

Village News

Issue No. 143
September - October 2023

Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool



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*Beautiful flowers and lots of rain
drops - this summer!*
Photo: Esther Watts-Nielsen



*A bird in the hand ...
a very small bird too.*
Find out more on Page 13

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:

Helen Newstead - 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 412196

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

Singles Club

A place to meet new people and old friends.

Contact Dianne Besley on the number below for more information.

Next meetings:

Tuesday **12th September** -

Lunch at the Merry Monk 12:30pm

Tuesday **10th October** -

Lunch at The Maypole 12:30pm

Names please if you would like to come

Dianne Besley

01823 412857.

Village News Deliveries - please can you help us?

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:

barrygage125@btinternet.com

Or

Thelocalvillagenews@live.co.uk

Monkton Elm Garden Centre have some spooky Halloween activities planned for the autumn half term break!

24th October – 31st October – **Pumpkin Carving**
 – Book online at www.monktonelm.com

24th October – 31st October – **Creepy Critters:**
 From snakes and spiders to stick insects and ants! Get close and personal with these fascinating creatures.

Book online at www.monktonelm.com

21st October - 31st October –

Halloween Treasure Hunt!

Explore our garden centre and find our creepy clues to win a prize! No booking required!



Monthly Coffee Mornings



More than just coffee

Come along for coffee & cake and...

Engage in discussion, participate in a brain teaser,

Learn hints and tips in a variety of skills or

listen to a guest speaker on a topic of interest.

Each month we hope to host a different

topic/subject/demonstration.

Participate or just come along for a natter.

Everyone is welcome.

First Saturday of every month at 10am in the church
www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk for upcoming topics

The Bishop's wife, Lizzie Jeanes, will be coming to join us on 2nd September and will talk about - 'Life as the wife of a Bishop'!

Tacchi-Morris Open Day

Saturday 16th September, 12-3:30pm
 - full of free shows, free taster classes, free kids activities and free music! Our Community Coffee Shop will be open and you can even meet the cast of panto.



Don't Get Your Vicars in a twist

A FARCE BY
ANN GAWTHORPE
& LESLEY BROWN

DIRECTED BY
JOHN FURSE

TICKETS:
 ONLINE: WWW.MONKTONPLAYERS.CO.UK
 TICKET SOURCE: 0333 666 3366
 TAUNTON VISITOR CENTRE
 CHANGES HAIR SALON - MONKTON HEATHFIELD
 TICKETS £10 EACH

West Monkton Village Hall
 26, 27 & 28 October 2023
 New Start Time 7:30pm

The
MONKTON
Players

The Monkton Players are back!

This Autumn we will perform 'Don't Get Your Vicars In A Twist' - a farce by Ann Gawthorpe & Lesley Brown. We sadly had to cancel our Spring production due to the sudden death of member Tony Hiscock. However, with Tony's son Adam taking over his role in the play, we look forward to finally putting on this funny show, utilising the set and props that Tony left us.

Show dates are **October 26th, 27th and 28th at 7:30pm.**

Tickets are on sale now - visit our website for more info - www.MonktonPlayers.co.uk

We will also be offering advertising opportunities in our show programme and on social media, please email us for more info - info@monktonplayers.co.uk

With rehearsals beginning in August, we can't wait to get back on stage and hope to see you there!

Tim Hiscock - Monkton Players

The
MONKTON
Players

Gardening Corner

Against Neurotic Gardening

'Traditional' gardening (by which I mean 19th and 20th Century western horticulture) dealt with neurosis in a strange way: it encouraged it. Insects in the vicinity of a plant? Spray it. Foliage faded or discoloured? Spray it, feed it or remove it. Plant not flowering enough? Spray it, feed it ... It seemed as though an expert opinion for every slight imperfection must generally come down to dosing the plant with additional chemicals in some form. This impossible quest for perfection leads people on a frustrating and costly chase that they can not possibly win and leads to less confident gardeners funnelled down an ever narrowing dead end of labour intensive chemical gardening and relying on a range of safe plants that look good year round and don't succumb to 'pests and diseases'.

I see this often with clients from new gardeners to people who have been gardening for years. The fear of being judged to ancient standards of perfection and the fear of failing publicly by trying something new. But a new approach is the only way out of this mental trap – letting go of the shelf of chemicals one finger at a time.

A very high proportion of the things I am asked to come up with remedies for are not real problems at all, such as yellowing leaves in dry conditions or towards the end of summer.

Some other things are due to environmental factors and are either easily remedied (poor flowering due to lack of sun) or are the result of poor plant choice for a particular location (try it elsewhere or try something else).

The next stage is trusting to nature. Leaf curl due to aphids is rarely a real problem and left alone will generally resolve due to ladybirds and bird predation. Even severe defoliation, such as when mullein moth eats verbascum, can be left and as that generation of caterpillars plumps up and drops off, the plant will grow through the damage and flower a few weeks later.

Sometimes plants sicken and die and there seems to be no obvious reason for it. As frustrating as this is, this is the way of the natural world. Nature doesn't have to provide a reason for killing your prize specimen and it really couldn't care less how much money you have spent on it and how desperately you have sprayed it with various treatments. Making sure you source healthy, well grown plants and that you then plant them in the right place for their requirements is probably the biggest thing you can do to reduce losses in your garden. Even then, deaths happen, but that lack of certainty is part of the joy of gardening!

Tom Nielsen Biocentric Planting Design & Nursery
 Website: www.biocentric.org.uk
 Instagram: @tombiocentricplants

Vegetable Garden in September - Hints and Tips

September in the vegetable garden is still a fruitful time but a time of abundance that the cooler air and shorter days tells the gardener that the season is coming to a close.

There are still things to do in the vegetable garden are here are a few hints and tips.

Tomatoes:

- Remember to keep up a good and regular watering regime which will help to reduce the chance of blossom end rot and split fruit. Remove split fruit as soon as you notice it, if left it will soon start to rot and introduce disease.
- Any remaining outdoor tomatoes should be picked by the end of September and ripened indoors. The whole truss can be cut off to allow the fruits to ripen on the vine either on a windowsill or in a box with a ripe banana for company. Green fruits can be used in chutneys as can any red tomatoes surplus to requirements.

Potatoes:

- Potatoes should be lifted before slug damage becomes a problem. Leave the tubers to dry before storing in paper sacks or boxes. Take care to only store undamaged potatoes.
- Keep a watch for potato blight, any blighted potato haulms (leaves) can be cut off and burnt or disposed of with household rubbish. The good news is that the potatoes can still be harvested.
- Clear debris created when lifting potatoes and care should be taken not to damage the haulms. Potato debris left out in wet weather could cause the development of fungal diseases such as black leg or fluffy grey mould.

Onions and Shallots:

- Sow seed of salad and bulb type over wintering onions to mature next spring.
- Over wintering onion sets should be planted in late September.
- Onions and shallots should be lifted as soon as foliage has started to die back. Succumbing to temptation and bending over the tops by hand can reduce their storage time. If the weather is dry allow them to dry on the soil face, alternatively dry them in a well ventilated shed.
- Whichever method you use store them in a moisture free place and check over at frequent intervals to check for any rot which may spread to other stored onions. Thick necked onions should be used rather than stored as they may be more prone to rot.
- Store them in a cool, dry, dark place.



Taunton Rugby Club

Taunton Rugby club kick off their new season on 2nd September with a home match against a famous old club, newly promoted Blackheath. Two more mouthwatering fixtures follow on the 16th and 30th of the month against Richmond and Rosslyn Park.

Richmond are newly relegated from the Rugby Championship and like Rosslyn Park are steeped in rugby tradition. Last season's win against Rosslyn Park was the best performance at home



Charlie Wright

all season and will live long in the memory of those who saw it.

Anyone reading this will be in for a treat if they come along to Veritas Park in Hyde Lane for these matches.

The players have been training hard twice a week for a couple of months and there is much optimism for

an improvement in the League position over last season when survival in National League 1 was uncertain until the last day's results. Every season the League name the best player of the season in each position. One would think that a team finishing 11th out of 14 would have no representatives in such a team but two of Taunton's team were included. They are Ratu Vakalutukali and Charlie Wright. Both play in the back row of the forwards and are big favourites with the supporters.

Ratu, affectionately known as "Toots", is a serving member of the Royal Navy. He was a leading member of the Navy rugby team and played a major part in their victory in the annual match against the Army at Twickenham before a crowd of over 50,000 by 39-22. Toots made a massive break to set up the final match clinching try for the Navy team. Toots's Navy commitments have restricted his availability for Taunton Titans some what but he has still made 138 appearances for the club and is raring to go for another season.

Charlie Wright joined Taunton from the Premiership side Exeter Chiefs in 2021 and has been the first name on the team sheet every week such is his total commitment for 80 minutes every game. His unmistakable scrum cap can be seen either charging forward with the ball or making strong tackles or battling to win the ball at the breakdown. A true warrior who has captained the team on many occasions setting an example for the rest to follow.



Rafu (Toots) Vakalutukali

The club depends on local support and anybody attending a home fixture can be assured of an afternoon of thrilling entertaining action. Don't forget that the pre match lunches are the envy of every team in the league with a superb carvery with four choices of meats and vegetarian/vegan options available. Booking for lunch is essential because of the high demand. So come down and support the team and enjoy a great meal in a congenial atmosphere.



Toots in action at Twickenham

Letter from Rev. Jim

South Quantock Benefice
office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk



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

I did my vicar-training in a church known as a 'wedding factory'. The most we did in a single day was six (on the hour from 10am – I kid you not) but it was not uncommon to have two or three on any given Saturday during the summer months. We used to keep Radio 4 on in the vestry so we could keep up with the Test Match when we went in to sign the registers. Happy days!

As the years have gone on, church weddings are less common but they are still a wonderful and memorable feature of parish life.

I've had a couple phoning China as soon as I've declared them married as parents were unable to attend. I've had to deal with tricky names and awkward photographers ('Sorry vicar, can you do that bit again, I missed it'). I've received apologies from a witness who, as she leant forward to sign the register, 'fell out' of the top of her low-cut dress. I've seen balloons, cowboy outfits, fairy-carriages, doves, horses, dogs, I've listened to a transvestite nightclub soloist who was truly magnificent during the signing. All marvellous occasions of great celebration in a multiplicity of styles and tastes. And each one an absolute privilege to conduct.

It is a personal regret that the church has put a limit on who I can marry, but, as a loyal Anglican, I stick to the rules and that's where we are.

It is a great joy that wedding bells are still rung out across our benefice and it a matter of some pride that we can offer four magnificent and ancient church buildings which lend their own dignity and gravitas to proceedings.

Thank you to all the families who still choose to use us when there are so many options these days. May our association with you continue to be, in the words of the final prayers, 'life-giving and life-long'.

Jim Cox

From West Monkton Registers:

Funerals:

20.06.23 Kenneth Darch – burial in churchyard
 17.07.23 Sidney French – burial in churchyard

Men's Group Meetings:

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

Tuesday 5th September

Pub Walk: 11am (Cothelstone and then to Merry Monk)

Tuesday 10th October

Pool Night: AllStars Sports Bar 7pm

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

St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners

July

The draw was held on Sunday 9th July
First Prize: £101.00 won by Pam Glide
Second Prize: £50.50 won by Linda Daly
 The sum of £353.50 will go towards the church.

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

August

The draw was held on Friday 4th August
First Prize: £103.00 was won by Tony Stone.
Second Prize: £51.50 was won by Rosie Brown.

The sum of £360.50 will go towards the church.

The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 103.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our winners!

If you would like to support West Monkton Church and be in with a chance of winning, please contact:

Kate Ayres (01823 413873)



September

3rd 13th Sunday after Trinity

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

10th 14th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston M
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F P
10:00am	Holy Communion	W Monkton

17th 15th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	W Monkton
10:00am	Animal Service at Tetton Farm	Kingston St M
10:00am	Harvest Service followed by apple cake	W Monkton
6:00pm	Evening Worship	Broomfield

24th 16th Sunday after Trinity

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

October

1st 17th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	W Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	W Monkton
6:00pm	Harvest service	Broomfield

8th 18th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Holy Communion	W Monkton
10:00am	Harvest Service followed by apple cake	Cheddon F P

15th 19th Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	W Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	W Monkton
11:00am	Harvest Service followed by lunch	Kingston St M
6:00pm	Evening Worship	Broomfield

22nd 20th Sunday after Trinity

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

29th Bible Sunday

8:30am	BCP Communion	W Monkton
10:00am	United Benefice Holy Communion in Broomfield Church	

South Quantock Benefice

Quiet Day

Sunday 29th October

11.30am – 3.00 pm

Broomfield Village Hall

Gentle Space

A time of reflective prayer, meditation

Facilitator – Jane Eastell : retired Bishop's Advisor

for Spiritual Direction

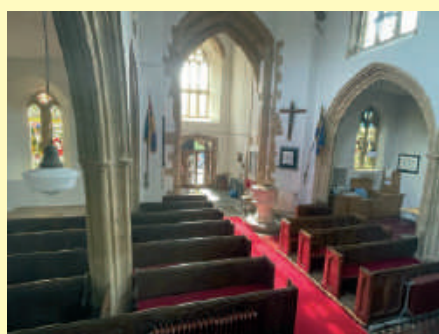
All Souls Service:

Sunday 29th October 6:30pm
Service will be held in West Monkton church

We specifically invite those who have been recently bereaved, but it is a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together to pray, and to remember with deep affection those we have lost along life's way.



Developments and exciting plans at St Augustine's West Monkton. See next page



Great News!

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped us to raise money to repair our Lady Chapel roof. We are in a position now to go ahead and get this work completed before the winter sets in. Once the Lady Chapel roof is water tight again, we can look at the usefulness of our beautiful building. We would like to begin some reorganisation of the church interior - so that certain areas can have multi-purpose use - for the Church and the Community as a whole. Please could you take a few moments to give us your thoughts?

1. How often do you visit the church? Weekly/monthly/infrequently
2. How often do you visit the churchyard? Weekly/monthly/infrequently
3. When you step inside the church are you put off by what you see? Yes/No
4. What would you like to see? (Tick any of the following)
 - a) *More open space? ie. an accessible area for social gathering?*
 - b) *Fewer pews at the back?*
 - c) *Tables and chairs at the back?*
 - d) *Improved servery area?*
5. If there was a separate space/small room amongst the church's architecture available - would you or your group use it? Yes/No
6. We are looking at improved audio/projection facilities – would this help you or your group to stage more events in the community? Yes/No
7. Are there any changes you would like to see to the interior of the church? Yes/No
Please specify?
8. Would you like to be part of our project? Yes/No
(If so please leave us your name and email address?)

Please return this Survey to the box at the church or by going to the church website
www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk
 or - email direct to sawmchurchwardens@gmail.com

Many thanks for your time

Thank you to everybody who has participated and supported us in any way in the recent fundraising events for the church roof. Please go to www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk for an update on the funds raised.



West Monkton Evening Women's Institute

Hi everyone

Can you believe we are halfway through the year – beautiful weather we have been having and some more to come I believe, but at least the gardens have had a drink in between which I am sure pleases all you gardeners!

In June, we welcomed a lovely lady called Amanda, who runs 'Bag Full of Hope (BFOH)'. The project was the brain child of Amanda who belongs to Shapwick Starlets WI. Their mission is to support women who may be facing their greatest challenges; whether that be fleeing violence, surviving homelessness or exploitation. To do this they supply handbags full of toiletries with a few little luxuries to women's refuges, hostels and via police led initiatives. Their aim is to show these brave women that they are cared for and supported by women who believe in them and their strength to get through what is likely to be the most challenging times of their lives. It is their belief that like their WI when they come together for a common purpose, they create something so great they will not be ignored and this is certainly what happened with BFOH. Amanda talks regularly to local groups and through social media and word of mouth they collect good quality handbags and collect donations such as shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste and brushes, deodorant, hand wipes, makeup, new hairbrushes – anything that makes women feel special. What a brilliant idea and achievement, well done Amanda.



Members with donations to BFOH

A couple of new ventures for us:

Walking Group: The first one was from Maunsel Lock Cafe where we enjoyed a cup of coffee before we did a short 3 mile walk. Hopefully this is something which we can do on a regular monthly basis (See photo in next column)

Book Club: The first book read was Richard Osman's book 'The Thursday Murder Club' which was well received and 6 ladies met at Monkton Elm's cafe to

discuss the book. The next book is 'As the Crow Flies' by Damien Boyd which coincides nicely with his visit to us on the 28th September (see below for details).

Our summer outing this year was to Forde Abbey which was thoroughly enjoyed by 14 of our ladies and two visitors. (**see photo**)



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.

Dates for your diary:

We are holding a Quiz in the main hall at Monkton Heathfield on the 25th November, doors open at 6:30pm and we start promptly at 7.00pm. The cost will be £7 per person, which includes a ploughman's supper (cheese or ham) and a cup of tea/coffee, maximum number is 6 per team, bring your own drink and glass. Further details please ring me on 01823 619084.

October 26th: Genealogy
November 23rd: Craft evening
December: Christmas Meal
 at Quantock Restaurant,
 Bridgwater & Somerset College

Shirley Hector
 (Monkton Evening WI)



Walking group at Maunsel Lock



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)

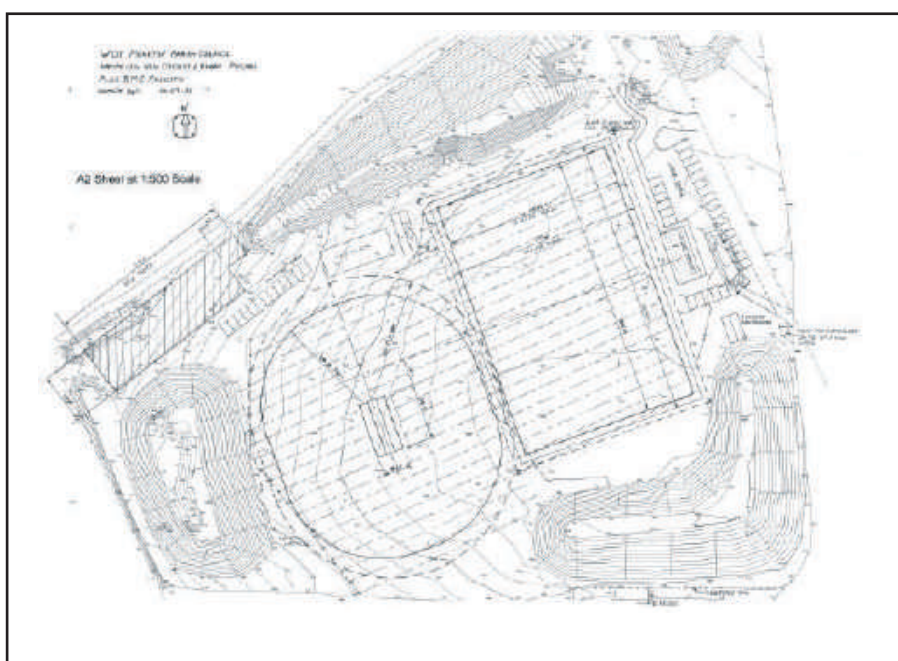
Sports Pitches

The Parish Council, after a very protracted period of negotiation, is expected (by the time this is published) to have acquired the land allocated for sports pitches adjacent to the Eastern Relief Road between the Canal roundabout and the Hardys Road roundabout.

The Parish Council has been working to acquire the land to ensure the delivery of the sports pitches following non delivery by the Developer.

Over the coming months groundworks will take place on the land to add the required drainage and seed the pitches.

Subject to the Parish Council acquiring the required planning permission and funding, the aspiration is to deliver a multi-use sports site including provision for rugby, cricket and a BMX track or skate park, an illustration of the proposal is available below:



MH1 Public Open Spaces

The Parish Council has been negotiating with the Developers regarding the completion and future arrangements for the maintenance of the public open spaces in MH1. A public meeting to provide an overview of the proposals for the future maintenance will take place in September.

The anticipated date is 18th September from 3pm until 7pm at Brittons Ash Community Hall. An invitation letter confirming the date of the public meeting will be delivered to all households in MH1. If you are a homeowner in MH1 please keep an eye out for the invitation letter.

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 with residents and families at the school. We will welcome the new Year 5s in September who will join the Year 6s in coming along to the café for a hot chocolate and a chat after their school day on Wednesdays.

Our 'Repair Café' runs once a month alongside the café from 2pm until 4pm, the next repair café will be on 16th August and again on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Please come along, we have a few handy volunteers who are up for a challenge! Old electrical items that can be repaired and reused or perhaps alterations to some clothing? We also offer support to people with any IT issues who maybe struggling with online forms or websites, please pop in on these days for some support.

On the 2nd August we launched a Loss and Bereavement Group with Impeccable Care, who support our parish with regular volunteers at our Stay and Play Group. Julie, Sarah and Mark are both caring and empathic with a wealth of experience in loss and bereavement and are providing a support group for those in the community who have lost a loved one.



We are also keen to start a monthly **Crochet and Knit Group** at the BACH and are keen for experienced and not so experienced knitters to come together to make poppies to decorate our Parish for Remembrance Day in November. Please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email community@westmonkton.net if you are interested in getting involved.

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 runs at the BACH every week from 12.30pm until 2pm on a Wednesday and on a Thursday from 10.30am to 12noon. 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 Fridge

We have extended our collections with Fareshare and Neighbourly into Taunton Tescos, M&S and Lidl. As a result of this we have taken on a number of new volunteers for collections and we warmly welcome them to our team. This also means that we have more food to offer out to the community and this will help us reduce even more food waste!

The Coop's remain our loyal donators and we are grateful to them for their support for our project. We are keen to promote Coop Membership and if you chose us as your local cause on your Coop 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 Coop and choose us as your local cause to fund. Each time you shop at the Coop 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!

We celebrated our anniversary of being open a year and want to thank all our fridge volunteers, old and new and our donators at Coop, Aldi, Tesco, M&S and Bookers for your dedication and commitment.

If you are a local catering or food business who would like to donate to Our Community Fridge please get in touch. Contact Kate on 07505 984006 or email community@westmonkton.net



The celebration of the anniversary of being open a year

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.

Every Wednesday the garden is open for the community to come along and help us at the garden, we often need an extra pair of hands for weeding, harvesting and watering. If you have some spare time, come and join us.

We are always looking for more regular volunteers so please contact community@westmonkton.net if you would like to help.

Community Events

- Unfortunately, we had to postpone the dog show due to the forecast of storms, which frustratingly didn't arrive. As frustrating as this was, we have now rearranged the **Dog Show** with St Giles Animal Rescue for the 3rd September from 11am to 3pm. Please come along and join us, we will have numerous craft and food stalls as well as inflatables for the children to enjoy!
- 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, Music to Food and 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 13th September and 11th October, the quiz starts at 7:30pm.

- We plan to run our **Easter Egg Hunt** again next year on the 30th March 2024.
- The **Beacon** will be lit on the 6th June 2024 for D Day remembrance.
- We will be looking to hold a '**Party in the Park**' event on the 8th June 2024.
- Following our Dog Show Event this September we will look to secure a date for this again next year.

If you are interested in having some input or would like to join the volunteers to help us organise these events then please get in touch with Kate on 07505984006 or email community@westmonkton.net.

*If any groups would like to look at organising a 'Harvest Supper' next year with our support then please get in touch to discuss how we can support you.

Volunteering Opportunities

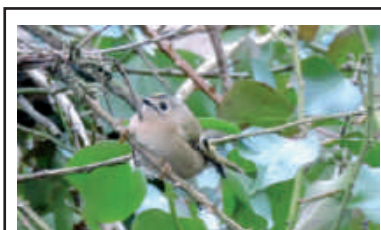
If you have some spare time on your hands and want to meet new people and get involved in our thriving community, there are a number of volunteer opportunities open to you. We are specifically looking for more gardeners for the Community Garden and we would also like to take on some Companion Volunteers to support those in the community who are isolated and without transport.

If either of these roles appeal to you 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.

Somerset Birds

Some years ago there was much debate around which British bird was the smallest. The candidates were the Wren and the Goldcrest and, in truth, there is little to choose between the two. With better measuring techniques and weight and morphological studies, we now know the clear winner is the Goldcrest, and its very close and much scarcer relation, the Firecrest. The Goldcrest is a remarkable little bird. Measuring only nine centimetres



Goldcrest

and weighing the same as a 5p coin it resembles a tiny warbler both in appearance and in its restless foraging habits. Dull green above, with two distinct pale wing bars and whitish below, it has bright yellow crown, from which it gets its name. In the male the crest is bright orange when raised in display. Some idea of just how small it is can be gained from the photo of a bird in the hand of a licensed bird ringer.



Firecrest

The rarer Firecrest is a little jewel of a bird, with much brighter plumage enhanced by a bronze coloured shoulder patch. It is paler beneath but the most striking feature is a prominent white stripe above the eye. Although proof is wanting, I think it highly likely at least a pair or two breed in the village, and happily this beautiful bird is increasing in number both in Somerset and in the south of England.

Goldcrests are particularly fond of conifers but, especially in winter, they search for tiny insects along hedgerows, often in the company of tits. They have a high pitched 'zee zee zee' call and a short song ending in a brief flourish. Unfortunately this is beyond the audible range of most people over 60, me included. The nest is a remarkable construction of lichen and cobwebs generally suspended from a conifer branch and usually difficult to see from beneath. A pair,

sometimes two, regularly breeds in West Monkton churchyard. Firecrests are less choosy, and frequent a variety of wooded habitat, especially those with lots of ivy and other evergreens.

Both are restless feeders, constantly on the move as they need to be with a high metabolism to sustain. They are, in effect, an avian equivalent of the Shrew having to feed constantly to maintain life. It has been calculated that, in short winter days, these 'crests' need to find 30% of their body weight in food to last the night. However both are skilled in searching out small insect larvae and eggs from the tiny clefts in tree branches, especially those where larger birds cannot reach, and both will sometimes hover by the tip of a branch to capture small food items. They can then be seen in the open.

Firecrests are partial migrants, but British Goldcrests are largely resident. In autumn the population is augmented by large numbers of Scandinavian birds, fleeing harsh winters. It seems remarkable that such a tiny bird can cross the hostile North Sea and indeed, many do perish enroute. In some years birds can be seen pitching exhausted into sand dunes on the East Coast, often landing on people. However, once able to feed, most recover and move inland. Scandinavian Goldcrests are generally duller, with a grey cast to the neck and shoulders and sometimes it is possible to distinguish these from local birds. I have seen one or two in and around the village in some winters.

Despite being common many people who feed their garden birds have yet to see a Goldcrest, mainly because they rarely visit feeding stations. They will sometimes accompany tit flocks into a feeding station and this does offer a chance. Long-tailed Tits have only recently learned that fat balls are an excellent food source and there are signs that Goldcrests are doing so too, so keeping an eye on the fat ball feeders and the Long-tailed Tits is, perhaps, the best option. These being rarer, seeing a Firecrest is more challenging, and they are usually come across by chance. There is some immigration in autumn and winter from the near Continent, which lifts the population and increases opportunities. West Monkton churchyard regularly hosts them though views are rarely prolonged. If you are lucky enough to find one, watching it, even for a brief period, is a real delight.

Brian Hill

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



West Monkton Village Hall
Monkton Heathfield
Charity No. 304670

Chairman's Report 2022/23

Registered Charity No. 1.2/304670/2

Annual General Meeting

This has been a different type of report and I have only been the Chairman for the past six months due to the resignation of our very hard-working and enthusiastic, long serving Chair Mrs Joyce Keyte. Joyce has moved out of the area to be closer to her family. She will be a very hard act to follow and I am sure the whole committee wish her well for the future. I also would like to thank Lyn Batt who has for many years been the booking officer for the Village Hall. She has decided to step down from the roll for personal reasons. We are very lucky to have recruited a new Booking Officer, Mr Ian Pitchfork who is very efficient at the job.

I want to thank Colin Bentley who has stepped down as Vice-Chairman. Colin has decided to spend more time with his family and travelling. Colin will remain as a committee member.

I would also like to thank the members of the Village Hall management committee and the volunteers who give their time freely and are most willing to help in many ways. We couldn't manage without them. We are always looking out for other volunteers to assist.

I am concerned that villages throughout the country are losing their shops, public houses and a village close to here has lost its village hall and unless something is done, this can only get worse.

This past year has been very difficult for the Village Hall. We have come through Covid and the present economic climate hasn't helped matters. Things are hopefully beginning to look up, we hope there is light at the end of the tunnel.

It is with regret that we have had to increase our hiring charges due to the increased cost of running the hall which is outside of our control. The good news is that bookings are going up due to new hirers, i.e birthday parties. I think that we should advertise

more, our facilities are extremely good. We have a large car park, two halls and one meeting room. They need to be promoted more.

Due to a medical emergency at the Merry Monk a few months ago the Village Hall was asked if it had a defibrillator, which at the time we didn't have. As the Village Hall is reasonably central, I asked West Monkton Parish Council if they could donate one to us. This request was granted as it benefitted both the village and any visitors. The Village Hall paid for the installation and it is now operating.

Members of the committee in the last month have cleaned all the chairs and taken up a full inventory of stock owned by the hall as well as clearing brambles, etc in the relief car park area.

A survey was carried out by a structural engineer on the roof. It was done so that, if in the future, we decided to have solar panels. The advised work was carried out and completed in three days. The sign at the gate was beginning to look shabby so it has been replaced by two smaller ones on either side of the gate advertising the hall.

Ray Tully,
 Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee
 and a Trustee.





Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre - our local theatre and arts hub

Free Community Quiz Nights

West Monkton Parish Council Community Team
 Wed 13 Sep, 7:30pm and Wed 11 Oct, 7:30pm
 The community quiz nights in our bar! Come along, have fun and meet people. Quiz teams are limited to 6 people in total. Free to enter but **booking is required**. Book online or contact our Box Office.

Tacchi-Morris Open Day Sat 16 Sep, 12-3:30pm
 Our annual Open Day - full of free shows, free taster classes, free kid's activities and free music! Our Community Coffee Shop will be open and you can even meet the cast of panto. The perfect afternoon to see our lovely arts centre and all that we do!
 Free, just turn up on the day - check our website for class and show times.

Pete Firman: TrikTok

Sat 23 Sep, 7:30pm

Pete Firman is an award-winning performer who is not to be missed live. Expect an evening of jaw-dropping magic and laugh-out-loud comedy. TrikTok takes Pete's magic



from the small screen to the stage and gives audiences a chance to see his critically-acclaimed magical skills in the flesh. Age Guidance 11+ Standard £20 | Concession £18

Take A Chance On Us Fri 29 Sep, 7:30pm
 With stunning vocals, vibrant costumes, and unparalleled musicianship, these talented performers will transport you straight back to the 70s and the height of ABBA's fame. From the iconic hits like "Dancing Queen" and "Mamma Mia" to deeper cuts like "The Winner Takes It All" and "Knowing Me, Knowing You," the group bring the full range of ABBA's catalogue to life on stage.

Adults £20 | Concession £19

Kinder Smoking Apples Tue 3 Oct, 7:30pm
 Escaping on a Kindertransport train, one small Czech-Jewish girl embarks on a mighty adventure. Crossing between the past and present, Babi travels across Europe; from bon bons in Germany to the smell of the sea in Margate, she discovers how tiny acts of kindness can change the course of a person's life.

Adults £16 | Concessions £15 | Students £15

An Evening with Baked Alaska

Tor Theatre

A hilarious comedy with original music and an 80s twist. What do washed-up wannabe Pop Stars do when the 80's come back into fashion? Why, they go back on the road, of course! Even though they hate each other and no one can really remember any of their songs. Laugh and sing along as Baked Alaska - 'the Synthpop Spinal Tap' - take you through the ups and downs of the success that they never actually had. Expect songs, stories, split-ups and come-backs as these self-styled Synthpop legends lift the lid on their electric careers!

Adult £11 | Concession £10 | Student £8

Markus Birdman: Platinum

Thu 12 Oct, 7:30pm

We are incredibly excited to welcome star of Britain's Got Talent 2023, Markus Birdman, to the Tacchi-Morris stage in October. Fresh off of his wonderful showing in the national talent competition, you will have a chance to see Markus perform his brilliant brand of comedy in Taunton, live later this year. You'll also be seeing a support act, to be confirmed at a later date.

Age Guidance 14+ Adults £16.50 | Conc £14.50

Ground Rules

Crime & Comedy Theatre Company Fri 13 Oct, 7:30pm

Judith and Gerald look the perfect couple - he's a successful businessman, she's an aspiring counsellor, they live in a stylish suburban home and it seems nothing can spoil their happy marriage... that is until Jo and Ashley arrive on the scene! Rescuing Jo from a very public argument with her boyfriend, Judith and Gerald take her home... but when Ashley follows them, it sets off a chain of events that no-one can control. Flirting and frayed tempers lead to jealousy, confessions and misunderstandings - plus a potato in the exhaust pipe! Adults £19.50 | Concession £18

The Golden Pearl Pirates

Hot Rock Productions Sat 21 Oct, 2pm

Climb aboard the Golden Pearl and shiver your timbers this October half term for a fun filled family adventure on the seven seas, with a show brimming with a bountiful supply of great songs, dazzling dance routines and Cracking Comedy.

Adults £16 | Child £14 |

Family Ticket for 4

(max. 2 adults) £52



For the full programme see:

www.tacchi-morris.com

To Book: 01823 414122

Email: info@tacchi-morris.com

The Hand Of Fête

A short story by Craig P Manning

As he left the village fête, Edwin Hopkins smiled ruefully to himself. It had been the usual low key amusements that took place annually on his village green - tombola, coconut shy, cake stalls, pony rides, try-your-luck stalls for (very) modest prizes and so on. As he was about to leave he met a work colleague, Henry, who worked at the same accountancy offices that Edwin had - indeed both had started there at roughly the same time, now some thirty-odd years ago.

After the usual pleasantries, Edwin asked Henry about his wife, Muriel. As if disclosing state secrets, Henry leaned in closer to Edwin and gestured to a small bell-tent at the edge of the green. "Mum's the word, old chap, but today my wife Muriel is none other than Madam Zeta". The tent had a small blackboard outside reading "WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE? MADAM ZETA TELLS ALL!"

Edwin looked questioningly at Henry, who went on to explain that his wife Muriel, in stereotypical "fortune teller" fancy dress of shawl and headscarf, read customer's palms for a small fee, later donated to the Village Green charity. "Just a bit of fun. She stares at the customer's palm, makes comments on heartlines and lifelines - all suitably vague - and if she knows the punter, as today she nearly always does, makes a few "insightful" guesses about job, family and so on. Then she tells them to avoid water, or look to travel on a weekend soon or some other stuff. Punters like it, she enjoys it and the charity earns a few bob. Fancy a go?"

Edwin reluctantly agreed and entered, sticking to Henry's instructions not to let on he knew Muriel's true identity; he had to admit the disguise, voice and manner were most convincing. He was now not surprised that no-one recognised her.

And now a few minutes later he was walking home - as he turned to leave the fête and take in a final look he was surprised to see another "fortune teller" enter the tent, dressed in similar shawl and headscarf but of different colours, and was clearly not the one he had spoken to.

Which brought him back to his "reading". Muriel had not made any comments to his personal or professional life (though she knew him well) but said just "Beware the 1708" twice, three times and "look for a red globe in the sky." All rather puzzling. Edwin had no time for lucky charms, astrology or crystal balls normally so shrugged off the prediction, smiling. But he wasn't 100% at ease.

He later realised the link on Sunday evening as he packed his briefcase for Monday's workday commute to his office. His timetable of trains had a red circle around the 17:08 return from Paddington to his village - every weekday for all those years he had taken that train home, but for some reason he always circled it on his South East Network trains timetable. He looked at it again. 17:08. The number

cited by Muriel. Coincidence? Red globe. Sky. He had a thought and checked his AA Astronomy guide. Monday - a "blood moon" was predicted, where the moon appears reddish-orange due to certain light in the atmosphere. A red globe in the sky!

Not superstitious but not keen to tempt fate, he made a decision. He had holiday owing so arranged to take the Monday off, thus avoiding taking the 17:08 evening train on Blood Moon Monday.

Monday, therefore saw him having a (short) lie in and as he found a day off work quite a novelty he tracked his working day by the kitchen clock.

9 am. I would be arriving at my desk about now.

10:45am - time for a coffee and a digestive (Edwin was a creature of habit), 1pm - lunch in the little deli opposite the office - Tuna Melt on Mondays.

And so it went on. By mid afternoon he tired of this clockwatching and went out into the garden with a cold drink and a book and sat in the shade of the apple tree, out of the warm August sun. He was finding it hard to concentrate on his book, what with thinking about the circumstances that could threaten the 17:08 homebound train. Delays? A passenger has a seizure or something worse? Surely not a crash? He shuddered, glad he had not risked it. The warm sun made him dozy - just about to nod off, he suddenly felt a sharp blow on the top of his head, slumped backwards knocking the rear of his head on the back of the stout wooden garden bench. And knew no more.....

"What's the diagnosis doctor" asked a male voice

"Concussion. Blow to the top of the cranium, another to the back - enough to knock him unconscious and for some time. Oh look, he's coming round." A female voice was talking. Edwin, though confused and groggy, heard every word "You're in hospital, Mr. Hopkins. Concussion.

Nothing serious, we'll keep you under observation overnight and you should be fine to return home tomorrow," clarified the male nurse.

Edwin nodded and closed his eyes.

"Just the paperwork then, nurse"- the doctor's quiet voice was talking again, as she rustled some paper and took a pen.

"OK- let's see. **Diagnosis** - concussion. **Cause** - cricket ball to head; hit over garden fence from next door's playing field. **Date** - 17/08".



Taunton Film Society @ The SPACE, Monkton Heathfield

Taunton Film Society is now starting its 21st season screening films you will not see in the local multiplex. We love watching and discussing films, but we are not experts just people who love film. Just turn up at the door on a film night to find out if you would like to join us.

**Friday 29th September
 '1976'**

**Chile 2022 Drama
 Cert: 15
 1 hour 35 minutes**



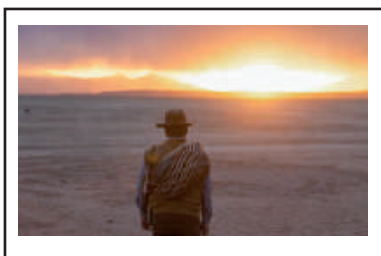
Chile, 1976. Carmen heads off to her beach house. When the family priest asks her to take care of a young man he is sheltering in secret, Carmen steps onto unexplored territories, away from the quiet life she is used to.

1976 is an elegantly circumspect Spanish-language drama set against the backdrop of Pinochet-era Chile. Carmen is a chic older woman whose marriage to a doctor has afforded her an enviably sheltered lifestyle. Her primary concern when we meet her is choosing exactly the right paint colour for the renovations on her summer home. But then the local priest persuades her to care for a wounded radical, Elías, and Carmen starts to realise just how dangerous her country is for those who dare to disagree with its leaders.

**Friday 20th October
 'Utama'**

**Bolivia 2021 Drama Cert: 12A
 1 hour 27 minutes**

In the Bolivian highlands, an elderly Quechua couple has been living the same daily life for years.



During an uncommonly long drought, Virginio and Sisa face a dilemma: resist or be defeated by the environment and time itself.

It's Sisa's job to fetch water while Virginio grazes the llamas. The trouble is that rain has stopped coming to the region; the village well has dried up. "Time has gotten tired," a friend tells Virginio, to explain the drought. But the truth is that climate change

is making life unbearable – not that global warming is ever spoken about.

In fact, until the couple's grandson Clever (Santos Choque) shows up wearing a hoodie, we could just as easily be watching a film set in the 1920s as the 2020s. Clever wants his grandparents to move to the city with the rest of the family. What he fails to understand is that the question for Virginio and Sisa is not where to live, but where to die. And when they are gone, there will be no one left in the family to speak the indigenous Quechua language or live their way of life. It's a gentle and superbly shot film.

More information about Taunton Film Society and an up to date programme can be found at www.tauntonfilmsociety.co.uk

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 1:30pm to 3:30pm Art Group
 7:30pm to 9:30pm Table Tennis

Tuesdays

10:15am to 1pm Age UK Group
 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

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

Fridays

9:45am to 11am Yoga
 11:15am to 12:15pm Healthy Hearts

Saturdays

8:45am to 11:45am Mini Dribblers

Booking Officer:

Maggie Little

Tel: 01823 323662

Email:

bachbookings@westmonkton.net

West Monkton Village Hall Monkton Heathfield, TA2 8NE

Regular Bookings

Jittabugs

Mondays 13:45 – 14:45; 16:00 – 16:30;
 16:30 – 17:30; and 17:45 – 18:45

Phoenix Camera Club

Mondays 19:00 - 21:00

Badminton

Tuesdays (Ladies) 14:00 - 15:00

Brownies

Tuesdays (except school holidays) 18:00 - 19:30

Pilates

Tuesdays 19:00 - 20:00

Monkton Players

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

Sweaty Mama

Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45

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

For more information please contact:

Ian Pitchfork Tel: 01823 412196

Email: ianpitchfork623@gmail.com

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 November/December 2023 Village News is 1st October 2023

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

The Phoenix Camera Club

The 2022/23 Phoenix Camera Club season ended in April but that hasn't stopped some members meeting up in and around Somerset on Monday evenings during the summer months to take pictures. On our travels we have visited places such as Nynghed Court, Uphill Boatyard, The Quantocks and Watchet



Uphill Boatyard

Harbour to name but a few.

The first couple of months we were fortunate to benefit from a lovely spell of sunny weather. Recent weeks have seen a downturn in the number of sunny days available to us. Undeterred some of our weather hardened members braved those grey evenings

using the conditions to experiment with their photography producing interesting results. There are a few more summer trips planned in August which include Clevedon Pier and Lido and a river walk in Langport providing us with the opportunity to have a collection of new images to show club members when the new 2023/24 Phoenix Camera Club season kicks off in September.

The first Club evening is Monday 4th September which coincides with the start of our annual Club Exhibition at Taunton Library. The exhibition runs for 2 weeks so if you are in Taunton during that time, please pop in and have a look at our work.

The Tacchi Morris Centre is another venue we will be exhibiting at later in the year. The work on show will have 'Winter' as its general theme and, as always, it will be interesting and surprising how this will be interpreted in many different ways by the members of the club. More information about upcoming events and evenings will be announced via our website pgop.org in the coming weeks.

Our Monday evenings comprise of a mix of guest speakers who appear either in person or via Zoom. JP Stones, a photographer based in Mexico, hosted a fantastic presentation last year and we are pleased to have him appear by Zoom for a second time speaking about The Mexican Charro and the benefits of having a

long-term photographic project. Other guest speakers include Bristol photographer, Simon Caplan whose photography transforms subject matter that could be labelled as mundane into something wonderful.

The Phoenix Group of Photographers are based in the Heathfield Room at the West Monkton Village Hall. We are a group of people who have a keen interest in Photography and image making. It's a non-competitive club that welcomes anyone who wishes to share their passion for photography.

The photographic styles our members explore range from landscape, portraiture, street photography to incorporating abstract techniques such as ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) and multiple exposures to produce images. Some members are vastly experienced photographers and are keen to pass on their expertise to those of us who consider ourselves novices, especially when it comes to the technical side of photography. This in itself can present a barrier stopping people from taking up the art form. We all use different camera equipment; makes such as Nikon, Canon, Fuji, etc plus compact cameras and our mobile phones. No matter what camera you own, the likelihood is one of us will be familiar with its workings.

If you are interested in photography, our club may just be the answer to those dark winter nights. The annual membership is £25.00. The guest speaker evenings have a charge of £4 or £5 and refreshments are served at the half time interval.



Budleigh



Maunsel Lock

And Finally ...

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Nelson Mandela