WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE FEBRUARY 2025

A BIG THANK YOU!

Local Farmer Charlie Holland and his brave friend (they are actually in the bucket) selflessly came to the rescue and removed a large tree from the R. Cam which had come downstream and become lodged under Parsonage Rd bridge.

A big thank you from residents!
If we had a functioning pub….I am sure several people would happily buy you both a drink!

The tree had been reported to the EA by several residents and its removal was awaiting Somerset Council Bridges to inspect and arrange for their contractor to remove. In the meantime, the tree was trapping other debris and could potentially cause a flooding risk!

A follow-up thank you to Bob Pilling who went in the river afterwards and removed several smaller tree branches – well done Bob!

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, 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

November 2024
Maximum temperature: 17C (63 F) on the 10th.
Minimum temperature: -2.7 C (27 F) on the 20th.
Grass level minimum: -6.4 C (22 F) on the 20th.
Total Rainfall: 92.7 mm (3.65 ins.)

December 2024
Maximum temperature: 15.4C (60 F) on the 1st.
Minimum temperature: 0.2 C (32.5 F) on the 4th.
Grass level minimum: –2.6 C (27 F) on the 4th.
Total Rainfall: 32.5 mm (1.28 ins.)

Summary of 2024 weather
Highest maximum temperature: 31.9 C (89.4 F) on 31st July.
Lowest minimum temperature: –8.3 C (17 F) on 19th January.
Lowest grass level minimum: –10.4 (13.3 F) on 18th January.
Wettest month: September, with 160.1 mm (6.30 ins.).
Driest month: June, with 12.7 mm (0.51 ins.).
Wettest day: September 29th with 28.5 mm. (1.14 ins.).
Total rainfall: 898.5 mm. (35.37 ins.) – a little above average.
Warmest month: August – average daily mean temperature: 19.15 C (66.5 F).
Coldest month: January – average daily mean temperature 5.5 C (41.9 F).
Average daily mean temperature for the year: 11.8 C (53.2).*

*The warmest year in 61 years of records, beating 2023 by just 0.02 C.

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

On Wednesday 8th January 2025, we met at The Walnut Tree to discuss Bob Mortimer's novel, The Satsuma Complex'. This was a quirky, easy read, that had the author's humour in pockets within it, although it is not purely a comedy. There was a mystery at its core and some crazy moments that made us all smile. The imagined conversations with a squirrel allowed the main character to observe the twists and turns of the story in a delightful way. You knew that nothing really bad was going to happen. However, there was violence, and some swearing that was not appreciated by some of our group. It is a complicated plot that was tied up at speed towards the end. Our marks ranged from 5 to 10 with a healthy average of 7 ½.

The Walnut Tree is continuing to open for us on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm when we will be discussing the following books:

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 to borrow a copy 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: Blue Sisters by Coco Mellors
Happy Reading. Melanie Smallwood 07967991519

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 31st January 2025 The Critic
A deliciously dark and sharp-witted thriller, written by Patrick Marber and featuring an all-star British cast including Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Ben Barnes, Alfred Enoch.

Friday 28th February 2025 Thelma
In the first leading film role of her 70-year career, Squibb portrays the strong-willed Thelma with grit and determination, demonstrating that she is more than capable of taking care of business – despite what her daughter Gail (Posey), son-in-law Alan (Gregg), or grandson Danny might believe.

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.

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. 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

As mentioned in the December issue, in January, Council agreed their 2025/26 budget and set the Precept (the portion of your Council Tax Bill that funds your Parish Council).

Budgetary constraints within Somerset Council and the devolution of services (costs) 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. Similarly, the Environment Agency (EA) are also facing financial constraints and are unable to fund works they traditionally may have.

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. September 2025 will see the final payment from Southfield Solar Park.

The annual Precept 'charge' levied by West Camel PC for an average Band D property will increase from £60 to £117.02 which will generate a total income of £22,400 (£11,180 in 2024/25). Dwellings in higher or lower bands will pay more or less.

This increase will allow continuation of the 'Lengthsman' scheme, further flood mitigation, maintenance of public Rights of Way (e.g. Cottis) and provision / emptying of litter / Dog Poo bins.

The detailed budget is available via the Village web site. OTC (LS).

VOLUNTEER MOWERS NEEDED

Everyone benefits when our village looks cared for but unfortunately it doesn't look after itself!

The team that mows the village pond area and the churchyard is in need of more volunteers for the coming season.

Can you help at all? No experience necessary. If you may be able to help or for more information, please contact:
Jane Bennett on **07960035551** or email **pgsubs@aol.com**.

West Camel Churches Together

All Saints Church, West Camel
Wednesday 19th February
ONE DAY ONLY
10am–12.30pm

The WINNING TEAM

HOLIDAY CLUB
for children aged 4–11
Crafts, games, quizzes, Bible Stories, songs, videos and refreshments.
Lots of fun for everyone!
Free – but children must be registered – preferably in advance to help with catering.
For more information, or to register, please contact Geoff.mead@yahoo.com or phone 01935 850838.

SAFE-GUARDING: Our Club leaders have been DBS checked

"JARS OF CHANGE"

Once again *WaterAid* is inviting people to join their "Jars of Change" project.

This involves collecting cash in a jam-jar during Lent to help provide clean water and sanitation to those who lack it.

Jars, with labels, will be available at the Church. If you can help, please pick one up, or ask for one to be delivered.

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 Churchyard Needs You!!

Can You Help?
Our lovely churchyard is in need of a tidy-up before the start of the mowing season

There will be a work party on
Saturday 22nd February
10am – 12noon

Please bring gloves, rakes, secateurs, strimmer's etc. you may have, or just yourselves!
The more the merrier, all help will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Jenny Clothier 01935 850281 jenny@gpclothierandson.co.uk
with any queries or for further information

West Camel Gardening Club

Calendar events for the beginning of 2025.

Monday 10th February - JOINERS MEETING, 7pm at the Davis Hall £7 single, £12 joint annual fee. Refreshments and speakers Pauline and David Wright with a talk entitled *'Letting go of Lift the Latch and the birth of Little Latch'* their extensive experiences of creating their own gardens.

Sunday 23rd February - Day School *'From Seed To Fork'* with Greg Morter £25 per person advance booking essential. Please see below for more information.

Monday 17th March - 7.30pm start - Visiting Speaker, Steve Fry from Castle Gardens with a talk on *'Slightly Naughty Plants'* Steve takes a fun look at plants that cheat, steal and deceive, followed by poisons, aphrodisiacs, perception altering and other uses the doctor wouldn't recommend.

Wednesday 30th April at 6pm
25% discount shopping evening at Castle Gardens Sherborne.

Your West Camel Events Diary

Mon pm	Short Mat Bowls @ The Davis Hall
Tue pm	Art & Craft Group @ The Davis Hall
Tue pm	Pilates 17:00
Wed pm	Model Railway Group
Wed Eve	**NEW:** Adult Ballet Class 19:30
Thu am	Coffee Morning & Post Office 09:15
Thu Eve	Scottish Dancing
Sat am	Model Railway Group
10th Feb	West Camel Gardening Club Joiners Meeting @ The Davis Hall 19:00
12th Feb	Book Club
22nd Feb	Churchyard tidy-up 10am-12noon
23rd Feb	West Camel Gardening Club – Day School *'From Seed To Fork'* with Greg Morter. 10:00 – 16:00
28th Feb	Film Night – *Thelma*
6th Mar	West Camel Parish Council Meeting
12th Mar	Book Club
17th Mar	West Camel Gardening Club – Visiting Speaker Steve Fry *'Slightly Naughty Plants'*
28th Mar	Film Night - *Conclave*

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

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