



Leaps and Bounds

In putting the Events diary together, I notice that this is a leap year, with an extra day at the end of the month. Ladies, by tradition, every four years on the 29th February have the “right” to propose to a man. apparently, this goes back hundreds of years to when the leap year day had no recognition in English law, (the day was ‘leapt over’ or ignored, hence the term ‘leap year’). As this day had no legal status a break in tradition on the 29th was deemed acceptable. I wonder what else we might get away with....?



The 100 Club – subscription renewals

The 100 Club supports the ongoing of the village playpark (with things like equipment renewal and insurance). It is something of a village institution. To renew your subscription, why not call into the Old Smithy Café to see Dave...before he comes knocking on your door... And if you have not taken part, please think about doing so. For a ten pound donation you have a chance of winning a cash prize in a draw at the end of the year, but, more importantly, you are helping with the running costs of one of Monyash’s most valued assets; one which greatly benefits local children as well as visitors to the village.

Services at Saint Leonard’s Church.

There will be a service of Holy Communion on the first day of Lent, **the 14th February**, at 11.00 am. As this is **Ash Wednesday**, ‘ashing’ will also take place. This is where a sign of the cross is marked on the forehead with ashes. There will also be service of Holy Communion on **Wednesday 21st** at 10am and a Chapel service on the 18th.

Two ‘Heads up’

23rd March Saturday and Sunday - **Photographic Competition** in the Village Hall, with preparation day on the Friday. Tea and Cakes. Enter snaps from your phone taken in 2023, on prints no larger than 14 x 9 cm. Max. one entry, per person per category. More details next month. Categories are:- Children; Animals; Buildings and Countryside. No attributions required.

Planning a Spring Clear-out?

There is rumour of a **jumble sale** planned for April in the Village Hall. Please keep this in mind if you are having a clear out... Further details in the next two months, I hope, but do start putting items by that might be donated. I don’t know any more.

EVENTS this month of February:-

Thursday 1st – **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. Starts around 9pm.

Friday 2nd – **Tea and Tots** – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup**, aimed at babies and pre-schoolers, for local families and friends to get together for a cuppa, chat and play! Whilst we are aimed at preschool ages, anyone is welcome to pop in and join us. Tea coffee, snacks and a variety of toys are provided. £2 per family; parents are responsible for their children whilst there.

– **Crafternoon**. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not! Tea and natter is fine!

Monday 5th – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. £8. Beginners welcome. To book a slot, email Dave: djs.abbotside@gmail.com.

– **Parish Council Meeting** 7pm. Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend the public meeting.

There is 10 minutes for ‘Public Speaking’ at the start. See village website and noticeboard for agenda.

Tuesday 6th – **Monyash Quilters Group**, – **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, A friendly group of ladies with a wide range of creative talent who love making beautiful quilts and anything crafty. Drop into one of our weekly meetings to see what we do and if we can tempt you to join.

– **Pilates**, Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. £7. Caroline is a fully qualified yoga and Pilates instructor. If you would like to reserve a place or find out more about Pilates or Yoga, contact Caroline on **07831 720810** or email: **carolinewebster2@gmail.com**

Wednesday 7th – **Mobile Library** 11.15 – 11.45am in The Square.

– **Monyash WI** - 7.30 - 10.00 pm. Regular monthly meetings in the Village Hall, on the first Wednesday of each month (except August), with guest Speaker and competition. A small, friendly group and new members always welcome.

Thursday 8th – **Quiz Night** – **The Bull’s Head**. Starts around 9pm.

- Friday 9th** – *Tea and Tots* – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup.** Details as above.
– *Messy Church.* 3.15 – 4.45pm. At the Methodist Chapel & Hall. Messy Church is straight after school, £2.
- Monday 12th** – *IYENGAR YOGA.* 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Details as above for Iyengar Yoga.
- Tuesday 13th** – *Monyash Quilters Group,* Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm. As above.
– *Pilates.* Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. As above.
- Wednesday 14th** – *Church Service,* 11am. To mark **Ash Wednesday** and the start of Lent.
– *Pilates for Men.* Class with Caroline Webster. 7.30 – 8.30 pm in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Thursday 15th** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 16th** – *Crafternoon.* 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not! Tea and natter is fine!
– *Tea and Tots* – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup.** Details as above.
- Sunday 18th** – *Reflection* – 6pm; a *Service* at the Methodist Chapel.
- Monday 19th** – *IYENGAR YOGA.* 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. £8. Beginners welcome. Details as above for Iyengar.
- Tuesday 20th** – *Monyash Quilters Group,* Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm. As above.
– *Pilates.* Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Wednesday 21st** – *Church Service,* 10am at Saint Leonard’s. Holy Communion.
– *Pilates for Men.* Class with Caroline Webster. 7.30 – 8.30 pm in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Thursday 22nd** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 23rd** – No *Tea and Tots*, as it is half term for the schools.
- Monday 26th** – *IYENGAR YOGA.* 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Details as above for Iyengar Yoga.
- Tuesday 27th** – *Monyash Quilters Group,* Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm. As above.
– *Pilates.* Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. As above.
- Wednesday 28th** – *Pilates for Men.* Class with Caroline Webster. 7.30 – 8.30 pm in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Thursday 29th** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 1st March** – *Tea and Tots* – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup.** Details as above.
– *Crafternoon.* 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not! Tea and natter is fine!

From your District Councillor, Laura Mellstrom:

Bus services are under the remit of the County Council, so there are limits to what the District Council can do to improve matters, but the Full Council meeting on 14 December agreed that more needs to be done about services to rural communities in particular, which members acknowledged are unreliable and not as good as the bus services for Ashbourne and Matlock. The District Council voted to set up an All-Party Transport Group and to seek an urgent meeting with the County Council and Bus Service Improvement Plan Partnership, to ask for a reassessment of how the £47m in Government funding for bus improvements is being invested. [It may be a long battle, but let’s hope we can at least get back to what we had in Monyash – Ed.]

Tree works at Fere Mere

I have just come back from Fere Mere where I caught up with Tom and Jo Scoggins at the very end of their work on the tiny woodland there. It is, as expected, a dramatic change, with the very tall, diseased Ash trees felled. You can see, even now before any leaves and shoots have got going, how much natural regeneration is going to happen in the Spring. T&J have done a wonderful, careful job in not damaging any of the very young trees – Hazel, Yew, Hawthorn, etc. – trees that had self-sown over the years and so, with a little patience, the picture will transform from the rather bare scene into one of abundant growth with all the daylight that can now flood in. The well-established Limes, Cherries and healthy Ash will also benefit from having more space around their canopies. Better air circulation means that fungal diseases are less likely to take hold.

We had another look and discussion over the Ash tree in the verge/next to the wall on Rakes Road and with *‘if in doubt leave it’* as the general attitude, we are going to monitor this tree for now, although it was down for felling, having signs of Ash die-back. Ash trees that are out in the open do tend to fare better than ones in a woodland setting when it comes to Ash die-back – for the reason above, to do with air circulation and light. We shall watch it carefully over the next year or so; it poses no immediate risk to pedestrians or cars. If you spot any orange dots on trees that remain at Fere Mere, it is because we decided to save them.

Nature Notes – touching base

February is traditionally the month when Rooks start to revisit their old nests, to make repairs ahead of egg-laying. I have noticed, even through Christmas and January, one of the pairs that nest in treetops next to our house simply stopping for a while, as if to remind themselves that this, for a few months, will be ‘home’. First thing in the morning, as they fly out for a feed in the fields, one will sometimes drop down and give a soft caw to the other. A gentle reminder that Spring is not too far away. The commonest question I have been asked on my Birdsong Walks, (starting again in April) is: What’s the difference between a Rook and a Crow? (i.e. Carrion Crow). My rule of thumb is: If it sounds warm and friendly, that’s the Rook; if it sounds *anything like* a Dalek, that’ll be the Carrion Crow, or ‘Black Marauder’ as I knew them from my childhood. They are, of course, both ‘Crows’, in one sense, being members of that family, along with Jackdaws, Magpies, Jays, Ravens, etc.

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