

October 2020

# The Camels



# Magazine

## The Cam Vale Ministry Team

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**St Barnabas Church Website:** [www.stbarnabasqueencamel.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasqueencamel.org.uk)

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

For the latest information on services and events at all our local churches,  
details of how to book weddings and baptisms, and advice on funerals.

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## EDITORIAL

I want to begin by saying thank you so much for your amazing generosity. At the end of my final service when George our benefice treasurer handed me the envelope and say ‘I think you will be happy with this’ I had no idea how much you’d collected. It’s actually quite overwhelming and with all the cards flowers and good wishes, not forgetting some very useful garden tokens, both Alan and I want to say a very big THANKYOU.

Next also to say thank you to all who came to my final service. By the time you read this it will seem like a while ago but it was such a special occasion for all kinds of reasons. We were so blessed with the weather and it was wonderful to be worshipping together in what one writer described as God’s great outdoor Cathedral, surrounded by the beauty of creation, even the donkeys managed to join in.

Way back in the 1960s John Robinson in his book the New Reformation wrote ‘We have to relearn that “the house of God” is primarily the world in which God lives, not the contractor’s hut set up in the grounds. The church was never meant to be an end in itself, it is merely the constructors hut on God’s building site which is the world and from that hut we dare to pray, ’thy kingdom come’.

One of the good things about Covid, and some good things have come out of it, is that it is making us re-think the way we do worship, finding new and creative ways to get around the things that we can’t do and making us think differently about what we can. It is also opening our eyes to the fact that we can worship in different places, out of doors for example.

Now, we have six beautiful much-loved church buildings and I wouldn’t want to give the impression that I don’t value them, but sometimes it is hard both for those leading worship and those attending when numbers are really low, the quality of worship really suffers. We really are **better together** and it seems to me that right now the way forward is still to use our churches in rotation but to have more services where we combine. During August so many people have commented how lovely it feels, even within the Covid restrictions, to be part of a good sized congregation; somehow it raises morale and our numbers have been consistently good reminding us that primarily Christ’s church is made up of people and not bricks and mortar.

From the minister’s point of view, it has been a joy not to be rushing from one service to another and to be able to be truly present in worship and not with half an eye on the clock making sure you’re not running late! Also, to be able to share in leading worship with colleagues. With the onset of Autumn, no doubt there will be challenges over making sure, as far as is possible, that every community has regular services. It will be important to work together on this, being prepared to be gracious, to avoid being parochial and not expecting more than our fair share.

This will be my final editorial and I would like to end by saying it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve here as Associate Priest and for 3 years, on and off, as your **'Interim Rector'**, (no pay, no title and no house) but still doing all the essentials of overseeing the loves and lives of six parishes. How good can that be? But there you go and there it is but just believe me my friends when I say the future is going to be different, another story for another day which no doubt we will discover together.

Someone recently emailed me saying that alongside my gifts in preaching thoughtful and provocative sermons my gift in leadership here in Cam Vale have always been keeping 'the wheels on the cart', holding the ship on a steady course whilst encouraging the gifts of others and keeping a smile on people's faces. If this has been true, I am more than content.

Alan and I are not moving away so will still see each other around. This is not as much a retirement as a stepping back from parish ministry, after round about fifteen years to concentrate on other things. Who knows where the future may lead. Right now, we're looking forward to a break and in the future some new adventures.

With my love and prayers to you all, The Revd Rose.

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## QUEEN CAMEL MEDICAL CENTRE

Thank you to all our patients for their support and understanding as the surgery as adapted to our new ways of working as a result of COVID-19. We are asking patients to use askmyGP where possible to keep our phone lines free for patients who can't access this online service. Please go to our website at [www.queencamelsurgery.co.uk](http://www.queencamelsurgery.co.uk) to access the link to askmyGP.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Ed Jones as our new GP Partner replacing Dr Taylor. Dr Jones joined us in September.

We are about to start our annual flu vaccination programme. We will need to run our clinics in a slightly different way this year, but we will have plenty of staff around to help direct you on the day. Our PPG members will be helping us direct patients during the clinics, but we could use some extra volunteers.

If you would like to help for an hour or two please contact Linda, the Practice Manager.

If you are normally eligible for the flu vaccination please call us on 01935 850225 to make an appointment.

## COUNTESS GYTHA SCHOOL



Our children and staff returned to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and it is a pleasure to watch the school come alive again! Children are certainly excited to be back with their friends and adults whilst learning. Adults are thrilled to be back with their classes and friends whilst teaching.

We have welcomed new colleagues to our school community, Mrs Walmsley, Miss Bridge and Miss Tumelty as teachers and Miss Lauren Watts our new PE coach. We believe that these colleagues will help to provide an even more enriched school experience for our children.



We eagerly await our new website 'going live' in the next fortnight and anticipate that this will enable us to have a greater opportunity to publicize our school in the local community. The manner in which children are being taught is certainly different at Countess Gytha as it is across the nation from before lockdown; with all children and staff working and socialising in the Government suggested 'bubbles', adults imparting knowledge from the front of the classroom with children facing the front in all

rooms, lots of thorough handwashing and traditional contact games such as 'tag' being unacceptable past times for the children at the moment. All of these stipulations are of course in place and being adhered to rigidly, to keep the children and staff safe.

Luke Talmage and Lisa Thompson, Head Teacher, staff and children of Countess Gytha

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### **LITTER PICK 10am Saturday 3rd October**

There will have to be Covid precautions in place-

- 1 Masks to be worn while checking in
  - 2 Social spacing to be observed while checking in
  - 3 Signing in for Covid compliance and insurance cover.
- Sticks,bags and gloves are available .Please supply your own sticks if you have them as supplies are low.



**MOVIES at WEST CAMEL**

**SHOWING AT THE DAVIS HALL AT  
7.30 PM**

**Doors open 7 p.m. please arrive in good  
time to enable safe distanced entry and  
track and trace records to be taken  
Tickets £5 on the door**



**Covid 19 restrictions in place. Masks must be worn and social distancing strictly observed. Regretfully refreshments will not be available.**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
'EMMA'

Emma Woodhouse, a rich and intelligent – if misguided – young woman, meddles in the love lives of her friends. Latest adaptation of the Jane Austen Novel.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
'1917'

A WWI epic filmed to appear as 1 shot, about a couple of soldiers tasked with traveling deep behind enemy lines to deliver orders that will save 1600 lives.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
'David Copperfield'

Adapted from the classic novel by Charles Dickens, THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD brings to life one of the author's most cherished characters.

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***Cam Vale Benefice Prayer Chain***



*Would you like us to pray for you?*

*In total confidence, a group of Christians will pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, for you, or someone you know, if you are ill, troubled or worried*



**Phone at anytime any of these numbers.**

**Marion 01963 220741**

**Vanla 01935 850269**

**Betty 01963 441037**

*As part of our prayer ministry in Cam Vale there are prayer request boxes in each of our churches together with cards. All prayers placed in the boxes are offered up in our worship each week. The prayers are offered silently and not read aloud because of confidentiality*

# WEST CAMEL INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH

Part of the Independent Methodist Connexion



## Meeting at All Saints Church

Minister: Ray Ursell (07770 238588)

Local contacts: Geoff and Elizabeth Chapman (01935 850838)

Email: [wc-imc@mail.com](mailto:wc-imc@mail.com)

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER:

October	4th.	<u>No service</u>
“	11th.	6pm Mr Ray Ursell <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>
“	18th.	6pm Mr Geoff Chapman <b>“SANKEY EVENING”</b>
“	25th.	6pm Mr Steve Derby of Ditchat

### The Wonder of Seeds

This is the time of year when farmers and gardeners reap the fruits of their labours — traditionally a time to give thanks. As a keen gardener I never cease to be amazed by seeds. A tiny tomato seed will produce a plant 6 feet tall, loaded with fruit, and a butternut squash seed will produce a plant which covers a large area of ground, with large fruits packed with enough seeds to produce hundreds more. It's what is inside the seed that I find most amazing — a set of coded genetic instructions that are unique to each kind of seed, so that you never get carrots from tomato seeds, or sunflowers from butternut squash seeds. It is a fact that coded information is never produced by random processes. Intelligence has to be involved. I believe the same applies to the information inside a seed, and that a tiny seed, that you can hold in the palm of your hand, is one of the best evidences for the existence of a Creator-God.

In the New Testament, Jesus had a lot to say about seeds. He told a parable about a sower scattering good seed, which represented the good news of His death and resurrection. When we believe, and allow that seed to take root in our hearts, it transforms us as nothing else can. Jesus also likened the kingdom of God to a tiny seed, that grows and grows until it becomes a large tree. That exactly describes God's kingdom, which began in a small way 2,000 years ago, but has now spread to every continent, is still growing, and will continue to grow. As hymn-writer Isaac Watts wrote: “His kingdom [will] stretch from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.” —*Geoff Chapman*.

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## **WEATHER RECORDS FROM MEAD FARM, DOWNHEAD**

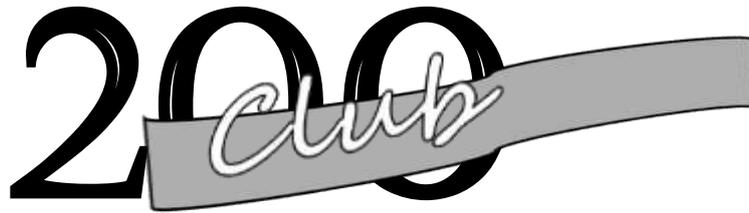
AUGUST 2020

Maximum temperature: 34 C (94 F) on the 12th

Minimum temperature: 5.5 C (42 F) on the 4th

Grass level minimum: 4.1 C (40 F) on the 4th

Total rainfall: 107.3 mm (4.22 ins.)



**QUEEN CAMEL MEMORIAL HALL 200 Club**

**September 2020 Prizes**

- First Prize:- £30 Barbara Milo-Fox – No. 102
- Second prize:- £25 Anne Aldworth – No. 11
- Third Prize:- £20 Christy Casley– No. 101
- Fourth Prize:- £15 Mike Baker– No. 14
- Fifth Prize:- £10 Arthur Thring– No. 113

There is still time to join the new 200 club year beginning in October.  
If you need your form collecting please ring Liz Jardine on 850074 and leave a message.  
We are so grateful to everyone who participates in the 200 club!!  
Be in it to win it!!! Your village hall benefits. Thank you.

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**ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST CAMEL APCM  
will follow the 10.00am service at All Saints  
at approximately 11.00am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

The Agenda will be available to peruse at the back of the church from 18<sup>th</sup> September. This and the reports can be sent by email to interested parties on request. Please contact Melanie Smallwood to register your interest. Attendance is open to all, and those who are currently on the Electoral Role will be able to vote.

The Covid 19 Virus has meant that we are adopting a new approach to this meeting. You will need to let Jenny Clothier know that you will be coming to the service and/or the meeting by the Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. If you are anxious about being at a gathering and would like to join a Zoom Meeting we will make this available but we will need to know in advance to arrange the technology. Jenny's telephone number is: 01935 850281

If anyone would like to submit a question or a comment for inclusion in our meeting could they please send it by email to Melanie: [melanie.armitstead@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.armitstead@gmail.com)

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**WEST CAMEL BOOK CLUB**

The Book Group is continuing to meet on Zoom for the time being. Next month on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October our book is Prussian Blue by Phillip Kerr. If anyone would like to join us please let Melanie know on [melanie.armitstead@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.armitstead@gmail.com)

## QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

A lot of work has been going on concerning our Neighbourhood Plan, and we have made a big leap forward in the progression to its full adoption by the planning authorities. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) accepted our draft plan and appointed a very experienced independent Examiner to review it. She reported back to SSDC with 20 proposed modifications, virtually all of them of a minor nature. However, there was one contentious issue concerning the settlement boundary. We have always believed that a settlement boundary would give clarity to the area where potential development would be supported by local people.

Unfortunately the Examiner detected that in the SSDC Local Plan, rural settlements and villages are not permitted to have settlement boundaries and failure to comply with the proposed modification could jeopardise any further progress with our plan. While maintaining the need for the settlement boundary, we worked closely with the SSDC planners to agree a compromise solution, which would still retain control of the boundary by clearly defining infill development.

On 3rd September the SSDC Executive Committee met and agreed the Examiner's report and the modifications in full, they agreed the modified text, including the clear definition of infill, which we had agreed previously. They agreed to organise a referendum next year for local people on the Electoral Register to confirm their final agreement to the plan. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the Government has stopped all referendum activity until 6th May 2021, but the good news is that they have also agreed that any Neighbourhood Plan sitting waiting for referendum is now granted "significant weight" in any planning application decision. So effectively our plan is now in use. Early next year we will work hard to ensure that parishioners are well aware just how important a "yes" vote will be in the referendum if we are going to have a real say over our future development of our village.

The proposed dual carriageway for the A303 from Sparkford to Ilchester is reaching an important stage. We have been informed that the Minister is minded to refuse the Development Consent Order (DCO) and has identified four areas of concern. One of them has been generated by joint letters from Queen Camel PC, West Camel PC and Sparkford PC (the 3 PCs) concerning the poor design of the Hazlegrove junction and the need to incorporate the local parallel road from the de-trunked section of the A303.

Obviously, if the Minister does refuse the DCO there will be a delay while redesign and resubmission takes place, although the 3PCs do not believe that there will be any real impact on the timetable for the overall scheme to dual the A303 between the M3 and the M5. The redesigned scheme should be significantly cheaper to build, cause much less local disruption during construction and provide a much more robust road locally. We will just need to wait a bit longer for the Minister's much delayed decision!

Simon Thornewill, Chairman

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2020

- 4<sup>th</sup>** Readings: *Isaiah 5.1-7, Philippians 3.4b-14, Matthew 21.33-end, Psalm 80.9-17*  
9.30am All Age Service at Queen Camel  
10.00am Holy Communion at West Camel  
c.11.00am APCM at West Camel
- 11<sup>th</sup>** Readings: *Isaiah 25.1-9, Philippians 4.1-9, Matthew 22.1-14, Psalm 23*  
10.00am Morning Prayer at Weston Bampfylde  
c.11.00am APCM at Weston Bampfylde  
6.30pm Evening Prayer at Corton Denham
- 18<sup>th</sup>** Readings: *Isaiah 45.1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10, Matthew 22.15-22, Psalm 96.1-9*  
9.30am Holy Communion at Sutton Montis  
c.10.30am APCM at Sutton Montis  
9.30am Matins at Sparkford
- 25<sup>th</sup>** Readings: *Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18, 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8, Matthew 22.34-end*  
10.00am Together at 10 at Queen Camel  
(possible repeat at 11.30am if numbers require)

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Funerals: 17.9.2020 Barrie Carter at Corton Denham  
23.9.2020 Maggie Hunter at Queen Camel

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[dorsetdelights@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dorsetdelights@hotmail.co.uk)

Contact Alice 07783 928532 Louise 07743 780609

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## QUEEN CAMEL CRICKET CLUB



Our shortened season has now finished with the seniors playing 11 matches, winning 6 of them.

The U10s managed to play 3 matches winning 1.

We ran our youth training on Fridays, with 23 young cricketers from ages 8 to 16 attending.

We are now looking to renovate the square ready for the 2021 season.

We looking to enter a new senior team in the Somerset Saturday League (MSL).

We would need new players to join to help build a squad of players to sustain an 18-game season running from May to August. Please contact us via our email below or if you know some of our local team members please let them know you are interested (anyone from age 14 and above can play).

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2021

The club will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.

A Cricket festival week is being planned from Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

We have made contact with and are now hoping to arrange a fixture with the MCC.

We also have a fixture planned v the Somerset CC over 50's.

Did you use to play for Queen Camel? We would love to hear from any former team members. More details to follow.

### Want to be involved? Ways support your Cricket team

QCCC are always looking for new members of the community to join the club, see below for details on how you can be part of a fantastic village cricket team.

Do you shop online? Do it through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and raise a free donation Queen Camel Cricket Club every time you shop!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queencamelcc/>

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

**Club Email:** [queencamelcc@hotmail.com](mailto:queencamelcc@hotmail.com)

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### MILDMAY ARMS

Congratulations to Scott(Woody), Debs and staff at the Mildmay arms for their wonderful and efficient delivery of meals to us on a Friday of fish and chips, also a most delicious Sunday roast. We have used this service since April over the lock down for the virus. The service continued even when they had the fire, throughout the problems that they would have had to deal with.

The food is always excellent. We shall continue to keep ordering every week.

Well done to the all and thank you.

Trevor and Maureen Whittingham.

# **Open Pathway Retreat Centre**

**Charity 800412 ~ Tel: 01935 850266**



## **Animal Energy Therapy Training Course**

**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October**

***To benefit all animals ~ domestic, wild and farm***

## **Silent Retreat**

**30<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November**

***Treat yourself to time and space to just BE***

## **Bones for Life**

***Tuesdays 9.30-11.00am. £10.50 per class. Sore, stiff and aching? Or just want to free up your spine and joints and enjoy moving?***

## **Yoga & Relaxation**

***Monday 6-7.30pm and Friday 9.30-11am. £6.50 per class.***

***Individual appointments for Energy Therapy, Progressive Counselling/Coaching and Meditation training.***

***Retreats, Self-Catering and f/b + b/b accommodation***

***We'd love to see you ~ give us a call***

***Christy, Daniel Francis and Fiananda***

***Email: [findyourway@openpathwaycentre.org](mailto:findyourway@openpathwaycentre.org)***

# WEST CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

## Community Housing Scheme - last remaining plot for sale

West Camel Parish Council are offering for sale the last two remaining plots (8/9) as a single plot for the construction of a single dwelling to form the permanent residence of a 'qualifying person', under the terms of the Community Housing Scheme. The dwelling will be compliant with Part 1 of the WCPC Enduring Covenant and the purchaser must agree to sign this covenant.

Sale will be by 'Sealed Bids' in excess of £85,000 to purchase the combined plots, to be received by the clerk Les Stevens ([clerk@westcamel.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westcamel.org.uk)) no later than 24:00 hrs on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Sealed bids will be opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and the successful bid notified. A non-refundable deposit of £5,000 will secure the successful bid and progression to conveyancing. The purchaser will be expected to complete conveyancing in a timely manner. WCPC will meet its own legal costs on this occasion.

Please contact the clerk (01935 850810 / 07540154034 during business hours 09:00 – 17:00) to confirm your eligibility as a 'Qualifying Person' and the restrictions of The Enduring Covenant.

Les Stevens, Clerk to West Camel Parish Council  
Tel 01935 850810; Web site – [www.westcamel.org.uk](http://www.westcamel.org.uk)

### *Email Contact Privacy Notice*

#### *When you contact us*

*The information you provide (personal information such as name, address, email address, phone number, organisation) will be processed and stored to enable us to contact you and respond to your correspondence, provide information and/or access our facilities and services. Your personal information will not be shared or provided to any other third party.*

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# Ridgeway

BUILDING SOLUTIONS

**Andy Warner** 07967 640263 / 01935 851303

**Email** [hello@ridgewaybuildingsolutions.com](mailto:hello@ridgewaybuildingsolutions.com)

**Website** [www.ridgewaybuildingsolutions.com](http://www.ridgewaybuildingsolutions.com)

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- Home improvements

## QUEEN CAMEL TENNIS CLUB

QCTC has enjoyed a lot of activity since lockdown restrictions were partially lifted in June and our 'Play and Pay' facility has been particularly popular. In the last couple of months, we have introduced a new system for memberships as well as court bookings with payment (where applicable) being made online. This has simplified administration and made the processes far easier for members and visitors alike.

The Club Tournament has been enthusiastically supported this year and the finals will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 12 noon.

As with all tennis clubs, we are continuing to 'Track & Trace' everyone who plays on the courts and members and visitors alike are kindly asked to fill in their details on the forms near the entrance as well as sanitise their hands on arrival.

Our autumn coaching programme has got off to a very good start with Junior sessions on Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoons together with adult group and advanced sessions taking place. Cardio has resumed on a Wednesday evening. Individual coaching is also available – please contact Antonia Corp on 07590 579 800 if you are interested. Club Nights continue from 6.00 pm on Tuesday evenings and a Club Afternoon has resumed on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00 – 4.00 pm.

For more information please visit our website: [www.queencameltennisclub.co.uk](http://www.queencameltennisclub.co.uk)

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## GARDENS OF ILLUSION



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07813 600546 or (01963) 220264

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email: [jardin.concepter@gmail.com](mailto:jardin.concepter@gmail.com)

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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS

### *COMING UP . . .*

Church activity is stuttering back into life with two socially distanced services a month. We will, hopefully, be holding an All Age Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 am which will be the first opportunity for months for families to come together. Sadly we will not be offering the usual breakfast beforehand or coffee and cake afterwards.

**A Christmas Catalogue** will be delivered with the magazine in Queen Camel. In a very small way this will replace our annual Christmas Fayre which will not be happening this year. Please do look through it and place your orders as soon as you can. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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

**A Communion Harvest Service** was held in the middle of September and in spite of social distancing and wearing masks and no singing it was an uplifting service in these very strange times with two Harvest hymns being played on the organ. The church was beautifully decorated and non-perishable items of food were given to the Lord's Larder. In these difficult times, they continue to be very grateful for all donations whether in kind or money. If you wish to contribute in any way, please contact Paul Davis on 01935 850 139.

**Bumps, Tots & Toddlers** had the happiest of reunions in the Playing Field on a beautiful sunny morning in mid-September. Whilst social distancing continued, the children were clearly delighted to see one another again as, indeed, were the parents. Weather permitting, we are hoping to continue meeting outside for the next few weeks.

**The Allotments** have benefited from excellent growing weather this year and have been very productive.



## **B P Plumbing**

Tel: 07811 441 073

Ben Perkins

Queen Camel

Complete bathroom and shower Installations

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## CAMEL'S EYE



Our District Council has given the green light to Queen Camel's draft Neighbourhood Plan (as amended by the planning inspectors) and it will be for parishioners to decide whether it is adopted or not. Because of Covid there'll be no referendum until next summer so we'll have to contain our impatience, but the draft Plan's policies already carry "significant weight". An early

result is a size reduction in the two houses proposed for the field behind the Memorial Hall, from 4-bedroom to 3-bedroom.

### *The big battalions*

Meanwhile the fate of the new A303 is in the hands of the Secretary of State for Transport. His warning that he is "minded" to refuse the scheme has left the County Councils of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire aghast, convinced that further delay, let alone refusal, would be disastrous for the South West. The MOD seems confident that bird-strike dangers can be managed and the main concern of Historic England and our District Council seems to be light pollution if, as suggested, street lighting is installed along the proposed Hazlegrove underpass.

### *Spartans*

The resistance is led by our Parish Councils and District Councillor who have urged the Minister not to approve the scheme unless the design of the junction at Hazlegrove is improved and the existing A303 is retained as a parallel road for local traffic. Local businesses also want their interests better protected and the South Somerset Bridleway association and British Horse Society want a Pegasus crossing on the A359 and other changes to make it easier for horse-riders, cyclists and pedestrians to get from one side of the proposed new road to the other. Some individual residents are so concerned about the scheme's impact on local communities that they want the current scheme to be scrapped altogether, leaving the existing road in place and routing the dual carriageway through open farmland north of Camel Hill instead. You can't have too many roads. Whatever, by 20<sup>th</sup> November we should know whether it's *Go Go Go!* or back to the drawing board.

### *Put your house in order*

The MHCLG - or Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government if you prefer - is full of wheezes. It wants to revive house building by suspending for 18 months the requirement to include affordable housing in developments of less than 40 to 50 dwellings. In the longer term it wants to deal with the housing shortage by replacing the current planning system with a slicker, zonal system including a "presumption in favour of development" on small sites in and around villages. And for good measure it also wants to scrap the existing system of local government, replacing County and District Councils with single-tier unitary authorities. Our local councils have responded with enthusiasm. The County Council wants to scrap the District Councils and run the whole of Somerset as one while our District Council wants to scrap the County Council and replace it with two unitary authorities, one for South Somerset and Mendip and the other for Sedgemoor, Taunton and West Somerset. Both schemes promise better services and greater efficiency - win win for us! - and there'll be loads of consultations on all of these wheezes so that will be all right.

PPC



Last month we introduced you to some of our tenants and it was particularly encouraging when reminding ourselves about what many in the community asked for<sup>1</sup> to realise that some of these wishes are already being met and plans in the pipeline will meet others. These plans include those proposed by our tenant HFP below.

We are continually looking at ways of improving energy efficiency throughout the whole site. To this end we are revising the central heating system which will then be more energy efficient and, therefore, reduce our oil consumption. This improvement should be completed by the end of October.

Due to the current coronavirus situation, we have decided that we should not proceed with the planned Macmillan Coffee Morning, this year being organised by Christine (Richardson), but hope that this might become possible at a future date. Readers may recall that we held one last year, run by Tosie Dowden and family.

If you or someone you know are interested in having a room or a space within a room (previously a classroom) please contact Kim at [admin@oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk](mailto:admin@oldschoolqueencamel.org.uk) . Please also remember that we still need hardy plants - and if you have any free time and can wield a paintbrush, we would love to hear from you, too. RHC



Our new website is now up and running with information about all our services previously mentioned in September's edition.

### **Introducing our new Skills Centre**

As from 19<sup>th</sup> October, we will be opening up space to hold skills sessions in the old school hall/gym. This is our opportunity to provide the community with a place to teach and be taught new skills.

There will be sessions (a.m. and p.m.) available each week for groups to rent and individuals to attend. We already have sewing/needlecraft/knitting sessions booked for a Monday and Tuesday, with furniture upcycling/shabby chic/decoupage happening on Thursday afternoons. If you are interested in coming along to a session, please let us know

*/continued from previous page*

Are you a professional personal trainer or physical rehabilitation therapist who needs space to carry out 1to1 sessions? Please contact us; we have equipment set up and ready to be used. Anyone interested in running a group can contact us directly to discuss and book a session. We'd love to run sessions covering web design, business start-up/advice, book-keeping, book clubs, wood working, gardening....

Please make contact through 01935 319006 or [office@homefirstplus.co.uk](mailto:office@homefirstplus.co.uk). On behalf of HomeFirst Plus, we look forward to meeting you.

Rachel

*<sup>1</sup> As recorded in 'Survey 16' by the Parish Council and the survey carried out by the Community Council for Somerset in November 2018 – final report issued February 2019, both reports on the CLT's website at [www.qcclt.co.uk](http://www.qcclt.co.uk).*



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## SOMERSET CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMUNITY FUND

On 1 September 2020 Somerset County Council launched a new £1 million grant scheme that would be made available for city, town and parish councils to support local communities to take positive action to help Somerset become carbon neutral by 2030 and mitigate the impacts of Climate Change.

From 1 October our Parish Council is invited to bid for between £5,000 and £75, 000 for innovative projects that can make a real difference in reducing carbon emissions, reducing consumption and to implement activities around climate change mitigation and adaptation. There will be two windows for application: 1 October and 1 December 2020. Each has a timeframe for submission of six weeks.

Based on the One Planet Principles, the funding is available to support projects that:

- Reduce the reliance on car travel locally
- Community electric car share and charging points
- Community Energy Projects
- Lower energy use in the community (e.g. public buildings)
- Lower carbon demand and consumption
- Support biodiversity and ecological adaptation and resilience
- Carbon capture and storage
- Empower the local community to promote a culture of sustainable living
- Environmental help to mitigate against and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Support waste reduction initiatives to reuse and promote products which help reduce consumption
- Local recycling to reduce single-use plastics.
- Increase community composting
- Support local sustainable food markets and co-operatives

Some projects are already underway in larger communities and it may be that we need to concentrate on smaller initiatives which could encapsulate households, our School and the different organisations and businesses which offer a variety of services, events and activities within our community.

As a community this is a wonderful opportunity to do “our bit” to commit to changes in lifestyles and behaviours and to take action at a local level.

**Are you interested? Do you require more information? Maybe you already have ideas you wish to share and participate in? If so, then please contact: Sue Gettings on 01935 850008 or Kathy Grainger on 01935 850797**

## THANKS TO QUEEN CAMEL MEDICAL CENTRE

I have been a grateful patient of the Medical Centre since I arrived here in 1970 and so very many of us have cause to be hugely fortunate to be looked after by all in their wonderful team. With all our hearts we thank you all most warmly for your devotion, dedication and care for our health.

David Dixon

\* \* \* \* \*

## FROM OUR VILLAGE AGENT



**07968521746**

**cath@somersetccc.org.uk**

CCS Village, Community & Carers Agents are in your communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. Please visit [www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk) and [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or call me to find out who can advise you.

**Covid-19** As I write, the rule of 6 has just come into force. CCS and the Village Agent Team are here to help make sense and support everyone as information changes at a rapid pace. We are continuing to look at ways to meet face to face as soon as is safely possible, but in the meantime you can find us on Facebook here: [www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live](https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live). We air at 11am every weekday, but you can watch anytime on catch up. We have covered a huge variety of subjects in our Talking Cafes

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