



Village News

Issue No. 147
May - June 2024

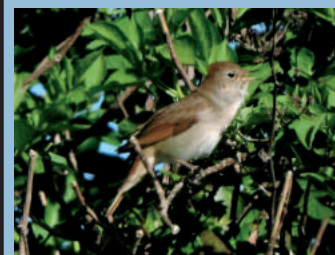
Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool



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*A Canal Walk with friends -
See Page 16*



*A Nightingale - not something
most of us either see or hear
any more.
Find out more on Page 5*

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
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 07588571775
clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk
PC Community Clerk: Kate Welsh 07505984006
community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk
PC Chairman: Stuart Haskins 07824410997
stuarthaskins@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk
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:
May 9th
Tea at 2:30pm at The Maunsel Lock Cafe (by the Taunton and Bridgwater canal).

June 13th
Lunch at The Maypole Inn, Thurloxtton
12:30pm

Everyone very welcome.
Please phone me so I have the right numbers to book the meals.

Dianne 01823 412857

Primary School News 1

KS1 are delighted to have some seedlings, and donated plants all snug and ready to grow in our allotments! Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Brown for all their hard work preparing these beds and to the grandparent who donated a large selection of plants from his own allotment!
The plants have plenty of rain and now we patiently wait for the sunshine they need too!



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



WEST MONKTON OPEN GARDENS



SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024
2 – 5 PM

TICKETS £10
(CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE)
TO INCLUDE TEAS

TICKETS & MAPS CAN BE PURCHASED
FROM THE CHURCH ON THE DAY
CAR PARKING AND TOILET FACILITIES
AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH

ALL GARDENS ARE WITHIN
WALKING DISTANCE OF THE CHURCH

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Inter-Parish Tug of War and Evening Open Mic and Music Event

An exciting event is taking place on Saturday 29th June at Maidenbrook Country Park, Monkton Heathfield. An inter-parish Tug-of-War competition between Creech St Michael, Ruishton, North Curry, West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine. Teams from the five parishes will compete against each other for prizes – over 40s, under 40s, 12 – 16 year olds and under 11 year olds. We invite everyone from the parishes to bring a picnic but, if you prefer, Fish & Chips, Coffee/Tea, Soft drinks, Ice Cream and Burger vendors will be there. Included in the event there will be a Maypole, Coconut Shy, Face Painting, Toss the Welly and Toss the Egg, Skittle Alley, Stocks and Sponges, Morris Dancers and a Bouncy Castle. The park will be open at 12 noon. There is plenty of free parking and the competitions will start at 2:30pm across a small pond made for the occasion. Please sign up to make a team of 8 or enrol as an individual and we will try and put a team together. **Without teams there is no competition.** It costs £2 per person to enrol but is free for 11 and unders.



**TUG OF WAR TOURNAMENT
PLUS OPEN MIC & MUSIC
EVENT IN THE EVENING**

FIVE PARISHES **VS** EACH OTHER

MAIDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK,
MONKTON HEATHFIELD TA2 8JT
SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2024 AT
12 NOON WITH COMPETITIONS
FROM 2.30 PM

BRING A PICNIC

EMAIL TO ENROL YOUR TEAM OR AS
AN INDIVIDUAL

For more information,
please email
tow@creechstmichael.net

Stalls and Games *Food Vendors*

**WEST
MONKTON
CHURCH**

**VOLUNTEER
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

With future plans in the workings for a more inclusive community space within the church to create more versatility for all users, we have a lot of fundraising to do!



We Need Help With:

- Fundraising ideas ✓
- Helping at events ✓
- Cakes & Refreshments ✓
- Churchyard gardening ✓

Everyone is welcome and
there's always cake!

westmonktonchurch.co.uk
for more information

THANK YOU





When one neighbour helps another we strengthen our communities

**Preserving Traditions,
Embracing Change.**

Thank you to all our advertisers.
If you are a local business and would like to advertise in the Village News,
please contact dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk



Taunton Rugby Club

The approach of Easter at the time of writing means that for Taunton Rugby Club the end of the season is in sight and promotion and relegation issues are to the forefront of the club's thinking. For the very young second team, Taunton Warriors, the battle is over as the League Championship was clinched in late March resulting in a fully deserved promotion. As for Taunton Titans relegation from the third level of English rugby is still a real threat.

The first team, Taunton Titans, sit bottom of the league and were playing at home to Darlington in the last match before Easter. Five minutes from the end of the match even the most fervent Taunton supporter had given up hope of avoiding the drop. Trailing 12-20 to Darlington Taunton were facing the prospect of almost certainly having to win their last three games to stand any chance of avoiding relegation.

The team were playing into a strong wind but, driven on by the example set by their captain Ratu Vakalutukali, were still playing with belief and an intensity not seen very often this season and pounding away at the opposition try line. With just two minutes left Taunton scored a try to close the gap in the scores. Taunton grabbed the initiative straight from the restart and backed by a noisy enthusiastic crowd they hammered away at the Darlington try line deep into added time and scored a winning try much to the delight of the home support.



John Wrelton

There are now three difficult matches left and although Taunton are still favourites for relegation the flame of hope still burns. If reading the Village News persuaded any of you to be part of that crowd, then thank you for your support. Today was a perfect example of how the team can be lifted by a big enthusiastic noisy crowd.



Toots the captain

From a tale of a desperate battle to avoid relegation comes the story of unlimited success for the Taunton Warriors. They have finished champions in their league in just the second season since their formation. Coached and captained respectively by father and son John and Ollie Wrelton the team have won their league with two games still to play. John Wrelton is also the club chairman and has been ably assisted in the coaching duties by Brett Harvey who ended a distinguished playing career for Taunton Titans at the end of

last season. The Warriors have dominated the league and at the time of writing they have won 19 out of 20 matches scoring over 1100 points so far. Team captain Ollie Wrelton has had an outstanding season for the club and, along with teammate Brodie Sheach, was recently selected to play for Somerset at Under 20 level. New challenges await the Warriors in their higher league next season with mouthwatering fixtures in the pipeline especially when they meet local rivals Bridgwater and Albion.

When this edition of the Village News drops through your letterbox it will be early May and there will be a short pause before preparations begin for next season. It will be more challenging for the Warriors next season, but they will relish the challenge. As for the Titans whether they win their fight to stay in National League 1 or whether they are in National League 2 you can

be sure that the rugby will be of a high standard and well worth watching.

Robert Harris



Oliver Wrelton

Somerset Birds

In the birdwatching year two months stand out, May and October. For rarity hunters October always delivers, as winter visitors arrive, some from as far away as Siberia. Among the regulars and generally common species, there are much rarer birds diverted off course by the changeable and often unfavourable autumn weather, and these are always exciting to see. When conditions are right, North American land birds, migrating down the eastern seaboard to the Caribbean and South America, are caught up in the remnants of autumn hurricanes. If they survive and are lucky, they make landfall on this side of the Atlantic, usually on offshore islands like the Isles of Scilly and the Outer Hebrides. Some, like the American waders, are strong flyers, capable of travelling vast distances. One, the Pectoral Sandpiper,



Pectoral Sandpiper

whose normal wintering grounds are in Argentina and Paraguay, is almost annual in Somerset. Exciting though October is May is my favourite month.

Although spring migration is tailing off and many summer visitors are already breeding, late migrants like the Spotted Flycatcher are still arriving. Though hard to find these days, there are usually one or two sightings in West Monkton, and with luck at least a breeding pair. Above all, May is the best month for birdsong and affords an excellent opportunity to acquaint oneself with the common species at least.

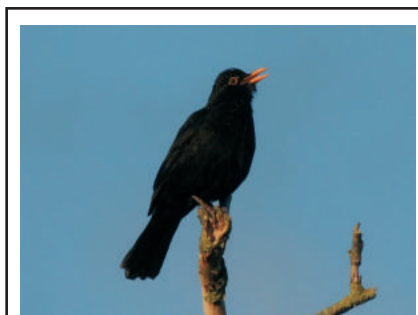


Spotted Flycatcher

Before technology eased matters the only sure way to pair a bird with its song and commit it to memory was to listen first and then sight the bird. Life is much easier now, and among a number of apps available for iOS and Android is Merlin, developed by Cornell University and free to download. All the observer has to do is run the app, record the bird, and Merlin does the rest, identifying the species there and then. A small degree of caution is needed with birds whose

alarm calls, rather than song, are similar but on the whole I've found it remarkably accurate.

It is, however, far more satisfying to learn birdsong by experience, and most of the common species are not difficult. Particularly among the thrushes, song is quite characteristic and easily memorised, and all are accomplished singers. Learning to separate Blackbird and Song Thrush is



Blackbird singing

a good start. Both are loud, and inclined to sing from high perches, but a giveaway is that the Song Thrush repeats each individual phrase up to four or five times. The Blackbird has a rich, tuneful song

but is rather let down by ending it with a few scratchy notes, again a giveaway.

There has always been much debate, often fuelled by newspaper features, about the finest songster. Blackbird and Song Thrush are certainly up there, as is the Robin, one of the few birds to sing throughout the year. The aptly named warblers are also in contention, and the Garden Warbler, rarely seen in gardens despite the name, and Blackcap are favourites for some. Both have similar rich, fluty songs and are difficult to separate even for the experienced. A friend once described the Garden Warbler song as 'like someone trying to run too fast' and rather unkindly, but accurately that of the Blackcap as 'like a madman trying to whistle'.

For me there is nothing quite like the song of the Nightingale, sadly now so rare here in Somerset. Once heard it is unmistakable, rich with loud crescendos and beautiful phrases. Like most birds which defend territory with song, the Nightingale is not much to look at, rather like a large robin without the red breast, but its song sets it apart. By the time you read this our local birds will have arrived at their regular haunts along the railway line between Creech and Durston. Although few in number they can be heard from the



Nightingale

canal towpath, east of the Engine House. They sing well at dawn, but a better experience is to listen to them on a calm warm May evening. Let us hope after a miserable winter and early spring we are granted some.

Brian Hill

Somerset Ornithological Society welcomes people whatever their level of interest in birds. Please contact me at alnitak.hill82@gmail.com for further details.

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



It's unusual for someone to tell me they are an atheist. I don't mean just because I'm a vicar – people are usually very frank when it comes to challenging me about faith. And quite rightly so. There is a lot of nonsense spouted by church folk. And nor do I think atheists are delusional. Atheism is a perfectly acceptable position to hold. It's just that in my experience, it is rarely a thing of certainty as it seemed to be on this occasion. Most of us (myself included) are within the range of agnosticism – we don't know for sure – and we come down on one side of a line or another. Just. By the grace of ... something – or is that Something? There is a type of scientific materialist who claims to need 'proof' of God – when they rarely demand the same proof for the existence of other un-demonstrables like love or courage or wonder – or a liking for beer. Some stuff isn't always the object of observable and measurable data. One materialist once said to me it was only all ever about money. But when I suggested to him that the next time he was intimate with his wife he leaves her a tenner on the bedside table – or more if he thought that would improve things - he started to reconsider this. So, when this chap said he was an atheist, my initial thought was "What's your proof?" Sadly, we didn't have time for a proper conversation. And actually, I'm no philosopher. He'd have probably wiped the floor with me. Why I'm 'religious' as opposed to not will, I know, have its roots in my upbringing and various insecurities and hopes. But one of the greatest insecurities we all share is the fear of being deceived: by a friend or partner; by a government or a church; or by finding out that in the End – there is no God. So having a belief is, literally, a statement of faith – and of hope. And courage. Because I may be wrong. But for me, I think I live a better life and life has a deeper layer of meaning if I live 'as if' there is a God. And that is about all I can do.

Jim Cox

Keeping in Contact

To be added to our weekly news-sheet mailing list contact Michele:
office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk
or see the website for links and up to date information www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Coffee & more

Sat 4th May - Guest Speakers - "Life and work of a celebrant" by Deb Stogell & Jackie Aldridge.

Sat 1st June - Brainteaser - Community Crossword.

Sat 1st July - Ringing Chamber - Come and try your hand at bellringing.

10am
West Monkton Church.



www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

St Augustine's Church 100 Club Prizewinners

March

The draw was held on Saturday 2nd March
First Prize: £101.00 won by Isabelle Rolls.
Second Prize: £50.50 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.

April

The draw was held on Tuesday 2nd April
First Prize: £103.00 was won by Sally Hillman
Second Prize: £51.50 was won by Fiona Pugsley
The sum of £360.50 will go towards the church.
The number of £5.00 shares entered in the draw was 103.

CONGRATULATIONS
to our winners!

If you would like to support West Monkton Church and be in with a chance of winning, please contact:
Kate Ayres (01823 413873)

Services

May

5th 6th Sunday of Easter

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
6:00pm	Rogation Service	Broomfield

9th Ascension Day

7:00pm	Ascension Day HC	Kingston St M
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12th 7th Sunday of Easter

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

19th Pentecost

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon FP

26th Trinity Sunday

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

June

2nd 1st Sunday after Trinity

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

9th 2nd Sunday after Trinity

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

16th 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Cheddon FP

23rd 4th Sunday after Trinity

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

30th 5th Sunday after Trinity

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



Primary School News 2

Spring has definitely sprung in the Forest School! Our trees and hedges have started to show their new buds and leaves, and Puffin Class have been planting lots of new tree saplings kindly donated by the Woodland Trust.



Red Kite and Magpie Classes have also been helping to construct some brand new Willow hedges, including this archway, to expand and create a new gateway to our Forest School.

From West Monkton Registers:

Funerals:

02.04.24 Kenneth Knight – funeral at the crematorium

Ashes in Churchyard

17.03.24 Thelma Hawkins
 17.03.24 Clive Ake

Baptism:

17.03.24 Maisie Rossiter

Taunton Deanery Evening Service:

Reflection in Word and Song

6pm
 Sunday 19th May
 at St Andrew's Church, Taunton

Men's Group Meetings:

Thursday 16th May

Pub Walk : Swan Kingston 11am / 1pm

Wednesday 5th June

Barbecue at David Langford's 6.00pm

Anyone welcome to come along to the group – contact Jim for more information and costs of each event : jimcox11@gmail.com

07967 817337 or 01823 802790



West Monkton Parish Council

West Monkton Parish Council Annual Report

Your Parish Council

Who we are

West Monkton Parish Council (WMPC) is made up of nine Parish Councillors and a team of two Clerks who are all passionate about our local area.

West Monkton Parish Councillors:

Cllr Stuart Haskins Chairman

stuarthaskins@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Hall Vice Chairman

Member responsible for Water Resilience and Maidenbrook Country Park

alanhall@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Barry Gage

Chairman of Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

Committee and member responsible for footpaths

barrygage@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Hazel Ellis

Spital Trust representative and member of the BACH

Committee

hazelellis@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Besley

Member responsible of Highways

markbesley@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Geoff Hope

Member responsible for Public Open Space, Recreation and Children's Play Areas and member of the BACH Committee

geoffhope@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Noel Munson

noelmunson@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Ray Tully

Member responsible for Safe Routes to School and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), member of the BACH Committee and WM Village Hall representative.

raytully@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

West Monkton Parish and Somerset Council Councillor:

Cllr Norman Cavill

Member responsible for Water Resilience and LGR and member of the BACH Committee and Somerset Council Councillor

normancavill@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Somerset Council Councillor:

David Fothergill – Somerset Council (SC)

Councillor for Monkton and North Curry Division.

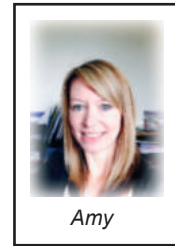
Leader of the Opposition

david.fothergill@somerset.gov.uk

Parish Council Clerks:

Amy Shepherd - Clerk

clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Amy



Kate

Kate Welsh – Assistant Clerk (Community)

community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

What WMPC does

WMPC works collaboratively with members of the community and partners to deliver our vision and objectives for the Parish, going over and above what is expected from a Parish Council.

Our Vision for West Monkton

Our vision is for WMPC and the local community to work together to protect and improve the social, recreational and environmental well-being of West Monkton and the lives of all who live, visit and work here.

Our Priorities and Objectives

WMPC has agreed priorities and objectives, available here:

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/West-Monkton-Parish-Council-Vision-and-Objectives-Final.pdf>, focused on Our Environment, Community and the Parish Council.

In early 2024 the Parish Council developed a Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2027. The Strategic Plan is available here:

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/documents/>

What WMPC has achieved in 2023/24

Our Environment

Enabled the planting of trees in the parish. Further trees have been planted in Maidenbrook Country Park (MCP) during 2023/24 and 200 whips have been obtained from the Woodland Trust to be planted on the Sports Pitch site adjacent to the Eastern Relief Road.

- Continued to deliver a hi-vis initiative to encourage children to cycle and walk to school safely. More than 100 hi-vis jackets have been given to school children so far.
- Promoted public transport that is available in the parish.
- Delivered swap events for seeds and toys.
- Provided grant funding for individuals for Climate Change projects based in the parish.
- Promoted recycling and reusing through the continued delivery of the Community Fridge to reduce food waste and running monthly repair cafes.

- Delivered a Growing Competition.
- Delivered two Farm Walks.
- Secured more grant funding for the Community Garden enabling its expansion.
- Deployed the Speed Indicator Device at various locations across the Parish, the data collected is passed to the police to inform their parking enforcement schedule.
- Undertaken a review of the village signs and requested feedback from Somerset Council with a view to making identified improvements as soon as possible.
- Continuing to engage with Developers and Somerset Council Officers about the proposals for Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 Development, building a good relationship with Creech St Michael Parish Council and organising a public consultation event for members of our community to provide their feedback.
- Continuing to engage with Developers and Somerset Council Officers about the completion and handover of the Monkton Heathfield Phase 1 public open spaces.
- Reviewed the Phase 4 Hartnells Farm Development proposals and submitted comments to the Local Planning Authority.
- Commenced a project to develop a multi-agency approach to exploring natural flood management measures on streams and water courses in the parish to slow the flow of water and reduce the risk of flooding of residential properties in Bathpool and applied for grant funding.
- Working with the Environment Agency to acquire land to enable a permanent flood relief pump to be installed in the Old River Tone at Bathpool.

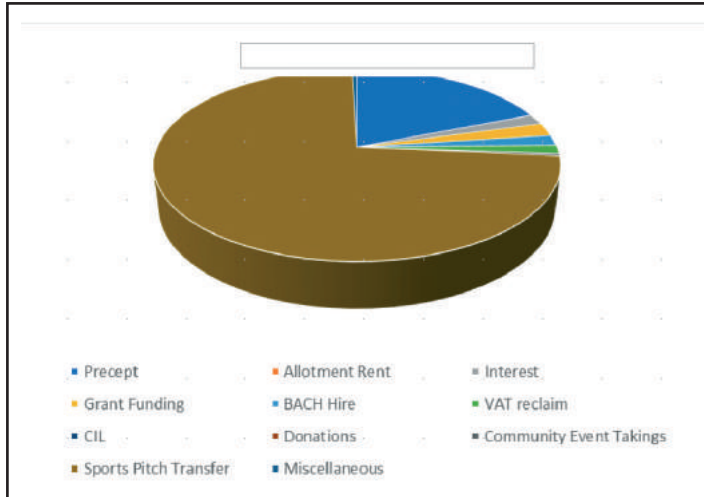
Our Community

- Continued to deliver the Community Fridge, a great amount of food is being collected from shops and food waste is being reduced.
- Recruited in excess of 100 volunteers in the community to support community projects.
- Provided a weekly community café on Wednesdays from 2.30pm until 4pm at the BACH.
- Provided weekly Stay and Play Groups on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning at the BACH.
 - Carried out regular litter picks with volunteers in the community
 - Delivered a successful community event to celebrate the King's Coronation.
 - Delivered a Dog Show and Easter Egg Hunt at the Country Park.
 - Taking the lead in organising a D-Day Event at the Country Park on 6th June 2024.
 - Delivered a monthly community quiz at Tacchi Morris.

- Delivered a festive volunteers evening at the BACH to thank all our volunteers for their support.
- Provide a monthly bereavement support group at the BACH.
- Continued to provide a Community Website – www.monktonmatters.co.uk
- Improved existing footpaths through the installation of new gates and stiles on Public Rights of Way across the parish
- Provided grant funding to charitable, small and local groups to deliver goods or services for the benefit of members of the community in the parish.
- Completed the legal transfer of the sports pitch land adjacent to the ERR and installed a fenced dog walking area with accessible gates.
- Poppy of Honour Memorial has been designated to be permanently sited in the CP, planning permission has been obtained for a Pavilion for the Memorial and fundraising efforts have commenced.

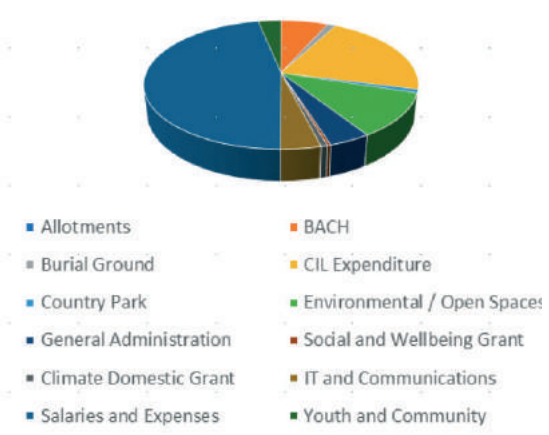
Our Parish Council

- Been an open, transparent and proactive Parish Council, taking new projects forward and sharing information on the WMPC website www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk, Monkton Matters website www.monktonmatters.co.uk and the WMPC Facebook Page www.facebook.com/westmonktonparishcouncil
- Continued to deliver the WMPC Vision and objectives to focus WMPC's activities on important matters in our Parish.
- Taken an active role in the Hestercombe Local Community Network, with Cllr Haskins acting as Chair of the LCN and Cllr Cavill as Vice Chair.
- Used Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to support the delivery of parish priorities and objectives including:
 - ✓ Community Fridge
 - ✓ Community Garden
 - ✓ Community Event and Engagement Equipment
 - ✓ Defibrillator at the Village Hall
 - ✓ Provision of new benches.
 - ✓ Provision of more litter bins.
 - ✓ Delivering the vision for the Country Park.
 - ✓ Tree and Hedge Planting.
 - ✓ Supporting the Canal Towpath Comet Trail project.
 - ✓ Footpath restoration.
- Applied for and secured grant funding to support our community work to deliver an expansion to the Community Fridge and Community Garden.
- Encouraged members of the community to give ideas of what WMPC should do and how money should be spent through regular posting on Monkton Matters, the Facebook page and the Village News.



Type of income	Income received
Precept	£121710.0
Interest	£10793.8
Allotments	£300.0
Grant Funding	£13832.3
BACH Hire	£11269.0
VAT reclaimed	£9281.8
Donations	£65.9
Sports Pitch Transfer	£467794.4
Community Event Takings	£2197.1
Miscellaneous	£2864.9
Total income	£640109.5

Type of Expenditure	Expenditure
Allotments	£97.15
Brittons Ash Community Hall	£9659.61
Burial Ground	£1840.00
CIL Expenditure	£31457.45
Country Park	£1311.24
Environmental / Open Spaces	£16295.10
General Administration	£6132.99
Social and Wellbeing Grant	£500.00
Climate Domestic Grant	£1000.00
IT and Communications	£5901.44
Salaries and Expenses	£69263.15
Youth and Community	£4732.45
Total Expenditure	£173254.10



- Ensured value for money in respect of all of the council's spend through obtaining quotes for all work.
- Publicised information about income and spend in a more understandable format (available above).
- Developed a Parish Council Strategic Plan 2024-27 setting out a Vision, Priorities, Objectives and a Plan of Activity for the Parish Council.
- Been an active member of the Garden Town Advisory Board

What income does WMPC receive and how money was spent in 2023/24?

The information from the financial spreadsheet for this year has been presented as a series of pie charts below. If you are interested in further details, please do not hesitate to contact clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have any comments to make on any of the pie charts presented above, please contact clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillor Reports:

Cllr Stuart Haskins – Chairman's Report

I hope this report finds you well and looking forward to a warm and dry summer. Let's face it, we have certainly had our share of wet weather this winter and I'm sure the keen gardeners out there will be desperate to make a start on their plots.

Your Parish Council has once again had a very busy year and I will try to bring you up to speed with all the Projects we have been working on without, I hope making my report too long. As you will see your Councillors have reported on issues, they cover at our meetings, however, I will be adding to those comments in my report. I am pleased to welcome Councillor Noel Munson to the PC team. He is a retired member of our Parish and in recent months been part of our repair team at the BACH.

The year started with the vesting of the new Somerset Council Unitary Authority on 1st April. This of course saw the demise of the 4 District Councils and Somerset County Council. Under the new set up Parishes have been grouped together into what are now called Local Community Networks (LCNs). Under this arrangement West Monkton PC sits in the Hestercombe LCN together with 7 other parishes these being Broomfield, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Creech St Micheal, Durston, Kingston St Mary, North Petherton and Thurloxton. I am currently the

Chairman of this LCN and I think it's fair to say that after a slow start we are now beginning to find our way and hopefully fill the gap left between Parish Councils and the new Somerset Council. April 1st also saw the "go live" of the new Taunton Town Council which, as some of you may know, took over control of a significant part of the Cheddon Fitzpaine PC area. I should point out that this has not significantly affected the way in which WMPC works with Cheddon Fitzpaine PC on matters such as our Neighbourhood Plan, the WW1 wood and Country Park.

As I am sure you are aware by now the Somerset Council is currently facing considerable financial challenges and major shortfalls in its budget both for this current year, 23/24, and going forward into 24/25 and beyond. As a result, and under the banner of "Devolution of Services" the Parish Councils have been asked if they are prepared to take on certain nonessential services in their community. WMPC has expressed an interest in taking on some of these duties but to date nothing has been agreed or committed to. However, we believe we can deliver some services more cost effectively and efficiently for our community possibly using our Parish Lengthsman and / or working with our LCN Partner Parishes.

Your Community Clerk, Kate Welsh, has been very busy this year and in addition to running the Stay and Play group, Community Café, the repair shop, Bereavement Group and much more she has been pivotal to the events taking place at the Country Park. These included the Easter Egg hunt, the Coronation Party, the Dog show, etc. Other events initiated by Kate have also been very successful in particular the monthly Community Quiz Nights which are run at the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre.

Kate is of course the key link between the Parish Council and the Army of Community Volunteers, and it was enjoyable to meet and chat with some of "Kate's Army" at our volunteers' festive evening in December. Volunteering really does make a difference to your community, and it is only through this involvement support and commitment that we can continue to build our community and bring the old and new parts of the parish closer together. Our litter pickers, Community Fridge and Country Park teams to name just a few really have made a huge impact and really do make the difference in and around the parish. So, I would urge anyone who has time on their hands no matter how small it might be, please get in touch with Kate and join her Army.

The World War One Wood and Country Park continue to develop and bring enjoyment to those who volunteer in it as well those who simply use it to exercise. Several events are now a fixture in the calendar as the location becomes well know across the County. Events like the Remembrance Day Service and Easter Egg hunt are now well attended,

and plans are developing well for the D Day 80 year celebrations on June 6th this year. It was hoped that the amazing "Poppy of Honour" would be installed by June but that is now looking unlikely due to the complexity of the structure and its installation time required. It is hoped, however, that it will be in place by November this year ready for the Remembrance Day Service and its dedication.

Your Parish Council continues to meet twice each month except for August and December. In addition to the regular PC meetings, your Clerks and Councillors participate with numerous other groups and organisations such as the Garden Town Advisory Board, LCN, Multi-Agency Flood Group, A358 Road Improvements, SALC and many more. When added we attend in excess of 150 meetings each year in person and online. For the last two years the Parish Council has developed a Vision, Priorities and Objectives, for 2024 this has been expanded and a Strategic Plan for the Parish and Community has been developed. This sets out what the strategy is and objectives are for the coming year and how we will deliver our Vision for the Community. From this we hope that you will gain a better understanding of what we do and how the Precept is spent. It is unfortunate that we needed to increase the Precept again this year but as you will see it is considerably less than the average rise across the County or the figure residents of the new Taunton Council now find themselves having to pay. The PC Website (www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) has been updated this year and is now easier to navigate, likewise Monkton Matters (www.monktonmatters.co.uk) is now the "go to" site for local information and updates on what's going on in and around the parish.

MH2 the Garden Town development planning application or (Langaller Park as it will be known) was re-submitted by Persimmon / Redrow (The Developers) in early February of this year and as the development is in both West Monkton and Creech St Michael Parishes, we formed a joint Parish working group. Since the original application was made some 2 years ago, we have held regular meetings with the CSM PC, the Developers, the County Planning Department and County Highways to raise our concerns, put forward alternative ideas and hopefully influenced all parties in making the correct decisions for our community. In some matters we have been successful in achieving change to the proposals but not so in others. Whilst approval of MH2 at some point is inevitable the experiences of WMPC with MH1 are still prominent in our minds and those experiences have been put to good use in our discussions. By the time you read this report the public consultation events at West Monkton

and Creech St Micheal will have taken place where I hope you have had a chance to make comment to the Parish Councillors be it for or against the development plans. Following these consultations your Parish Clerk and Councillors will draw all the feedback and comments together and submit it to the Planning Officer. That report will of course be available on the PC website.

MH1 continues to be a thorn in the side of your PC but at least we are now progressing on a number of fronts. Following snagging works by the Developers the adoption of estate roads and ERR by County Highways is progressing at last. In addition to this and following our public meetings in late in 2023 your Parish Council is now in the final stages of taking over the MH1 Public Open Spaces (POS). It was hoped that the acquisition of the land by your PC and the setting up of the new Management Company would be completed by the end of February, but it is now looking unlikely and that it will be mid to late April before legal acquisition is complete. That said, we are sure that the new arrangements will be a step change in the management of MH1 and with resident participation on the Board I am sure that the benefits will soon be evident to see.

Following an exceptionally wet winter flooding continues to be high on our list of issues with the area in around the Old River Tone in Bathpool being of particular concern. Your PC, working with the Environment Agency, is currently progressing the purchase of a parcel of land south of the Railway on Hyde Lane on which to install 2 permanent pumps. These works will be funded from the Hartnells Development S106 fund. Other areas of concern are the new attenuation ponds installed in recent developments. Wessex Water have investigated these to ensure they are installed correctly prior to adoption.

Cllr Alan Hall continues to lead a multi-agency working group to develop initiatives and projects that will "slow the flow" of water from the Quantocks into your parish. Also, in and around the parish we have numerous sections of blocked highway drainage. It is hoped that some of these sites will be repaired by SC Highways in the new financial year but given the ongoing financial position SC finds itself in, it is unlikely all of these repairs will be completed, and some sites may revert back the PC to resolve them.

The Hartnells Phase 4 Planning Application was also submitted in late 2023. Your PC raised a number of concerns about the application involving drainage POS and the impact on Greenway.

Earlier this year your PC completed the legal acquisition of the land on the south side of the ERR which was designated for sports pitches under the MH1 development planning approval. In partnership and working with the Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club, a committee has been formed to oversee the project. Plans have been prepared and a pre-planning advice application has been

submitted regarding the proposal to amend the original MH1 granted planning approval to reflect the new facilities on the site. A fenced off dog walking area is now in place and starting this spring work will commence to install pitch drainage and underground services after which the Rugby and Cricket pitches will be laid. Some funding for delivery has been received from MH1 developers, grant applications will be made to secure additional funding. Further development of the site is planned which will see the building of a skateboard facility and BMX pump track and changing rooms. At present the construction timings of these facilities aren't definite but hopefully will be in place within the next 2 years. Over 200 trees have also been secured from the Woodland Trust which will further enhance the site and local environment.

Thanks to the volunteers, the Community Shed/ Fridge continues to be a great success and the volume of food that now passes through it is increasing year on year with daily collections now reaching into more than 10 suppliers. The food, clothes, toys and the book swaps are also very popular so much so, that the initiative has now outgrown the shed. Your PC is therefore investigating how the facility can be expanded which may involve a second shed or a completely new building. Some grant funding has already been obtained so watch this space as they say. During the year Councillor Elliston retired from the PC due to relocating his home and a new job. Its pleasing to see he is still taking an active role in the running of the Community Garden which has really taken off this year and thanks to a recent Health and Wellbeing Grant from SALC, the Garden now has a Potting Shed, more tools and more growing beds. All being well and if the rain stops, this summer should see much more produce grown some of which will be placed in the Community Fridge/Shed.

So, in conclusion it's been a hectic year yet again for all the Councillors and Clerks I just want to say a final word that in addition to the numerous meeting I have mentioned the PC team have been out there running competitions, putting up gates and fences, cutting grass erecting sheds, setting up and running functions, raising sponsors and support.

On your behalf I would like to thank all the Councillors for their contribution to the community plus the Clerks, our Lengthsman and finally the volunteers; without their support many of our projects would not be possible or as successful and our Community would not be building and developing as it is.

Cllr Stuart Haskins
Chairman West Monkton Parish Council.

Parish Council News

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@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or

Assistant Clerk – Community

(community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Annual Parish Meeting

More than 40 members of our community attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th March during which the achievements of our community were celebrated and the priorities and projects for the future were summarised. A copy of the presentation from the evening is available here:

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Slides.pdf>

Annual Report 2023/24

A shortened version of the 2023/24 Annual Report has been printed and included in this Village News edition but if you would like to read the full version, a copy can be found on the PC website at

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Annual-Report-2024-Final.pdf>

Parish Council Strategic Plan 2024-27

West Monkton 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 copy of the Plan is now available on the PC website by clicking here:

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/WMPC-Strategic-Plan-2024-27-Final.pdf>

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

Following the public consultation events held in February, comments in respect of the Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 planning application were developed by the Parish Council and submitted to Somerset Council. A copy of the comments is available here:

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MH2-Planning-Comments-March-2024.pdf>

Over the coming months, Somerset Council (the Local Planning Authority) will determine the application. Further information about the application is available here:

<https://www3.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/WebPages/Plan/PIAppDets.asp?casefullref=14/21/0047&QC=ucbC1>

Poppy of Honour National Memorial at Maidenbrook Country Park - Fundraising Underway

The Somerset Wood Joint Committee, made up of members of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council and West Monkton Parish Council, are fundraising to install a pavilion to permanently house the Poppy of Honour National Memorial. The Poppy of Honour, created in 2018, is a National Memorial that honours British and Commonwealth Servicemen and Servicewomen listed as killed or missing in World War 1. It incorporates 1,117,635 individual remembrance handwritten poppies inside its encasement – one for each 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.



Planning Permission has been obtained to install the Memorial at the Somerset Wood within Maidenbrook Country Park for the people to view free of charge but to be able to install it £100,000 is needed.

It is a great honour and privilege that the Poppy of Honour will be located in Maidenbrook Country Park, if you are able to contribute please use the QR code to donate:

If you have any queries or would like any further information please contact Amy Shepherd clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk



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 the 15th May. Please come along, we have a few handy volunteers who are up for a challenge! Old electrical items that can be repaired and reused or perhaps alterations to some clothing? We also offer support to people with any IT issues who maybe struggling with online forms or websites, please pop in on these days for some support.

The **Crochet and Knit Group** meet at the Community Café on a Wednesday from 2pm until 4pm, please get in touch with Kate on 07505 984006 or email community@westmonkton.net if you are interested in getting involved.

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

We have had the pleasure of meeting a fair number of new families at our **Stay and Play** sessions so welcome those to our groups. The Stay and Play Group runs at the BACH every week from 12.30pm until 2pm on a Wednesday and on a Thursday from 10.30am to 12noon. There is no charge for the group, however some families have kindly offered donations of biscuits or tea/coffee which of course help and are gratefully received. We also accept donations via our QR code for the groups and events we run.

Litter Picking Volunteers

We have a wonderful team of litter picking volunteers who go out and about in their own time trying to keep on top of the litter around the parish. We offer free 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@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk if you would like to help.

Community Garden

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

We have also secured some funding from the SALC Health and Wellbeing Grant for the garden which will allow us to purchase some new tools for both adults and children, making it easier for families to get involved. We have also purchased 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@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk 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 24th April at 7:30pm

Wednesday 22nd May at 7:30pm

Wednesday 26th June at 7:30pm

Wednesday 24th July at 7.30pm

Community Events 2024
Maidenbrook Country Park

6th June Dday Event and Beacon Lighting 4pm

29th June Tug of War Event & Fun Day 1pm

1st Sept St Giles Dog Show 11am

Community Fundraising QR Code

PLEASE BOOK USING QR CODES

community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Poppy of Honour Fundraising QR Code

We are looking for a Mypole Dance Leader or a group of Maypole Dancers who may like to get involved in the 29th June event – please get in touch with us if you can support us at this event.

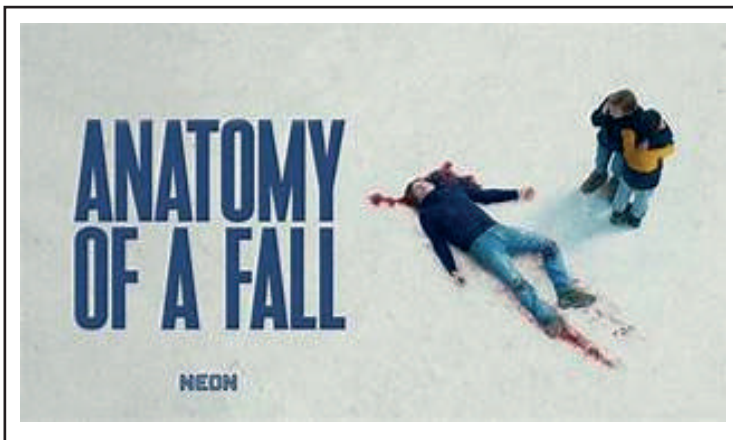


Taunton Film Society
@ The SPACE, Monkton
Heathfield



Friday 17th May
'Anatomy of a Fall'
France 2022 Drama 2 hours 30 minutes

Friday 14th June
'Scrapper'
UK 2023 Drama/Comedy 1 hour 24 minutes



There's a bracing and chilly high-mindedness about Justine Triet's psychothriller, about a suspicious death whose only reliable witness happens to be blind. Sandra Hüller plays Sandra, a successful and fashionable author (that staple figure of French cinema), German by birth, but now living in a handsome chalet in the French Alps with her French husband Samuel, a former academic and would-be author himself, who has now hit a career slump and creative block and is currently hoping to salvage the family finances by fixing up the chalet as an Airbnb. It is while he is grumpily sawing and hammering upstairs, with the music on too loud, that Sandra attempts to give an interview, which simply has to be abandoned because of the noise. Sandra wearily attempts to take a nap, while their son Daniel takes their dog Snoop for a walk. When he returns, his dad's corpse is lying on the snow outside the chalet with a brutal wound on his head. Did he fall from the top window? Did his head hit something on the way down? Or did someone hit him? Poor Daniel is an unreliable witness because he is blind. The film does not signpost the traditional twists and turns and dramatic reversals, but keeps a cool distance, letting us wonder if Sandra is guilty or not, and we are kept guessing until the end. It's a lowkey, almost downbeat drama, but with something invigoratingly cerebral.

Everything that 12-year-old Georgie (impressive newcomer Lola Campbell) knows about family, she learned from her single mother. While her mother was alive, she was both mum and dad to her daughter. Now that she has died, Georgie has taken on the responsibility of parenting herself. Resourcefully pulling the wool over the eyes of social services with an invented uncle as a guardian, Georgie continues to live alone in the home she shared with her mum. She has a best friend, Ali; an income (earned through bike theft); and an idiosyncratic, fiercely guarded process of grieving. There's one thing she doesn't need in her life: the arrival of her overgrown kid of a father, Jason. Strangers, Georgie and Jason warily eye each other, unwitting mirror images with their clenched lips, hunched shoulders and punchy truculence. The director Charlotte Regan's unfiltered approach brings a fizzing unpredictability and vitality to this abrasively empathic exploration of a father-daughter bond.

For more information:
www.tauntonfilmsociety.com





Monkton Evening Women's Institute

Hi everyone

After such a wet winter, hopefully, we can now enjoy some spring sunshine and enjoy some warmer weather. In February we welcomed Beth Price who works for the Somerset Waste Partnership to answer the question ... why do we recycle?

More and more people recycle everyday, which is important to reduce the need for landfill and more costly forms of disposal. Recycling also reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials all of which create substantial air and water pollution. 142.524 tonnes of recycling was collected and 96.6% of recycling was reprocessed in the UK, 54.4% of which stayed in the county. Only mixed paper and cardboard are exported outside the UK. Excellent kerbside sorting into boxes and bags helps them to get more recycling reprocessed closer to home and also reduces contamination by other materials which makes it easier to sell to UK based companies. Just to give you some idea:

- **Food Waste** is transformed into electricity and also used for compost to help grow more food.
- **Paper/cardboard** is sent to paper mills to be recycled;
- **Glass** is reprocessed to make other glass jars and bottles;
- **Cans and foil** are recycled to make other aluminium cans;
- **Textiles** are sent for reuse in UK and developing world or shredded into cotton felt/wadding/mops and other cloths;
- **Shoes** are sent to developing nations to be refurbished and used;
- **Plastic bottles/pots/tubs/trays** are sent to re-processors in the UK to be recycled into plastic items as new plastic packaging, films, pipes, compost bins and fleece jackets;
- **Fridges/freezers** are broken down into separate components for reuse;
- **Bric-a-brac** sent to local outlets for recycling;

- **Cooking Oil** is turned into biofuel to generate electricity and heat;
- **Paint** is recycled for new paint products;
- **Plasterboard** is broken down and made into new plasterboard;
- **Wood** is made into a range of products including animal bedding and equestrian surfaces.

We can all play our part, so I think the motto is: **'KEEP RECYCLING AS MUCH AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN'**.

Walking Group: A group of seven enjoyed a lovely walk along the river, stopping at The New Mill for a coffee and walking back along the canal. **(See photo on front cover.)**

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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Quiz on the 30th November (further details to follow)

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:

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)



Primary School News 3 Community Gardening!

Year 1 and Year 2 have been out to the community garden to plant their radish seedlings. While there they also went and looked at the other plants growing. We hope the children will enjoy showing you where their plants are and watching them grow.



Sedgemoor Inner Wheel - A Year of Celebrations

2024 is a significant year for both the women of Sedgemoor Inner Wheel who are celebrating the Club's 35th anniversary and the International Membership, as a whole, as we celebrate the Organisation's Centenary.

How it all Began

Frustrated at not being able to join her husband at his Manchester Rotary Club, but wholly supportive of Rotary's objectives and keen to make a difference, Margaret Golding invited a few other Rotary wives to join her in an equivalent club. It took a few months to establish a more formal structure however the very first Inner Wheel Club was Chartered on 10 January 1924. On this day each year, Inner Wheel Clubs throughout the World celebrate Inner Wheel Day.

Present Day Inner Wheel

In the spirit of those early days the objectives of our modern Inner Wheel remain:

- to promote true friendship
- to encourage the ideals of personal service
- to foster International understanding

And importantly Inner Wheel is no longer the preserve of Rotary wives. All like-minded women are welcome.

Recent Club activities have included, or are about to include, visits to the theatre in addition to a behind-the-scenes experience; trips to Musgrove Willows, local luxury sheepskin/leather manufacturer Owen Barry and Hinkley Point.

Members Handy with a Needle or two stitch breast pillows for mastectomy patients receiving care in local hospitals (the Club is approaching the 2000 breast pillow milestone), knit tiny items for premature babies and make patchwork Christmas stockings for each baby spending Christmas in SNICU, Somerset's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Inner Wheel Breast Pillows

Charity Fund Raisers this year have brought in welcome monies for our chosen charities. A very well attended Quiz Night with ploughman's supper and a



Inner Wheel Skittles Evening

fun-filled skittles evening are the most recent examples.

Charities the Club Support are many and varied. From The King's Award winning refugee charity, RAFT, in Taunton to Bridgwater's Salvation Army provision; from Bleed Control Kits and RNLI to



Visit to Cannington Walled Gardens

BEAT, the eating disorder charity. Members give practical help packing Water Survival Boxes and take part in Disaster Response activities. There's never a dull moment with members able to play to their strengths.

Sedgemoor Club Meetings take place at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month upstairs in The Walnut Tree Hotel in North Petherton. It's here that we enjoy a meal together and plan future activities.

For more information about the Club, contact us on innerwheel@uwclub.net mentioning Sedgemoor in the subject area.



A few short notes about what I've been up to recently - and what's coming up for me soon.

In January, accompanied by my two granddaughters and one of their boyfriends, we joined the Action Challenge London Winter Walk. In our case this was a 21k loop around the Thames, going east from The Oval cricket ground. It was a wonderful day, with perfect weather, excellent company - and I saw parts London I'd never seen before. The youngsters were energised by the whole experience, and have said they'd like to do more events with me. One of them posted on SM, "Half a marathon round London with my granddad - memories made!"



I've been spending the last couple of months training for my next ultra, a 50k loop around Windsor on the 6th April, but the most exciting news is that the film I'm in 'I could never go vegan', where I was filmed on the South West

Coast Ultra, is about to receive its premiere. I just posted this on Facebook:
Getting extremely excited with the movie coming up shortly - on the 10th April!



I've got my son, my 2 granddaughters and a boyfriend, plus my oldest grandson, all coming to the premiere of a film that I'm in, at the Curzon Cinema, Soho!

*Red carpet! After event party! The lot!
How often does this sort of thing happen?
Don't ever think you're too old to have adventures!*

Later on in the month, on the 22nd April, the film is on at the Little Picture House in Bath. After both screenings, there is to be a Q&A

with the producer and cast.

Then it's to go on general release - and I believe the Odeon has picked it up, so it may well be on at the Odeon, Taunton. My next ultra in is late July, another 50k loop, this time based in Guildford - then, in early September,

I'm again going to attempt to do the 100k Thames Path Challenge continuously. But this time, I intend to be very careful in the dark. Looking to get a really efficient head torch. After this I'll concentrate on keeping to just 50k events.

I'm on track with my one million press up challenge, having completed over 700,000 up to the end of February.

As most of you are aware, I'm doing all this activity to fundraise for Viva!, an animal rights group that does amazing work on behalf of animals. I still need to raise several hundred pounds this year, so anything that you feel you are able to contribute would be gratefully received! You'll find details on my blog: www.nobreadisanisland.blogspot.com Where you'll also find a very tasty and cheap chocolate cake recipe on the blog, plus many other recipes. Also my dissertation on Early Development, if you have any young children in your life.

Paul Youd



FREE ITEMS/ITEMS FOR SALE/WANTED

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

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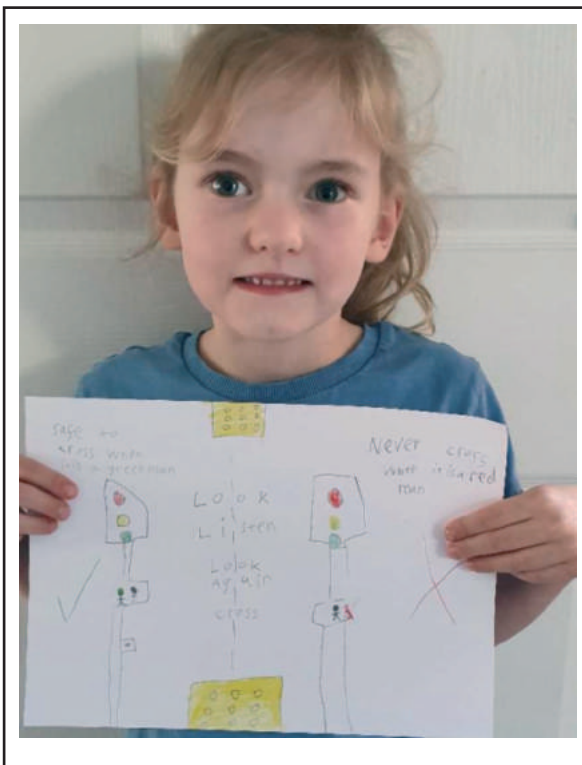
To join the mailing list email: quantocks@live.co.uk

Primary School News 4

Move More in March Family Learners and Netball club teamed up for a joint session on Wednesday after school. Miss Randell and the team setup three stations for families to explore netball skills. Adults said how amazing the girls were especially with the preschool children who attended!



Year 1 have been learning all about keeping safe in PSHE this half term as part of the Healthy Me puzzle piece in Jigsaw! Their homework last week was to make a poster or video to teach others about how to cross the road safely. We had lots of awesome posters and videos!



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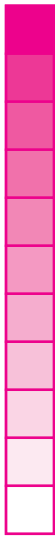
Tuesday 9:30am
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 3:30pm to 5:30pm Primary Maths and English
 7pm to 9pm Table Tennis

Tuesdays

10:15am to 1pm Age UK Group
 5:15pm to 6:45pm Yoga

Wednesdays

9:15am to 11:45 Pilates/Chair 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:

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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 July/August 2024 Village News is 1st June 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

Pilates

Tuesday 9:30 - 10:30

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 09:15 - 11:30

Yoga (Main Hall)

Wednesday 09:30 - 10:45

Funfit - Fitness and Pilates

Wednesday 18:00 – 19:00

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)

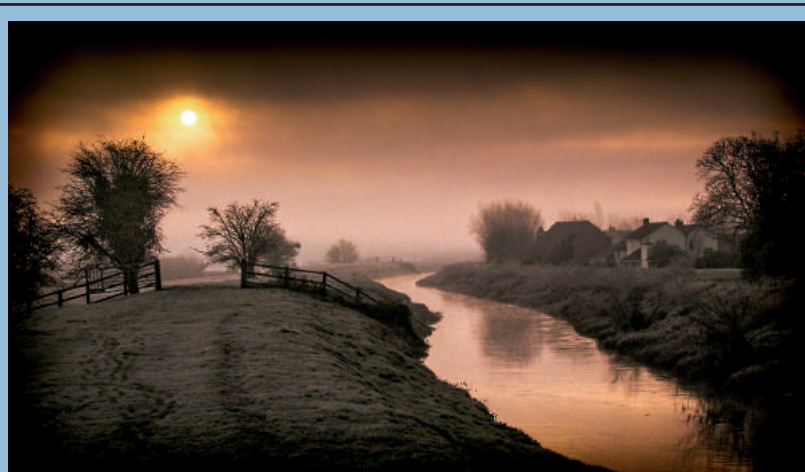
Quarterly on a Sunday 09:00 - 17:00

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Phoenix Camera Club

The 2023/24 Phoenix Camera Club season is drawing to a close this April. The season has flown by and over the last few months members have been treated to presentations from some wonderful photographers. The enthusiasm they have shown for their photography projects has been truly inspirational. Amongst the speakers were Penny and Spike Piddock who spoke about their many years photographing underwater life from exotic parts of the globe, Graham Treharne on his 'hot and cold' photographic trips to Kenya and Antarctica, Simon Caplan spoke with passion about documenting the skills displayed by artisan craftspeople at work in his portraits, Andrew Marker entertaining us with his Audio Visual compilations and members of the Dorchester Independent Photographers



'Along the River Parret' by Lynne Thomas



'Raining' by Martin B

contemporary take on image making, often seeing the 'abstract' in the mundane are just a few examples of our inspiring and educational talks. Throughout the season several dates were set aside for digital or print critique evenings where guest photographers were invited to critique our own work. I don't think I am the only member who finds the prospect of putting my images 'out there' daunting, however the critiques have been very successful, and members have found the comments and suggestions extremely helpful. The aim of the critiques is to encourage us to develop our photography.

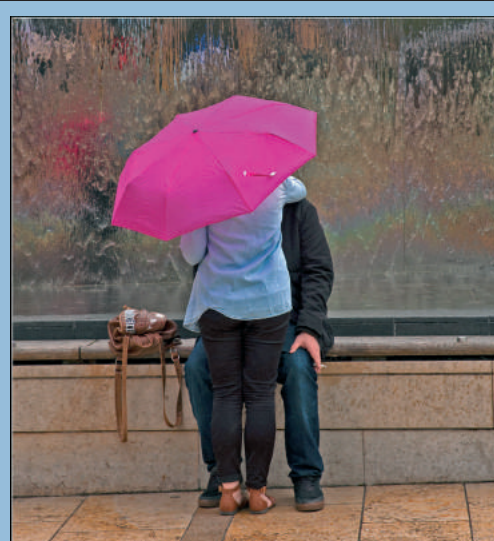
The Phoenix Group of Photographers are based in the Heathfield Hall within West Monkton Village Hall near Taunton. We are a non-competitive photography group whose focus is on image making and sharing our passion for photography. We all have different photographic styles, use a

variety of equipment and, collectively, possess varying degrees of experience. We have members who are keen to pass on their expertise to those of us who consider ourselves novices, especially when it comes to the technical side of photography.

Our Monday evenings are a good place to meet likeminded people. Although this season is coming to close, in the summer months members like to meet up at local places of interest to take photos and catch up. We call it our Summer Programme but it's very informal and anyone is welcome. Details of the places we are going to visit along with dates and times will shortly be uploaded to our website pgop.org along with more information about our group.

If you are interested in photography and wish to join our camera club, the annual membership is £25.00. The guest speaker evenings have a charge of £4 or £5 and refreshments are served at the half time interval.

To become a member of Phoenix Group of Photographers please email us at info@pgop.org. We are a friendly and welcoming club so please come along!



'Umbrella of Love' by John Gamblin

