WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE AUGUST 2024

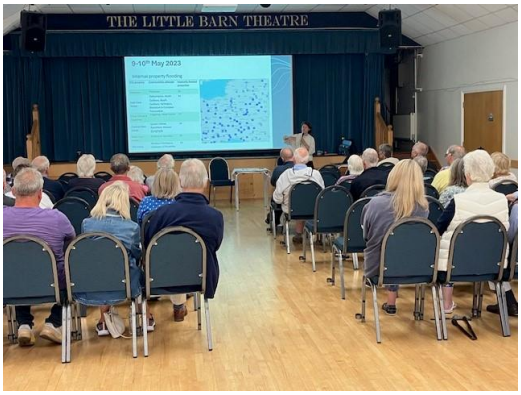
Flood Monitoring – New Monitoring Station in West Camel

The new River Level Monitoring device has been installed and will hopefully 'go-live' in September after some local training. The SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority), working with the EA (Environment Agency) are sponsoring the installation of 8 new radar monitors along the river Cam. These devices are powered by a solar panel and have mobile phone connectivity into 'the cloud'. Six devices are upstream of West Camel and the eighth will be installed at Bridgehampton.
All eight devices will be accessible 'on-line' and the local one will alarm at pre-set levels, hopefully directly to Flood Wardens and via a 'one-to-many' application, directly to residents' mobile phones.
In addition, WCPC are offering residents 'Height above sea level' (HASL) measurement at their threshold to compare with a similar measurement at the new gauge. This should allow individual residents to enact their personal Flood Plans.
This is an optional 'Extra' and surveys by our Flood Wardens / Councillors over the coming weeks will gather who wishes to take this service and / or will need support erecting flood barriers etc.

West Camel PC - Flood Mitigation Proposals

West Camel Parish Council have written, to and hand delivered a letter to each and every dwelling in the Parish, explaining their Flood Mitigation Proposals and how these will be funded. As up to £10,000 of Community Benefit Funds (CBF) may be expended on the initial phase of these works, Council felt everyone in the Parish should be consulted and an opportunity given to voice (in total confidence) any concerns they may have regarding the proposed funding.
If you haven't received a copy of this letter and would like to receive one electronically, please email the Clerk on clerk@westcamel.org.uk and a copy will be sent via email.

Somerset Council S19 Flooding Report Meeting



The following precis of the event was drawn up by Cllr. Cliff Baker: –

There were 2 parts to the day - the first part was to meet with Paul Ellison (SRA Community Engagement Officer) and Anna Meares (Somerset Council Flood Investigation Officer).

During the first part, a few members of the West Camel and Urgashay community came together to explain what the events looked liked last May. It also allowed us to walk Paul & Anna around the whole village so they could visualise and record what we explained.

The second part was an open meeting at The Davis Hall. This was reasonably well attended and gave Paul & Anna the opportunity to cover the following key points: -

* Explanation of what a Section 19 report is - in essence it provides a record and evidence of the flooding event. A Section 19 report is triggered when 10 or more properties (domestic or commercial) suffer internal flooding in the same event. The report also summarises key learnings, investigates possible causes and lists some recommendations for authorities and communities to consider and possibly implement.

* Anna explained there has been a delay for a few reasons. She wasn't in the role when it happened and has joined to help clear the backlog of reports required dating back as far as 2021 across Somerset. Things are getting back on track now.

* Timeline for the report. July 24th was our day. There are several other events like this in other affected communities and also meetings with professional bodies. The report will be published in December 2024.

* We were then presented with their summary of what happened, where the water came from and shared some feedback they had received through other reports in the run up to our meeting. During the presentation they asked and checked to make sure their understanding was accurate, and with the help of the people in attendance and using their experience - some points were amended to reflect things more accurately.

* There was also a section where they asked what could be done in the future to prevent a similar event and to look at our readiness for such an event, and what support may look like in the future. All of this will be in included in the report.

There was ample opportunity for those in attendance to question, challenge and add things and Paul and Anna did make notes.

It was also requested that any photographs / videos, that the community have, be emailed to them so they can catalogue and select any that helps support the content of the investigation and visually shows what happened and when.

The email address for this and other flood related topics for us all to use is - flooding@somerset.gov.uk. There is also a website which lots of people at the meeting hadn't heard of and that is https://swim.geowessex.com/somerset which is the Flood Online Reporting Tool (FORT). That website and email address would be good ones for us all to note and keep.

We will keep you all in the loop as and when more information becomes available to us.

Vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

In anticipation of Les' well-earned retirement at the end of March 2025 West Camel Parish Council are looking for a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The role covers general administration, book-keeping, enabling the efficient running of the council, organising meetings and assisting the chair.

Responsibilities include:
* administering the council's paperwork and governance, advising on procedure and implementing instructions of the council
* financial management of council accounts
* sending agendas, producing minutes and attending bimonthly meetings

You should be IT literate with competence in desktop applications such as email, Microsoft Word and Excel as well as having sound administrative, communication and organisational skills.

The role is 23 hours per month, home based and relevant training, handover and equipment will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more the current clerk, Les (clerk@westcamel.org.uk) or a previous clerk, Mary Gordon (marygordon2901@gmail.com) would be happy to give you a practical insight into the role.
Expressions of interest should be made as soon as possible to clerk@westcamel.org.uk

The Parsonage Crossroads Finger Post has returned!

The Finger Post, which was damaged following an altercation with 'Post Man Patricia' in December 2018 (not their fault – yet another driver ignored the Give Way markings – fortunately they only sustained minor injuries) - has returned!

The post was snapped in half and Graham 'Repair Barn' Garrett helped recover the lower half in Jan 2019 (using Tim's tractor)! He then welded the two halves back together – not easy with cast iron! And it's been in his garage ever since!

Then we had Covid…….!

Then the A303 works started and the junction was festooned with traffic signs etc making it unsafe for 'amateur' roadworks to take place.

On June 22nd volunteers Rich, Jane, Nick and Andy managed to re-erect the column and remount the fingers. Rich and Cath are due to repaint the column in traditional 'Raven Grey'. Its only taken 5 1/2 years – nothing really! It would never have happened if left to SCC Highways!

I wonder how long it will last……?

On the same 'Volunteer Day', Jeff, Andy, Chloe, Adrian and Paul (assisted by Judy and Dillon) were carrying out preparatory works in Howell Hill, locating missing sections of overgrown ditch and headwalls prior to some serious excavation later this summer. Many thanks to all these volunteers!

Weather Records from Mead Farm

May 2024
Maximum temperature: 26.7 C (80 F) on the 12th.
Minimum temperature: 2.2 C (36 F) on the 4th
Grass level minimum: 1.6 C (35 F) on the 4th.
Total rainfall: 130.6 mm (5.15 ins)
A very wet month, and the warmest May since 1989

JUNE 2024
Maximum temperature: 28.6C (83.5 F) on the 26th.
Minimum temperature: 4.2 C (39.5 F) on the 9th.
Grass level minimum: 1.8 C (35 F) on the 9th.
Total Rainfall: 14.8 mm (0.58 ins)
A very dry month, and the coldest June since 2013.

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

Book Group July 17th 2024

A group of eleven had applied ourselves to the nineteenth century language and style of Jane Eyre, eight of whom met to share our responses to this iconic novel. I, for one, seldom choose this period of

literature and found that it took time to absorb the descriptions of scene and the nuanced writing. But for all of us, it was a worthwhile challenge. The social constraints for single women and those without money occupied much of our discussion. We are always reminded of how fortunate we are to live in an age where we are educated and valued as equal partners in marriage and society generally. Originally published in three volumes, (under a male pseudonym) this would have been a groundbreaking work of literature that challenged the accepted norms of women's social standing and behaviour. It also had a critical view of the church with its charitable outlook that was dominating and often abusive. The story is melodramatic and, to our modern ear, over laboured, but it is at times gripping and was marked extremely highly by all.
Alongside Jane Eyre, we also suggested Jasper Fforde's 'The Eyre Affair', as a less intense read. In the end, a mere handful read this novel as well. It is creative and zany, stepping outside time and convention, and was highly recommended, particularly for those with a penchant for Terry Pratchett. Some of the absurd moments in it were 'stand out' and pet Dodos seem to have struck a particular chord close to the funny bone.

Dates in the diary:

Wednesday 14th August	Philip: The Final Portrait by Gyles Brandreth
Wednesday 11th September	Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
Wednesday 9th October	The Year of the Locust by Terry Hayes,
Wednesday 13th November	Behind Closed Doors by B.A. Paris
Wednesday 4th December***	The Silver Pigs by Lindsey Davis

Christmas Read: The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer

As ever, anyone is welcome to join us. A telephone call will confirm where we are meeting as The Walnut Tree has not always been open over the last few months. **07967991519**
Happy Reading. Melanie Smallwood

Film Night at The Davis Hall

Friday 23rd August - ***Wicked Little Letters***

The film selection for the coming four months has been made but is as yet unconfirmed.

Trailers can be watched on the Davis Hall website - www.davishall.co.uk - click on the icon for the film you are interested in.
All films - doors open 7 p.m. for 7.30 start;
Tickets on the door - £5 (£3.50 16 and under).
Comfortable new chairs and a warm hall.
Licenced Bar and tea/coffee available.

Arts & Craft Group

A reminder that the Art and Craft group continues to meet at the Davis Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm - 4.30pm.
We are a small, informal group that paint, draw, knit, crochet, sew and do various other crafts.

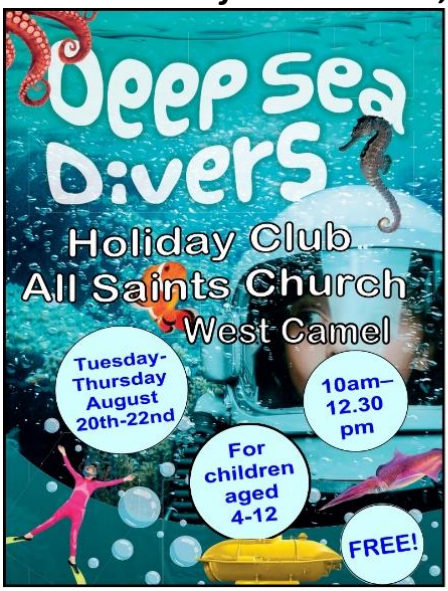
All for the pricey sum of £2 which includes tea and biscuits!

Visitors/ new members are always welcome.

WEST CAMEL CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sundays 4th August and 1st September 4pm.

An informal service, followed by a full tea



HOLIDAY CLUB DETAILS

Games, quizzes, crafts, Bible stories, songs, videos, and refreshments.
Lots of fun for everyone!
Free admission, but children must be registered, preferably in advance.
Safeguarding: all the club leaders are DBS checked.
Please contact:
Geoff.mead@yahoo.com
or phone 01935 850838.

Local Church contacts: Jenny Clothier 01935 850281, Geoff and Elizabeth Chapman 01935 850838.
Email: Geoff.mead@yahoo.com www.facebook.com/westcamelchurches
Website: www.westcamelchurches.org.uk

Theatre Group

First Theatre Group Rehearsal for Treasure Island in January 2025, is on 8th September 2024 at The Davis Hall, West Camel. If you have not as yet signed up and would like to be involved in any way, please contact Andy White - andyw9c@gmail.com so we can keep you informed of rehearsal times.

West Camel Parish Council

Council next meet on Thursday, 5th September at 19:30 in the Committee Room at The Davis Hall. As usual, details and an agenda will be posted on the notice boards 3 clear days before the meeting. There is a councillor vacancy should anyone feel the impulse to serve their community?

WEST CAMEL GARDENERS CLUB

Sunday 7th July – 'Host a Garden' event. Despite the threat of rain, we were given access to four very different private, members' gardens and treated to refreshments at the last one. A very pleasant way to spend a damp Sunday afternoon!
Saturday 17th August – ***West Camel Flower Show –*** Doors open for exhibitors at 09:00 with presentation of prizes taking place at 15:30 and a raffle with mega prizes donated by local businesses!

Your West Camel Events Diary

Mon pm	Short Mat Bowls @ The Davis Hall **Summer reses**
Tue pm	Art & Craft Group @ The Davis Hall
Tue pm	17:00 - Pilates
Wed pm	Model Railway Group
Thu am	Coffee Morning & Post Office 9:15.
Thu Eve	Scottish Dancing
Sat am	Model Railway Group
1st Aug	Welcome and Licensing of Revd Caroline Walker @ QC
4th Aug	Sunday @ Four
14th Aug	Book Club
17th Aug	West Camel Flower Show 09:00
23rd Aug	Film Night – *Wicked Little Letters*
1st Sep	Sunday @ Four
5th Sep	WCPC Meeting 19:30 in the Committee Rm @ The Davis Hall
8th Sep	First Theatre Group Rehearsal @ The Davis Hall
11th Sep	Book Club

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

Next edition of 'The Chronicle' is scheduled to hit the 'news-stands' in early August 2024. If you have any news item or event you wish to publicise, please provide your draft to 'the editor' by 24th September - 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 freshly made bacon (and egg) sandwiches!

St Margarets Hospice

My name is Holly, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Community Fundraiser for Yeovil and the East of the County. I have been with the hospice for two years, firstly as the deputy manager at our Martock Shop, and more recently as a finance assistant and I am thrilled to be joining the fundraising team and to be working with such an enthusiastic team of fundraising volunteers across my area.
I look forward to engaging with our wonderful community and contributing to the vital services that support our patients facing life limiting illness and their families during challenging times – our wonderful specialist nurses are currently providing palliative home care to 115 people across East Somerset.
From our Yeovil Hospice Hub we also offer a wide range of services, including:-

- Day Centre Services
- Physiotherapy, Lymphedema Servcies, Complementary Therapy
- Bereavement support and family and Children specialist support
- 24-hour advice line

In my role, I'll focus on strengthening community relations, organising events, and supporting volunteers to enhance the hospice's outreach and impact in our local community, ensuring that people facing life limiting illness can access our services when they need it and in our special St Margaret's holistic manner that includes the whole family.
I'd be delighted to hear about any fundraising ideas that you may have, and am more than happy to answer any questions - please feel free to contact me on either holly.hackett@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk, or by phone on 01935 709493 .

Does this sound familiar??????

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

A team had four members called **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done. **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody**'s job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it.

Nobody realized that it's **Everybody**'s job. **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.