunteering and joining a group of people who share your values would be relatively easy, and achieve this end. Nonetheless, doing such things removes us from being the centre of our personal universe and helps us to look outwards.

There is nothing that turns our perspective outward (and upward) more than faith in Jesus Christ. St. Paul wrote that, "Christ died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them" (2 Cor 5:15).

Living for the One who died and rose again not only removes us from being the centre of our own universe, but also aligns our hearts and minds with what is actually true about the universe: that it belongs to God, and that our purpose is given by Him and not determined by us.

Knowing this doesn't make the "how" of life any easier. As Paul told the Corinthians, toil, hardship, sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, and anxiety were his lot as a servant of Jesus Christ. But he also knew that his suffering and troubles were not without meaning, and that, through them, God's purposes were being fulfilled.

As we've all discovered, there's no avoiding hardship and difficulty in life, but when we face every difficulty with hope in Christ, life is transformed.

That's the ultimate "Why?"

Every blessing,

Tony

