

# Village News

**Issue No. 144**  
**November - December 2023**

## **Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool**



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*Above: Not a Christmas Robin but a Hebridian Wren.  
Find out more on Page 4.*



Check out all the Christmas activities that will be going on in the villages, inside.

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:** 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](http://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](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk)

**Parish Council Website:** [www.westmonkton.net](http://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](mailto: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:

November 14th - Tea at The Willow and Wetlands Centre - 2:30pm

December 12th - Christmas Lunch at The Maypole, 12:30pm

Two course meal £23 per person

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

**SOMERSET WOOD**  
 within Maidenbrook Country Park  
 Maidenbrook Lane, TA2 8JT

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Friday 10th November  
 2:00pm



by THE WW1 COMMEMORATIVE STONE

Everyone is welcome  
 Please wear warm clothing  
 and arrive by foot if possible.  
 Parking available





On **Saturday 9th December** join us at West Monkton Church **between 10am and 5pm** for our special **Christmas Tree Festival**.

Come and see the dazzling exhibition of Christmas trees creatively made and decorated by local groups, organisations and businesses.

**Refreshments all day** include a hot chocolate treat for our youngest visitors between 10am and 12noon.

Our local singers will entertain with a **happy singalong** between 3:30pm and 4:30pm.

**Vote for your favourite tree and see who wins the prize.**

There is plenty of parking at the church and toilet facilities.

**Come along and enjoy this special Christmas Tree Festival.**

**We look forward to seeing you.**

**Happy and Healthy Christmas to all our readers from the Village News team**



### Make this Christmas special with Monkton Elm:

Late night shopping at Monkton Elm:

**29th & 30th November, 1st December 2023**

**AVOID THE CROWDS!** With plenty of free parking, have dinner in our award-winning restaurant.

With tastings, activities, shopping and treats aplenty, Monkton Elm Garden Centre is the perfect place to be!

**FREE event:** On the evening of the 1st December, during our late night shopping, we have a special visitor arriving to collect all the children's letters to Santa **in person!**

If you want to hand Santa your Christmas wish letter, visit us at 5:30pm, when Santa will be arriving to open Christmas at the Garden Centre and collect those special letters to take back to the north pole with him!

**Breakfast with Santa:** Santa and his Elves will be visiting Monkton Elm again this year! You can book to meet Santa and have a delicious breakfast that is fun for the whole family! This magical family experience includes a full English Breakfast, roaming entertainment from our playful elves to get everyone well and truly in the Christmas spirit plus you'll get a special visit from Santa at your table, Santa will also read from his naughty and nice book, to ensure the nice children all receive a wonderful gift! Book online at [www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com) This experience is very popular, so it's best to pre-book to avoid disappointment.

## Somerset Birds

The Goldcrest may have pipped the Wren to the crown of Britain's smallest bird but this is only by a matter of centimetres, and the Wren has bags of character that the Goldcrest cannot match. You may struggle to see a Goldcrest, but everyone knows the Wren, a tiny bird once so famous it appeared on the obverse side of the farthing, a coin I'm old enough to remember. There are many small, confusing brown birds but the almost permanently cocked tail of the Wren is an instant giveaway.

One reason the Wren is so familiar is its abundance, due to its catholic taste in habitat. They can be found almost anywhere, from small gardens, hedgerows and copses, to larger woods and even treeless mountains and moorland. It is among the most common of our smaller songbirds. Although not particularly shy, its feeding habits can make it difficult to see, but its song, among the loudest of our native birds, is remarkable and draws attention, it also has an equally loud scolding ticking call, usually when alarmed.

Generally it is a successful species, with a British population exceeding eight million, with over two million in Ireland. It occurs throughout Europe, where it is a little more difficult to see, and Asia, and is one of the few 'British' birds with a strong population in North America, where it is known as the Winter Wren, to distinguish it from similar species there. Its wide distribution means there are several subspecies, and the Scottish islands have some that are subtly different in appearance. The Hebridean Wren, which is common throughout the largely treeless island of North Uist, is distinctly larger and more robust. DNA studies may, indeed, prove the Wren on the remote island of St Kilda to be an entirely separate species.



A wren's nest

It is almost exclusively insectivorous, feeding on a wide variety of small invertebrates including beetles and, in particular spiders. The latter prey occasionally gets it into trouble. I once had to carefully release a bird entangled in a web from which it had attempted to extract the occupant. Reliance on insect prey means the population can crash in hard winters, dropping by

around 80%, but Wrens are prolific breeders and numbers soon recover.

Wrens nest early in the year, often in the first week of April. Pair bonds are formed and the male builds a number of almost complete cock's nests, one of which the female selects to complete and lines. Occasional nests within nest boxes may be open, but generally nests are domed, and often well hidden in various nooks and crannies. Built with moss and fine grasses, and usually lined with feathers they are often tucked away in the corners of sheds and outhouses.



A wren nest-building

Unused nests are often used as winter roosts, as are nest-boxes. Wrens don't mind sharing and one nest-box held over 60 birds during cold winter nights. Unnoticed, some will also roost in lofts and roof spaces benefiting from the warmth and safe haven we provide. Five or six eggs are usually laid, and these hatch within a fortnight. The chicks are fed for a further nineteen days, and after fledging are tended by the parents for another week or so. During this time they are vulnerable and rely on remaining camouflaged to escape danger. They are among the cutest of babies. Two or sometimes three broods are raised, and the male may support two females.

British birds do not move far but northern European birds do migrate southwards to escape severe weather, and some of these arrive here. It seems remarkable that such a tiny and apparently, frail, bird can cross the North Sea. So improbable did this seem it was actually suggested, in the early days of migration studies, that birds hitched a lift on the backs of larger birds!

Unlike many once familiar species now in steep decline it looks like the Wren continues to do well. Hopefully it will buck the current trend and continue to be a welcome sight in our gardens and during our woodland walks.

Brian Hill

**Somerset Ornithological Society welcomes people whatever their level of interest in birds. Please contact me at [alnitak.hill82@gmail.com](mailto:alnitak.hill82@gmail.com) for further details.**



## Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club



10th November:

**'Allelujah'** (2022) 12A (Drama):

Based on the play by Alan Bennett, 'Allelujah' is a warm and deeply moving story about old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanizing the local community: they invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. What could go Wrong?

Allelujah celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.



14th December:

**'Oppenheimer'** (2023)

15 (History/Drama):

Based on the 2005 biography 'American Prometheus', Christopher Nolan's eagerly awaited feature is the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, "the father of the atomic bomb", an enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.



**Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall**

**Refreshments: 6:30pm;**

**Short film: 7pm**

**Feature: 7:20pm.**

**Admission is £6 per person at the door.**

**Card payment accepted.**

**cwmfilmclub@cfmh.co.uk**

## LEST WE FORGET



**On Friday 17th November  
at 7:30pm  
at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall**

Local amateur historian, John Scanlon, has arranged to do a presentation on how both World Wars affected the village of Cheddon Fitzpaine.

The presentation will include references to the stories behind those villagers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Also included will be an explanation of the preparations that were made to combat the expected German invasion, including the wartime secret Auxiliary. These were specially trained guerrilla fighters and the covert Special Duties Branch of Military Intelligence, both of which had important bases in Cheddon.

The presentation will be interspersed with interesting military anecdotes!

Whilst entry is free, a donation towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church would be appreciated. All donations will go to the church.

The presentation may also be of interest to West Monkton parishioners.

## Deliveries

Please can you help?

We are looking for someone to deliver the Village News to **Taunton Vale Park**, in Bathpool.

This would be 20 copies of the magazine, six times a year.

If you are able to help or would like to find out more, please contact:

barrygage125@btinternet.com

or

thelocalvillagenews@live.co.uk

## Letter from Rev. Jim

South Quantock Benefice  
[office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)



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

It's only in recent years that the Church of England has lost its reputation for taking funerals well and without too much 'religion'. Five years ago, in an urban parish, we were regularly doing 100 – 150 funerals a year at the crem for families who wanted the thing done 'properly'.

Not only was it a huge privilege, but it meant that vicar and non-churchgoing parishioners were not strangers and sometimes, sadly, some families became very well-known. I came to know one teenage couple very well after they failed on at least three occasions to hold on to a pregnancy. But sometimes it was the unintended moments which lodged in the memory.

Once, after listening to a family's account of dad's life, as I was getting up to go, I commented on the paintings around the room. "Oh, dad did those," they said. They were really quite exceptional. There was a heavy pause.

"What?"

"Well, what we didn't say was that dad did 4 years for forgery."

I sat back down. Who knew how hard it was to burn £50,000 of counterfeit money on the living room fire as the police were coming up the drive? This time of year, we mark All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday. Most churches hold a service for those who wish to remember people who have died. We do. And at a time when so called 'direct cremations' are becoming popular, people are not giving themselves a proper space to grieve or to remember with joy and thanksgiving. We had a service in West Monkton at the end of last month and we have another on Sunday 5th Nov in Broomfield at 4pm.

You are welcome to come along and remember. Even if your family funeral was not with us. Even if your family funeral was a long time ago. It is a time when the church is filled with a love that is almost tangible.

Jim Cox



## From West Monkton Registers:

### Ashes in Churchyard

04.08.23 Grace Cooper  
 18.08.23 Jean Norman

## Men's Group Meetings:

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

### November (Monday 20th)

Murmuration and other birds: Ham Wall 3pm

### December (Sunday 10th)

Talk: Meet the Met. Dick Macy. Cheddon Memorial Hall (7pm)

## Keeping in Contact

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

[office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)

or see the website for links and up to date information

[www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk](http://www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk)

## St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners

### September

The draw was held on Sunday 3rd September

**First Prize:** £102.00 won by John Rainford

**Second Prize:** £51.00 won by Jean Knight

The sum of £357 will go towards the church.

The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 102.

### October

The draw was held on Tuesday 3rd October

**First Prize:** £102.00 was won by Nigel & Cheryl Birkett.

**Second Prize:** £51.00 was won by Norman Cavill

The sum of £357.00 will go towards the church.

The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 102.

## 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)



## November

### 5th All Saints

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
4:00pm	All Souls Service	Broomfield

### 12th Remembrance Sunday

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Act of Remembrance	Broomfield
10:50am	Remembrance Service	Cheddon F
10:50am	Remembrance Service	Kingston St
10:50am	Remembrance Service	W Monkton

### 19th 2nd Sunday before Advent

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

### 26th Christ the King

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

## December

### 3rd Advent Sunday

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	
In Kingston St Mary with the Bishop of Bath & Wells, The Rt Rev Michael Beasley		
4:00pm	Evensong	Broomfield

### 10th 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	Broomfield
2:30pm	'Coldest Night' service	Kingston
4:30pm	Carol Service	Cheddon F

### 17th 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
4:00pm	Carol Service	West Monkton
6:00pm	Carol Service	Kingston F

### 24th Christmas Eve

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
9:00am	Christmas Communion Service	Cheddon F
10:00am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
4:00pm	Crib Service	Kingston St M
4:00pm	Crib Service	West Monkton
11:30pm	Midnight Mass	Kingston St M

### 25th Christmas Day

10:00am	All Age Christmas Communion	Broomfield
10:00am	All Age Christmas Communion	West Monkton

### 31st 1st Sunday of Christmas

8:30am	BCB Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	United Benefice Holy Communion in	West Monkton



## Advent Groups

There will be 2 Advent groups over 3 weeks on 28th November, 5th December & 12th December.

If you would like to join sessions please contact Michele at the benefice office.

Tel : 451257 or email

[office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)



Tuesdays 2:30pm - 4:00pm - in Aginhills, West Monkton

Tuesdays 7pm - 8:30pm in the Benefice Office

## United Benefice Advent Service

Sunday 3rd December at 10:00am  
 In Kingston St Mary church  
 with the Bishop of Bath & Wells,  
 the Rt Revd Michael Beasley

### 'THE COLDEST NIGHT'

2:30pm Sunday 10th December

in KINGSTON ST MARY church



A gentle Christmas service for those dealing with loss, loneliness or difficulty, or simply don't like all the crazy celebrations and excesses at this time of year.

Followed by refreshments.



West Monkton Church fundraising  
**CHRISTMAS CARDS**



Quality Christmas Cards, 10 cards  
 per pack with 2 designs

**ON SALE 1ST NOV** Small £3.50 Large £4 **MORE DESIGNS ONLINE**

**100% OF PROFIT FROM SALES TO CHURCH FUNDS**

Purchase at Sunday Services, Coffee Mornings,  
 or email [hello@westmonktonchurch.co.uk](mailto:hello@westmonktonchurch.co.uk)  
 and we will deliver within the parish.  
 Pack design details/ pre-order online on line at  
[www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)

### Christmas Services across the Benefice:

**The Coldest Night** – reflective service  
 10th December 2:30pm Kingston

**Carol Services**  
 10th December 4:30pm Cheddon  
 17th December 4:00pm West Monkton  
 17th December 6:00pm Kingston  
 20th December 7:00pm Broomfield

**Christmas Eve:**  
 Crib Services 4:00pm West Monkton  
 4:00pm Kingston

Christmas Eve  
 Communion 9:00pm Cheddon  
 11:30pm Kingston

**Christmas Day**  
 All-Age Communion 10:00am West Monkton  
 10:00am Broomfield

**New Years Day**  
 1st January 2024 10:00am United Benefice  
 Holy Communion West Monkton

*Plant your legacy*

**We are collecting daffodil  
 bulbs for the churchyard.**

**Join us, Sat 11th November 10am  
 along with our  
 churchyard planting party**

**Please leave donated bulbs  
 in the green box at the church.**

**Thankyou**







## The Best Free Show in Taunton

Now the rugby season has started in September there are plenty of good reasons to come down to Veritas Park on a Saturday afternoon to see some terrific rugby.

Taunton are currently putting on the best free show in Taunton. Not the first team but the second team, Taunton Warriors, who at the time of writing sit proudly at the top of their league. They have won all their first four matches topping 90 points in both of the last two matches and a massive 261 points in all. Admission to the Warriors home matches is free with free parking unless the first XV are at home on the same day. The team is largely made up of promising youngsters with a few experienced players and this combination has proved to be unstoppable so far.



The 2nd XV

As for the first team, sadly this is a different story.

They have lost their first four matches, albeit against some of the strongest teams in the league and it looks as if they will be involved in another relegation fight again this season. Nevertheless the standard of rugby played is very high and tremendously entertaining. Taunton managed to secure bonus points for scoring four tries in three of their defeats, some of these coming late in the game so there is plenty of fight and belief and a never give up attitude throughout the team. The first and second XV matches are well worth

a visit for anybody who enjoys watching high quality live sport in the fresh air.

Despite these times of high inflation the club has kept its admission prices unaltered as well as the price for their pre match carvery lunches which are the envy of every other team in the league. The lunches are always entertaining and well worth trying even for people who are not rugby fans.

Like many rugby clubs up and down the country Taunton have a ladies' section. In mid September they played their first match of the season at Cullompton in 30 degree heat. Despite the heat both teams played with skill and determination. Cullompton have a very experienced ladies' team as opposed to Taunton who have several players who this time last year had never played the game. Although Cullompton won the match the highlight for Taunton ladies was when they showed their ability and power driving the opposition back over the try line for a great score. The massive smiles on the faces of the whole team at the end of the match showed how enjoyable the experience was.

At present the ladies' team is still in the development stage. It is made up of a mixture of differing abilities so there is no need for anybody thinking of giving rugby a go to worry about not being good enough. Everybody is welcome to give it a go and there will be lots of encouragement from this friendly group of all ages. The ladies train every Monday and Wednesday from 7pm until 8.30. To anybody uncertain as to whether rugby is for you I say- What have you got to lose. You will get plenty of exercise, get fitter, have some fun and probably make some new friends.

By Robert Harris



The Ladies



### 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](mailto:clerk@westmonkton.net)) or Assistant Clerk – Community ([community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net))

### Sports Pitches

The Parish Council has now successfully acquired the land allocated for sports pitches adjacent to the Eastern Relief Road between the Canal roundabout and the Hardys Road roundabout.

Work quickly got underway to secure the boundary of the land and groundworks will commence over the coming months on the land to add the required drainage and seed the pitches.

A Sports Pitch Committee has been established to oversee the management and delivery of the pitches. The Committee will hold public meetings on a regular basis going forward, the first on 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm at the BACH. Details of this and future meetings are available on the Parish Council website.

### Monkton Matters



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.

[News, information and events in the Parish of West Monkton \(monktonmatters.co.uk\)](https://monktonmatters.co.uk)

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](mailto: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](mailto:bachbooking@westmonkton.net)).

### Annual parish meeting speakers

The Annual parish meeting will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm. All are welcome, come and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink, and nibbles and listen to the team of guest speakers who will speak on local matters. Who would you like for guest speakers in March 2024? Please let either Clerk or any Councillors know as soon as possible as the event will be organised very soon.

### Budget/Precept Setting

The budget for the Parish Council for the year 2024/2025 will be considered in November. If you have any suggestions for projects or initiatives which the Parish Council could undertake in the next financial year please contact the Clerk, or any Councillor. The Parish Council has Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds available to be able to consider larger projects that would be of benefit to the community.

### Community Matters

The **Community Café** has been really busy this term with our new **Crochet and Knit Group** meeting every week and we continue to be busy over the school pick up period. We have welcomed some new Year 5s who have joined the Year 6s in coming along to the café for a hot chocolate and a chat after their school day on Wednesdays. We have had a few visits from the Y7s just gone up to Heathfield Community School and it has been lovely to catch up with how they are settling.



Our **Repair Café** runs once a month alongside the café from 2pm until 4pm, the next repair café will be on 15th November and again on the 3rd 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.

The **Crochet and Knit Group** has been really popular, and we have decided to meet weekly at the Café. We are preparing for the Remembrance Service at Maidenbrook Country Park and Somerset Wood on the 10th November at 2pm. We will then be looking to make some Christmas Decorations for our Events at Christmas. Please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) if you are interested in getting involved.

We have also been running our **Loss and Bereavement Group** on the 1st Wednesday of every month to offer support and a safe space to talk and share the difficulties and challenges of losing someone you love.

We have had the pleasure of meeting a fair number of new families at our **Stay and Play** sessions so welcome those to our groups. 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.

#### **Litter Picking Volunteers**

We have a wonderful team of litter picking volunteers who go out and about in their own time trying to keep on top of the litter around the



parish. You may have seen Alan and Maggie Chapman with Barney who go out every day to litter pick and go above and beyond to help keep our parish tidy. If you see them out and about please say hello and thank them for the work they do!

If you would like to help with litter picking in your area then please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) and we can organise for you to collect some free equipment and you can join our WhatsApp Group.

#### **Community Fridge**

We have been fortunate to receive some funding grants from Sainsbury's Helping Everyone Eat Better Community Grant Fund, Magic Little Grants and Somerset Community Foundation to help us expand Our Community Fridge and enable us to store more food including frozen foods. We are looking to purchase a larger shed. We were lucky enough to have Stars and Stripes create our logo and Bathpool Flooring also gifted and fitted the flooring. Any local organisations who would like to help again with our new shed please get in touch with Kate on 07505984006 or email [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net).

We have also linked in with the Somerset West Lottery and should you wish to sign up to the lottery they run, you can choose us as your local cause to support and we will receive regular money to help us keep 'Our Community Fridge' going with day to day costs.

We are always looking for more regular volunteers so please contact [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) if you would like to help.

#### **Community Garden**

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

We have also secured some funding from the SALC Health and Wellbeing Grant for the garden which will allow us to purchase some new tools for both adults and children, making it easier for families to get involved. We are also looking to purchase some benches and seating, if anyone would like to donate any wellbeing items for a wellbeing area or would like to get involved in setting up a wellbeing area then please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) to discuss this in further detail.

Work doesn't stop in the winter so if you have any time to spare and would like to help us grow, plan and harvest winter vegetables please get in touch.

## Community Events

Thank you to all those who came along to our first Dog Show with St Giles, next year we have some fine tuning to do to improve the layout but overall it was a busy, successful event and those of you who attended had a fun day.



A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who helped us set up and run the events this year. Your help is very much appreciated. If you would like to join the group of event helpers please email [community@westmonkton.net](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) to be added to the WhatsApp group.

We now have a survey open for those of you who attended any of our events at Maidenbrook Park this year, if you would like to give us some feedback to allow us to improve these events going forward please. Please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/77ZS7F2>, thank you.

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 contact them 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: **15th November** and **13th December**, quiz starts at 7:30pm.

**15th December** – 3:30pm –  
 Carol Singing with Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies

**30th March 2024** - Easter Egg Hunt

**6th June 2024** for D Day remembrance at Maidenbrook Country Park – Beacon Lighting Event

**8th June** – Party in the Park

**1st September** – St Giles Fun Dog Show and Fun Day

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](mailto: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

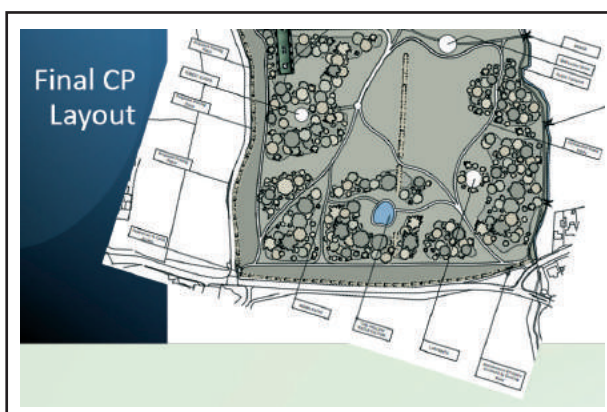
If you have some spare time on your hands and want to meet new people and get involved in our thriving community, there are a number of volunteer opportunities open to you. We are specifically looking for more gardeners for the Community Garden and we would also like to take on some Companion Volunteers 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.





## Your Maidenbrook Country Park and memorial Somerset Wood

It is time to give you up to-date information on Your Country Park, yes **Your** Country Park. To date it has been difficult to let you know the plans going forward with the 30 Acres that we jointly manage with Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils with a 125 year lease. With a group of volunteers 3,600 trees have been planted over 4 years as 18" whips. These are now between 10 and 12 ft tall, and situated on the right at the bottom of Yallands Hill.



The design is for walking and cycling to as a basic principle, saying that we will be having a small car park for disabled parking

### Total planting 3,500 native trees



We have designed the area to give a space for relaxation enabling you to get freedom of space with clear views to the Blackdown and Quantock hills. A natural area for you and wildlife, for this reason we have installed a 40 M x 20 M pond to which we have added 1,700 aqua plants. In the next month we will have installed Chestnut fencing around the northern edge plus gabion natural stone walling, then we can take down the safety fencing for you to enjoy this area. A forest school has been constructed to give local schools and very young members of our community a place to learn about the outdoors. The control of this area has been a challenge with some damage incurred and would welcome the chance to sit down

with the youth and establish their needs for social and events that gives them purpose.

We would welcome independent Forest School trained adults to work with us to enhance the experience. WE ARE WORKING WITH Somerset Wildlife to allow nature involvement.

We have planted out the perimeter of a Labyrinth for "MIND" mental wellbeing with 6 flowering Cherry trees kindly donated by Soroptimist International. For this area we are looking for funding to get this completed, we have the bricks, just need funding for the construction.

As you may be aware events have been held within the park and we are encouraged by the response to give greater emphasis to this area for the community via our parish council community lead Kate. Once open we are looking at such events as Falconry displays and other demonstration events.

The aim is to open up fully the park on 8th June 2024 which follows an event on 6th June for the celebration of the 89th anniversary of the D-Day landings. These will be celebrated across Taunton but also involving ourselves with the lighting of the Beacon which we lit for the Queen's Jubilee. This Beacon is one of the registered 2,000 beacons around the UK.

As part of the park is the Somerset Memorial Wood, which has the aim of planting a further 10,000 trees to give 1 tree for every service personnel who died in WW1 who came from Somerset. Dedication stones have been placed within this area for their remembrance and support stones from 40 Commando who have supported this endeavour from day one.



The longer term aims for the park are to install an orienteering course for the young, a natural world centre which will emphasise nature experience along with wild flower meadows.

There are far more aims longer term but we would need to expand the area to ensure we do not sacrifice the openness of the area. This asset is there for you to use but it will need support to maintain the integrity of this important area for the community, respect of the area needs to be paramount. We wish to establish "friends of Country Park" group in support and also a junior section as well.

For discussions on uses you may want to put forward, please contact the Parish council.

Alan Hall

Project lead Country Park & Somerset Wood

## Taunton Film Society @ The SPACE, Monkton Heathfield

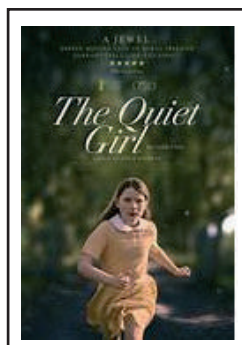
Taunton Film Society is in its 21st season screening films you will not see in the local multiplex. We love watching and discussing films, but we are not experts, just people who love film. Turn up at the door on a film night to find out if you would like to join us or check us out on-line.

### The Quiet Girl 17th November

Ireland 2021 Drama Cert: 12A 1 hour 35 minutes  
 Rural Ireland 1981. A quiet, neglected girl is sent away from her dysfunctional family to

live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one. The girl is named Cáit. She's 12 years old, doesn't like attention, stays hidden and silent when she can. She's the youngest of a brood belonging to parents that seem one perpetually short fuse away from exploding. You get to know this muted youngster over

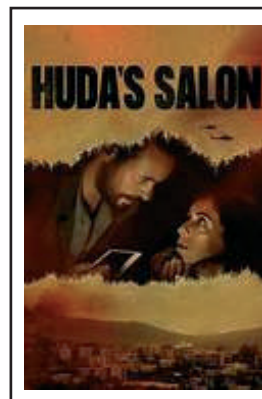
the course of this debut fiction feature from writer-director Colm Bairéad and it was Ireland's nominee for Best International Feature at last year's Oscars.



### Huda's Salon 8th December

Egypt 2021 Drama Cert: R  
 1 hour 31 minutes

Nadia, a young mother married to a jealous man, goes to Huda's salon in Bethlehem, for a haircut and an attentive ear. The first scene in Hany Abu-Assad's film unfolds in an unbroken ten-minute take, showing hairdresser Huda tending to her lone customer. The women gossip about their lives, about social media, Reem talks about her new husband's jealousy. The salon may be a makeshift storefront in the occupied city of Bethlehem, under the shadow of the Separation Wall, but the conversation is your regular everyday hair salon chit-chat. At the end of the ten-minute take, something happens, something that sets in motion everything that follows over the film's nerve-racking 90-minute runtime. Please note, this film has an R Certificate - restricted to over 18's.



More information about Taunton Film Society and an up to date programme can be found at [www.tauntonfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.tauntonfilmsociety.co.uk)

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Evening & 5:30pm: Adult £20 | Child (Under 16) £17  
 Matinee: Adult £18 | Child (Under 16) £17

#### The Good Life @2k Theatre

Thu 9 Nov & Fri 10 Nov, 7:30pm

Remember the Goods – Tom and Barbara, suburban eco-warriors? And their next-door neighbours Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, desperately trying to maintain the Surbiton status quo? Well, they're back. This nostalgic play celebrates a time when, whatever our differences, we still managed to get on with our neighbours.

All Tickets £15

#### The All Seasons Live

Thu 16 Nov, 7:30pm

Scintillating vocals and incredible harmonies. Bringing to life the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Standard £19 | Concession £18

#### James Phelan: Miracles

Sat 18 Nov, 7:30pm

A completely brand new, five star rated magic show – presented by the star of The Greatest Magician, James Phelan.

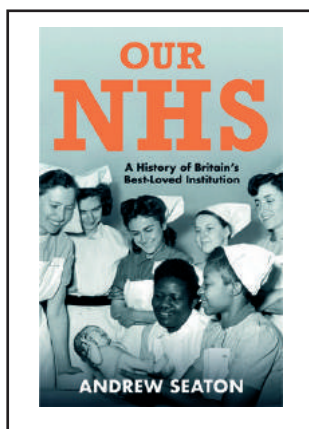
Standard £19 | Concession £18

#### Taunton Literary Festival: Andrew Seaton - Our NHS

Fri 24 Nov, 7:30pm

Andrew Seaton will be talking about his recently published book, a bold new history of the NHS, exploring the conditions of its surprising survival and the experiences of the people who keep it running.

Standard £12.50 | NHS Discount £10.50



#### Seven Wonders - The Spirit of Fleetwood Mac

Sat 25 Nov, 7:30pm

Seven Wonders captures the Spirit of Fleetwood Mac and they do it with passion and appreciation for this classic band.

Adult £19.50 | Concession £17.50



#### The Wizard of Oz Ballet Theatre UK

Sun 2 Dec, 7:30pm

Enjoy

Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tinman, and Lion, (and yes Toto too) as they seek the Wonderful Wizard to find that there's no place like home!

Adult £21 |

Concession

£18 | Child

(under 16) £14 | Student £14

#### Robin Hood - Pantomime

Reamba Productions

Fri 8 Dec - Thu 21 Dec, various performances

Join us this December for our latest pantomime adventure... Robin Hood! Reamba Productions return with their merriest panto yet!

Adult £19 | Child (under 16) £17 | Family Ticket of 4 (max. 2 adults) £68 | Group Rate (20+ tickets) £15



For the full programme see:

[www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com) 01823 414141

[Info@tacchi-morris.com](mailto:Info@tacchi-morris.com)

#### Free Community Quiz Nights

West Monkton Parish Council Community Team

Wed 15 Nov, 7:30pm and Wed 13 Dec, 7:30pm

– The November community quiz night in our bar!

The winning team will win tickets to a selected show. But the most important part is to 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.

## West Monkton Evening Women's Institute



Hi everyone

Definitely a chill in the air now and feels like autumn is here.

Our group have been busy during the summer, enjoying an outing to Forde Abbey followed by a Cream Tea – very nice – worth a visit if you have the chance to go.

Although we do not meet in August, several of us have met up for a few walks, and also for our book club, which seems to be doing well.

Our September meeting was a great success as we welcomed quite a few visitors to hear a talk by local crime writer Damien Boyd. He is now on Book 14 which is amazing and a far cry from his life as a Solicitor. His first book was self published through Amazon, and his success has gone from strength to strength. All of his books being based on locations in and around Somerset.

Everyone had a wonderful evening, and for those who have not read his books, I am sure that will be changed very soon.

### Date 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. Tickets are now available, so for further details please ring me on 01823 619084 (or 07442163166)

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings for a taster session, you will find us a friendly 'bunch' and you would be made very welcome. If you would like some more information just ring me, Shirley Hector, on 01823 619084 and I would be pleased to give you some more information, the meetings start at 7:30pm at the Heathfield Hall, West Monkton Village Hall.

### 2023/2024 Programme:

<b>November 23rd:</b>	<b>Craft evening</b>
<b>December 7th:</b>	<b>Christmas meal</b>
(Quantock Restaurant, Bridgwater & Somerset College)	
<b>January 7th:</b>	<b>Pantomime at the Brewhouse</b>
<b>January 25th:</b>	<b>Social evening</b>

**Shirley Hector**  
(Monkton Evening WI)



The Country Park organisers have planted out the perimeter of a Labyrinth for "MIND" mental wellbeing with six flowering Cherry trees kindly donated by Soroptimist International. (See Page 13) A labyrinth is a meandering path, with a singular path leading to a center. Labyrinths are an ancient idea dating back 4,000 years or more; they are used as a walking meditation, choreographed dance, or site of rituals and ceremony, among other things. We often talk of Labyrinths as being the same as a maze but, a maze is more like a puzzle you can get lost in and a labyrinth usually has a single path.

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*If your idea of a great night out is enjoying world-class music on your doorstep, chances are you will definitely love Music on the Quantocks!*

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The concerts are best known for appearances by world-famous musicians such as James Galway, legendary guitarist John Williams and choral groups The Sixteen, The Hilliard Ensemble and The Tallis Scholars. Headline-making performances like these always attract hundreds of requests for tickets.

### How can you find out about what's on and where?

Simple! All you have to do is sign-up to MotQ's mailing list.

This autumn's concerts are already selling fast with several sold out already. Treats in store for you include two sparkling Christmas choral concerts at local churches and a huge gala concert in Taunton by the European Union's very own orchestra who are making a goodwill tour of the UK.

There's packed programme of events right up to Christmas with tickets costing as little as £5.

So don't miss out! Please join the mailing list.



To join the mailing list email: [quantocks@live.co.uk](mailto:quantocks@live.co.uk)



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*If you would like to include something in this section please contact Dawn Watts on [dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk) or on 01823412201*

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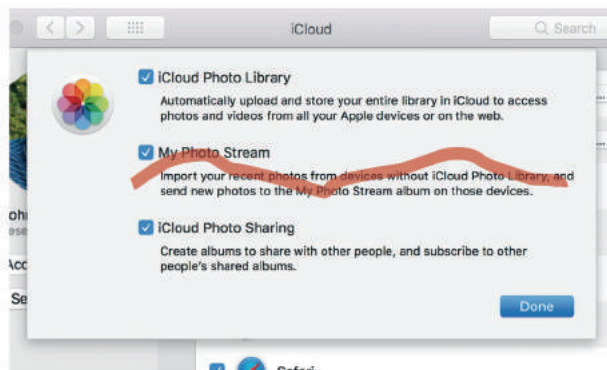


## Tim's Tech Tips

### Floating away down the Photostream

The wonder of a young child, standing on a bridge and dropping sticks in the river, running to the other side of the bridge and seeing it come through and float away!

This analogy is apt in two ways concerning the changes Apple made to the My Photo Stream service, in July 2023. Firstly, Photo Stream - often misunderstood - was like a river, that car-



ried things in a one way direction. You take a picture with your iPhone. The photo stores on the iPhone but, if you used the My Photo Stream facility from Apple iCloud, the photo would also travel one way like a stick on a river, from the iPhone to, say, your iPad or Mac computer. It would pass through iCloud, but -

crucially - not stay there.

It was a simple and effective way of accumulating your digital photos, you take out and about, on your Apple (or if you could with the additional pain, Windows) computer.

However, in July 2023, Apple decided to drop 'My Photo Stream' into our metaphorical river, and let it float away downstream, never to be seen again. I had a deluge of calls from people saying 'Help, what do I do now?' You see, Photo Stream was free to use but didn't make Apple any money. Crucially, it meant people didn't have to use iCloud Photos - the parallel service that also transfers your images from one Apple device to another - with the key difference that photos are also stored in iCloud - a free but limited storage space service on the internet. Free, that is, until you hit 5Gb of space used. 'No worry', say Apple, you can have more iCloud space - eg. 10 or 25 times - if you pay £1 or £2.50 a month.

So, for many who I have helped, to keep wirelessly transferring photos from iPhone to Mac or iPad, they have had to start paying. The more cynical view sees Apple's decision to turn off Photo Stream as a way to massively increase revenue. Imagine £1 a month from, say 10 million people in the UK. Its a great business model to have. "Its only £1", 10 million times. Good news, however. To carry on transferring photos for free, simply plug in your charging cable from the iPhone into the back of the Mac. Then, in the Mac Photos app, head to File and Import. Photos app will bring in all missing pictures from the iPhone, and store them like before. It is a bit more hassle, but it works for some to carry on, post My Photo Stream.



**Tims Tech Tips** By Tim Finch

07514 059313, [www.Taunton.IT](http://www.Taunton.IT)

*Taunton Deane's Tech Tips Column*



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## Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

### Regular Bookings at the BACH

#### Mondays

9:45am to 11am Yoga  
 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 January/February 2024 Village News is 1st December 2023

To get a pdf copy of the Village News emailed to you,  
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## Christmas Loaf: Festive, fun - and vegan!

This is a splendid bread for those who find Christmas cake a bit too rich and heavy. Every slice should show the bright yellow of the marzipan, and the red of the glacé cherries. The amounts of fruit, etc, I've given, are merely my suggestions. Vary them as you will. If you aren't keen on marzipan, use (yellow) dried apricots - or tinned sliced peaches. And use any other glacé fruit you like. The idea is to create a colourful, festive appearance when the loaf is sliced.

### Ingredients:

200g (or 1 mug) strong white flour  
 1 tablespoon sugar  
 100g (1/2 mug) sultanas (or any dried fruit; chop larger fruit down to sultana size)  
 25g candied peel  
 Any spices you like – mixed spice, cinnamon, nutmeg, etc. - to personal taste  
 1 dsp fresh yeast  
 125ml (or 1/3 mug) lukewarm water  
 Good splash of olive oil (2-3 tbs?) (optional)

### Plus:

50g golden marzipan  
 50g glacé cherries, halved (save 3 half cherries for decoration)  
 Sugar glaze made with 1 tsp sugar and 1 dessertspoon boiling water



### Method:

1. Place the flour, sugar, dried fruit, nuts, mixed peel and spices in a large mixing bowl. Mix to distribute the spices. Measure the water and stir in the fresh yeast. Place the flour and sugar into a mixing bowl and pour in the yeast liquid. Add the olive oil. Have a little water to hand to add if necessary, remember, it is better for your dough to be wetter (slack) rather than drier (tight).
2. Hold the bowl with one hand and begin to mix with the other. Use one hand to turn the bowl round, whilst the other hand begins to squeeze the mixture together. As it forms into a solid mass, keep turning it over and pressing it down to pick up the flour at the bottom of the bowl – but make sure it stays soft. Don't be afraid to add more water. When all the flour has been mixed in, wipe the bowl around with the dough, turn it out onto the worktop and begin to knead.
3. Knead by stretching the dough out, folding it over, stretching it out and so on and so forth. Do this until it becomes smooth and even. This shouldn't take very long.
4. Now roll the dough out into a circle about 20cm across, then shape the marzipan into a long rope, just smaller than the width of the dough. Place the marzipan across the middle of the dough and put the halves of glacé cherries along each side of the marzipan (saving 3 halved cherries for decorating the top). Add more cherries if you like.
5. Fold one side of the dough, towards you, over the marzipan and cherries, then fold it over once more, so that the seam is underneath. Tuck the ends underneath to stop the marzipan from leaking out. Place on a prepared baking sheet.
6. Using a pair of scissors, snip three cuts in a row in the top of the loaf for the half cherries. Gently, but firmly, insert a halved glacé cherry into the slits, tucking the edge of the cherry under the dough on each side (this stops them falling out as the bread rises).
7. Cover with a dry tea towel and leave until it has risen appreciably. To prevent it browning too fast cover it with baking parchment halfway through baking.
8. Bake for 25–30 minutes at 190C, 375F or gas mark 5.
9. Brush with a sugar glaze made from 1 rounded teaspoon of sugar and 2 of boiling water. Cool on a wire tray.

This will keep for a couple of days and it freezes very well.

Paul Youd

## And Finally ...

Whoever is happy will make others happy too.

Anne Frank