WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE APRIL 2025

HELLO!

The time has arrived for me to attempt to fill the rather large shoes of Les Stevens and officially take over as Parish Clerk from 1st April (yes April Fool's Day!).

For those of you who don't know me I am Angela Suter, and I live at Wyvern Cottage in South Street. Some of you may have seen me walking the village and surrounding fields with these 2 reprobates Harley & Lizzie.

There is still a lot to learn, and I hope I can support our Parish and Councillors as well as Les has over the past 15 years of service. I look forward to meeting you over the coming months.

Vacancies for a Parish Councillor

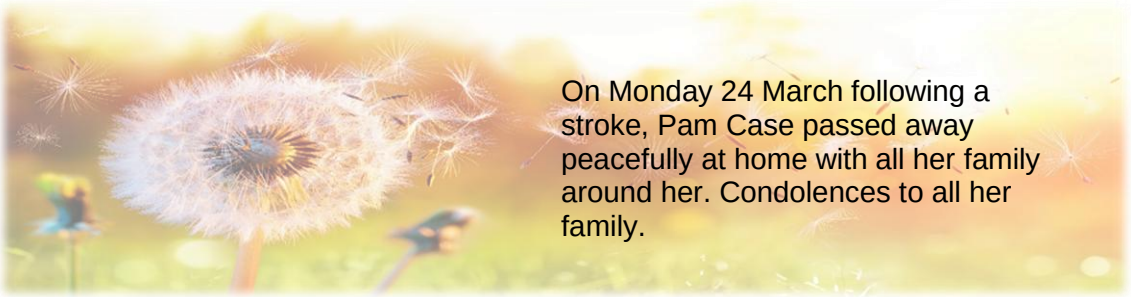
West Camel Parish Council still has a vacancy. If you can spare some time and commitment (need only be as much time as you are able) please contact the Clerk, Angela Suter, or any councillor for further details. There are exciting times ahead as Somerset Council look to Town and Parish Councils to take on / manage their own communities.

Weather Records from Mead Farm

January 2025
Maximum temperature: 13.5C (56 F) on the 5th.
Minimum temperature: -5.6 C (22 F) on the 3rd.
Grass level minimum: –5.8 C (27 F) on the 4th.
Total Rainfall: 146.25 mm (5.80 ins.)

February 2025
Maximum temperature: 15.6C (60 F) on the 22nd.
Minimum temperature: -2.8 C (27 F) on the 28th.
Grass level minimum: –6.1 C (21 F) on the 28th.
Total Rainfall: 53.6 mm (2.11 ins.)

Announcements



On Monday 24 March following a stroke, Pam Case passed away peacefully at home with all her family around her. Condolences to all her family.

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

On Wednesday a record number of members joined in the discussion of Odyssey, the third draft of a novel by me. It was a magical evening of open discussion which was very encouraging for the author, who was pleased to have a few suggestions for tidying up the structure. As ever, we enjoyed frank discussion, not always in agreement but always in harmony. Thank you to all those who gave time to reading the novel and giving such encouraging feedback. Should I ever get around to publishing you will be the first to hear.

Our next read will be On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan on Wednesday 9th April. A short but intense novel.

Wednesday 14th May	Trustee from the toolroom by Nevil Shute
Wednesday 11th June	Ruskin Park by Rory Cellan-Jones

Please think about suggestions for the summer and into the Autumn.
Happy reading! Melanie Smallwood

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

Friday 28th March 2025 Conclave
Following one of the world's most secretive and ancient events – selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

Friday 25th April 2025 Paddington in Peru
Full of Paddington's signature blend of wit, charm, and laugh-out-loud humour, Paddington in Peru finds the beloved, marmalade-loving bear lost in the jungle on an exciting, high-stakes adventure. Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt Lucy has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the wilds of Peru to look for her, the only clue to her whereabouts a spot marked on an enigmatic map.

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 Short Mat Bowls Club

Monday afternoons from 2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Davis Hall BA22 7QX
Everyone Welcome – beginners or professionals. Soft shoes and a sense of humour required.

Arts and Crafts Group

Sadly after running for 21 years and being a hive of activity at one time the West Camel Arts and Crafts group has put down its brushes for the last time.

West Camel Parish Council News

Spring must be in the air, there's lots of exciting things happening around the village.

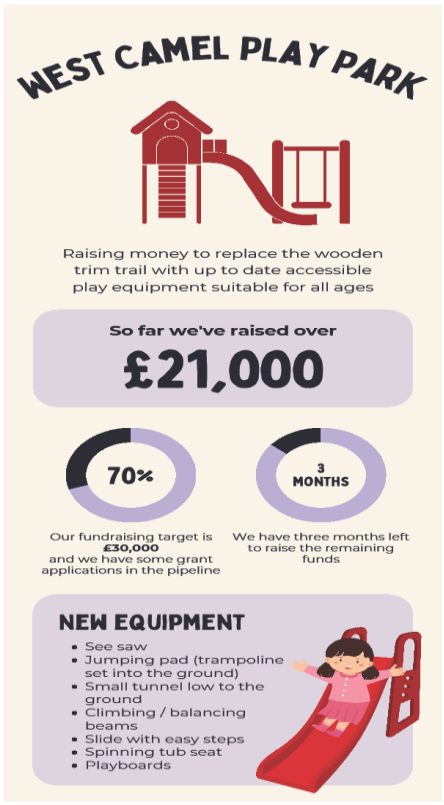
The playpark equipment renewal project is off to a great start with a £20,000 award from the national lottery.

Along with a fantastically successful quiz night held in March which raised £745 and several very generous donations the pot currently stands at over £21,000.

Further fundraising events are planned for the next few months so keep an eye out for the village emails. Further updates on the plans will soon also be released via the village email.

Mary Gordon has also very kindly offered to produce pastel pet portraits with all proceeds going to the playpark equipment renewal fund. A very generous offer from a talented local resident. Please contact Mary directly as below.

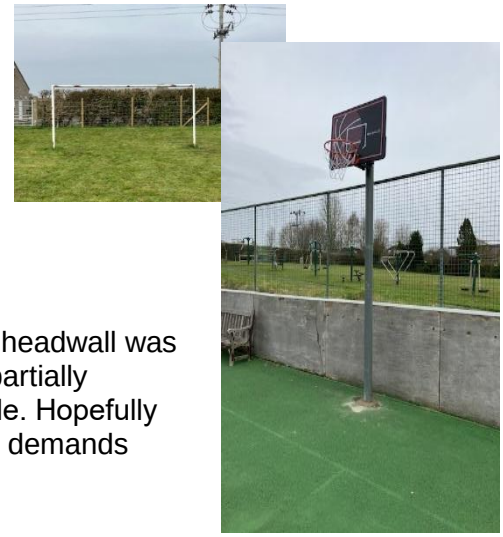
Mary Gordon
marygordon2901@gmail.com 07870408548
Linhay, Old Cotes, Parsonage Road, West Camel.



PET PORTRAITS FOR THE PLAYGROUND PROJECT

I will happily produce a pastel portrait of your pet for £50 (framed) all monies going to West Camel Playground Project. All I need is a good, well-lit photograph and a brief visit to get to know the subject a bit. I put them in inexpensive frames to keep the cost down. - Mary Gordon

Basketball backboard



Les Stevens and Jeff Stamp our village lengthsman, have recently reinstated the playpark basketball backboard. They have also redone the fence behind the goal posts so that the balls don't end up getting lost in the hedge!

Urgashay Ditch Update

Following a recent meeting with the landowners and SC Highways in the middle of March it was agreed that a headwall was essential. During times of inundation the headwall would be partially submerged, and a lesser construction wouldn't be maintainable. Hopefully the work should take place in early April, weather and farming demands permitting.

Installation of New Gates on Y27/18 at Mead Farm Lower Downhead

Two new gates have been provided by Somerset Council and were installed by the owner of Mead Farm where the footpath crosses his garden. **Gate A** (existing gate 16526) has been replaced by a galvanised footpath gate provided by SC. **Gate B** (additional gate previously unnumbered stile) inserted in the rear boundary of Mead Farm

New Playpark Signage

Following several reports of dogs in the playpark and on the playing field we have commissioned some new signage so there are no misunderstandings. There are many lovely footpaths where our furry friends are more than welcome!

West Camel Churches Together

7pm SPECIAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE
Details to be announced in due course.

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

Local Church 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.facebook.com/westcamelchurches
Website: www.westcamelchurches.org.uk

West Camel Gardening Club

West Camel Gardening Club upcoming events:

Wednesday 30th April 6pm
The Gold Club 25% discount evening at Castle Gardens.

Sunday afternoon 18th May
Visit to the private garden of Little Latch along with their neighbouring gardens near Yeovil with afternoon tea and cake.

Saturday 7th June 10am - 4pm
Plant sale at the bus stop in West Camel - plant donations will be welcome!

Your West Camel Events Diary

Mon pm	Short Mat Bowls @ The Davis Hall
Tue pm	Pilates 17:00
Wed pm	Model Railway Group
Wed Eve	Adult Ballet Class 19:30
Thu am	Coffee Morning & Post Office 09:15
Thu Eve	Scottish Dancing
Sat am	Model Railway Group
28th March	Film Night - *Conclave*
9th April	Book Club
25th April	Film Night – *Paddington in Peru*
30th April	Gold Club 25% discount evening at Castle Gardens
8th May	West Camel Parish Meeting
14th May	Book Club
18th May	West Camel Gardening Club – Visit to Little Latch
7th June	West Camel Gardening Club – Plant Sale

Event notifications by email: Register at westcamel.org.uk/communications

Next edition of 'The Chronicle' is scheduled to hit the 'news-stands' in early June 2025. If you have any news item or event you wish to publicise, please provide your draft to 'the editor' by 24th May - OTC.

MENU

WEST CAMEL CAFE

All proceeds go to the hall

DRINKS

Espresso	£ 1.00
Hot Chocolate	£ 1.00
Tea	£ 1.00
Latte	£ 1.50
Americano	£ 1.50
Mocha	£ 1.50
Flat White	£ 1.50
Cappuccino	£ 1.50

FOOD

Cake du jour	£ 1.00	Eggs on toast	£ 3.50
Bacon sandwich	£ 3.50	Poached	
Double egg sandwich	£ 3.50	Scrambled	
Add an egg	£ 1.00	Fried	

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!