

# Village News

**Issue No. 151**  
**January - February 2025**

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



*Evening WI - read more on Page 8*

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# 2025

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

**Parish Council Clerk:** Amy Shepherd 07588571775

[clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**PC Community Clerk:** Kate Welsh 07505984006

[community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**PC Chairman:** Stuart Haskins 07824410997

[stuarthaskins@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:stuarthaskins@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

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

**Litter Hotline:** 03003048000

**West Monkton Primary School Head:**

Helen Newstead - 01823 412582

**Heathfield Community School Head:**

Hannah Jones - 01823 412396

**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre:** 01823 414141

**Taunton Deane Community Transport:**

01823 331266 Mon-Fri. 9 am to 4 pm (Slinky Bus 24hrs notice).

**Village Hall:**

Telephone, incoming calls only - 01823 412068

**Booking Officer:** Ian Pitchfork Tel: 01823 412196

[ianpitchfork623@gmail.com](mailto:ianpitchfork623@gmail.com)

**Chairman:** Ray Tully Tel: 01823 4252368

**Vice Chairman:** Vacant

**BACH (Brittons Ash Community Hall)**

**Chairman:** Barry Gage 07752723311

[barrygage50@gmail.com](mailto:barrygage50@gmail.com)

**Booking Officer:** Maggie Little 01823 323662

[bachbookings@westmonkton.net](mailto:bachbookings@westmonkton.net)

**CCS Village Agent:** please call this main number, they will then connect you to the correct Village Agent at the time of calling - 01823 331222.

**Police Contact numbers:**

**Non emergency telephone 101**

**Emergency 999**

To keep up to date on what's been happening in our area, you can follow police social media pages:

Twitter: @ASPWestSom @ASPolice

Facebook

If you have any queries, the team can be contacted at:

[SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## Singles Club

A place to meet new people and old friends.

Next meetings:

- January 14th Mulled Wine and bits!  
10:30am at Langaller Farm House.
- February 11th Lunch at The Maypole.  
12:30pm.

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

Everyone very welcome.

Dianne



## St Margaret's Somerset Hospice

On the Friday Fundraiser St Margaret's Hospice shone a spotlight on the incredible Filomena Simpson. She is a vibrant 90 year-old with a heart of gold. Despite her age Filomena, reluctantly, parted with her electric bike, urged on by her family. The bike sold for £600 and she generously donated all proceeds to the Hospice.

Filomena's contact with St Margaret's Hospice began 25 years ago when her first husband received their care, creating a lasting bond Filomena shared. The photo shows Filomena and Dianne Besley presenting £600 to a representative of the Hospice.

## Fancy trying a new sport?

### Why not try Bowls:

- All ages welcome
- Playable all year regardless of the weather
- Play indoors and outdoors
- Meet new people
- Enjoy socialising i.e. quiz's, bingo, dances
- Licensed bar
- 3 free coaching sessions, mentoring
- Annual membership

If you are interested then please either call in and see us within Vivary Park, Taunton, TA1 3JT or give us a ring on 07731402316 for a chat and arrange a visit or

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

view our website: [www.tauntonbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.tauntonbowlingclub.co.uk)



## Monkton Players

Our Autumn production of 'It Must Be Love' was fantastically supported by our loyal audience. We had three brilliant nights, with record numbers of people through the door. Thank you so much for your support, it really does make all the hard work worth it. We now look to our Spring production, with show dates being set as 1st-3rd May 2025. We are in the process of deciding on the next play and will publish more details soon. It's definitely worth signing up to our newsletter via our website, or following us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for all the latest news; as well as photos and videos from the behind the scenes.

As always, if you fancy joining our merry band of players then please do get in touch. As well as acting, we have roles such as prompt, lighting and sound, prop making, set building, costume making; alongside jobs such as serving teas and coffees or selling raffle tickets on show nights.

We look forward to seeing you all in the Spring.

Tim Hiscock  
 MonktonPlayers.co.uk



The Taunton Camera Club proudly marks its 75th anniversary, celebrating decades of fostering creativity and community among photography enthusiasts. Established as a hub for photographers of all skill levels, the club has evolved into a welcoming space for anyone passionate about capturing the world through a lens.

We currently meet locally at Brittons Ash Community Hall in West Monkton, which is on the Primary School site. We meet every Monday evening from September until May, 7.15 until 9.30pm. Through a programme of talks, competitions, photoshoots and social events, we hone our skills, learn from each other, and build lasting friendships.

If you enjoy taking photographs we'd love you to join us, whatever your level of expertise and whatever you use to take your photographs. You may have years of experience, or are just starting out. You might have a basic point and shoot camera, or a highly sophisticated SLR, or, like many these days, are using that versatile camera now on our phones. It really doesn't matter.

Our membership fee is £70 for the 33 sessions which works out at just a little over £2 per session. Come for a few sessions and see if you like us.

To find out more, or to contact us, please visit our website: [www.tauntoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.tauntoncameraclub.org.uk)  
 Hope to see you soon.

## Letter from Rev. Jim

**South Quantock  
 Benefice**  
**office@southquantockb  
 enefice.org.uk**  
 (The parishes of West  
 Monkton, Kingston St  
 Mary, Broomfield &  
 Cheddon Fitzpaine)



In my life, New Year's Resolutions tend to suffer the same abrasive contact with reality as Lenten Fasts. As anyone who has seen me in person will testify, I am not big – if you see what I mean – on diets. I do understand the health benefits of carrying less weight and I do also understand the problem we have in the West of over-consumption. But a health fad can often disguise corporal vanity or, worse, a self-righteous control over our bodies.

I am a bit wary of the concept of control. It often comes in tandem with individual freedom and a right to choose. Sounds fine if you have the money and power and self-discipline to attain such things. But many of us are 'done to' and have a very limited range of actual choices. And we also have to cope, to live and to flourish.

It is said – I have not actually checked – that in Mark's Gospel, once Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane all the verbs with Jesus as the subject are passive not active – he was arrested, he was led, he was taken. His primary act of salvation is in having no choice, no power and in doing nothing. Books have been written on the subject.

The faith of the church has a lot to say to and for people with no agency of their own. It is not a case of laziness or apathy, it is a case of seeing the truth about the way the world is and yet finding room for celebration and joy.

I often say of myself, "Why have a six-pack when you can have the whole barrel?"

Self-deprecating, I know. But there is a freedom in naming reality for what it is and living with the truth of that.

*Jim Cox*

### Keeping in Contact

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

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

or see the website for links and up to date information [www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk](http://www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk)



### From West Monkton Registers:

#### Baptism:

13.10.24	Margaux Gough
17.11.24	William Quick

### Men's Group Meetings:

#### Wednesday 15th January

7:00pm Talk 'All at Sea' – Brian Hill  
 in Cheddon Memorial Hall

#### Wednesday 12th February

2:00pm Murmuration's at Ham Wall  
 Anyone welcome to come along to the group –  
 contact Jim for more information and costs of  
 each event : [jimcox11@gmail.com](mailto:jimcox11@gmail.com)  
 07967817337 or 01823802790

### St Augustine's Church

#### 100 Club Prizewinners

##### November

The draw was held on Monday 11th November

**First Prize:** £103.00 won by Ray Tuley

**Second Prize:** £51.50 won by Mark Thomas

The sum of £360.50 will go towards the church.

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

##### December

The draw was held on Saturday 7th December.

**First Prize:** £103.00 was won by Roderick Fleming

**Second Prize:** £51.50 was won by Janet Smith.

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**

**2025  
January**

**5th The Epiphany**

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
4:00pm	Evening Prayer	Broomfeld

**12th Baptism of Christ**

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

**19th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Cheddon FP
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
11:00am	Holy Communion	Broomfield
11:00am	Plough Sunday Service	West Monkton

**26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

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

**February**

**2nd Candlemas**

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
4:00pm	Plough Sunday Service	Broomfeld

**9th 4th Sunday before Lent**

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

**16th 3rd Sunday before Lent**

8:30am	BCP Communion	West Monkton
9:30am	Holy Communion	Cheddon FP
10:00am	Holy Communion	Kingston St M
10:00am	Morning Worship	West Monkton
11:00am	Holy Communion	Broomfield

**23rd 2nd Sunday before Lent**

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

**TAUNTON DEANERY EVENING SERVICE:**  
*Reflection in Word and Song*

6:00pm - Sunday 12th January  
at Kingston St Mary church

**GRAND BARN DANCE**

**LIVE BAND**  
**THE DANCING KEYS**

DANCING STARTS **6.30 PM**  
**FRI 7TH FEB**

**ADULTS £12**  
**CHILDREN £5**

**BAR** available  
including ploughman's supper

**WEST MONKTON VILLAGE HALL**

Tickets visit [www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)



**Coffee & more**

Sat 1st Feb - Discover what's behind the clock.  
Andy Beckerson - 'Keeper of Time'  
Gives us an insight to the inner workings and history of the church clock.

10am  
West Monkton Church.

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



## Parish Council News

**The Parish Council hopes that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wishes everyone a prosperous New Year.**

### 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](mailto:clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)) or

Assistant Clerk – Community

([community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk))

### Annual Parish Meeting

The West Monkton Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 25th March 2025 at 7pm at Brittons Ash Community Hall. All are welcome, come and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink, and nibbles. Please keep an eye out for details of the Annual Parish Meeting on the parish council website

[www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and Monkton

Matters website [www.monktonmatters.co.uk](http://www.monktonmatters.co.uk)

### Maidenbrook Country Park and The Somerset Wood Update

Following the parish council being awarded almost £190K in National Lottery funding to support its work at Maidenbrook Country Park, a Volunteer

Coordinator, Candy Sully, has been recruited to help to support existing and new volunteers, manage new equipment and facilities, run activities and develop groups and activities at the park. If you are interested in volunteering at the Country Park, please contact Candy by email: [maidenbrookcountrypark@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:maidenbrookcountrypark@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) we have lots of opportunities available.

In addition, a new logo for Maidenbrook Country Park and Somerset Wood has been designed and approved, a website is in development along with a Facebook page. Information about the website and Facebook page will be shared on the Parish Council Facebook page and Monkton Matters website very soon.

Planning approval is awaited for a volunteer hub, toilets, benches, bins and pathways at the Country Park and signage for the park is being designed.

### 2025/26 Budget/Precept Setting

The draft budget for the parish council for the year 2025/2026 has been developed and discussed by the Parish Council. Its final approval will take place in January. As more services are falling to the parish council to deliver going forward there is likely to be an increase in the Parish Council's 2025/26 budget and precept demand but it is hoped that the increase will be less than in previous years.



### OPERATION TRIBUTE - POPPY OF HONOUR

**THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING  
 THINKING OF A UNIQUE GIFT FOR YOURSELF OR  
 A LOVED ONE!**

We are seeking donations in order that a Pavilion can be erected to house the POPPY OF HONOUR at Somerset Wood in the Maidenbrook Country Park in Taunton. When built it will become an official Commonwealth War Memorial. Visitors will be able to view Free of Charge.

The POPPY holds 1,117,635 individual remembrance poppies inside its encasement, representing the number of British and Commonwealth servicemen and servicewomen listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 'Killed In Action' or 'Missing In Action' together with those 'Shot at Dawn' then later pardoned and those who died from their wounds after the Armistice in WW1. You will have the unique opportunity to have yours or a loved one's name on a plaque. Businesses can also contribute. These will be placed near to the pavilion for all to view for perpetuity.

Minimum donations are £25 for a small plaque, £50 for a medium and £75 for a large plaque.

This operation will continue until funding is complete.

For information is available via this link or by scanning the QR code.

<https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/operation-tribute-poppy-of-honour/>



Monkton Matters is an online space giving news, information and details of events in the Parish of West Monkton (incorporating Monkton Heathfield, West Monkton and Bathpool). Monkton Matters is for the community and its contents are developed and posted by the community. All local residents are encouraged to contribute relevant articles or submit details of local events. The website is as good as we make it and the vision for the site is that it is a one-stop shop; the go-to place for all community matters.

Various local institutions, from schools to the police, from churches to the council, are represented on the site, posting updates. It is possible to find local businesses and services as well as hear about community groups, clubs and sports teams running in the local area. It has helpful information to aid exploration of the parish and its history as well and plenty more besides.

If you would like to submit an article or an event for inclusion on the website, please visit the website and complete the form.

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

Alongside news and events, businesses that are based or operate in the parish can also add their details to the directory. If you would like to add your



business details, please visit the website and complete the form.

If you have any queries or would prefer to submit items for inclusion on the website via email please contact [editor@monktonmatters.co.uk](mailto:editor@monktonmatters.co.uk)

### **Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)**

The BACH is open for bookings aside from these times. The BACH has facilities to host virtual meetings, hybrid meetings, as well as meetings in person and we have also recently installed a hearing loop in the committee room.

Further information is available on the website. If you are interested in booking the BACH please contact our Bookings Officer, Maggie

([bachbooking@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bachbooking@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk)).

### **Community Matters**

The **Community Café** is open every Wednesday from 2pm until 3.30pm and is open to everyone in the community with free hot drinks and refreshments, it's the perfect place to catch up with friends or to meet new people. We have the **Knit and Crochet Group** join us each week, during the run up to Christmas they made a beautiful Poinsettia themed tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at West Monkton Church. We also enjoy seeing the children and families that pop in after school for a hot chocolate each week.

On the 3rd 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 every Thursday at the BACH from 10.30am to 12noon. There is no charge for the group but is an informal group which enables parents in our community to meet other parents and gives little ones the opportunity to play.

We accept donations for our café, repair café and stay and play via our QR code.

### **New Youth Café – 'Snack and Chat'**

We now also run 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 warm food and hot drinks and to catch up with friends in a safe and supportive environment.

Staff and volunteers are fully DBS checked and have appropriate training for

working with young people. We are also keen to hear the views of Young People in our community about provision for them in and around the parish and would like to hear their voice. If you have young people aged 10 or over, please help them by following the link below to

complete our questionnaire.

### **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 visit 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.

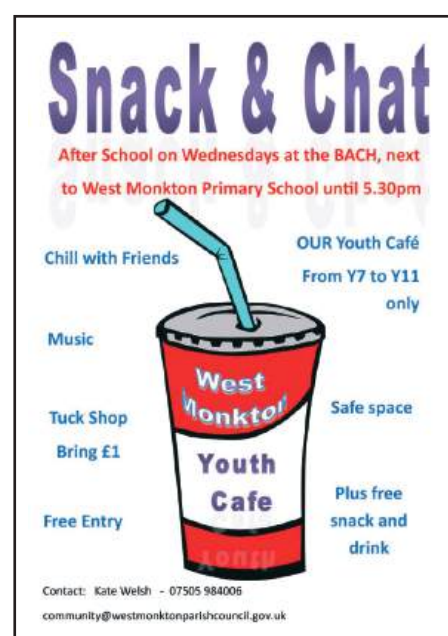
Over the summer, a number of residents and volunteers have got involved in cleaning up the graffiti that was an issue in the parish. We have purchased some equipment for this group and also put in place a risk assessment for their safety going forward. If you are interested in getting involved with our team of 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.



## Parish Council Continued: 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

### Events at Maidenbrook Park 2025

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday 19th April, 11am to 1pm  
 VE Day – Beacon Lighting - Thursday 8th May,

7pm to 10pm

Somerset Day – Picnic - 10th May, time TBC

FunFest – Joint Parishes Event - Saturday 12th July,  
 12 noon to 10:30 pm

St Giles Dog Show - Sunday 10th August, time TBC

VJ Day - Friday 15th August, details TBC

Bonfire Night - Wednesday 5th November, details  
 TBC

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 22nd January at 7.30pm

Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm

Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm

## 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](mailto:community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call on 07505984006 for more information.

## Evening WI

Hope you are all keeping dry and warm – what changeable weather we have had since the clocks have changed, snow, sun, rain, and to cap it all Storm Bert. A Happy New Year to you all and I look forward to telling you all our news in 2025.

November also had a Christmas flavour – we agreed to enter the Christmas Tree display in the Village Church and during a meal a few of us enjoyed at the Maypole recently, we decided to decorate the tree with pompoms. So that was the subject of our November get together making pompoms in seasonal colours, followed by mulled wine and mince pies made by one of our members. I think all of us had forgotten how long it takes to make pompoms, but we got there in the end! *See photo below.*

The mention of Christmas started off with a bang when we welcomed Gill Harrison to our October meeting, Gill was the founder of 'Christmas Sparkle'. Christmas Sparkle was founded in 2015 with the aim of giving a Christmas present to every child and young person 0 -18 years living in difficult circumstances in the SWR/Taunton and Wellington Communities. Last year, thanks to the generosity of local people, they were able to provide gifts to 2477 children and young people. They

were aware that there is going to be an ever greater need this year. They work with local charities and agencies, e.g. The Foodbank, Women's Refuge etc, and they were proud winners of the 2019 Mayor's Citizenship Award. They also work in partnership with My Day (Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities) who kindly collect gifts from donation points and deliver to the agencies. There are various collection points within the town, for example the Library and Timpsons. They only give brand-new age appropriate gifts which have been donated by local businesses, schools and members of the public. Wrapping events are held in Santa's workshop, throughout November and December, at a base generously provided by Summerfield Developments. Members of the public are invited to these events, schools and local groups help for an hour or two which makes it a real community event. Cheesy Christmas music and festive refreshments help to make the day fun for everyone. All financial donations go straight back to the project. This is used for buying wrapping paper, gift tags and any gifts they are short of. Gill's talk touched us all, and a good range of presents were presented to Gill on the night from us all. *Photo on front cover.* Brilliant charity.

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 2025/2026, so if you require any more information just ring me, Shirley Hector, on 01823619084 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. Everyone is welcome.

### 2025 Programme:

**January :** Nursery Rhyme origins

**February:** 'Plastic for change'

*Shirley Hector*







## Taunton Rugby Football Club - your local rugby club

It will be 2025 when the Village News containing this article drops through your letterbox. So, from all at Taunton Rugby Club, a Happy New Year to

those of you who read this.

Win, lose or draw 2025 will be a year of celebration as it marks 150 years since the club was formed and the club are intent on proudly marking this anniversary in style. There is every reason to be proud. The club has a proud history from those founding members who formed the club in 1875 to those who work hard to ensure that the club continues to carry on bringing high class rugby to the local population and developing young players from the age of 5 to take their place in Taunton senior teams of the future. Running a sports club like Taunton Rugby is no easy task and credit must go to the club's elected officials and permanent staff who work so hard to ensure that the club is on a sound financial footing, successful on the pitch and is a great sociable venue.

There has already been a dinner last year to launch the club's 150th anniversary celebrations which will culminate in a gala dinner in the summer. It would be an even greater occasion if some of the local population joined in the celebrations and anyone wanting details of the events scheduled needs simply to contact the club for information.

On the pitch things are going well. Pride of place goes to the Colts team. These 16 and 17 year olds have won all their matches this season scoring over 50 points in most games. They are superbly coached and play well as a team. At that age the youngsters usually want to try to score on their own but I have seen them play and there is plenty of passing to better placed teammates rather than going alone. These lads are showing maturity at a young age which will serve them well as they are already showing the skills and maturity which will be needed if they are to challenge for places in the senior teams in the future.

The first XV, Taunton Titans lost 2 of their first 3 games since when they have won 6 out of 7 and now sit fourth in the league with a game in hand on the two teams just above them. To gain promotion they must win the league but this looks a difficult task as they sit 10 points behind the powerful Camborne team of expensive star players. The size of this task has not discouraged Taunton and they have played some superb entertaining rugby, especially at home, where they have a 100% winning record in some high scoring entertaining matches led by their inspirational captain and last season's player of the year, Ratu Vakalutukali. The next home fixtures are on 11 January (big match against Camborne),

a Friday night match on 24 January and on 15 February.

Taunton's second team, the Warriors, having gained promotion last season have quickly found their feet in the higher Division and sit comfortably in the top half of the league.

They feel that they are in with a chance of a further promotion if they can push on in the second half of the season and win the home fixtures against the few teams they lost to on their travels. The next home fixtures are all in February on 1st, 8th and on Friday 21st of that month. I watched the Taunton Ladies team recently. They are extremely keen with some really talented players but would welcome more numbers. They train on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Anybody wondering about whether the contact element in the sport would be off putting need not worry. On training nights there is just running and handling the rugby ball for those worried about contact. There is a really friendly supportive atmosphere amongst the group and a warm welcome awaits any ladies or girls wanting to try it out. There is a good social side too.

Hoping to see plenty of the readership at Taunton Rugby Club's splendidly appointed ground and clubhouse in 2025. All matches except the first XV are free admission so why not pay a visit on a match day.

Robert Harris



Ratu Vakalutukali



Taunton Ladies

## St Augustine's West Monkton Stories from behind the scenes.

**The biggest story** starts when the regeneration plan for the rear of the church was still in its formative stages, and we noted that the boiler was thirty years old and would need replacing before too long. Our plan for regeneration is ambitious and we know lots of funding is needed, grants and serious donations as well as our regular fundraising events.

Fast forward to the end of the SAW art show at St Augustine's. The backstage crew had worked their socks off and created a first-rate exhibition which was successful for the artists as well as raising £1600.00 for our



regeneration work. It was the beginning of October, and the weather was becoming autumnal when we found the boiler didn't want to fire up – or if it did, it wouldn't stay on for long enough to heat the church. How would we heat the church for future services and events?

Most West End productions have significant financial backing by serious funders called 'Angels'. To have a building as big as St Augustine's without heating of any kind is serious – the cold sets into the fabric and the church rapidly ceases to be warm and welcoming.

We had a competitive quote for a new commercial boiler: £18000.00, to be installed by a local company. Our fundraising, although successful, had not raised that sort of money yet. And so, we approached a number of people who became St Augustine's Angels by donating serious funds towards the boiler. West Monkton Parish Council also made a generous grant, and happily the boiler has been ordered, with a view to installation before Christmas. The show will go on! So, a really big thank you to all St Augustine's Angels.

*If you would like to become one of St Augustine's angels there are a few options:*

- *For large angelic donations please speak to a churchwarden so that we can get a Gift Aid declaration completed – we can claim a further 25% on your gift if you are a taxpayer and sign the form.*
- *We have a Parish Giving Scheme in place where you can donate one-off or on a regular basis, as often as you like. It works like a Direct Debit: [West Monkton St Augustine - Parish Giving Scheme](#) Further details from the Church Wardens, Pearl and Sally.*  
 Pearl [pearljeanespcc@gmail.com](mailto:pearljeanespcc@gmail.com)  
 Sally [sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk)
- *We have a Payaz machine in the church where you can donate by card, as much as you wish – either*

*use the buttons or type in your preferred amount. Church is open every day.*

- *You can pay a cheque into our bank account – PCC West Monkton, Sort code 30-98-45, account number 03283927*
- *Or if you shop online – please sign up to Easyfundraising – our cause is St Augustine's West Monkton. Then each time you shop, go to your site via Easyfundraising, and they will make a donation to St Augustine's. We have raised over £100 since the summer just by going to any one of 8000 stores via Easyfundraising – you can even pay your bigger bills like insurance or holiday bookings, or the day-to-day stuff from M&S or Amazon.*

[Fundraising | Charity Fundraising Online | You Spend Online, Brands Donate | Easyfundraising](#)

**Update from the Turquoise Cardigan Club** (we write grant applications). Life in the TCC is like riding a roller coaster- we are uplifted by success and plunged into despair by rejection – or being ignored. We have had two recent successful grant applications – from the Sabina Sutherland Trust and the Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, totalling just over £3000.00. These funds are towards the regeneration project. If you fancy joining the roller coaster to write more applications, please get in touch with Tricia [cavill663@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cavill663@yahoo.co.uk) 07541835069 (you don't have to own a turquoise cardigan).

**The backstage crew** organise lots of events in our very successful social calendar – we've had concerts, barbeque, open gardens, brass band, and coffee mornings every month (with speaker or activity). What would you like to have organised? – better yet, would you like to join our backstage crew?

**The Churchyard** working party meets once a month, usually on a Saturday to keep our beautiful churchyard area in good shape. Always supported by coffee and cake.

Looking ahead - we would really like to get some more activities going for youth, and young families. It will be really exciting to work towards having the community space and new servery available at the rear of the church.

**Can you help?** There are people in church for the morning service every Sunday morning - service is at 10:00am, coffee follows about 11:00am, just drop in to share your ideas and volunteer. Or contact the churchwardens:

Pearl [pearljeanespcc@gmail.com](mailto:pearljeanespcc@gmail.com)  
 Sally [sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallyhillman@hotmail.co.uk)





## Somerset Birds

Winter thrushes, those which do not breed in Britain, were late arriving this year, almost certainly because of mild weather in Europe and Scandinavia. The earliest birds are generally with us in early to mid-October, but, apart from the odd individual, Redwings and Fieldfares, the most common winter thrushes, did not reach West Monkton and the surrounding area until mid-November. This autumn there was a good supply of berries, particularly on the yew trees around the village, and plenty of windfall apples too, a favourite food for Fieldfares. Resident Song Thrushes, Mistle Thrushes and Blackbirds also enjoyed this bonanza, and the yews in particular were soon stripped.

Windfall apples remain a lot longer, but usually by January even this resource has ended. At this time, the birds can be seen more readily in open areas, fields, pasture and large gardens, foraging for worms and other small invertebrates. Both Fieldfares and Redwings are wary, but as cold spells make feeding more difficult, they become more approachable, and will then visit smaller gardens and feeding stations. In prolonged freezing weather some perish, but others move farther south into France and northern Iberia. The Fieldfare is the larger of the two, about the size of a Mistle Thrush with a subtle range of colours, slate grey and dark brown above, with a small black throat patch and dark chevrons below. Like Redwings, with which they usually associate, they are sociable birds, forming large flocks, which call noisily in flight. They are resident over much of eastern Europe, and summer visitors further north into Scandinavia and Russia. The occasional pair has bred in Scotland and northern England, but this is exceptional. In Poland, they are easily seen in urban parks, in Warsaw and Krakow, but woodlands are their main habitat. The Redwing is much more like our familiar Song Thrush, and can be confused with it. Like the Song

Thrush it is dark brown above, lacking the warm tones usually seen in the Song Thrush. It is streaked, rather than spotted below, and has very noticeable stripes above and below the eye.

The most obvious feature, which gives the bird its name, is rust-red markings along the flank and the under wing.

Almost all our Somerset Redwings come from north-east Europe and Russia. Interestingly, the bird breeds in Iceland, and is a different sub-species, with much more streaking on the belly. These birds winter mainly in Ireland, and are rare in

Somerset, but are possibly overlooked. Redwings are common breeding birds in the northern forests. Although Fieldfares

and Redwings are common winter visitors, keen birders pay them close attention, because carried along with the immigrant flocks is the occasional very rare thrush. An example of this was a Black-throated Thrush found in a ground-feeding Redwing flock on Curry Moor a few years ago. This bird breeds no nearer than the Urals and usually winters from northern Iran to Afghanistan. I have found while walking West Monkton, examining Redwings perched high in trees fruitful. In November, I found a Hawfinch among them. Even locally, where I am sure there are a few, this is a difficult bird to see. By the beginning of March, the winter thrushes are on the move again, and the size of flocks rapidly diminishes. All but a few stragglers are gone by the end of the month, but by then our Swallows are steadily moving northwards. Something surely to look forward to.

Brian Hill

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



Fieldfare



Hawfinch



Redwing

## Route1 Advocacy



**"Children need at least one person in their life that thinks the sun rises and sets on them, who delights in their existence, and loves them unconditionally"**

This quote by Pamela Leo might make us think 'of

course', but not all children have this.

In Somerset there are now around 600 children and young people in care. Some of these will have had experienced things in their short lives that we cannot imagine. We can't fix this, but we can help by providing safe adults who show consistency, care and give happy childhood memories.

**Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors service** supports children and young people who are in care or have a social worker. They do this by matching volunteers with young people as either short term Advocates, or longer term Independent Visitors.

The service recently had an independent internal review and was graded as Outstanding; and was

shortlisted to the final 3 in the Frontline National Award 2024 'Team of the Year'

### Independent Visitors

These volunteers make a long term commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. This can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to a the child or young person – and their Independent Visitor!

### Advocates

Volunteers work alongside individual children to ensure their voices are heard, and their wishes and feelings are taken into account when decisions are being made which affect them. Each child's support is usually short term and there is no expectation of a long term commitment to any particular child.

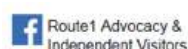
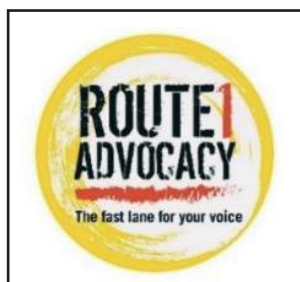
A recent trainee volunteer said "I started out thinking 'what on earth can require 5 days of training?' I now know why and think you have it just right."

Your life experience will be highly valued and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. For more information about Route 1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing:

[route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk), calling 01749 822801 and our website is

[www.route1advocacy.co.uk](http://www.route1advocacy.co.uk)

**follow us on social media**



## Somerset Sight

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](mailto: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.



**Somerset Sight**  
Working with people who lack sight, not vision



## 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](mailto:admin@somersetsight.org.uk)

Head Office Address:  
Northfield House, 51 Staplegrave Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1DG.  
Tel: 01823 333 818 | [www.somersetsight.org.uk](http://www.somersetsight.org.uk)

Registered charity number: 1154472 | Company number: 8432686

## Charity Attic Sale

A huge thank you to my "Little Helpers" you were brilliant and so efficient no way could I have managed without you.

Many thanks to those who donated, and who came and supported us and purchased on the day, I am pleased to tell you £355.00 will go towards training more life changing partnerships for Deaf People. Thank you again for your support.

Wishing you all a happy & healthy 2025.

<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/>

Lin Keitch  
(Volunteer  
HDFDP)



**Hearing Dogs**  
for Deaf People





## Taunton Film Society @ The SPACE



**La Chimera** 3 January Italy  
Adventure/Comedy Cert: 15 2 hours 10 minutes

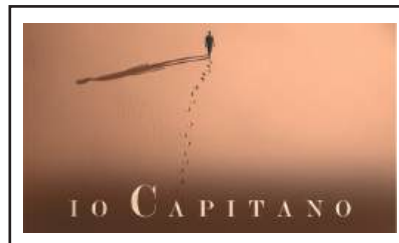
Alice Rohrwacher's new film is a beguiling fantasy-comedy of lost love: garrulous, uproarious and celebratory in her absolutely distinctive style. It's a movie bustling and teeming with life, with characters fighting, singing, thieving and breaking the fourth wall to address us directly.



The setting is Riparbella in Tuscany in the 1980s, and Josh O'Connor is tremendous as Arthur, a dishevelled Englishman in a grubby white suit sporting six-day stubble and a perennial cigarette. He is a former archeological scholar who has assumed the morose, slouching gait and coiled style of a gangster. When we first see him, he has just been released from an Italian prison. In the course of what were once his entirely respectable studies in this region, he befriended Flora, a local, ageing aristocrat in her vast, crumbling house (a lovely performance from Isabella Rossellini) and fell in love with her daughter Beniamina.

La Chimera is a captivating film of a sad, lovelorn adventure that utterly occupies its own fictional space; it expresses its eccentric romance in its own fluent movie dialect.

**Io Capitano** 24 January  
Italy Drama Cert:15 2 hours 2 minutes  
Two teenage boys star in Matteo Garrone's passionate expose of how greed, trauma and corruption drive the modern-day slave trade in would be migrants. His new film is part adventure story, part slavery drama.



Seydou and Moussa, played by non-professional acting newcomers, dream of escape to the fabled land of the EU as refugees, where they expect to go viral and make a fortune as music stars like the people they're watching on TikTok. For years they have been writing songs and secretly working on building sites while pretending to go to football practice, amassing cash savings which in the succeeding months they will hand over to various gangmasters, fixers and corrupt gun-wielding soldiers. Seydou and the others are not exactly masters of their fate, or captains of their souls. They are swept along by power and inequality, but Garrone shows that their humanity and compassion remain buoyant.

To find out more visit: [www.tauntonfilmsociety.com](http://www.tauntonfilmsociety.com)

## How to actually pick a 'Password'



We have all faced the pressure of making up a password. Multiple Times. We might reuse a password 'because no one wants access to my groceries shopping list', or just use a simple one because 'we can't remember anything complex'. All completely understandable reactions that many of us have. There is a very helpful graphic that is worth looking up on the Internet about password strength. Its too big to include in this article, but go to Google and type in 'famous password table' and select the (most likely) top entry from Reddit. The table shows you how long it takes a computer to crack your password, based on its length and what types of characters are in it. Its an eye opening table!

An organisation in the USA called NIST have published up to date guidance on how to pick a password and it has some interesting guidelines. Its a bit of a long read but a couple of intriguing ones are (1) Don't keep changing your password except when there is a suspected breach - because the chance is the replacement passwords will be weaker and (2) No need to make *complex* passwords, simply make them *long*. (i.e. you can use words!)

*How long?* Well, some websites do, oddly, restrict the length of passwords but, assuming there is no restriction, in 2024 passwords should be an absolute minimum of 14 characters, so long as they have upper & lower case letters in, but preferably *somewhat longer*.

NIST recommend we actually come up with PassPhrases instead of PassWords.

So, here is a helpful technique, if you are looking to improve your passwords!

I recommend people start with (at least) 3 random words. BatteryHorseStaple, for example. You can use colours, places you like, food you love. PurpleMunichPancakes - the more humorous the better. ElevateElectricSandwiches. You get the idea. Those last two passwords come in at 20 and 25 characters respectively!

Then for sites that still insist on numbers and symbols - even though modern guidelines no longer insist on complex passwords (you know like F%5h,@\*PK kind of thing - which is far too short but way too complex to remember), simply tack on one digit and one symbol: 5\* or 7! kind of thing, so that the website doesn't complain.



According to the 'famous password table' graphic, a (humorous, memorable) PassPhrase, with digit and symbol on the end, of only 18 characters in length (the above examples were 20 and 25 and that was without number and symbol) will take a whopping 26 trillion years for a computer to crack.

So long as you don't give the password away, that is!

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



### The Page is Printed 2025 – Creative Writing Competition

**Deadline for entries: Monday 13th January**

**Celebration Event: Saturday 15th February**

Pens at the ready, our annual creative writing competition is back!

Write in any genre: prose, poetry, script, a confession, a love letter, a list... be bold, be imaginative, but contain your entry to just one side of A4.

Our panel of judges will be looking for something that dares to be different and most importantly something that comes to life when it is read aloud.

We have prize vouchers for bookshops available for the best entries from within Somerset, and a separate category for the best overall entries.

Somerset Prize | £100 Voucher

Somerset Under 18s | 3x £25 Voucher

Open Prize | £100 Voucher

Open Under 18s | 2x £25 Voucher

If you've missed the deadline, don't worry, there are also prizes available at our celebration ceremony, where attendees can read out their pieces.

Best on the Night | £25 Voucher

Best on the Night – U18s | £25 Voucher

**Adult entries cost £5 for 1, or £10 for 3**

**Under 18s can each submit one entry for free**

**More information about the competition and the celebration event can be found on our website.**

### Rule The World

Friday 31st January, 7:30pm

Rule The World return to Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre due to popular demand after wowing audiences with their incredible and accurate portrayal of Take That. They bring you a concert that features all of the biggest hits including *Never Forget*, *Greatest Day*, *Back For Good*, *Relight My Fire*, *Everything Changes*, *Shine*, *Pray* and many more.

Rule The World have been recognized as the Number 1 Take That tribute act in the world. They appeared alongside Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville, Julie Walters and the real Take That on BBC1's *The Graham Norton Show*. After hearing Dan Maines speak, a stunned Gary Barlow said in amazement, "He sounds like me!". Gary also praised the band saying, "These guys are good!".

**Adult £24 | Concession £23**

### Seven Wonders – The Spirit of Fleetwood Mac

Friday 7th February, 7:30pm



Seven Wonders are a group of first-class musicians, who have come together to pay tribute to the legacy of Fleetwood Mac. Having put on an incredible performance here in 2023, they're back with their brilliant tribute to Fleetwood Mac.

If you're a fan of Peter Green, the best-selling *Rumours* album, or the big-haired 80's classic *Tango in the Night*, Seven Wonders captures the Spirit of Fleetwood Mac and they do it with passion and appreciation for this classic band.

Be prepared to sing and dance the night away to classics including: *Go Your Own Way*, *Don't Stop*, *The Chain*, *Everywhere*, *Rhiannon*, *Dreams*, *Little Lies* and many more.....

**Adult £23.50 | Concession £21.50**

For information about these or any other of the January/February events go on line, ring or visit the Box Office at Tacchi-Morris.

### Prestigious Royal Award for Local Music Volunteers



In November the King's representative in Somerset, the High Sheriff Robert Beckley, awarded one of the highest accolades for voluntary organisations to the volunteers at 'Music on the Quantocks' in recognition of their contribution to "enhancing the life of the community".

The award was received by Penny Hooper of Broomfield and Sue Page of West Monkton at a champagne reception in front of an audience packed with dignitaries including MPs, senior clergy, and all of Somerset's mayors and council leaders.

What makes the award so special is that it is given by the High Sheriff without any public nominations. "You can imagine how honoured we were to receive such a prestigious award in front of so many distinguished people", said Penny, who founded Music on the Quantocks in 2009 with a group of friends from local villages.

Since then Music on the Quantocks has grown like Topsy and having recently clocked-up its 300th consecutive sold-out concert, the volunteers are now ranked as one of Somerset's most successful organisers of world-class music concerts.

"Over the years," said Penny, "we've lured some very 'big' names to the Quantocks to perform in front of packed audiences in local churches, barns and village halls. The list includes the legendary flautist James Galway; guitarist John Williams; punk poet John Cooper-Clarke; and choral groups The Tallis Scholars and The Sixteen."

Small wonder why, then, music lovers from every corner of Somerset, Devon and Dorset come flocking to the Quantocks!

If you enjoy world-class music on your doorstep, you can find out more about the concerts by joining Music on the Quantocks' mailing list.

JOIN THE MAILING LIST BY EMAILING:  
quantocks@live.co.uk



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lynnenewton@hotmail.co.uk

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**West Monkton Village Hall:**  
 Tuesday 9:30am  
**Brittons Ash Community Hall**  
 Wednesday 9:30am  
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For bookings and  
 enquiries contact:

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



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**Wednesday**  
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 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm  
 Anya 07950 297240

**Saturdays**  
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 Dawn 07779 404038

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## Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH)

### Regular Bookings at the BACH

#### Mondays

10:30am to 11:30am	Healthy Hearts
1:15pm to 3:15pm	Art Group
3:30pm to 5:30pm	Primary Maths and English
5:45pm to 7:00pm	Yoga
7:15pm to 9:30pm	Taunton Camera Club

#### 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

#### 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

8:20am to 10:20am	Mini Dribblers
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#### Booking Officer:

Maggie Little  
 Tel: 01823 323662  
 Email:  
[bachbookings@westmonkton.net](mailto:bachbookings@westmonkton.net)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 March/April 2025 Village News is 1st February 2025.

## 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
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#### Phoenix Camera Club (Heathfield Hall)

Mondays	19:00 - 21:00
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#### Pilates (Main Hall)

Mondays	19:30 - 20:30
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#### Badminton (Main Hall)

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

#### Pilates

Tuesday	9:30 - 10:30
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#### Brownies (Main Hall)

Tuesdays (except school holidays)	18:00 - 19:30
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#### 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
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#### Music with Mummy and Jolly Baby (Schofield

Room) Wednesday	09:15 - 11:30
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#### Yoga (Main Hall)

Wednesday	09:30 - 10:45
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#### Funfit - Fitness and Pilates

Wednesday	18:00 - 19:00
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#### Puppy Training (Heathfield Hall)

Wednesday	18:30 - 21:30
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#### Flexercise (Main Hall)

Thursday	09:30 - 10:30
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#### Coffee Morning (Ladies & Gents-Heathfield Hall)

Thursday	10:00 - 11:30
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#### MNDA (Heathfield Hall)

Once a month on a Thursday	13:30 - 16:30
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#### Tai Chi QiGong

Thursday	14:00 - 15:00
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#### Bounce & Burn (Main Hall)

Thursday	18:00 - 19:00
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#### Monkton Evening WI (Heathfield Hall)

Fourth Thursday of month	19:15 - 21:25
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#### Baby Sensory (Main Hall)

Friday	09:00 - 15:15
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#### Puppy Training (Main Hall)

Friday	18:30 - 21:30
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#### Trams & Light Railways (Schofield Room)

Once a month on a Saturday	13:30 - 16:30
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#### Hardy Plant Society (Main Hall)

Once a month on a Saturday	09:30 - 13:00
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#### Orchid Society (Heathfield Hall)

Once a month on a Sunday	14:00 - 17:00
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#### 'O' Gauge Model Railways (Main Hall)

Quarterly on a Sunday	09:00 - 17:00
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For more information please contact:

**Ian Pitchfork** Tel: 01823 412196

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

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

## Christmas Fayre

'Thank you everyone for your help and contribution to this year's Christmas Fayre, held in the Village Hall on the last day of November.

As always the event was well received and enjoyed by many, the cakes were fabulous, I've eaten all my Tiffin already, we now have some strange banana china thing in the lounge from the bric a brac stall and I had my first win on the bottle tombola, four tickets and four wins!

Bacon rolls were just the ticket instead of breakfast followed by the very tasty homemade mince pies.

A worthwhile morning for everyone, Kate bought a new hat, Di bought the best ever Christmas cake and a very happy Santa's helper went home with a fort bigger than his bedroom!

Again thank you to everyone who helped or donated items and all those who came along to support the event.

Oh BTW we raised just over £2000!

From Jamie, one of the organisers



*Photos of the stalls and, below, all the helpers.*

*The cake stall was laden, there were loads of books and bottles, jewellery, cards and Father Christmas and his Elf helpers.*

