

Spring
2025

Camerton Parish News



Photo: Arwen Ross

Published on behalf of
Camerton Parish Council

Number 158

Useful contacts

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Lloyd Randall

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www.camertonparishcouncil.co.uk

District Cllrs for Bathavon
South Ward

Matt McCabe
mattmccabe.1@outlook.com
07711 047267
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07803 015886

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

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

Your Neighbourhood Police
Team

101
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Curo Community Housing

01225 366000

Camerton Community Hall

07877907963
www.camertoncommunityhall.co.uk

Editor's letter

ARWEN ROSS

Welcome to the spring issue of Camerton Parish News. Hopefully everything will be a bit less muddy, damp and chilly soon and the great outdoors will start to look a lot more inviting!

There will be lots going on over the next few months: as well as the bar nights, bingo nights and other regular activities at Camerton Community Hall there is an Olly Murs tribute night coming up in April. This will be followed soon after by the Annual Parish Meeting, a great opportunity for residents to meet the Parish Council and put forward any questions, concerns or proposals you may have regarding life in the Parish (see page 5 for more details).

As always, our regular contributors (Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club, Cam Valley Wildlife Group, Somer Valley Ramblers and Dunkerton WI) have a great programme of events lined up. A new addition for this issue is an invitation to join the Norton Radstock u3a, who host speaker meetings, coffee mornings and various group activities for retired and semi-retired people of any age in the local area (see page 20 for more information).

Wishing you a sunny and social spring season, and happy reading!



Parish Council News

CLLR LLOYD RANDALL

Dear Residents

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we look forward to the arrival of spring and all the changes it brings. I trust everyone enjoyed a pleasant festive season, and are looking forward to the longer days and the first signs of new life after winter.

Before I move on to other matters, I want to highlight a crucial point: we currently have three Councillor vacancies, rising to four by April, and we also have a vacancy for the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). This is a fantastic opportunity for you to get more involved in shaping the future of our community. Being a Parish Councillor is a rewarding experience, allowing you to make a real difference locally. We are a friendly and dedicated group, and we would love to welcome new members. If you're curious about what's involved, please come along to our next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 2 April 7.30 pm at

Camerton Community Hall meeting room where you can meet the current Councillors and see what we do. Even if you are unsure if you can spare the time, we would still like to talk to you if you are interested.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many residents, and we understand your frustrations. The Parish Council is committed to addressing this issue and we're exploring all available avenues. We've recently begun discussions with neighbouring parishes and Ward Councillors, to explore collaborative solutions.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring season from all at Camerton Parish Council.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd Randall

Chairman, Camerton Parish Council

CAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Camerton
Community Hall Meeting Room
on Wednesday 23 April 7.30 pm

A G E N D A

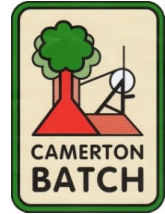
- Introduction and Welcome by the Parish Council Chair
- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024
- Issues/Proposals/Queries from Parishioners

Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve

Fence Improvements: A new section of fence has been installed at the corner of The Batch at the bottom of Red Hill. We appreciate the input from residents regarding the original location of a stile, which we have successfully retained. While this provides a traditional access point, please note the main entrance further around the bend has a gate and offers easier and safer access. If using the stile to exit, please exercise caution due to the narrow pavement and close proximity to the road.



Tree Management: Following the recent storms, several trees required management. This work, completed last month, will ensure the safety of visitors and neighbours and the long-term health of the woodland.



Pollinator Pathways: We continue to work closely with the Avon Wildlife Trust on their Pollinator Pathways project. We have requested a plan for an initial survey this year to explore how The Batch can best contribute to this vital initiative. This survey will help us understand the existing biodiversity and identify opportunities to enhance the site for pollinators, creating a more vibrant and enjoyable space for both residents and visitors.



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Camerton Community Hall



BRYN HAWKINS

The annual Christmas meal for the community was well received again by the people that came along to this event. Dave Mott, the village's top chef, was on hand with his team to provide what was as usual an excellent meal. We must thank the volunteer servers who came along to make sure the diners were served fast and efficiently; they were absolutely great.

We put on a regular cash bingo night on the first and third Thursday in the month, eyes down 7.30pm. We would like to see more parishioners; come on and support the hall.

Also, the Jolly Collier Bar is open from 5pm on a Friday evening; come on Camerton parishioners, support the bar – it's opened for you.

There are entertainment nights coming up this year, watch out for adverts and posts on social media.

The first one is on Saturday April 19th at 7.30pm; the brilliant Ryan Elliott will be there as an Olly Murs Tribute act; tickets available from 07929 172827.

Since the last report, an additional 100 square metres of tarmac has been put down to increase the much needed capacity of the car park.

Clive Turner continues to look after the Colliers Copse and surround; we have to thank him for the time he spends on this important job.

Your hall is well used, which enables the trustees to keep improving it both inside and outside. The problem we have is the age of the trustees; we need new younger people to help us and take over the jobs on into the future. Please get in touch if you could help. Contact Bryn Hawkins on 01761 471350.



ROCKELL TREE SURVEYING



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07541904178

Cam Valley Wildlife Group



Events programme

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 1st

Wednesday of the month during the winter at 7.30 pm for an 8 pm 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 2nd April – Botany Walks start again at 7pm, led by Helena

Programme to be advised.

Saturday 5th April – GOOSARD work morning

Please Contact Jim Crouch on 01761 410731 or by email:

crouch@macegroup.com to book as anyone is welcome to attend but numbers are limited.

Friday 11th April - Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes

Meet at 10.30am at Woodford Lodge Car Park (BS40 8XH) for car share to Chew Valley Lake where we

can buy permits, £7 each. The permits allow access to areas around both lakes not open to the public. We will look for birds and Green-winged Orchids at Chew, and after lunch drive to Blagdon, for a lakeside walk there. Bring £7, your lunch, and sensible footwear. Contact Diana on 07581 451805 if you wish to attend or car share to Chew Valley Lake.

Friday 25th April at CVWG, 10.30am - Woodland Birds & Herons at RSPB Swell Wood and after lunch stop off at RSPB Grey Lake

Parking is limited so please car share if possible, meet at Diana's at 9.30am (8 Grovewood Rd, BA3 3QZ) for car share. RSPB Swell Wood reserve on A378 near Langport (TA3 6PX) & RSPB Grey Lake on A361 (TA7 9BP). Please contact Diana Walker on 07581 451805 for more information or if you wish to car share.

Saturday 3rd May – GOOSARD work morning

Please Contact Jim Crouch on 01761 410731 or by email:

crouch@macegroup.com to book as anyone is welcome to attend but numbers are limited.

Sunday 4th May – Spring flowers in Greyfield Wood

Meet at 10.30am at the entrance (BS39 6YE). Parking is limited so please car share if possible.

For more information please contact Diana Walker on 07581 451805.

Saturday 31st May – Ham Wall – Dragons and Damsels

A photographic walk to photograph Dragonflies and Damselflies. Meet at 2pm in the RSPB car park at BA6 9SX, which you will need to pay for unless you are an RSPB member.

Please contact Diana Walker on 07581 451805 for more information or if you wish to car share.

Saturday 7th June – GOOSARD work morning

Please Contact Jim Crouch on 01761 410731 or by email:

crouch@macegroup.com to book as anyone is welcome to attend but numbers are limited.

Wildlife Photography

Please contact Diana on 07581

451805 or dianawalker4@gmail.com

if you would like to accompany her

on any of her days out

photographing local wildlife.

CVWG Stalls

Saturday 15th March – Nextdoor

Nature Somer Valley – Avon

Wildlife Trust

Connections & Celebrations Party at

The Hive, Peasedown St John, 2pm -

4pm. With Wildlife themed activities

for all ages & live Owls. The event

will celebrate local people's actions

for nature, in Paulton, Peasedown,

Bath College & Writhlington, and

offers a chance to network and meet

other like-minded, passionate nature

-lovers.

Environmental Enhancement

HEATHER EDWARDS

Huge thanks to a resident who once again has constructed some new flower boxes to replace those that have seen better days. Three of these boxes have already been placed around the village and planted up.

Some of the other boxes sited on the main route through the village would look better for a fresh coat of 'Purple Pansy' paint. I will have to take on this extra task unless any of the residents who already plant and maintain a box near them would be prepared to give it a fresh coat of paint; if so, paint would be provided.

Regrettably, those boxes which residents are no longer able to maintain will be removed unless another resident who lives nearby would be prepared to take on looking after the box by keeping it tidy and planting it up as necessary. We receive a number of compliments from people travelling through Camerton about our purple boxes; it would be such a shame if they have to be removed.

In order to achieve a co-ordinated colour scheme and greater impact my suggestions for spring/summer planting colours are something bright, e.g. a mixture of peach, orange and yellow.



Sadly nobody has responded to my plea in the last Newsletter for volunteers to join in or assist with flower arranging at St Peter's Church Camerton. Help would only be required three or four times a year such as at church festivals at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Please let me know if anyone requires any further information.

Finally, wishing you all a pleasant and colourful springtime; hopefully we will see some sunshine soon.

Heather Edwards 01761 470175

Village Agent

KATE STOBIE

My name is Kate Stobie and I am the Village Agent for Camerton, Peasedown St John, Dunkerton and Shoscombe. I've been in post since February 2022 and work 2 days a week covering the local area. My role is to provide advice, information, referrals and signposting to local residents on a whole range of issues – from benefits, debt, housing, heating and finances to helping to find carers, local activities, gardeners and dog walkers. We work in partnership with other local agencies and services such as Age UK, Bath Mind and Bath Citizens Advice to ensure local residents have access to the services and advice that they need. I visit people in their own homes or arrange to meet them in local community centres such as the Hive in Peasedown to discuss their issues and to help them to seek solutions.

I can work with anyone over the age of 18 and have a very mixed client group of young people, families and older residents. Recently I have assisted a number of older clients in applying for Attendance Allowance, Blue Badges and council tax reductions as well as referring many to the Centre for

Sustainable Energy in Bristol for advice around reducing energy bills and seeking grants. I have also assisted parents in applying for Disability Living Allowance for children and put them in touch with local support groups. A large part of my role is linking people up with local activities and services such as food banks, exercise classes, craft groups and bereavement support services. We are lucky to have the Hive on our doorstep where many wonderful activities take place and a café which produces fabulous low-cost food.

Please do give me a call or email me if there is anything I can do to help you stay well, safe and warm. My email is: kate.stobie@wern.org.uk or call the office on: 01275 333700. Everything we do is free and confidential. Please remember, we are here to support any adult over the age of 18. Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Camerton & Peasedown Croquet Club

Fun and Friendship in the Fresh Air

Many people are unaware that there is a Croquet Club right on the doorstep of the villages and towns of East Mendip. Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club has four splendid full-size lawns which overlook the Cam Valley.

Croquet is a very accessible game and it can be played socially or competitively. It gets you out in the fresh air and mixing with other people; it is good for your health and your wellbeing.

Even on the dullest days of this winter members of Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club have been out playing croquet. In the autumn of 2024 the winter lawns were set and, provided the lawns were not flooded or frosted, play has continued. The lawns are always reset for winter so that the full-sized summer lawns get a chance to recover and the professional groundsmen can apply

restorative treatments to the grass.

This winter the lawns were set using the clubs 'second best' hoops, which is a popular choice as these hoops are just a tiny bit wider, maybe about 4mm wider, than the regular summer ones and everyone finds them easy to score.

The game of croquet uses a combination of mallet and ball skills, strategy and tactics; age is no barrier and men and women play together on equal terms.

If you have not tried the game of Croquet before then this spring could be a good time to have a go. Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club will be running a FREE 'Roll up and play' session on the first Sunday afternoon of every month throughout the spring and summer. Just turn up at the Club's lawns in Whitebrook Lane in Peasedown St John (accessed through the Peasedown Cricket Club entrance, BA2 8LD), wearing flat soled shoes and you will be provided with a

mallet and shown some basic shot making; after minimal practice you will be able to play a game on the same afternoon. And if this whets your appetite, you could sign up for a Beginner's Course of lessons from

the Club's qualified coaches. If you subsequently decide to join the Club, the Membership Fee is reduced.



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.

Neighbourhood Watch

Brian Edwards

Locally, since the 2024 Winter Newsletter, here in Camerton we haven't been too disturbed by criminal activities.

BURGLARIES

There has been an increase in garage, shed and car break-ins across the Avon & Somerset Police Area. It was thought at the time that the reason was due to thieves looking for Christmas presents which had been hidden away outside the home. However, whatever the reason Police have advised to always ensure that your outbuildings and vehicles are securely locked at all times.

Thieves broke into and attempted to break into a number of garages in Wellow. A petrol-driven chainsaw and hedge trimmer were stolen from one garage whilst the locks on two other garages were damaged.

VEHICLE CRIME

A silver Land Rover was stolen from a rural property in Camerton; it was later found in a ditch. The owner has recovered the vehicle.

A white Ford Transit tipper was stolen in Peasedown St John during the night of February 3rd. Police have appealed for anyone having any information about this incident, especially CCTV images, to call 101 giving reference number 5225030113.

SCAMS

Users of the on-line holiday booking site 'Booking.com' are warned to be careful. When booking holidays or accommodation be aware that you could be targeted with e-mails or messages requesting payments from hotels that have had their accounts taken over by fraudsters; losses have been reported.

DRINK/DRUG DRIVING

During December 2024, police arrested 241 drivers for drink or drug driving offences. Drink driving accounted for 62%, drug driving 38%. Drivers aged 25-34 accounted for 32% of those arrested, 35-44 age group 24% and under 25s 20%. 88% were male and 14 of those arrested live in the B&NES area.

As always, if you are in any doubt or see anyone or anything suspicious, call a neighbour or local NHW contact. You could also call the police by dialling 101 (or 999 if it's serious); you could even contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Keep yourselves well, stay safe and look after each other.

Brian Edwards 01761 470175

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 May.

Dunkerton WI

Dunkerton WI is a group of around 36 friendly local women who enjoy meeting together and taking part in many shared activities each month. As well as our monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month in Tunley Recreation Centre, we also meet for a variety of groups each month including a Craft Group, a Games Group and a Walking Group.

2025 started with two interesting talks: in January from John Roynon, a local man who was one of the finalists on Channel 4's Great Pottery Throw Down last year, and in February a presentation from the Wiltshire Air Ambulance service.

We are looking forward to a variety of trips including to Coates English Willow Visitor Centre, Stoke St Gregory near Taunton and BBC Gardener's World Live at the NEC, Birmingham.

Interested in joining us? Check out our website and/or come and join us - you'll be made very welcome.

www.dunkertonwi.wordpress.com

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Somer Valley Ramblers

The Somer Valley Ramblers have continued with their Winter programme although the numerous storms that have affected the country resulted in a small number of walks being cancelled.

However, during this period we were pleased to welcome a new Walk Leader and also to have a 'mud free' walk around the Downs area of Bristol, which proved to be a very popular innovation.

After many years in the planning, the Radstock Ring project is approaching its completion. This walking route was originally the brainchild of the former Secretary David Dutton, who envisaged the creation of a circular walking route around the area using public footpaths and bridleways. Over the past few years members have surveyed the route and written it

up, and it is now published on our website:

www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk.

The route itself is now being waymarked by members and should be fully marked by the summer. This route will be a further addition to other local walking routes such as the Limestone Link, the Colliers' Way and the Coal Canal Way.

Norton Radstock u3a

Do Something Brilliant Today

Norton Radstock u3a provides social activities, learning, entertainment and mutual self-help for retired and semi-retired people of any age in the local area. It is run by volunteers and is part of a UK-wide movement of over 1000 u3a charities that encourage members to share their skills and learn for fun.

Many are attracted to join by the special interest groups held across the area (art, birdwatching, chess, ukulele, poetry, guitar, solos, walking, wine appreciation groups to name a few), as well as the main group coffee mornings and the monthly guest speaker talks held at the Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UH.

It was certainly some of the group activities that motivated me to join 18 months ago. Members say, “..it’s a great place to make new friends”, and they come from villages including Paulton, Timsbury and Clutton as well as Midsomer Norton and beyond.

Come and try us for free! We have hosted lots of fascinating monthly talks. Prospective new u3a members are welcome to come along to one speaker meeting or coffee morning for free. Pop along and introduce yourself to our friendly Meet & Greet team.

We’d like to invite more people living in Camerton to join us at our next monthly speaker meeting or coffee morning - make new friends and extend your interests.

Speaker meetings: 1.45pm, 2nd Monday of the month, Somer Centre

Coffee mornings: 10.00am, last Monday of the month, Somer Centre

(Dates change if they fall on a Bank Holiday).

Hope to see you soon!

See the Norton Radstock u3a website norrad.u3asite.uk for more details of groups, events schedule and how to join.

Email: enquiries.nru3a@gmail.com



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Norton Radstock u3a
Walking Group



Introducing BWCE Home Energy!

Bath & West Community Energy has just launched its new Home Energy service – a local hub of independent, expert advice and support for warm, efficient, low-carbon homes in our community.

They now offer home energy assessments, providing tailored, impartial advice to help you find the best energy-efficient solutions for your home.

Plus, you'll have access to a range of inspiring events – open homes, expert talks, spotlights sessions, training and videos – everything you need to make your home more energy efficient.

Bookings for home energy surveys are now live, and you can take advantage of generous, time-limited discounts from Retrofit West.

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www.bwce.homeenergy.coop

GOOD NEWS!



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Eyes Down: 7.30pm

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Dates for your diary

1st & 3rd Thursdays in the month, from 6.30pm	Bingo, Camerton Community Hall. Doors and Bar open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm.
Wed 5 Mar, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Tue 11 Mar, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 2 Apr, 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Sun 6 Apr, 2.00pm	FREE 'Roll up and play Croquet' at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club, Whitebrook Lane, Peasedown St John, BA2 8LD.
Tue 8 Apr, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Sat 19 Apr, 7.30pm	Ryan Elliott Olly Murs Tribute act, Camerton Community Hall
Wed 23 Apr, 7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Sun 4 May, 2.00pm	FREE 'Roll up and play Croquet' at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club, Whitebrook Lane, Peasedown St John, BA2 8LD
Tue 13 May, 7.15pm	WI Meeting, Tunley Recreation Centre
Wed 14 May, 7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Camerton Community Hall Meeting Room
Sun 1 Jun, 2.00pm	FREE 'Roll up and play Croquet' at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club, Whitebrook Lane, Peasedown St John, BA2 8LD

Deadline for the next issue is 9 May.

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