



# Village News

**Issue No. 146**  
**March - April 2024**

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



### **Contents:**

**Useful Numbers/Singles Club/Coffee Mornings - Page 2**  
**CWM Film Club/Wedding Dresses through the Ages/Flower Rota - Page 3**  
**A Country Walk - Page 4**  
**West Monkton Church Projects - an Update! - Page 5**  
**South Quantock Benefice/100 Club/Men's Group - Pages 6 and 7**  
**Benefice Cont./Buckfast Abbey/Monkton Elm Events - Page 8**  
**The Family Tree - Page 9**  
**Monkton Players/Gardening Corner - Page 10**  
**West Monkton C of E Primary School - Page 11**  
**Inner Wheel/Items for Sale - Page 12**  
**Somerset Birds - Page 13**  
**Parish Council News - Pages 14 to 17**  
**Evening WI - Page 17**  
**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre - Page 18 and 19**  
**Taunton Film Society - Page 19**  
**Regular Events at the Village Halls - Page 27**  
**Taunton Titans Rugby Club - Page 28**

*West Monkton C of E Primary School  
Four students from The SPACE  
worked with pupils from Years 3, 4, 5  
and 6 to choreograph, teach and  
inspire a dance performance. Dance  
can build a person's confidence,  
social skills, and teamwork but more  
importantly, it provides opportunities  
to have fun and flourish in an area  
that isn't academic.  
Page 11*



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

## Useful Names and Telephone Numbers

**Rector:** Rev Jim Cox

Tel: 01823 802790 or 07967 817337

The Vicarage, Kingston St Mary

Email: jimcox11@gmail.com

**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 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 Tully Tel: 01823 4252368

**Vice Chairman:** Vacant

**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:

March 12th - Coffee at Rumwell Garden Centre.

April 9th - Lunch at Otter Garden Centre, Bishops Lydeard - 12:30pm

Numbers to Dianne Besley on 01823 412857 please.

Everyone very welcome.



Photos from a recent Singles Club event.

## West Monkton Village Hall

### Heathfield Hall

Our **Coffee Mornings** are up and running again.

Come and join us on Thursday mornings

We are a friendly group and would welcome newcomers (ladies and gentlemen).

So, if you are sitting at home wondering what to do, please come and join us.

If you would like to have more information please ring:

Iris Pigott on 07766127777





## Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club



**15th March: Wonka (2023) PG (Family/Comedy):** Based on the extraordinary Character at the centre of Roald Dahl's beloved children's book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Wonka tells the wondrous story of how the World's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the Willy Wonka we know today. Young Willy Wonka is full of ideas, and determined to change the world one delectable bite at a time – proving that the best things in life begin with a dream, and if you're lucky enough to meet Willy Wonka anything is possible.

**19th April: Napoleon (2023) 15 (Epic/Biography):** Napoleon is a spectacle-filled action epic that details the checkered rise and fall of the iconic French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, played by Joaquin Phoenix. Against a stunning backdrop of large-scale filmmaking orchestrated by legendary director Ridley Scott, the film captures Bonaparte's relentless journey to power through the prism of his addictive, volatile relationship with his one true love, Josephine, showcasing his visionary military and political tactics against some of the most dynamic practical battle sequences ever filmed.

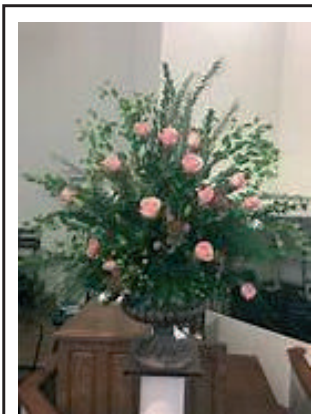
**Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall**  
**Refreshments: 6:30pm; short film: 7pm**  
**Feature: 7:20pm. Admission is £6 per person at the door. Card payment accepted.**

[cwmfilmclub@cfmh.co.uk](mailto:cwmfilmclub@cfmh.co.uk)  
07586 413290

## Church Flower Rota

We are having a meeting in West Monkton Church at 2:30pm on the 11th March, to make up the Church Flower Rota. If you would like to help out with the flowers in the church, you are most welcome to attend.

Angela Dill



**WEST MONKTON CHURCH**  
invites you to a display of

## WEDDING DRESSES through the DECADES

**Saturday 20 April 10-4**  
**Sunday 21 April 12-4**

**FREE ENTRY**  
**DONATIONS WELCOME**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Full details [www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)



## Coach Trip to Buckfast Abbey

**Wed 20th March 2024**  
**9am-5pm**

**£15**

Coach pick up/drop  
off at Merry Monk

**For more information  
and booking go to**  
[www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)

## A Country Walk

An artical written by Audrey Mead and first used in the 'Window on History' section of Link-Up, the Kingston Cheddon and Broomfield magazine.

Nowadays we hear few old Somerset words. Here are some:

I see the farmer has just put a well-dressed **mommet** in his newly sown field. He will be glad to have heard a **yaffle** forecasting rain, although a **colley** is singing tunefully from the hedge. The **storm-cock's** nest is empty for their young hatch early in the year.

This lad has evidently been fishing but says that it's a poor year for **elvers**.

Back in the garden a **dumbledore** is still busy among the flowers but as it becomes **dimpsy** the first **fluttermouse** is

on the wing and will have caught numerous insects through the night. An **urchin** emerges from under bushes to search for its favourite diet of caterpillars. **Emmets** are scurrying home from all directions.

Our cat just occasionally catches a **wont**, she has patience to sit and wait her chance, but the creature's presence is easily traced across the lawn. The soil displaced is a gift for gardeners anyway. A reminder that one corner of this needs repair work with a small **spine**.

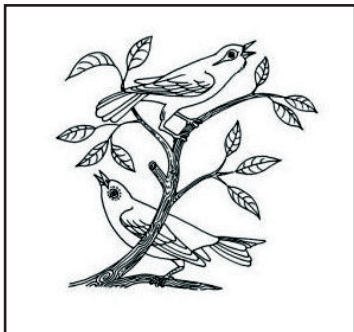
In the grass there is a **gallitrap** in a shady corner, but no evil omen so I do not need to proceed **widdershins** to avoid mishap. Nothing has uprooted the **chipples** anyway; the **chuggy-pigs** under leaves nearby are

harmless and remind one of fossil trilobites.

I must get someone to look at my **chimleys**, maybe a tile has slipped in recent storms. And remind those **incomers** with an open fireplace with a wood fire that the **clavel** can all too easily burn secretly at the back of it, the cause of many a cottage fire.

Spars, bonds and reed indicate they are awaiting the thatcher's attention to their roof. It is not easy to get one now-a-days, but it would certainly not be possible to find a **night-soil** man, a necessity in the days when a trip down the garden to the **thunder-box** or '**bucket and chuck it**' was part of country life. If you

have an old house you will probably find the site now overgrown with **brimbles**.



### Answers:

Mommet = scarecrow

Yaffle = woodpecker

Colley = blackbird

Storm-cock = mistle thrush

Elvers = baby eels

Dumbledore = bumblebee

Dimpsy = dusk

Fluttermouse = bat

Urchin = hedgehog

Emmets = ants

Wont = slug

Spine = turf

Gallitrap = fairy ring in grass

Widdershins = anticlockwise

Chipples = spring onions

Chuggy-pigs = woodlice

Chimley = chimney

Incomer = person come to live in an area where they have not grown up

Clavel = lintel over fireplace

Night-soil = human waste collected at night

Thunder-box = outside toilet/a seat over hole in ground

Bucket and chuck it = method of human waste disposal for those living in country/doing outdoor work

Brimbles = bramble

### Audrey Mead

*Maybe we should start using some of these old words again, they are very descriptive!*



## West Monkton Church Projects – An Update!

Changes are afoot at Church - Read on to get up to date!

These proposals for change to our building fabric and services reflect our vision to fill the church with activities based on the needs of the community, run by the community for the community. Have you ever given this any thought?

Over the past twenty years the civil Parish of West Monkton has changed from small and semi-rural (about 1150 homes) to much larger including local hamlets to large urban extensions (about 4600 homes). In the same period, changes to the church community have not reflected population growth.

After much discussion and consultation some proposals are emerging, but to be successfully delivered they need your engagement and support. Whilst previous surveys have shown a general agreement to go ahead in principle, it is important to stress that new ideas are emerging and being added to the melting pot. The purpose of this update is to share the general direction of travel and point out some ideas for consideration. Re-roofing the Lady Chapel – this roof has leaked for several years – however this project should be underway by the time you read this. Then in no particular order the proposals are:-



East Church Gable



Lady Chapel Glass

- Removal of pews - at the rear of the church, maybe in several stages.
- Conservation work to Chancel Arch East Gable wall
- Enclosure of the Lady Chapel
- Replacement sound system
- Placement of the Gray window panels

Here's where we need your community spirit...

These are all expensive projects, and it must be appreciated that once one of the projects is finished, the next one must begin - so the need for support in

terms of time, talents, fundraising and finance is long term. Please let us know if you can assist in any way, no matter how small it may seem to you, we would love to see you. If everyone does a little, then the task seems less enormous and the gains to our Parish and community will be hugely beneficial.

Taking part, making new friends and being part of a project like this can bring its own rewards. It doesn't matter if you don't come to church, we want to deliver these projects so that the church building gets used to the benefit of all. We will be working on a business plan to be able to sustain the improvements and not leave the PCC in debt. It is important that the PCC should



Gray Window Panels



Rear Church Pews

try to remain debt free so that further initiatives can be considered if required. Just a reminder – the church is open every day for your use. Do you love history and old buildings? Why not venture in and have a look around? Do you have the time or some skills that you could offer this community project? Have you experience in running

events? We particularly need fundraisers. Or maybe your skill is in filling out application forms for grants - or can you help us to develop a business plan to support a larger grant application?

Even if you would simply be happy to help with making cakes or manning stalls, or maybe gardening and churchyard support? All offers of help welcomed. Please get in touch, make enquiries or to give us your views and ideas. Go to [www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk) for further information and further updates.

It's your home,  
community,  
village, parish,  
& church.



West  
Monkton  
Church

**Letter from Rev. Jim**  
**South Quantock Benefice**  
**office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk**  
**(The parishes of West Monkton, Kingston St Mary, Broomfield & Cheddon Fitzpaine)**



In a previous job, the local primary school came to visit the church and as they were all filing in and I was setting up at the front, a little voice in the front row said, "Look, Miss, it's Jesus". The teacher corrected him saying, "No, that's just the vicar". But the child insisted: "Not 'im! In the window behind". Plus one for traditional stained glass; minus one for vicar's self-esteem.

Our four churches in the Benefice are blessed with exceptional stained glass and they fulfil their task of educating us and enriching our worship. We can be informed by the stories they tell or just get lost in one particularly vibrant colour.

Churches come in many shapes and sizes – and styles. And it is a strength that within the Taunton Deanery (the 20 or so churches across the area) that we don't have far to travel to find a style which enriches our worship and helps us connect with God. This is a diversity which is worth preserving. At a time when corporate image in public life has a habit of gagging those who are 'off-message', it is worth remembering that most people are not naturally corporate-minded and seek knowledge and truth in a variety of ways.

We all need to renew and refresh our vision – in faith, politics, education, health, business, music and the arts – in all walks of life. But things can only become 'traditional' because they work across time. Difficult as it may be to imagine, Bach will outlast Beyonce.

New and shiny doesn't have time to bed in and seep into our psyche. It isn't critiqued or assessed because we simply move on to the next new thing.

All our churches are constantly seeking ways to connect and interact with the wider public. Often it is through the public events like Remembrance, the private journeys through grief, the celebrations of new life and new relationships. On all these occasions, tradition and expectation have to work in conjunction with renewal and innovation.

But sometimes the stained glass and architecture can connect in ways that strategists can't imagine. And thank God for that.

*Jim Cox*

#### 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)

#### Parish Councils & Boundaries:

As you will know, there has been a lot said in Taunton and surrounding areas about the recent reorganisation of the civic 'parish boundaries'. Just to clarify, this has nothing to do with the churches' boundaries. These are to remain the same and although we are a joint 'benefice' we still have four distinct (ecclesiastical) parishes of Broomfield, Cheddon, Kingston St Mary and West Monkton.

#### From West Monkton Registers:

##### Funerals:

17.01.24 Richard Campbell –  
thanksgiving service in church  
25.01.24 Christopher (John) House  
funeral in church followed by burial in the  
churchyard

26.01.24 Thelma Hawkins – funeral in  
church followed by cremation

##### Ashes in Churchyard

09.12.23 Gladys Wilson  
03.01.24 Barbara Osmant

#### Saturday 16 March 10am – 12noon. West Monkton Church Deep Clean

Can you spare an hour to come and help give the church a deep clean? Bring along your dusters, brooms etc. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone welcome.

#### St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners

##### January

The draw was held on Friday 5th January

**First Prize:** £103.00 won by Brian Hill

**Second Prize:** £51.50 won by Rosemary Pugh-Thomas

The sum of £360.50 will go towards the church.

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

##### February

The draw was held on Saturday 3rd February

**First Prize:** £101.00 was won by Janet Smith

**Second Prize:** £50.50 was won by Margaret Lomax

The sum of £354.50 will go towards the church.

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

#### 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)



## Services

### March

#### 3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St Mary
4:00pm	Taize Service	Broomfield

#### 10th Mothering Sunday

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St Mary
10:00am	Mothering Sunday with Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Mothering Sunday service	Broomfield

#### 17th 5th Sunday of Lent

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St Mary
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F Paine

#### 24th Palm Sunday

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

#### 31st Easter Sunday

9:30am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Broomfield
11:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F Paine
11:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St Mary



### April

#### 7th 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Broomfield

#### 14th 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St Mary
10:00am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	Broomfield

#### 21st 4th Sunday of Easter

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St Mary
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F Paine
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton

#### 28th

8:30am	Holy Communion	Kingston St Mary
10:00am	Holy Communion	Broomfield
10:00am	Holy Communion service followed by Annual Church Meeting	West Monkton

## Easter Activity Morning

### - For children (2-11) & families

in Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall  
 Saturday 23rd March  
 10:30am – 11:30am  
 FREE event: Crafts  
 Refreshments  
 All are welcome to come along



## Men's Group Meetings:

### Tuesday 12th March 10:00am

Tour of the County Ground and museum

### Tuesday 16th April 10:30am Cost £12

County Classics Motor Museum, Taunton TA1 1ND.  
 Please let the office know if you are planning to attend:  
 01823451257 or [office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)

Anyone welcome to come along to the group – contact Jim for more information: [jimcox11@gmail.com](mailto:jimcox11@gmail.com)  
 07967 817337 or 01823 802790

## 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](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk) for upcoming topics

Coffee morning on 3rd March  
 Helen Newstead - Headmistress at West  
 Monkton School coming to chat. 10am start.

## Holy Week & Easter Services

### Monday 25th March

7:00pm Short service in Kingston church

### Tuesday 26th March

7:00pm Short service in West Monkton church

### Wednesday 27th March

7:00pm Short service in Broomfield church

### Maundy Thursday 28th March

7:00pm Holy Communion in Cheddon church – with holy oils

### Good Friday 29th March - Walk of Witness

*All the family welcome – do bring children, dogs & packed lunch*

10:00am Reflection at Broomfield/walk to Kingston

11:15am Reflection & refreshments in Kingston/walk to Cheddon

1:00pm Reflection at Cheddon - stay for coffee/walk to West Monkton

2:30pm Reflection at West Monkton

*Do feel free to participate in any or all of the above and join in with the walk as and when you are able.*

### 31st March - Easter Sunday Services:

9:30am All Age Communion service at Broomfield

9:30am All Age Communion service at West Monkton

11:00am All Age Communion at Cheddon

11:00am All Age Communion at Kingston

## ANNUAL MEETING (APCM)

in West Monkton Church

Sunday 28th April

after the 10.00am service

An opportunity to come along and hear what's been happening over the past year (maybe more than you think!)

and hear about plans for this year.

There will be vacancies for PCC Members (contact the church office or your PCC secretary for an application form.)

This meeting is open to EVERYONE - do come along - we'd love to see you.

## South Quantock Benefice

### A Quiet Space

Sunday 3rd March 12:30pm – 3:30pm  
Followed at 4pm by a Taize service in the church

Broomfield Village Hall

### Gentle Space

A time of reflective prayer, meditation

Please bring your own lunch.

Drinks will be provided

Facilitator – Jane Eastell:

retired Bishop's Advisor

for Spiritual Direction

Open to everyone

## Buckfast Abbey Coach Trip book on West Monkton church website:

Cost of the coach is £15 per person - **Book early to avoid disappointment** - <https://westmonktonchurch.co.uk/>

We are arranging a Coach to collect us at the Merry Monk on Weds 20th March at 9am.

We plan to arrive at Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh in Devon by 10:30am and return to the Merry Monk by 5pm.

Buckfast Abbey is a beautiful historic building and is free to enter. There is also an Exhibition Centre which is well worth a visit for a small fee. Tickets may be purchased in the Gift Shop on arrival.

For more information on Buckfast Abbey and their amenities please visit [www.buckfast.org.uk](http://www.buckfast.org.uk)

## Events at our Local Garden centre - Monkton Elm

### 2nd March Orchid Care Talk – 11am

Repotting demonstration, how best to look after orchids and make them re-flower. Followed by: Orchid Clinic • Bring in your orchid for an MOT!

Get your orchid repotted for FREE when you purchase the necessary products. • Tickets are £5.00 per person and includes a free hot drink. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL on [www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com)

### 2nd March Terrarium Workshop – 2pm

A brief talk followed by a workshop where you will make your own piece of horticultural art! Tickets are £45 for a large (44cm Glass) Terrarium and £35 for a medium (25cm Glass) Terrarium – including plants and all potting materials! Booking is essential at [www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com)

### Sat 9th March

Mothers Day Gift basket planting £7

Bring your children, your mum or some friends in for a fun basket planting workshop, ending in a beautiful gift basket of seasonal flowers for that special motherly person in your life!

[www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com)

### Special Afternoon Tea for Mothers Bookings online for the 4th - 8th April!

This is a great gift idea! A special afternoon tea, you can share with mum! A delicious selection of finger sandwiches, delectable tea, savoury snacks, mouth-watering desserts, and two of our famous scones – all served with clotted cream and jam. All you have to do is decide what goes on your scone first – the cream or the jam!

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea: £16.00

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea with Prosecco: £20.00

Book online at [www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com)

### Mothering Sunday lunch 10th March

A delicious 2 course meal with a FREE mothers day gift! Book online at [www.monktonelm.com](http://www.monktonelm.com)

### Childrens Easter Treasure Hunt 29th March - 7th April

Come and join in our garden centre treasure hunt! See if you can answer all the clues and win a prize! No booking required, suitable for children aged 2-8 (Or the young at heart looking for some fun!)



## The Family Tree

My introduction to the Marcher Apple Network\* came about because a member (Mrs Leitch, I think) was speaking to close the Society's fruit display at Kington Agricultural Showground\*\* in 1999. Although tired towards the end of this summer day, I noticed her enthusiasm and ability to enthuse on the subject of fruit; also the interest she created in visitors around her regarding discoveries of unknown old trees.

Consequently, on returning to Somerset, I intended to send samples from branches of a certain 'top worked'\*\*\* apple tree planted by my great grandfather 150 years ago, and once part of a long ago orchard, but now at the edge of a garden. The aged hollow tree (even before my birth) had been a part of the garden's furniture as a living structure, and fondly called 'The Sheep's Nose'. Yet, as so often happens with the human mind, it was present more in the subconscious vista – because it has always stood there - and other events caused my resolve to be put on hold until gardening in late 2003 when I realised the tree's survival was suspect. Thinking of the guttering candle flickering brightly, or of an ailing lamb regaining vitality until expiring when the necromancer attends, samples were duly sent and later the professional voice of a Mr Davis informed me we were in with a chance of regenerating this old tree. Our tree died in 2005. Arriving at (Mrs Leitch's) house and garden, an experience in itself near Glasbury-on-Wye in 2006 I took possession of two healthy grafted trees. Other scions were thriving in Dolau-Hirion, a fruit tree nursery in Llandeilo. In future mature fruit would be available from another tree at Tredomen Court and analysis then taken.

In September 2023, Kingston St Mary Parish Council kindly forwarded a message from Dr. Stephen Ainsleigh Rice, a member of the Marcher Apple Network, enquiring if any 'Palfreys' existed in this Somerset village after a family visited their show display over twenty years ago. Well, as I am the last one standing, I contacted Ainsley, who is a person with that rare ability to portray wit and knowledge as though in the same room via e-mails! The apple tree in question, a mid-season cooker, was unique, having no previous DNA fingerprint. After deliberating partly because I did not want the name Taunton Fillbasket (also because 'Sheep's Snout' and 'Sheep's Head' already exist) a panel at the University of Reading approved the name 'Sheep's Nose of Kingston' to retain the location of origin. It now joins a database with over 5,000 other varieties ([www.fruit.com](http://www.fruit.com)).

To date we have the cider apple 'Kingston Black' and now the mid-season cooker 'Sheep's Nose of Kingston'. The mature fruit is round with a distinctive long nose, similar to the head of a Boarder Leicester Sheep. You can eat it raw picked from the tree's south side. The light colour and fluffy flesh can be used with the eater 'Charles Ross' or add whortleberries to the hot apples (with memories of the crust off clotted cream, sometimes clove or cinnamon, as many rural cooks did then). It is thought that in this area there are other unknown fruit trees to be discovered, so when reading this please inform others, even your neighbours.

Anyone wishing to buy one of these fruit trees please contact me at Boweys Kingston or phone 01823 451868.

Nigel Palfrey

**\* The Marcher Apple Network** started life as a group of apple enthusiasts keen to revive old varieties of apples and pears. Since then MAN has become a charity which strives to protect these varieties in a number of different ways.  
[marcherapple.net/](http://marcherapple.net/)

**\*\*** It is a one day agricultural show located close to the Herefordshire border town of Kington with plenty of activities to see and do.  
[kingtonshow.co.uk/](http://kingtonshow.co.uk/)

**\*\*\*** Top grafting is a method of grafting cuttings from improved fruit trees onto appropriate types of wild trees without needing a nursery.



Illustration by Paulie Wells

## The Monkton Players

Following the success of our well supported Autumn production, we are back this Spring with a new show. 'Hospital Affairs' by Carole Tricker (directed by Tim Hiscock) is a brilliantly funny farce, set in an old hospital ward. With some new members, returning faces, an ambitious set design and lots of physical action; this show is sure to bring lots of laughs and entertainment for our audience.

The show will be on at West Monkton Village Hall from Thursday 25th April until Saturday 27th April, with curtain up at 7:30pm - £10 per ticket. Keep up to date with all our news at [MonktonPlayers.co.uk](http://MonktonPlayers.co.uk) or via our Facebook page, and keep an eye out for posters and banners which will be popping up in the next month.

We look forward to seeing you in the Spring.  
 Tim Hiscock



Rehearsals are underway!

## Gardening Corner

### Spring layer Cake

Some gardens take a while to get going, with borders and beds that are lush and verdant but lacking in flowers before May and June when the majority of perennials and shrubs do their thing. This leaves a huge gap in the growing season in early and mid spring that can be filled with the smaller plants that can be worked into the spaces between other plants that are early into growth, flowering before the bulk of garden plants get growing. They can then either disappear below ground or be sufficiently shade tolerant that they can lurk beneath the mass of summer growth from larger, later to the party plants.

Bulbs are an excellent way to do this but care is needed to select the right ones. I have seen many gardens full of daffodils that then smother the smaller plants around them with their voluminous leaf growth. So, I prefer to use narcissi naturalised in rough grass where they don't get in the way. Tulips can be a good option for intense dots of early colour but to be sure of them returning year on year you need a sunny, well-drained bed and to select good robust perennial variables such as 'Spring Green', 'Ballerina' and 'Queen of the Night'. Anemone blanda, the native wood anemone, is a good choice and is never badly behaved with its tidy foliage, the same goes for crocus species and, on damp soil, Snakes-head Fritillaries. Outside of the world of bulbs, primulas (primroses, cowslips and oxlips) are excellent as is pulmonaria (Lungwort) available in shades of blues, white and pink, Brunnera and Ranunculus. I avoid spreaders like vinca (periwinkle) among other plants as it tends to swamp anything in the end!

### Tom Nielsen

Biocentric Planting Design & Nursery  
[www.biocentric.org.uk](http://www.biocentric.org.uk)  
[@tombiocentricplants](https://www.instagram.com/tombiocentricplants)



'Spring Green' tulip



## West Monkton C of E Primary School

It gives me great pleasure to be writing to our local community. Having been appointed as Headteacher of your local primary school since September, it is an absolute privilege to lead a school within a developing and growing community. Living in Monkton Heathfield for 10 years now, I know how much it has to offer! Over the first term, I am delighted that we've been able to further develop our community links...We have successfully established a Children's Ethos Team in school, who've already been busy preparing and delivering Collective Worships with Rev Jim; we've decorated a Christmas Tree for the festival at St



Augustine's Church and raised funds for charities to name a few. As I write, Kate Welsh, our Parish Clerk came to school today, to deliver a whole school assembly about the 'Community Fridge', its purpose and how together we can make a difference. Just before Christmas we were lucky to have the Bishop here, telling the story of advent and inviting families to join the journey as it led up to the big day. We sung Christmas Carols in the garden of The Bach and we look forward to future events where we can come together.

As a Church of England School, we continue to embed values to help children understand them but moreover live up to them to become respectful members of our community. This term, we are celebrating 'love and joy' something the children bring in abundance!

We continue to welcome volunteers, so if anyone has a passion to work with children, perhaps hear them read, or provide a service to aid us in improving outcomes for our younger generation, then please do get in touch with the school.

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to branch out and hope to get to know more of you.

Best wishes  
**Helen Newstead**  
Headteacher



## Family Learning - The Value of Volunteering!

This week was our second session learning about volunteering opportunities in school and in our community. Today we visited Kate at the BACH and learnt about the amazing job many volunteers do in the community including running Our Community Fridge and garden; stay and play sessions and special days at Maidenbrook park.

Families then baked some fairy cakes to donate to the community cafe which was running the next day at the BACH. Thank you

to [SS&L](#) for funding these adult learning sessions. At the next session they made care packages for isolated older people in our community!



Our Christian Values for this half term are love and joy! The children explore these in Collective Worship, including singing worship with Miss Handle.



## Inner Wheel

### Have you heard of our organisation?



Inner Wheel is one of the largest women's voluntary service organisations in the world, this year we are celebrating 100 years of community service. Over 129 districts are divided up throughout Britain and Northern Ireland.



### What do we like about our local Inner Wheel Club?

**Friendship**, camaraderie, fun, laughter, support, meeting and working with interesting people, widening our horizons.



**Working** to achieve our goals, helping to support local communities as well as organisations overseas. **In other words making a difference.** Members of Taunton Inner Wheel club in District 20 have supplied and planted 100 bulbs at Abbeyfield Care Home to celebrate our organisation's 100th anniversary. We also delivered over 200 "choccies" as Christmas treats to the local Foodbank.

Please take a look at our informative national website:

[www.innerwheel.co.uk](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk)

**Fun** our social committee keeps us busy with a variety of trips to historic houses, theatre trips, cookery courses, sharing activities with other Inner Wheel clubs. So who are we?

The Inner Wheel Club of Taunton  
Our evening meetings are held monthly at Taunton Racecourse and includes an evening meal, plus a varied programme throughout the year with informative speakers. If you would like to find out more about our Inner Wheel club please email [berry.catherine@gmail.com](mailto:berry.catherine@gmail.com)



Happy Easter to all our readers from the Village News Team.

### FREE ITEMS/ITEMS FOR SALE/WANTED

*Items up to £100 in value are included. We do not make any charge for the service and take no responsibility for the quality or safety of the items advertised.*

Nothing on offer this time I'm afraid!

*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*



## Somerset Birds

Pigeons and Doves belong to a large family of birds with representatives worldwide, so it is puzzling that they receive so little attention from birders. As a broad distinction, 'pigeons' are the larger species, and 'doves' the smaller, more delicate, and in many respects the most attractive.

The Stock Dove is our largest dove and suffers by being superficially similar in appearance to the Feral or 'Town' Pigeon, with which all of us are familiar. The latter bird is itself descended from the wild Rock Dove, of which a very few can still be found on remote Scottish Islands. Stock Doves are gentle in appearance, a pale warm grey overall, with a lilac-coloured breast and a beautiful iridescent silvery-green

marking on the neck.

They have been steadily increasing locally, and are not uncommon in West Monkton, although

they are rather shy. Unlike the larger, and more abundant Woodpigeon, they breed in holes in trees, old barns and ruined buildings. A good place to see them is at Lashpool Farm, east of Creech, on the opposite side of the canal. At least four pairs are resident there.

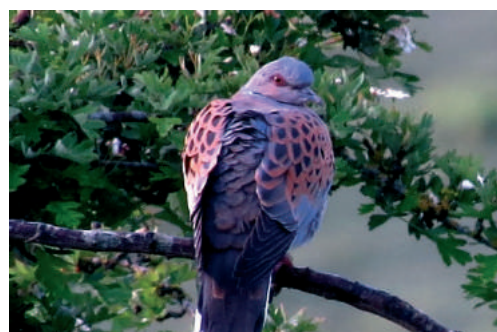
The Collared Dove is another attractive bird and a familiar one to most. It is pinkish grey overall, with dark wing tips and white edges to the tail. A dark marking on the side of the neck gives it its name. To some, its prolonged song is a little irritating, a repetitive 'coo coo cuk', often given from overhead wires. Reports of early cuckoos are usually down to this bird. The nest is a flimsy platform of thin twigs, usually in a tree, but sometimes on man-made structures like satellite dishes. Two eggs are laid and the birds breed throughout the year, compensating for this low clutch size.

In my view, the Turtle Dove, in many ways a cousin to the Collared Dove, is the most attractive, so much so it has found its way into literature and folklore. There are several references to it in the Old Testament. Very sadly it has decreased catastrophically in Britain and parts of Europe, largely down to its failure to adapt to intensive agriculture, although it is heavily hunted in southern Europe, through which it passes during its autumn migration. Its soporific purring song was once a familiar sound of the Somerset hedgerows in summer, but has not been heard here for many years. A very few still nest in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire, and efforts are being made to revive its



Stock Dove

fortunes in East Anglia. It is a more colourful bird than the Collared Dove, with gingery feathers on the wings and back, and a prominent black and white patch on the neck side.



Turtle Dove

In October 1999 I was staying with a birding friend on North Uist in the

Outer Hebrides when we had a call from a neighbour about a strange bird in the garden. Usually they turn out to be a common species, but I am always grateful to receive such messages. In this instance it was approaching dusk and we were tempted to leave visiting till the morrow. It was fortunate that we didn't. The strange bird, perched on a fence, was clearly a dove but not a regular species. It only took us a moment or two to recognise it as an American Mourning Dove, a bird never recorded in Britain. Luckily the failing light was just good enough for me to take a poor photograph before darkness fell. Any 'first for Britain' receives stringent scrutiny from the British Birds Rarities Committee and this photo eased acceptance. Around 15 twitchers managed to cross to the island the following day but it was not seen again after mid-morning, despite much searching and its fate remained unknown. There have only been five records since.

The Mourning Dove is very much the North American equivalent of our Collared Dove, and is a common bird of parks and gardens. Some migrate south along the east coast and our vagrant



American Mourning Dove

was doubtless transported across the Atlantic by a deep low pressure system a few days earlier. I recall that we might have had the odd whisky to celebrate our great good fortune!

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.**



### 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))

### Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 26th March at 7pm at the BACH

All are welcome, come and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles. Please keep an eye out for details of the Annual Parish Meeting on the Parish Council website

[www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and Monkton Matters website [www.monktonmatters.co.uk](http://www.monktonmatters.co.uk)

### New Website

A new Parish Council website has been launched: [www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) which provides information about the Parish Council and its initiatives. Please take a look. If you have any feedback regarding the website please email [clerk@westmonkton.net](mailto:clerk@westmonkton.net)

### 2024/25 Parish Council Budget and Precept Demand

After lots of discussion, the Parish Council budget for 2024/2025 has been approved and is available on the Parish Council website. Due to the financial

position of Somerset Council some non-statutory services that they previously provided will fall to the Parish Council to deliver going forward. This has meant that the Parish Council budget and precept demand has increased. The 2024/25 budget is £195725.00 and the precept demand has increased to £172995.00. For a Band D equivalent property this means an increase from £55.75 per year to £78.48 per year on the Parish Council element of your Council Tax bill.

### Parish Council Strategic Plan 2024-27

West Monkton Parish Council, your Parish Council, has developed a Strategic Plan which provides information about what the Parish Council is doing to improve and enhance the social, recreational and environmental wellbeing of West Monkton and the lives of all who live, visit or work here.

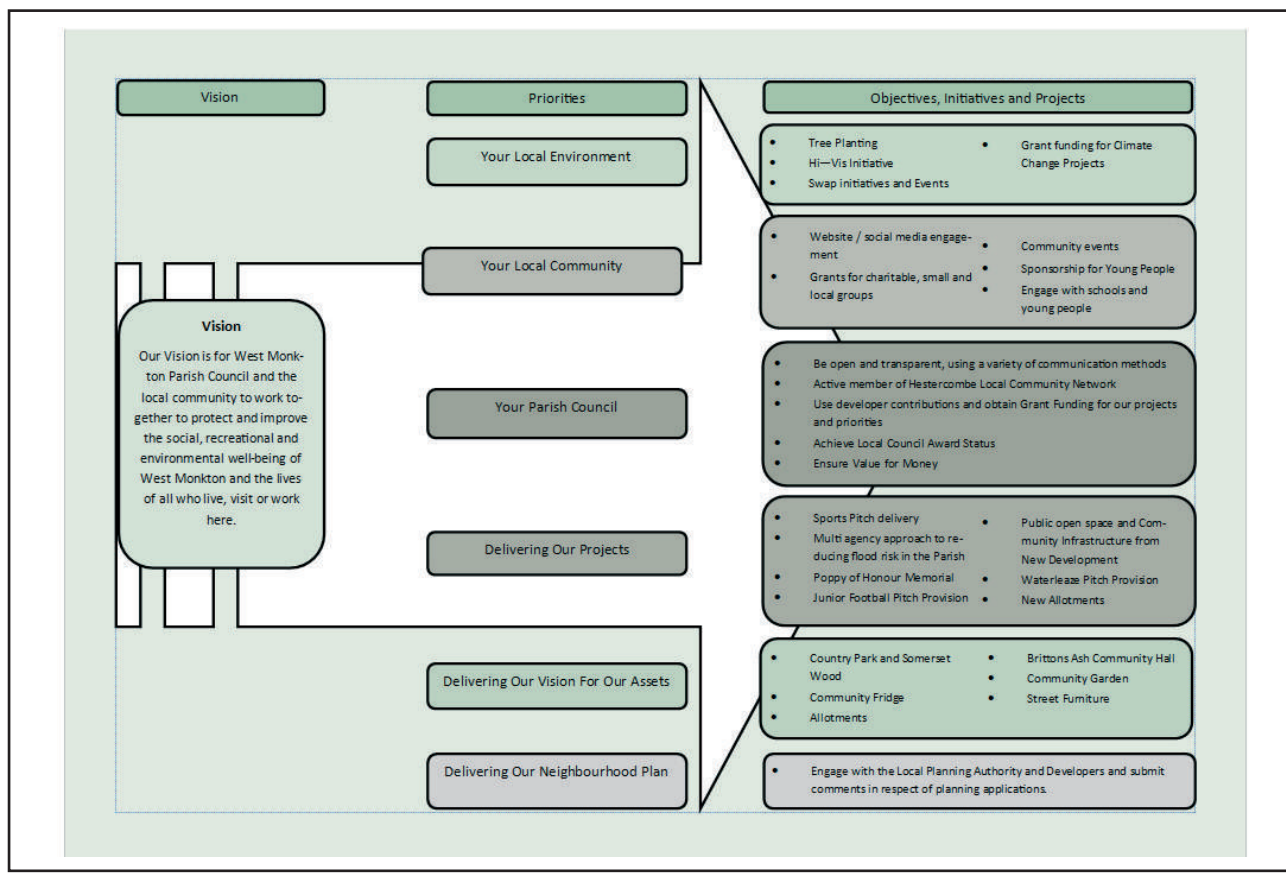
A summary of the Plan is available below, which outlines your Parish Council's vision, priorities and objectives, initiatives and projects.

If you would like to find out more, please visit the Parish Council website where a full copy of the Strategic Plan is available.

### Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 (To be known as Langaller Park) Planning Application

New plans in respect of the Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 planning application were submitted at the end of January by the Developer and are available to view on the Somerset Council website by visiting <https://www3.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/wbpages/plan/PIAppDets.asp?casefullref=14/21/0047/HYB&QC=fcaC1>

Please take the opportunity to submit your comments in relation to the planning application.





Public Consultation events were organised by West Monkton Parish Council and Creech St Michael Parish Council in February, the feedback received at these events will inform the Parish Council response to the planning application.

### **Somerset Wood – Poppy of Honour Pavilion**

The Poppy of Honour (pictured below) was created in 2018 as a national memorial to honour British and Commonwealth Servicemen and



Servicewomen listed as killed or missing in World War 1. The idea was spearheaded by Terry Williams who gained the support of volunteers across the world and sponsorship of local businesses to facilitate the creation of the Poppy of Honour memorial. The full story of the creation of the Poppy of Honour can be read on <https://poppyofhonour.org.uk>.

The Poppy of Honour Memorial incorporates 1,117,635 individual remembrance poppies inside its encasement. The number of poppies equates to the total of British and Commonwealth Servicemen and Servicewomen listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 'Killed In Action' or 'Missing In Action' together with those 'Shot at Dawn' then later pardoned and those who died from their wounds after the Armistice of the Great War. Each poppy has been hand-written with painstaking care to bear the Rank, Name and official Date of loss of a single individual.

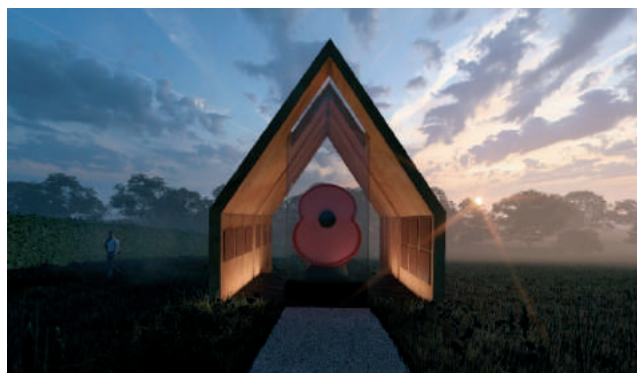
The Memorial presents to view a giant, double-sided, red remembrance poppy mounted vertically onto a base constructed from three steel beams



welded together having a bifurcated extension at each end to make it free-standing. At the extremity

of each of the four bifurcation arms is a silhouette of a 'Tommy' in reverse-arms position with head bowed in respect and a cast-iron poppy made from British Artillery shell detonators fired during the Great War. The centre-piece display section is a hollow poppy-shaped structure consisting of clear-glass elevations to front and rear edge-bonded onto and separated by a narrow side ribbing made from 3mm rolled steel plate. Visible through each poppy-shaped, toughened safety glass display window are 5,500 of the inscribed poppies individually mounted on plywood backing sheets. The remaining 1,106,635 poppies are loosely encased in the cavity between the two plywood panels inside the hermetically sealed, gas-filled, glass and steel outer envelope.

The Poppy of Honour was initially unveiled at a poignant ceremony at Cale Park, Wincanton. Since then, The Poppy of Honour has visited 19 towns throughout the county. On Thursday 9th November 2023, the ownership of the Poppy of Honour was assigned to 'The People of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and all the other Realms and Territories of His Majesty King Charles III and all the Commonwealth Countries.' The ownership certificate states 'The Poppy of Honour Memorial Group are to be the Custodians of The Memorial in perpetuity and are responsible for its maintenance. The Custodians are entrusted to register The Memorial with the relevant authorities as a War Memorial. The Custodians are further to ensure that 'The Memorial



is installed in the Somerset Wood within Maidenbrook Country Park, Maidenbrook Lane, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8JT for The People to view free of charge'.

As such the Parish Council applied for planning permission for an open pavilion within which to permanently house the Poppy of Honour, together with informative display boards to be built at Maidenbrook Country Park as illustrated here. Planning Permission has been obtained for the Pavilion and fundraising is now taking place to raise money to build the pavilion.

Further information, including how to donate, is available on the Parish Council website <https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/country-park-and-somerset-wood/>

## 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)

As well as 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)).

### 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.

Our **Repair Café** runs once a month alongside the café from 2pm until 4pm, the next repair café will be on 20th March and again on the 17th April. Please come along, we have a few handy volunteers who are up for a challenge! Old electrical items that can litter pickers and hoops for anyone interest in getting involved.

### 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 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 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

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.

### Community Quiz Dates:

Wednesday 21 February at 7:30pm

Wednesday 20th March at 7:30pm

Wednesday 24 April at 7:30pm

30th March - **Easter Egg Hunt**

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

30th June – **Tug of War Event** followed by Evening in the Park – **please note change of date**

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).

## 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](mailto:community@westmonkton.net) or call on 07505984006 for more information.



## Monkton Evening Women's Institute



Greetings everyone - hopefully you are managing to keep warm this winter and have got your thermals out of the closet! Never mind, spring will soon be here, the bulbs are already peeping out of the ground and snowdrops are already well in flower.

Our year started with a social evening followed by supper. Two of our members brought along an assortment of fun things for us to do including skittles and curling. Everyone had a great time; we split into two teams and at times there was a lot of light hearted rivalry. Prior to all these antics, we went through some of the activities we are planning for this year which went down really well; these included walking the Heritage Trail, meals out and, hopefully, another trip to a lovely garden.

Two hits from last year were the location of our Christmas Meal at Quantock Restaurant, Somerset College and the Pantomime at the Brewhouse – everyone agreed we should do these again.

**Walking Group:** Our next walk has been scheduled for March – hopefully the weather will be a bit drier then.

**Book Club:** Going very well - a small group meet up once a month at Monkton Elm to discuss the book that they have read.

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings for a taster session, you will find us a friendly 'bunch' and you would be made very welcome.

We have some very interesting speakers lined up for 2024/2025, and the cost for joining from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 is £48 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information just ring me, Shirley Hector, on 01823 619084, and I would be pleased to help with any questions. We meet on the FOURTH Thursday of each month (other than July – our annual Summer Outing and August) at 7:30pm in the Heathfield Hall, West Monkton Village Hall.

### 2024 Programme:

**March 28th:** Nursery Rhymes and their origin (Brian Wright)

**April 25th :** Bristol Channel and Driftwood  
**May 23rd:** AGM followed by a short talk by Paul Youd on 'Running at 80'

**June 27:** Celebration Garlands

**July 25th:** Summer Outing – details to be confirmed

**September 26th:** Falling with Style

**October 24th:** Christmas Sparkle

**November 28th:** Craft Evening

**December:** Christmas Meal

Shirley Hector (Monkton Evening WI)



**Tacchi-Morris  
Arts Centre -  
Our local theatre and  
arts hub**

**The Big Local Night Out  
Friday 1st March, 7:30pm**

The Big Local Night Out brings you the best of variety talent! Hosted by Comedy Magician, Tom Elliott, this unique series of events welcomes top guest performers alongside the best of our local talent for an electrifying variety style event. Comedy, magic, music, dance – all packed in to this delightful, family friendly show.

Your Host, Tom Elliott is one of the UK's most exciting comedy magicians, touring throughout the year, whilst also being founder of 'The Big Local Night Out'. Once described by Miranda Hart as 'Such Fun', Tom has appeared on BBC TV & Radio, had a feature piece in the Times Newspaper and received significant crowdfunding support for his initiatives. He's also welcomed the likes of Milton Jones & Rosemary Conley CBE onto his wellbeing themed podcast.

Amongst the acts joining Tom here in Taunton on 1st March is Lukin Simmonds. Lukin joins us off the back of two extensive musical theatre tours in the casts of Annie and The Lion King. He's also performed in the cast of The Book of Mormon, both on the West End and it's UK tour.

**All Tickets £16 | Family Group of 4 £60  
'Into The Shadows'**

**Saturday 2nd March. 7:30pm**

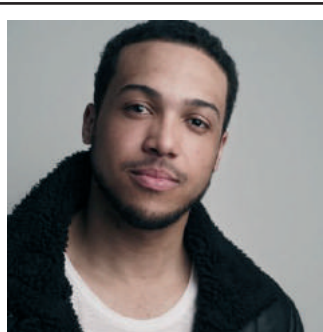
Into the Shadows play all of the early Shadows hits and the set will also include popular Cliff Richard number's, written and produced by The Shadows. Audiences will be treated to an unforgettable musical experience, a celebration of The Shadows' remarkable journey from backing band to iconic instrumentalists. The concert not only pays homage to their instrumental hits but also highlights their pivotal role in shaping the success of Cliff Richard, a testament to their versatility and undeniable talent. Prepare to be captivated by the timeless melodies, the electrifying performances, and the enduring legacy of The Shadows as they transport you into a world of musical brilliance.

**All Tickets £20**

**'SPACEFest: Portraits of Her'**

**Thursday 7th & Friday 8th March, 7pm**

Come and witness the electrifying fusion of dance and activism, celebrating the untamed spirit of inspirational



Lukin Simmonds

women who dared to defy. This show uses a range of dance styles to unveil the stories of rebels, activists and icons to transform the dance floor into a battleground for change. Get ready to be moved, inspired and liberated by this dance production.

**Standard £10 | Concession £9 | Student £7  
'Austen's Women: LADY SUSAN'**

**Dyad Productions**

**Tuesday 19th March, 7:30pm**

From the award-winning creators of Austen's Women, A Christmas Carol, I, Elizabeth, Female Gothic, Christmas Gothic, and A Room of One's Own.

Austen's Women are back – in a brand-new show! Devil-may-care Lady Susan, the coquettish black widow, hunting down not one, but two, fortunes; oppressed, rebellious daughter Frederica; long-suffering sister-in-law Catherine; family matriarch Mrs De Courcy; and insouciant best friend, Alicia.

Return to the Regency (or rather, Georgian) in this darkly comic tale of society and the women trapped within it; their struggles, their desires, their temptations and manipulations – and at the vanguard, Lady Susan: charming, scheming, witty, and powerful; taking on society and making it her own. But has she met her match?

Based on Jane Austen's first full-length work from 1794, and created entirely from letters, the piece is performed by Rebecca Vaughan and directed by Andrew Margerison.

**Standard £16 |  
Concession £14 |  
Student £10**

**'Through the Decades with Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly'**

**Thursday 28th March, 7:30pm**

Through the Decades with Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly returns after rave reviews following their last visit to the Tacchi-Morris.

Marc Robinson has played the part of Buddy Holly all over the world and all over Great Britain; he performed in 'Buddy 'The Musical and numerous other shows, with partners he founded 'In Dreams & 'Rockin on Heavens Door', he also has many TV appearances to his name.

Marc's latest show will deliver a feel good factor with all the hits from... I Drove all Night, Mean Woman Blues, Pretty Woman, Heartbeat, Peggy Sue, It Doesn't Matter Anymore & Raining in my Heart, to name but a few!

After playing in Europe and all over Great Britain Darren Page joined Marc Robinson and they





**Tacchi-Morris Cont:**

both have dedicated their careers to these two kings of Rock n' Roll. This two-hour uplifting show is full of pure nostalgia with all their hits and a few earlier ones too! Will Rock n Roll ever Die? That'll be the Day!

**Standard £22 | Concession £20**

**'Taunton Scouts and Guides present: Gang Show'**

**Wednesday 3rd April - Saturday 6th April, 7pm and 2pm Saturday Matinee (Relaxed Performance)**

The Taunton Scout & Guide Gang Show are delighted to be back and are ready to entertain you.

A family friendly variety show, with musical performances, show stopping dance routines, comedy sketches and even some magic too!

Come join the party and ride the crest of a wave with Taunton Scout & Guide Gang Show 2024.

**Standard £12 | Concession £10 | Child (under 16) £10**

**'Tacchi-Morris Comedy Special'**

**Saturday 20th April, 7:30pm**

The first event was such a success that we've signed on for a sequel! That's right, the Tacchi-Morris Comedy Special is returning with an all new cast of comedians and a primetime Saturday evening timeslot. And the best

bit? You needn't have seen the first one to enjoy this evening of laughter and fun!

What can you expect? A night full of laughter, fun and mirth! There'll be an amazing MC, Tom Glover, who will feature throughout the evening, interacting with the audience and generally making sure everyone is having a good time.

Tom will also introduce your three acts. Whilst the lineup is subject to change, you are guaranteed a great night, with the wonderful Jenny Hart & Mark Flynn each performing their best material, with the night being capped off by your amazing headliner, Alistair Barrie.

The bar will be open, and there will be ample opportunity to indulge in your favourite tippie or treat. So don't delay, book your place at the Tacchi-Morris Comedy Special today! You're bound to have an incredible time.

**Age Guidance: 18+**

**In advance £12 | On the door £14**

**For the full programme:**

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

**[Info@tacchi-morris](mailto:Info@tacchi-morris)**

**01823414141**

**Taunton Film Society**

**@ The SPACE, Monkton Heathfield**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 'Full Time'**

France 2021 Drama 1hr 27m

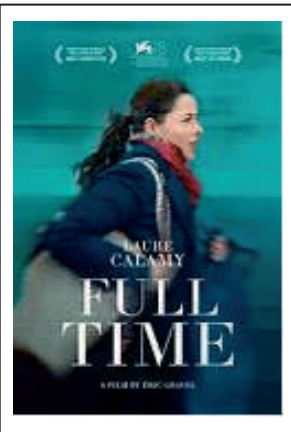
Anyone who has ever broken into a sweaty, panicked run to make it in time for school pick-up will instantly get why the French Canadian director Eric Gravel has chosen to shoot this film about

motherhood frazzle as a gripping thriller. It's impossible to overstate just how sickeningly stressful this propulsive drama about suburban commuting manages to be. Gravel uses every tool at his disposal, matching the nervy, lurching camera with a galloping, tumbling electronic score. And then there's the use of sound – subliminal stressors such as the sound of pumping

blood and circling helicopters are mixed in with the jangling ambient noise.

Keeping it all together (just about) is the always terrific Calamy, with a barnstorming performance. Outwardly capable and poised, she lets us glimpse the flicker of relief when her maxed-out credit card is miraculously accepted one last time; the almost imperceptible tremble in her voice as she argues with the supervisor who is trying to let her go.

Watching the picture is a bit like getting your head clamped in a vice. Allow time to decompress afterwards.



**April 19<sup>th</sup> 'Lunana: a Yak in the Classroom'**

Bhutan 2022 Documentary 1 hour 50 mins This is a simple story with a big heart — and a reminder of film's ability to communicate universal truths across international borders. It's a gentle, sweet-natured movie and is the debut feature from Bhutan-born and US-educated film-maker Pawo Choyning Dorji; last year it became the first Bhutanese film to get an Oscar nomination for best international feature. Ugyen is a young man in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu. Since his parents' death, he lives with his formidable grandmother who is exasperated at his aimlessness and shiftlessness. He is four years into a five-year teacher training course, but only wants to hang out with his girlfriend and other friends, and nurtures a dream to go out to Australia and make it as a singer. But a stern government official informs him that he must do a season teaching at the village school of Lunana in the country's mountainous north-west. It's the most remote school anywhere in the world, she tells him, with lipsmacking satisfaction.

We would love to see you at one of our film showings - new members are always welcome. At The SPACE, School Road.

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7:30pm

For more information: [www.tauntonfilmsociety.com](http://www.tauntonfilmsociety.com)



## Village Agent

### Helping you stay warm this winter:

I am sure many of you will have been wished Happy New Year by friends, neighbours and the people who pass you on the street.

We hope that along with those good wishes you are also remaining warm and supported with your essential needs as this winter now turns colder. Many households are still trying to stay warm and put food on the table. No one should ever have to choose between heating or eating, but sadly this will be the reality for many in our communities.



### Surviving Winter Grants Available:

The Community Council for Somerset is again one of the local agencies responsible for administering the 'Surviving Winter Grant' funds which are made up from people who donate their winter fuel payments back to be used for those elderly in need. Surviving Winter grants are available for people over the age of 60 yrs and living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes, cook a hot meal, afford curtains at their windows, warm bedding along with a range of other issues that will keep them warm. If you or someone you know is struggling to heat their home, please do contact your local Village Agent or call CCS on 01823 331222. You will need the consent of the person you are referring to us.

For those under the age of 60yrs we still have many avenues we can use to find solutions and support so please do still contact us and let us see how we can be of help.

### Our 'Knit for your Neighbour' campaign this month:

We are still calling on all knitters, crocheters and quilters in Somerset to make blankets for those in need, helping them stay warm and healthy this winter.

All completed blankets can be dropped off at any of our Talking Café venues across Somerset. Blankets can then be collected through the Talking Café venues as well, or our team of Village Agents will make sure that blankets are delivered to the most vulnerable if unable to get to a Talking Cafe.

If you don't knit or sew, but would like to donate a blanket, we will also accept new blankets with tags on, but we are unable to accept secondhand blankets.

If you or someone you know needs help and support please do get in touch either with your local Village Agent on the contact below or call our manned telephone lines on 01823 331222 ( Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm, excluding Bank Holidays).

Your local Village Agent is: Tina Talbot, Taunton Deane

Tel: 01823 331222

Mobile: 07947 902712

Email: [tinat@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:tinat@somersetccc.org.uk)



## Tim's Tech Tips



**Tims Tech Tips** By Tim Finch  
07514 059313, [www.Taunton.IT](http://www.Taunton.IT)

*Taunton Deane's Tech Tips Column*

### OK, I'll send you a message!

Remember the archaic days of email in the late 90s and early 2000s? You had to power up the PC, dial up the internet, wait for emails to download. And when they did there was no attaching photos of the holiday - just plain text messages. Thank goodness for our modern era when we can easily communicate with our mobile phones.

*Dramatic pause. "Is he for real?"* I hear you say. ("I never got your message, when did you send it?" "Oh yesterday after we met." "Well, I haven't seen it.") The problem, in the 21st century is that we have **too many ways** to 'send that message' to one another. In the early 90s Text Messaging was invented. As a result texting (or 'SMS', if you want its official name) is on *every single phone*. In the Late 90s/early 2000s this worked well - you could send messages and it just arrived across all makes of phone. So, at that point, the world used email on the computer, and texting



on our pre smart phone era mobiles. But... *then it all went crazy.*

Apple introduced the iPhone in 2007, and (somewhat quieter) Google launched Android, and the race to bring smart phones to the masses began.

And with it came multiple innovations 'to improve how we can communicate'. In no particular order, we ended up with Apple iMessage, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Instagram Private Messaging, Telegram, Signal. Over in Windows PC land, we also had, originally, Skype (still around now by the way), but more modern ones like Teams. There is no longer any differentiation between 'mobile technologies' and 'PC technologies'. Then you have confusions like 'WhatsApp' needs a smart phone to activate, Skype doesn't. You need an Apple device for iMessage, but no good on Android phones and on it goes. So, its **no wonder** you haven't got any idea if someone messaged you. And even if you did see it, two weeks later you can't recall for the life of you which app it was via. Text? Whatsapp? Email? Messenger? Then there are contacts you have who 'don't do whatsapp' or whatever - so you have to remember to message them an alternative way than others.

**Is there any hope to this mess?** Well, I *cautiously* say 'Yes. Maybe.' A new messaging technology called RCS is on its way. Google already have implemented it on Android mobiles. The big news is that Apple are bringing it to the iPhone in 2024. This is a big deal - and means that your Texting app on your mobile will be able to do what WhatsApp does across iPhone & Android. The question is whether (Facebook-owned) WhatsApp has cornered the market. Is RCS too late to the table? When I find out the answer, I'll send you a message!



## KITCHEN RESTYLING

Transform your kitchen from feeling dull and dated into a bright and modern heart of your home.

Sustainable - Affordable - Hassle Free

[www.thefurniturerestylist.co.uk](http://www.thefurniturerestylist.co.uk)  
07872 173391  
[claire@thefurniturerestylist.co.uk](mailto:claire@thefurniturerestylist.co.uk)

*Claire Hill*

THE FURNITURE RESTYLIST



**Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing,  
Heating & General Property Maintenance**

[Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk](http://Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk)  
[Info@Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk](mailto:Info@Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk)  
Emergency Call Out 07741439022



**MEDINEEDS**  
HEALTH & WELLNESS

For The Small Things That Matter

At Medineeds Health & Wellness, our specialists offer expert advice and treatment for all the small things that matter, with an equal focus on health as well as wellbeing.

### Services Available

- ♥ RAMI Medical Aesthetics
- ♥ Podiatry (Chiropody)
- ♥ Ear Wax Removal
- ♥ Orthotics
- ♥ MEDIVeinClinic (Varicose Veins)
- ♥ Diabetes Care
- ♥ Minor Skin Surgery
- ♥ Rehabilitation Physiotherapy
- ♥ Pilates Classes & Sessions
- ♥ Yoga and Meditation
- ♥ Personal Training
- ♥ Medical Support Stockings & Devices



01823 277755  
[www.medineeds.co.uk](http://www.medineeds.co.uk)  
[enquiries@medineeds.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@medineeds.co.uk)



## SECURE SELF STORAGE TAUNTON SOMERSET

Purpose built, alarm monitored facility with over 560 units ranging from 20-250 sq ft.



beehive self storage



Call our Taunton Branch

**01823 323575**

150 Priorswood Road,  
Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8DU  
[taunton@beehiveselfstorage.co.uk](mailto:taunton@beehiveselfstorage.co.uk)

Or visit our website:

[www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk](http://www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk)

- Simple, flexible & affordable storage
- No hidden charges or access fees
- 24 hour digital CCTV and alarms
- Long or short term storage available
- Insurance options & packing materials

### Our other Locations:

**Lopen, Somerset (HQ)**  
Lopen Business Park  
Mill Lane, Lopen  
South Petherton  
Somerset, TA13 5JS  
**01460 243100**

**North Dorset**  
Gold Hill Business Park  
Child Okeford,  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset, DT11 8HF  
**01258 861100**

[www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk](http://www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk)

## POND & PATIO MEDIC

FREE QUOTATIONS

PATIO & DRIVEWAY CLEANING  
HIGH PRESSURE WASHING  
FUNGICIDE APPLICATION  
SOFT WASHING

POND / FILTER / PUMP CLEANS  
LINER REPAIR SERVICE  
UV LAMP CHANGE  
PARACITE CHECKS

EMAIL: [pondmedic251@gmail.com](mailto:pondmedic251@gmail.com)

RING PAUL : 01823 336670 / 07759273866

**BURROW**



Septic Tank Owners: register your interest in a fully-funded upgrade to a treatment plant.

Due to the Phosphate pollution in your local river catchment we are operating a septic tank replacement scheme using private funding.

We install wastewater treatment plants that remove almost all pollutants, with funding secured from planning applicants who need to create a positive impact on the environment.

Register on our website today.

[burrow-environmental.com](http://burrow-environmental.com) 01935 507 508





**MONKTON  
ELM**  
Garden Centre and Restaurant

*Your Local Garden Centre Destination of Choice!*



**SPRING INTO  
ACTION  
THIS SEASON**

Monkton Heathfield,  
Taunton, Somerset,  
TA2 8QN  
01823 412381  
info@monkton-  
elm.co.uk  
www.monktonelm.com

# ASHCULME

TREE WORK | LANDSCAPING | FENCING | PAVING | MAINTENANCE



**NPTC**  
Part of the City & Guild Group  
**QUALIFIED  
WORKFORCE**

**TREE WORK** - ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK INCLUDING: REMOVAL, CROWNING & LIFTING  
**STUMP GRINDING** - TOTAL REMOVAL OF ANY SIZED TREE STUMP  
**LANDSCAPING** - ALL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN  
**FENCING** - NEW INSTALLATIONS OR REPAIRS TO EXISTING FENCES  
**TURFING** - PREPARATION & LAYING OF YOUR NEW LAWN  
**PAVING** - REPAIRS TO EXISTING PAVING OR COMPLETELY NEW INSTALLATIONS  
**GARDEN MAINTENANCE** - HEDGE & SHRUB TRIMMING, FRUIT TREE PRUNING & MORE

FOR A FREE QUOTE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY, RELIABLE & ESTABLISHED LOCAL FIRM:

**CONTACT  
PAUL DURMAN 01823 353302**

EMERGENCY 24/7-  
**07815 146343**  
www.ashculmetreesurgons.co.uk  
info@ashculmetreesurgons.co.uk



**TS**

For an appointment  
call  
**01823 351122**  
**Taunton Solicitors**



**Legal Services and Advice**

<b>BUYING AND SELLING PROPERTY</b>	<b>PROBATE, WILLS &amp; TRUSTS</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY</b>
<b>NEW BUILDS &amp; SHARED OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>FAMILY LAW &amp; DIVORCE</b>

Visit our website for discounts and costs [www.tauntonsolicitors.com](http://www.tauntonsolicitors.com)  
2 Tangier Central Taunton TA1 4AP  
e-mail: [info@tauntonsolicitors.com](mailto:info@tauntonsolicitors.com)



**Oven  
Wizards**  
We clean your oven...so you don't have to

We clean your oven...so you don't have to.

Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor  
or Aga professionally cleaned.

**Tim Hill contact details:**  
Tel mob: 07931382899  
Email: [timhill@ovenwizards.com](mailto:timhill@ovenwizards.com)  
[www.ovenwizards.com](http://www.ovenwizards.com)

## LAKE SIDE

DENTAL

A brand new private dental  
practice welcoming new patients in  
Taunton, offering various payment plans  
tailor-made to suit your individual needs.

T 01823 806414  
E [admin@lakeside-dental.co.uk](mailto:admin@lakeside-dental.co.uk)  
[www.lakeside-dental.co.uk](http://www.lakeside-dental.co.uk)

Lakeside Dental  
Lakeside House  
Blackbrook  
Business Park  
Blackbrook  
Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Starting at  
**£10.20**  
a month



**Arb Resolutions**



**Tree Surgery,  
Stump Grinding  
&  
Hedging**

**Contact Tom Albrow  
07926 878557**

[tom@arbresolutions.co.uk](mailto:tom@arbresolutions.co.uk)  
[www.arbresolutions.co.uk](http://www.arbresolutions.co.uk)  
Fully Qualified and Insured

# Hickleys

**AUTO SERVICE CENTRE  
TAUNTON & BRIDGWATER**



**90  
YEARS  
IN BUSINESS**




[www.hickleysautocentre.com](http://www.hickleysautocentre.com)  
**Taunton - Castle Street, Taunton, TA1 4AU  
01823 328600**  
**Bridgwater - East Quay, Bridgwater, TA6 4DB  
01278 451570**

## Household Cleaning Undertaken

*20 years experience*

Caring person who is willing to do all  
household tasks. Will also help with shopping,  
collecting prescriptions, accompanying to  
appointments etc.



References can be  
supplied.  
Reasonable  
charges.

**Phone Angie on  
07807892128**



## Fitness, Health & Wellbeing



West Monkton Village Hall.  
 Wednesdays 6pm -7pm. (term time only) £7.00  
 Aerobic based exercise for all abilities and levels of fitness. Come and have fun getting fit. For more details contact Heather  
 Tel: 07561498365  
 Email: fitness4fun@hotmail.co.uk or  
 www.fitness4fun.wix.com/heather



70 Station Road  
 Taunton TA1 1NX

### Traditional Men's Wear

Large size specialist 60 chest & waist

Tel/Fax: 01823 333169  
 E-mail: post@gurds.co.uk  
 www.gurds.co.uk



## Mobile Foot Care

Professional foot treatment & advice in your own home

Ingrowing Toenails  
 General Foot Care  
 Cracked Heels  
 Nail Trimming  
 Callouses



Corns  
 Phone: 07969912080  
 Email: rachaelalter1234@gmail.com

## Pilates and Chair-based Pilates

Britons Ash Community Hall TA2 7FT  
 Wednesday mornings

For bookings and enquiries contact:  
 Dianne  
 Mobile: 07850473428  
 Email: funfit.dianne@btinternet.com



## James Gray

ESTATE AGENTS

### Your Local Estate Agents

Home Field View North,  
 Prockters Farm, West Monkton,  
 Taunton, Somerset TA2 8QN  
 01823 426090  
 sales@jamesgrayestateagents.com  
 jamesgrayestateagents.com



- Skimming • Rendering
- Repairs • Artex covering
- Dry lining • Plaster boarding
- Coving • Partitioning
- Feature walls

01823 275 096

07710 693 671

info@dsymonsplastering.co.uk

www.dsymonsplastering.co.uk

Reliable Professional Service!



- Mortgages
- Equity Release
- Protection
- Buildings Insurance
- Commercial Lending
- Business Protection

Priors Way, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton  
 Tel: 01823 413113

A MORTGAGE IS A LOAN SECURED AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT



## Neil Robertson Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Plumbing - Heating - Renewables

### PLUMBING

- We cover all issues. Big or Small -

### HEATING

- From a Boiler Service to Full installation -

### RENEWABLES

- Energy & Cost Efficient Living -

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm

T: 01823 413999

Emergency mobile: 07799614977

email:

info@neilrobertsonplumbing.co.uk



## DÉCOR 8 with Atlas Home & Property Maintenance

For all your painting,  
 decorating, carpentry  
 & maintenance  
 requirements

Contact Bob on  
 01823 413510  
 or  
 07790 812327



## National Blood Donor Service

For further details ring 0845 7711711 or go online at www.blood.co.uk



Do something amazing  
 Give blood




**Dog Training**

- Reward based methods**
- Accredited Trainer**
- 121 Sessions**
- Group Classes**

**allforwoofs.co.uk**  
**allforwoofs@gmail.com**  
**07749 261 772**

**BIOCENTRIC  
PLANTS & DESIGN**



- ❖ **Garden design**
- ❖ **Planting plans**
- ❖ **Consultancy and coaching**
- ❖ **Plants for a changing climate**
- ❖ **Local service**

---

**Tom Nielsen    07909 603 031**  
**tom@biocentric.org.uk**  
**www.biocentric.org.uk**

**westernfuel**  
 "your local independent distributor"

- **Heating Oils**
- **Lubricants**
- **Boiler Servicing**
- **Fuel Cards**
- **Automatic Top-Ups**
- **Tank Replacements**

**T: 01823 337186**  
**W: westernfuel.co.uk**

**Thank You**  
 Thank you to all our advertisers,  
**you** keep our magazine  
 going and we  
 hope you get lots of business  
 from our readers.

**RICKI SYMONS**

**PROPERTY  
MAINTENANCE**

**Carpentry, Painting & Decorating**



**01823 252094**  
**07795180509**



**MOT**

**WHILE YOU WAIT**

**CROFT GARAGE LTD**  
**Monkton Heathfield**  
**01823 412393**

**Repairs & Servicing**  
**Free Collection & Delivery**

**Paul Prettejohn**

**Garden Machinery & Groundcare**  
[paul.prettejohn@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.prettejohn@btopenworld.com)  
[www.paulprettejohn.co.uk](http://www.paulprettejohn.co.uk)



**Honiton: 01404 890257**  
**Wellington: 01823 662656**



**Fun & Friendly Exercise Class**

**Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30am**  
**West Monkton Village Hall**  
**£6 class.....pay-as-you-go.**  
**No need to book.**

General fitness class including warm up, stretching, toning, optional floor work, easy dances and a cooldown.  
 Please bring a mat  
 (I bring spares if you don't have one).  
 If you are unable to do floorwork, it's absolutely fine to do the exercises on a chair.

**Call/text Charlotte**  
**on 07764 301304**  
**if you have any questions.**



**R A Wicks Ltd**   
 Fireplaces, Stoves & Flues

**Fireplace Showroom**  
**Chimneys Relined & New Build**  
**HETAS registered Installers**

**Tel: 01460 74612**  
 Fireplace Showroom,  
 Tail Mill Lane,  
 Merriott TA16 5PF  
**www.wicksheating.co.uk**

**Care At Home**

Registered Qualified Micro Provider  
 DBS Checked and Fully Insured  
 Offering Help and Support  
 In Your Home

**Personal Care**  
**Housework**  
**Shopping, Trips Out, Appointments**  
**The List is Endless...**  
**Nothing Is Too Much Trouble**  
 For a friendly chat, I'd love to help  
 call Rachael on  
**01823 451187 or 07969944520**  
**rachaelharvey589@yahoo.co.uk**

**A huge thank you to all our advertisers  
 in this difficult time.**

Please support local businesses and please mention the Village News when you contact them.



### Foot Health Care Home Visits



Nail cutting, hardened nails,  
 general foot care, callus and  
 fungal advice

Lynne Newton

Mobile Foot Care

lynnenewton@hotmail.co.uk

The Coach House, Hyde Lane, Bathpool

07850437994/01823 259808

### My Personal Organiser

Professional and Confidential Decluttering Service

- Re-vamp living areas
- Re-organise cupboards
- Create new storage areas
- Declutter garage or sheds
- Organise Paperwork

Contact Sarah for a free consultation -  
 ☎ : 07967518712  
 ✉ : mypersonalorganiser1@gmail.com

- Fully Insured
- DBS checked
- Somerset Micro Provider

## UNITED

### PLUMBING & HEATING




Mobile: 07966 630 133  
 Email: unitedheating@icloud.com

Plumbing & Heating  
 Gas Services  
 Kitchens  
 Bathrooms  
 Underfloor Heating  
 Powerflushing

iphe safe

### Quantock services; Grounds & Garden maintenance



- Specialising in hedge cutting, lawn care and pressure washing.
- Creech St Michael based firm offering a quality personal service.

Email:  
 quantockservices.somerset@gmail.com  
 Phone: 07921217780

Please make contact  
 for a conversation about your requirements.

## Slimming World

### taste the freedom



**FREE membership**  
 when you buy a 12-week Countdown course\*  
 \*end to 23rd April 2024

eat out and lose weight!

Contact your local Slimming World Consultant  
 and join a warm and friendly group today!

**Monday**  
 Creech St Michael Baptist Church  
 9.30am & 6.30pm  
 Anya 07950 297240

**Thursday** 9.30am & 6pm  
**Fridays** 7.30am & 9am  
 St James Church Hall  
 Dawn 07779 404038

**Wednesday**  
 Lisieux Way Methodist Church  
 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm  
 Anya 07950 297240

**Saturdays**  
 Silver St Baptist Church  
 7.00am & 8.30am  
 Dawn 07779 404038

#SWtastethefreedom  
 slimmingworld.co.uk  
 \*At participating groups. See our website for more information.

**Slimming WORLD**  
 touching hearts, changing lives

## Aplus Heating

Telephone: 01823 288040  
 Mobile: 07977 697852  
 info@aplusheating.co.uk

- All central heating work
- Bathroom replacements
- Disabled shower rooms
- Boiler replacements





www.aplusheating.co.uk  
 Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset

### HILARY NORMAN

### Foothealth Practitioner

### RFHP



#### GENERAL FOOT CARE

Nail Cutting & filing, Corn &  
 Callus removal,  
 In-growing toenails, fungal infections and  
 general advice on the care of your feet.

Treatment in the comfort of your own home  
**01984 623263**  
**07969 448793**  
 hilary.norman@btinternet.com





### A. STEWART Plumbing & Heating

- Natural Gas & LPG
- Oil Installations & Servicing
- Boiler Installations & Servicing
- Central Heating Systems
- Power Flushing
- Bath Rooms/Shower Rooms
- Cloakrooms/Kitchens
- Residential Park Homes & Caravans
- Cookers/Fires/Water Heaters/Space Heaters
- Vented/Unvented Water Systems
- Energy Efficiency Qualified Technician
- General Plumbing & Heating Maintenance
- Call Outs and & Emergencies Welcome

Call Ashley on: 07590729084 / 01823 412263  
Email: [info@astewartplumbingandheating.co.uk](mailto:info@astewartplumbingandheating.co.uk)  
[www.astewartplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.astewartplumbingandheating.co.uk)





### NIGEL K. FORD

45 Station Road, Taunton,  
Somerset TA1 1NZ  
01823 338369

North End, Creech St. Michael,  
Taunton, Somerset TA3 5EB  
01823 444354


*Your community  
Funeral Director*


YOUR FUNERAL WISHES.  
OUR LOCAL EXPERTS.

### DARREN GRAY ELECTRICAL & BUILDING SERVICES

ALL TYPES OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL AND  
BUILDING WORKS CARRIED OUT

BATHROOMS, KITCHENS, TILING, PATIOS,  
FENCING, DECKING AND ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL  
NEEDS TO 18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION REGULATIONS

 CONTACT: **07764996937**



### Computer & Tablet Tuition



**Tim Finch**  
**07514 059313**  
[www.taunton.it](http://www.taunton.it)

Experienced IT Professional  
with Computer B.Sc. Degree  
“..Tim is a brilliant teacher..”

Confidently manage email & photos. Resolve IT Issues.  
Enjoy better computer skills. Business IT support.  
Get things done. Taunton-based qualified PC/Mac expert.  
**Resolve your IT issues & learn how to get things done.**

 Laptops  Tablets  Phones  PCs



Family Run Company Since 1979.  
With No Hard Sell!

## Genuinely Low Prices All Year Round!

### Visit our extensive showroom

# LES MARSH CARPETS

Natural Flooring, Sisal, Coir, Seagrass & Jute  
Karndean Floors & Vinyl  
Quality Carpets  
Full Measuring & Fitting Service  
Wide Range of Samples  
Large choice of Remnants  
Property Letting Specialists & Insurance Work Undertaken  
**Knowledgeable And Friendly Staff**



Traditional



Contemporary



Karndean & Vinyls



Natural Flooring

Open: Monday – Friday 9am To 5pm  
Saturday 9am To 2pm  
Easy Parking

## TEL:01823 335952

[www.lesmarshcarpets.co.uk](http://www.lesmarshcarpets.co.uk)  
Cook Way, Bindon Road, Taunton TA2 6BJ



## Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

### Regular Bookings at the BACH

#### Mondays

9:45am to 11am	Yoga
1:15pm to 3:15pm	Art Group
3:30pm to 5:30pm	Primary Maths and English
7pm to 9pm	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
6pm to 7:30pm	Fitness Training
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

9:30am to 10:45am	Yoga
11:15am to 12:15pm	Healthy Hearts
6:30pm to 11:00pm	Taunton Bridge Club

#### Saturdays

8:45am to 11:45am	Mini Dribblers
-------------------	----------------

### Booking Officer:

Maggie Little

Tel: 01823 323662

Email:  
bachbookings@westmonkton.net

### 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 May/June 2024 Village News is 1st April 2024

## West Monkton Village Hall Monkton Heathfield, TA2 8NE

### Regular Bookings

#### Jittabugs (Main Hall)

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

#### Phoenix Camera Club (Heathfield Hall)

Mondays	19:00 - 21:00
---------	---------------

#### Pilates (Main Hall)

Mondays	19:30 - 20:30
---------	---------------

#### Badminton (Main Hall)

Ladies - Tuesdays	14:00 - 15:00
Mixed - Wednesday	20:00 - 21:00

#### Brownies (Main Hall)

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

#### Taunton Table Tennis Club (Heathfield Hall)

Adults Tuesdays	19:30 - 21:00
Children Friday	18:00 - 19:30
Saturday	10:00 - 11:30

#### Monkton Players (Main Hall)

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

#### Music with Mummy and Jolly Baby (Schofield Room) Wednesday

Wednesday	09:15 - 11:30
-----------	---------------

#### Yoga (Main Hall)

Wednesday	09:30 - 10:45
-----------	---------------

#### Puppy Training (Heathfield Hall)

Wednesday	18:30 - 21:30
-----------	---------------

#### Flexercise (Main Hall)

Thursday	09:30 - 10:30
----------	---------------

#### Coffee Morning (Ladies & Gents-Heathfield Hall)

Thursday	10:00 - 11:30
----------	---------------

#### MNDA (Heathfield Hall)

Once a month on a Thursday	13:30 - 16:30
----------------------------	---------------

#### Bounce & Burn (Main Hall)

Thursday	18:00 - 19:00
----------	---------------

#### Monkton Evening WI (Heathfield Hall)

Fourth Thursday of month	19:15 - 21:25
--------------------------	---------------

#### Baby Sensory (Main Hall)

Friday	09:00 - 15:15
--------	---------------

#### Puppy Training (Main Hall)

Friday	18:30 - 21:30
--------	---------------

#### Trams & Light Railways (Schofield Room)

Once a month on a Saturday	13:30 - 16:30
----------------------------	---------------

#### Hardy Plant Society (Main Hall)

Once a month on a Saturday	09:30 - 13:00
----------------------------	---------------

#### Orchid Society (Heathfield Hall)

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

#### 'O' Gauge Model Railways (Main Hall)

Quarterly on a Sunday	09:00 - 17:00
-----------------------	---------------

For more information please contact:

**Ian Pitchfork** Tel: 01823 412196

Email: [westmonktonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:westmonktonvillagehall@gmail.com)

Website: [Bookings - West Monkton Village Hall](http://Bookings - West Monkton Village Hall)

To get a pdf copy of the Village News  
 emailed to you,  
 please email  
**[thelocalvillagenews@live.co.uk](mailto:thelocalvillagenews@live.co.uk)**



## Taunton Rugby Club

Taunton Rugby Club are celebrating the achievement of one of their star players from last season who was called up to the full England squad for the 2024 Six Nations championship, always one of the highlights of the season. The player in question, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso, joined Taunton on loan from Exeter Chiefs last season and helped transform Taunton's season to finish on a high and maintain their place in the third tier of English Rugby.



Immanuel Feyi-Waboso

Immanuel started his rugby career at Wasps, then based at Coventry, and is studying to be a doctor. Whilst at Wasps he studied at Aston University but after Wasps went out of business he joined Exeter Chiefs even though that meant he had to give up his studies at Aston

and start again at Exeter. Now less than a year after donning the Taunton Titans shirt he may well have put on the England shirt by the time the latest Village News drops on your doormat. Another young star in the making is Noah Fenton. He had never played rugby against adults when he played his first game for Taunton Titans. By the end of January this year he was the top try scorer in the league. It was always his intention to go travelling in February before going to university in the autumn this year so it looks like he may have played his last match for the club. He has already come to the attention of the Irish rugby set up and to Premiership side Exeter Chiefs. and played in a friendly match against Exeter University recently scoring a hat trick of tries. He has a great future and although he has only been at the club for 10 months he will leave behind many happy memories.

I am writing this on FA cup fourth round Sunday. One of the matches involved fighting between rival sets of supporters with the players being taken off while order was restored. I used to like football but incidents such as that plus the players' behaviour towards each other and the referee has put me off,

probably for life. There is a code of conduct in rugby which is worth setting out here as follows:

*Play to win but not at all cost  
Win with dignity, lose with grace  
Observe the laws and regulations of the game  
Respect opponents, referees and all participants  
Reject cheating, racism violence and drugs  
Value volunteers and paid officials alike  
Enjoy the game*

So far this article has shown the high standard of play at Taunton, even though at the time of writing Taunton are bottom of the league even though they have more points than at the same stage last season. One win can lift them to 10th place, well clear of the relegation zone which was reduced to two clubs instead of three. One thing noticeable about Taunton's two wins at home this season against high flying attractive opponents Rosslyn Park and Plymouth Albion was that these fixtures attracted big crowds. The team seem to respond to the support of a big crowd and these wins were outstanding performances. The Rosslyn Park match was a big score for Taunton but the Plymouth game was a very hard fought close win. I have set out the code of rugby and there is no doubt this is followed at Taunton's games at Hyde Lane. Win or lose the matches are always a spectacle with exciting skilful play and a convivial atmosphere afterwards. If you want to get behind your local club and contribute to their relegation fight please come to the home games on 9th and 23rd March and 13th April.

Meanwhile Taunton's second team, Taunton Warriors are on course to win their league having lost only one game all season.

They have beaten their closest rivals once and have yet to play the reverse fixture. They have had several matches postponed due to bad weather so there will be several fixtures still to play with free admission for home games on 2nd, 9th and 16th March and 6th April.

Robert Harris



Noah Fenton