

Village News

Issue No. 150
November - December 2024

Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool



Contents:

Useful Numbers/Singles/Attic Sale/Carol Singing - Page 2

Christmas Fayre/Christmas Tree Festival/Community Share Event/The Big Christmas Sing - Page 3

Somerset Birds - Page 4

Taunton Rugby Football Club - Page 5

South Quantock Benefice/100 Club/Men's Group - Pages 6 & 7

St Augustine's - Page 8

SAW event/Parish Council News - Page 9

Parish Council News - Pages 10 & 11

WM Primary School/C&WM Film Club/Hestercombe Events - Page 12

Evening WI/Taunton Deane Bowling Club/Somerset Sight - Page 13

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre - Page 14

Taunton Film Society- Page 15

Regular Events at the Village Halls/Items for Sale - Page 23

eRIB is Home! - Page 24

TRFC - our local rugby club.
See Page 5



Dartford Warbler
See Page 4

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

barrygage50@gmail.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.

- November 14th: tea at The Willow and Wetlands Centre, 2:30pm
- December 12th: Christmas Lunch at The Maypole, 12:30pm.
Two Course Meal £23 per person

Dianne Besley on 01823 412857 for more information or to book a place.

Everyone very welcome.

Charity Attic Sale

All proceeds to
'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'



Village Hall, Monkton Heathfield

Sunday 17th November
10am to 12 noon.

FREE admission.

Shop early for Christmas.... clothes, toys, books, etc.
Please join us and find a bargain.

Lin Keitch



Carol Singing in West Monkton

Carol Singing round the old village!
Singers are asked to meet at 5:30pm
on Christmas Eve
at 2 Monkton Heights - all welcome.

Raising money for ARC (The Homeless Charity)

Carol sheets provided.



TOYS • TOMBOLA
BOOKS • Cakes Raffle • CHRISTMAS GIFTS • JIGSAWS
REFRESHMENTS • BACON BAPS •

**CHRISTMAS
FAYRE
& CRAFTS**

SAT 30TH NOV 24
10AM-12PM
WEST MONKTON VILLAGE HALL

SANTA'S BACK!

MEET SANTA LOCAL CRAFTS
WWW.WESTMONKTONCHURCH.CO.UK

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

**Christmas
Tree Festival**

Walk through our forest
of illuminated
Christmas trees

Switch on 7pm 6th Dec
with mulled wine
& mince pies

West Monkton Church
7th Dec 10am-5pm
8th Dec 12-5pm
FREE ENTRY



West Monkton Parish Council

FREE Community Share Event



Saturday 16th November 1 - 4pm
Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Rd, TA2 8FT

- Bring along your spare seeds, cuttings, plants and share with other local gardeners and those gardening on a tight budget.
- Bring along good quality adult and children's books, games and puzzles to share with others.
- Bring along good quality toys that have lots of play left in them and need a new home.
- Bring along non-perishable food, cleaning products and toiletries to fill our Care Boxes that will be distributed to vulnerable local households over the winter months.

You don't need to have things to share in order to come along - everyone is welcome! Our Community Cafe will also be running with free refreshments.

**THE BIG
CHRISTMAS
SINGALONG**

SINGALONG TO
WHAM
SLADE
WIZZARD
BAND AID
SHAKIN STEVENS
POGUES
AND MANY MORE

WITH A VERY SPECIAL GUEST

JOIN US FOR OUR BIG
AUDIENCE SINGALONG TO YOUR
FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

DON'T FORGET YOUR
XMAS JUMPER!

SAT 14TH DEC - 7PM
WEST MONKTON CHURCH

Somerset Birds

It is good news and bad news this autumn. Let's have the bad news first. After an accelerating decline in recent years, it looks as though the Spotted Flycatcher is heading for extinction in this area, and it is feared, right across swathes of southern England where it was once a common summer visitor. This year I have been unable to find any at sites in West Monkton where they regularly bred. It is unobtrusive when nesting and it is possible, perhaps even likely, that the odd pair is present in private gardens,



Spotted Flycatcher

where they generally go unnoticed, but the larger picture is grim. The same is true in nearby Creech St Michael where, at least, I've located two pairs. Sadly, only one of these bred successfully. The area around the church once hosted three or four pairs.

So familiar was this engaging bird in and around churchyards and rectory gardens it was once known colloquially as the 'churchyard bird'. Such habitats, managed without pesticides, provided a wealth of insects upon which this species entirely depends. Indeed, only ten years ago two pairs bred regularly in West Monkton churchyard, three in nearby Glebe Court and one in the adjacent rectory with other pairs scattered around the village.

Regular national surveys have shown an eighty percent population reduction since 1969 with a continuing decline. This year only one out of ten pairs returned to the usual sites, a disastrous slump. The reasons for this decline are poorly understood but one of them is clearly not lack of habitat, nearly all of which is unchanged. It is probable that a complex number of factors apply.

Crucially Spotted Flycatchers depend on large flying insects to raise their broods and even the casual observer has noticed a huge decline this year and, indeed, 2023. This means many nests fail and the population cannot be replenished. The reason for the lack of insects is itself not fully understood but strong indications exist. Spotted Flycatchers winter in part well south in Africa, some as far as Cape Province, and may now encounter as yet unknown problems during migration.

Other reasons are postulated, but whatever the cause, it is a great shame to lose this charming bird locally. The good news starts with the knowledge that Spotted Flycatchers are doing better further north, and in Scotland, where visitors cannot fail to note the abundance off summer insects. It is still common too in much of Europe, Scandinavia and Asia, where it has a wide distribution.

Much more encouraging is the news that our only two resident warblers, the Dartford and the Cetti's, are

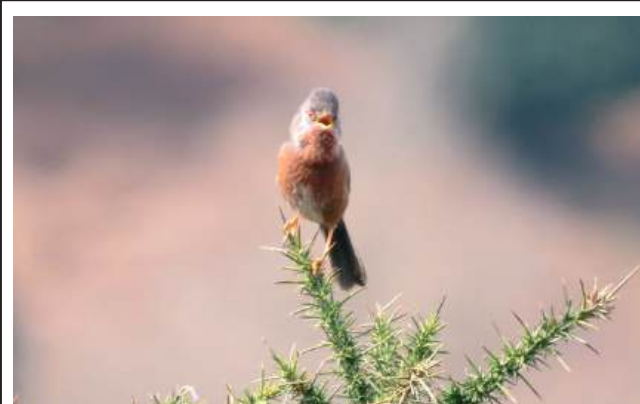
both flourishing. These small birds are both skulking and usually hard to see but have quite different habitats. The Cetti's arrived in Britain in 1960, and has established itself in the wetlands Somerset has in abundance.



Cetti's Warbler

Locally they can be heard, if not seen, at several sites around Taunton, including the B & T Canal and Silk Mills Local Nature Reserve. The loud but brief burst of song from the males is distinctive and unmistakable. The Dartford Warbler, so named from its place of discovery, is a small but distinctive, heathland bird, slate grey above and deep wine-red below, with a long tail. The severe winter of 1962/3 reduced the British population to just ten pairs in the New Forest. Luckily this tiny bird has great powers of recovery and pairs can raise around 15 young in a season. Importantly they have proved capable of colonising new sites too, and reached Somerset, where they were previously unknown, late last century. Since then, despite the odd hiccup, numbers have increased steadily. They depend entirely on a mix of low gorse and heather, and such habitat is reasonably safe from destruction in Somerset.

Apart from habitat destruction, the major threat to their survival is heavy snowfall which prevents them foraging for the small invertebrates hidden in the heather upon which they feed. Such events seem to be coming rarer, so the Dartford may continue to thrive.



Dartford Warbler

This year there may be as many as 80 pairs on the Quantocks alone. Look for a tiny grey bird, around the size of (but definitely not the shape of) a Blue Tit skimming low over the heather, its tail trailing behind it. It will doubtless be a Dartford. Nice to finish with some good news!

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.



Taunton Rugby Football Club - Your Local Rugby Club

Since the last edition of the Village News the Taunton Rugby Club players got down to pre season training in readiness for the new season which began in early September. In the run up to the start of the season Taunton made a big positive move to show they mean business this season by signing Ollie Devoto from Premiership side Exeter Chiefs. Devoto played over 200 games in the rugby Premiership for Bath and Exeter and made 2 appearances for England. He

and I would urge anybody thinking about maybe coming to watch to give it a try. There is a great enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere at matches. There are home matches on November 16 and December 7. Pre match lunches can be booked by contacting the club and they are ideal for local businesses for entertaining clients, networking or simply rewarding staff. The lunches are top class and everyone seems to enjoy the atmosphere there. Last season the second XV, Taunton Warriors secured promotion by romping away with their league, winning 17 matches and losing only 1. They are now facing tougher opponents this season but have made a strong start winning two of the three opening matches and only narrowly losing the third. They are also well worth watching and will have home fixtures on 14th and 21st December.



Ollie Devoto

The club is an ideal venue for Christmas parties. These are always very popular in the run up to Christmas and Taunton Rugby Club, with years of experience in organising these events, is an ideal venue. Further information can be obtained by contacting the club. Finally a sad story about Charlie Williams who must be one of rugby's unluckiest players. Charlie suffered a severe ankle injury at a time when, according to the head coach, he was always the first name on the team sheet. Charlie, standing at over 6 feet tall was a tremendous asset to the club generally but especially as a line out jumper.

is only just 31 years old and has many years of rugby left in him, hopefully. He will also be taking on a coaching and an ambassadorial role and will assist the club's Commercial Coordinator in trying to drum up sponsorship.

The club also welcomed back into the squad Nick Mason, a fine player with over 180 appearances for the club who had missed all of the previous season. With the Devoto signing and Mason's return expectations at the club were high and many people I spoke to expected Taunton to win the league and gain promotion with ease. The fact that Taunton had won their last 4 matches in their relegation battle last season only added to the optimism. To me this seemed disrespectful to the other teams in the league and there was much disappointment with the opening day defeat away to Loughborough Students followed 2 weeks later by a heavy defeat at Camborne who have received heavy financial backing to enable them to assemble a powerful team. Taunton have however had two exciting league wins at home and if they can maintain their home form and start picking up wins away from home they can mount a promotion challenge.

The standard of rugby played by both Taunton and their opponents is very high, the matches are exciting

Charlie had such a long wait for surgery on the ankle and it was over 2 years before he was able to resume training. He returned to playing at the start of the current season and in his first game back he fell awkwardly and broke his left leg requiring another operation and

a 6 day stay in hospital. Despite this he managed to attend the latest home match on crutches to add his support for the team on the field. Everyone at the club wishes him an early recovery.

Robert Harris



Charlie Williams

Letter from Rev. Jim

South Quantock Benefice
office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

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



Letter from Rev Jim

A few weeks ago, I was on a train coming back from a visit to my daughter in Manchester enjoying the space of 4 empty seats, when 3 women came and joined me. They'd been on a hen-do somewhere and had clearly over-indulged and under-dressed – and, in my old-fashioned opinion, were probably old enough to have known better.

I was not in uniform and, wanting to avoid involvement, did the only thing possible under the circumstances and stuck my nose into my book with a 'Do not disturb' scowl across my face. These actions proved inadequate for my new rowdy coach-companions and I was soon to be included in their bawdy repartee. Knowing what was coming I was frantically trying to divert the question "So, what do you do?" when one of them said, "So, what do you do?"

I usually try to avoid telling people I'm a vicar so I delayed the response by asking what they thought I did. Their wide-ranging suggestions gave me some ideas for a second career, but when I finally relented and revealed my 'higher calling' the tipsy response was a colourful version of "No way!"

Luckily, I had recently acquired a new phone which had internet access (who knew!) and was able to show them my picture on the benefice website eliciting giggled apologies and offers to deliver themselves of a lengthy and detailed Confession.

I declined.

But it struck me how we often treat people according to what their job is. I went from being a passenger to a priest and that changed everything. Which is a shame. Someone once said "We are human beings, not human doings". Our value is not in our achievements but in who we are. Which, for the church, is a child of God: loved and cherished long before we have achieved anything, long before we develop our character or lifestyle, long before we form opinions and attitudes – just simply for being ourselves as we are in all our infinite and glorious diversity.

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

All Souls Service:

West Monkton Church

3rd November at 6:00pm

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



Remembrance Sunday: November 10th Services

10:00am Act of Remembrance in Broomfield
10:50am Remembrance Service in Cheddon
10:50am Remembrance Service in Kingston
10:50am Remembrance Service in West Monkton

Men's Group Meetings:

Monday 25th November

10:00am Bowls – Taunton Bowls Club, Vivary Park, Taunton

Tuesday 10th December

7.00pm Pool: All Stars Sports Bar, 22 East Street, Taunton

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

St Augustine's Church

100 Club Prizewinners

September

The draw was held on Monday 2nd September

First Prize: £102.00 won by Katharin Dalton

Second Prize: £51.00 won by Mary Thomas

The sum of £357.00 will go towards the church.

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

October

The draw was held on Saturday 5th October.

First Prize: £103.00 was won by Deborah Chedzoy

Second Prize: £51.50 was won by John Rainford

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

November

3rd All Saints

8:30am	Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
4:00pm	All Souls Service	Broomfield
6:00pm	All Souls Service	West Monkton

10th Remembrance Service

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

17th 2nd Sunday before Advent

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F P
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Prayer	West Monkton
11:00am	Holy Communion	Broomfield

24th Christ the King

8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
3:30pm	Christingle Service	Kingston St M
6:00pm	Choral Evensong	Kingston St M

December

1st Advent Sunday

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
4:00pm	Evening Prayer	Broomfield
6:00pm	Coldest Night Service	West Monkton

8th 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

15th 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Cheddon F P
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
11:00am	Holy Communion	Broomfield
4:00pm	Carol Service	Cheddon F P
6:00pm	Carol Service	Kingston St M

22nd 4th Sunday of Advent

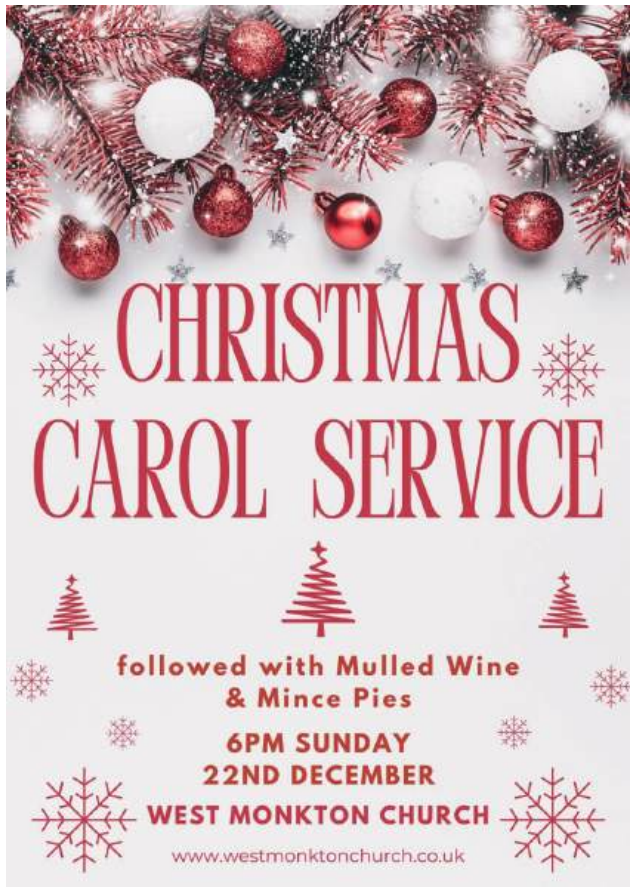
8:30am	BCP Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Holy Communion	West Monkton
6:00pm	Carol Service	West Monkton

24th Christmas Eve

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

25th Christmas Day

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



TAUNTON DEANERY EVENING SERVICE:

Reflection in Word and Song
4pm - Sunday 17th November
at St John's Church, Park Road, Taunton

**From West Monkton Registers:
Funeral & burial in the churchyard:**

06.09.24 Diane Hayes

Baptism:

01.09.24 Otilie Cunngham



St Augustine's at West Monkton

Following on from our Quiz for Summer in the last edition of the Village News – thank you so much to those who responded positively.

If you read our quiz and thought you might like to help keep this cherished asset of our community open and functioning – here are some options:

- Do you shop online, or pay your major bills like insurance, holidays etc online?

Then you could register with 'easyfundraising'.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-augustines-church-west-monkton/>

This organisation has over 8000 stores and companies on its books and if you purchase online, those same companies will give a donation to our cause 'St Augustine's Church West Monkton'.

Most importantly, **IT DOESN'T COST YOU ANYTHING.**

Go to [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)

Search for our cause St Augustine's West Monkton

Register following on-screen instructions.

Each time you shop, click on easyfundraising, and state which store you want to shop at, and also accept all cookies (sorry about

that!). Make your purchases in the usual way, and a percentage donation will be added to St Augustine's funds. Currently, thirteen people have signed up, and those 13 have raised over £60 since the beginning of the summer.

If you already contribute to the Church by Standing order – thank you so much for your support! You could actually make your donation work more efficiently by changing to the Parish Giving Scheme. It's the same as setting up a Direct debit payment, or you could make a one-off donation. By changing over to the Parish Giving Scheme, your commitment will give us a regular, tax-efficient source of income, and you can rest assured that the system is secure and confidential. You can join the Parish Giving Scheme by phone, by post or online. Visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and follow the on-screen instructions.

As always, the church is open everyday and if you'd like to drop by and discuss the options, please contact the churchwardens Pearl pearljeanespcc@gmail.com or Sally sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk

It's so easy to donate

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

- Manage your donations
- You are in control
- Scan the QR code or visit www.parishgiving.org.uk
- Follow the simple steps

Donate for FREE

easyfundraising

- Visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search St Augustine's Church West Monkton
- Register following the instructions
- Then search for your required online store, thousands available
- You will automatically be directed to your chosen retailer
- Donations are automatically added as a percentage of your purchase by the retailer at no cost to you, it's that simple!
- Does not cost you a thing!

Doing your Christmas Shopping online?

Shop and donate to West Monkton church for FREE at the same time!

- Visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search St Augustine's West Monkton
- Register, then click on your online store. 1000's available. It's that easy.

The online store makes the donation direct to us at no cost to you.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



30TH NOV 24 - 10AM
WEST MONKTON VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS FAYRE DONATIONS

We are collecting the following for our Christmas Fayre - Children's toys, games, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, bath & beauty, books, DVDs, records, CDs, bottles of wine, spirits, non-alcoholic drinks etc. Have that pre-Christmas clear out and donate your unloved unwanted, out-grown, why did I buy that, dust collecting items to us.

Drop them off at the church and we will do the rest. Thank you

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Somerset Arts Weeks

Inspired by the wonderful and joyful atmosphere in the church during the Wedding Dress Exhibition earlier this year, a decision was taken to offer St Augustine's at West Monkton as a venue for Somerset Arts Weeks.

SAW has been running for about 30 years and every alternate year various venues all over Somerset showcase the work of Somerset Artists. The theme for this year's exhibition was 'Landscape - Flux and Flow' offering artists the chance to reflect on climate change and its effects on the land, sea, environment and landscape.

Following some extensive preparation, our exhibition was professionally curated and showcased 123 paintings in a variety of media, and some pottery, reflecting the SAW theme for this year. We opened the doors to our free exhibition not knowing quite what to expect but happily our first weekend was very busy with over 100 visitors across the two days, and this continued across the fortnight of SAW.

Most of the paintings were for sale, and we were delighted when the 'red dots' (marking a piece that had sold) started to appear. There was art for all at all prices – as well as the exhibited works being for sale, artists provided merchandise for sale in the form of cards, books, unframed works including prints; the merchandise was very popular. We also offered visitors a chance to vote for the 'Best in Show' competition: a very hard task in view of the wide variety of subjects and styles. A small book prize was awarded to the winning artist.

Thanks are due to the army of volunteers who helped to make the event come together as successfully as it did. It would be invidious to name names – but you know who you are! Big shout outs to those establishments who lent us display boards and other essentials: Tacchi-Morris, West Monkton Parish Council, Hestercombe, Brewhouse, St James's Church, Taunton.

And of course, thanks to our excellent team of bakers who supplied visitors with coffee, tea and cakes throughout. I don't think I'll ever say 'take a pew' again without thinking of people just relaxing with refreshments, absorbing the beauty and challenge of the art around them, and the peaceful ambience in the church.

All refreshments proceeds and donations, plus 20% on all sales were added to the 'Regeneration Fund': our project to replace the current heating system and create a fully accessible community hub with kitchen.

Further information about how to contribute to the Regeneration Project can be found on the FB page www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk The church is open every day, please drop by and have a look.



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 and publicised on Monkton Matters and our Facebook page.

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)

Monkton Community Plan Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Community Review Survey. Your responses are now being analysed and a report of the findings will be available soon. The report will help the Parish Council to identify and plan actions to respond to your views and aspirations. A copy of the report will be shared on the PC website and Monkton Matters when it is available.

Fostering

With over 600 children in care and fewer than 200 in-house Foster homes more people are needed to come forward to train as foster carers. More information can be found at www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or by calling 0800 587 9900.

Pension credit / winter fuel payments

The announcement by the new Labour Government to stop paying Winter Fuel Payments to those pensioners not receiving Pension Credits will impact over 110,000 residents in Somerset. This together with the rise in the fuel cap will have a significant impact upon a large proportion of them. An estimated 50-75 pensioners in West Monkton are likely to be impacted.

Those impacted are encouraged to apply for Pension Credit.

Information about pension credit is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

If you, or someone you know would like help navigating this information or completing forms please contact

community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk to arrange impartial assistance. Should we receive lots of enquiries, we will look to arrange some form of workshop.

Number 12 bus – revised timetable from 1st November

As many residents will know, the number 12 bus which serves our Parish has been funded by original monies from the Monkton Heathfield 1 developers, with the service being operated by Somerset Council. With funds reducing over the delivery of the service, Somerset Council has looked to prolong the continuation of the route by making reductions to the operating timetable.

At recent Parish Council meetings we have heard from several residents who are frequent users of the service, which currently operates at times and on a route not entirely covered by Buses of Somerset 21/21A, and we have been liaising with Somerset Council in order to protect some of the proposed reductions, whilst also being mindful of the reducing money from which this service is funded.

Please find below a copy of the new timetable which will be in operation from 1st November:

Taunton - Monkton Heathfield						12	
Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays)							
Taunton, Castle Way		0847	0947	Break	1147	1247	
Taunton, Rail Station		0854	0954		1154	1254	
Trenchard Way, Keepers Lane		0855	0955		1155	1255	
Crown Medical Centre		0902	1002		1202	1302	
Monkton Heathfield, Thornash Close	0806	0906	1006		1206	1306	
Monkton Heathfield, Hardys Road	0814	0914	1014		1214	1314	
Monkton Heathfield, Milton Hill	0820	0920	1020		1220	1320	
Crown Medical Centre	0827	0927	1027		1227	1327	
Trenchard Way, Keepers Lane	0834	0934	1034		1234	1334	
Taunton, Rail Station	0835	0935	1035		1235	1335	
Taunton, Castle Way	0842	0942	1042		1242	1342	
Saturdays (except Public Holidays)							
Taunton, Castle Way			0947	1047	Break	1247	1347
Taunton, Rail Station			0954	1054		1254	1354
Trenchard Way, Keepers Lane		0830	0955	1055		1255	1355
Crown Medical Centre		0845	1002	1102		1302	1402
Monkton Heathfield, Thornash Close		0906	1006	1106		1306	1406
Monkton Heathfield, Hardys Road		0914	1014	1114		1314	1414
Monkton Heathfield, Milton Hill		0920	1020	1120		1320	1420
Crown Medical Centre		0927	1027	1127		1327	1427
Trenchard Way, Keepers Lane		0934	1034	1134		1334	1434
Taunton, Rail Station		0935	1035	1135		1335	1435
Taunton, Castle Way		0942	1042	1142		1342	1442

Overgrown Boundary Hedges

From time to time the Parish Council is approached by residents with concerns about hedges which have grown over public pathways and into roadways. Pathways must be kept clear to their full designed width for the benefit of all users. Hedges growing over footpaths and cycle paths can make it difficult to pass by, particularly for disability scooters and those with pushchairs and children, those who are partially sighted or visually impaired and can be a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists by causing injuries to flesh or eyes, especially from fast growing brambles. People may also be forced to step into the road to get by with the risk of being hit by traffic.

Hedges overgrowing alongside roadways can be a hazard by blocking sight lines for motorists and pedestrians and can also present problems to cyclists forcing them away from the kerb and further into the road.

Occupiers of properties with hedges bordering public footpaths, cycle paths and roads are reminded that they are, generally, responsible for cutting their hedges to ensure they don't inconvenience or endanger passers-by. There are many examples around the Parish where hedges are clear of the pathway at ground level but have grown upwards and outward so that at head height the effective width is considerably reduced. Hedges should be kept clear of any path vertically from the inner edge to a height of at least 2.3 metres. The same applies to trees, shrubs etc which may grow over paths and also growth from behind fences that spill over

the top. Examples of this include brambles and other thorny growth which could catch a passer-by in the face or elsewhere.

It is appreciated that some people are unable to look after their hedges themselves. If a resident is struggling to keep up, for example due to age or disability, then the Parish Council has a close relationship with the local Village Agents team where we can signal for support if the resident gets in touch with us (see contact information below). Alternatively, if you have a neighbour in this situation and you are able to volunteer your help that would be a caring and lovely thing to do.

If your home has a boundary alongside a public pathway or roadway may we please ask that you check to be sure nothing on your property has overgrown as described above. If anything is overgrown it will be greatly appreciated if you will arrange for the offending growth to be cut back with the recommended minimum 2.3 metre vertical clearance in mind. Thank you.

Where an overgrown and obstructive boundary hedge is not believed to be the responsibility of an individual household, the Parish Council will seek to arrange for Somerset Council, the Highways Department or landowner, as appropriate, to deal with the matter as quickly as possible. If you see overgrown and obstructive hedges around the parish, that you believe are not the responsibility of individual households, please do report these by email to -

clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk or ring 07380 912775.

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

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 £140,000 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

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@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Community Matters

The **Community Café** is open every Wednesday from 2pm until 3.30pm, we have the **Knit and Crochet Group** join us each week, they are currently preparing for the Christmas Tree Festival. We enjoy seeing the children and families that pop in after school for a hot chocolate each week. On the 4th Wednesday of each month we run the **Repair Café**. 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.

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

Our **Stay and Play Group** runs at the BACH twice weekly 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.

New Youth Café – ‘Snack and Chat’

Following our successful project over the summer holidays, we have set up a Youth Café after school each Wednesday from 3.30pm until 5.30pm at the BACH. Here, secondary age young people can come along for some food and hot drinks and to catch up with friends in a safe and supportive environment.

Companion Support

Our Companion Volunteer has been visiting those in our local community who are isolated to offer them some company through a cuppa and a chat. If you know of anyone in the parish who would benefit from a drop in from time to time, please let us know.

‘Keep our Parish Tidy’ 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.

Over the summer, a number of residents and volunteers have got involved in cleaning up the graffiti that was an issue in the parish. We have purchased some equipment for this group and also put in place a risk assessment for their safety going forward. If you are interested in getting involved with our graffiti removal group then please get in touch. With the unitary authority now looking to delegate powers to the parish council, they have set up some volunteer training for those who might be interested in helping keep the parish tidy. If you are interested in helping by clearing weeds off the kerbs or tidying up hedges and other smaller tasks around the parish, please get in touch.

Community Fridge

We now have our new shed in situ and there is more space inside the original shed for food donations which we continue to collect from the local Coop Stores, Aldi, Lidl, M&S plus a few others. We also happy to accept donations of books and uniform but please do not leave any other items. 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.

Community Garden

Thanks to all the volunteers over the summer for their hard work at the garden. It was really blooming, and the Community Fridge has had a steady supply of vegetables. The team could really do with some additional regular volunteers going forward so if you are interested 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 prize pot.

Community Quiz Dates:

Wednesday 20th November at 7:30pm

Wednesday 18th December at 7:30pm

Community Share Event – 16th November from 1pm to 4pm

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. Please contact Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk for Community at community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call on 07505984006 for more information.



West Monkton C E School



Hi, I am Vic Bimson and my role at West Monkton C E School is Pastoral Lead. This means I look after the emotional well-being of the staff and pupils at our school. I work closely with the Mental Health Support Team who are part of Young Somerset. They offer online and face to face workshops for parents and children to help them

cope with the tricky things that happen throughout life. I spend a lot of my time talking through children's worries and helping them to build a toolbox of strategies to help.

I run a well-being after-school club where we have fun whilst looking after our emotional health.

I am often around in the local community and live in a neighbouring village, so do say 'Hi' if you see me.

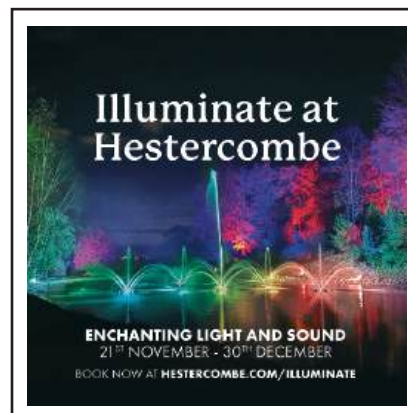


Hestercombe News

Hestercombe's Illuminate 2024 -

21st November - 30th December

Hestercombe's ILLUMINATE is back for 2024! Let us transport you on a magical journey of colour, light and sound through our gardens, where a dazzling NEW display of lit trees, vibrant paths, and dynamic fountains guide you to a breath-taking finale at Hestercombe House. Running from 29 nights, from



21st November to 30th December, this is a festive experience the whole family will love. To book tickets, please visit our website.

Hestercombe Christmas Market - 9am - 5pm,
 Friday 15th, Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November
 Visit our annual Christmas Market to find a range of beautiful, locally sourced gifts, crafts and Christmas presents. We'll be selling festive food and drink including wonderfully crumbly mince pies, creamy hot chocolate, and homemade mulled wine. Visitors to the market will receive free admission to the gardens, house and contemporary art gallery – just show proof of your Christmas Market admission at the Visitor Reception desk. To book tickets, please visit our website.

Father Christmas at Hestercombe -

30th November - 24th December

A unique opportunity to meet Father Christmas in a magical setting. When you arrive, you'll be greeted by one of our friendly Hestercombe elves, who will keep you entertained in the grotto as you wait to meet Father Christmas. When the time comes you'll wander through the winter gardens to the man himself. In his sweet little garden folly, the log fire will be roaring, lights will be twinkling on the Christmas tree and sacks of presents will be waiting...

Festive Chocolatier Experience at Hestercombe -

1st November & 12th November

Join us on 1st November or 12th November from 8:30am-2:00pm for this festive workshop. Hosted by Paul Rutledge, our Patisserie with experience in three-rosette restaurants, you'll learn to make, enrobe, and decorate your own chocolate ganache to take home. The day also includes a delicious two-course lunch as well as tea and coffee on arrival. To view the menu and book tickets, please visit our website.

Lino print your Christmas Cards at Hestercombe -

6th November & 8th November

Join Gemma Lane from Green Fox Workshops for a 3-hour creative session, perfect for beginners. Gemma will guide you step-by-step, demonstrating each technique so you can create your very own beautiful Christmas card and wrapping paper!

Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club



Friday 15th November 2024:

WILDING (2023) PG (Documentary)

Wilding is based on Isabella Tree's 2018 memoir of how she and her husband, Charlie Burrell, completely overhauled the 1400-acre Knepp estate he had inherited in Sussex. The first thing they were told when they took over the land was that they would never make a go of farming it, as the soil had been impoverished by over-intensive cultivation, so the couple decided to experiment with returning it to the wild. They introduced wild ponies from Dartmoor, let deer wander, and allowed herds of pigs to roam freely (to the disapproval of their neighbours). All their cows and sheep live outdoors all year round with little husbandry.

Friday 20th December 2024: Swede Caroline (2024) 15 (Mockumentary / Comedy)

A hilarious mockumentary which follows Caroline, a competitive giant vegetable grower, as she readies herself for the big annual National Vegetable Championship. When her prized marrow, named Ricky Hutton, is stolen, Caroline and her fellow growers, conspiracy theorist Paul (Richard Lumsden) and affable Willy (Celyn Jones), are led into a seedy world of crime as they attempt to find the culprit.



Monkton Evening Women's Institute

Hi everyone

Can't believe that summer (if we can call it that) is over and we are into autumn.

Although our WI doesn't meet in the hall in July and August we have had a busy summer, enjoying our Summer Social at Mr Miles after a tour of The Heritage Trail, and a Cream Tea in Vivary Park, and, would you believe, in the sunshine.

West Monkton held a Dog Show in Maidenbrook Park and we ran a stall selling light refreshments and, although the weather was not brilliant, it was nice to see so many people coming along with their precious pets. Although the weather has not been on our side, we have managed to get a few walks in with our little group and still enjoy meeting up at Monkton Elm Garden Centre for the Book Club.

Some of us also meet up for lunch every few months, and this month was a trip to The Maypole enjoying a leisurely lunch together (see photo).

We kicked off again in September and after our normal business we had the pleasure of meeting Lottie Dale who gave us a superb talk on 'Falling with Style'!



Lottie's taste for aviation came from her Father who was a fighter pilot and from an early

age she wanted to be a pilot. Her mother had other ideas though and Lottie followed in her mothers' footsteps and became a nurse, but the urge was always there. She married and has 3 boys, but when she was in her late thirties her thoughts turned again to the 'skies'. On the 30th September 1982 she did her first parachute jump, and by the time she did the third one the trainer deemed her to be 'perfect' – doesn't get better than that. This was not enough for Lottie and she went on to become a member of a club which participated in freefalling, taking part in exhibitions and competitions. She showed us photos of some of their achievements getting records and medals where up to 60 people (men and women) are all linked together in the sky – an amazing sight. Sadly you cannot see this in the UK as most of her training and jumps take place abroad, because of better weather conditions. In later years the family moved to Cornwall, and this was the time Lottie decided to hang up her parachute, but to her delight one of her sons has got the 'bug' and has followed in her footsteps, and you could see how proud she is of him carrying on her love for the skies.

WI Continued:

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.

2024/2025 Programme:

November 28th:	Craft Evening
December:	Christmas Meal at The Quantock Restaurant
January	Nursery Rhyme origins
Shirley Hector	Monkton Evening WI



Taunton Deane Bowling Club

We are looking for new members of any age, any gender and any ability.

(Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

We offer 4 free sessions for people to come and try bowling with a qualified coach.

Bowls and shoes are available to borrow for a coaching session, subject to availability.

Call reception between 9am and 1pm on **01823 353644**, or email office@tdbowls.com, to leave contact details and a coach will contact you to make arrangements.

Taunton Deane Bowling Club, Blackbrook Way
Taunton, TA1 2RW

Check out our facilities @
www.tauntondeanebowls.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN YOUR LOCAL AREA
Can you help?



We are looking for volunteers across Somerset to work one-to-one with sight impaired people.

Our befriending service volunteers visit regularly to provide companionship and support to people with sight impairment.

We offer full training and support, and pay all reasonable out of pocket expenses, including mileage.

If you would like to know more about joining our friendly team, please contact us on 01823 333818 or email: admin@somersetsight.org.uk

Head Office Address:
Northfield House, 51 Stapleford Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1DG.

Tel: 01823 333 818 | www.somersetsight.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1154671 | Company number: 841346

Volunteers needed in your local area

Somerset Sight was founded in 1919 to support people with sight loss across the county.

We are looking for volunteers to be individually matched with a sight impaired person in their local area. If you have a couple of hours to spare weekly or fortnightly and would like to join our friendly team, please email us on:

admin@somersetsight.org.uk or call us on 01823 333818.

This is a rewarding and stimulating role for which you will be well supported by your local Volunteer Manager.

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



The Wizard of Oz

TAOS Musical Theatre

Tue 29 Oct - Fri 1 Nov, 7:30 | Sat 2 Nov, 2:30pm & 7:30pm |
Sun 3 Nov, 1pm & 5:30pm

Following the sell-out success of previous productions such as 'Elf the Musical' and 'Barnum', join award winning TAOS Musical Theatre for 'The Wizard of Oz'. Join Dorothy Gale and her three magical friends, the Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion, on an amazing adventure along the yellow brick road in their search to find the Wizard, and a way back home.

Adult £20 | Child (Under 16) £18

The Lady in the Van

@2K Theatre

Wed 6 & Thu 7 Nov, 7:30pm

Based on the true story of Miss Shepherd, an old 'mad' crone, who lived in a Bedford van parked on celebrated playwright Alan Bennett's street in Camden. @2k Theatre are an amateur theatre group based in Taunton, Somerset. Looking to bring quality theatre to the community. They strive to be innovative, imaginative and inspire people through their plays.

All Tickets £16

**Cara Dillon: Coming Home – Book Talk, Book Signing,
Some Music**

Taunton Literary Festival

Tue 12 Nov, 7pm

In the world of folk music, few shine as brightly as celebrated Irish singer Cara Dillon, renowned for her transcendent voice and emotional performances. This special event will see Cara discuss her debut book, Coming Home. This event features a book talk, book signing, question and answer session, and Cara will perform a number of songs with her husband.

All Tickets £12.50

Murder For Two

Chipping Norton Theatre

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Nov, 7:30pm

An anarchic musical murder mystery with a twist: one actor investigates the crime, whilst the other plays all the suspects! And they both play the piano throughout! If you like The Play That Goes Wrong, One Man, Two Guv'nors, The Reduced Shakespeare Company or The 39 Steps then this is for you!

Adult £19 | Concession £17 | Student £17

The Kris Nock Big Band: Video Games

Sun 17 Nov, 7:30pm

Log in and press start with the Kris Nock Big Band as they bring to life and 'jazzify' the music from some of the world's best video games such as Final Fantasy and Mario. The award-winning band is the South West's newest 17-piece big band, based in Bristol. They cover a wide range of music from Glenn Miller to Gordon Goodwin, to the music of video games!

All Tickets £20

The Nutcracker

Ballet Theatre UK

Fri 22 Nov, 7:30pm

Experience the enchantment of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, The Nutcracker. Brought to life with lavish costumes and glittering sets by Ballet Theatre UK. Join Clara and her heroic Nutcracker Prince as they encounter wondrous snowflakes, delightful dancing dolls, waltzing flowers, a magnificent Christmas tree that seemingly touches the heavens and, of course, the magical Sugar Plum Fairy.

**Adult £21 | Concession £18 | Child (Under 16) £14 |
Student £14**

QWEEN UK

Sat 23 Nov, 7:30pm

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

Standard £20.50 | Concession £18.50

The All Seasons Live

Fri 29 Nov, 7:30pm

Scintillating vocals and incredible harmonies. Bringing to life the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Crammed with singalong hits, The All Seasons is a West End experience brought to Taunton. Young, vibrant and talented; The All Seasons are a guaranteed hit with audiences of all ages.

Adult £20 | Concession £19

The Dreamer

James Phelan

Sat 30 Nov, 7:30pm

Star of The Greatest Magician™, and the BBC's most broadcast magician of the last decade – the award-winning James Phelan – debuts this breath-taking new magic show. Most infamous for jamming the BBC switchboard after correctly predicting the lottery, and described as 'Joel Dommett meets Derren Brown' – The Dreamer is a celebration of the impossible becoming possible.

Adult £20 | Concession £18 | Child (under 16) £18

Age Guidance 12+

Cinderella Pantomime

Reamba Productions

Fri 6 Dec – Sun 22 Dec, various days and times

Can kind-hearted Cinderella thwart her step-sisters' attempts to make her miserable, and finally secure her happy-ever-after? Join us this December for the best family pantomime in Taunton to find out!

Tickets from £14.50



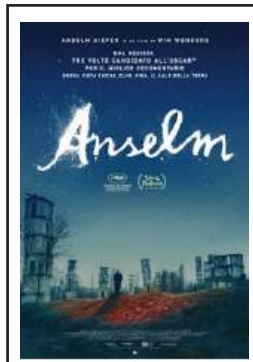
www.tacchi-morris.com

01823414141

**Taunton Film Society
@ The SPACE,
Monkton Heathfield**



After a great start to the new season we hope we can tempt you to come and join us at The SPACE with these two very different films.



22/11/24 Anselm German Docu/Drama Cert: PG 1hr 35minutes

Wim Wenders' portrait of artist Anselm Kiefer. The director's serious examination of the German artist's life and work has an architectural quality as it moves around some monumental art – and studios. The director brings a certain awe, or even shock, or even a kind of reverently docu-dramatised

PTSD to his film about the German artist Anselm Kiefer. The creator of paintings, photographs, colossal installations and illustrated book artefacts is celebrated but in some quarters criticised for his engagement with German fascism and the Holocaust.

There is fascination – and trepidation – in watching the master at work, strolling or cycling around his vast warehouse, with creations piled or stacked in every corner. Kiefer's angry, passionate, haunted images are driven, of course, by Germany's dark past, and

Wenders's film persuasively suggests that it is in the ruins of 1945, the year of the artist's birth, that the seed of inspiration is to be found.

13/12/24 Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry Georgia 2023 Drama Cert: 15 1 hour 50 minutes

Eka Chavleishvili is superb as an unmarried forty-something woman whose life is turned upside-down by romance in Elene Naveriani's handsome drama. The local gossips, with their tittering, pitying glances, might find it hard to believe, but 48-year-old Etero (Eka Chavleishvili) is single by choice. Finally free from the overbearing chauvinism of her father and brother, she dedicates herself to the running of her austere little shop in a Georgian mountain village (she stocks a sparse selection of toiletries, cleaning products and sundry disappointments) and to her hobbies – picking blackberries near the river gorge and demolishing enormous, slab-like portions of cake. But then, suddenly and unexpectedly, love finds Etero. A passionate encounter with delivery man Murman (Temiko Chichinadze) next to the detergent boxes in her storeroom divests her of her virginity. Now she must balance her newfound yearning for emotional contact against her hard-won freedom.



To find out more visit: www.tauntonfilmsociety.com

**The Merry Monk
Bar & Carvery Restaurant**



www.themerrymonk.co.uk 01823 412213 @merrymonktaunton

Call us today to book your Christmas party in December!

Silver Circuits



A Strength and Balance Circuits type Class
Tuesday mornings: 9:30am to 10:30am
 at West Monkton Village Hall
 £6 per class PAYG
 Michelle Purnell BSc
 Exercise Rehabilitation and
 Falls Prevention Instructor
 07754144844 or carefallexercise@gmail.com



ASPECT
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE

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

Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk
 Info@Aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk
 Emergency Call Out 07741439022



MEDINEEDS

"For The Small Things That Matter"

HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT:



CareQuality
Commission

01823 277754/55

www.medineeds.co.uk
 enquiries@medineeds.co.uk



Tai Chi QiGong
seated or standing

Gentle movements to improve balance, flexibility
and strength

For your mind, body and wellbeing

Thursdays
2pm – 3pm

Cost: £6

For more information or to sign up,
please call Age UK Somerset on

01823 345624

email: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
 visit our website: www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

Updated on: 11/04/2024

This class is held at:
West Monkton Village Hall
 Monkton Heathfield
 TA2 8NE

Please check class is running prior to attending

Registered Charity No: 1015900

Body Weight Circuit Class



1hr of Fun,
Fitness &
Strength at
Brittons Ash
Community Hall
£7 per class

Wednesdays

6.15pm – 7.15pm



**Contact me for more details and to
book your place:**

colettem.pt@gmail.com / **07465418199**



**FALL IN LOVE
WITH YOUR GARDEN
THIS AUTUMN**

**SCAN HERE
VIEW OUR EVENTS!**



**MONKTON
ELM**
Garden Centre and Restaurant

**Visit www.monktonelm.com
to book our events and activities!**



Benjamin Henry
Building - Joinery - Electrics

We offer contemporary & traditional styles of building, joinery & electrics including:

- Bespoke building inc new builds, conversions, extensions & renovations
- Traditional oak framed buildings & log cabins
- All aspects of joinery including windows, doors, kitchens, staircases & built-in furniture
- Our own electrical department for all your residential & commercial needs including renewable energy

Please contact us for a free no obligation quote

01823 412701
www.benjaminhenry.co.uk
admin@benjaminhenry.co.uk



**WHITMORES
FENCING AND
LANDSCAPING
SERVICES**

Call **01823 335156**
07593 069 838

Call Darren



ASHCULME **NPTC**
 TREE WORK | LANDSCAPING | FENCING | PAVING | MAINTENANCE
 DUALIFIED 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.ashculmetreesandgardens.co.uk
info@ashculmetreesandgardens.co.uk



Computer & Tablet Tuition

Call Tim or Barbara Finch Experienced IT Professional
 on **530280** or **07514 059313** with Computer B.Sc. Degree
www.timfinch.co.uk *"..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



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
www.ovenwizards.com



Chartered Financial Planners and Investment Brokers

Quantock analytical
 invest • save tax • relax

Local (Taunton, Bath and West)
Long-standing (getting old!)
Ethical (no nonsense e.g. our fees are clear and on our website)
 For **Real Expertise** around:

- Tax-Efficient Investments
- Pension Options for the Seriously ill
- Pensions at Retirement

www.quantockanalytical.co.uk
 Tel: **01823 254183**
hello@qtok.co.uk
 Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

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



*Traditional Gentleman's
 Outfitters
 With personal instore service*
Celebrating 100 years
 1924 - 2024
 Tel: 01823 333169
 E-mail: post@gurds.co.uk
 Website: 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: 079699120
 Email:
 rachaelhalter1234@gmail.com

Household Cleaning Undertaken

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

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

07850437994 or
 01823 259808

Pilates

West Monkton Village Hall:
 Tuesday 9:30am
Brittons Ash Community Hall
 Wednesday 9:30am
 also Chair Based Pilates at
 10:45am

For bookings and
 enquiries contact:

Dianne
 Mobile:
 07850473428
 Email:
 funfit.dianne@btinternet.com



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



Hickleys
 90 YEARS IN BUSINESS

AUTO SERVICE CENTRE
 TAUNTON & BRIDGWATER

**For all your vehicle
 servicing needs**
 Located just 5 minutes from the
 town centre in both Taunton and
 Bridgwater

**FRIENDLY, HONEST
 SERVICE**

www.hickleysautocentre.com
 Taunton - Castle Street, Taunton, TA1 4AU
 01823 328600
 Bridgwater - East Quay, Bridgwater, TA6 4DB
 01278 451570

Taunton Solicitors
 Legal Services and Advice

- WILLS, ESTATE ADMINISTRATION, PROBATE & TRUSTS
- LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY
- BUSINESS SALES & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
- BUYING & SELLING HOUSES & FLATS
- FAMILY LAW & DIVORCE
- FARMS, LAND & AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

Visit our website for discounts and costs:
 www.tauntonsolicitors.com

2 hours free client car parking, ground floor office, disabled parking and facilities and private meeting rooms.

2 Tangle Central Taunton TA1 4AP
 Call our office for more details
 01823 351122
 e-mail: info@tauntonsolicitors.com

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

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

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

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
www.paulprettejohn.co.uk



Honiton: 01404 890257
 Wellington: 01823 662656








Fun & Friendly Exercise Class

Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30am
West Monkton Village Hall
£6.50 per 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.

ARBORTECH

PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICES

- Tree surgery
- Surveying
- Planting
- Hedge maintenance
- Woodland and vegetation management

Email: info@arbortech.org.uk
 Tel: 07946179722
 Web: www.arbortech.org.uk

CHAS City & Guilds NPTC qualified



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



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.



eat the food you love and still lose weight!

yes you can

with Slimming World

FREE membership
 when you commit to a 13 or 12-week Slimming World course!
 24th March to 12th April 2024

Contact your local Slimming World Consultant and join a friendly and super-supportive 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

read Joe, Sapphire and Abby's stories here
slimmingworld.co.uk

**All participating groups. Terms and conditions apply. Visit slimmingworld.co.uk/terms for more information.*

Slimming WORLD
 touching hearts, changing lives



WRAS fsb Vaillant VIESSMANN 32973

A Plus Heating

Honest. Professional.

- Central Heating
- Bathroom replacements
- Boilers replacements
- Disable shower rooms
- Gas Safety Certificate
- Tiling
- Shower wall panels

T: 01823 288 040
 M: 07977 697 852
 E: info@aplusheating.co.uk
www.aplusheating.co.uk

Helping to transform your house, into a home.

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE



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 01935 507 508





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
www.astewartplumbingandheating.co.uk

Gareth Davies Painting & Decorating



Mob: 07775835314
Email: garethdaves259@hotmail.co.uk
Facebook:
Gareth Davies:Painting & Decorating
Instagram:
[gareth_davies_decorating_](https://www.instagram.com/gareth_davies_decorating_)

30 Years Experience


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 18TH EDITION REGULATIONS



CONTACT:
07764996937





Tree Surgery,
Stump Grinding
&
Hedging

Contact Tom Albrow
07926 878557

tom@arbresolutions.co.uk
www.arbresolutions.co.uk
Fully Qualified and Insured

LES MARSH CARPETS

Family run business transforming homes across Somerset since 1980

- Carpets • Vinyl • Natural Flooring • Karndean
- Large showroom with a wide variety of products and remnants •
- Free measuring and estimating service •
- Fitted by our own expert floorlayers •
- Friendly knowledgeable staff, providing excellent customer service •



THE COMPLETE SERVICE
01823 335952

Open: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm | Saturday - 9am-2pm
Tel: 01823 335952 | www.lesmarshcarpets.co.uk
Cook Way, Bindon Road, Taunton, TA2 6BJ



Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

Regular Bookings at the BACH

Mondays

1:15pm to 3:15pm Art Group
 3:30pm to 5:30pm Primary Maths and English
 5:45pm to 7:00pm Yoga

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

9:15am to 10:00am Fitness Class
 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

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.

- Set of 6 Coulee Bowls balls in a case £10 07901837732
- Tasco Binoculars £10 07901837732
- Harris Electric Sewing Machine, has been serviced £30 07901837732
- *If you would like to include something in this section please contact Dawn Watts on dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk or on 01823412201*

Village News:

Please forward information for the next edition to the Editor: Dawn Watts,
 Tel. 01823 412201 dawnwattsdk@yahoo.co.uk
 Submissions to Village News may be made by e-mail or by hard copy. Please ask for a receipt to your e-mail to ensure that it arrives. Items submitted will be subjected to editing if necessary.
 The deadline for submissions for the January/February 2025 Village News is 1st December 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

Tai Chi QiGong

Thursday 14:00 - 15:00

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

Website: Bookings - West Monkton Village Hall

eRIB is Home

After 31 days, 20 hours and 46 minutes, Harry Besley arrived safely back in Lyme Regis on his electric RIB 'Electra', becoming the youngest powerboat Skipper to circumnavigate Great Britain and the first and fastest ever to do so in an electric boat. Presented with a glass trophy to commemorate the occasion, Harry and Mum Jaqui were welcomed home on Wednesday 14th August 2024 by friends, family and sponsors. Having set off from Lyme Regis on 13th July, Harry and Electra stopped at 48 locations to charge. With only 8 nights in a proper bed, much of the rest



Raising the trophies, kindly arranged by Alan Hall a member of West Monkton Parish Council

of the time was spent in or on an ex-utility Landrover Defender 110 which can sleep two in the back, and two in a rooftop. With a rota of 3 co-pilots, and 3 additional ground crew, the team completed over 1700nm in the boat, and over 2300 miles over the ground. Towing an event trailer and the boat trailer, the two ground support vehicles (including the UK's first 100% electric pick up truck, a Maxus T90EV) loaded with charging accessories and camping equipment were critical to the success of the Challenge, ensuring the boat could charge, and the team could eat and sleep at all the stop locations. Using a combination of three phase shore side AC sockets, and a few DC fast chargers now installed along the south coast (Plymouth, Cowes and Poole Harbour) the 126kWh battery took between 2 and 20 hours to charge, depending on the supply. Help was on hand at all the stops, with some harbour staff going above and beyond their duty to get the team on their way. At Padstow, the harbour staff used their manitou to lift the AC-DC transformer onto the pontoon; at Bridlington, after a dry charge on the dock, the staff there lowered the boat by crane to enable the team an extra hour after the tide went out; and at Hartlepool a member of the Marina team went on a 2 hour round trip to collect a charging cable left on the dockside at the last stop. Sailing Clubs opened their doors and allowed use of their facilities, and the Sea Cadets in Inverness provided a bunk house, and their chef cooked up dinner! Friends welcomed the team at all times of the day and night and volunteers from the Maritime Volunteer Service arrived at dockside at 6 or 7 of the stops to provide encouragement, moral support and in one case, dinner!

Thanks are given to the Parish Council and all supporters.

The fundraising continues, and Round Britain eRIB merchandise is for sale on eBay (search Round Britain eRIB). To see Electra (the boat will be on display) and to hear more about the Challenge and ask questions, come along to the church coffee morning on Sat 2nd November when Jaqui will be sharing more stories (and technical details for those that are interested!).



Harry, thanking his mum Jaqui for all the work involved in making the Challenge a reality



With local Sponsor Trevor Lees from Lynch Motors in Dunkerswell



Harry, chatting with supporters alongside his grandmother. Dianne Besley



*Happy Christmas
 to all of you who read
 the Village News
 from all of us who make
 the Village News*

