Flood Mitigation Works

The planned Flood Mitigation works were completed on 11th November. Dead and overhanging trees as well as invasive scrub-growth were removed from the river banks and willow trees pollarded, from opposite 'Greystones' down-stream to the Parish boundary near Bridgehampton.

Many people have commented on how well the river is flowing and over the weekend of 23rd/24th November how the improved flow-rate and capacity helped mitigate the serious risk of further flooding.

The large 'Crack-Willow' tree shown here hadn't been maintained for many, many years and is known as a 'Lapsed Pollard' in Tree Surgeon speak. These indigenous trees have a habit of losing their branches (cracking-off) when they become overloaded and often fall into the river. In a worse case scenario, they become unstable and collapse into the river along with their earth bole.

A big **'Thank You'** to the four Riparian Land Owners (RLOs) who supported the works and removed all the recovered material / pollarded limbs from the river banks at their own expense. Two of the RLOs who qualified for Country Stewardship Grants have jointly funded around £2,500 + VAT of much overdue pollarding works. The remaining works at £6,750 + VAT, was well within the agreed budgeted requested from CBF funding. The West Camel Parochial Charities also made a sizable contribution which will reduce the CBF grant further.

This is the point in Chantry Lane where a tree and portion of river bank (near the bridge) collapsed into the river earlier this year. Our Contractor managed to remove the tree and much of the earth bole from the water course. A large overhanging Ash tree that was in danger of being undermined by river erosion, was substantially reduced in height to improve its stability.
Our thanks also go to **Russell Best of Key Contractors** for a fantastic job, well and expertly executed.
It all looks a little bare now but new growth in the Spring should soon soften the impact.

Vacancies for a Parish Councillor

West Camel Parish Council are pleased to welcome Jane Lawrence who was co-opted at November's meeting, but 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, Les Stevens, 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

September 2024
Maximum temperature: 23.9C (75 F) on the 19th.
Minimum temperature: 0.5 C (33 F) on the 13th.
Grass level minimum: –2.1 C (28 F) on the 13th.
Total Rainfall: 160.1 mm (6.30 ins.)

October 2024
Maximum temperature: 19.0C (66 F) on the 7th.
Minimum temperature: 0.6 C (33 F) on the 11th.
Grass level minimum: –2.5 C (27 F) on the 11th.
Total Rainfall: 105.9 mm (4.17 ins.)

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

Book Club review November 2024

'Behind Closed Doors' by B. A. Paris was an uncomfortable read with some challenges to credibility, but it was a catalyst for serious discussion on the topic of abuse in Marriage. The extreme threat to Grace, the main character in the book, was difficult to conceive of in the current technological age, but it was a reminder to us that no one is immune from deception, and that there are predators out in the community who have intelligence and social graces. Interesting that we were meeting in a week where the abuses by John Smyth have been so topical. As ever, our discussion expanded and drew on the experiences of many of us, in different walks of life. The novel is written in the first person, which gives one confidence that the main protagonist will survive.
Much of the writing was linear and rather lacking in variety of tempo and colour which some of us found turgid and repetitive. It is, however, a worthy read and scored between 5 and 8 with an average of 6+.

We have received many suggestions for our reading into the new year. I will write below the reading list and additional recommendations. **Please note that our December meeting is on The First Wednesday – 4th December.**

Happy reading.

Wednesday 4th December***	The Silver Pigs by Lindsey Davis
Wednesday 8th January	The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer
Wednesday 12th February	My son, my son by Howard Spring
Wednesday 12th March	Odyssey by Melanie Smallwood.
	(Please get in touch if you would like a PDF of the final draft.)
Wednesday 9th April	On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan
Wednesday 14th May	Trustee from the toolroom by Nevil Shute
Wednesday 11th June	Ruskin Park by Rory Cellan-Jones

Other recommendations:
The Paris Wife by Paula McLain

Less than Angels by Barbara Pym
Dissolution by DJ Sansom
The Dentist by Tim Sullivan

We meet at the Walnut Tree in West Camel at 7.30pm. **Happy Reading.**
Melanie Smallwood 07967991519

Film Night at The Davis Hall

Friday 13th December ***Wilding***

The next selection of films is awaited by the 'Film Committee' and will be published in due course.

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 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 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.

West Camel Parish Council

Council next meet on Thursday, 9th January 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.

This is the meeting where Council agrees the budget for 2025/26 and how much the Parish portion of Council Tax (The Precept) needs to be. Somerset Council (SC) have written to Town and Parish Councils, encouraging them to increase their Precepts, ahead of further potential service reductions as SC struggle to set a deliverable budget for 2025/26!

For the last 9 years West Camel PC and many other groups in the parish, have been fortunate to be able to call on the CBF (Community Benefit Fund), to help fund the larger capital expenditure projects, such as Flood Mitigation, Lengthsman Scheme, Traffic Calming and Notice Board refurbishment. 2025 will see the final payment from Southfield Solar Park, and if our community wishes to maintain Flood Mitigation and Lengthsman Scheme, then this funding will have to come from the Parish portion of Council Tax known as the 'Precept'.

Councillors will debate a substantial increase in the Precept for 2025/26 in order to pay for devolved services e.g. emptying existing litter / dog poo bins (3) at an estimated cost of £400 / bin / year (potentially £1200 next year), let alone the additional cost of installing additional dog poo bins as is frequently requested.

West Camel Churches Together

Happy Christmas to everyone!
A warm welcome to these events

Wednesday December 18th.
7pm

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

Sunday December 22nd. 3pm

CAROL SERVICE
Followed by refreshments*

Tuesday 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.

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

Your West Camel Events Diary

Mon pm	Short Mat Bowls @ The Davis Hall
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
4th Dec	Book Club
13th Dec	Film Night - *Wilding*
18th Dec	Carols on the Green 7'00pm
22nd Dec	Carol Service All Saints 3.00pm
24th Dec	Holy Communion Service All Saints 9:30pm
8th Jan	Book Club
9th Jan	West Camel Parish Council Meeting – Budget Setting.
12th Feb	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 February 2025. If you have any news item or event you wish to publicise, please provide your draft to 'the editor' by 24th January - 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

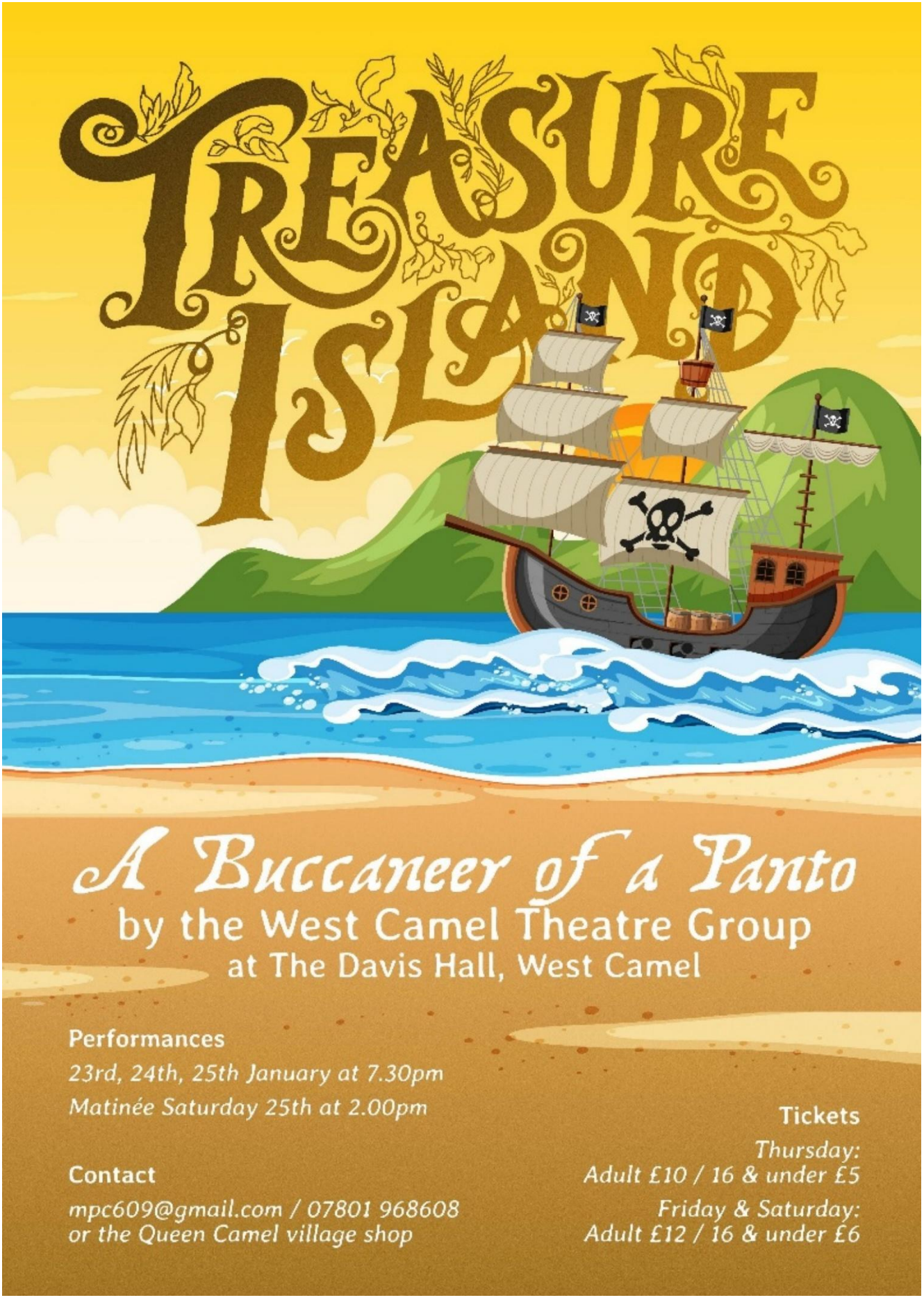
FOOD

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!


TREASURE ISLAND
A Buccaneer of a Panto
by the West Camel Theatre Group
at The Davis Hall, West Camel
Performances
23rd, 24th, 25th January at 7.30pm
Matinée Saturday 25th at 2.00pm
Contact
mpc609@gmail.com / 07801 968608
or the Queen Camel village shop
Tickets
Thursday:
Adult £10 / 16 & under £5
Friday & Saturday:
Adult £12 / 16 & under £6