WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE OCTOBER 2024

Flood Monitoring – New Monitoring Station in West Camel

The new River Level Monitoring device has been installed and will **hopefully 'go-live' in October** after some local 'soak-testing' by volunteers. Once wider access is permitted, the web site will show all 8 new gauges along the R. Cam as well as many other sites and rain gauges in the area.

The local gauge in West Camel will alarm at pre-set levels, directly to Flood Wardens and (hopefully) via a 'one-to-many' application, directly to residents' mobile phones.
There is also talk of an 'App' which will co-ordinate live data – more news as it arrives!

Surveys of previously affected properties in the parish are underway and data collected will be compiled into a revised Community Emergency Plan.

How individual householders respond to alarms etc is a personal decision and West Camel PC stress that responsibility for flood mitigation remains with the individual householder.

Vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Council are pleased to announce that they have appointed an Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer – **Mrs Angela Suter**.
Angela will work alongside our existing Clerk, Les Stevens, and will gradually assume the full responsibilities of the role over the next 6 months, becoming Clerk / RFO before 31st March 2025.

Angela is a very busy lady who in addition to working full time as a self-employed bookkeeper and office manager for several local businesses is also the Davis Hall Treasurer and active member of the Gardeners Club Committee – a true embodiment of the old adage 'if you want something doing – give it to a busy person'!

Vacancies for two Parish Councillors

West Camel Parish Council are currently short of two councillors. 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

July 2024
Maximum temperature: 31.9 C (90 F) on the 31st.
Minimum temperature: 7.9 C 46 F) on the 14th
Grass level minimum: 6 C (43 F) on the 11th.
Total rainfall: 72.7 mm (2.86 ins)

August 2024
Maximum temperature: 29.2C (85 F) on the 11th.
Minimum temperature: 5 C (41 F) on the 30th.
Grass level minimum: 4.5 C 40 F) on the 30th.
Total Rainfall: 27.5 mm (1.08 ins)

Regular Events, Clubs & Societies

West Camel Book Group

Book Club review of 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus

The main protagonist of Bonnie Garmus' book is the rather quirky Elizabeth Zott, whose passion for Chemistry is contagious. Set in the 1960's, the novel exposes the atrocious underestimation and limitation of Women in a male world, and especially in research. There are gruesome moments balanced with humour and an appealing honesty and determination in Elizabeth.
The story is pacy and has a handful of supporting characters who are genuine and loveable to balance the ferociously dark world of work. There is also a dog who is woven into the story in a delightful way. Inevitably there was much talk of the inequalities of that time and the current remnants. Less predictable was the diversion we made into politics where opinions were more varied and shared with honesty and respect. I think we all felt the book was a wonderful mixture of zany storytelling and real issues and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with scores averaging above 9.5 (after all, who is perfect…). The only criticism was that Bonnie Garmus painted men so darkly, either as oppressors or weakly going along with it. A more balanced view might have made less of a story, but it was nonetheless a biased view.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

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 27th September	*The Fall Guy*
Friday 25th October	*Swede Caroline*
Friday 29th November	*Vindication Swim*
Friday 13th December	*Wilding*

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 Churches Together

PROVISIONAL NOTICE:
We are hoping to have a one-day Children's Holiday Club on Tuesday 29th October.
If you are interested, please contact Geoff.mead@yahoo.com

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

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 Gardeners Club

Monday 21st October – A presentation by Stephen Parker, chairman of the Memorial Trust for Steep Holm Island. A talk on the history, flora and fauna of this uninhabited island in the Severn Estuary.

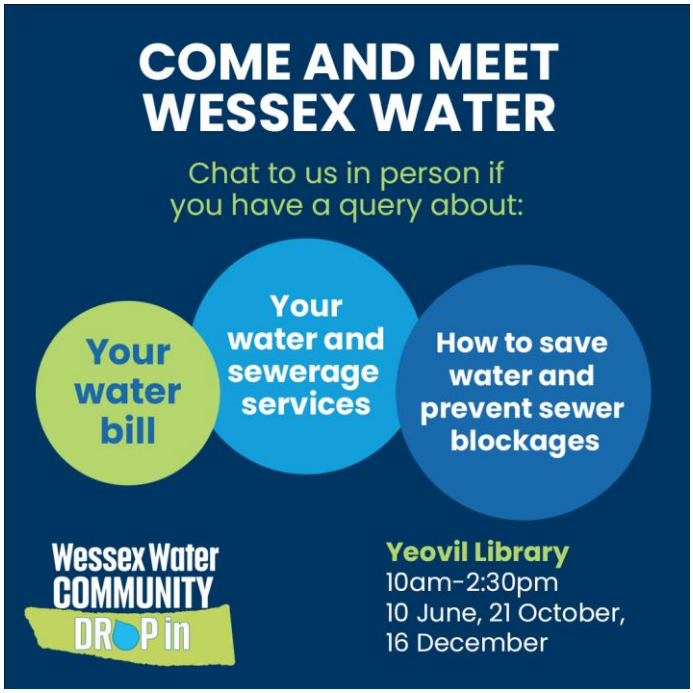
Monday 18th November – AGM with wine, nibbles and a gardening quiz.

St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club re-starts in September every Thursday from 7.30 -9.30pm. Always a fun evening– a warm welcome assured! First two visits free, then £2.00 per session, £1.50 for members. If you would like to give it a try, we have a **New Beginners Class for four Thursdays (5th, 12th, 19th and 26th) in September 2024 7pm - 7.3c0pm,** then you are welcome to stay on and enjoy the session 7.30 - 9.30pm. Bring soft flat shoes, and a mug.

See website **www.stmichaelsscdclub.org** or contact Elspeth **07972125617**

West Camel Parish Council

Council next meet on Thursday, 7th November 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.



Somerset Sight
Working with people who lack sight, not vision

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers across Somerset to work one-to-one with sight impaired people.

Our befriending service volunteers visit regularly to provide companionship and support to people with sight impairment.

We offer full training and support, and pay all reasonable out of pocket expenses, including mileage.

If you would like to know more about joining our friendly team, please contact us on 01823 333818 or email: admin@somersetsight.org.uk

Head Office Address:
Northfield House, 51 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1DG.
Tel: 01823 333 818 | www.somersetsight.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1154472 | Company number: 8432686

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
27th Sep	Film Night – *The Fall Guy*
9th Oct	Book Club
13th Oct	Harvest Festival – All Saints Church
21st Oct	Gardeners Club Talk – *Steep Holm Island*
25th Oct	Film Night – *Swede Caroline*
7th Nov	West Camel Parish Council Meeting 19:30
13th Nov	Book Club
18th Nov	Gardeners Club AGM
29th Nov	Film Night – *Vindication Swim*
4th Dec	Book Club
13th Dec	Film Night - *Wilding*

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

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