

Village News

Issue No. 142
July - August 2023

Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool



*Above: West Monkton Coronation
Street Party
Photo: Vince Chapple
See Pages: 14 & 15*

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*Taunton Rugby Football Club
See Page 24*

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:

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.

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

West Monkton Youth Group Needs You

West Monkton Youth Group has been running for nearly two years now (although some of that time was disrupted by COVID and the group was unable to meet) to cater for children from Years 5 – 9 (ages 10 – 14). It was set up with a number of aims in mind: Firstly, we recognised that there was very little provision of things to do for older children and youth and we wanted to provide a space within the community where they could gather and enjoy time together with a range of activities. From the beginning, our hope has always been that it becomes their group; that, as the group grows in numbers, it will be those attending who will decide what they want to do each time they meet, developing a plan of activities that they're keen to try.

- We were also mindful of that fact that there is quite a divide between Year 6 and Year 7 and that some children can struggle when making the move from primary to secondary school. In having a youth group running, our hope was that it would create an environment where different school year groups would be able to mix freely and build friendships that would not only ease this transition, but also help build a sense of community amongst our young people in Monkton Heathfield.
- Finally, we also set out with the aim of helping our children and youth become active contributors to the local community. We want it to very much be a place of fun and friendship, but also an environment in which children learn about what it means to be part of a community and to design and engage in activities that help it develop and improve.

When the pandemic permitted, it was running almost on a weekly basis, but is currently set to meet monthly, on the first Wednesday. Unfortunately, however, **the group is currently unable to meet at all**. We no longer have sufficient trustees on board to meet the minimum requirements to operate as a charity. We would, therefore, love to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a trustee. No prior experience of being a charity trustee is required and the level of commitment is not that high (we tend to meet quarterly and there are sometimes little things to do between meetings depending on what actions we've decided upon). If you'd like to volunteer in this capacity or would like to discuss the possibility further, please feel free to contact the Acting Chair of Trustees, Paul Elliston (bathpoolpioneer@gmail.com / 07765 388 655) to discuss further.

Alternatively, if you'd like to get involved, but don't feel that trusteeship is for you, then we would also welcome hearing from anyone who'd like to help out at the youth group sessions. We'd also welcome contact from anyone who has a particular profession, hobby or interest that they feel the youth group might want to hear about and/or experience and would be willing to share this with them at one of their sessions.

Singles Club

A place to meet new people and old friends.
 Contact Dianne Besley on the number below
 for more information.

Next meetings:

July 11th - 12:30pm Lunch at Blackdown
 Garden Centre, Nr Wellington

No meeting in August, but lots more fun and
 friendship in the months after that.

Names please if you would like to come

Dianne Besley

01823 412857.

Help Us Keep the Wheels Turning!

You may already be aware of our
 magnificent heritage railway that runs
 between Bishop's Lydeard (near Taunton)
 and Minehead?

www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

The West Somerset Railway Association
 (WSRA) is a charity that raises money to
 support the railway. We have several fund-
 raising ventures, one of which is an annual
 Steam & Vintage Rally. This is held on the
 WSRA's own land at Norton Fitzwarren near
 Taunton on the first weekend of August
 each year (5th & 6th this year).

A small committee and lots of volunteers
 work hard all year to put on a stunning
 display of steam and vintage vehicles which
 attracts more than 7000 visitors over the
 weekend.

**We are looking for more volunteers who
 can help us in the ticket office, on entry
 gates, in car parks, refreshment tent,
 selling programmes or simply directing
 visitors around the site. If you can spare
 some time over the weekend of 5th & 6th
 August, we would love to hear from you.**

If you have an interest in the railway, old
 vehicles, or farming heritage you will enjoy
 volunteering with us even more!

You can see more details of the rally,
 photos, and a volunteers enquiry form at

www.steamrally.org.uk

Or call Roxy on 07794 634717 or Geoff on
 0778 0675601, for an informal chat without
 commitment.



PRIZE DRAW WIN a 3-night stay in CORNWALL



You could be in with a chance to win
 our fantastic prize for 2 adults
 ~3 nights in Cornwall 25th-28th Sept 23
 free entry into
 Penlee House, Art Gallery & Museum~
 A visit to acclaimed artist Eric Ward's Studio can also be
 arranged.



Visit www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk
 for full details, venue and date.
 Tickets available from
 Pearl Jeanes 07989745131
 Di Besley 01823 412857

Proceeds for West Monkton Lady Chapel Roof Appeal

West Somerset Railway Association

Steam and Vintage Rally

5th and 6th August 2023



Norton Fitzwarren, near Taunton, TA4 1BH

Advance booking and discounts at

www.steamrally.org.uk

Somerset Birds

A question I am asked every spring is 'Why don't we hear the Cuckoo any more?', and it is a good one, because this iconic bird has disappeared from large areas of lowland England, especially where intensive agriculture now forms the landscape. The Cuckoo has a patchy distribution



Cuckoo

in Somerset, where it was once widespread. It is still found in two very different habitats, the high ground of the Quantocks and Exmoor and the Avalon Marshes. Key to this is the presence of the small bird species whose nests are parasitized, and an adequate food supply. Cuckoos are with us for a short time only, arriving in April and leaving in July (however see below).

The Cuckoo's far carrying song, from which it gets its name, is known to all, but not many people recognise the bird itself. Although there are many members of its family in both the Old and New Worlds, this is the only British representative. It is dove sized, and slender in appearance with long wings and tail. The head is small and the legs are short. The wings are frequently drooped when it perches, usually upright. In flight its rapid wing beats never rise beyond the horizontal. Superficially it looks like a small hawk, and is often mistaken for one.

The upper parts, head and breast are blue grey while the belly is white with conspicuous dark bars. The tail has white tips, visible when it is fanned on landing and the eyes are a striking yellow. Female Cuckoos are duller and have a rare colour phase, similar to a female Kestrel. I have only seen this once. Females have a quite different call too, a strange loud bubbling sound.

That Cuckoos make no nests and lay eggs in those of other birds is well known, but the details less so, and these are fascinating. After mating, a female will quietly observe victims and, after selecting a suitable host nest, usually in late afternoon, will remove an egg and quickly replace it by laying her own. The whole process is over within a moment. In following days she will repeat this more than 20 times in different nests. The Cuckoo egg develops rapidly and hatches within 12 days, often before those of the host. The youngster, naked and blind, has a hollow in its back into which it manoeuvres the host eggs or nestlings and, with great effort, ejects them.

With no competition the young Cuckoo develops rapidly, to the point after 19 days or so, it is much larger than its foster parents. It then leaves the nest and is fed for a further three weeks after which it migrates unaided to Africa. So loud and insistent is its begging that other species, passing with food for their own young, cannot resist feeding it. Several host species have been recorded, but in Somerset the main victims on higher ground are Meadow and Tree Pipits and in the Avalon Marshes, Reed Warblers. None of these have suffered declines due to the Cuckoo. Several theories exist to explain the drop in Cuckoo numbers but a paucity of host species seems improbable. In the last ten years however some intriguing evidence has emerged.

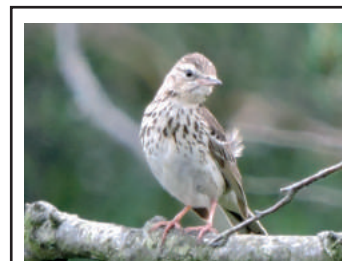
This is mainly down to the use of small satellite tags to track migrating male Cuckoos. It is now known that some birds leave Britain not in July but as early as the first week in June, spending a mere six weeks here.

It seems too that Cuckoos from England migrate to West Africa through Iberia following a western flight path while those from Scotland and Wales cross the Mediterranean via Italy and fly a more easterly route through Africa. It may, therefore, be significant that populations in Wales and Scotland are stable or increasing while those in England are falling. Other factors are certainly involved though, as habitat in England is now much degraded in comparison and a favourite Cuckoo prey, the hairy caterpillars of moths and butterflies is itself disappearing with intensive farming.

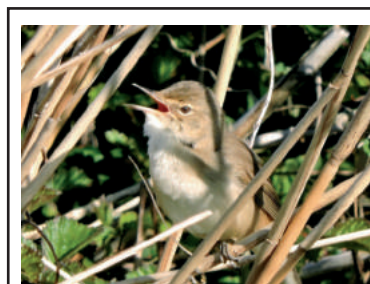
This year a tagged Cuckoo, named Colin, made the national press. Colin was tagged in 2015 and every spring since he returned to the same perch on a Surrey heath to the delight of his many fans. Sadly Colin failed to arrive this year. His tag transmitted for a while when stationary before falling silent and he was presumed dead. Six years or so is not a bad innings for a Cuckoo and Colin contributed much priceless information to researchers during his long life. Farewell Colin and thanks!

Brian Hill

Somerset Ornithological Society welcomes people whatever their level of interest in birds. Please visit www.somersetbirds.org for further details.



Tree Pipit



Reed Warbler

The Monkton Players

We were all deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our beloved member Tony Hiscock in March. Tony had been a member of the group for over a decade, along side his sons Tim and Adam. As well as being treasurer, Tony was our master prop maker and set designer. He relished the challenge of building obscure props, including such items as foam frying pans, wooden rifles and a series of model Concorde (which were smashed every night!) His passing leaves a huge hole in our group and as such, we chose to cancel our Spring production.

However, Tony would not want us to stop for long and so we are all set to pick up where we left off and perform **'Don't Get Your Vicars In A Twist'** this Autumn, with son Adam filling his role. Using the set he designed and the props he made, we hope to all enjoy this hilarious farce whilst remembering Tony fondly.

Performance dates are:

Thursday 26th to Saturday
 28th October,
 with our new start time of
 7:30pm.



We hope to see you there.



Gardening Corner

The Light Touch

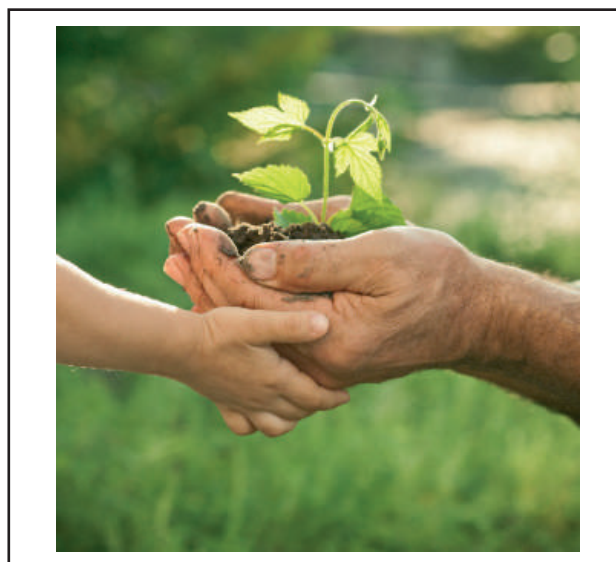
How amazing our hands are. When we choose to use them properly we can hold our body weight on them, lift and rotate objects, move fast or slow.

We can feel the wind, the rain on our skins, tell seeds from stones in our fingers, we can crush with surprising force and we can cup rose limbs so delicately that the thorns don't pierce our skin.

This last example is where I choose to dwell. The gentleness that we can bring to our lives.

My hands are strong, etched with scars from misadventures and starting to show the wear of years on their skin and tone. How strange that these hands still bring the softest of touches to seedlings as I prise them from one another and repot,. That can adjust with such speed the feel of one weed from another, knowing the pressure and speed required to liberate the roots of a groundsel or a creeping buttercup from the soil.

Learning how and when to apply force to a garden is something learned with time. When you need to use a strong hand and intervene to bring balance or increase diversity, when to bring a light touch, gently editing or reshaping, and when to draw back your hand altogether and allow your eye alone to touch the garden.



Tom Nielsen Biocentric Planting Design & Nursery

Website: www.biocentric.org.uk

Instagram: @tombiocentricplants

Letter from Rev. Jim



It used to be my custom to spend a few minutes in 'private prayer' in church before a service on a Sunday. But often, in these moments, people would come up to me, tap me on the shoulder and say, "Just thought I'd grab a quick word with you, vicar, while you weren't doing anything." Probably why I stopped.

But, my private devotions apart, doing nothing is doing something. It's not necessarily a period we are simply waiting for something more entertaining or urgent to happen. Just being still, letting the body and mind settle is worthwhile.

In straightened times, there is often a lot of criticism of the long summer holiday. Indeed, a lot of university years consist of 3 lots of 10 weeks: 30 out of 52. "We could educate people in half the time if we just crack on", so the argument goes. The trouble is, 'crack on' is very close to 'crack up' and that's a place we don't want to be.

For many – particularly for those who work on the land or those who care for relatives (babies or elderly and infirm) – getting a break is almost impossible. And that is hard. It takes its toll. It is not something we need hold up as an enviable model to copy, rather one we should seek to relieve.

There are rhythms to the agricultural year, there are cycles of life within families, there are national calendar dates. Times of frantic activity and times when things are easier. The church also has an annual cycle: dashing from Advent, through Christmas, Epiphany Lent, Easter to Pentecost. And then there is a pause known as 'Ordinary Time', which lasts about 20 weeks 'til we hit the All Saints/Remembrance cycle.

We are now in Ordinary Time. A time of 'nothing special' and that can be great. It is often the chance for Christians to be a bit more reflective about their faith rather than the fire-fighting madness of the festival periods. If we are lucky, we will get moments to actively do nothing, to find some stillness and allow ourselves to be renewed and refreshed as well as challenged and transformed as we allow the great truths of our story to settle within us.

Jim Cox

South Quantock Benefice
office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

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

From West Monkton Registers:

Funerals:

13.04.23 Greta Long –
ashes interment in churchyard
21.04.23 Olive Brown –
funeral service in church

Baptisms:

14.05.23 Toni F
Lucie & Molly-Mae H

Weddings:

15.04.23 Joseph S & Katharine L

Men's Group Meetings:

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

Tuesday 18th July

Pub walk from Swan Kingston St Mary 11am
and lunch at 1pm

Monday 7th August

Barbecue at Malcolm Lown's 5 - 8pm

All are welcome to our Benefice Picnic On Sunday 16th July 3:30 - 4.30pm

FREE EVENT in Cheddon churchyard with
outdoor games & activities.

Bring your own picnic & blankets
– drinks provided.
For all the family



St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners May

The draw was held on Monday 8th May
First Prize: £101.00 won by Jane Empsall
Second Prize: £50.50 won by Meredith Turner
 The sum of £353.50 will go towards the church.

The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 101.

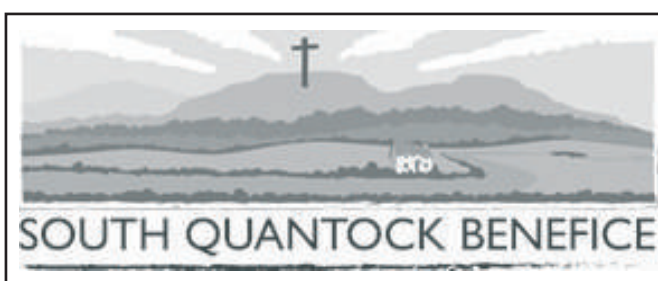
June

The draw was held on Sunday 4th June
First Prize: £101.00 was won by Tricia Cavill
Second Prize: £50.50 was won by Cheryl Birkett

The sum of £353.50 will go towards the church.

The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 101.

Congratulations to the winners! Your turn next month? If you would like to join or hear more about the 100 Club, please contact:
 Kate Ayres 01823 413873



July

2nd 4th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am Holy Communion	Kingston
10:00am Morning Worship	West Monkton
6:00pm Evensong	Broomfield

9th 5th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	Kingston
10:00am Holy Communion	Cheddon
10:00am Holy Communion	West Monkton

16th 6th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am Holy Communion	Kingston
10:00am Songs of Praise	West Monkton
6:00pm Evening Worship	Broomfield

23rd 7th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	Kingston
10:00am Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:30am Holy Communion	Broomfield
6:00pm Choral Evensong	Kingston

30th 8th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am United Benefice Holy Communion	Kingston

August

6th Transfiguration

8:30am BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am Holy Communion	Kingston
10:00am Morning Worship	West Monkton
6:00pm Lammas	Broomfield

13th 10th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	Kingston
10:00am Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:00am Holy Communion	Cheddon

20th 11th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am Morning Worship	West Monkton
11:00am 'Friends of St Mary's' service	Kingston
Followed by lunch in the Village Hall	
6:00pm Evening Worship	Broomfield

27th 12th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am BCP Communion	Kingston
10:00am Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:30am Holy Communion	Broomfield
6:00pm Choral Evensong	Kingston

Be in the know...

West Monkton Church has launched its own website!

The communities of West Monkton, Bathpool, Monkton Heathfield and surrounding areas will be able to access church information, service schedules as well as activities, local community projects and more. Along with social media channels Facebook & Instagram (coming soon) sharing our news etc.

Visit us, follow us, share us at



www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk



Facebook/Westmonktonchurch



Instagram/Westmonktonchurch



hello@westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Keeping in Contact

To be added to our weekly news-sheet mailing list contact Michele:

office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk or see the website for links and up to date information
www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Cuppa & Chat

Tuesday 1st August
2pm in West Monkton churchyard

Cuppa & Chat will return to the churchyards this August – so please do come along, bring a chair if you can.

You will be welcome to bring your own drink or to share mine. I look forward to seeing you.

Rosie Brown



West Monkton Evening Women's Institute



Hi everyone

Sorry I missed the last Newsletter – put this down to having a long holiday in New Zealand visiting my daughter and coming back with Covid! Rather than go into lots of details I will outline some of the things we have been getting up to since the New Year.

Our year always starts with a social evening, silly games and food which goes down well. Since then we have had a visit from the lady who runs St Giles Kennels telling us all about the work they do there, and a visit from a local farmer who runs a dairy farm. Our meeting in April was something a little different, entitled Radio to Celebrant. Many of you will have heard Emma Britton on the radio? She has had such a varied career, mainly around working for Somerset Sound and the BBC, but she is also a qualified exercise teacher, and has successfully run her own Keep Fit classes as well as having a lot of involvement with Bridgwater Carnival. She was with Radio Bristol for 13 years, and she described this job as one 'like no other'. She met quite an eclectic mix of people, including Mary Berry, Nick Clegg and her most favourite Sir David Attenborough.

In December 2020 she decided to leave as she had reached the peak of her career with Radio Bristol - it was time to evaluate 'what to do now'. She thought long and hard about what she enjoyed during her time working at Radio Bristol; she loved talking to people, meeting people, and trying to help people, which steered her in the direction of what she is doing now - being a Celebrant.

I think she has definitely found her vocation, she regularly officiates at funerals, weddings (after the legal part has been done at the registry office), naming ceremonies, renewal of vows. She is just a warm lady with such a great sense of humour, but is sensitive to people's feelings as well. It was a great evening.

Our Annual General Meeting was held during our May meeting, and officers were re-elected.

28th September: OPEN MEETING. We are delighted to have Damien Boyd a local author visiting us and we are opening this meeting up to Visitors – the cost will be £5 per head and you would be more than welcome to come along ... if you could ring me on 01823-619084 nearer the date to book yourself in that would be great.

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. We are planning to start our own Book Club and Walking Group this year, and even planning a visit to the Pantomime in 2024, so lots going on as well as the monthly meetings. 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.

2022/2023 Programme:

July:	Social outing to Forde Abbey with a cream tea
August:	No meeting
Sept 28th:	Damien Boyd (author)
October 26th:	Genealogy
November 23rd:	Craft evening
December:	Christmas Meal at Quantock Restaurant, Bridgwater & Somerset College
January:	Social evening
February:	Somerset Waste Partnership
March:	Nursery Rhymes and their origin (Brian Wright)

Shirley Hector
(Monkton Evening WI)



Saturday 5th August

Cake Stall Raffle

BBQ

Live Music Tombola

Bric a Brac

Cream Teas Pony Rides

Welly Wanging

+ much more fun for all the family

Free entry

Gotton Manor Care Home

Summer Fete

2pm until 4pm



Village News Deliveries

We are looking for some volunteers to go on our back-up deliverers' list.

We have a large team of wonderful people who deliver the Village News to your door each time a new edition comes out. However, occasionally someone is ill, on holiday or for some other reason cannot do their delivery round. So we are looking for people to join the team – if you are interested please contact: barryage125@btinternet.com



The Tawny & Snowy Owls had a very egg-citing surprise earlier in the term. The eggs inside the class incubator finally started to hatch! The Owls have been enjoying holding and taking care of the chicks, Lucky & Custard. Thank you to Farmlink for this amazing opportunity for our EYFS children!



Right: The children had an amazing time during Homework Club using all the art resources to create their own crowns to celebrate the King's coronation.



Below: Thank you to our wonderful PTA for funding these playground markings - hours to play to be had with these! The children are also enjoying using the track markings on the field and our exciting play structures!



Left: The school was full of red, white and blue as they celebrated the King's coronation.

West Monkton Village Hall Monkton Heathfield Charity No. 304670

Public Notice

West Monkton Village Hall Annual General Meeting
 Will be held on Tuesday 25th July at 7:00pm

At West Monkton Village Hall
 Monkton Heathfield

All members of the public are very welcome to attend.
 Ray Tully, Chair.





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)

Village Sign Review

A review of the road signs in the parish is underway including both place and directional signs. Once complete, recommended changes to signs in the Parish will be shared with Somerset Council. If you have any comments to submit in relation to any signage that is in place in the Parish which you believe should be changed or if there are areas of the Parish which needs additional signage, please put forward your suggestions to the Clerk clerk@westmonkton.net

Annual Audit

The Parish Councils financial affairs are audited every year, by an Internal Auditor, and then reports are submitted to an External Auditor appointed by the Audit Commission. The Internal Audit for the financial year 2022/2023 has been completed and the reports will be submitted to the External Auditors in the next few weeks. The reports will be available to view on the West Monkton website.

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 are 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 bookings aside from these times. The BACH has facilities to host virtual meetings, hybrid meetings, as well as meetings in person and we have also recently installed a hearing loop in the committee room.

Further information is available on the website. If you are interested in booking the BACH please contact our Bookings Officer, Maggie (bachbooking@westmonkton.net).

Community Matters

The **Community Café** has continued to be popular, we have started our 'Repair Café' which runs once a month alongside the café from 2pm until 4pm, the next repair café will be on the 21st June, followed by the 19th July and 16th August. Please come along we have a few very handy volunteers who are up for a challenge! Old electrical items that can be repaired and reused or perhaps alterations to some clothes, we also offer to help people with any IT issues they may have or maybe you are struggling with an online form, please pop in on these days for some support.

Our **Stay and Play** sessions are popular with families and we have a lovely group of regulars who attend and would welcome any new parents to our group who are looking to meet up with other families in the community. The Stay and Play Group will run through the holidays every Wednesday afternoon at the BACH from 12:30pm until 2pm. Our Thursday morning group will recommence in September. There is no charge for the group, however

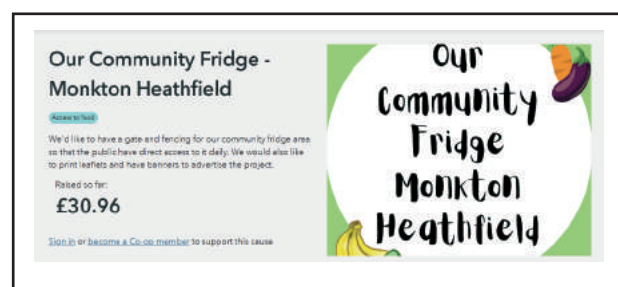
some families have kindly offered donations of biscuits or tea/coffee which of course help and are gratefully received.

Our **Community Quiz** nights at the Tacchi Morris are extremely popular and always fully booked. Andy Derry, our quizmaster, prepares the monthly quiz with a range of rounds from geography and music to food & drink and TV. The quiz is free but you will need to book through the Tacchi Morris box office, you will need to get in early to get a table! We do ask for a small donation on the night for the second team's cash prize. The team in 1st place will get tickets to see one of the latest shows at the Tacchi Morris. Next dates for the quiz are 21st June and 19th July, quiz starts at 7:30pm.

Community Fridge

We have recently started collecting from the local Aldi in Bathpool which is fantastic and local for our volunteers. We have also recently been signed up with Fareshare, this will enable us to collect from a number of larger supermarkets which means we can offer more food out to the community and help reduce even more food waste!

The Co-op's remain our loyal donators and we are grateful to them for their support for our project. We are keen to promote Co-op Membership and if you chose us as your local cause on your Co-op app you will be helping to fund '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 this year which will enable us to expand, refurbish or just keep the project running. So please, if you haven't already, become a member of Co-op and choose us as your local cause to fund. Each time you shop at the Co-op we will get a contribution towards our fund, family and friends can also choose us but if they live out of the area they will need to go online to link us as the cause they want to support. Please spread the word!



Our volunteers have been continuing to collect, clean and replenish Our Community Fridge on a daily basis. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all our fridge volunteers for your dedication and commitment. If you would like to volunteer for the community

fridge and are able to collect from supermarkets in Taunton during the evening please get in touch. Contact Kate on 07505 984006 or email community@westmonkton.net

Community Garden

The Community Garden at the BACH is now supplying fresh vegetables to 'Our Community Fridge' thanks to our garden volunteers and the children at West Monkton Primary School. There really is nothing quite as lovely as the taste of freshly grown produce. If you would like to come along and learn about gardening or have some time to spare then please get in touch.

Thank you to all those who volunteer at the garden, whether for a tidy up day or regularly supporting the project.

If anyone has any garden benches they would like to donate to the garden it would be lovely to have a place to sit and relax between digging and watering! We are always looking for more volunteers with the garden going forward so please contact community@westmonkton.net if you would like to help.

King's Coronation Event

Despite the weather forecast not looking good, it all cleared for the event at Maidenbrook Park just in time! Thank you to all those that helped set up, helped on the day and those who attended.





Andy Pulleyn sharing his talent at the Open Mic Session.



Working hard!



Holly was a star, as were a number of other talented young people who braved the stage!



Local craft stall.

Thank you Debs and team, you were extremely busy all day!

We had local crafters and food and drink stalls.

We will be looking to run regular events at Maidenbrook Park and will be sending out a survey at the end of the season for feedback about the events and how we can improve, please keep a look out. If anyone is keen to help us with our event planning or has any feedback for us please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email at community@westmonkton.net.

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 for the Community Fridge, litter picking or becoming part of the Community Garden Group.

We sent out a survey about Community Transport in the last Village News and we have learnt that there are only a small number of people who would benefit from door-to-door community transport. If anyone is interested in becoming a companion volunteer, please get in touch. We are looking to recruit more volunteers who would be happy to transport individuals in the local area to medical appointments and would look to reimburse cost of fuel at 45p per mile. Likewise, if you are someone who may need transport at some point in the future please get in touch with Kate. 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 also for personal well-being.

Contact Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk for Community at community@westmonkton.net or call on 07505984006 for more information.

Community Farm Walk

A Community Farm Walk was held at Prockters Farm on 20th May. It was held, courtesy of the Besley family, as part of National Walking Month. They were also delighted to be joined by local wildlife and ecology experts Quantock Ecology Ltd who shared information on interesting and vulnerable native animal species as the walk progressed.

A lot of families and various generations turned up for a leisurely walk around the farm fields taking in the views, spotting wildlife, hearing about farming, crops and animals and getting the chance to explore and ride the tractor and trailer.

Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time, and a big thank you was given to farmers Mark, Jacqui & Jack Besley and Simon from Quantock Ecology Ltd for giving up their afternoons so we could walk, explore and learn about the wonderful farming landscape and animals on our doorstep.



Bottle feeding a calf.



Walking the farm under a very blue sky!

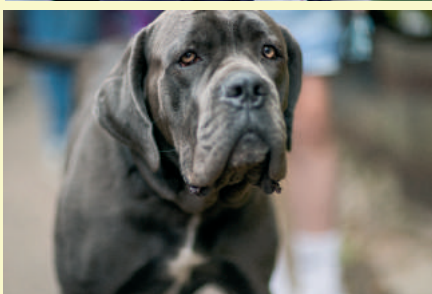
West Monkton Coronation Street Party

So many people helped make the Street Party such an enjoyable event. The planners, the furniture providers, movers and storers, the bunting hangers and table decorators and of course the cooks - so many people to say thank you to. Then there were the bell ringers, games and quiz makers, food servers and toast makers all helping to make things run smoothly.

Over 130 people arrived on the morning, found places at the tables and then walked to the church for prosecco and bells. After everyone wandered back to The Street the party started and continued late into the afternoon. Food and stories were shared, table tennis played, crowns worn and quizzes won - it was wonderful.

Thank you to everyone who joined in, helped set up and clear up and donated their time and energy and cooking skills to the Street Party.

There was a small surplus at the end and donations were made to the Village Hall, St Augustines Church and Taunton Foodbank.



*All Street Party photos by
Vince Chapple.*



After such an enjoyable day, we now have to think about what we will be celebrating for the next Street Party!





Tacchi-Morris Theatre

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

Just a few of the events during July (Tacchi-Morris is closed during August), check the website for more information: www.tacchi-morris.com

Stagestruck Theatre School Show 2023

Sat 1 Jul, 6:30pm

This hugely popular family friendly show returns with its energetic performances and colourful costumes. Full of songs, dance and acting from Disney, musicals and popular pop songs! Featuring children 5-16 years old.

Standard £10 | Child (under 16) £8.50



QWEEN UK

Sat 8 July, 7:30pm

QWEEN UK are the UK's premier Queen tribute band. Having extensively toured the UK and overseas, the group are now bringing their passionate and energetic show to the Tacchi-Morris stage.

Standard £19.50 | Concession £17.50



Roald Dahl's Matilda - The Musical Jr.

West Monkton Primary School

Tue 11 Jul, 7pm & Wed 12 Jul, 1pm & 7pm

West Monkton Primary School present Matilda JR., a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination!

Adults £6 | Children £4

Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Previews

Lindsey Santoro & Bennett Arron

Thu 13 Jul, 7:30pm

An Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Preview double header! Fantastic comedian Lindsey Santoro & the wonderfully talented Bennett Arron provide the laughs. Join us for a hilarious evening of entertainment.

All Tickets £10

In Full Swing 2023

The Dave Hankin Big Band

Fri 14 Jul, 7:30pm

Following previous highly successful shows at the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, the Dave Hankin Big Band returns once again with their brand new show for 2023 In Full Swing.

Standard £16 | Student £10

A Night At The Popera

The Bluebirds Theatre Company

Sat 15 Jul, 7:30pm

Join The Bluebirds for A Night at the Popera. A feast of opera classics with a unique popular twist.

Adults £16 | Concession £15 | Students £12



Free Community Quiz Night

In partnership with West Monkton Parish Council

Wed 19 Jul, 7:30pm

A community quiz night in our bar! Come along, have fun and meet people.

FREE but booking is essential



Ed Sheeran Experience

Fri 21 Jul, 7:30pm

Jack Shepherd has been performing as Ed Sheeran since 2014, and in doing so has become the most established Ed Sheeran tribute act on the globe!

Standard £22 | Concession £21



Musical Theatre Summer School

Mon 24 Jul – Fri 28 Jul, 9am-3pm (9am - 2pm on Fri 28, with 6pm performance)

Spend a fun-filled week creating and rehearsing a musical theatre show, and then perform on the Tacchi-Morris stage in a spectacular live show.

Ages: 6-10

Standard £100 course | Concession £90 course | Price includes a summer school t-shirt

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

Local music enthusiast is all set to clean up in Taunton, Bridgwater and surrounding areas

Tim Hill is launching his own Oven Cleaning Business as part of the Oven Wizard's Franchise. Tim has lived and worked in the local area for a number of years, so as he knows the area well, he believes there will be a strong demand for his services.

Tim says "I was looking for a business idea that would be something I would enjoy doing and that would provide a great service to local people. I came across the idea of an oven cleaning business and then started to research the market. I soon realised that becoming an Oven Wizard offered me a great opportunity, particularly with the support of a successful Franchise Brand."

Mark Abbott, owner of the Oven Wizards business said "From the first time we met Tim we knew he would make a great success of running an Oven Wizards Franchise, particularly because of his great passion for friendly customer service."

Mark went on to explain "There is a growing demand from people who want to have their ovens professionally cleaned because it is probably the hardest and most hated job in most households".

Oven Wizards have provided Tim with comprehensive training which will enable him to professionally clean all sorts of makes and models of ovens.

As well as Taunton and Bridgwater, Tim also covers Somerton, Chard, Wellington and surrounding areas

A recent survey carried out indicates that oven cleaning is one of the most hated chores in the home. Taking into account the fact that there are over 26 million households in the UK and that nearly each one has at least one oven and a hob, the growing domestic cleaning market therefore provides unlimited opportunities to delight our customers.

Tim is providing an introductory discount for his first 20 bookings, so feel free to contact him to discuss your oven cleaning requirements on Mob 07931 382899 or e mail timhill@ovenwizards.com or go onto his web site,



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- LADIES PUSH BIKE with basket £40
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Tuesdays

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 5:15pm to 6:45pm Yoga

Wednesdays

9:15am to 11:45 Yoga/Pilates
 12:30pm to 2pm Stay and Play Group
 2pm to 4pm Community Café
 5:15pm to 6:30pm Youth Group
 (not the 2nd week of month)
 8pm to 10pm Bathpool Buskers
 (only 2nd week of month)

Thursdays

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 10:30am to 12 noon Stay and Play Group
 6:55pm to 8:15pm Table Tennis

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Tuesdays (check 'What's On' for dates) 20:00 - 22:00

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Yoga

Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45

FunFit

Wednesday 18:00 - 19:00

Badminton

Wednesday (Mixed) 20:00 - 21:00

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 9:30 - 13:00

Orchid Society

Once a month on a Sunday 14:00 - 17:00

'O' Gauge Model Railways

Quarterly on a Sunday 9:00 - 17:00

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Village News:

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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 September/October 2023 Village News is 1st August 2023

To get a pdf copy of the Village News emailed to you,
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Taunton Rugby Football Club



The Taunton Rugby Club report in the May-June issue was prepared when Taunton Titans had just three games left to play of their National 1 season. Taunton were in one of the relegation spots in the league needing to overhaul Esher, who were two points ahead, to ensure safety. It looked a daunting task for Taunton especially as the first of these last three games was against the mighty Rosslyn Park who had scored 160 points to Taunton's 30 in their previous three encounters in this league.

Against Rosslyn Park, Taunton played well and were 10-0 ahead early on, but were trailing 15-19 at halftime then found themselves 22-26 behind early in the second half. Then came one of those magical spells of play with Taunton scoring five converted tries without reply to run out winners by 57-26, earning 5 league points. The



head coach, Tony Yapp had taken a bit of a gamble by throwing in 18 year old schoolboy Noah Fenton, who had only ever hitherto played schoolboy rugby. Noah thoroughly

justified his selection, playing as if he were experienced at this level, and spectacularly scoring Taunton's final two tries to be awarded 'Man of the Match' much to the delight of his teammates and the crowd.

The only downside to the afternoon was the news that Esher had also won and like Taunton had gained a try bonus point for scoring four tries. The following week Taunton had a trip to Moseley, another famous rugby club. Trailing 22-7 Taunton staged a tremendous comeback scoring three tries in twelve minutes to lead

28-22 before Moseley hit back eventually running out winners by 32-31. Taunton however gained two league points by virtue of scoring four tries and finishing within seven points of the winning side. Esher also lost but collected just one bonus point.

Taunton now one league point behind Esher had to win the last game of the season and hope that Esher failed to beat the league leaders, Rams. Taunton were at home to already relegated Leeds and a bumper crowd saw the home side dominate the early stages scoring four tries in the first twenty minutes. Attention turned to Esher's match and to the home crowd's dismay the news came through that Esher had a healthy 19-7 lead in the first half. With Taunton running out comfortable 59-28 winners there was great relief when news came through that Rams had got their act together and run out winners by 33-19.

So, Taunton narrowly survived being relegated when they looked doomed after two thirds of the season. Having acquired only 24 league points from their first 17 matches the last 9 matches yielded 33 points. Some exciting loan signings strengthened the team but everyone at the club contributed especially the support from the large crowds at the last two home matches.

I have tried to encourage the readers of the Village News to come and support the club so if any of you readers watched those last matches and cheered the team on may I say a big thank you and hopefully you will come back next season which is now only a couple of months away.

Finally, following the Coronation of King Charles III, the man at the rugby club known as Mr Taunton Rugby, Jack Matthews, received an invitation for him and his wife, Ann, to attend the Coronation Garden Party three days after the Coronation. The invitation cited that he had been invited for services to the community, but Jack is sure that it can only be for his connections with the rugby club. Jack joined the club 65 years ago as a colt's player and has served the club as player, captain, chairman, president, and fundraiser. In the opinion of those at the rugby club a more deserving recipient of the invitation would be hard to imagine.