WEST CAMEL CHRISTMAS CHRONICLE
DECEMBER 2025

We name this boat 'Camilla'

Thank you for all your super (and interesting) names for our new boat, great village participation!

The names were all put in a hat and Mary Gordon did the honour of picking one out.

Thank you, Jo Roberts, for the name suggestion and we will now get Carol Mellish to paint her name on.

Camilla's first outing on the river is planned for Saturday 6th December so keep an eye out!

Village Volunteers

Find your community. Lean on your community. Create community.

You do not need to be available all the time but if you would like to help out around our village, please drop Jo an email to register your interest in being involved. jotwroberts@gmail.com

The first volunteer activity since this request went out was to trim back the hedge line alongside the tennis court. Since being left as a no mow project this had some substantial overgrowth to cut back as there was no access up the side of the courts at all.

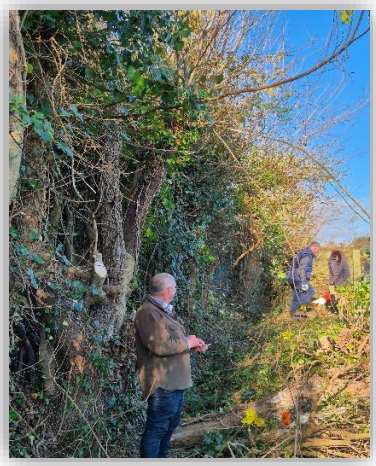
Stage 1 of the project was to cut back the area between the tennis court and the ditch so that we are able to start getting the mower up through here again. This was carried out on Saturday 15th November by our village lengthsman Jeff and a superb team of around 10 volunteers. There was even the provision of tea and pastries for everyone. In 2 hours the first stage was completed – supreme effort from everyone.

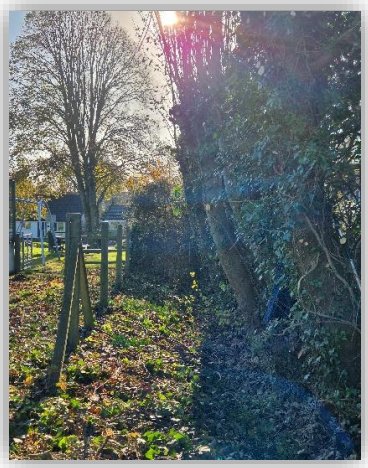
The volunteers also dragged up the brambles Jeff had previously removed from the corner near the pub car park so now there is a bramble free access from the pub to the playing field.

Stage 2 of the project was Sunday 30th November and what a beautiful morning we had.

Some of the same volunteer faces from the previous stage of work and great to see some new faces but again a good turnout of 10. This stage was hard work, there were some pretty hefty trees and branches to remove and drag out, so again the teas and pastries were very much welcome at the half way point – thank you again Sally!

I think you will all agree it looks so much better now and by volunteering you all made it a fun morning in the sunshine so thank you!





Weather Records from Mead Farm

September 2025
Maximum temperature: 23.9 C (75 F) on the 19th.
Minimum temperature: 0.5 C (33 F) on the 13th
Grass level minimum: 1.6 C (35 F) on the 3rd.
Total rainfall: 63.7 mm (2.51 ins)

October 2024
Maximum temperature: 20.7 C (70 F) on the 1sth.
Minimum temperature: 2.6 C (37 F) on the 12th.
Grass level minimum: -2.1 C (28 F) on the 12th.
Total Rainfall: 64.3 mm (2.57 ins)

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng was a challenging 500 page read. All the elements of a good novel were present: marvelous evocative descriptions of Malaya; a historically gripping setting withing the period of the second world war and the Japanese invasion; an exposition of both Japanese and Malayan cultures as well as Chinese and English influences within the Malayan peninsula; philosophical views of the human condition specifically the Japanese, English and Chinese views of fate and free will.

It could have been a wonderful novel, but it fell down on several counts. Firstly, the main protagonists were difficult to engage with, partly because they carried the philosophy without being given any emotion or humanity. Secondly the story was complicated and at times flawed. Finally, as one of our members described it, there was no joy in the novel. Dialogue was weak, and humour lacking. Our marks reflected this and averaged at 6+.

Our next book, The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas, is also a long book but has a swifter sense of storyline that I believe will be more appealing. As an antidote, we are sharing poetry for our January meeting so dig out your anthologies or look online for your favourite poem and bring it along to read.

Future reads:

Wednesday 3rd December	The Robe by Lloyd C Douglas
Wednesday 14th January	Poetry Night – bring a poem or two to share.
Wednesday February 11th	Dissolution by C.J. Sansom
Wednesday March 11th	We solve murders by Richard Osman
Wednesday April 8th	Stonehenge by Bernard Cornwell
Wednesday May 13th	Sashenko by Simon Sebag Montefiore
Wednesday June 10th	(The Levant Trilogy) The danger tree by Olivia Manning
Wednesday July 8th	At Risk by Stella Rimington

Film Night at The Davis Hall

Doors open 7 p.m. for 7.30 start - Tickets £5 on the door (16 and under £3.50) Licenced Bar, Tea and Coffee available

Our original booking for the December film night at The Davis Hall is unavailable (The Ballad of Wallis Island) until next year.

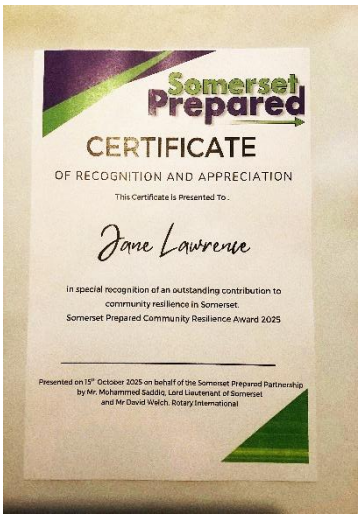
Friday 19th December we will now be showing 'Four Letters of Love'.

Please spread the information to anyone who is not on the internet, Thank you.

Trailers can be watched on the Davis Hall website - www.davishall.co.uk - click on the icon for the film you are interested in.

West Camel Parish Council News

Acknowledgements and congratulations galore over the past 2 months!



Cllr Jane Lawrence was nominated for the individual award category in the Somerset Community Resilience Awards 2025 for her work to build flood resilience in West Camel.

Jane has been tireless in her work to produce home flood plans for the residents and attends all the flood resilience meetings plus she gets fully involved in all work pertaining to flooding and flood management at every opportunity.

Jane was one of 3 runners up and was very surprised to receive her Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation.

Jenny Clothier was nominated for and awarded the Somerset Council Chairs Award for Service to the Community 2025.

Jenny is a much-loved and highly respected figure in West Camel, known especially for her dedicated service as churchwarden of All Saints Church. For many years, she has faithfully carried out this role—often as the sole warden—and her commitment has been instrumental in keeping the church active and thriving.

Jenny's contributions extend well beyond the church walls. She has played an active part in several village organisations, including the Gardening Club, where her enthusiasm and community spirit shine through. A deeply caring and compassionate person, Jenny is a true friend to many. She is often found quietly supporting those in need, regularly visiting the sick and comforting the bereaved. Her kindness and thoughtfulness embody the very best of community life.

FOR SALE – Community Housing

Only available for sale to residents of West Camel until 28 February 2026

Plot 1, South Street - Building Plot with Planning Consent
Building Plot and paddock extending to approximately 1.3 acres
Full planning approval for a modern 4-bedroom house with internal area of circa 350 m^2

To register interest and request further information please email:
ivellhouse@yahoo.com

A nice response from a resident regarding the recently added village email reminders of the parish council meetings complete with agenda and previous minutes.
Just wanted to say I really appreciate these emails going round and I love this new transparency. I 100% think this is a great way of getting people more involved and aware of what's happening.

The next parish council meeting will be held at the Davis Hall 7.30pm start on Thursday 8th January 2026. All welcome.

West Camel Gardening Club

The West Camel Gardening Club events came to a close With our AGM on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd November.

We have had a lovely year with a successful Flower Show, plant sale, visits to beautiful gardens and some interesting and entertaining speakers.

In the process of enjoying our social events we have managed to raise funds of £483 from the plant sale which was split between our Playpark equipment renewal and St Margaret's Hospice along with £108 raised at our hedgehog awareness evening, all really wonderful results.

A very big thank you to all of you who have supported our club this year and please look out for the announcement for when we start up again in 2026. We would love to see all our current members return and if you would like to come and join us you would be most welcome.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year!
West Camel Gardening Club

West Camel Theatre Group

West Camel Churches Together

Wednesday December 17th. 7pm

"CAROLS ON THE GREEN" by the village pond (in the church if raining)
Followed by drinks and mince pies in the church*

Sunday December 21st. 3pm

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE
Followed by refreshments*

Wednesday December 24th. 9.30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

*Collection for children's charities

All activities will be at All Saints Church unless otherwise stated.

Please join us if you can. You will be very welcome!

We are hoping to organise a children's "Pop-up" Nativity Play at our Carol Service on 21st December. We need some children to take part. No rehearsals or speaking parts. We already have Mary and Joseph but we need an innkeeper, and some shepherds and angels. Last time we did this, it was great fun, so roll up children. We need your help! Geoff.mead@yahoo.com or call 01935 850838.

Details of all regular church services are displayed on various notice boards. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

Local contacts:

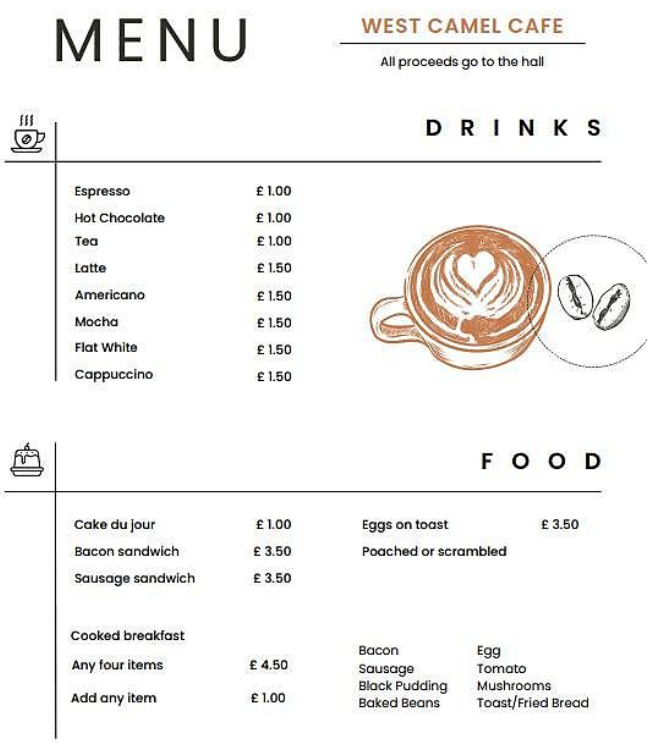
Revd. Caroline Walker (07765 126355)
Email: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com
Jenny Clothier (01935 850281)
Geoff and Elizabeth Chapman (01935 850838)
Email: geoff.mead@yahoo.com

www.westcamelchurches.org.uk
www.facebook.com/westcamelchurches

Your West Camel Events Diary

Monday	Short Mat Bowls, Ballet Class
Tuesday	Bridge, Pilates
Wednesday	Model Railway Group, Ballet Class
Thursday AM	Coffee Morning & Post Office 09:15 – 11.30am
Thursday PM	Scottish Dancing
Saturday	Model Railway
3rd December	West Camel Book Club
17th December	Carols on the Green, *All Saints Church*
19th December	Film Night – Four Letters of Love
21st December	Family Carol Service @ *All Saints Church*
8th January	West Camel Parish Council Meeting
14th January	West Camel Book Club
30th & 31st January	West Camel Theatre Group – *A Night at the Musicals*

Next edition of 'The Chronicle' is scheduled to hit the 'news-stands' in early February 2026. If you have any news item or event you wish to publicise, please provide your draft to 'the editor' by 25th January 2026 - OTC.



COFFEE MORNING

At the Davis Hall from 9:15 every Thursday morning.

Tea and cake, bakery and post office, collect your meds delivered from the Health Centre.

Pop in for a cosy chat and catch up on what's happening locally.

Now with Barista style choice of coffees and full fried breakfast!