

February 2024

# The Camels



# Magazine

## **The Cam Vale Ministry Team**

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**Cam Vale Benefice Website:** [www.camvalebenefice.org.uk](http://www.camvalebenefice.org.uk)

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### **Used Stamps**

A very grateful 'thank you' to the many people who save their used postage stamps for the Hospice Shop in Castle Cary and make much needed funds. The stamps are either packaged and sold in the shop or sold via a stamp dealer who visits regularly.

A 'thank you' also to Paul at the Post Office who is the collecting point.

A Happy & Peaceful New Year to you All.

Maggie Harris 01983 350 827

## **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 (850 300) or Paul Davis (850 139)

*Cover: Six of the eight semi-detached Nissen Houses at West Camel erected by Somerset Council in about 1925.*

## Editorial

This is the first parish letter of 2024, so happy New Year to everybody. We all have our hopes and wishes for the New Year and for me two lines from the Christmas carol "It came upon the midnight clear" seem to sum it up.

**"Hush your noise, you men of strife, and hear the angels sing".**

It was obviously appropriate to Edmund Sears in 1849 when he wrote the poem, which was set to the familiar tune by Richard Storrs Willis the next year. Edmund Sears probably had in mind the recently ended Mexican-American war and revolution in Europe. Of course, there has been war and strife ever since, but this past year seems to have been particularly bad.

We have had the war in Ukraine for nearly two years now and it is still going on, and now the awful conflict in the Middle East which seems to be overflowing into neighbouring countries and looks to get more and more dangerous to world peace as each day passes. The television news is often distressing to watch, and it is difficult to see any hope of peace and stability in the world of today.

And yet I believe that the angels are still singing, bringing the good news of the incarnation to the world of our day. Now and again the sound of the angels singing breaks through the noise of war and strife. In the laughter of children, and in the songs of the birds, I hear the angels sing. Sometimes in our church services, particularly over Christmas time, with the shepherds I have heard the angels sing to bring the story of the Christ child born in a manger to ordinary people like you and me.

Jesus was born at a time of conflict and war, similar to today. He had to become a refugee in Egypt to escape the brutality of Herod. Yet the story of Jesus is still told to countless people throughout the world, changing the lives of people in so many ways.

I think that I am becoming more and more aware of what a noisy world we live in. It is not just where there is war, but everywhere. Advertisers and celebrities on television seem to think they can only communicate by shouting their messages.

So my wish for the New Year is for a quieter and more peaceful world. Jesus came into a world of conflict and declared that he had come to bring peace. Perhaps, if we listen carefully, we will hear the angels sing, and follow the shepherds and the wise men to worship the child born to be King.

Alan Hoskins

I would like to thank all who have supported my training to be a Lay Minister. After spending two years at Sarum College, Salisbury, I have emerged with an award from Durham University in Theology, Mission and Ministry. I am now in my third year of training which is both at Wells and locally and includes taking funerals, and chaplaincy as well as co-leading services. Rev. Rose Hoskins and Julie Ebsworth have kindly agreed to be my sponsors. So you may see me round and about more often!

Christy Casley

# VILLAGE CAFÉ

**TUESDAY 13th FEBRUARY**

10.30 am – 12 noon

**Queen Camel Memorial Hall**

\*Book & Jigsaw exchange

\*Bottle top collection in aid of the  
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

\* Lord's Larder collection box

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

*Profits from the Village Cafe will be donated to  
the Queen Camel Hardship Fund*



## CHURCH NEWS : FEBRUARY 2024

### **HAPPENINGS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS . . .**

Once again, we are most grateful to Hannah Crinks and her family for giving us the wonderful Christmas tree that greeted everyone as they came into church during December and early January.

**The Christmas Fayre** was well supported and raised £2100 for the Fabric Fund. A report of the event can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

**The Christmas Concert with the Castle Cary Choir** attracted a good audience and along with Martin Emslie, their conductor (and our organist), offered us a delightful selection of songs with a Christmas theme and included two or three light-hearted readings. Thank you to everyone who helped with the refreshments.

**A Christingle Service for the children from Countess Gytha Primary School** was held and it was lovely to see the church full of children. Julie Ebsworth led a lovely service which the children clearly enjoyed.

**The Carol Service** drew a large congregation with mulled wine and mince pies at its conclusion. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the service so enjoyable and meaningful.

**The Crib Service on Christmas Eve** was, once again, the highlight for our Christmas services, especially for the very young. The Camel Club children had worked extremely hard to learn their lines and attend special rehearsals and they gave a delightful and confident performance in front of a packed church. Particular thanks to Marian Davis for masterminding the entire service and for ensuring everything went like clockwork on the night – no mean feat with such a very young cast!

**The Christmas Day Family Service with Holy Communion** was taken by the Revd Rose Hoskins and was enjoyed by young and old alike.

**Camel Club** has resumed after the Christmas holidays and an exciting programme for the term is being rolled out. Primary school age children are most welcome to come along to the Memorial Hall during term time on a Thursday from 4.00 pm until 5.30 pm.

**Bumps, Tots & Toddlers** has also restarted after the Christmas break and continues to offer support to both parents and children, some of whom come a considerable distance. The group meets every Wednesday morning between 10.00 am and noon in the Memorial Hall and there is a charge of £3 per family which includes refreshments.

### **A REMINDER . . .**

If anyone would like to sponsor one of our newly refurbished chairs in the church, possibly in memory of a loved one, Pauline Lewis, our Treasurer, would be pleased to hear from you on 01935 851 536. The chairs cost £140 each to be recovered and any contributions towards costs would be most gratefully received. A small plaque will be placed on the back of chairs where sponsorship has been given.

### **COMING UP . . .**

**A date for your diary:**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Church Path Fayre

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE SIX CHURCHES OF CAM VALE

### Services for the month of February 2024

Sun 4 Feb	Queen Camel	9.30 am	All Age Service
	Corton Denham	10.00 am	Morning Service
	West Camel	3.00 pm	Tea @ Three
Sun 11 Feb	West Camel	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion
	Weston Bampfylde	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
	Sutton Montis	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Weds 14 Feb Ash Wednesday	West Camel	7.00 pm	Holy Communion
Sun 18 Feb	Queen Camel	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion
	Sparkford	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 25 Feb	Sparkford	10.00 am	Together @ 10

## WEST CAMEL INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH



### Meeting at All Saints Church

Affiliated to the Independent Methodist Churches



Reg. Charity No. 1205373

**Minister: Ray Ursell (07770 238588)**

**Local contacts: Geoff and Elizabeth Chapman (01935 850838)**

### SERVICES IN FEBRUARY\*

Feb.	4th	3pm	"Tea @ Three" (U.S.)
"	11th	3pm	Steve Roles of Yeovil
"	18th	<u>4pm</u>	Ray Ursell (H.C.)
"	25th	<u>4pm</u>	Ian McInnes of Yeovil

\*Please note later service times from the 18th.

(U.S. = United Service. H.C. = Holy Communion)  
All PM services are followed by light refreshments.

"Tea @ Three" includes a full tea.

A very warm welcome to all!

"Zoom" Bible studies are held once a month. If you would like to join, please contact us for the link. [Geoff.mead@yahoo.com](mailto:Geoff.mead@yahoo.com)

Recorded Sunday sermons can be accessed on  
[www.westcamelchurches.org.uk](http://www.westcamelchurches.org.uk)



## St Barnabas Church Christmas Fayre

The 2023 Christmas Fayre came and went in the blink of an eye but it proved to be a most convivial and successful interlude, giving many an opportunity to start their Christmas shopping.

There was a great selection of items for sale on the different stalls and the children from Camel Club certainly made their presence felt as they encouraged and cajoled everyone to come and have a go at the various games they had on offer.

Altogether the Fayre resulted in some £2,100 going to the Fabric fund for St Barnabas Church and, as always, we are most grateful to everyone who came along to support the event, those who stitched, baked and donated to the various stalls, and to all the stall holders for their hard work in setting out some very attractive tables. Thank you to all the mince pie makers and those who served teas and coffees so efficiently and, lest we forget, a big thank you to the gate-keeper for an excellent job!

This year's Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December so please make a note of the date.

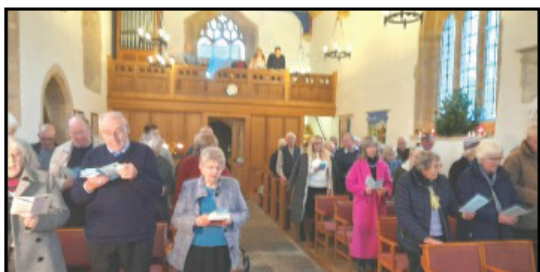
## WEST CAMEL CHURCHES TOGETHER

### Christmas activities

On Sunday 10th December, puppeteers from Martock Christian Fellowship took part in our Christingle Service. Their presentation was very professional and much appreciated by an all-age congregation.

Our Carol Service on 17th December was well-attended. Due to damp weather, "Carols on the Green" on 20th December, became "Carols in the Church" (below). Ray Ursell introduced the carols, which were led by friends from St Paul's Church, Sherborne. Seasonal refreshments followed.

Collections at the last two events amounted to £374, which was shared between *The Children's Society* and *Action for Children*.



Above: Carol Service. Right: "Carols in the Church"



On Sunday January 21st we had our second "Lego Service." People of all ages joined in, making "Lego" models of Jesus preaching from a boat. (right).

### HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

For children aged 4-12

Tuesday 13th February 10am-12.30pm

Games, quizzes, crafts, songs, Bible stories, and refreshments.

**Admission free, but please register children in advance by phoning 01935 850838.**



**Go to our Facebook page for news and photos about past and forthcoming events: [www.facebook.com/westcamelchurches](https://www.facebook.com/westcamelchurches)**



## **Report from the Queen Camel Parish Council:**

The Parish Council (PC) met on Monday 15 January 2024 and covered the following key matters

- David Lowe was co-opted on to the PC to fill the remaining casual vacancy.
- With several representatives from Sutton Montis in the public gallery there was a long discussion on the activities at Sutton Farm and the high volume of the Hopkins Estates' lorries on the local roads. Great concern was expressed on the environmental impact of the earth moving activity and whether it is permitted or not and of the serious health and safety issues of so many lorry movements on the road from Queen Camel to Sutton Farm. There is a very serious risk to walkers, cyclists and horse riders from these huge lorries quite apart from the damage they are doing to the road itself. It was agreed that the PC would put forward two representatives to help form a lobby group with the neighbouring villages to get all the authorities involved to review the unacceptable situation. Please contact our representatives, Roy Lawrenson and David Lowe, if you have questions on this or have suggestions on how to solve it.
- The Somerset Councillors reported the difficult financial position of Somerset Council and how it needs to divest assets and services. Parish and town councils may have to take on more of SC's activities at an extra cost in future precepts.
- There was a discussion with comments from the public on the threat to the No 1 bus service from Yeovil to Shepton Mallet which the operator, South West Coaches (SWC), says is uneconomical unless its subsidy from Somerset Council (SC) is increased. SWC are likely to give notice that the service will stop in mid April. However before that there is likely to be a tender for a modified service on this route. It was particularly noted that, apart from the potential environmental issue of more cars on the roads, if there is no bus service the elderly, others who do not drive and the young getting to college badly need the service. The long term cost of not having a bus service is likely to be far higher than any possible increase in the subsidy. Please use the bus as much as possible and submit your concerns to SC in its budget consultation and our MP, Sarah Dyke. We are working with the Somerset Bus Partnership's Yeovil user group.
- There was a further discussion on flooding issues. The PC fully supports the River Cam Flood Warning Group (which is meeting on 31 January at the Memorial Hall) and will engage with it through our Flood Committee. The PC also noted the need to work with the various authorities in significantly increasing the flood attenuation areas.
- The PC and its tender board are moving forward with the plans to get the new play area installed. Expressions of interest are being received from potential suppliers which will be analysed and the most suitable will be asked formally to tender.
- The Playing Field Management Committee reported on its activities. As previously reported it has secured an arrangement with Ilchester FC that needs football pitches to use this winter. Anyone who can volunteer to help keep the pitches in good order for matches would be most welcome; please contact John Carnegie or Phil Jones.
- The PC considered further the budgets for next year and the precept. Given the reduction in services from SC and cost inflation it was decided that there should be a 20% increase in the precept, based on 15% for the PC's continuing activities and a 5% uplift as a reserve to cover any additional services which are no longer provided by SC. It should be noted that there has been no increase in the precept for two years.



- The PC and many other organisations in the village need volunteers so if you feel you could contribute please contact me or any councillor. Details can be obtained from the PC website.

John Brendon, Chairman of the Parish Council

Email: [john.brendon@queencamelpc.org.uk](mailto:john.brendon@queencamelpc.org.uk)

Tel: 07976691895

### **Cam Vale Tuesday Group : 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

Despite meeting immediately after the New Year holiday on a thorough miserable day, some 21 of us enjoyed a most interesting talk by Trudi and Clare, two of the three Health Coaches at the Queen Camel Surgery. Between them all they offer an incredible range of services which includes home visits, advice on healthy and practical ways for patients to maintain their independence, help with accessing the Library Home Service plus dementia care. In addition there is a rehab team which includes a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist. They also offer help to carers and for those facing bereavement or loneliness and isolation. For those struggling with modern technology, they offer assistance with applications for Attendance Allowances, Blue Badges, etc. and also give advice and help to anyone struggling to give up smoking or vaping. Over and above this, they organise walks of differing lengths to help those with mobility issues as well as arranging hospital transport and even help with care for pets can be offered where necessary. We all concluded that anyone registered with the Queen Camel Medical Centre was extremely fortunate.

After the talk, a wide ranging and interesting quiz took place organised by Georgina, a committee member.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6th at 10am in the Queen Camel Memorial Hall.

New members and visitors are welcome.

### **West Camel Book Group Review**

Nine Book Group members enjoyed sitting by the fire and discussing Annie Proulx's 'Barkskins' on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a weighty tome that required perseverance to finish. It was impressive that even those who had not found it easy to enter into the intricacies of the novel persevered to the end. This is a book with so many facts and details about the lifestyle of peoples in the North American New World that it loses its sense of story at times. Nonetheless there were chunks of the novel that were both gripping and surprising. The brutalities of the time were recorded in abundance and English white people come out of it pretty badly as did Missionaries. The marks ranged from 2 to 9 with an average of 6, but most felt it was worth reading. Annie Proulx writes with beautifully crafted prose and succeeds in highlighting the devastation we have brought on ourselves by greedily chopping down forests and destroying habitats. Criticisms include: Admirable but self-indulgent writing; AP doesn't think about her readers and there are too many loose ends.

Our next read is altogether easier and lighter weight. The Walnut Tree should have reopened so we look forward to getting together again on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

February 14<sup>th</sup>                      The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce

March 13<sup>th</sup>                        The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

#### **Other recommendations:**

Red Notice, by Bill Browder

Twelve Birds to save your life by Charlie Corbett

Claire Macintosh Crime thrillers

No ordinary day – about WPC Yvonne Fletcher

**Queen Camel Memorial Hall**  
**200 Club Results**  
**Christmas Bonanza 2023**  
**Drawn at the Hall Bingo on 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**First Prize:- £100 Trisha Rylance      Number:-91**  
**Second Prize:-£75 Margaret Reeve      Number:- 87**  
**Third Prize:- £50 Carole Bazzoni      Number:- 136**  
**Fourth Prize:-£25 Bob Griffin      Number:- 63**

**January Draw 200 Club results drawn at the Village Café.**

**First Prize:- £30 Hannah Crinks      Number:- 101**  
**Second Prize:- £25 Keith Burch      Number:- 114**  
**Third Prize:- £20 Alan Wright      Number:- 65**  
**Fourth Prize:- £15 Rosemary Heath-Coleman      Number:-145**  
**Fifth Prize:- £10 E. J. Gunning      Number:- 109**

**Now only £10 for half a year!!**

**Contact Liz Jardine 01935 850074 or [lizjardine@outlook.com](mailto:lizjardine@outlook.com) if  
you wish to join and support the maintenance of your village hall.**

**What's on in Queen Camel Memorial Hall in February**

**Mondays:**      Pilates 9.00- 11.15am

**Tuesdays:**      Cam Vale Tuesday Group 6th February 10-12  
Brownies 6-7pm (not February 13th)  
Guides 7-9pm (not February 13th)  
Village Cafe 13th February 10-12  
QC Quilters 20th February 10-4pm

**Wednesdays:** Bumps,Tots & Toddlers 10-12 (not February 14th)

**Thursdays:**      Tai Chi 10.30-11.30am (not February 15th)  
Camel Club 4.00-5.30pm (not February 15th)

**Fridays:**      Table Tennis 7-9pm

**Saturdays:**      Quiz Night 24th February 7.30 pm

# Films at The Davis Hall, West Camel



Friday 26th January

**'A Haunting in Venice'**

Friday 23rd February

**'The Great Escaper'**

Friday 22nd March

**'The Miracle Club'**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**'Napoleon'**

Trailers on the Davis Hall website  
[davishall.co.uk](http://davishall.co.uk)

Doors open 7 p.m. for 7.30 start :

Licensed Bar, Tea and Coffee

Tickets £5 on the door

16 and under £3.50

Easy parking

Please tell anyone not on the internet  
who might like to join us.



## West Camel Village Cafe

9:15 - 12 Every Thurs  
At the Davis Hall

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Cake .....	£1.00
Tea.....	£1.00
Espresso.....	£1.00
Cappuccino....	£1.50
Latte.....	£1.50
Americano.....	£1.50
Bacon Sandwiches	
£3.50	

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Featuring Bakery and  
Post Office

## Cleaveside Close Lounge Activities for February 2024



**Thursday 1 February 10.30-11.30am – Tai Chi in the Memorial Hall.** Pay as you go £5.

**Friday 2 February 2.00pm – 3.00pm – Walking Session –** Come along and enjoy a stroll along level ground. Sensible shoes/boots. Gather at the Community Centre. **All welcome! Wheelchair and help provided**

**Saturday 3 February 2.15-4.15pm – Fun Bingo –** Eyes down at 2.30pm for an afternoon of fun and surprises! Raffle. (£3) Refreshments included. All welcome!

**3.00pm – Walking Session –** Come along and enjoy a stroll along level ground. Sensible shoes/boots. Gather at the Community Centre. **All welcome! Wheelchair and help provided**

**Monday 5 February 11.00-12.00 – Flexercise**

Sitting down exercises to tone up your muscles whilst having fun with all sorts of gadgets and music! Refreshments included (£2 to non-residents)

**Tuesday 6 February 2-4.00pm – Social and games** A good variety of board games, cards, Dominoes, Hoy etc. to play in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere. Bring your own nibbles Tea/coffee provided. **FREE**

**Wednesday 7 February 2.30- 3.30pm – Relaxation Techniques with Jenny.** Please bring a small throw/blanket and cushion (£1)

**Thursday 8 February 10.30-11.30am – Tai Chi in the Memorial Hall.** Pay as you go £5.

**Thursday 8 February 2-4.00pm – Sing-A-Long with Jaïne.** Come along and join in singing songs and having fun! Refreshments included (At least a £3 donation in support of Golden Oldies)

**Friday 9 February 2.00pm – 3.00pm – Walking Session –** Come along and enjoy a stroll along level ground. Sensible shoes/boots. Gather at the Community Centre. **All welcome! Wheelchair and help provided**

**Monday 12 February 11.00-12.00 – Flexercise**

Sitting down exercises to tone up your muscles whilst having fun with all sorts of gadgets and music! Refreshments included (£2 to non-residents)

**Wednesday 14 February 11.30-12.30pm – Live Well and Pain Café.** Are you living with a long-term pain condition? Come along and meet others in the same situation and learn how to deal with pain. Get help and advice from Liz Webber, Q C Health Coach and Sue Crisfield, Social Prescribing Coordinator, Rural Practice Network. FREE refreshments and a warm welcome await you!

**Wednesday 14 February 2.30- 3.30pm – Relaxation Techniques with Jenny.** Please bring a small throw/blanket and cushion (£1)

**Thursday 15 February 10.30-11.30am – Tai Chi in the Memorial Hall.** Pay as you go £5.

**Friday 16 February 10.30-12.30 Bacon Butty Coffee Morning.** Come along and enjoy a hot bacon butty with tea, coffee or hot chocolate with your friends. £3 in aid of the Community Centre

**Friday 16 February 2.00pm – 3.00pm – Walking Session** – Come along and walk off that bacon booty! Enjoy a stroll along level ground. Sensible shoes/boots. Gather at the Community Centre. **All welcome! Wheelchair and help provided**

**Monday 19 February 11.00-12.30pm - Flexercise**

Sitting down exercises to tone up your muscles whilst having fun with all sorts of gadgets and music! Refreshments included (£2 to non-residents)

**Tuesday 20 February 10.00 - 12.00pm Cookery Session.** Provide your own ingredients, some equipment on hand. Recipe sheets provided. **FREE**

**Wednesday 21 February 2.30- 3.30pm – Relaxation Techniques with Jenny.** Please bring a small throw/blanket and cushion (£1)

**Thursday 22 February 10.30-11.30am – Tai Chi in the Memorial Hall.** Pay as you go £5.

**Friday 23 February 2.00pm – 3.00pm – Walking Session** – Come along and enjoy a stroll along level ground. Sensible shoes/boots. Gather at the Community Centre. **All welcome!**

**Saturday 24 February – Lunch and Film – 12.30 for 12.45pm** – Enjoy a home-cooked lunch and dessert, followed by a cuppa and a film to watch. (£7 per head). (please book your meal on 01935 850008)

**Monday 26 February - Flexercise** - Sitting down exercises to tone up your muscles whilst having fun with all sorts of gadgets and music! Refreshments included (£2 to non-residents)

**Wednesday 28 February 2.30-3.30pm – Relaxation Techniques with Jenny.** Please bring a small throw/blanket and cushion (£1).

***Anyone can come along and join in any of the activities at any time. Do come!***

***If you would like more information on any of the activities then please contact Sue Gettings on 01935 850 008***

### **LIVING WITH PAIN IS A PAIN BUT THERE IS HOPE!**

Do you live with a long-term persistent pain condition? Does it affect your sleep, and emotional wellbeing? Does it restrict your daily activities and stop you doing the things you want to do?

The Rural Practice Network (a group of 5 local GP surgeries covering Castle Cary, Bruton, Wincanton, Queen Camel & Milborne Port), has a non-medical pain management programme called Live Well with Pain – the Ten Footsteps – which is available to people registered with any of these 5 surgeries, with two opportunities for people in Queen Camel!

- A monthly **in-person** Live Well with Pain café will be starting on **Wednesday 14 February** from 11.30am to 12.30pm at the Abri Communal Lounge in Cleaveside Close, Queen Camel (BA22 7PR). It will run thereafter on the **second Wednesday of each month**. Drop in for a free cuppa and a chat with others in the same situation!
- There's a monthly **online** Live Well with Pain café on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7.00-8.00pm on Microsoft Teams

For more information, please email [sue.crisfield1@nhs.net](mailto:sue.crisfield1@nhs.net) or call Sue on 07749418850 or call Liz Webber (Health Coach) at Queen Camel Medical Centre on 01935 850225 or send a message through the Rural Practice Network Facebook page.

Read more about the Ten Footsteps here – [www.livewellwithpain.co.uk](http://www.livewellwithpain.co.uk)



## Summary of Weather at Mead Farm, Downhead, December 2023:

Maximum temperature: 13.8 C (56 F) on the 21st.

Minimum temperature: -4.8 C (24 F) on the 2nd.

Grass level minimum: -7.7 C (18 F) on the 2nd.

Total rainfall: 144.1 mm (5.67 ins.)

Highest temperatures: 31 C (88 F) on June 13th and September 9th.

Lowest temperature: -7.7 C (18 F) on February 8th

Lowest grass minimum: -9.1 C (16 F) on January 24th.

Coldest day: 2nd December – maximum 1 C (34 F)

Warmest month: June — average 17.94 C (64 F)

Coldest month: January — average 5.01 C (41 F)

No of air frosts: 36

No. of ground frosts: 71

Average daily mean temperature: 11.77 C (53.19 F)\*

\*The warmest recorded. (previous highest 2020 with 11.51 C ( 52.7 F)

Total rainfall: 962.8 mm (37.9 ins) — the 4th wettest in 59 years.

Wettest month: December, with 144.1 mm (5.67 ins.)

Driest month: February, with 6.6 mm (0.26 in.)

Wettest day: 3rd December with 37.1 mm (1.46 ins.)

I have now completed 60 years of weather records - all are on file.

If you would like a full summary, printed or digital, please contact me:

Geoff.mead@yahoo.com –Geoff Chapman

## Scottish Country Dancing



Every Thursday, St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club,

**7.30 – 9.30pm** at the **Davis Hall**, West Camel BA22 7QX.

Always a fun evening - come along and give it a try – a warm welcome assured!

First two visits free, £2.00 per session, £1.50 for members.

See website: [www.stmichaelscdclub.org](http://www.stmichaelscdclub.org) or contact



**The Old School is increasingly coming back to life after the devastating flood last May. This is an update following the January/ December magazine**

**First a Hurrah! Camelicious Café has now reopened.** It is starting its opening days and times each week Tuesdays-Fridays, 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The days will be extended when more staff is available so if any reader is interested, please contact Caroline Packer, a2a Trust, via 01935 713140.



Congratulations to Caroline and all her team at the Winking Frog Café in Princes Street, Yeovil (sister café to Camelicious), on receiving the 2023 award by Yeovil & District Chamber CIC, headline sponsor Leonardo. A huge achievement so well done to all – perhaps this will happen to Camelicious in the future!

**and another Hurrah! Birdies Boutique - vintage, bridal & occasion wear, with accessories and alterations** – also now open Tuesdays-Fridays, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and Saturdays 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., other times by appointment. Owner, Debra Mitchell, can be found in the Victorian Schoolhouse, along the passageway from the café or through the second front porch. E-mail: [debraannemitchell@gmail.com](mailto:debraannemitchell@gmail.com).

**RHS 'Its Your Neighbourhood'** – public 'Congratulations' are also in order for Joe and his a2a team and those of QCCLT Board who support them as well as Bob & Helen in respect of the whole of the Old School frontage on being awarded Level 5 Outstanding. The judge's feedback under areas of achievement: *"I would like to say how well you guys have recovered since May. It must have knocked you back but look, well done to you all. Your entrance beds are maturing gracefully and I can visualise all the new work that will be carried out with help from a2a, and I hope things go smoothly".* Things are definitely starting to go smoothly as you will read next.

**The Old School Community Garden** – work is continuing apace by the a2a gardening team and Yeovil Rivers Community Trust to develop a rear garden that is open and accessible to all. It will feature native planting, habitats for bugs, bees, birds and other wild life, and will include a pond and aquatic habitats. It will also have a restored viewing platform for the river (the old one left by Countess Gytha primary school is great but pretty rotten) and an area specifically for children. If anyone would like to help in any way please contact Joe Knights at [Joeknights@able2achieve.org.uk](mailto:Joeknights@able2achieve.org.uk) or, in respect of all matters aquatic, Karis Hockey at [karis.hockey@yrct.org.uk](mailto:karis.hockey@yrct.org.uk)

**Silversmith lessons** with Shelly – demand has been so great that she is holding further classes: 5-weeks, beginners and improvers, from Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. (excluding Easter weekend). Contact: [jouellejewellery@btinternet.com](mailto:jouellejewellery@btinternet.com)

## **SPACE AVAILABLE**

One room (some 152 sq. ft. with washbasin) in the Victorian Schoolhouse; one room (some 77 sq. ft.) in the 1920s building; and the whole of the Old School Hall.

If any reader wishes to know more about these spaces or the Old School generally, please contact Rebecca, our Administrator, e-mail: [admin@oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk](mailto:admin@oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk) or to postal address: Queen Camel Community Land Trust, High Street, Queen Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7NH

Rosemary Heath-Coleman

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# GONG BATH

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**Tuesday 13th  
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**3pm ~4pm**

**Price £15**

**includes refreshments**

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**Please bring a yoga mat, cushion and  
blanket**

**For more information please contact:**

**Carmen 07966 720007**

# Open Pathway to Peace

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Christy & Daniel Francis, Laurel Lane, QC BA22 7NU Tel: 01935 850266

*We would love to hear from you and welcome you here.*



Wishing everyone a really good 2024!

## 2024 Course Programme includes:

A Healing Way of Life part 1 Feb 3+4

Meditation & Centering Prayer Feb 19-22

Meditation starter by arrangement

### And later on

Bede Griffiths Retreat with David Cole May 10-12

Labyrinth Retreat with Julie Ebsworth & Christy July 6-7

Yoga & Bones for Life classes Friday mornings 9.30-11am  
from 12<sup>th</sup> January. Breathwork, balance, relaxation, release  
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Pool (indoor heated) membership available where you can  
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**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 pm**

**Queen Camel Memorial Hall**

## **A talk by Richard Kay**

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## **BUMPS, TOTS & TODDLERS**

If you have a little one, why not come along  
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**on Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall,  
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from 10.00 am - 12 noon**

It is an opportunity for parents/grandparents to meet  
and relax with a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake  
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**For more information please contact  
Morwenna Ford : 01935 850 300**



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**NOTE NEW TIMES!**

For further information please call Marian Davis on 01935 850 139

# QUEEN CAMEL BOWLS CLUB

Englands Lane, Queen Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7NN

Things typically slow down a little throughout the winter months although the social side has been most enjoyable. We have had a quiz or two, have met up for an evening meal and had the odd breakfast together and an evening game of skittles.

The Bowls Club are now gearing up for another busy year, but this one is a special one as the Club will be celebrating its 75 years anniversary of playing Bowls in Queen Camel. We have lots of plans for 2024, which includes tabletop sales, fun days, games nights and more.

The clubs registration day this year will be taking place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There will be Bacon Sandwiches plus Coffee or Tea for just £3.00. If you are interested in taking up Lawn Bowls please do come along on the day, from 10:00 until 12:00, and speak with some of our Committee Members.

Should you wish to know more about the Bowls Club please do not hesitate to contact the Club Secretary, on 07514 485809 or email: [queencamelbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:queencamelbowlsclub@gmail.com) for more information.



## BOTTLE TOP COLLECTION

A reminder that we continue to collect bottle tops in aid of the Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance. The tops must, PLEASE, have the triangular recycling logo shown above with the no 2 in the middle. Apart from milk bottles, some sparkling water and orange juice bottles display the logo inside the caps and can be included. **They can be left in the bottle top container that is in the old telephone box near the shop and in the foyer of the village hall when the Village Café is open.** *The collecting bin near the Post Office is nothing to do with the Queen Camel collection.* Ketchup bottle tops, toothpaste tube tops, coffee jar tops do not have the all-important no 2 logo on them – so please do not include them.

Thank you all very much – the Air Ambulance really does appreciate your support.  
Morwenna Ford - 01935 850 300

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## Email Delivery of the Camels Magazine:

We are looking to establish an email delivery system for the Camels Magazine in Queen Camel and having started this exercise in late 2023, we are keen to make everyone aware of the possibility. As you can imagine, the paper copies involve a great deal of time, resources and shoe leather to deliver over 400 copies around the village. We will still print a hard copy each month as there are a considerable number of people in the parish without an internet connection to whom we will continue to deliver and there will be copies available in the shop, church and the Old School cafe.

If you would like to receive future copies in this format - and NOT a black and white hard copy - please email Morwenna Ford at [morwennaford@gmail.com](mailto:morwennaford@gmail.com) giving you 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. We think you will agree that it is an attractive and practical alternative.

GDPR data storage obligations will be followed.

=====

**Magazine Editor:** Morwenna Ford, Woodpeckers, Green Lane, Queen Camel BA22 7NP

Tel: 01935 850 300; Email: [morwennaford@gmail.com](mailto:morwennaford@gmail.com)

Please supply copy not later than the 20th of the previous month

**Distribution:** Rachel & David Scully Tel: 01935 851642; Email: [rachelscully475@btinternet.com](mailto:rachelscully475@btinternet.com)