



Village News

Issue No. 139
January - February 2023

Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool



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*Look who turned up at the
Christmas Fayre!
See Page 24*

Happy New Year!

Publication in the Village News does not imply an endorsement. The Editors cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.
The information contained within this publication is published in good faith.
Volunteers deliver this publication to homes in West Monkton, Monkton Heathfield, Bathpool, Gotton and Goosenford.



Useful Names and Telephone Numbers

Rector: Rev. Mary Styles - 01823 451189
 The Vicarage, Kingston St Mary, TA2 8HW
Associate Vicar half-time: Rev Jim Cox - 07967817337
Churchwardens: Pearl Jeanes - 01823 412804
 pearljeanespcc@gmail.com
 Sally Hillman - 01823 410814
 sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk
 staugustines.churchwarden@gmail.com
P.C.C Secretary: Sue Cleave - 07468608921
P.C.C Treasurer: David Cooke
Captain of Bell ringers: Pearl Jeanes - 412804
Church Flower Organiser: Angela Dill - 412395
Mothers' Union: Hazel Adams - 01823 443027
Benefice Office: Michele Hardiman - 01823 451257
Benefice Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/South-Quantock-Benefice-West-Monkton-Cheddon-Kingston-Broomfield-churches-242102696183594/>
Benefice website: www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Parish Council Clerk:: Amy Shepherd 01823 412922
clerk@westmonkton.net
PC Community Clerk: Kate Welsh 07505984006
community@westmonkton.net
PC Chairman: Stuart Haskins 07824410997
stuarthaskins@westmonkton.net
Community Website: www.somersetccc.org.uk
Parish Council Website: www.westmonkton.net
Litter Hotline: 03003048000

West Monkton Primary School Head:
 Daniel Seviour - 01823 412582
Heathfield Community School Head:
 Hannah Jones - 01823 412396
Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre: 01823 414141

Taunton Deane Community Transport:
 01823 331266 Mon-Fri. 9 am to 4 pm (Slinky Bus
 24hrs notice).

Village Hall:

Telephone, incoming calls only - 01823 412068
Booking Officer: Ian Pitchfork Tel: 01823 412176
ianpitchfork623@gmail.com
Chairman: Ray Tulley Tel: 01823 4252368
Vice Chairman: Colin Bentley Tel: 01823 413193
BACH (Brittons Ash Community Hall)
Chairman: Barry Gage 07752723311
barrygage125@btinternet.com
Booking Officer: Maggie Little 01823 323662
bachbookings@westmonkton.net

CCS Village Agent: please call this main number, they
 will then connect you to the correct Village Agent at the
 time of calling - 01823 331222.

Regular Events at West Monkton Village Hall Monkton Heathfield, TA2 8NE

Slimming World
 Mondays 08:30 - 11:30 17:30 - 20:30
Jittabugs
 Mondays 13:45 - 14:45
Phoenix Camera Club
 Mondays 19:00 - 21:00
Art Club
 Tuesdays 08:30 - 17:30
Badminton
 Tuesdays (Ladies) 14:00 - 15:00
 Wednesday (Mixed) 20:00 - 21:00
Brownies
 Tuesdays (except school holidays) 18:00 - 19:30
Monkton Players
 Tuesdays (check 'What's On' for dates) 20:00 - 22:00
Sweaty Mama
 Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45
Yoga
 Wednesday 09:30 - 10:45
Fitness for Fun
 Wednesday 18:00 - 19:00
Flexercise
 Thursday 9:30 - 10:30
Coffee Morning (Ladies & Gents)
 Thursday 10:00 - 11:30
MNDA
 Once a month on a Thursday 13:30 - 16:30
Afternoon Tea
 Third Thursday of month 14:30 - 16:30
Bounce & Burn
 Thursday 18:00 - 19:00
Monkton Evening WI
 Fourth Thursday of month 19:15 - 21:25
Trams & Light Railways
 Once a month on a Saturday 13:30 - 16:30
Hardy Plant Society
 Once a month on a Saturday 09:30 - 13:00
Orchid Society
 Once a month on a Sunday 14:00 - 17:00
'O' Gauge Model Railways
 Quarterly on a Sunday 09:00 - 17:00

For more information please contact:
Ian Pitchfork Tel: 01823 412176
 Email: ianpitchfork623@gmail.com

Police Contact numbers:

Non emergency telephone 101
Emergency 999

To keep up to date on what's been happening in our
 area, you can follow police social media pages:

Twitter: @ASPWestSom @ASPolice
 Facebook

If you have any queries, the team can be contacted at:
SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk



We were pleased to welcome three great audiences for our Autumn show – Another Evening Of Laughter. Thank you to all those who supported us.

We are now on the hunt for our next production and hope to put on a show in Spring 2023. If you are interested in joining our friendly group; whether on stage or behind the scenes, now is the perfect time so please get in touch via our website (MonktonPlayers.co.uk) or Facebook page.

Tim Hiscock



Village News:

Please forward information for the next edition to the **Editor:** Dawn Watts, Tel. 01823 412201
 dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk

Village News Treasurer Ken Jones

Distribution of the Village News is organised by: Barry Gage, Maggie & Gordon Little.

Submissions to Village News may be made by e-mail or by hard copy. Please ask for a receipt to your e-mail to ensure that it arrives. Items submitted will be subjected to editing if necessary.

The deadline for submissions for the March/April 2023 Village News is 1st February 2023

To get a pdf copy of the Village News emailed to you,
 please email
thelocalvillagenews@live.co.uk

Letter from Rev. Mary



South Quantock Benefice

office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

(The parishes of West Monkton, Kingston St Mary, Broomfield & Cheddon Fitzpaine)

Happy New Year!

We are very excited to announce a big new change for the New Year in your Parish Church – we are experimenting with holding a service at 10am every Sunday starting 8th January (except 5th Sunday of the month.)

As your Rector, I also lead three other churches along with Rev Jim, my part-time colleague. So, it is impossible for us to lead worship in all four churches at the same time. West Monkton congregation has been looking at ways to address its desire to be in their own building every Sunday at 10am. In the last few years, we have identified people with the giftings, who have now been trained in the Church, to lead worship when the clergy are not available. It also means that we will be able to offer different styles of worship as these extra services develop

Which is where YOU come in! We would love to hear from you, if you don't already attend church, what you would like to see on offer in your Parish church or perhaps you might just like to dip into some of the services, now, knowing they won't all be the same, and give us some feedback. We are keen to include you in 2023!

We have some other things lined up as well, in January and February – please look at the boxes next to this article – in particular – we are re-running our popular free February “Teddy Bears’ Picnic” – aimed at young families and open to everyone.

In this New Year – I hope you are taking a few moments to think about your own health and well-being: Body, Mind and Spirit and so I leave you with these questions that might strike a chord:

- Did you know you can be Christened (Baptised) at any age?
- Did you know we love to perform weddings in this beautiful building?
- Did you know we are available to support you through the death of a loved one and can take funerals here and at the crematorium?
- We are happy to talk through any of these life events OR about exploring the Christian faith with you.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch!

Mary

(451189 or revmarye@gmail.com)

FAMILY EVENT ‘Teddy Bears’ Picnic’

SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY
Cheddon Memorial Hall
2.30 - 3.30pm

*Free event
Simple crafts & fun*

aimed at under 8's and their families - but everyone warmly welcome.

Teas, coffee, juice & biscuits provided. Please bring picnic snacks for your family and a rug to sit on.

organised by
South Quantock Benefice churches.

MEN'S GROUP MEETINGS:

Anyone welcome to come along to the group – contact Jim for more information:
jimcox11@gmail.com 07967 817337

Tue 10th Jan Pool Night. AllStars sports bar 7pm

Sun 12th Feb Presentation: Any time? Wilton Gaol. 7pm (venue t.b.c.) see website for details in the new year.

St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners

November

The draw was held on Monday 7th November
First Prize: £99.00 won by Myra Alexander
Second Prize: £49.50 won by Norman Cavill
The sum of £346.50 will go towards the church.
The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 99.

December

The draw was held on Saturday 3rd December
First Prize: £99.00 was won by Clare Bailey
Second Prize: £49.50 was won by Simon Turner
The sum of £346.50 will go towards the church.
The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 99.

Congratulations to the winners! Your turn next month? If you would like to join or hear more about the 100 Club, please contact:



Please see our website for up-to-date information
www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Masks are now optional, though we will continue to maintain distance and sanitise to protect ourselves and others.

January

1st Renewal of Baptismal Vows

10:00am Benefice Holy Communion Kingston St M

8th The Epiphany

8:30am BCP Communion Kingston St M

10:00am Holy Communion West Monkton

10:30am All Age Service Broomfield

15th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8:30am BCP Communion West Monkton

10:00am Morning Worship West Monkton

10:00am All Age Christingle Kingston St M

10:00am Holy Communion Cheddon F P

22nd 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8:30am BCP Communion Kingston St M

10:30am Holy Communion Broomfield

11.00am Plough Sunday service West Monkton

6:00pm Choral Evensong Kingston St M

29th Candlemas

10:00am Benefice united Holy Communion
Cheddon FP

February

5th 3rd Sunday before Lent

8:30am BCP Communion West Monkton

10:00am Morning Worship West Monkton

10:00am Holy Communion Kingston St M

6:00pm Evening Prayer Broomfield

12th 2nd Sunday before Lent

8:30am BCP Communion Kingston St M

10:00am Holy Communion West Monkton

10:30am All Age Service Broomfield

19th Sunday next before Lent

8:30am BCP Communion West Monkton

10:00am Morning Worship West Monkton

10:00am All Age Service Kingston St M

10:00am Holy Communion Cheddon F P

26th 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am BCP Communion Kingston St M

10:00am Holy Communion service West Monkton

10:30am Holy Communion Broomfield



Plough Sunday Service on 22nd January 11.00am

Service will be held in West Monkton church followed by lunch

Do come along to this traditional Plough Sunday service where we pull in a real and ancient plough.

"New for 2023"

**Weekly 10am service
in West Monkton church starting
8th January
(except 5th Sundays).**

Lent Groups — will begin late February

**Monday afternoons
Wednesday evenings**

Please contact the church office or check our website for details if you want to participate so we can order enough books for everyone in time for the start of the groups. Tel Michele 451257 or email office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

From West Monkton Registers:

Funerals:

01.10.22 Selina Jefferies

14.11.22 Pamela Bishop

Thanksgiving Service:

09.10.22 Penelope

Baptisms:

13.11.22 Mabel

27.11.22 Frankie-Rae

Ash Wednesday Services — 22nd February with Imposition of Ashes:

11am — Kingston church

7pm — West Monkton church





West Monkton Evening Women's Institute

Hi everyone

I really hope you all had a good Christmas, and from all of our WI ladies a very happy and healthy New Year. Now we can look forward to our summer holidays!

I think we all want to leave Covid memories behind us, but in October we welcomed Sue McDonnell who was the lady who started Taunton Scrubbers. She started in a very small way in her home and, although she herself 'could not sew', very soon she had people contacting her asking if they could help in any way to make some scrubs and masks for the nurses in the hospital and care homes.

Sue began by purchasing the fabric and cottons out of her own pocket, before obtaining some local funding to cover these costs. Sewers were not the only thing she needed, she found that she was driving all over the county picking up and dropping off materials needed ... she became known to people and offers of help came from men in particular who were on furlough and just wanted to do something to help, and took the collection and delivery tasks off her hands – this was a godsend to her as you can imagine. These scrubs were mainly made out of duvet covers or sheets as these were made of cotton and washed well. You can imagine how different each set were and Sue has photographs of all of them. In the future it is proposed that these photographs are going to be made into one piece of art work, and hung at the hospital – well worth seeing and very well done Sue, such an inspiration.

Sometimes things don't go to plan, and sadly our speaker for November (entitled The Great British Shake Off), was forced to pull out at the last minute ... so what do you do when that happens? Have an evening playing Bingo and that was so much fun! Our Christmas celebration this year is a 2-course meal arranged and cooked by the Committee in the hall ... I will tell you all about it in the next Newsletter. We have 12 teams so far entered for the Quiz on the 12th December – look forward to telling you all about it in the next Newsletter.

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings for a taster session, you will find us a friendly 'bunch' and you would be made very welcome. If you would like some more information just ring me, Shirley Hector, on 01823-619084 and I would be pleased to give you some more information, the meetings start at 7.30pm at the Heathfield Hall, West Monkton Village Hall.

January 26th

February 23rd

Social Evening

Caroline Spencer –

'My life on a dairy farm'

Shirley Hector

Monkton Evening WI

Ukrainian Unity Day (Den Sobornosti)

Ukrainian Unity Day (Den Sobornosti) is an important historical event which marks the anniversary of the unification of eastern and western Ukraine in 1919. It is celebrated on January 22nd every year. Unity Day is a Ukrainian observance that commemorates the Treaty of Unity signed on January 22nd, 1919.

In order to show support for Ukraine -

bells will be ringing around the Benefice during the morning of Saturday January 21st



Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

20th January 2023:

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)

Comedy/Drama: Based on the novella by Paul Gallico. Mrs Harris (Lesley Manville), a widowed charlady in post-war London, falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

17th February 2023:

Fisherman's Friends: One and All (12A)

Comedy/Drama/Music: After achieving major-label success, shanty-singing group Fisherman's Friends should be riding high. But leader Jim (James Purefoy) is sinking into drink and depression after the death of his father, the label is unconvinced by their second album, and new arrival in town Aubrey (Imelda May) is a sign of changing times. Can the band clean up and make it to the Pyramid Stage at Glasto?

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Refreshments: 6:30pm;

Short film: 7pm

Feature: 7:20pm.

Admission is £6 per

person at the door. Card payment accepted.

cwmfilmclub@cfmh.co.uk

07586 413290

Support Your Local Rugby Club - Taunton Rugby Club

Taunton Rugby Football Club was founded in 1875 and in the 147 years since it has played home matches at various locations around the town before moving to their current ground at Hyde Lane, Bathpool in 2001. Taunton now play in National League 1 which is the third tier of English Rugby and the current league position would rank Taunton in 33rd in the country. This is the highest league in which Taunton have ever played.

The club runs two senior teams, Taunton Titans and Taunton Warriors, a ladies team and provides coaching for children from the age of 5 upwards. Details of how children can take part in the Sunday morning coaching sessions can be found on the Taunton RFC website.

As a sport rugby union is dominated by one word - RESPECT. This is respect from the players towards the officials, respect from the crowd to the players and officials and respect between the players. At Taunton this is emphasised from the very beginning. Teaching self-discipline is also an integral part of the coaching at Taunton as an ill-disciplined team will soon find themselves penalised on the field. So what is the matchday experience like? Well before the game kicks off there is the option of attending the pre match carvery lunch. Every



club at Taunton's level provides a pre match lunch. Taunton's lunch venue is magnificent and anybody seeing the tables elegantly laid out cannot fail to be impressed. Taunton's lunch is constantly referred to as the best in the league by the officials from Taunton's opponents. There are four choices of meats, loads of vegetables to choose from with other dietary requirements accommodated. Lunches should be booked in advance. Everyone is made to feel welcome, and the lunch is always an enjoyable experience with a friendly atmosphere.

After the lunch it is time for the match. There is seating accommodation on both sides of the pitch or the game can be watched close up from the touch line or from the warmth of the dining area. The standard of the rugby is very high at this level. The players are semi-professional and both Taunton and the opposition give their all week in week out, risking life and limb for their enjoyment and for the entertainment of the crowd. Many former Taunton Titans play for Premiership teams and, not all that long ago former Taunton players Ben Moon and Sam Skinner played for England and Scotland respectively.

This season is Taunton Titans' second in National League 1 and they are finding it a bit of a struggle. They are not in the relegation places, but it is beginning to look like they are one of 6 teams from which the 3 relegated teams will emerge. It would be a massive boost to the team if there were bigger crowds cheering them on so why not pay a visit to the ground just a 5-minute walk from the New Mill Public House on the Bridgwater Road with plenty of parking (free in the overflow car park opposite the main entrance to the ground).

Rugby Union is a great sport and at this level it can be a great spectacle. All the skills of the game are on show together with the physical commitment. You will not see players feigning injury, arguing with the referee, or showing dissent. This is because of the respect and self-discipline drummed into players from an early age. So why not give Taunton rugby a try. Win, lose or draw the entertainment is superb. You can come and have a pre match lunch or just come for the match and give the team a cheer and if you enjoy it bring a friend next time. January 7, 14 and 28 are dates for the next Titans' home fixtures.

The club also has facilities for conferences, weddings, events and corporate hospitality. If any further information is required about any of the above either visit the club's website or telephone the club on 01832 336363



Bathpool Chapel

01823 710453
 07882764153
 naomigull75@gmail.com
 bathpoolchapel@outlook.com



Greetings dear friends
 Happy New Year!

At the Bathpool Chapel we are excited to begin this new season with restoration work being carried out on the building and a sound, healthy, dry area emerging out of the previously damp and decaying fabric. This is an amazing testimony to the Faithfulness of a Mighty God who saw our need and has answered our prayers. The Lord delights in using His willing servants to bless others and in turn to be blessed knowing we are doing His Will. It is a relational working partnership like no other!

A dear friend of the Chapel wrote this poem about our loving Father:

God's Love is ever present, in every word and deed,
 His gentle kindness and His Grace are all you ever need,
 and so I ask Him simply, to bless and comfort you
 and give you peace and happiness in all you say
 and do. He is a Tower, a Refuge, a Shelter from life's
 storm, a strong firm hand to hold you and keep you
 safe from harm. His Love it has no boundary, no fence
 or turret wall, nothing is too large for Him, nothing is
 too small. To know the love of Jesus, you need to
 kneel and pray, for only if you claim Him can He be
 yours today. He walked upon the green grass and up
 the mountainside, the cross so crude and heavy yet
 His love so deep and wide. What beauty in His
 actions, what graciousness and love, what mercy for
 the sinner sent from God above. I have felt His
 presence as I have knelt in prayer and called and
 asked for comfort, let His fragrance fill the air,
 surrounded by the love of God, I feel the joy and
 peace, that only God can give you - that's His
 Greatest Masterpiece. For God is Love and Love is
 God, that's all we need to know, so throw your arms
 around the cross and never let Him go.

Marilyn

Services: Every Sunday Morning at 10.30, with Holy Communion. Tea and coffee afterwards Bible studies, Discipleship Course and Group Discussions. Come and join us, You will be made very welcomed and will be a blessing to others!

Are you at a loose end on the last Friday of every month? Why not join us for worship and music practice from 7 to 9pm. Bring your own instrument or use the keyboard and percussion we have available.

And may the Lord Bless you and keep you, may He make His face to shine upon you and be Gracious to you and give you, His Shalom.

Rev T. Naomi Gull and friends at Bathpool Chapel

Gardening Corner

All Hail the Kale!

By the time you read this, the sun will be strengthening again, the days will be longer, the nights growing shorter. The great wheel turning and bringing us another year, another spring. The colours of the landscape change with trees from a distance, seemingly transformed as early buds swell and bark begins to shine. Far too early to be sowing anything, now is the time to make the most of any winter crops you have growing.



*All hail the mighty Taunton Deane kale!
 This one is over 6 feet tall.*

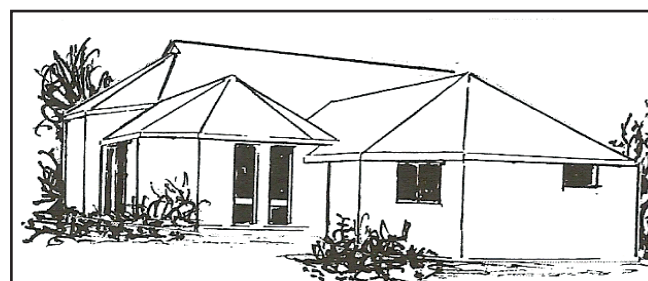
Brassicac are the stars of winter and kale is among the best of them. Sowing a selection of small, round, mustard like seeds in July can give you rich pickings throughout the winter even in the coldest periods. I like to sow Tuscan Kale (Cavolo Nero) every year but always try new types along side it. Redbor, a deep purple F1 kale is our new favourite as it stands so well over winter without any support and also seems less attractive to cabbage white butterflies as it is bulking up over the summer months.

I have also started growing perennial kales, particularly a local heirloom variety called 'Taunton Deane'. These provide tasty pickings of deep green leaves with red ribs all year around and are super tough plants. They propagate easily from stem cuttings and if left unpruned will eventually turn into woody shrubs, I saw some in the walled garden at Knightshayes gardens near Tiverton a few years ago that were at least 10 feet tall!

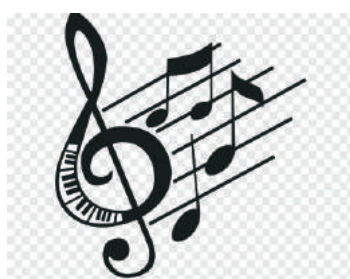
If you only have a window sill, kale seeds germinate and grow quickly and can give you tasty and nutritious baby leaves from a small pot or two.

Tom Nielsen
 Biocentric Planting Design & Nursery
www.biocentric.org.uk

**West Monkton Village Hall
 Monkton Heathfield
 Charity No. 304670**



After many years of service to the Village hall Lyn Batt, Booking Officer, and Joyce Keyte, Chairman, have retired. Our new Booking Officer will be Ian Pitchfork, his telephone numbers are 01823 412196 and mobile 07849270176. Email: ianpitchfork623@gmail.com
 The new Chairman will be Ray Tully, his telephone number is 01823 252368 and Email: raybathpool@gmail.com
 In the new year the trustees will be very occupied with researching ways in which we can make the hall more environmentally friendly.
 Please support the Management Committee in every way possible during this initial period of change.
 From me, Joyce Keyte, after living in West Monkton for nearly 50 years I will be sad to leave the many friends I have made during this time. I have enjoyed supporting the community.



**Are you musical?
 Do you play an instrument?
 Could you give some of your
 time?**

West Monkton Church is moving to four services a month in the New Year and are on the lookout for musicians to enhance the odd service here and there.

Do you play the organ, keyboard, violin, clarinet, guitar – we are open to anything and everything (within reason)! Our vision is to either form a musical group or for a solo performer to play during a lay led service, which we hope will encourage people within our community to come together in fellowship and share the joy of music. Please get in touch and be sure of a warm welcome.

**Contact the Churchwardens:
 Pearl 01823 412804 or
 Sally 01823 410814**

WEST MONKTON CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2023

WEST MONKTON VILLAGE HALL

**COME ALONG AND JOIN
 IN THE FUN**

DOORS OPEN 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM START

TICKETS TO INCLUDE PLOUGHMAN'S + PUD

ADULTS: £15

CHILDREN UNDER 12: £5.00

CHILDREN UNDER 5: FREE

BAR AVAILABLE

<https://buytickets.at/westmonktonactivities>

Somerset Birds

It has, in some ways, been an extraordinary autumn. November began dry and mild, warm even, then became one of the wettest recorded, although mild temperatures prevailed. During the middle of the month we experienced a strong southerly airflow. At times winds originated from the south of Spain and brought numbers of a very rare species to our shores.

The Common Swift is a familiar bird in our summer skies and there are a number of small colonies in and around Taunton. Apart, obviously, from nesting it spends the whole of its life on the wing and is superbly adapted to do so. So well developed are its long scimitar-like wings and associated muscles it is generally unable to take off when accidentally grounded. Having very short legs makes regaining the air almost impossible. Its habitat can truly be said to be the skies.

Our Swifts are with us for a brief period only, from late April to early August. They nest in holes in old buildings and especially under roof tiles. Sadly modern housing and the renovation of properties has robbed them of many nest sites. Pleasingly there are a number of nationwide schemes in progress to arrest the steep decline for which loss of nest sites is partly responsible. A newly published book by Sarah Gibson about Swifts and the problems they face, is an excellent read, full of interesting facts and without the usual plethora of scientific data that makes similar monographs unappealing (*Swifts and Us*, Collins, ISBN 978-0-0-835066-6 £9.99)



Swift on the wing.



Rescued swift

Common Swifts breed over a huge swathe of Europe and Asia and are our only regular species, but the family is well-represented elsewhere. Spain alone has 5 breeding species. By mid-November our Common Swifts are harvesting insects over the

equatorial forests of Africa and venturing as far south as Mozambique. It therefore came as a surprise to see Swifts turning up in Britain, often over twenty a day, and as far north as Scotland. Birders quickly twigged that in all probability, these were not Common Swifts at all.

The Pallid Swift is an identification challenge even for the most experienced birders. Paler it may be, but not obviously so. If seen well a suite of subtle features will often confirm it, but given its behaviour this is rarely easy. It breeds alongside the Common Swift around the Mediterranean and this sometimes makes things easier. If you've taken any notice of Swifts in southern Spain you will certainly have seen the two together.

Pallid Swift is a very rare bird in Britain, generally with one or two annual records. These multiple arrivals were undoubtedly caused by our unusual November weather. The plume of air, originating so far south, would have been rich in insects and these, and the Pallid Swifts that feed on them were carried north. As the winds shifted westerly, the invasion abruptly ceased, and these strong flyers would have had little difficulty in returning to their usual haunts. Nearly all were recorded at well-watched coastal sites with a few inland birds noted near reservoirs and wetlands, favourite feeding areas.

Records are still being compiled and analysed, but it seems clear that as many as a hundred were seen. Several were probably missed – surprisingly few birders spend much time staring skywards! Given the conditions it was odd that few other rare southern birds were dragged northwards, but several very rare moth species turned up across the country at the same time. Time will tell whether this remains a one-off event, or whether our changing climate will produce similar surprises.

Another uncommon but most attractive bird, this time from the north, has been seen in Scotland and along the North Sea coast and is one to look out for this winter. It has been a poor berry

year in Scandinavia and Waxwings have arrived. Numbers so far are small, but cold weather could bring a similar invasion to that of ten years ago, when several visited West Monkton. Keep an eye on the Cotoneasters!



Waxwing

Brian Hill

Somerset Ornithological Society welcomes people whatever their level of interest in birds. Please contact me on 01823 442918 for further details.



The Parish Council hopes that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wishes everyone a prosperous New Year.


Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council continues to meet twice a month; on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the BACH. The agenda for the meetings will be posted on the website and noticeboards.

If you aren't sure of the calendar of meetings, please check with the Clerk (clerk@westmonkton.net) or Assistant Clerk – Community (community@westmonkton.net)

Community Matters

The **Community Café** has continued to be popular and we have now expanded to offer a Warm Hub through the winter with extended opening times. We have put together a schedule as the Tacchi Morris has also opened its doors on a Tuesday morning for free refreshments as well as the existing coffee morning run at West Monkton Village Hall. We have been making some soup over the lunch period using ingredients from the Community Fridge so please come and join us, you will be warmly welcomed.



Warm Hubs

Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton & Bathpool Area

Starting 14th November 2022

Closed from 23rd December and Christmas week, reopen 3rd January 2023

Places to go to keep warm and have warm refreshments during the cold months. The BACH Community Café and Tacchi Morris are offering free refreshments and free wifi, so if you work from home, bring your laptops and work from one of the hubs!

MONDAY	BACH Community Café (10am to 4 pm)
TUESDAY	Tacchi Morris (10 am to 12 noon) BACH Community Café (12 noon to 4 pm)
WEDNESDAY	BACH Community Café (10am to 4 pm)
THURSDAY	Village Hall Coffee Morning (10am to 11.30am - donation required) BACH Community Café (12.00 noon to 4 pm)
FRIDAY	BACH Community Café (10 am to 4 pm)
SATURDAY (not 1st of the month)	Bathpool Chapel (opposite Aldi) from 12 noon until 6pm

Please note that the kitchens will be manned between 12 noon and 4pm at the BACH for refreshments, other times flask and tea/coffee facilities available for self service

Community Fridge

Our volunteers have been continuing to collect, clean and replenish Our Community Fridge on a daily basis. We are, and I am sure you are all really grateful for their hard work which continues to enable us to reduce food waste in our Parish. Our volunteers also open and close the fridge and replenish and organise the books in Our Little Library, which is a very well used resource.

We took the decision to open a little later and close a little earlier over the winter for a variety of reasons and this does not appear to have affected the flow of food. We find that food is delivered, and all gone before closing everyday. We have not received further concerns regarding previous issues so assume that this has solved the problem for the moment.

The Community Gardeners are still providing freshly grown produce for the fridge which is soon used by locals and we would like to thank them for continuing to do this through these colder months.

We had some amazing news this month that we were chosen as one of the Coop's local causes to fund! So if you have a Coop Membership you can chose us as your local

Our Community Fridge - Monkton Heathfield

Access book

We'd like to have a gate and fencing for our community fridge area so that the public have direct access to it daily. We would also like to print leaflets and have banners to advertise the project.

Raised so far:
£30.96

Sign in or become a Co-op member to support this cause



cause to fund and each time you spend at the Coop, they donate money to Our Community Fridge! Easiest way to do it is to go online and nominate us as your local cause. We will receive funds in October next year which will enable us to expand, refurbish and continue with the project.

If you have any books you can donate please drop them at the Community Fridge shed, we are particularly low on children's books.

We continue to collect from the 3 local Coops, and are looking into collecting from other local businesses, so if you are a local business or know of a local business who might want to donate to us then please get in touch with community@westmonkton.net.

Community Garden

The Community Garden at the BACH continues to donate fresh produce to Our Community Fridge and plans are in place for expansion of this area in the new year. We are in need of more helpers with the garden going forward so please contact community@westmonkton.net for further information.

Community Events

Our **Community Quiz** on the 2nd November was a great success albeit a fair few tricky questions from our Quizmaster Andy Derry. We were all seated in the Tacchi Morris bar area and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all those who came. We will be running more Quiz nights at the Tacchi Morris in the new year, dates: **Wednesday 25th January at 7pm, Wednesday 22nd February at 7pm and Wednesday 29th March at 7pm.** Tickets can be ordered nearer the time from the Tacchi Morris Box Office.

recognising the invaluable contribution that volunteers in the delivery of them. Further details, including an agenda, will be available on the website shortly.

Stay and Play Group

Our Stay and Play Group was opened on the 13th November by Vice Chairman Alan Hall with our parent helpers Carly and Helen. We have welcomed lots of parents and grandparents with their little ones and it has been extremely well attended. We have had really positive feedback about the group and it is really lovely to see so many families coming together to chat and for support at this group.

The Stay and Play Group runs every Thursday morning at the BACH from 10.30am to 12 noon. There is no charge for the group, however some families have kindly offered donations of biscuits or tea/coffee which of course help and are gratefully received.



Community Quiz Night

Annual Parish Meeting

The West Monkton Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 28th March 2023 at 7pm at Brittons Ash Community Hall. All are welcome, come and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink, and nibbles. The meeting will focus on celebrating the success of our community projects and

Volunteering Opportunities

If you have some spare time on your hands and want to meet new people and get involved in our thriving community there are a number of volunteer opportunities open to you. Whether it be helping at the café or stay and play group, cleaning or collecting



The Opening of the 'Stay and Play Group'

for the Community Fridge, becoming part of the Community Garden Group or do you fancy becoming a Companion Volunteer, supporting those that are struggling in our community? We also have water watches, litter pickers and have a group of emergency volunteers who helped with watering in the summer. We would also like to run some drop in sessions alongside our café, perhaps a tech volunteer who could help support older people struggling to access the internet or perhaps you have something you can offer to the community? If any of these roles appeal to you and you have a bit of time to give then please get in touch, volunteering is good for not only our community but for personal well-being. Contact Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk for Community at community@westmonkton.net or call on 07505984006

Monkton Matters



The new community website; Monkton Matters is growing in popularity www.monktonmatters.co.uk. Monkton Matters is an online space giving news, information and details of events in the Parish of West Monkton (incorporating Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool). Monkton Matters is for the community and its contents is developed and posted by the community. All local residents are encouraged to contribute relevant articles or submit details of local events. The website is as good as we make it and the vision for the site is that it is a one-stop shop; the go-to place for all community matters. Various local institutions, from schools to the police, from churches to the council, are

represented on the site, posting updates. It is possible to find local businesses and services as well as hear about community groups, clubs and sports teams running in the local area. It has helpful information to aid exploration of the parish and its history as well and plenty more besides. If you would like to submit an article or an event for inclusion on the website, please visit the website and complete the form. Alongside news and events, businesses that are based or operate in the Parish can also add their details to the directory. If you would like to add your business details, please visit the website and complete the form. If you have any queries or would prefer to submit items for inclusion on the website via email please contact editor@monktonmatters.co.uk

Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

The BACH is open for your bookings. The BACH has facilities to host virtual meetings, hybrid meetings, as well as meetings in person. Further information is available on the website. If you are interested in booking the BACH please contact our Bookings Officer, Maggie (bachbooking@westmonkton.net).

Emergency Planning

The Parish Council is developing an Emergency Plan designed to support the community in the event of an emergency affecting some or all of our parish, for example, flooding of properties or heavy snow fall. Over the coming months, the Parish Council will be putting a call out to the community to identify resources that can be used, for example four wheel drive vehicles and also providing you with the information you need should an emergency occur. In the meantime, Brittons Ash Community Hall is registered as a place of safety should it be needed.



Tacchi-Morris Theatre

The theatre at the heart of the community in Monkton Heathfield.

Do You Think Earth Misses Us?

Graeme Ryan & Anita Roy

Fri 27 Jan, 7:30pm

Graeme, Anita and other local writers host an evening of environmental discussion, readings, poems and more.

Free Community Bar Event

Big Band Classics Featuring The Music Of Glenn Miller

A.J.'s Big Band

Sat 4 Feb, 7:30pm

The South West's premier big band returns to Taunton for another packed, two set programme, of swing and jazz classics. With memories of the golden years of the big bands, the music of Glenn Miller will be a feature of this concert.

All tickets £19



Pop Vocals

Taunton Festival of the Arts

Sun 5 Feb, 7pm

Come and watch local emerging artists perform, with an industry professional adjudicator in the chair, and cash prizes to be won!

Adult £5 | Children (Under 16) £1 | Children (Under 1) Free

A Room of One's Own

Dyad Productions

Sat 11 Feb, 7:30pm

Take a wry, amusing, and incisive trip through the history of literature, feminism, and gender. Meet Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Aphra Behn, and Shakespeare's sister – Judith! Travel to the far-flung future of... 2028. But whatever you do, Keep Off the Grass.

Standard £16 |

Concession £14 | Student £10

Simon & Garfunkel - Through The Years In Concert

Fri 24 Feb, 7:30pm

Critically acclaimed as one of the world's greatest tribute shows, Simon & Garfunkel Through the Years continues to delight audiences across the globe. This rearranged show was originally due to take place in November 2022.

Standard £21 | Concession £19

Mister Magnolia

Folksy Theatre

Sun 26 Feb, 2:30pm

Join Mister Magnolia on his wacky adventures, filled with colourful characters, live music, puppetry and audience interaction! It's a fun, family extravaganza, not to be missed! Based on the book by the wonderful Quentin Blake.

Standard £12 | Child (under 16) £10 | Family ticket for 4 £40



Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre
 School Road, Monkton Heathfield Taunton,
 Somerset, TA2 8PD
 01823 414141
info@tacchi-morris.com



Taunton Film Society @ The SPACE

We start 2023 with two films in January, both from Iran but incredibly different and showing aspects of life in Iran today.

Friday 6th January
Hit the Road (Jadde Khaki)
Iran 2021

Drama 1 hour 33 minutes

Follows a chaotic, tender family that is on a road trip across a rugged landscape and fussing over the sick dog and getting on each others' nerves. Only the mysterious older brother is quiet.

Guardian: A tender and unexpectedly funny story about a family's road trip through the twisting desert highways and misty green valleys of northwestern Iran. Nobody mentions where they're going, but knowledge of their unspoken destination turns despair into affection and eccentric behaviour, all set to the soundtrack of 70s Iranian pop.

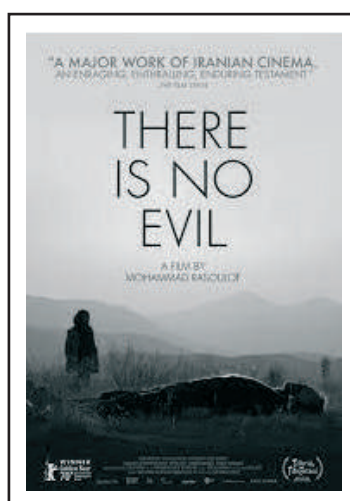


Friday 27th January
There is No Evil
Iran 2020

Drama Cert: 15
2 hours 31 minutes

The four stories that are variations on the crucial themes of moral strength and the death penalty that ask to what extent individual freedom can be expressed under a despotic regime and its seemingly inescapable threats.

Guardian: Four stories from contemporary Iran make up this Berlin Golden Bear-winning drama from Mohammad Rasoulof. It's a typically forthright and powerful work from the director, who was sentenced to a year in prison in 2020 after three of his films were found to be "propaganda against the system". Rather than take as its subject the prisoners sentenced to death, the film instead explores the impact on those who must enact the order; who, one way or another,



are left with their own life sentences. Maybe you don't go to Iranian cinema for nail-biting action and suspense. But that's what you are given in this arresting portmanteau film.

There is great technique in the storytelling, and Rasoulof's outrage and nausea at the state-sanctioned murder gives the film passion.

Friday 17th February
Compartment NO.6 **Finland/Russia**
2021 Drama/Romance Cert: 15
1 hour 47 minutes

A young Finnish woman escapes an enigmatic love affair in Moscow by boarding a train to the arctic port of Murmansk. Forced to share the long ride and a tiny sleeping car with a Russian miner, the unexpected encounter leads the occupants of Compartment no. 6 to face the truth about their own yearning for human connection.

Laura, a Finnish student who has been living in Moscow with Irina, an academic with whom she has fallen in love. Together, they booked a trip to see the Kanozero petroglyphs, ancient rock drawings that date back to the third millennium BC. But Irina's schedule changed and she encouraged Laura to go alone, leaving her to share a sleeper cabin not with her lover but a stranger, Russian miner Ljoha.

Laura and Ljoha are chalk and cheese, almost caricatured representatives of their respective nations. He is gruff, often drunk and aggressively impolite, asking if she is going to Murmansk to work as a prostitute. She is aloof, looking down disapprovingly from the top bunk as he fills the cabin with his booze and cigarette smoke. At first it seems that their confinement may lead to some form of violence – that one of them might not make it to their destination. But as the journey progresses, a form of social perestroika starts to occur. Gradually they find common ground beneath the alien surfaces as the cold war between them begins to thaw.



To find out more about Taunton Film Society and to see the times of films we show and how to become a member visit:
www.tauntonfilmsociety.co.uk
or email: tauntonfilmsociety@hotmail.co.uk



Somerset Bus Partnership Welcomes Flat Rate Fare Proposals

Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes the Government's plan to provide up to £60 million, to enable bus operators to cap single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare comes in from the beginning of January and will continue through to the end of March 2023. Most bus operators are expected to adopt the scheme.

This means millions of people across England will save money, at a time when many households are suffering massive pressures from the rising cost of living. The move will help people travel for work, education, shopping and medical treatments and provide a much-needed saving in daily expenditure. The current average single fare for a 3-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

In addition, Somerset County Council currently plans to introduce a £1 single/ £2 return bus fare in Taunton, as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes this initiative but emphasises the need to procure further funding to enable this flat rate fare to be extended across all of Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership Co-Chair, Peter Travis, said, "Bus usage declined in Somerset in the last decade, and even more so during to the pandemic. We need initiatives like these to restore and improve passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars helps to reduce carbon emissions. It is estimated that the Government's £60 million will reduce car journeys by at least 2 million and cut pollution and congestion for all of us."

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work closely with Somerset County Council to encourage bus use and ensure implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan across the county.

Contact us at: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com
<http://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/>
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Peter Travis
 Co-Chair Somerset bus Partnership



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Fig 1 £360 a year.

In this article, however, I want to talk about another recurring cost that many people forget to deal with - security software. Companies like Norton, McAfee, AVG, Bitdefender et al, all make security software to run on computers, phones and tablets to help protect you when you use email or go onto websites. Like so much in the world of tech these days, they charge per year, and, if you use one of these products but haven't done anything about it recently, you are probably paying too much at annual renewal. Security software is a highly competitive market.



Fig 2



Tims Tech Tips By Tim Finch
 07514 059313, www.Taunton.IT

Taunton Deane's Tech Tips Column

All the companies listed above, and many more, want your business. So to entice you into their product offerings, they all have various 'first time buyer' deals.

Lets look at one such deal here from Autumn 2022. The product is 'Norton 360 Premium' which can be installed on up to 10 devices - so would cover a typical family's collection of devices. Fig 1 shows Norton's own website price for one year: £39.99. Seems a reasonable cost - but look at the small print. 'Automatically renews at £94.99 per year'! However, if we switch to a reputable UK-based software seller's website (please note the need to buy from reputable, UK-based sellers), in Fig 2 you can see the same product is being sold at an introductory price of £19.99! Wait a minute, look carefully. This is £19.99 for TWO years cover before you need to pay anything more.

Then, the really important trick is this: TURN OFF AUTOMATIC RENEWAL. When the 2 years ends, buy the software again, as though you are a new customer.

There are always deals to be had.

Can You Help the Village News?

We are still looking for someone to help us with renewing advertising every March/April, getting new advertisers during the year and helping with putting the News together. Some computer skills would be useful. Please email me if you are interested: dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk

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If you would like to include something in this section please contact Dawn Watts on dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk or 01823412201

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Our Local Expert

Please help – who do YOU recommend?
 If you can't find a local tradesperson within this magazine, we hope you use OurLocalExpert – the free printed (and online) guide of recommended local tradespeople now in its fifth year (see www.OurLocalExpert.co.uk). We are now compiling next year's guide and welcome genuine recommendations of local businesses you use and trust. Please tell us who YOU would recommend to friends and neighbours! With your genuine feedback we can have confidence that we only recommend local businesses who provide good quality service and workmanship. This helps everyone in the community know they can have confidence inviting these businesses into their homes. When you use a local business it keeps local people employed - who support other local businesses – keeping our area resilient against uncertainties in the wider economy. Please send your recommendations to nick@ourlocalexpert.co.uk or phone 01823 218222. Please provide contact details of any business you recommend. It would be great if you also tell us why you recommend them! (e.g. 'always prompt and cheerful'). **By recommending a business to us, your name enters our annual competition where you could win £50 to spend at Cullompton Farmers' Market.**

If you don't have your copy of OurLocalExpert please also contact us using the above details and we will be happy to post you a copy. Otherwise, your new annual edition of OurLocalExpert will be distributed from February 2023, free through your letterbox with your post.

Somerset West and Taunton Council

The Council offices are open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday and closed on bank holidays, although you can continue to access online services on this website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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West Monkton teenager **Harry Besley** has a passion for the outdoors and specifically for boating.

In order to bring public focus to the changes needed in the leisure marine industry he is hoping to demonstrate the capabilities of electric propulsion and the requirements for shoreside charging infrastructure by making an attempt, in Summer 2023, to circumnavigate Great Britain in an electric RIB.

To do this the team are working with a new entrant into the eBoating market, and will also be demonstrating an innovative modular battery range extension concept.

With a social media campaign just starting to build, Harry is now looking for sponsors who share his dream of driving change to a more sustainable future for all.

Please get in touch if you are able to help make this project a success. Thank you.

jaqui@roundbritain-erib.org
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St Augustine's Christmas Fayre

Thank you! It was lovely to see you all on December 3rd in the village hall for our Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all our amazing stall holders who produce tables full of interesting things to purchase, play and consume. A loyal band of village people do this every year but it was also good to see some new faces behind some of the stalls this year.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and spent so generously, without you it would not have been the success it was.

We made £1658 for St Augustine's Church.

Thank you

Tiggie Reeves



And Finally ...

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

Walt Disney