

WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE

VILLAGE FETE

20 June

The Playing Field
Duck Race @ 12.30pm
Fete 1pm-4pm

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

2 July

7.30pm at the Davis Hall
All Welcome

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

1 August

The Davis Hall
9am-11am Open to exhibitors
2.30pm Hall open
for exhibitors & public

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was held on Friday 29th May at the Davis Hall. The parish council decided to try a different format this year to foster a more social event and allow a focused one to one approach for matters of concern to individual residents. Small group tables were set up and a delicious selection of nibbles were provided along with wine and each table had a designated 'Councillor Hot Seat'.

The current Chair of West Camel Parish Council, Cllr Kathy Miller-Hunt opened the evening with an introduction to all councillors including those present from Somerset Council Cllr Henry Hobhouse and Cllr Kevin Messenger.

Cllr Mick Richens then talked about the Community Benefit Fund and what some of the money had been spent on since it's inception 10 years ago. As a village over the past 10 years we have received around a £100,000 we are very fortunate to have be in this position. Around 70% of this money has already been spent on projects in our village. Mick covered some of the recent applications and grants awarded and asked for suggestions from the community as to what they thought of as future projects that could benefit the village as a whole. Suggestions put forward were gates instead of stiles, clearing out the village pond and another dog poo bin.



Cllr Jane Lawrence who is our Flood Warden followed with a presentation regarding flooding and flood prevention, discussing work recently carried out on the River Cam and work that is still to be done. The focus was mainly on riparian rights and how if anyone needed assistance they could approach her - more in a later article in this edition of the chronicle.

Cllr Jo Roberts who was co-opted after standing forward at the 2025 APM and has made a flying start in her first year on the council and gave a short talk regarding how she had found her first year. Jo also relayed what had been happening with regards to the playground, tennis courts and playing field. Cllr Roberts is also our village volunteer co-ordinator and has built a core group of volunteers but new faces and their talents are always needed!

We would welcome your feedback on the evening to assist with planning ahead for the 2027 APM. Please email the clerk with your thoughts - good or bad, constructive feedback always welcome.

ALONG THE RIVER BANK

A WORD FROM YOUR FLOOD WARDEN

A gentle reminder to all the properties along the River Cam that have riparian rights, please can you ensure that the river is kept clear of any obstructions from your side of your property to the halfway point of the river.

What are Riparian Rights? - riparian ownership applies to anyone who owns property or land with a natural or man-made watercourse (such as a river, stream, brook, ditch, or culvert) running through, underneath, or along the boundary of it. Under common law, if your boundary adjoins a watercourse, it is assumed you own up to the centre line.

Your responsibilities include ensuring that there are no tree branches that will inhibit the flow of the river and that any obstructions in the river are cleared. If necessary contact one of the Flood Wardens for advice.

The Environment Agency and Somerset Rivers are no longer able to assist us in keeping the river clear of debris and overgrown vegetation as they no longer have the funding.

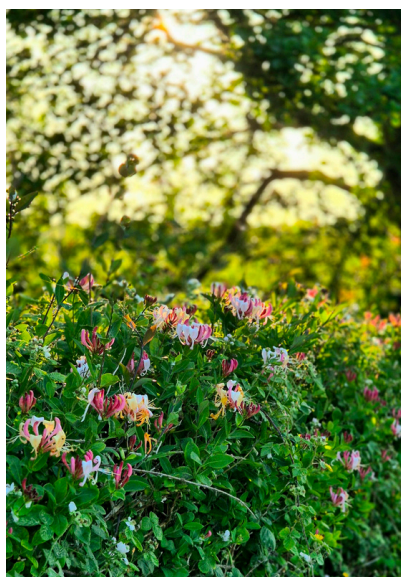
Now is a good time for us to sort this issue out whilst the river is at a low level. This allows us to walk along the river and remove small amounts of debris. This debris is best put along the river bank allowing it to drain before its removal.

The Parish Council does have a small boat which may assist, so if you feel you are not able to do the job on your own, then please contact the flood wardens and we will see if we can arrange a working party of volunteers to help. The last thing we want is for the river flow to become blocked and become a danger in flooding properties.

One more incentive for the river to flow without obstructions, is of course the upcoming Village Fete on 20th June when the famous Duck Race will take place. I would hate it for any of the ducks to get held up in vegetation and not make the finish line at Frog Lane.



Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated and if you have any queries or questions please ring me
Jane Lawrence on 07342 291432.



WEATHER RECORDS FROM MEAD FARM

March 2026

Maximum temperature: 18.9C (65 F) on the 31st.
 Minimum temperature: -2.2 C (28 F) on the 22nd.
 Grass level minimum: -4.6 C (24 F) on the 22nd.
 Total Rainfall: 24.6 mm (0.97 ins.)

April 2026

Maximum temperature: 23.7 C (74.6 F) on the 25th.
 Minimum temperature: -1.7 C (29 F) on the 6th.
 Grass level minimum: -2.9 C (26.8 F) on the 6th.
 Total Rainfall: 20.8 mm (0.82 ins.)

CLUBS, SOCIETIES & REGULAR EVENT NEWS

Films @ the Davis Hall

Friday 19th June H is for Hawk
 Friday 24th July Rental Family
 Friday 28th August Song Sung Blue

Doors open 7 p.m. for 7.30 start
 Tickets £5 on the door
 Licenced Bar, Tea and Coffee available

Please spread the news to anyone not online.

Gardening Club

SUNDAY 14th JUNE - MEMBERS HOST A GARDEN EVENT

A social visit to 3 of our members gardens in the afternoon with refreshments.

MONDAY 13th JULY - MEMBERS VISIT TO AVALON

An outing to visit a beautiful garden in Ilminster part of the NGS with afternoon tea.

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST - THE FLOWER SHOW at the DAVIS HALL

Gardening Club invite you our annual event which is open to all in West Camel and the immediate surrounding area.

We would love you to come along and take part in this fun event for all the family and see what can be grown, crafted, painted, made etc.

A programme of the classes for entry along with the timetable of events is available on request from anngant698@gmail.com

West Camel Flower Show
1 August 2026

All welcome – you don't have to be a member to enter

Programmes available from the Davis Hall or call Ann Gant (Secretary) 07544 515375

9.00 a.m.	Village Hall open to exhibitors
11.00 a.m.	Entries close & exhibitors to leave the Hall
11.15 a.m.	Judging of all entries begins
2.30 p.m.	Village Hall open to all
3.30 p.m.	Presentation of prizes for Show and raffle

WEST CAMEL BOOK GROUP

Sashenka by Simon Sebag Montefiore was well received by nearly everybody, and we all agreed that it was engaging. The writing was eloquent, evocative, informed and historically accurate. It was structured in three time zones, spaced generations apart. The drama within the structure kept us engaged although a completely new set of characters in the third section was demanding.

The dramatis personae were a mix of well researched historical figures in Russia, and inventions. All events were true to life at the time and attributed to these fictional characters.

There is brutality and violence but it is not indulgently written - more a part of history and integral to the story - which made it less distasteful. It is a page turner and personally I loved it.

Generally it was well received gaining average marks of 7 1/2 but there were some for whom it was very long and for others it was too gloomy. Certainly the cover would suggest that it is a fluffy romance, which is deceptive. Well worth it for those who are interested in Russian history.

Next month we are discussing The Danger Tree by Olivia Manning. It is the first book of the Levant Trilogy.

On Wednesday July 8th at The Walnut Tree - Stella Rimington - At Risk

West Camel Cafe

Everyone welcome, our village café is open 9:15 to 12:00 every Thursday morning at the Davis Hall West Camel.

We serve a range of cakes, breakfasts, coffees and other hot drinks at pre-covid prices! (All proceeds to the village hall.)

Collect prescriptions, access the mobile post office or get your goodies from the A303 bakery who bring fresh produce every week and kindly donate bread for all our bacon sandwiches.

Other local traders also bring provisions for you to purchase, and books and jigsaws are available to borrow or swap in the foyer of the hall. Wifi, heating and a sense of humour all provided FOC.

We look forward to seeing you!

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



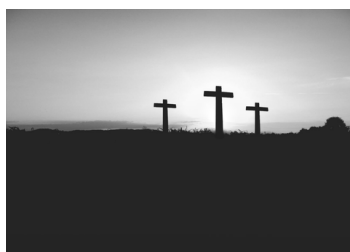
FOOD

Cake du jour	£ 1.00	Eggs on toast	£ 3.50
Bacon sandwich	£ 3.50	Poached or scrambled	
Sausage sandwich	£ 3.50	Eggs Benedict	£ 6.00
Cooked breakfast		Bacon	Egg
Any four items	£ 4.50	Sausage	Tomato
Add any item	£ 1.00	Black Pudding	Mushrooms
		Baked Beans	Toast/Fried Bread

West Camel Churches Together

Geoff Chapman's talk on "Weather Lore: 62 years of West Camel Weather" on 8th May raised £260.10 for Church funds after expenses.

A 16-page summary, including spreadsheets and photos, is available at the Davis Hall. Cost: 50p to cover printing.



"Sunday @ Four"

The first Sunday of the month at 4pm.

An informal united service, followed by a full tea.

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

LOCAL CONTACTS

Rev. Caroline Walker (07765 126355)
 Email: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com
 Jenny Clothier (01935 850281)
 Geoff and Elizabeth Chapman (01935 850838)
www.westcamelchurches.org.uk
www.facebook.com/westcamelchurches

THE DAVIS HALL



This year is the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the village hall. The Trustees are trying to organise an event, to be held on the afternoon of Sunday, 11th October 2026. Please pop the date in your diaries.

We would also like to ask anyone who may have some 'memorabilia' in the way of photographs of events, or other happenings relating to the hall during the last 25 years, if you would be happy to loan them so we can make a display.

Please contact Alison Stevens (alison6ostevens@outlook.com) or Mary Gordon (marygordon2901@gmail.com)



Don't forget the duck race

£1 a duck from Chris Kirkham

kirkham.chris@gmail.com

07795 467013

Return your decorated ducks to Chris by 19th June

Next Chronicle
August 2026

If you have anything you would like added to the next Chronicle please email it by 25th July to clerk@westcamel.org.uk



West Camel VILLAGE FETE

A FUN AFTERNOON FOR THE COMMUNITY!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE

1-4 PM

ON THE VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD

 **PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE DAVIS HALL**

EVERYONE
WELCOME!



DUCK RACE

Contact Chris Kirkham on
07795 467013
for a **£1** duck



MEET OUTSIDE
THE PUB FOR
THE LAUNCH
AT 12.30



**BOUNCY
CASTLE**



TRACTORS



BAR & BBQ



TEA & CAKE



STALLS



**COMPETITIONS
AND PRIZES**



BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC CHAIRS OR BLANKET

♥ AND JOIN US FOR A ♥

fun afternoon

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

