

Spring  
2024

# *Camerton Parish News*



Published on behalf of  
Camerton Parish Council

Number 154

# Useful contacts

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[www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit)  
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01225 394041

Your Neighbourhood Police  
Team

101  
[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

Curo Community Housing

01225 366000

Camerton Community Hall

07877907963  
[www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk)

# Editor's letter

ARWEN ROSS

Welcome to the Spring issue of Camerton Parish News!

As seems fitting for the first issue of the year, we have a real mix of forward-looking and retrospective content for you this time around.

Camerton Local History Group take a look back at their recent exhibition and we also explore Julieann Biggs' new book on the history of Camerton Hall, while Heather Edwards reflects on 10 years of coordinating our lovely floral displays.

At the same time, a number of groups are now "springing" into action with their activities for 2024 and we can look forward to new events planned by Camerton Community Hall, the Cam Valley Wildlife Group, Dunkerton WI and the Somer Valley Ramblers.

Last but by no means least, we also have a formal introduction to our new Chairman of the Parish Council, Lloyd Randall.

Here's to a busy (and hopefully fun) 2024!



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# Parish Council News

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CLLR LLOYD RANDALL

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I'm Lloyd Randall, and I am honoured to be your new Chairman of Camerton Parish Council. I moved to Camerton with my family in 2020, drawn to the village's beautiful countryside, and quiet friendly community.

As Chairman, my top priority is to ensure that the council serves all residents effectively and transparently. I believe in open communication and collaboration, and I am committed to working closely with my fellow councillors to address the needs and concerns of our community. Whether it's maintaining or enhancing our green spaces, or simply ensuring everyone feels heard and valued, I am dedicated to making Camerton an even better place to live.

I believe that residents' voices are essential for shaping the future of our village; we currently have a position available on the council and I would encourage anyone who is interested in joining to get in touch with our clerk on 01761 411305 or via email at

[camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk) to find out more.

I'm looking forward to working with you all to make Camerton an even more wonderful place to call home. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas, concerns, or simply to say hello. I'm always happy to hear from you - you can contact me at

[camertonparishchair@gmail.com](mailto:camertonparishchair@gmail.com).

# 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 (although the litter picker role is currently vacant)
- 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

As we are a small Parish Council, we have little room to make cuts and 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. Therefore the amount that an individual Band D property will pay will increase by 9p a week.

# Camerton Community Hall

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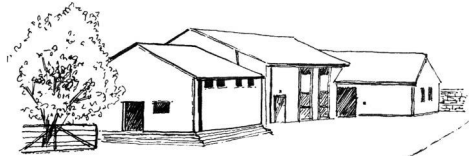
BRYN HAWKINS

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We continue to make improvements at the hall, with many projects finished and more in the pipeline.

- In the kitchen the old tiles have been taken off, walls plastered and painted.
- A new speed ramp has been installed at the entrance as car drivers were coming in far too fast; with young children visiting the hall it was becoming dangerous.
- By the Jolly Collier Bar, the edging stones have been repaired on the edge of the garden and the pipe/gutter work tidied up around the kitchen.
- There will be new, more efficient, UPC fire doors and foyer entrance doors installed very soon.

The new heat pump, together with extra insulation installed in the roof, makes the Jolly Collier Bar room much more comfortable. Give it a try any Friday from 4pm; it's well worth a visit if only to catch up on the local gossip, the beer and the free snacks are great as well. We would love to see more locals on a Friday evening from 4pm at the Jolly Collier Bar as it's a great social event every week.



Camerton  
Community  
Hall

BINGO is back on THURSDAYS at 7.30pm from Feb 1st, it's the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Doors and Bar open at 6.30pm.

Another important date for your diaries is Friday August 2nd, 7pm till Late. Stacy Charles will be treating everyone to a night of "Motown and Soul" (tickets available, ring 07797-907963).

It's a lot of hard work keeping this very important local asset going; we need new committee members, or if you would like to help at events and not get involved in committee work, please join our Friends of the Hall group. All help will be very much appreciated. Contact [cchallsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cchallsecretary@gmail.com)

Remember, all Camerton residents receive a 10% discount when booking the hall.

## Colliers Copse, Camerton Community Hall (CCH)

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CLIVE, VOLUNTEER/FRIEND OF CCH

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Making the most of a break in the weather and a gap in my diary, my son and I spent a few hours maintaining the copse recently and were rewarded with the sighting of this little chap sheltering from the wet.



It's the first mammal spotted there and with the snowdrops peering through, it was a welcome sight. By the time you read this, the efforts of those a few years ago will be evident, with a scattering of colour weaving through the undergrowth.

The bower and willow arches were pruned, removing any dead and diseased materials as well as new shoots likely to distort the shape of the arch, whilst weaving in others to strengthen the structures. Pruning willow at this time of year makes it easy to see where to cut. Willow is water seeking so ideal to enhance this area of the recreation field. It's a lovely natural setting for wedding photos with the addition of string lighting to make it even more special or just to get away from it all just a few yards from the action.

Now maturing, the copse provides a small area of diverse ground flora such as fern and a range of mosses, bryophytes and fungi, favoured by the humid conditions.

# Camerton Local History Group

Camerton Local History Group would like to say a huge **'Thank You'** to everyone that came along to their exhibition on the old Camerton School held at the Camerton Community Hall last autumn.

The stage was set with an old Victorian classroom on one side and a modern classroom set out on the other side. A few members of the history group dressed up as Victorian school mistresses and some were dressed up as modern teachers. There were special artifacts and precious memorabilia set out for people to view. Alongside this there were many information sheets set out on boards that contained the history of the school dating back from

1866 that ran through each decade up to when the school sadly closed in 2018.

Tables were set out for refreshments with flowers provided by Waitrose, Bath and they looked beautiful! Members of the group made homemade delicious cakes and provided a variety of refreshments that were well received. It was heart-lifting to see so many people travel from all over to come along and see the exhibition.

People saw old friends they had not seen for a long time, shared memories and made new friends. The atmosphere was wonderful and the air was full of chatter and laughter.







The Camerton Local History Group started off the project with very little and over a period of time managed to research and collect information; they were loaned precious photographs and people shared their special memories. Some of those people had sadly only just recently lost their loved ones. Most people were happy to provide their private photographs on loan to the history group for the purpose of the exhibition only!

The whole purpose of the exhibition was to keep the history together so it was not lost in time but also to allow people to attend the exhibition so they could see what the group had worked so hard on and managed to put together.

The history group would like to thank Radstock museum and the Bath Record Office for loaning precious artifacts to help the group make the exhibition look as authentic as possible. These items were entrusted to the care of the Camerton Local History Group, again for the purpose of the exhibition only.

The group had no control over one individual who put the whole exhibition on their Facebook page and can only apologise for any upset caused.

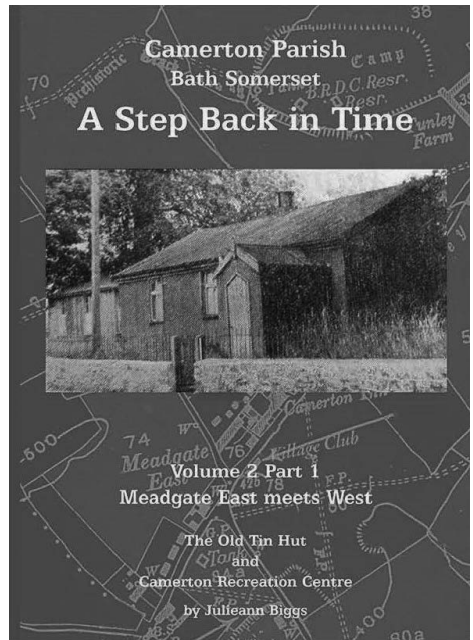
The history group give their grateful thanks to all those people that helped them with the exhibition in one way or another and thank everyone for the support they received.

# New Camerton History Book Published

Julieann Biggs has her new book out - called "A Step Back in Time". It's a fantastic book on the history of Camerton Hall, there's coal mining, the church, the mission church, football, war and much more.

As Camerton was a mining community, an old tin hut was sited in "Meadgate" which held meetings and hosted various social events. It held happy memories and a vast wealth of history within its walls. After surviving Two World Wars it continued to provide a venue for people to escape the harsh reality of life. Sadly it fell into disrepair, so locals pulled together and over many years with lots of hard work and determination a new hall was built.

All proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated to the hall and are available for £14.99 each from any hall committee members or ring 07877-907963.





**CAMERTON COMMUNITY HALL**

**CASH BINGO**

**1ST & 3RD THURSDAY OF THE  
MONTH**

**FROM 7-30pm**

**FULLY STOCKED BAR**

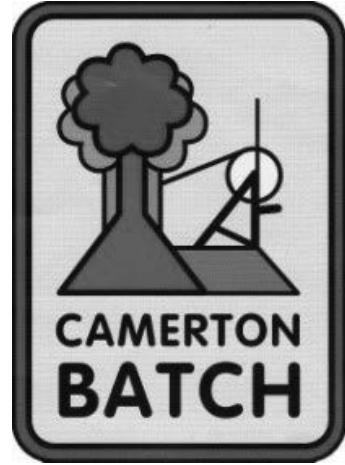
# Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve



CLLR LLOYD RANDALL

We look forward to Spring arriving and bringing with it colour and warmth, which will help The Batch to spring back into life!

Although we have made progress in replacing the damaged steps around the site, the inevitable rain will probably uncover more that will need attention; we therefore urge you to take care when using the steps.



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# Mobile Library News

The Mobile Library visits Camerton once a fortnight on a Thursday between 12.00 and 12.30 pm. Unfortunately during the last six months of 2023 it has received very little custom on its regular stop at the Hall. Therefore the decision has been taken to trial a new stop in the Daglands/Cam Brook Close part of the parish from March commencing on the 14th.

The Mobile Library offers all of the same services as an ordinary library branch. You can use your LibrariesWest membership card to borrow, reserve, renew and return items from any LibrariesWest branch. In turn, you can return any items you take out from the mobile library to any branch in the LibrariesWest area.

The Mobile Library is bright, spacious and packed with a great range of books. As well as the stock on display, the Mobile Library is equipped with technology which enables you to access council and partner services online. Users can

browse and reserve from the entire catalogue of LibrariesWest, which offers millions of books and resources.

The Mobile Library is fully accessible, with a lift facility, and offers books in many formats.

Please take advantage of this service otherwise we risk losing yet another community facility, especially as BANES often receives requests for additional/new stops in other villages.



# Environmental Enhancement

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HEATHER EDWARDS

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At last (at least at the time of writing), it's not raining and hopefully, we will soon be able to look forward to some sunshine!

By way of background information for any new residents in Camerton and a reminder to others, I thought it might be appropriate to briefly go over the background to the purple box flower displays that are strategically placed on the main route through Camerton.

In 2014 I was 'persuaded' to head up the Parish Council's entry into the national 'South West Britain In Bloom Competition'. After conversations with friends and neighbours and consultations regarding costs, we were able to identify residents who were prepared to help and volunteer to maintain a floral display located near to them. The exercise also involved pupils and staff at Camerton School, the National Osteoporosis Society, Camerton Community Hall, Travis Perkins and Camerton Inn (as was).



Hence the beginning of the flower box era, which numbered 32 from Skinners Hill to The Daglands, Durcott Lane, Redhill and Meadgate, including the 2 boundary planters on Tunley Hill and the 'D', at that time, not forgetting the planting up of the Coal Truck at The Daglands.

In the three years we entered the competition, our efforts were rewarded by the presentation of a Gold Pennant Award in the village and small town category. Although we no longer enter the competition, and now have a smaller number of floral displays, we continue, with the help of local residents, to maintain the remaining displays. Hopefully the Parish Council will be prepared to provide new boxes, and soil, for the more visible positions on the main route. That will of course be on the condition that residents

would be prepared to plant and maintain a box near them. By that, I mean provide plants twice a year and water, feed and weed as necessary.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping to continue to make Camerton an attractive place for residents and those passing through. Camerton is well known for its purple planters, for which we receive complimentary comments.

Thank you for all your efforts so far – a suggestion for Spring/Summer planting colours – Peach, Coral, Lilac and White. Begonias were so lovely last year – suggest we use them again.

Happy Gardening

Heather Edwards 01761 470175

# ROCKELL TREE SURVEYING



[WWW.RTSURVEYING.CO.UK](http://WWW.RTSURVEYING.CO.UK)

# Neighbourhood Watch

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Brian Edwards

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Hello everyone, hope you're all keeping well. We are gradually easing out of Winter and looking forward to Spring; the snowdrops are out, and daffodils are beginning to bud. However, the thieves and scammers are still at work taking advantage wherever they can.

## Vehicle Crime

An electric grinder was stolen from a van parked in Parkway, Camerton. A number of vans have been broken into in the Paulton area with tools stolen.

Vans containing tools continue to be a popular target for thieves across the Avon and Somerset police area. Police advise to keep vehicle windows shut and doors locked. Keep all possessions out of sight and remove tools from vans when parked overnight. Apparently, most thieves are able to break into any van with a standard door lock so it is considered advisable to fit extra locks. Deadlocks and Slamlocks are currently a popular choice.

Thieves stole the front and rear number plates of a car parked on Hillside View, Peasedown St John. Police advise that it's a good idea to change the screws that attach your number plates to the vehicle to the type that only tighten and won't undo.

A car was broken into on Abbey Lane, Hinton Charterhouse and a number of rings were stolen. Another case of don't leave anything of value in sight when leaving your vehicle.

I repeat, we must all be on our guard and think "have I locked my car/van, is my vehicle safe here".

## Burglaries

Storage containers were broken into at Hunstrete with computers, power and hand tools and gardening equipment stolen.

A property at Brookside, Paulton was broken into; the rear door was forced open to gain entry. Keys to two vehicles were stolen and the vehicles driven away. One, a grey Ford Fiesta, has been recovered, the other, a black Volkswagen Golf, is still missing.



Thieves broke into a shed on Old Midford Road, Southstoke, and two lawnmowers were taken: one a ride-on model, the other a basic manual model.

## **Fraud and Scams**

It's not going to happen to me, **'Is It'?** A fraud can happen to anyone at any time. It can happen when we're busy and rushing, when we're stressed or preoccupied or when we're at our most vulnerable and feeling tired or lonely. Scammers know there are times when we all let our guard down and sadly, that's when we are more likely to become a victim of fraud, or vulnerable to being deceived. In 2023 the average age of victims of fraud in Avon and Somerset was 47 years old. The age category for most recorded fraud in our area was 18–39 years old.

Online shopping is one of the most commonly experienced frauds. Whilst online shopping can save you time, effort and money, don't be caught out by convincing fake online shopping websites or fraudulent listings on buying or selling platforms. Police advise to be ultra-cautious when considering purchasing items online.

Residents should be aware of scammers phoning people and claiming to be police officers and falsely informing them that their bank cards have been used by someone

else. They go on to ask the so-called victims to withdraw money to help with their investigations into the problem. Do not give out your personal information, bank details, etc.

If emails or WhatsApp messages appear, take a moment and think: where has this come from, who is this? Double check every time.

Beware of strangers knocking on your door offering to carry out work for you; think, do I need this work to be done? If yes, take advice from neighbours regarding a reputable company/operator.

As always, if you are in doubt or see anyone or anything suspicious call a neighbour or local NHW contact. You could also contact the police by ringing 101 (or 999 if it's serious) or even Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

As we enter the Spring season, keep well, stay safe and look after each other.

Brian Edwards 01761 470175

# Avon and Somerset police report

Avon and Somerset Police held their annual drink and drug drive campaign 'Operation Tonic' in December 2023.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Road Policing Unit and Road Safety and Intelligence teams, around 2000 drivers were stopped through proactive patrols, static stop checks and targeted interventions and 324 drivers were taken off the roads.

Our operational work was accompanied by a strong media campaign which focused on the importance of community intelligence. We urged members of the public to contact the Police if they suspected an individual was driving while intoxicated, with the key message that reports from the public really can make a difference to the work we do.

One such report was received via a 999 call on Sunday 3rd December. A concerned motorist witnessed a vehicle being driven erratically on the M5 near junction 25. Officers located and stopped the vehicle. The driver was breathalysed, arrested and subsequently charged with driving a motor vehicle when

the alcohol level was above the legal limit. He received a 20-month disqualification from driving and a fine of £120.

Our Assistant Chief Constable, Joanne Hall said, "Over the festive period, 324 drivers have been taken off the road before they could cause harm through drink or drug driving. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not only illegal, but also a reckless and dangerous choice that puts lives at risk. The consequences of such decisions can be catastrophic, causing irreversible harm and heartache to families and loved ones.

I would like to thank the public who are helping us to target those people that they suspect are drink or drug driving. By doing this, you are helping us to reinforce the message that getting behind the wheel while under the influence is never acceptable. Together we are keeping the roads of Avon and Somerset safer.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our teams, who work tirelessly to keep our roads safe and will continue to do so throughout the year."

# Cam Valley Wildlife Group

## Events programme March to May

2024

Please contact Judy on 07460 278311 with any general queries or Diana on 07581 451805

### **Venue for our talks: Radstock Working Men's Club**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month during the Winter at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

A bar is available in the main part of the club, serving hot and cold drinks. **Please park in the town car park next door** (behind the library). There is a side entrance into the club from the car park.

### **Wednesday 6th March 2024 – Talk – Higgy from Somerset Wildlife Products.**

He will talk on "Scorpions, Dragons & Damsels in Distress". Celebrating some of the amazing and rare insects to be found at Yatton & Congresbury Wildlife Action Group's reserves.



### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Botany Walks start again at 7pm led by Helena**

Programme TBA

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April – GOOSARD**

Work morning

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Chew Valley Lake**

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May – GOOSARD**

Work morning

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Ham Wall**

# Village Agent

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MARIA EDWARDS

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News from your WERN Village Agent

Hello and as this is my first message of the year...Happy 2024!

I thought I would start the year by reminding you that I am able to help residents in your village to live better independent lives at home.

My support is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

I am able to help with information covering housing, benefits, transport, mobility aids, hobbies and interests.

These last few months I have helped several residents claim Attendance Allowance (AA). Please do get in touch if you would like more information about this non-means tested allowance or to find out more, please visit [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk).

Attendance Allowance rates are currently £68.10 and £101.75 per week.



Please check to see if you might be entitled to this allowance as there are literally millions of people in the UK who are not claiming AA and could be. Don't be one of them!

If you or someone you know need support or information about something you are struggling with or concerned about at home please get in touch with me, Maria Edwards, by calling our office:

01275 333700

[www.wern.org.uk](http://www.wern.org.uk)

### **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.



Camerton  
Community  
Hall

### **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 Clive on 01761 472442 or email: [crt284244@gmail.com](mailto:crt284244@gmail.com)

**Camerton Community Hall welcomes your support**



Tree Work  
Forestry & Woodland Management  
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Tree Planting  
Consultancy



# **MTL**

**GROUP**

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**www.mtlgrouppltd.co.uk**

# Dunkerton Women's Institute

Dunkerton WI is thriving and continues to meet in Tunley Recreation Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of each month. In addition to monthly meetings, other activities have included Christmas lunch, Christmas wreath making, Games Group, Craft Group, Skittles Tournament matches, and the much-anticipated trip to theatre-land in London to see The King and I.

Dunkerton WI continues to champion local charities. This year we are raising money to support RUHX, the official NHS Charity for Bath hospitals.

Our 2024 programme is packed with informative and entertaining speakers, including talks from a number of local businesses and organisations.

For more information take a look at our website:

[www.dunkertonwi.wordpress.com](http://www.dunkertonwi.wordpress.com)

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# Somer Valley Ramblers

The winter walking programme of the Somer Valley Ramblers is now underway and whilst many walks have encountered muddy conditions due to the wet weather, a full programme of walks has been maintained and the number of walkers has remained fairly constant. This follows on from a successful Annual General Meeting held towards the end of last year when the guest speaker was Barry Cox from Cotswold Natural Landscapes. Barry gave an exceptionally interesting presentation on the work of the Cotswold Wardens, highlighting the way in which they are organised and the work that they perform. Planning is already taking place for this year's AGM and although it will not be held until much later this year it is hoped that a representative from the Somer Valley Rediscovered project will give the keynote speech with an update on how this project is developing.

The planning for a number of local Walking Festivals is now taking place. The Somer Valley one, which will be managed by BANES this year, will be in early September and we will also be contributing to the Bristol Walkfest event in May by organising a walk in the Chew Valley. There will also be a North Somerset walking festival taking place during May.

Our membership numbers have marginally increased during recent months and we are always keen to welcome new walkers on our walks. Anyone who fancies a walk with us can check our website, [www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk), and view the details of the walks in our programme. Should you join us on one of our walks you can be assured of a warm welcome.



**Have you served in the military?**

**Can we help?**

The Royal British Legion (RBL) was established in 1921 to provide financial, social and emotional support to members and ex-members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force and the volunteer reserves, such as the RNR, TAVR and RAFVR, and their families and dependents. To make administration easier, local Branches were set up across the country and many of these still exist today with the same aims.

The Timsbury Branch provides support for people in the parish of Timsbury and surrounding areas. If you are looking for advice and support in welfare matters or just for the company of likeminded people, please contact the Branch using the details shown below. We would be very pleased to hear from you and you will be made very welcome.

For membership of the Branch and general information on the work of the RBL, contact Barry Sewell, Branch Chair, on 01761 471685.

For welfare enquiries contact Chris Fiddes, Branch Welfare Officer, on 07923 436950.





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or Tel: Booking Secretary on 07877 907963**

**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**



**B** TAYLOR  
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## Seeking local photographic talent!

Many thanks to the local people who have agreed to let us use their fantastic photos for the newsletter so far! If you have a new photo or something in your archives that you would like to share which showcases our beautiful parish in any season, please contact the Parish Clerk ([camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)).

The deadline for the next issue is 5 April.

# WERN

WEST OF ENGLAND RURAL NETWORK



## Your local Village Agent

Linking people in rural areas with  
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for independent living,  
health and wellbeing.

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- Signposting to appropriate professionals
- For anyone over 18 years old

Contact Maria Edwards

078843 45298

[maria@wern.org.uk](mailto:maria@wern.org.uk)

# Dates for your diary

1st and 3rd Thur in the month. Doors and Bar open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm.	Bingo, Camerton Community Hall
Tue 12 Mar, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Thur 14 Mar 12 to 12.30pm and every fortnight on the same day and time going forward.	Mobile Library, Daglands/Cam Brook Close
Tue 9 Apr, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 10 Apr, 7pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Tue 14 May, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 15 May, 7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room



Deadline for the next issue is 5 April.

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