

May 2026

The Camels



Late News / Stop Press

We're delighted to welcome Penny Blackburn to the village as the new owner of The Mildmay Arms, along with the return of Rachael Adey as Front of House Manager.

Penny and Rachael are committed to bringing The Mildmay Back to the heart of the Queen Camel community.

To celebrate, they're planning an "Under New Management" launch over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Everyone is warmly invited—keep an eye out for more details about their plans!

Magazine

The Vale of Camelot Churches Ministry Team

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Queen Camel Email:	Queencamelvillage@gmail.com
West Camel website:	www.westcamel.org.uk
West Camel Email:	info@westcamel.org.uk

St Barnabas Church Website: www.stbarnabasqueencamel.org.uk

Vale of Camelot Benefice Website: www.valeofcamelotchurches.org

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WEATHER RECORDS FROM MEAD FARM, DOWNHEAD

March 2026

Maximum temperature: 18.9 C (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.)

Thought for the month . . .

Through Lent I read 'The Rainbow of renewal' by Michael Mitton.

Michael came to preach at North Cadbury church in February and is leading a Benefice retreat for us in October. (Please get in touch with the church office if you want more details about this. All are welcome.)

There were some very poignant readings and reflections in his book and it led to me thinking about my personal cost of following Jesus.

From what we know of the apostles they appear to have surrendered all they knew, their lives and their experience, to learning whatever Jesus could teach them from the moment he called them.

We know very little of how their dependants managed while they were travelling from region to region watching, listening and experiencing life on the road with God.

I wonder was there ever a Jewish mother who wondered whether her son was being taken care of properly, or maybe a wife who had the soul responsibility for the children while her husband was away on a "jolly"? Did friends and relatives cover the gaps which were made as the men joined Jesus?

Some of Jesus' teaching is quite hard on the things we need to do in order to become his disciples. I wonder how well it would be accepted in today's world? Actually we are given the same invitation. 'Come and follow me.....'

"Don't worry about what you will eat and what you will wear, for if God clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds and wild animals how much more will he care for us, his children?" (Matt 6:25...)

I have "followed Jesus" since my late 20's. It's not all been plain sailing, I've fallen out with God/ Jesus/Holy Spirit many times along the way. The best bit is God is so much bigger than we can imagine and he can cope with me having a hissy fit, he still loves me, he still delights in me. He's still more than interested in everything I do, think and say.

My cost is nowhere near the price Jesus paid for me to be able to call God Abba, daddy. Like the apostles I have been known to fall asleep while I pray, I may even have caused others to fall asleep during a prayer! (or a talk)

But I am forgiven for holding grudges, being unloving, gossiping, coveting, thinking ill of someone, putting myself first, to name just a few and the difference I know God makes in my life is awesome.

The world needs so much more than any government can do to bring real peace. Because of what Jesus did on the cross we can trust Jesus to start something new, if we choose follow him.

Julie Ebsworth

Queen Camel Cares

A village-based support network for anyone requiring a bit of extra help at times when life is particularly challenging. Please ring Morwenna Ford (07879 845 445) or Paul Davis (07928 739 418)

THE VILLAGE CAFE

QC Memorial Hall

**TUESDAY
12TH MAY**

10.30 am - 12 noon



- *Book & Jigsaw exchange
- * Lord's Larder collection box
- * Digital Cafe

**Come and enjoy a cup of coffee
and a bite of something delicious
and meet up with friends old & new**

***Profits from the Village Cafe will be
donated to the Friends of St Barnabas***

ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS : MAY 2026

COMING UP . . .

Church Path Fayre will take place on **Saturday 6th June** from 12.30 – 3.30 pm and we guarantee a great afternoon for all the family. We have a wide variety of stalls and attractions and if you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with Paul Davis (07928 739 418), Harriet Chappell (07880 714 559) or Morwenna Ford (07879 845 445). Also, if you have any items you would like to donate to any of the stalls or the raffle, please get in touch with Paul, Harriet or Morwenna who will be happy to take delivery or arrange collection.

HAPPENINGS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS . . .

Easter Day Communion at 9.30 am was taken by our Interim Minister, Revd Caroline Walker and one child did particularly well in the Easter Egg hunt afterwards!

AND A REMINDER . . .

Bumps, Tots & Toddlers has returned to its Wednesday morning slot in the Memorial Hall between 10.00 am and 12 noon. Parents/Grandparents/Nannies with pre-school age children are all invited. There is a small charge of £3 per family to cover refreshments, hall hire, etc. Please contact Morwenna (07879 845 445) if you require further information. We'd love to see you – we have a great deal of fun!

The Lord's Larder Food Bank (Yeovil Christian Support Trust) is a local 'bank' of non-perishable food operated by volunteers from churches in and around Yeovil. In the present economic climate, demands upon the Lord's Larder continue to be extremely high. We have a collection box inside the church to the right of the glass doors and any donations will be most gratefully received. Donations can also be left in the Memorial Hall during the Village Café each month.

The Churchyard – two sections have been cordoned off to allow the wild flowers to flourish. Please keep an eye open for what comes up.

Dog mess in the Churchyard: Despite notices asking anyone with a dog to **ensure** that it is kept on a lead, dog mess has become a problem all across the churchyard. Please do be considerate and keep your dog on a lead within the grounds of the church AND clean up behind it.



From the Registers:

Date	Service	Name	Venue (Parish)
21 st March	Wedding	Maisie-Jane Stamp Martin Liley	All Saints', West Camel
2 nd April	Funeral	Gillian Giles	St Barnabas', Queen Camel
7 th April	Funeral	Brenda Tingay	All Saints', West Camel
11 th April	Wedding	Alice Meakin	St Michael's,
	Blessing	Zak Deere	North Cadbury
17 th April	Burial of Ashes	David Windle	St Barnabas', Queen Camel

WEST CAMEL INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH



Meeting at All Saints Church

Affiliated to the Independent Methodist Churches



Reg. Charity No. 1205373

May	3rd	4pm	“Sunday @ Four” (U.S)
“	10th	6pm	Clarence Spracklen of Milborne Port
“	17th	6pm	Mac Kingsbury of Yeovil (H.C.)
“	24th	6pm	Kate Rawlins of Gillingham
“	31st	6pm	Revd. Caroline Walker and Ray Ursell (U.S.)

(U.S. = United Service. H.C. = with Holy Communion)

All PM services are followed by refreshments

“Sunday @ Four” includes a full tea.

To listen to our Sunday sermons, go to www.westcamelchurches.org.uk
and select ‘Sermons’

WEST CAMEL CHURCHES : EASTER SERVICES

Due to bad weather, our Good Friday morning service had to take place inside the church. A good number attended and afterwards enjoyed hot cross buns and other refreshments. About a dozen children took part in the Easter Egg Hunt. A good number also joined us on Easter Sunday.

CONTACTS:

Revd. Caroline Walker (07765 126 355) Email: carolinewalker@btinternet.com

Jenny Clothier (01935 850 281)

Geoff & Elizabeth Chapman (01935 850 838) Email: Geoff.mead@yahoo.com

Friday 8th May 7pm
The Davis Hall, West Camel



‘WEATHER LORE’



Sixty-two years of West Camel weather

An illustrated talk by Geoff Chapman
Admission £5 (children free)
Refreshments (donations welcome) : raffle
Proceeds for All Saints Church

VALE OF CAMELOT CHURCHES

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2026

Date	Location	Time	Service	Officiant
Sunday 3 rd May	Yarlington	9.00am	Breakfast Church	Lesley/Julie
	Queen Camel	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Michael/Caroline
Easter 5	Corton Denham	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ron Wood
	North Cadbury	11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Michael/Caroline
	West Camel	4.00pm	Tea @ Four	United
Sunday 10 th May	Galhampton	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Peter/Caroline
	Sutton Montis	11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Peter/Caroline
Easter 6	West Camel	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ron Wood
	West Camel	6.00pm	Methodist Service	Methodists
Tuesday 12 th May	South Cadbury	12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	Caroline Walker
Thursday 14 th May	Bruton	7.00pm	Deanery Ascension Day Holy Communion (CW)	Jonathan Evans Bp Fiona
Sunday 17 th May	Queen Camel	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Caroline Walker
	Little Weston Farm	10.30am	Rogation Service	Rose Hoskins
Easter 7	North Cadbury	11.00am	Sunday Worship	Ron Wood
	Sparkford	11.00am	Morning Worship	Alison Parris
	West Camel	6.00pm	Methodist Service	Methodists
	Yarlington	6.30pm	Sung Evensong (BCP)	Lesley Gillingham
Sunday 24 th May	South Cadbury	9.30am	Morning Worship	Rose Hoskins
	Weston Bampfylde	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ron Wood
Pentecost	North Cadbury	11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Alison Parris
	West Camel	6.00pm	Methodist Service	Methodists
	Galhampton	6.30pm	Evening Service	Ron Wood
Sunday 31 st May	Sutton Montis	10.30am	United Service Holy Communion (CW)	Caroline Walker Bp Fiona
Trinity Sunday	West Camel	6.00pm	Methodist Service	Methodists

Prayer in the Parishes during May

Our Interim Minister, the Revd Caroline Walker, will be praying in and for our parishes on a regular basis and would welcome anyone wishing to join her in our churches at the following times:

Mon 4 th		<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon 18 th	9.00am	Queen Camel
Tue 5 th	5.00pm	Sutton Montis		6.00pm	Sparkford
Wed 6 th	9.00am	Yarlington	Tue 19 th	5.00pm	Sutton Montis
	6.00pm	Galhampton	Wed 20 th	9.00am	Yarlington
Mon 11 th	9.00am	Queen Camel		6.00pm	Galhampton
	6.00pm	Weston Bampfylde	Mon 25 th		<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tue 12 th	5.00pm	Corton Denham	Tue 26 th	5.00pm	Corton Denham
Wed 13 th	9.00am	North Cadbury	Wed 27 th	9.00am	North Cadbury
	12.30pm	West Camel		12.30pm	West Camel
	5.00pm	South Cadbury		5.00pm	South Cadbury

Bruton & Cary Deanery
Ascension Day
 Deanery Eucharist
 Thursday May 14th
 at 7.00pm
 St Mary's Church,
 Bruton
 Guest Preacher:
 Rt Revd Fiona
 Gibson,
 Bishop of Taunton
 All Welcome



A celebration of Rogation

A time of asking blessings on our fields, crops
 and animals
SUNDAY 17th May

Meeting at 10.30a.m.
 At Little Weston Farm Little Weston
 Yeovil BA22 7HP

(by kind permission of the King Brain family)

Followed by a short walk through the village
 followed by refreshments

Please bring shoes/boots suitable for walking

ALL WELCOME
 Including well behaved dogs on leads



Arthur Soper : 1931 - 2026

We are sad to report the death of this wonderful man who was a stalwart of Queen Camel for many years. He lived with his wife, Mary, in Sawpit (next to the Supply Stores) and although he suffered greatly for the past 20+ years, he could often be seen standing near his gate chatting and smiling to passers-by.

Arthur was a prime mover in the establishment of the Playing Field in the early 1950s which, surprising as it may seem today, faced great opposition from some in the community. He enjoyed sport and played for the cricket and hockey teams. He also became very involved with the Queen Camel Players. He was a passionate gardener and a glance at all the cups and trophies held by the Gardening Club will testify to his success in many of the classes.

After serving his National Service in the RAF, Arthur worked for many years as a mechanic with Ridouts Garage in the village (now nos 1-4 Chapel Court in the High Street) and, after it closed, worked for Westlands in Yeovil. He also drove our resident County Court Judge to court and to social events in the 1960s & 70s and had some amusing tales to relate.

We send our condolences to Mary and to their sons Andrew & David and their families. A lovely man who will be greatly missed.



Will you be attending?

Queen Camel Parish Council
invites you to:

THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Friday 15TH May 2026

Queen Camel Memorial Hall

This annual event brings the community together to keep informed and discuss local achievements and concerns.

6.00pm: Doors open, complimentary drink and nibbles

6.40pm: Performance by Countess Gytha School Choir to open.

6.45pm: - Formal business with invited key speakers

- Update on key Community matters

- Opportunity for updates from local clubs/organisations



ALL WELCOME.

PLEASE COME ALONG, WE 'LL SEE YOU THERE.



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Do you know someone who loves reading but is unable to get to their local library for health, mobility or caring reasons?

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- Blood pressure monitors



For more information phone **07814 079 831**
scan or visit www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/health



Somerset
Council



Report from the Queen Camel Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) did not have a full council meeting in April but it did meet on 20 April 2026 to consider a planning application and a number of other matters. The Finance, Personnel and Risk Committee also met then.

The matters to note from these meetings are:

- the PC is investigating ways to improve the drainage at the culvert under the road by the Old School and along the Henshallbrook on the Sutton Montis Road, both of which flood in heavy rain. Discussions were held on the possibility of getting a grant from the Somerset Rivers Authority, which will be followed up at the next meeting. It was also noted that riparian owners have a duty to keep their banks along rivers and streams clear.
- Concern has been noted on the drainage arrangements during the construction phase on the new development on West Camel Road. It was agreed to follow this up with the developer.
- Concern has been expressed at the proposals to much reduce local views on planning applications with the power of a parish council to have an application called-in for consideration by a planning committee being in substance removed. This would allow planning officers with little local knowledge much greater decision making authority. The PC agreed to submit a letter of objection.
- The PC's year end financial results and some policy updates were reviewed ahead of formal approval at the PC meeting in May. There are a number of reminders from previous reports: • Peter Farror is organising another survey of traffic in the High Street on 19 May. Volunteers will be much appreciated.
- Please continue to report pot holes, blocked drains and other highways issues to Somerset Council and advise the Clerk (clerk@queencamepc.org.uk) at the same time.
- There remains a vacancy on the PC. Anyone interested in being co-opted to the PC should contact the Clerk or any councillor.

The Annual Village Meeting will be on Friday 15 May from 6pm. Please make a note of this and use the opportunity to hear about and give your views on village matters.

The next PC meeting, which is its annual meeting, will be on Thursday 7 May in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

John Brendon
Chairman of the Parish Council
Email john.brendon@queencamelpc.org.uk Tel: 07976691895

NOTE ABOUT THE HOME LIBRARY SERVICE - SEE ADVERT ON FACING PAGE

The home library service is free for individuals who enjoy reading & books but are unable to get into the library themselves, whether it is due to their own health and mobility or for caring reasons. Individuals are matched with one of our fully DBS checked volunteers who will select and deliver books to them on a regular basis as well as offering a friendly face to have a chat with.

We have books in regular print, large print or audio books so can cater for individuals needs and preferences. We also have an iPad lending scheme which allows individuals to borrow an iPad for up to 6 weeks, free of charge.

We have recently recruited some new volunteers in the Wincanton area so if you know or support someone who might benefit from receiving this service you can refer them either by emailing or calling me on lauren.davis@somerset.gov.uk or 07814079831. Alternatively you can put in a referral in via our online form on [Make a referral to the Home Library Service - Somerset Council](#).



What's on in Queen Camel Memorial Hall in May

- Mondays:** Pilates 9 -11.15am (not May 4th & 25th)
- Tuesdays:** Cam Vale Tuesday Group May 5th 10-12
Village Cafe May 12th 10-12
Hall Committee May 26th 7pm
- Wednesdays:** Bumps, Tots & Toddlers 10-12 (not May 27th)
- Thursdays:** Tai Chi 10.30-11.30am
Art Class with Alannah 12.30-2.30pm (not May 28th)
Parish Council May 7th 7.30-9.30pm
Table Tennis May 14th 7-9pm
- Fridays:** Bones for Life (not May 15th)
Table Tennis 7-9pm (not May 15th)
Annual Village Meeting May 15th 6pm
- Saturdays:** Gardening Club Plant & Bake Sale 10-12

For hall booking enquiries please call 07707206250

Queen Camel Memorial Hall 200 Club results :

April 2026

Drawn at the Village Café

First Prize: £30	No 9	Trevor & Maureen Whittingham
Second Prize: £25	No 2	John Turner
Third Prize: £20	No 107	James Morrow
Fourth Prize: £15	No 111	Pam Hopkins
Fifth Prize: £10	No 77	Mary Levett

We are hoping to change banks soon due to the charges now incurred. I would be extremely grateful therefore, if you have been lucky enough to win - sorry everyone else - would you please cash your cheques as soon as possible. When everything is completed we hope to pay out cash each month unless this is a problem to the winners. Please let me know.

Contact Liz Jardine 01935 850074 or lizjardine@outlook.com

Many thanks

Cleaveside Close Community Centre – May Activities



Mondays: Flexercise at 11.30am –4th, 11th, 18th & 25th - stretching and toning, sitting and standing exercises – lots of fun! £3 non-residents – refreshments provided.

Monday 11th Committee Meeting at 10.00 – 11.15am

Tuesdays: Craft sessions from 2.00 – 4.00pm – 5th, 12th & 26th - bring along your own crafts or learn new ideas from individuals within the group. Anyone welcome! Refreshments £1.

Tuesday 19th: Sing-A-Long 2.30 – 3.30pm join in and sing along to some of your favourite songs from the 60s to the 90s - £3 donation to Goldies. Refreshments included.

Wednesday 13th: Live Well with Pain Café from 10.30am with Health Coach Tracy Kendall: £1 for refreshments. Come along and learn how to cope with persistent pain and meet others who might be suffering the same symptoms!

Thursday 14 May: 11.00-12.00 – Lauren Davis, Home Library Service – Please come along and meet Lauren who will provide an overview of the different services that she is able to offer, FREE of charge. If you enjoy reading or listening to stories, or music then this service will deliver what you require to your door on a regular basis! There are books in regular print, large print (for people with sight problems) or audio books. She can also offer an iPad lending scheme for up to 6 weeks free of charge! There will be time for lots of questions and answers with a cuppa and a cake!

Thursday 28th: at 2.00pm – Games Afternoon: Come along and have fun trying a variety of board games, cards, darts etc. or bring along your own game/s that you enjoy playing. It is a very welcoming mixed gender group, not at all competitive! £1 for a cuppa and biscuits.

Fridays throughout the month: Bereavement Support Group sessions with Tracy Kendall – 10-12.00
- A safe space to talk, share and find support

Friday 8th & 22nd at 1.30-3.00pm: Carers Group sessions with Tracy Kendall. Are you caring for someone? A safe place to talk, share & find support

Friday 15 May 1.30-3.00pm: Mental Health Support Group with Tracy Kendall – A safe place to talk, share and find support

Saturday 30th 1.00pm: Lunch - Cottage Pie, vegetables, followed by bread & butter pudding & custard, tea/coffee £10. Book with Sue on 07527779248

Email Delivery of the Camels Magazine:

We continue to establish an email delivery system for the Camels Magazine in Queen Camel and if you would like to receive future copies in this format, please send an email to morwennaford@gmail.com giving your name and street address. The email version of the magazine is, of course, in colour and we will be pleased to forward a copy of the current magazine for you to compare if you wish. GDPR data storage obligations will be followed.



HEALTH and WELLBEING WALKS

Queen Camel: Fridays at 10.00am: Open to all

A chance to meet people, learn some local byways and enjoy the fresh air and gentle exercise. The walks are for fun and everyone is welcome; no obligations, no fees, just wear suitable footwear and come along. We leave the Old School car park at 10.00am (once the church bells have chimed) each Friday, and walk for about an hour and a half.

For more information, please contact Health Walks Co-ordinator Georgina Hainsby on:

Mobile :	07599 654679	Web:	www.sasp.co.uk/health-walks
Email:	walks@sasp.co.uk	Facebook:	SomersetHealthWalks

Cam Vale Tuesday Group : April Meeting.

Richard Kay talked to us about Laurence Stephen Lowry. His 'Matchstick Men' are known to us all.

He was born in 1887 to a domineering mother and a quiet unaffectionate father. His mother had wanted a daughter not 'A clumsy son'. Although he was allowed to have some art lessons, he obediently followed his father's footsteps and became a clerk. He later became a rent collector retiring at 64. He kept drawing and painting as a hobby, favouring pastilles, charcoal and oil paints. A move to Pendlebury brought about his fascination with factories, terraced houses and those who lived and worked there. It wasn't until 1921 that his talent was recognised at an exhibition in Manchester. His work became popular, and began to be sought after.

His father died and he cared for his mother who assumed the role of invalid when Lowry was around. He accepted the role of carer with fortitude, pursuing his art from 10pm to 2am every night. He wore a suit, white shirt and tie every day. After his mother died he bought a nicer home keeping his parents furniture and collection of clocks, all showing different times.

He had few friends and didn't care for visitors. He kept a suitcase filled with blankets by the front door. An unwanted visitor would be met with Lowry, suitcase in hand, apologising for not inviting them in but he had a train to catch. He never married. A humble man enjoying the odd visit to Lytham St Annes, and ardently supporting Manchester City Football Club. His 'Going to the Match' fetched £7.8 million in 2022.

He refused 5 prestigious honours, including a knighthood. He preferred to avoid his own exhibitions saying 'My landlady has a nice poached egg waiting for me'. He died of pneumonia aged 88.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5 May 10 am to noon when we will have a member of the local police force talking about the latest scams and how to protect ourselves. Then we will hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to nominate our Chair and Committee Members. If you are able to volunteer to join the Committee please let us know as we are always looking for 'new blood'. Please bring your subscription of £20 to join the Group for the 2026 - 27 year.

We meet on the first Tuesday each month at the Memorial Hall in Queen Camel. Visitors and new members are welcome. Refreshments and raffle every month. For further details contact Marion Chapman on 01963 220741.

Our June meeting is on Tuesday 2nd and will be a demonstration of the gentle exercise Tai Chi.

Join Us For Our

Open Day

2nd May 2026 • 11am – 4pm

📍 **Old School, Queen Camel**



Explore the brilliant enterprises, crafts and skills that make our site a hub of creativity and community.



Hot & Cold Refreshments



Meet Our Tenants



Live Demonstrations



Classic Tractor



Bugfest from 2pm



Art Exhibition

☎ **07486 385224 | www.oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk**

QUEEN CAMEL GARDENING CLUB - MAY

Please support our Plant & Bake Sale on 9 May in the Village Hall - 10 to noon.

On 11 June we are having an interesting talk on Gardening in Climate Change by one of the Castle Garden expert speakers.

We are one of the leading Garden Clubs in the area and invite any newcomers to join our friendly club. Membership £10 pa. Guests can attend a talk for £3. Refreshments and Raffle. Free parking at the village hall



QUEEN CAMEL GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

WITH CAKE STALL, REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

ON SAT. 9 MAY 2026

Doors open to the public from 10 am to 12 noon

At the Memorial Hall,

High Street, Queen Camel

Everyone Welcome - Free entry !!

My Favourite Plant (3)

Talking to Sandie and Tony of Queen Camel, I learned that Tony enjoys the annual pruning of their wonderfully established *Forsythia* 'Lynwood'. He carries out this task almost as soon as flowering has finished. This encourages a mass of flower for next Spring.



Asking Sandie what her favourite plants are, she quoted her love of all the types of Phlox and Astilbe. It is the wonderful array of different colours that the genus offers. As her mother loved Freesias so much, it is the plant that Sandie would pass on to her next generation.

Phlox paniculata (Polemoniaceae)

There are 67 species of Phlox with many hundreds of cultivars, but its the *P.paniculata* cultivars that are the hardy Summer flowering choice. Grown for their stately habit and masses of flowers which last long throughout the season. Some are scented. Originally from East N. America and introduced in 1730.

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Same Roots, Queen Camel & Nine Springs Health Clinic, Yeovil

Natural spaces

A source of life

With the return of longer days, passages of sunshine, and new life unfolding in all aspects of the natural world, I find myself drawn outside. The garden is like a canvas that is constantly unfolding at this time of the year. A spectacle of colour, fragrance, shape and form. The tree branches that were bare are now covered with newly unfurled fresh green leaves, soft to the touch, having not yet hardened. Everywhere I look the grass appears interspersed with dandelions and daisies, providing a carpet of colour that draws the eye. A few early spring bulbs linger on, and the bluebells are beginning to bloom. The hum of the bumblebee can be heard as it seeks nectar from the spring blossom.

As I sit writing, the sky is a gorgeous blue, the air is unusually still, with only a few wisps of cloud scattered along the horizon, something I'm aware is likely to be brief. The sun has a gentle warmth to it that I haven't felt in months. In response, I find myself closing my eyes, angling my face to the sun, just for a moment to soak up its radiating warmth. My attention is drawn to the bird song, which fills the air, each species with its own unique call, producing a beautiful melody of sound. It's nesting season and the garden is a hive of activity, allowing me the opportunity to watch and enjoy as they flit back and forth, often calling to one another.

In spending time in this way, I notice that mind is quieter, and there is a physical unwinding that occurs, without any deliberate effort on my part, aside from the need to resist the internal tug of getting back to 'things that need to be done'.

I am reminded of an article recently read on creating gardens that heal and the perspective given by psychologist, Natalie Buchwald, that it is in the sensory engagement with nature that our attention is pulled from the mind into the body, as we experience the different aspects of our surroundings through learning to tarry with the senses.

It is well known that time spent outdoors in the pursuit of physical exercise or some form of recreational or social activity brings benefits to both our physical and mental health, often including, reduced agitation and anxiety, improved mood and the lowering of stress. Something we can all benefit from.

As a society we can tend to spend much of our time caught up in thought and on the move and slowing down to create space to 'breathe', to reenergize or find perspective is something many of us find difficult. Nature at this time of the year provides a wonderful opportunity to take moments to tap into the senses and experience the benefit. I encourage you to take time outside.

Jo Bothma Clinical Psychologist

Same Roots, Queen Camel

♪ Our church roof is falling down ♪
♪ Falling down, falling down ♪
♪ Our church roof is falling down ♪
♪ In Queen Camel. ♪

♪ Build it up with slate and wood ♪
♪ Slate and wood, slate and wood ♪
♪ Need some dosh to build it up ♪
♪ In Queen Camel. ♪

Bob Pierson and Kit Stapely invite you to

A Dosh-Raising Soirée of Verse & Song



**featuring some rather nice wine, other drinks and nibbles and
themselves sharing Poetic Entertainment (and the odd song)
at:**

**The Queen Camel Memorial Hall
on: Thursday 21st May
from: 6.30 - 8.30 pm**

*Tickets are £6 per head in advance from Emma's Cafe or The Shop in Queen Camel
and £7 (cash) on the door.*

First drink is free. Refills a mere £3

Bob and Kit have scouted out some verses to share with you in a convivial evening.

*Please bring along a poem (a favourite or a composition of your own)
A poem will be selected at random for the after-the-interval slot.*

**All profits are ring-fenced and devoted
to the repair of the church roof**

May 2026

Welcome to Queen Camel CC as we start our 2026 season.

We have now over 40 senior and 60 junior fixtures for the coming season, see our website for more details.

We are now looking for new players to join. Please contact us via our email below or if you know some of our local team members, please let them know you are interested.



Senior Cricket

New for 2026, we have a Women's seniors side entered in the Somerset Women's T20 Blitz Division 2, if you are interested, please get in contact with the club, details below.

Youth Cricket

U10s, U12s, U14s, U14s Girls & U16s - starting outdoors in April

League games are scheduled for: Mid Wessex League – U10s Sunday mornings, U12s Monday evenings U14s Thursday evenings, U16s Tuesday evenings, U14 Girls to be confirmed

We are now looking to recruit a total of 72 children (Approximately 12 in each team group) from academic years 4 & 5 for our U10s years 6 & 7 for the two U12s teams, years 8 & 9 for the two U14s teams and years 10 & 11 for the U16s.

The sessions will be led by an ECB Level 2 coach and will be assisted by ECB Level 1 coaches. Please contact any of us, also see our website.

Youth membership joining fee for the entire season is just: £35

Fixtures

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Fixture Type
23/04/2026	Under 14 B	v	Long Sutton CC, Somerset - Under 14	League
26/04/2026	Under 10	v	Yeovil CC - U10 Tigers	League
26/04/2026	President's XI	v	Chairman's XI	Friendly
27/04/2026	Under 12	v	Yeovil CC - U12 Wildcats	League
30/04/2026	Under 14	v	West Coker & Hardington CC - Under 14	League
02/05/2026	1st XI	v	Milborne Port CC - 1st XI	League
05/05/2026	Under 16	v	Yeovil CC - Under 16	League
10/05/2026	Under 10	v	Sherborne CC - Under 10	League
11/05/2026	Under 12	v	West & Middle Chinnock CC - Under 12	League
14/05/2026	Under 14	v	Yeovil CC - U14 Wildcats	League
17/05/2026	Under 10	v	North Perrott CC - Under 10 B	League
18/05/2026	Under 12 B	v	Castle Cary CC - Under 12	League

Visit our website for Club Contact Details <http://queencamel.play-cricket.com/>

Club Email: queencamelcc@hotmail.com

QUEEN CAMEL TENNIS CLUB

A friendly and sociable two-court Club with floodlights on the edge of the Playing Field in Queen Camel.

We enjoy competitive & social play and have a great coaching programme including Saturday mornings for children from 5 upwards and for adults Wednesday evenings.

In addition to our regular Club Night on Tuesday evenings, we also have Club morning sessions on the first and third Sunday of every month at 10am until noon. All members welcome

Interested in joining? We offer Junior, Adult, Social and Family memberships. For more information visit our website www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/QueenCamelTennisClub

Queen Camel Tennis Club, The Playing Fields, Green Lane, Queen Camel BA22 7NW



QUEEN CAMEL BOWLS CLUB



THE GREEN



Lawn Green Bowling, as its name suggests, is played on a lawn. We call it a green. But in reality it is only grass. Our green has now been reseeded and the new grass is looking great.

We have an OPEN DAY on Saturday 9th of May from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. So please join us and come to see what is on offer. And there are home matches being held in May and spectators are welcome to come and watch. What could be better than sitting in the sun with a glass of something?

Free trials can still be arranged on Tuesday evenings at 6.00 p.m. at our clubhouse at the end of Englands Lane in Queen Camel when we hold our social evenings.

We currently have vacancies for both associate members and for full members. So please contact our Club Secretary for further details on 01935 850563 or email him at the club at: QueenCamelBowlsClub@Gmail.com

Please visit our website: QueenCamelBowlsClub.co.uk for various details of the club's activities.

Davis Hall Bookings MAY 2026

Sunday May 3rd Mendip Model Remote Control Truckers 9.00am – 4.00 pm

Mondays

7.30 pm: Ballet Class

(Short Mat Bowls resumes in September)

Tuesdays

10.00 am: Soulful Dove Line Dancing

5.00 pm: Pilates

5.30 pm: Yeovil Cycling Club

Wednesdays

10.00 am: Service Dogs

1.00 pm: Model Railway Society

7.30 pm: Ballet Class

Thursdays

9.30 am: Post Office and Café/Bakery

4.00 pm: Ashdell Dancers

5.30 pm: (1st Thursday only) Davis Hall Committee

7.30 pm: Scottish Dancing

Fridays

9.00 am – 4.00 pm: Headway

29th 6.30 - 9.00pm: West Camel Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Saturdays

9 – 12 noon: Model Railway Society

1st Saturday of month Cool Country

4th Saturday of month Gould Sequence Dancers



Please go to the website davishall.co.uk and click on 'availability' for detailed information including one off bookings/private hires.



Scottish Country Dancing

Thursdays

St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club, 7.30 – 9.30pm at the Davis Hall, West Camel BA22 7QX. Always a fun evening– a warm welcome assured! First two visits free, then £2.00 per session, £1.50 for members. **Wear soft flat shoes.....bring a mug.....no partner needed**

See website www.stmichaelsccdclub.org or contact elspeth_a_wright@hotmail.com 07972125617



West Camel Village Cafe

9:15 - 12 Every Thurs

At the Davis Hall

Cake£1.00

Tea.....£1.00

Espresso.....£1.00

Cappuccino....£1.50

Latte.....£1.50

Americano.....£1.50

Bacon Sandwiches

£3.50

Featuring Bakery and
Post Office

Book Group at West Camel

Stonehenge by Bernard Cornwell

This is a book for those who enjoy Cornwell's blood and guts story-telling – it is a vivid re-imagining of the brutality and human sacrifices that might have accompanied the history of Stonehenge. For some of us it was unsettling, although much of the historical data that archeologists have found inspired Cornwell's representation of how it came to be built and why. At times descriptions were too detailed and the story lost impetus, falling into the doldrums in the middle of the book and only picking up pace towards the end. Don't let this put you off. We still averaged a good 5/10 in our marking.

On **Wednesday 13th May** we will be discussing *Sashenka* by Simon Sebag Montefiori. This is another long book, but the pages turn at a pace.

On **Sunday 10th May** Alex Hutton and friends are giving a classical music recital at All Saints West Camel at 8.00pm. Do come if you can. Tickets are £10 on the door and include refreshments. ***See separate advert***

Future dates:

Wednesday June 10th: (The Levant Trilogy) *The danger tree* by Olivia Manning

Wednesday July 8th: *At Risk* by Stella Rimington

Recommendations:

Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy

Minor Disturbances at Grand Life Apartments by Hema Sucumar

Films at

The Davis Hall, West Camel

Friday 22nd May	Hamnet
Friday 19th June	H is for Hawk
Friday 24th July	Rental Family
Friday 28th August	Song Sung Blue



Please note some are not the last Friday of the month owing to other events in the hall.

Trailers on the Davis Hall website www.davishall.co.uk - What's On & scroll down
Doors open 7 p.m. for 7.30 start : Licensed Bar, Tea and Coffee
Tickets £5 on the door : 16s and under £3.50 Warm hall as ever! Easy parking
Please share the information with anyone you know who is not on line, thank you

**** STOP PRESS - Concert on SUNDAY 10th May will now start at 8.00pm ****

A concert of Neapolitan songs and arias and a Cello Sonata by Beethoven. Come and support 4 talented young musicians as they share their Masters Final Recital with us at West Camel Church on Sunday 10th May at 8.00pm. Details below.

Neapolitan Songs & Arias

Alexander Hutton - Tenor

Tom Lidgley - Tenor

Penka Petkova - Cello

Chavdar Mazgalov - Piano

Sunday 10th May

8:00 pm

*All Saints Church West Camel
BA22 7HH*

Tickets £10 on the door
Drinks included

£10
Tickets



Fun and friendly

ADULT BALLET CLASSES

The Davis Hall
West Camel
Wednesdays
19:30
£8

Contact Natalie
07541398925

Whether you have danced before and want to get back into it, or just want to try something completely new, come and join us on Wednesday evenings for a fun and friendly ballet class.

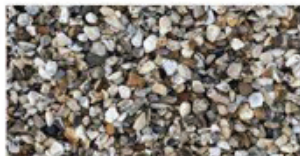
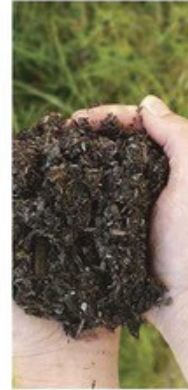


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Ring 07564 935581 or email danielfrancisdfc@icloud.com

Christy is at the Memorial Hall, Queen Camel

on Fridays 9.30-11am for Bones for Life - £10 per session

Bones for Life is part of the Movement Intelligence Programme, specifically designed to stimulate bone strength and improve postural alignment through natural movement.

Ring 07564 935555 or email christylmy@icloud.com



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Will Lyons, Sunday Times



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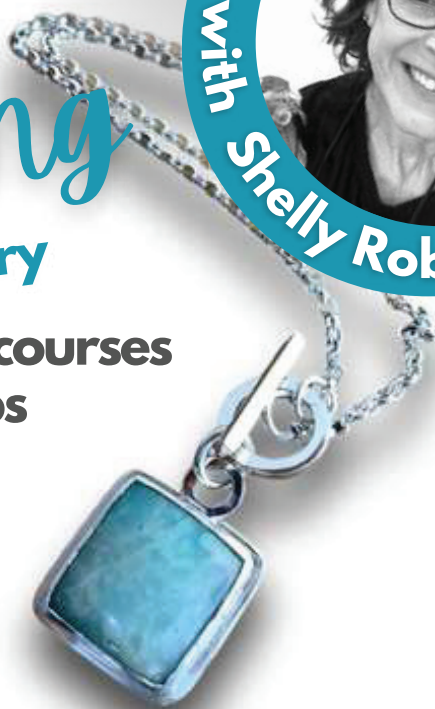
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