WEST CAMEL CHRONICLE

FILM NIGHT

30th October

The Davis Hall
Doors open 7pm
'The Devil Wears Prada 2'

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

05 November

7.30pm at the Davis Hall
All Welcome

DAVIS HALL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

11 October

The Davis Hall
2.30pm-4.30pm
An afternoon tea celebration

THE OLD SCHOOL QUEEN CAMEL

The Old School in Queen Camel has recently featured in a paper released by the Demos think tank (p25 and p26) who champion community developments which bring real value to the people they serve.



"*By the year to March 2025, the [Queen Camel Community Land] trust was generating £157,519 in income through rents, service charges, ground rents and grants, against £300,982 of tangible fixed assets, and posted a £33,789 surplus. Crucially, the structure lets it do what a conventional small commercial landlord could not: because most of the capital cost of the building was covered by grant and community share capital rather than a market-rate mortgage, the trust doesn't need every square foot to earn a commercial rent. It can let modest rooms to a single therapist, a single café operator or a single start-up at a rent that operation can actually afford*"

The Old School in particular was singled out as a successful venture in the footsteps of the Gabriel's Wharf initiative by Coin Street Community Builders which you may have read about in the news recently.

It is so heartening to see the results of hard-working volunteers in our communities being recognised nationally like this!

Next Chronicle
December 2026

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

WEATHER RECORDS FROM MEAD FARM

July 2026
Maximum temperature: 35.8 C (96.4 F) on the 10th
Minimum temperature: 7.6 C (45.7 F) on the 20th
Lowest grass minimum: 5.6 C (42 F) on the 3rd.
Average daily mean temperature: 21.17 C (70.1 F)
Total rainfall: 1.3 mm (0.05 ins.).

August 2026
Maximum temperature: 37.6 C (99.68 F) on the 13th*
Minimum temperature: 6.3 C (43.3 F) on the 22nd
Lowest grass minimum: 4.4 C (39.9 F) on the 7th.
Average daily mean temperature: 19.72 C (67.5 F)
Total rainfall: 48.8mm (1.92 ins.).
*a new all-time high.

CLUBS, SOCIETIES & REGULAR EVENT NEWS

Film Night @ the Davis Hall

Friday 30th October The Devil Wears Prada 2



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.

The Autumn list of films to be shown at The Davis Hall can be found below:

27th November 'The Christophers'
18th December 'My Mother's Wedding'

WEST CAMEL BOOK GROUP

On a Wednesday in September we gathered around a large table at The Walnut Tree and enjoyed sharing our thoughts about Chloe Dalton's book, Raising Hare.

This is a non-fiction story of how she found an abandoned leveret just at the start of lockdown and became involved in nurturing the young hare to maturity. She endeavoured not to treat it as a pet, attempting to respect the natural world of a hare and adapt her home and her life to allow it the freedom it needed to reintegrate into the wild.

Her style was revelatory and her research easily flowed into the text with interesting relevance. She writes clean prose that is concise, but for some the story could have been compacted to avoid repetition. It was also noted that for all her attempts to honour the hare's integrity as a wild creature, she did compromise at times. Nonetheless this is a restful book to read that has charm and engages the reader in the natural world. The marks given were pretty consistently 7/10

West Camel Book Group
future meeting dates:

October 14th	Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
November 11th	Killing Floor by Lee Child
December 9th	Murder under the Mistletoe by Rev. Richard Coles

January 13th 2027 The Names by Florence Knapp



West Camel Cafe

The team at the West Camel Café extend a warm welcome to familiar faces and new visitors every Thursday morning at the Davis Hall.

We serve homemade cake, proper coffee and cooked breakfasts and all profits go directly back into the hall to maintain this fabulous community space.

The A303 Bakery stall and the Post Office are always there, as well as occasional pop ups from other local producers. Come along and say hi to us!



WEST CAMEL CHURCHES TOGETHER



HARVEST FESTIVAL

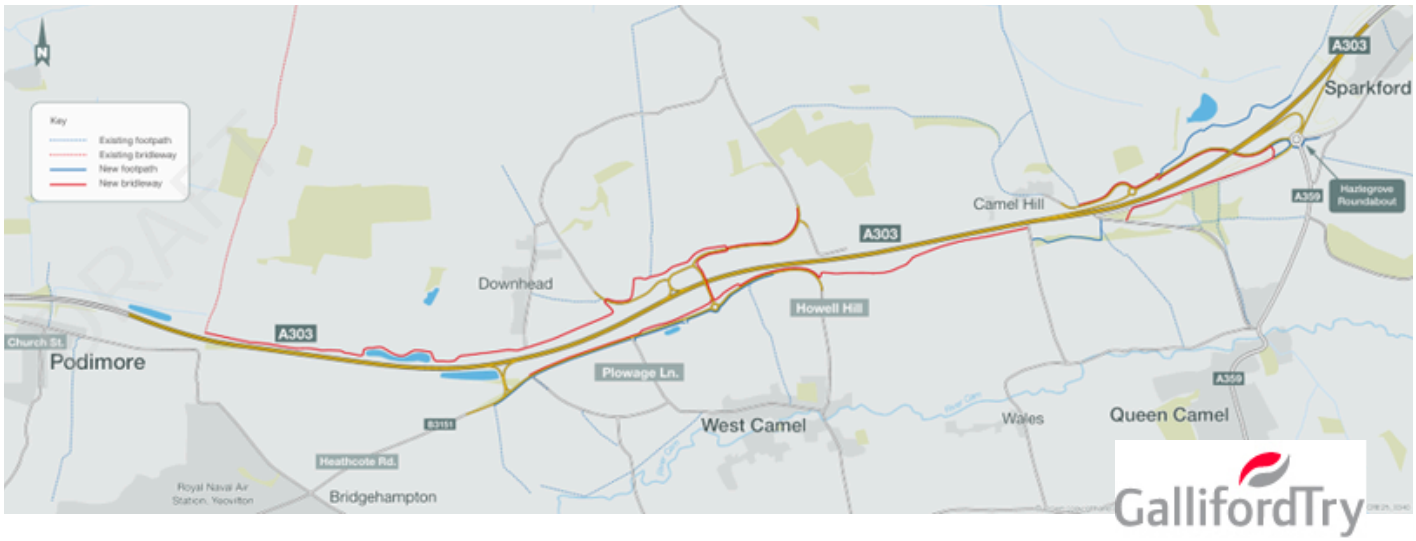
Our united Harvest Festival on 13th September was well-attended. There was a wonderful display of flowers, fruit, vegetables and other produce. After the morning service 21 people enjoyed a harvest lunch. After the evening service, the perishable items, including fruit and vegetables, plus home-made jam, etc. were sold in return for donations. A large quantity of tinned and packaged food was taken to "The Lord's Larder" food bank at Yeovil. Total proceeds of the day (after expenses) were £456. This has been shared between the *Farming Community Network* and *Tearfund*. Thanks to all who helped in any way, whether by giving, donating produce, or decorating the church.

LOCAL CONTACTS

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

PARISH COUNCIL CHATTER

Ride or Stride - it's now official



A message from Galliford Try

The A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester has now been handed over to National Highways for operational maintenance, with the local roads being handed over to Somerset Council.

We wanted to mark this moment by writing to you to thank you for your patience and understanding over the past five years. We have really appreciated this.

The dualling scheme set out to improve journey times, reduce congestion and improve road safety on the A303 and we believe that all three objectives have been delivered.

The completion of the bridleways and footpaths, which connect local communities, marks a significant moment, contributing to improved safety and reduced severance between local villages. The connections are now open providing improved links for local ramblers, cyclists and horse riders. A map showing the location of these routes is attached for your convenience.

As part of the work, the scheme also planted the equivalent of more than 30 football pitches of woodland and linear belts of native trees as well as over 10,000 linear meters of hedgerow. We also installed more than 300 bird, bat, dormouse and owl boxes, to support wildlife relocation during the construction phase. The planting and landscaping will continue to be maintained until 2031 as part of the contract with Galliford Try.

Calling local landowners

GIANT TREE CIRCLE

The Giant Tree Circle, a community tree planting project building a Giant Circle of Trees across England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland, with its centre on Anglesey in North Wales. A symbol of hope, sustainability and togetherness.

Last year, our community planted 586 native trees across the Circle with the help of landowners, schools and volunteers. This year, we're taking it one step further... planting 5,000 trees.

Parts of the West Camel Parish Council area sit on the Circle, and we'd love to explore how the local community might get involved. This involvement could include planting native trees on community or council land, connecting us with landowners, schools and community groups, or simply helping us spread the word.

• Queen Camel •
Community Land Trust Ltd

OLD SCHOOL
QUEEN CAMEL

Café Opportunity in Queen Camel – Operator Wanted

We are looking for an enthusiastic and capable **café operator** to take on the running and development of an established community café situated within a beautiful **Victorian Grade II listed former school building**.

The café has approximately **30 covers** and is an integral part of a wider community enterprise that provides community access to **health, wellbeing and creative services** as well as opportunities for small businesses.

Our ethos is based on **inclusivity, helpfulness, kindness and collaboration**, and the café plays an important role in bringing people together. Dogs have always been welcome.

We are open to exploring different ways of operating the café and would welcome interest from:
- an experienced **café tenant**; or
- a **self-employed café manager**; or
- an **independent organisation** such as a charity, CIO, CIC, partnership or social enterprise with the skills and capacity to manage and operate the café.

We want to find someone who can combine **good commercial and hospitality skills with a genuine commitment to community and, where appropriate, to support learning, training and employment opportunities for people with learning needs.**

The successful person will ideally:
- have experience of running, managing or developing a café or other hospitality business;
- be able to operate the café in a financially sustainable way;
- provide a welcoming, friendly and inclusive customer experience;
- work positively with the CLT Board and other enterprises within the community complex; and
- value the café's role as a community meeting place.

There is scope for the right person to bring their own ideas and develop the café's offer while retaining its community character.

More than just a café - it has become a **core facility within the community complex**. We are therefore looking for a person who sees an opportunity to be part of something broader than a standalone catering business.

Interested?

We would initially like to have an informal conversation with people or organisations who feel that this opportunity could be right for them.

At this stage, we are keen to hear about **you, your experience, your ideas and the type of arrangement you would be looking for**. We do not expect a detailed proposal at this point but we will require a business plan ahead of any decision.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact:

Email: admin@oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk **or Telephone:** 07486 385224

We would love to hear from you.

Queen Camel Community Land Trust Ltd.
Websites: www.queencamelcommunitylandtrust.org.uk and www.oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk