

Summer
2024

Camerton Parish News



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Number 155

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www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit
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01225 394041

Your Neighbourhood Police
Team

101
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Curo Community Housing

01225 366000

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07877907963
www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk

Editor's letter

ARWEN ROSS

Welcome to the summer edition of Camerton Parish News! I know I'm not the only one hoping for some more summer sun in the weeks to come – it seems that everyone from walkers to gardeners to community speedwatch volunteers has found their activities curtailed at least somewhat over the last few cold and wet months (more about this in the following pages).

Many are probably thinking longingly of getaways to sunnier climes as well,

but as mentioned by our Neighbourhood Watch contributor Brian Edwards in this issue (pages 18 and 19), please take care with regard to holiday fraud – it's a big business and no one wants their relaxing break spoiled before it's even begun.

If you're not going away this summer, there's plenty to see and do right here in our local area – we hope you enjoy "reading all about it".



**Please come along to our
Annual General Meeting**

**To celebrate the Hall's success over the last 8 years,
looking at how to improve and evolve over the next!**

**Enjoy a FREE welcome drink from the bar
and a bite to eat
7pm, Friday 14th June 2024
at
Camerton Community Hall**

Parish Council News

CLLR LLOYD RANDALL

Welcome to the summer edition of the parish newsletter!

It was fantastic to see so many residents at the Annual Parish Meeting held in April. Your thoughts and concerns are invaluable as they help us focus on areas for improvement.

Bus services in and around the village have been a hot topic recently; the council is working with BANES Councillor Fiona Gourley to explore diverting an existing bus service to better serve residents, particularly around The Daglands, Durcott Lane, and Bridge Place Road. This initiative aims to improve accessibility for those who rely on public transport.

Road safety remains a concern; the council has requested additional measures from BANES Highways to address speeding. I hope we are able to update you all soon with the outcome of our requests.

Some good news! I am pleased to announce the installation of defibrillators in two key locations

across Camerton, providing vital equipment for emergencies should they be required. Details on their exact locations can be found in CLLR Maggie Hutton's article in this newsletter.

I'd like to welcome the new PCSO for Camerton, Paul Thatcher! He will be hosting regular Neighbourhood Police Surgeries, offering residents an opportunity to discuss any concerns and connect with the local police force. These surgeries are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Meadgate Farm Shop, Weekesley Lane. The last surgery took place on Wednesday 15th May 2024.

Finally, we currently have two vacancies on the parish council. If you're interested in making a positive difference in your community, please contact the clerk for more information. The time commitment is minimal, but the impact can be significant.

Here's how your contribution can benefit the council and the community:

- **Your Voice Matters:** Parish councillors are the elected representatives of the community. Joining the council allows you to directly influence decisions that affect Camerton's future.
- **Fresh Ideas and Perspectives:** The council values diverse viewpoints. Your unique experiences and ideas can help shape innovative solutions for the community.

- **Shape Local Priorities:** Parish councillors play a crucial role in identifying and prioritising local needs. Your involvement ensures that the council focuses on issues that matter most to residents.
- **Make a Real Difference:** By joining the parish council, you have the opportunity to contribute directly to improving the lives of people in Camerton.

I encourage you to consider joining the council and using your voice to help build a stronger, more vibrant community.

Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

Following the disbanding of the Heritage Committee the parish council is in dialogue with the Forest of Avon Trust. They're interested in supporting The Batch, and their expertise could be a valuable asset for ongoing support and maintenance. Hopefully, we can progress this collaboration in the coming year. So the parish council would like to take this opportunity to again thank the members of the Heritage Committee for all their work over many years.

As already mentioned, the wet weather over the last few months necessitated regular repairs to the steps around the site. We also managed to install new information boards at key locations. Further maintenance works are planned now we are moving towards the warmer, hopefully drier months!



Cllr Lloyd Randall

Camerton Community Hall

BRYN HAWKINS

Another busy few weeks at your Community Hall. Bingo, held every first and third Thursday in the month, eyes down 7.30pm, has gone very well with excellent money prizes and around 70 attending. The Jolly Collier Bar is open on Bingo nights - doors open 7pm. On Fridays from 4pm, the Jolly Collier Bar is open for the village, the parish and the not so locals, all welcome and fully accessible. Come along for a drink, a snack and a chat. Copies of the book, A Step Back in Time (The Old Tin Hut and Camerton Recreation Centre) by Julieann Biggs are still available from the bar.



After the success of the Whitney Houston tribute show, listening to the stunning voice and the energy of Stacey Charles, she is back again on 2nd August with what promises to be an entertaining, dance and singalong Soul/Motown evening not to be missed. Book/pay by calling the Hall Secretary 07866112689 or in person at the Jolly Collier Bar on a Friday.



For the creative amongst you, 'Colour Wheel' painting and drawing classes for beginners and improvers are now being held at the Hall on a Thursday with two sessions, 10am and 2pm. Call 07575 658665 direct for more details. In the not too distant future, it is hoped a craft event will again be held at the hall and the Norton Radstock Classic Vehicle Club Camerton Classic Car gathering returns again on Sunday 4th August.

The committee and trustees of the hall work hard to improve and provide a useful community facility for the local area; please support when you can. Thank you to those who volunteer their time around the grounds, at fundraising events and on the committee as well as regular tidying within the building.

Bryn, Camerton Community Hall Chair



Defibrillators

The Parish Council and Community Hall Committee have worked together to provide 2 defibrillators for the community. We were able to apply to a government scheme run by the London Hearts Charity and although we did not get the free one on offer, we were lucky enough to get two on a 50:50 based funding. The Parish Council and the Hall Committee have jointly provided the match funding and paid for the cost of installation.

One defibrillator has been installed on the roadside wall of the Hall, which can be accessed through the pedestrian gateway, and the other, thanks to the landowner, is in the Car Park of the Court Rooms (formerly the school).

Both defibrillators are registered with the Ambulance Service, who will give access details, if required, during a 999 call. We hope they are never needed, but if they are then they make a difference.

What can you do to support your community?

Camerton is great at coming together when there is a threat but what about day to day? Many people lead busy lives and give their time to activities and organisations both in and outside Camerton. However, both the Parish Council and the Hall Committee need your support if they are to be able to continue to serve this community well.

Why join?

The Parish Council meets approximately 10 times per year. Meetings last around 2 hours. We are the first rung of Government, giving our voice to decision-making on behalf of the community. With two councillor vacancies to fill, this is your chance to take part in shaping our community. The more diverse the membership of the council is, the more we represent all viewpoints.

The Community Hall Committee meets approximately 6 times per year. Meetings last around 2 hours. The hall is a major asset, hosting a wide range of events. Since the present committee has been running the hall major improvements have been made and the hall is in a secure financial position. We want to see it go from strength to strength but need new members to secure that aim.

Camerton is a very spread-out community, so it is vital we come together to support and protect our amenities. We need a diverse range of people to take this community forward – your point of view is valuable. Do you want to influence the way our community grows and develops? Could you support the ongoing development of the Hall? If you have not been to the Hall recently and seen the improvements or are new to Camerton, pop in on a Friday evening for a drink and a chat in the Jolly Collier Bar.

So, what can you do?

Come along to a Parish Council Meeting (details on the back of this newsletter), or contact the Clerk on camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk or on 01761 411305 to find out more; and/or

Contact the Community Hall Chair (0787 790 7963) or Secretary (cchsecretary@gmail.com) to find out more.

Maggie Hutton

Camerton Parish Councillor & Treasurer,
Camerton Community Hall

GOOD NEWS!



At Camerton Community Hall

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Ward Councillors Report

MATT MCCABE AND FIONA GOURLEY

Matt and Fiona are celebrating as it is a year since we were elected, thanks to your sterling efforts. We have met lots of residents over recent months and are pleased that people recognise us and ask us to help. We have worked closely with our 13 Parish Councils, mostly with flooding, road improvements, speed reductions and planning issues.

As Cabinet Member for the Built Environment, Matt has a big portfolio and is responsible for bringing in the new Local Plan, a massive job with significant long-term implications for the whole authority. We hosted a meeting for all our Parish Councillors in the Camerton Community Hall to talk about the new Local Plan process, as it is a great venue.

Fiona has campaigned and worked closely with campaigners, councillors and officers in B&NES, Somerset, Wiltshire and the West of England Combined Authority to try to improve rural transport in

North East Somerset. This has included discussions with First Bus about re-routing buses to improve the services through Camerton. The launch of the Two Valleys community bus by Paulton Parish Council is welcomed as it passes through Meadgate en route to the Odd Down Park and Ride. It was



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disappointing that neither B&NES Council, Camerton nor other local Parish Councils were consulted about the initial route, but Fiona is now in discussions with Paulton and WECA about improving and extending it, including to The Daglands and into Bath.

We are active advocates for the Village Agents, who help people living in rural areas to remain living independently at home. Residents have found this service very valuable to get advice on benefits, grants, disability badges, and

access to support and other vital services. They can be contacted via <https://www.wern.org.uk/banes-village-agents>.

Matt and Fiona are meeting with Curo and visiting The Daglands on 6 June so we hope to meet residents then to hear about your issues and how we can help. In the meantime you can contact us by email or phone:

mattmccabe.1@outlook.com,
07711 047267, or

Fiona_Gourley@BATHNES.GOV.UK,
07803 015886.

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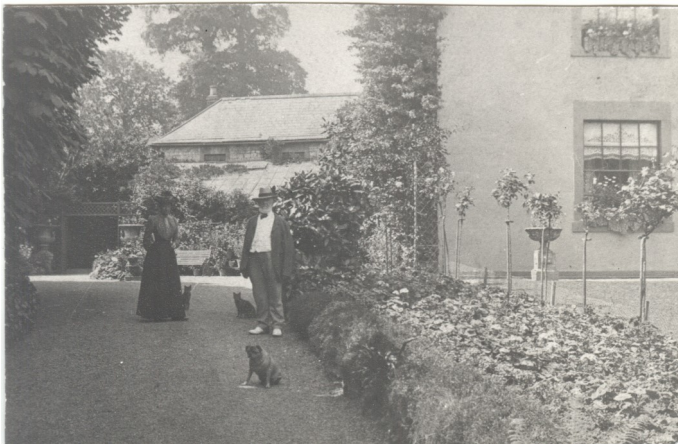
George Coombs and his charity

KATHRYN MANCHEE

As you may be aware, the parish council is the trustee of the small local George Coombs charity. This charity was originally set up through George Coombs' will in 1908 for the purchase of fuel, clothes, meat and bread for distribution amongst the poor of the parish on or about Christmas Day. Now every year the parish council in its role as trustee votes to award in December a small financial gift to a long-term resident of the parish who may be in poor health or has provided service to the parish. When the parish council made its decision last year the new chairman asked the very good question: who was George Coombs? Hence this article.

Following a very educational trip to Radstock Museum and a chat with the Local History Group I can now answer that question.

George Coombs was born to Joseph and Sarah on 4 May 1828 in Camerton and had several siblings. His father Joseph was the son of George and Sarah, who ran the Camerton Inn. When grandfather George died in 1810, his wife Sarah and son Joseph stayed in Camerton for another 38 years. After his mother Sarah died in 1848, George Coombs left the Camerton Inn (later known as the Jolly Collier) and moved to Radstock, while his father Joseph remained in Camerton.

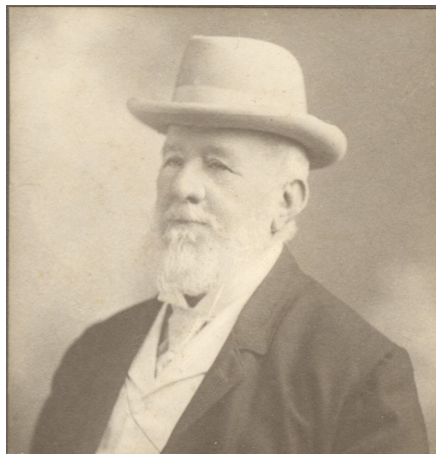


Census records show us that by 1861 George was married to Frances (known as Fanny). They lived in Radstock House, which is now the Working Men's Club.

This is not the only building related to George Coombs to be found in Radstock. George and his brother Joseph established a brewery business based on his experience of brewing, which started with Sarah at the Camerton Inn and then continued with George following his move to Radstock at the Bell in Radstock and the Lamb Inn at Clandown, later followed by the Waldegrave Inn. Up until brewery businesses were set up by the likes of George Coombs, most beer was brewed on pub premises or at home.

The company did well and in 1894, when George and Joseph sold their holdings to the company, its estimated value was £1m (based on 1994 prices).

Then in 1898 the market building in Radstock (which now houses the Museum) was opened. The building, commissioned by George Coombs, was designed by the brewery's in-house architect. If you visit the Museum you will also see the George Coombs brewery headquarters building next door. You can also visit his grave as he is buried in St Nicholas churchyard.



It is believed that he had no children although his brother Joseph had several. I am guessing that this is why he commissioned the market building in Radstock and in his will set up this charity so as to leave a legacy in Camerton, where he was born and his ancestors had lived for centuries.

The photographs are courtesy of Radstock, Midsomer Norton and District Museum Society. I am also grateful for the article by Peter Coombs from Five Arches Issue No 20 Summer 1994 published by Radstock, Midsomer and District Museum Society. All information was provided in good faith. Any errors or incorrect conclusions drawn are my own.

Camerton Community SpeedWatch Group

I'm writing this article looking out at the blue skies and almost warm sunshine, it's a welcome sight after so many dreary wet months. As a SpeedWatch group we are advised against carrying out SpeedWatch sessions in certain weather conditions for our safety and for the safety of motorists. Being a small group of volunteers, arranging a date and time that suits everyone only to find the sessions are continuously being cancelled due to the bad weather, has meant that the number of sessions has reduced this year. However, with the promise of better weather we will now be back out on our roads. Camerton SpeedWatch group is trialling the use of a 'Speed Gun' rather than the usual Police issued

radar handheld unit. The 'Gun' (and yes it could be likened to a hairdryer) looks like the Police radar guns, and although both do the same job, we are finding that we are receiving fewer accusations from motorists as to 'why are we taking their photo on our phones'. The Gun is heavier to hold for lengthy times but has a more defined radar beam. So from the little use we have had from it so far it looks a keeper. Strangely enough these Guns work out to be much cheaper to buy, which is another plus for the Avon & Somerset Police. And just to reiterate the rules on monitoring: throughout Camerton Village the speed limit is 20mph, although recording of vehicles will only occur once they reach 25 mph or over.





However, on our sessions this year we have recorded many drivers travelling between 35 and 44 mph, so there can be no excuse that they didn't realise it's 20mph, as they are exceeding even 30mph.

Clare Moody has recently been elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner for the Avon & Somerset Police Force area, and we hope to invite her along to our BANES Community SpeedWatch Co-Ordinators meetings to hear her views on road safety and the issue of

excessive speeding throughout the force area. We have had a very good relationship with the outgoing PCC Mark Shelford, who indeed himself is a SpeedWatch volunteer in Bath, so he understands first-hand the issues. We hope to have the same relationship with Clare.

Camerton Community SpeedWatch
Co Ordinator
Joint Network Lead for the B&NES
CSW Area.

Environmental Enhancement

HEATHER EDWARDS

I have recently purchased a number of spring/summer bedding plants ready for planting up those purple flower boxes which are sponsored by the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the weather has been so cold for so long the plants are getting giddy being moved in and out of the garage every day.

Sadly, my plea (in the Spring 2024 Newsletter) for help from residents in respect of sponsoring a new flower box was unsuccessful but if anyone could help out, occasionally, perhaps by watering a box near them, it would be much appreciated.


Finally, if anyone has any suggestions as to ways we could further improve the environment in this lovely part of the country please let me know.

Enjoy your Summer.

Heather Edwards 01761 470175




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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).

The deadline for the next issue is 9 August.



B

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Neighbourhood Watch

Brian Edwards

Hello everyone and hope you are all keeping well. Now that we have reached our Summer Season hopefully we will have some weather we can all enjoy and put the rather damp Spring behind us. However it is not in the nature of criminals/scammers to worry about the weather; their goal in life is to get their hands on our property and savings. So let us all try and be wary and think twice before we go into any financial transactions online or on the doorstep and keep our valuables under lock and key.

It seems that crime has taken a turn in its modus operandi; it's not so much breaking into your home or motor car but has now moved more towards on-line and social media operations. However, let's start with damage and burglary.

A mailbox was damaged at a home in Overdale in Tunley and a Royal Mail post box at Tunley was also damaged. Someone broke into a home in Crossways Park in

Dunkerton. The offender(s) smashed the kitchen window to gain entry, targeting jewellery and dumping items on the bed to sort out the most expensive.

SCAMS

Missing/injured pets social media posts. People on social media may receive posts of missing/injured pets and be asked to share, possibly with family/friends. These posts usually appear on buy and sell sites and community type groups. The post will include a picture of a very sad looking, possibly injured pet therefore tugging at most people's heart strings. Would sharing a post like this put your friends and family at risk of being scammed and losing money? Unfortunately it does. There never was a missing/injured pet and the post has been created by a fraudster using photos found on the internet. The fraudster is able to change the post to anything they want so that by the time your family and friends see it they don't

see a post about a missing pet but instead see a property to rent, a prize draw or an investment opportunity. Yes, they are scams, designed to get your money.

HOLIDAY FRAUD

Unfortunately, many victims of holiday fraud only find out they have been defrauded when they turn up at the airport or the holiday destination only to find no booking has been made. Latest data from Action Fraud shows that victims across the UK lost a staggering £12.3 million to holiday fraud last year. They are urging holiday makers to be safe online and do their research before booking their trip.

TICKET FRAUD

Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site. Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as Pay Pal give you a better chance of recovering your money if you become a victim of fraud.

Just a reminder – 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, known by the police as Nottingham Knockers and recently reported to be operating in the Oldfield Park area of Bath. They tell you that they are ex-offenders trying to go straight, then try to sell poor quality and over-priced cleaning products. They may also offer to carry out work for you, such as roof or driveway repairs. Police want to remind residents that they are under no obligation to answer the door to anyone they don't know or aren't expecting.

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

Stay safe, keep well and look after each other; enjoy your Summer.

Brian Edwards 01761 470175

Cam Valley Wildlife Group



Events programme

June July 2024

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

Thursday 6th June – Ham Wall Insect photographic trip with Diana

Meet at 11am in the RSPB car park at BA6 9SX. Please contact Diana Walker on 07581 451805 for more information or if you wish to car share so she can look out for you.

Sunday 16th June – trip to LANGFORD LAKES

Meet at 11.30 in the car park for a gentle walk around the lakes looking at birds, botany, etc. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve, Duck St, Steeple Langford SP3 4NH. For further information, please phone Peter on 07860 627744.

Date TBA – Walk around Kiln Farm, Faulkland

Sunday 28th July - Butterfly Trip to Alners Gorse at Hazelbury Bryan, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2AU

The Butterfly conservation's flagship reserve. The last time we visited In 2009, 21 species of butterflies were spotted. Meet at Radstock car park at 9.30am for car share as there is not much space for parking on the road. Bring a picnic, and stout footwear is also needed. If the weather forecast is poor please ring Diana the night before on 07581 451805.

Wildlife Photography

Please contact Diana on 07581 451805 or email dianawalker4@gmail.com if you would like to accompany her on any of her days out photographing local wildlife.

CVWG Stall

We will be at the Church Farm Open Sunday with Nature as its theme, Stratton on the Fosse on Sunday 9th June.

Somer Valley Ramblers

The programme of walks organised by the Somer Valley Ramblers has continued although some of the most recent walks have encountered very muddy conditions. Hopefully with the onset of spring, conditions underfoot will improve. The Group recently participated in the Bristol Walkfest by organising a walk in the Chew Valley and will take part in the Somer Valley Walking Festival later in the year. In addition, our Walking Holiday on Exmoor takes place in August and details can be found on the Group website www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk.

The website also contains information about a number of local walking routes. A recent addition to the site has been a walking route known as the 'Radstock Ring'. This was a project which was the brainchild of a member of the Group and various members have contributed to the project by walking the route,



(photo: Somer Valley Ramblers)

writing up the details and now publishing the walk on our website. The route is shown in stages with detailed guidance and for any reader who wishes to explore the local area on foot it is an ideal guide to have.

We are receiving quite a number of new enquiries about walking with our Group and all such enquiries are welcome. Full details of our walks programme are published on our website and anyone who wishes to join us on any of our walks will be assured of a very 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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Dates for your diary

1st & 3rd Thursdays in the month, 6.30pm	Bingo, Camerton Community Hall. Doors and Bar open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm.
Thur 6 June 12 to 12.30 pm & every fortnight on the same day and time going forward	Mobile Library, The Daglands
Tue 11 Jun, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Tue 9 Jul, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room



Deadline for the next issue is 9 August.

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